

Louisiana Guardsgman

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1989



The National Guard
Participates in
the First Louisiana
National Disaster
Exercise.....pages 8 & 9

This newspaper is an Authorized Publication for members of the Louisiana National Guard. Contents of the Louisiana Guardsman are not necessarily the official views of, endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Dept. of Defense, Dept. of the Army, or the Louisiana National Guard.

92202 V1 'S9N18DS WYHNEO
DENHAM SPRINGS, LA 70726
2207 JERLYN DRIVE
PFC COMAN KEVIN DALE

WEEKLY RATE
POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. G 5
Arabi, La.

Keeping in STEP

By CPT William C. Ratcliff Education Services Officer

The State Tuition Exemption Program (STEP) has been successful for some fifteen years in the Louisiana National Guard. Since it began in 1974, this program has been instrumental in helping the guard attain a continually enviable position among other states in recruiting and retention efforts while simultaneously providing high caliber soldiers and better educated citizens. As with all other things, however, with time comes change. It's time now to reflect on this program to understand where it is today and what it can hold for the Louisiana National Guard, and the state of Louisiana in the years to come.

After a long struggle, the STEP finally gained legislative approval in 1974. This program and its concept were so new to the Guard that an average of 693 members per year used the STEP from 1974 through 1979. By 1989, however, this number rose to over 3,500. This increase represents a great achievement for the Guard and for surrounding communities and employers who benefit from the greater numbers of more highly educated citizens. Something that must be considered, though, is the effect that this increase has on the schools that accommodate this program though their operating budgets.

When money was plentiful in Louisiana, most schools had little difficulty in bearing the additional cost of STEP participants. During that time that STEP participation has increased, however, Louisiana moved into a dire economic situation that resulted in severe funding decreases to these institutions.

Today, Louisiana's state funded institutions are faced with a very real economic dilemma for which there are no easy solutions. To meet the fact of reduced funding many schools have chