

Louisiana Guard sman

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Louisiana Enters The War On Drugs

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Recruiting and Retention Dept. Sweeps The Competition

By PFC Michael Ritter
241st PAD Staff

The Louisiana Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Department swept the national competition winning five awards for production.

The awards received were for: highest percentage (88.8) of accessions above missions, highest percentage (78.8) of non-prior service accessions, the 100% Club Award for authorized strength, 100% Club for being the top state for 12 consecutive months, and the highest production per recruiter.

"What it means," said LTC Stafford J. Landry Jr., Recruiting and Retention (RRN) Manager for the Louisiana Army Guard, "is that we are the top recruiting command in the country."

Landry explained that the reason for Louisiana's success in recruiting could be traced back to a program started by COL Urban B. Martinez, who is now the Guard's Director of Personnel and Administration.

"There used to be a turnover problem with recruiters," Landry said. "But we don't have that anymore."

As RRN manager in 1983, Martinez initiated a professional development program for recruiters. He helped recruiters improve their sales ability, communication, presentation, military qualifications and self confidence.

"He gave them a production mission and made them live up to it. Nothing else was acceptable," Landry said.

Since Martinez's program began, there has been a steady decline in the loss of recruiters. In fact, no recruiters were lost this year due to production missions.

"The NCO's run this organization. We feel like the best and the brightest NCOs are in recruiting," Landry said. "Every supervisor in the program has already done what he expects his subordinates to do. They are able to draw from a built-in depth of experience," he said.

Landry also credits support from the Adjutant General, Chief of Staff, and Command Sergeant Major, and all the commanders in the field for the RRN's success.

"This is good for the entire Guard," he said. "We are riding the top of a wave right now."

Landry will take the award trophies on tour to recruiting posts around the state.



The La. Army Guard Recruiting and Retention Section swept the national competition by winning five awards for their recruiting and retention efforts. (State PAO Photo)



DIETARY GUIDELINES TO LOWER CANCER RISK

"Cancer Risk..."

You Can Change the Odds"

- 1 Reduce the intake of dietary fat—both saturated and unsaturated—from the current average of approximately 40% to a level of 30% of total calories.
- 2 Increase the consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grain cereals.
- 3 Consume salt-cured, smoked and charcoal-broiled foods in moderation.
- 4 Drink alcoholic beverages only in moderation.

For a free copy of the American Institute for Cancer Research booklet, "Dietary Guidelines to Lower Cancer Risk," please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

American Institute for Cancer Research
Dept. 2
Washington, D.C. 20069

Dear Fellow Guardsmen

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

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

Gone are the days of indiscriminate dumping of chemicals or petroleum products. Where we train and how we train can now come under the scrutiny of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

As concerned citizen soldiers, entrusted with the protection of the people of Louisiana, we must also be increasingly concerned with the protection of the environment of our State.

Thus far the environmental record established by the Louisiana National Guard has been outstanding. We must all strive to keep it that way.

MAJ Joseph C. Cassanova
Environmental Officer

Front Cover

Louisiana Army National Guard helicopters such as these stationed at the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans will assist federal and state law enforcement agencies with aerial surveillance and reconnaissance operations as part the Guard's involvement in the war on drugs. (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)

Guardsmen Volunteer For War on Drugs



was approved so late in the fiscal year which ends Sept. 30, that he said he will either use more soldiers or keep them on active duty for longer periods in order to use the full amount allocated.

He did not foresee any problem with manpower. "We've gotten a lot of

telephone calls from people wanting to volunteer," he said. "There's a lot of concern out there among guardsmen."

Stroud stressed that the Louisiana Guard will be acting strictly in a support role for the federal, state and local agencies.

"At no time will we be the lead agency," he said.

The preparedness of the Louisiana National Guard will not be hindered by its involvement in the war on drugs. If anything, it will be enhanced, Stroud said.

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers
State PAO

The Louisiana National Guard has officially entered the war on drugs.

Louisiana was among twelve states whose plans were approved to use guardsmen to help law enforcement agencies fight drug smuggling and trafficking. The state will receive 1.2 million dollars.

Among the tasks that will be given to the guardsmen are:

- *working with U.S. Customs to examine ships and cargo containers coming into port

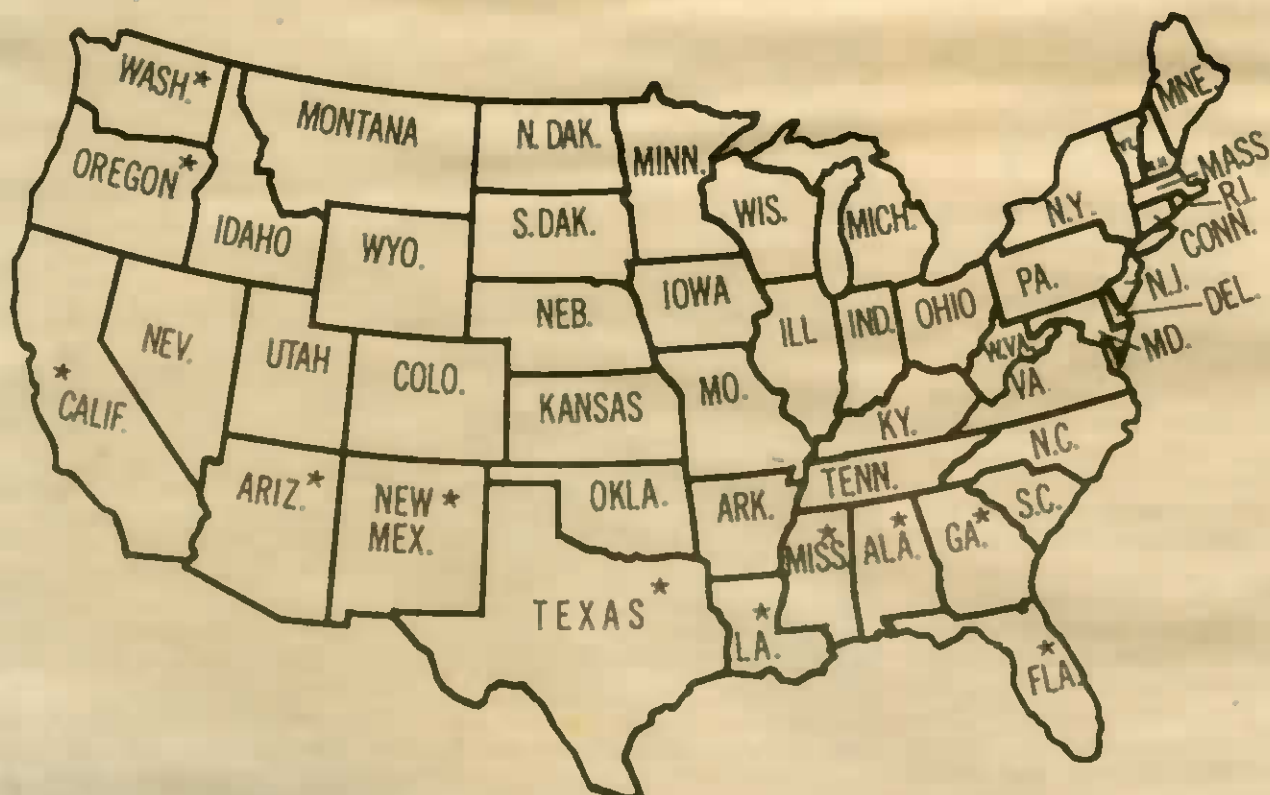
- *providing UH-1 and OH-58 helicopters, based in New Orleans, for reconnaissance operations and destruction of marijuana plants

- *assist state and New Orleans police during surveillance with electronics gear and night vision devices

The Guard will also support the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to MG Ansel M. Stroud, the Guard will not be on the streets, or patrolling the projects. Guardsmen may have to be armed in certain situations, he said, but they won't have the power to arrest.

The AG's plan originally called for using about 200 guardsmen, but the plan



159th Tac Ftr Gp:

FLEETEX 1989

By TSG Elaine T. Comeaux

The 159th TFG was bestowed a distinctive honor when asked to participate in the Battle Group Exercise, FLEETEX 89, held recently at Roosevelt Roads, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Six individuals represented the 159th at these surface and sub-surface exercises: COL James L. Thibodeaux, Commander of the Air Force; MAJ Bob Lemoine, Operations Officer; CPT Gunar Neumann, Intelligence Officer; CMSGT Patrick Brady, Maintenance Supervisor; TSG Elaine Comeaux, and SSG Kim Case, Administrative Support.

The purpose of these exercises was to evaluate the capabilities of the battlegroup to counter an attacking airborne force. Given the code name "Orange Air" the mission of this joint effort between several branches of the military was to provide adversary aircraft as a force the Navy could use to help evaluate the battlegroup led by the carrier USS America.

COL Thibodeaux best described the LA Air Guard's role in three major parts: (1) to coordinate the efforts of the Air Force Orange Forces to ensure that the attack plan was enforced. At this exercise, approximately fifty percent of the Orange Force was comprised of Air Force personnel, (2) to run interference - to eliminate and correct problems that always plague any deployed unit, such as billeting, transportation and food. Solving these problems allowed maintenance personnel to fix planes and put them back in the sky, (3) to interface between Air Force and Navy policy differences. This ensured everything operated as smoothly as possible so everyone could devote their energy and resources to this mission.

The importance of the exercise cannot be overstated. Once a battlegroup passes their inspection they are cleared to go on a cruise. Each cruise is confidential in nature, and each battlegroup - once assembled - stays together in-

definitely. They are, as a group, cleared to go on worldwide cruise, and become a finely honed piece of the overall defense puzzle, the FLEET.

Aircraft support was received from several areas: F4-Ds from the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), Andrews AFB, Maryland; F4-Ds from the 906th Tactical Fighter Group (TFG), Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio; and AWACS from the 552nd AWAC Wing, Tinker AFB, Florida.

The 159th TFG not only supplied the command staff for these exercises, but also furnished a contingent of qualified security police supervised by MSG Bill Glaser. Other units who also provided personnel for security were Wright Patterson AFB and Tinker AFB.

COL Thibodeaux admitted that his personal goal was to ensure that his staff did the best job possible in order to alleviate the burden on the other units doing the flying. He stated that what would make future exercises successful was to be aware of all past problems encountered, be prepared to counter these problems, and be prepared to face new problems.

Interestingly, this is the third time that an Air Force colonel has been in charge of the exercise. Each time different problems were encountered which required different solutions, but for future exercises there will always be surprises. The goal is to always be ready to counter these, stay flexible and be prepared for anything.

There was one unwanted unit encountered which played havoc on all personnel, the "screaming mimis". Until a person has been attacked by these almost invisible gnats, which always seem to congregate in the thousands, one can never fully appreciate the value of his own mimi-less home. All good stories end well and this one too had a good ending. The battlegroup was awarded a "satisfactory" rating and will be included as part of the FLEET.

Spotlight on the NCO: TSG Jackie Jackson

By MAJ Harry L. McCarter

TSGT Jackie Jackson of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron in Hammond was the recent recipient of the Air Force Communication Command's prestigious LT GEN Gordon A. Blake Aircraft Save Award.

LTC Blake was a Major at Hickham when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. During the attack Blake remained in the control tower and was instrumental in the safe recovery of 12 B-17s. For his action under fire, he was awarded the Silver Star.

When the Air Force Communication Command decided to rename the aircraft save award they could think of no one better than LTC Blake to symbolize the outstanding job air traffic controllers do day-in and day-out, particularly during aircraft save situations.

TSG Jackson is a full-time employee

of the Baton Rouge Postal Service, and like many citizens, provides that extra measure of support as a member of the Louisiana Air National Guard.

Jackson is the first La. Guardsman to be presented with this award. He received the award for his actions while performing air traffic control duties in the Hammond Control Tower at the Hammond Municipal Airport. The safe recovery of an endangered aircraft was the direct result of the actions of TSG Jackson.

His superb duty performance reflected a thorough knowledge of Air Traffic Control procedures and an ability to apply this knowledge in a truly professional manner.

Jackson was presented the LT GEN Gordon A. Blake Aircraft Save Award by his commander, LTC James A. McCoy in February.



CHILD FIND OF AMERICA INC.

Teach Your Children to be Smart, Stay Safe

Child Find of America, Inc., a pioneer in the field of missing children and child safety, wants all children to enjoy their childhood and to stay safe so they can become the leaders of our future. You can help your children learn everyday coping skills, without intimidation, by teaching them:

1. *That they can always talk to you*, share their fears and concerns in a loving atmosphere; you want to help them no matter how small or embarrassing the problem.
2. *What to do (or not do) when alone at home*—like not opening the door; not telling a caller there is no one home and that it is OK to pretend you are there by saying "Mommy/Daddy can't come to the phone right now".
3. *To buddy up*—because when they walk or play with friends, there is safety in numbers and children are less vulnerable.
4. *They can say NO to adults, to yell or runaway*—when an adult says or does anything that makes them feel uncomfortable, asks for directions or wants the child to accompany them, to photograph them or have a secret they can't tell Mommy or Daddy.
5. *Their full name, address and phone number* with appropriate zip and area codes and practice with them making long distance calls or calling an Operator for help.

PARENTS TIPS:

6. *Never leave your child alone*—regardless of age in a car, store or toy department. You are putting your child at risk.
7. *Devise a family plan of action*—to be used if you and your child become separated while away from home. Teach them where to go for help, incorporate a family code word to insure the child will only go with persons you authorize.
8. *Enlist school cooperation* by mandating that school authorities insure your children's safety by releasing them only to your authorized representative. Formulate an early call back system so that if your child does not arrive at school, precious hours won't be wasted before a search is started.
9. *Keep updated identification folders for each child*—which contain recent, clear photos and a chart of birthmarks/scars. Keep this folder easily accessible because in time of trauma even well-known facts become clouded.



LTC James A. McCoy, Commander, left, presents the LTC Gordon A. Blake Aircraft Save Award to TSG Jackie Jackson. Jackson is the first recipient ever to receive the newly designated award. (Photo by TSG Holly F. Lanoux, Pub Aff NCO).

214th Engrg Install Squad:

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS IN MARCH

By SGT Dean M. Arnett

Blood, sweat and tears was the theme for the March UTA at the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron at Jackson Barracks.

BLOOD. The unit held its fifth annual blood drive with Southern Baptist Hospital. According to MSG Ronald J. Smith, the unit usually donates for a blood replacement program for 214th members and their families. This year's blood, however, was donated to Charles Pfefferle, a patient with a blood disorder who used 196 pints of blood after a recent operation at St. Jude Medical Center. His story appeared in a local paper, and MSG Smith suggested the thirty-three pints of blood collected be donated in Pfefferle's name.

The Southern Baptist Hospital blood mobile will return in May for members of the 214th to donate again for the replacement program.

SWEAT. Sweat is something members of the 214th are used to, especially during the hot Louisiana summer. But for a five member team from the cable and antenna section, this weekend's sweat was for a good cause.

The team, led by TSG Anthony J. Castiglia, was assigned to help the St. Bernard Parish Recreation Department get a local park ready for the upcoming baseball season. Rain Sunday postponed completion of the project until the April UTA.

TEARS. Tears may also have been shed this weekend since the 214th is losing two of its officers. LTC David Abramson and MAJ Robert W. Givens will be missed by the unit and by the employees of Anthony's Pier, a local restaurant frequented by the officers of the 214th.

Recently promoted to lieutenant colonel, Abramson will continue his association with the Air Force through the Air Force Academy. Abramson served the unit as the Officer in Charge of the wire section, as Readiness Officer, and he has been serving as Installations Branch Chief for the past two years.



SGT Charlie Wirth of the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron located at Jackson Barracks donates blood during a blood drive held in March. (Photo by PFC Danny Keating, 241st PAD Staff).

MAJ Givens spent nearly five years on active duty before joining the Louisiana Air Guard. He was, at one time, the commander of the 159th Communications Flight, and has served the 214th in the capacity of Officer in Charge of the Engineering Branch until his retirement.

The expertise these two officers offered the 214th added to the success of the unit. They will be missed.

Safety Belts Save

More than 15,000 lives could have been saved in 1987 if everyone had worn safety belts, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates.



Recognized for their hard work and dedication were (from left to right) TSG Holly Lanoux, TSG Troy Pou, SGT Daryl Hornsby and TSG Jim Boudreaux of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron. (236th CCQ Photo).

236th Cbt Comm. Squad Receives Excellent on Unit Effectiveness

By TSG Holly F. Lanoux
Pub Aff NCO

The 236th Combat Communications Squadron in Hammond underwent an Air Force Communications Command Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI) in February.

Preparations began some fourteen months prior with the implementation of a unit developed UEI Attack Plan.

"We set our sights on receiving an Excellent rating. Through diligent "extra-mile" work efforts, we achieved our objective," TSG Holly Lanoux said.

The 236th received one commendable item for their Additional Duties program.

The commander of the Air Force Communications Command, MG James S. Cassidy congratulated the members of the 236th for their superior efforts, total dedication and professionalism. In a personal letter to the Commander, Cassidy said, "You and your people can be justifiably proud of this achievement."

In addition to the excellent rating, four members were recognized as "Professional Performers", placing them in the top 2% of eligible squadron members. Recognized for their hard work and dedication to the mission were TSG Troy Pou, TSG Jim Boudreaux, TSG Holly Lanoux and SGT Daryl Hornsby.

214th EIS Assists NATO Forces In England



SGT Warren Pope modifies the MT686 rack for ground radio units. (Photo by TSG David Eugene).

By SGT Dean Arnett and
MAJ Noel Ricord

Louisiana Air National Guardsmen assisted NATO forces in England by installing two ground radio units.

The five members of the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron, Jackson Barracks, spent two weeks at Royal Air Force Bases Woodbridge and Bentwaters, northeast of London, where they installed the radio equipment.

The team consisted of TSG David Eugene (team chief), SSG Steven Francois, SGT Don Johnson, SGT Warren Pope, and SRA Carolyn Erickson.

Said TSG Eugene, "Despite some problems, we were able to complete the installation in the two weeks we had."

According to Eugene, the radios allowed the squadron to communicate mission oriented information to crews for the control and command of aircraft operations.

The 2164th Communications Squadron provided technical and administrative support to the team for the installation, and will continue to maintain the equipment.



SSG Steven Francois solders cannon plug connectors for ground radio units. (Photo by TSGT David Eugene).

99 Ladies Flying Club

By TSG Holly F. Lanoux
Pub Aff NCO

In February, the South Louisiana Ninety-Nine Ladies Flying Club visited the Air Traffic Control facilities at the 236th Combat Communications Squadron in Hammond as part of their

regular monthly meeting. There they were briefed on local Air Traffic Control Procedures. The Ninety-Nines, Inc. is an international organization of licensed women pilots from thirty-three countries. Amelia Earhart served as the first president when this organization was founded on November 2, 1929.



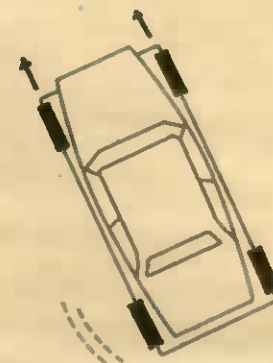
Several members of the South Louisiana Ninety-Nine Ladies Flying Club visit with the 236th Combat Com-

munications Squadron in Hammond. (236th CCS Photo)

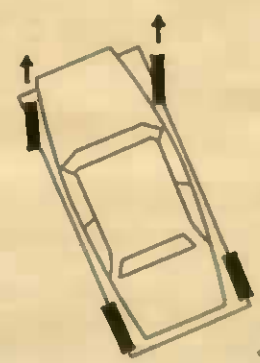
"An oak tree is just a nut that held its ground."

—Fred Shero,
hockey coach

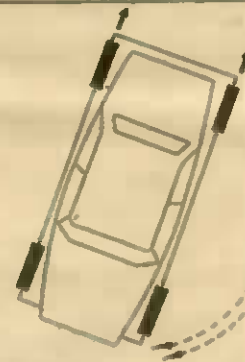
GUIDES FOR SLIDES



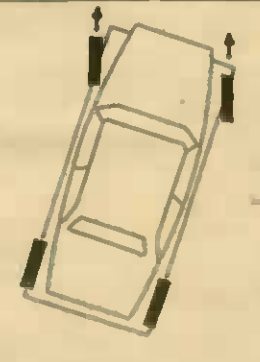
if rear slides RIGHT...



TURN WHEELS RIGHT



if rear slides LEFT...



TURN WHEELS LEFT

Snow and ice bring slippery driving. Service drivers should be familiar with what to do when traction is suddenly lost while driving, both on and off duty.

Pistol and Rifle Match Winners

By CPT Vernon L. Jiles

The Louisiana National Guard held its 2nd Annual Adjutant General's Combat Pistol and Rifle match at Camp Beauregard in February.

These matches are held every year to promote interest in unit and state level marksmanship training programs. It is also used to determine the best qualified teams to represent the Louisiana National Guard in the Winston P. Wilson championship Matches held at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The teams competing in these matches faced stiff competition from elimination matches held within their major commands.

In the pistol competition there were three teams competing, involving a total of twenty four competitors. Teams competing were Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor; HQ, 205th Engineer Battalion, and the 159th Tactical Fighter Group. The winning team was Headquarters, 1st Bn, 156th Ar.

In the rifle competition there were

four teams competing, involving a total of forty competitors. Teams competing were HQ, 1st Bn, 156th Ar; HQ, 205th Engr Bn; the 159th Tactical Fighter Group, and the 2224th Medical Detachment. The winning team was HQ, 1st Bn, 156th Ar.

All team members were able to compete for the prestigious individual awards given. Some individual shooters from various units of the 256th Infantry Brigade competed in the individual competition only.

The individual champion for the pistol competition was SGT Sanford Ussery, a member of Company D, 205th Engineer Battalion. The individual champion for the rifle competition was SGT Joey Pickett, a member of Company A, 1st Bn, 156th Ar.

All competitors conducted themselves in a professional manner and showed a lot of esprit-de-corps. Further participation from members of the Louisiana National Guard is encouraged to continue to make our State and Unit Marksmanship Program a success.



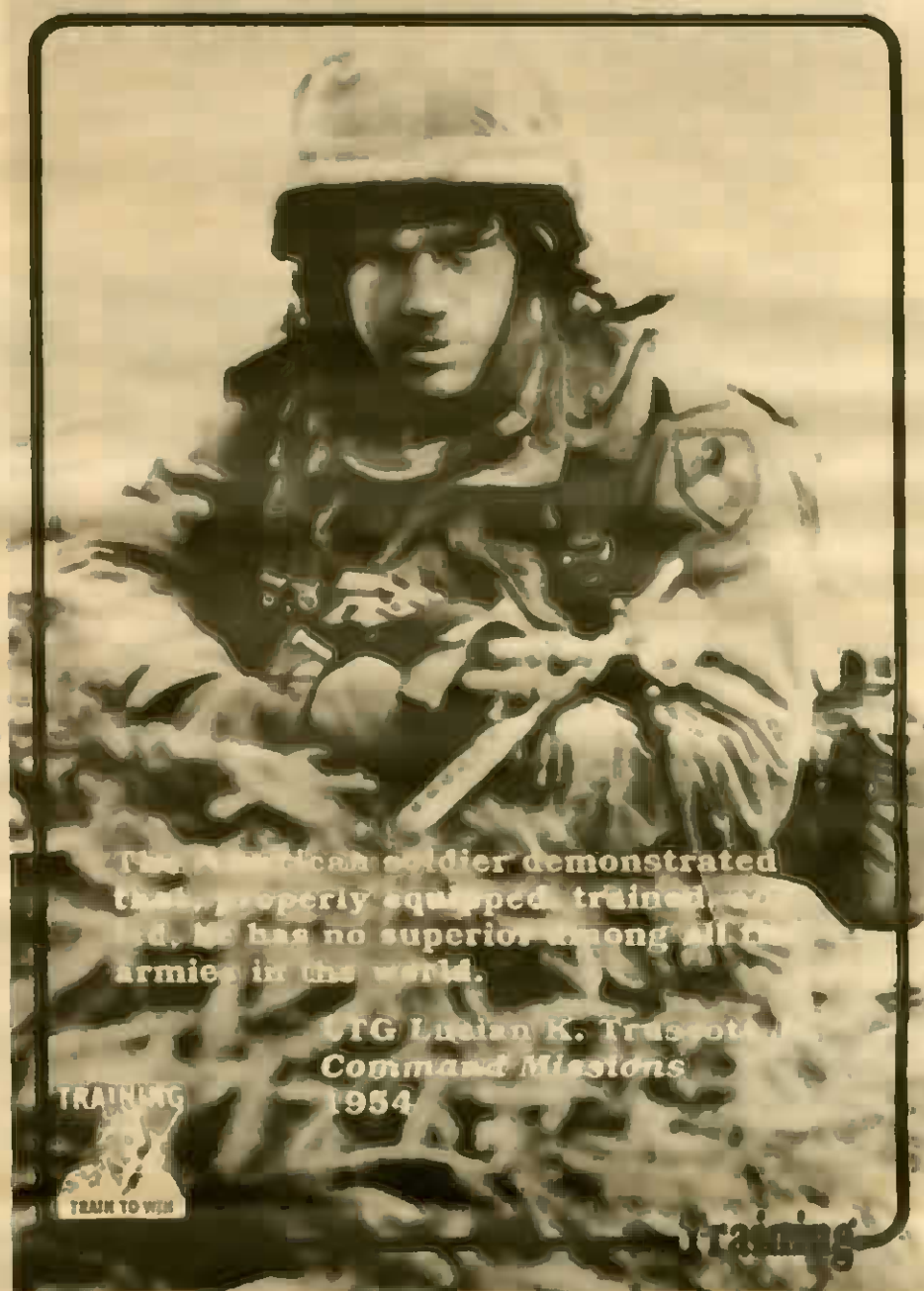
SPC Sammy Douse (right) and SPC Ronald Bugs (left) prepare to unload one of three truck loads of merchandise and clothing for the Minden Good Will Drive. (Company C, 527th Engr Bn Photo).

Company C, 527th Engr Bn Assists Local Goodwill

By PV2 Greg McGuire

Members of Company C, 527th Engineer Battalion, Combat Heavy located in Minden, along with Minden Civic Organizations aided in this year's Goodwill Drive. Records were set when

the 40 foot Goodwill trailer was packed full with merchandise and clothing donated by area residents for the disabled and poor. Company C and the other groups were responsible for three loads that filled up the trailer.



205th Engr Bn Dawg Co Faces Challenging At

If you're a member of the 205th Engineer Battalion, and someone refers to you as a "DAWG", that means you are from Company D. The kennel is located at the fair grounds in Covington.

Dawg Company, commanded by CPT Vernon A. Williams, is an engineer line unit made up of one headquarters platoon, one horizontal construction platoon, one vertical construction platoon, all located in Covington, and one vertical construction platoon located in Hammond.

The unit boasts a strength of six officers, and 167 enlisted personnel. Of

these numbers, six are female and 85 are college students. The average age of the unit member is 24 years.

Annual Training 1989 for the Dawgs will be a big test of command and control. The unit will be headquartered at Camp Villers, and will have construction projects in Baton Rouge, Hammond, Bogalusa, and Jackson Barracks. However, morale is running high in the kennel, and the Dawgs plan to attack the projects and take a bite out of any problem that may surface.

-1SG Loyd T. Baham,
Tbp Dawg



President's Oath of Office

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

First administered to George Washington on April 30, 1789, by the Chancellor of New York Robert R. Livingston.



This W

The first two years of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution focused on the drafting and ratification of the Constitution. The Founding Fathers, who laid the precious foundation of the new government, next to the establishment of the government. Significantly, many of the patriots became well-qualified candidates to occupy positions in the government. Of the two Soldier-Statesmen who signed the Constitution, eleven became Senators, eight became governors, eight entered the House of Representatives, eight became cabinet members, two became ministers and one became a member of the United States.

On April 30, 1989,

MILITARY

GEORGE WASHINGTON
Major, Virginia Militia, 1775-81; Colonel, Virginia Militia, 1775-81; General and Commander of the Continental Army, 1775-81; in the French and Indian War, 1754-63; the American Revolution, 1775-81.

JAMES MADISON
Colonel, Virginia Militia, 1775-81

JOHN TYLER
Captain, Virginia Militia, 1812

FRANKLIN PIERCE
Brigadier General, New Hampshire Militia, 1846-8; Service in the Mexican War

ULYSSES S. GRANT
General, U.S. Army, 1843-54 and 1861-9; Service in the Mexican and Civil Wars

BENJAMIN HARRISON
Colonel, Brevet Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers), 1862-5; Service in the Civil War

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
General of the Army, U.S. Army, 1915-48 and 1951-2; Service in World War II

GERALD R. FORD, JR.
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy Reserve, 1942-6; Service in World War II

JOHN TYLER

On The Constitution:

"I am determined to uphold the Constitution ... to the utmost of my ability and in defiance of all personal consequences. What may happen to an individual is of little importance, but the Constitution of the country, or any of its great and clear principles and provisions, is too sacred to be surrendered under any circumstances whatever by those who are charged with its protection and defense."

Protest, August 30, 1842

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celebrated the Bicentennial of the Presidency, marking that day 200 years ago when George Washington, the brilliant commander of the victorious Continental Army, stood on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City and swore to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

During this bicentennial year, the Department of Defense continues its celebration of the Soldier-Soldiers of the Constitution. We are proud that thirty of our forty-one presidents served in the Armed Forces.

Members of the Armed Forces take special pride in the Soldier-Soldiers Presidents who, like themselves, are linked by a common bond to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.



VICE OF THE SOLDIER-STATESMAN PRESIDENTS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| GEORGE WASHINGTON 1732-4; 1754-8; 1775-83; Service in the American Revolution | THOMAS JEFFERSON Colonel, Virginia Militia 1770-79 | |
| ANDREW JACKSON Davidson County Militia, 1791; Elected as Major General, Tennessee Militia, 1802; Major General, U.S. Army, 1814-21; Service in Indian Wars and War of 1812 | | |
| W.M. HENRY HARRISON Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 1791-98; Major General Kentucky Militia, 1812-4; Service in War of 1812 | | |
| ZACHARY TAYLOR Major General, U.S. Army, 1808-15 and 1816-49; Service in Black Hawk War and Mexican War | | |
| MILLIARD FILLMORE Major, New York Militia (Union Continentals), 1861 | | |
| ABRAHAM LINCOLN Captain, Illinois Militia, 1832; Service in the Black Hawk War | | |
| ANDREW JOHNSON Military Governor of Tennessee with rank of Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers), 1862-5; Service in the Civil War | | |
| CHESTER A. ARTHUR Brigadier General, New York Militia, 1858-63; Service in the Civil War | | |
| HARRY S. TRUMAN Captain, Missouri National Guard 1905-11 and 1917-9; Colonel, Army Officer Reserve Corps, 1919-45; Service in World War I | | |
| RICHARD M. NIXON Commander, U.S. Navy Reserve, 1942-66; Active Duty, 1942-46; Navy Retired Reserve, 1966- present; Service in World War II | | |
| GEORGE BUSH Lieutenant, U.S. Navy Reserve, 1942-6; Service in World War II | | |

THE ARMED FORCES TAKE AN OATH TO DEFEND WHAT MOST AMERICANS TAKE FOR GRANTED.

When an American enters the Armed Forces he or she takes an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States.

In short, defending the Constitution is



defending America. For the Constitution is the foundation of our country and is the means by which we achieve the rule of law and protect our freedom.

Surveys reveal, however, that many Americans have little or no knowledge of the Constitution. Or fully understand their rights guaranteed under it.

As we commemorate the Bicentennial of the Constitution, there is no better way for you as an American to reaffirm the principles for which our country stands than to learn more about the Constitution.

The words we live by.

THE CONSTITUTION

The words we live by

To learn more about the Constitution write: Constitution, Washington, D.C. 20509. The Commission on the Bicentennial of The U.S. Constitution.

Soldier's Oath of Office

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

Administered to all members of the Armed Forces.

GI Bill Good And Getting Better

By CPT William C. Ratcliff
Education Services Officer

The Montgomery GI Bill continues to be one of the best financial assistance programs for members of the Louisiana Army National Guard. And this good program just got better.

Congress recently passed legislation authorizing two major changes to this program. Both changes are retroactively effective beginning 18 November 1988.

The first change drops the requirement for members to have a minimum

of 180 days of Selective Reserve service time as a qualification for program eligibility. This means that three categories of new LAARNG members become automatically eligible upon enlistment: those who qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill immediately beginning 18 November 1988 and are prior service recruits who have already completed IADT, those soldiers who are participating in ROTC, and those who entered under the Civilian Acquired Skills Program (CASP).

The second major program change authorizes benefits for enrollment in a

less than part time status per academic period. Previously, \$70 per month during an academic period was the minimum award for participation in the MGIB program for part time enrollment (6-8 semester hours). Effective 18 November 1988, qualified members can receive benefits computed at the rate of \$30 per month for less than part time enrollment (1-5 semester hours) for each month of classes or the total cost of tuition, whichever results in the lower total cost.

One difference, however, is that benefits received for less than part time

enrollment will be made as one award per academic period for the total amount instead of monthly payments. All other stipulations of the MGIB program remain in effect. Something to remember is that this benefit cannot be used simultaneously with the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) Tuition Assistance program.

The same administrative procedures are used in applying for and participating in the program today as before. If you are eligible for this benefit, please contact your unit immediately to start your application for participation.

Louisiana Army National Guard Members Benefits

Paid College Tuition
For 5 years or Bachelor degree, whichever comes first

Student Loan Repayment
Repayment of up to \$9,200 for a Guaranteed Student Loan of \$10,000

New GI Bill
Over \$5,000 to pay for Postsecondary Education

SMP/ROTC
Up to \$2,500 a year for Simultaneous Membership in the Army National Guard and R.O.T.C.

Paid Training
As a High School Junior or Senior student up to \$2,100 for the first year for 10 Weekend Drills and Initial Training

Bonus
Cash Bonus of up to \$2,000 for Qualified Members

Why Pay For A Free Service?

By CPT William P. Ratcliff

"Caveat emptor" is Latin for "let the buyer beware." So too should service members, family members and retirees be aware of an organization called the United States Council on Education.

This organization is marketing a new Education Services Program which is a portfolio kit that converts military service experiences of active duty, National Guard, Reserve and even retired or former officers and NCOs from any branch of service directly to civilian college semester hours. Additionally, this organization has begun to target unit members through the nation who do not have a high school diploma or those who have a high school equivalency certificate. The charge for their services range from \$12.95 to \$197.95, depending on the number of semester hours awarded.

Their concept as the "middle man" may indeed be new, but the heart of this program, the Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services is not a new education services program.

This program was initiated in 1946 by the Department of Defense under contract with the American Council on Education. This contract provides for the evaluation of military schools and job specialties and for publication of the Guide. The Guide is used by college officials in equating the learning experiences of service members to college courses.

The education counselor or education officer has a copy of the Guide and will help you complete the necessary paperwork at no charge to have your experiences evaluated by a college or university. Also, the General Educational Development (GED) Test for obtaining high school level certification is available to all LAARNG Guardsmen free of charge.

The Military Services Voluntary Education Program provides a number of services at no cost to service members. For more information, call the Education Services office at Jackson Barracks at (504) 278-6355.

Why pay someone else to provide a service which the Department of Defense provides for free? (Adapted from the Department of the Navy Education Support Branch.)

How To Read The LES Step by Step

Got a pay problem?

You may not even know you have one. But if you know more about what's supposed to be on your Leave and Earning Statement (LES) you'd be better able to isolate the problem and tell your technician if something is wrong.

So, grab a recent LES or follow off of the example on this page, and we'll go through it block by block.

Block 1. Soldier's last name, first name and middle initial.

Block 2. Unit identification code (UIC) for the soldier's unit of assignment.

Block between 2 and 3. Soldier's training pay category (TPC code). For an explanation of this mysterious block see the sidebar.

Block 3. Pay grade. There should be nothing difficult about a pay grade. Either it matches your promotion orders or you're being paid incorrectly, right? Not exactly. Company grade officers with over four years of active enlisted or warrant service are entitled to a higher rate of pay, thus an O3 becomes an O3E.

Block 4. Period covered. Identifies the one-month entitlement period.

Block 5. Social security number (SSN). If this is wrong, it can and should be changed. It makes taxes a lot less confusing at the end of the year if your SSN is correct on all pay documents.

Net Pay Due Block. Total entitlements less total deductions equals net pay due.

Block 6. Everybody knows entitlements are listed in this block. But, did you know that if you match the alpha character in the left margin with the same item code in block 39 (Remarks), you can decipher what each entitlement is for?

Block 7. The Guard still does not have allotments.

Block 8. Collections. Here we'll find the routine SGLI and assorted taxes, as well as collections for overpayments. Many of the entries in this block also have corresponding entries in the remarks section.

Blocks 9-16 are self-explanatory, although we don't really use blocks 9, 14 and 16 at this time.

Blocks 17-24 are for federal and social security (FICA) withholding information.

Blocks 25-29 are for state tax information.

Blocks 30-37 aren't used.

Block 38. This block shows debts carrying forward for the next LES.

Block 39. Remarks also include total performances of types of drills for the fiscal year, such as UT for normal drills, RMA for readiness managements assemblies. There are remarks for check mailing address (or financial institution if SUREPAY has been elected), grade reductions, and promotions, changes in TPCs and which type bonus is in effect. There are remarks to indicate an active duty payment has been posted to the system, and your tax information has been adjusted accordingly.

JUMPS-ARMY LEAVE AND EARNINGS STATEMENT COPY 1 - MEMBER

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI) OWENS JOHNNY M | | 2. UNIT ID CODE 146TA0 | | 3. PAY GRADE A E3 | | 4. PERIOD COVERED 01-30 NOV 88 | |
| 5. DOC. NO. 123 45 6789 | | NET PAY DUE 108.56 | | | | SUMMARY | |
| 6. ENTITLEMENTS | | 7. ALLOTMENT COLLECTIONS | | 8. OTHER COLLECTIONS | | 9. AMT DEDT PWD | |
| TYPE | | AMOUNT | | TYPE | | AMOUNT | |
| A. BASIC PAY 108 56 | | | | SGLI 4 00 | | 108 56 | |
| | | | | FICA TAX 8 35 | | 11 ALLOT COLLS | |
| | | | | | | 12 35 | |
| | | | | | | 13 OTHER COLLS | |
| | | | | | | 14 NET EARN | |
| | | | | | | 96 21 | |
| | | | | | | 15 MID-MO PNT | |
| | | | | | | 96 21 | |
| | | | | | | 16 END-MO PNT | |
| | | | | | | 17 AMT TO BE DEDT PWD | |
| TOTALS | | 108 56 | | | | 12 35 | |
| TAX INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
| 18 STATE TAX | | 19 FED INC TAX | | 20 FED INC TAX | | 21 STATE TAX | |
| 405 72 | | 1621 45 | | 42 32 S1 | | 108 56 1570 33 117 94 CA | |
| 22 STATE TAX | | | | | | | |
| 23 STATE TAX | | 24 STATE TAX | | 25 STATE TAX | | 26 STATE TAX | |
| 405 72 | | | | | | | |
| 27 LEAVE INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
| 28 EOM | | 29 PERTH AMBOY SVC INST | | 30 CR 0100000000011111 | | DIRECT DEPOSIT | |
| | | 31 MAKWA 56666 | | | | | |
| | | 32 SRIP ENL BONUS IN EFFECT | | | | | |
| | | 33 TOT PERP FY 89 - UT 8 | | | | | |
| | | 34 UT 13NOV88-2 /95727 19NOV88-2 /95888 | | | | | |
| FINANCE OFFICE INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
| 35 NO 0334 41 CONTROL NUMBER | | 36 11B870202870202 | | 37 01930201 666 | | 38 BALANCE | |

DA FORM 3886, AUG 82 For use of this form see AR 37-104-3; the proponent agency is USAFAC.
REPLACES DA FORM 3886 (TEST) 1 AUG 78 WHICH WILL BE USED

The Mysterious Training Pay Code

The training pay category (TPC) code appears between block 2 and 3 on the LES. It is a subject of great mystery to most Army Guardsmen. Let's try to explain by telling about Johnny Owens.

PV Owens joined Company A as a high school junior on 2 Feb 87 for the split training program - he started in TPC "L" because a high school junior can only be paid for 12 drills 90 days before attending basic training, even though he may enlist up to 180 days before attending basic training.

About the end of March or beginning of April his TPC is changed to "P", which will allow him to be paid for drills attended. On 20 June, Owens departed for basic training, so his TPC is changed to "F". After completion of basic training it is changed to "Q".

(If Owens had not gone to basic training as scheduled, his TPC would have followed a different sequence.)

A year later PV Owens finished high school and departed for AIT, so his TPC is changed to "U". When he returned, it

was changed to "A".

But what's this? Owens is going on active duty training (ADT) for 45 days. The TPC must be changed to "Y" then "A" again when the ADT is complete.

The many codes all have a purpose. Non-pay codes like "L", "Q" and "Y" also stop duplicate collection for Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) which should be collected from his active duty pay.

TPCs "Z", "P" and "U" identify soldiers who have not completed specific phases of their initial training.

But did you know there are remarks to tell you when the computer "thinks" certain payments are due, such as anniversary bonus payments or uniform maintenance allowances, and that these statements will continue to appear on the LES until the commander or his representative acknowledges and authorizes the payment?

Block 40. Three-digit number identifying your input station.

Block 41. Control number or end of

month check number.

Block 42. MOS. Primarily used for bonuses.

Block 43. OPED stands for Other Pay Entry Date, and in the reserve components represents the day of assignment to the current training pay category.

Block 44. PEBD stands for pay entry basic date, which is the constructive date from which service for pay purposes is computed.

Block 45 and 46. Aviation service entry date and total federal officer service start date.

Block 47. Years of service for pay purposes.

Block 48. Expiration of term of service date. (Blank for officers)

Block 49. Unit payroll number for unit of assignment. Note that if drill recording forms have shown PV Owens in Company A, and his LES still shows he is in Company B, PV Owens probably has a pay problem. (Reprinted from Army Reserve Magazine, 1st issue of 1989)

Children Often Confused By Parent's Reserve Status

(ARNEWS)—Reserve component soldiers accept without question the duties characteristic of their role in national defense: attending monthly drill sessions, undergoing annual active duty for training, and remaining on call for immediate mobilization.

And, of course, those duties can affect the family routine of Guard and Reserve soldiers with children.

Unfortunately, too many of these children have no idea what their parents are doing when they go away on drill weekends or extended periods of training.

Young people find it natural to compare their family activities with those of their peers. Often, the reserve component youth feels isolated, since his or her friends' parents are non-military, have no idea what reserve service entails, and are at a loss to account for the reserve component person's absence on weekends.

When questioned by his peers as to his parent's role in soldiering, the youth is unable to produce educated answers, often feeling intimidated.

The resultant stress upon the affected youth can be avoided by a simple ex-

planation of how you as a Guard or Reserve soldier fit into the total Army.

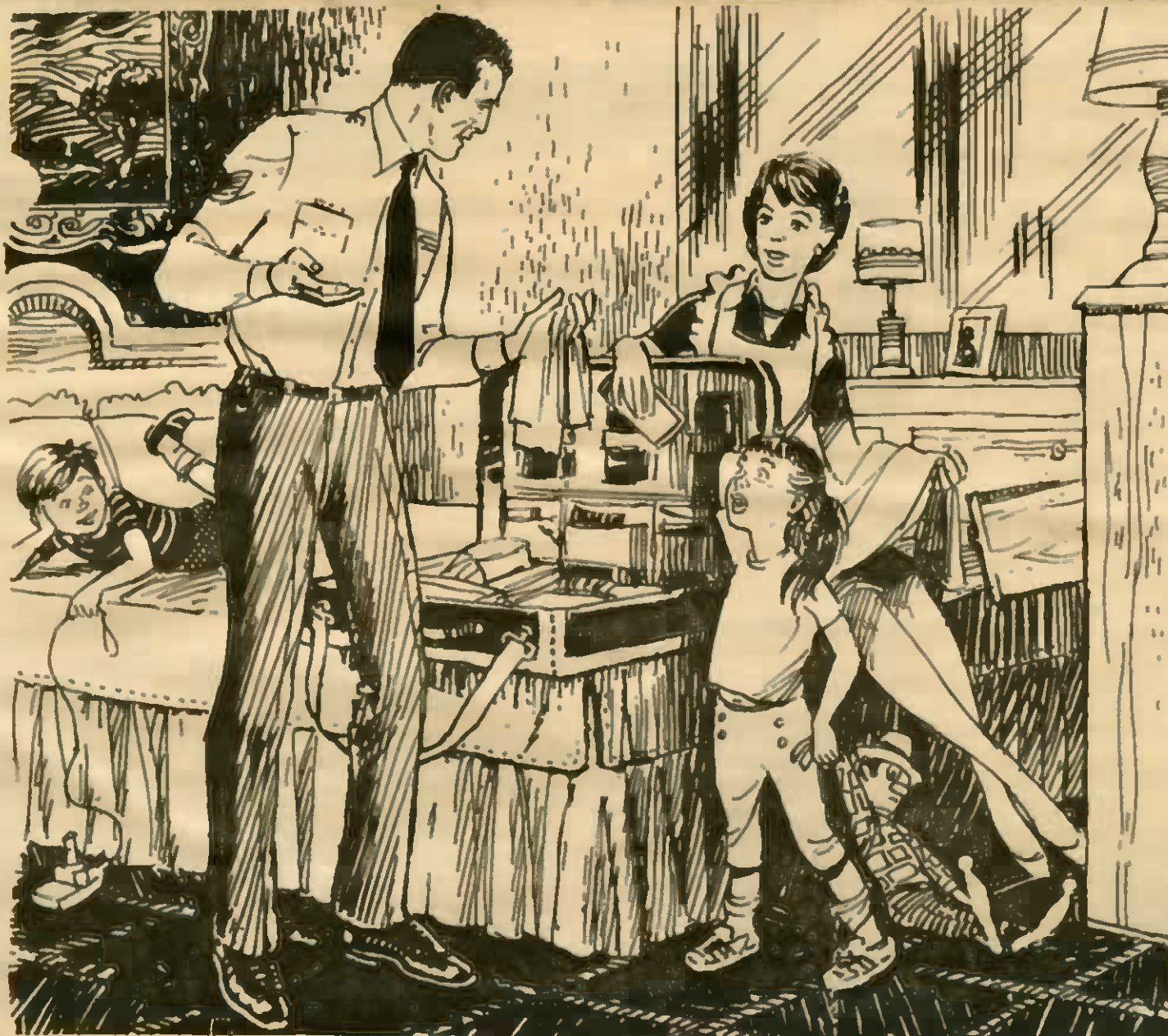
Take time to share with your son or daughter the particulars on your current and future training schedules, and on what would happen should you need to deploy. The more information you can provide, the better for your child to deal with the physical and emotional demands caused by your absence.

When you do talk over the situation, express your love and reassurance so as to remove any doubts or fears that might be lingering about your reserve commitments. Encourage the child to express feelings about your soldierly status, and try to dispel any misconceptions. Whenever possible, include your children in those unit-sponsored activities like Family Day. Take them to visit your armory or reserve center so that they may see what happens on drill weekends, and perceive the overall role your unit plays in Army readiness.

Such a sharing-caring approach not only can help your children appreciate the importance of reserve components service; it also can help eliminate unnecessary stress upon you and your family.

SOMETIMES
THE HURT IS
MORE THAN
SKIN DEEP

Child abuse can
leave scars that
last a lifetime.



June 14 - FLAG DAY

PAYING YOUR RESPECTS TO OLD GLORY

It happens several thousand times a year. At sporting events, parades and civic ceremonies. In auditoriums, stadiums and amphitheatres. In large cities and small towns all across America.

The national anthem is played. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited. And spectators young and old, both in uniform and civilian clothes, unknowingly, yet routinely, insult their flag and country.

All because they don't know the proper way to salute the American flag.

When you're in uniform during the Pledge of Allegiance

At a military formation or military ceremony, The Pledge of Allegiance should never be recited. At protocol functions, social and sporting events which include civilian participants, military personnel should:

1. Stand at attention, remain silent, face the flag, and render the hand salute during the The Pledge of Allegiance.

2. At an indoor ceremony, stand at attention, remain silent, and face the flag. The hand salute is not rendered indoors. When the participants are predominantly civilians or in civilian attire, reciting The Pledge of Allegiance is optional for those in uniform.

When you're in civilian attire

At an indoor or outdoor ceremony during The Pledge of Allegiance, salute by placing your hand over your heart, and stand at attention.

During the playing of the National Anthem

If you're in uniform at an indoor or outdoor ceremony, stand at attention and salute from the first note of music to the last. When no flag is displayed, face toward the music. If a flag is displayed, face toward the flag.

If you're in civilian dress at an indoor

ceremony, stand at attention and give no salute. At an outdoor ceremony, stand at attention if no flag is displayed; stand at attention and salute if a flag is displayed.

During the hoisting or lowering of the flag, posting of colors, or when the flag passes by in parade or review

If you are in uniform at an indoor or outdoor ceremony, stand at attention

and salute. If you are in civilian clothes, stand at attention if indoors; stand at attention and salute if outdoors. Salute is rendered when flag is six paces from the viewer and is held until the flag has passed six paces beyond the viewer.

Other points of etiquette

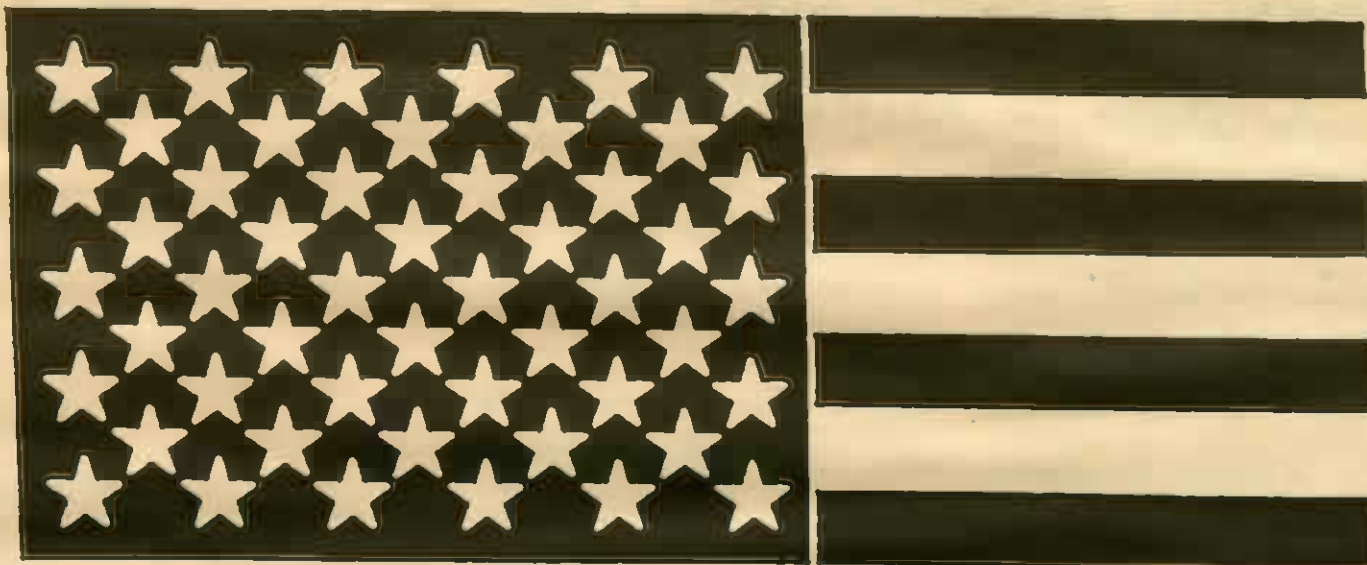
The proper form of salute when in civilian attire is:


MEN - Remove hats and hold at left shoulder with right hand over heart. If

no hat, place right hand, palm open, over heart.

WOMEN - Place right hand, palm open, over heart.

If you are in athletic uniform, face music or flag when National Anthem is played; remove helmet, cap or other headgear; and stand at attention. The hand salute should never be used. (Reprinted from Arkansas Guard, March/April 1986)





HEADS UP!

CYCLISTS TOO, MUST OBEY THE RULES OF THE ROAD:

- Obey all applicable traffic regulations, signs, signals and markings.
- Observe all local ordinances pertaining to bicycle operation.
- Keep right, drive with traffic, not against it. Drive single file.
- Watch out for drain gates, soft shoulders and other road surface hazards.
- Watch out for car door opening, or for cars pulling out into traffic.
- Don't carry passengers or packages that interfere with your vision or control.
- Never hitch a ride on a truck or other vehicle.
- Be extremely careful at all intersections, particularly when making a left turn.
- Use hand signals to indicate turning or stopping.
- Protect yourself at night with the required reflectors and lights.
- Drive a safe bike. Have it inspected to insure good mechanical condition.
- Drive your bike defensively, watch out for the other guy.

Guard Activated 365 Times In 1988

(AFIS) — Army and Air National Guardsmen were called up 365 times last year - or once a day - to help states cope with crises from natural disasters to civil disturbances to providing water for communities.

During 1988, guardsmen responded to one civil disturbance, 76 natural disasters and 288 "other" needs. "Other" is a catch-all category that covers anything from opening and running shelters for the homeless to providing electrical power.

In peacetime, the Army and Air National Guard come under the command of the governors of the states, who can call up the Guard for a mission within the state.

The first Guard mission in 1988 was providing drinking water for communities along the Ohio and Monongahela rivers after an accident dumped gasoline and diesel fuel into them. The Pennsylvania National Guard was called out, and, as the pollution moved down river, guardsmen from

other affected states were called out. In all, guardsmen provided drinking water for almost a million people.

Other examples of Guard missions during 1988 included:

- * Military police in Florida and Texas helped customs agents in Florida, Texas and Arizona.

- * Guardsmen helped combat fires in Yellowstone National Park in California.

- * Guardsmen participated in the rescue of two stranded whales in Alaska.

- * In all, 32 states called out the National Guard to help combat drugs within the states.

- * Guardsmen opened shelters for the homeless in several states during unusually cold weather.

The total number of man-days served by the guardsmen in these state missions was 78,604. The total number of guardsmen called up was 8,905. (Editor's note: Louisiana Guardsmen were not activated for any state missions in 1988)

Good to Know Information

Awards Authorized For Class B Uniform

Army Chief of Staff General Carl E. Vuono recently approved a change to existing uniform policies which now permits the wear of awards and decorations on the short and long-sleeved Army Green shirts, AG 415 and 428.

The policy change was announced in a message to all Army commands January 13th and took effect immediately. It provides for a Class B uniform similar to those of other U.S. military services and allied nations which allows soldiers to display their awards and decorations.

Previously, soldiers were not permitted to wear awards and decorations on the Army Green shirts, or, Class B uniforms, although members of other military services, the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy, were permitted to do so.

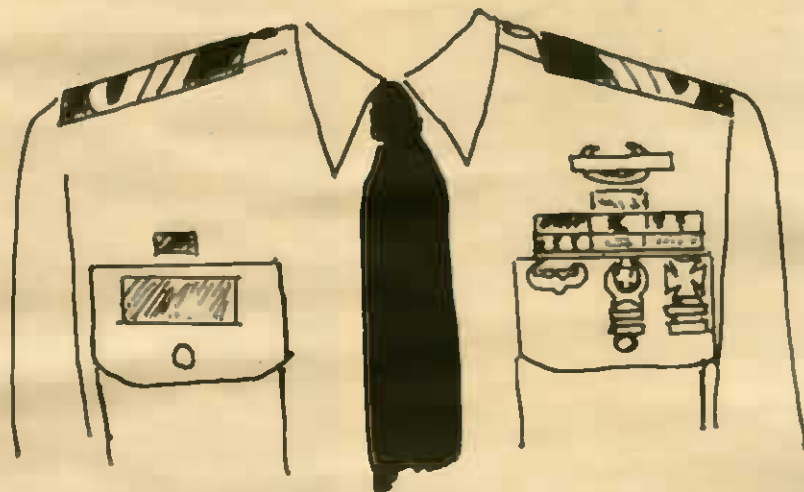
The change in policy is recognized as a response to strong input from the field, especially among junior soldiers in Joint or DoD assignments, and is considered as an enhancement of morale and esprit de corps.

Provisions

Under the new policy, soldiers may wear all, some, or none of their awards, including ribbons and full-size or miniature combat and special skill badges. Ranger and Special Forces metal tab replicas may be worn on the left shirt pocket flap as they are worn on the Army Dress Blue uniform coats. However, there are restrictions on mixing medal sizes so full-size and miniatures medals may not be worn on the shirt.

The wearing of marksmanship, identification and foreign badges as well as regimental distinctive insignia, unit awards, airborne backgrounds, cords, aiguillettes, fourragers and lanyards is authorized under the revised policy which will be incorporated into the next update of AR 670-1.

No more than two badges may be worn above the left shirt pocket in addition to the insignia and chaplains insignia takes precedence over awards and will be worn centered over the left breast



shirt pocket above all awards ensuring it is not hidden by the shirt collar.

Military Police may continue wearing their badges on jobs, however, recruiters may no longer do so.

How Worn

Awards and decorations must be placed on the shirts in a fashion similar to that of the wear of the same awards and decorations on Army Green coats and jackets. Plastic backings may be worn inside the shirt to act as a stiffener for the medals but must be purchased at individual expense.

The revisions do not authorize the wearing of sew-on insignia on the Army Green shirts, and this prohibition includes badges, tabs, patches, stripes and bars. Neither may distinctive unit insignia such as unit crest, nor combat leader's green identification tabs be worn on the epaulets of the shirts, or on the shoulder mark insignia of grade.

Army Guard soldiers may choose

what they wish to wear on the Green shirts. However, commanders may require the wearing of awards for parades, reviews, inspections, funerals and other ceremonial and social occasions.

The Army is already looking into improvements for the appearance of the Green shirt with plans for a new, slightly heavier fabric and better construction of the collar, cuffs, pocket flaps and epaulets.

Distinctive Unit Insignia

Army policy states that the Regimental Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI) may be worn on the black pullover sweater in the same manner as the DUI by soldiers assigned to units that do not have a DUI. However, if a soldier is assigned to a unit that has a unit DUI, a regimental DUI may not be worn with, or in lieu of, the unit DUI.

Make \$100 In A Few Minutes

A few minutes of your time could be worth \$100 to you.

The executive council of the National Guard Association of Louisiana has voted to develop a logo for the Association. The logo would be used to adorn stationary and possibly such items as tie tacks, cups, plaques etc.

A logo is defined as "the name, symbol or trademark of a company or publication." The logo may include the name or initials of the association, a unique configuration of same, characteristic designs, and/or color.

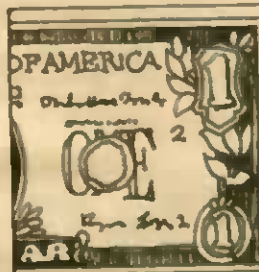
In order to develop the best possible ideas for the eventual design of the National Guard Association of Louisiana, a contest will be held. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to give some

thought to a logo and submit a sketch of their idea to the address below.

The sketch need not be in final form. Only the idea design and suggested colors need be present. A prize of \$100 will be awarded for the design selected by the committee. Final art work will be accomplished by a professional.

Design should be sent to: National Guard Association of Louisiana, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Louisiana 70146 to arrive no later than 1 July 1989. An explanation of the design/colors may be provided for consideration by the selection committee. Contestants need not be members of, or affiliated with, the National Guard Association of Louisiana, or the Louisiana National Guard to enter.

Don't Let Your Money Get Away



Ask Mr. Foster

"Ask Mr. Foster", a national travel service located at Jackson Barracks provides many services for Louisiana Guardsmen and their families.

Among these are: airline reservations for both domestic and international flights, AMTRAK reservations, tours, cruises, hotel accommodations and car rental arrangements.

The office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and they are located in Building 39 at Jackson Barracks.

Feel free to call Beverly Walker or Monika Willox at (504) 278-6409 or (504) 277-2206. They also have a toll-free number: 1-800-544-8492 and an autovon line: 485-8409.



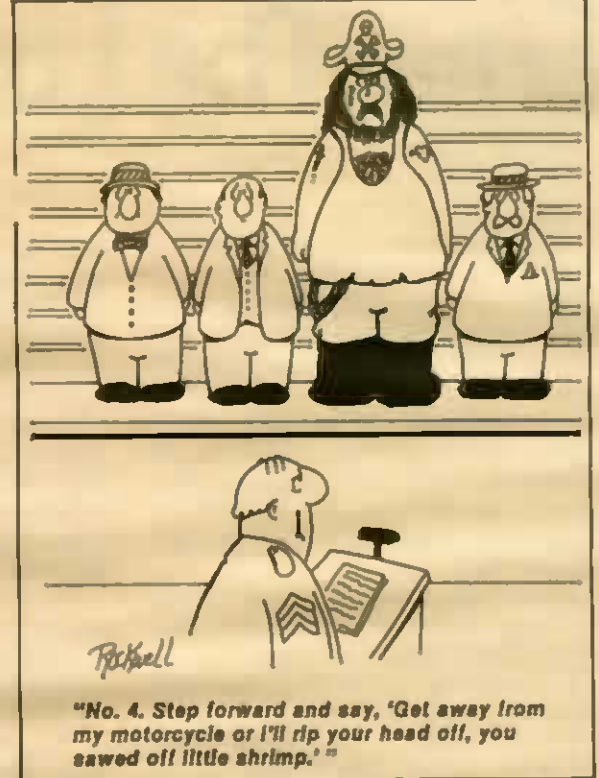
ATTENTION ARMY GUARD OFFICERS: Make sure your military educational records are updated with the Officer Branch of Personnel and Administration. Mail in certificates of completed courses to: Louisiana Army National Guard, ATTN: LANG-DPA-O, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Louisiana 70146-0330. For more information contact CPT Clarence Becknell at (504) 278-6317.



"Good news! The lab test is back! You're not blind, you just have your helmet on backwards!"



"In my usual gentlemanly manner, I told them to shut up, do what I say and don't hand me any of that voodoo curse baloney."



"No. 4. Step forward and say, 'Get away from my motorcycle or I'll rip your head off, you sawed off little shrimp.'"



"Not much left of our World War II campsite, of buddy. To think I spent five hellish years there as a supply sergeant."



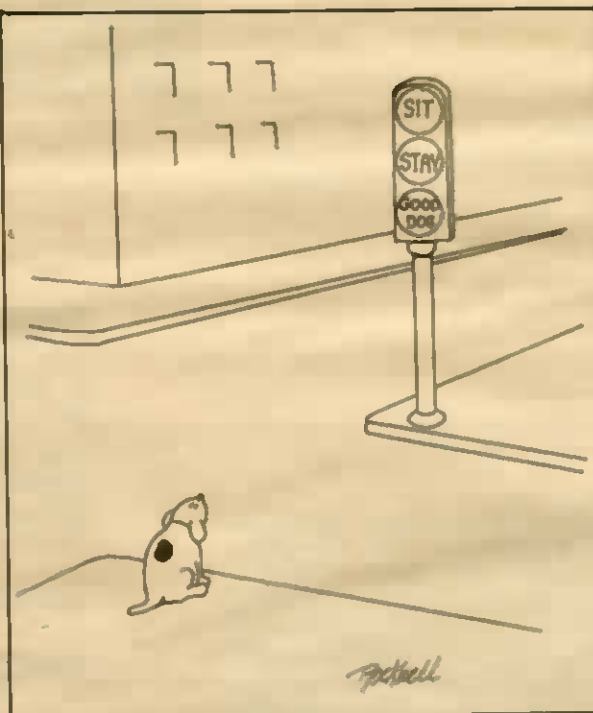
"And after mixing a delicious blend of imitation flavors, I add a whopping cupful of certified synthetic color."



"Wow! You've been in the service a long time! Your blood type was discontinued long ago!"



"Now in this plan, sir, you return his serve into the lefthand sector and..."



"I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something."

—Jackie Mason, American comedian



"Are you sure this is Hill 215?"



"I'm sure it does hurt, but it'll really help in divorce court."

From The Louisiana Guard To West Point

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers
State PAO

From Louisiana Guardsman to West Point Cadet, Stephen L. Hric, 21, will become a West Point graduate on May 24th.

Hric originally joined the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard. But before he went off to Air Force Basic Training he learned that West Point had accepted him.

"I originally applied to the Air Force Academy, but they didn't accept me. So I tried West Point," Hric said.

Hric knew he would need financial assistance to obtain his degree, and he decided the military was the way to go. His father, retired MSGT Stephen E. Hric, was a member of the Louisiana Air National Guard, and so the younger Hric made plans to join.

In the meanwhile he hoped his applications with the military academies would come through. And one did.

"I've been at West Point now since 1985," Cadet Hric said, "and in a few weeks I'll graduate with a degree in Psychology."

For his degree Hric will owe Uncle Sam five years of active duty. This military duty will begin with the Air Defense Officer's Basic Course in July. Then he'll be to Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"I may go to Ranger School after Airborne school," Hric said. "But I'm not certain about that."

His first assignment will be the 1st Armored Division in Nurnberg, Germany. Cadet Hric, however, is not sure if he'll make a career of the Army.

"Only a tour can answer that question," he said. However, he is sure he'll pursue a master's degree, perhaps in Behavioral Science.

Hric remembers some rough times, especially during the initial seven weeks of basic training, and his first year as a "plebe". But the worst part of his West Point years, he said, was the deadening, monotonous, daily routine.

"A typical day, we'd wake up at 6:15 for formation and breakfast at 6:20. Then there were classes, formation for lunch, classes, drill and ceremony or intramural sports, formation for dinner, and then we'd knock off around 6:30. Afterwards there was a study period in our rooms. They'd check on us to make

sure we were in there doing what we were supposed to do. But in my senior year things were more lenient, and after dinner we were allowed to come and go as we please," he said.

According to Hric each cadet is told what his class load will be. His lightest semester was 18 hours - his heaviest, 21. Most colleges consider 12 hours to be a full-time schedule. And all cadets need to maintain a 2.0 grade point average to graduate.

"And the meals were not the rigid, square meals most people expect. We would stand at attention until told to be seated. Once we were seated we would be served," Hric said.

The summers were no break for the West Point Cadet. He would get a reprieve from the classroom setting, but often ended up in the field. His first summer he went through 8 weeks of training in infantry tactics, and introduction to armor and field artillery.

Another summer he went to Alaska for three weeks of Northern Warfare Training.

"I remember we camped out for a week on a glacier. That was miserable, but I also had some pretty good times," he said.

His last summer he spent three weeks in Germany learning the Russian language, and then spent another five weeks in Berlin in Troop Leader training.

"Those particular courses weren't all mandatory," he said. "But we did have an obligation to train in the summer. I figured in all I had about three weeks of leave which I would use to travel or visit my folks."

Hric said he feels no different now than when he first attended West Point in 1985. "Have I changed? I feel more grown-up. But I don't know if that's due to this school or the normal maturation process," he said. "I really didn't know what to expect when I first got here. I thought it would be more physically demanding, but it turned out to be more tougher mentally."

"There was never a time when I thought I couldn't make it, but there were times when I thought I didn't want to. I remember times when I would wonder, 'what am I doing here?' But then, everyone here has felt that a couple of times," he said.



Cadet Stephen L. Hric



June 14
FLAG DAY

Louisiana Guardsman
The Adjutant General, La. Army
and Air National Guard
Maj Gen Ansel M. Stroud, Jr.

Chief of Staff
Col. James K. Corely
Public Affairs Officer
2LT Maria L. Jonkers

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Original articles pertaining to Louisiana National Guard units or individuals that would be of interest to the Guard community may be submitted to: LA National Guard, Office of the AG, LANG-PAO (2LT Jonkers), Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La. 70146-0330.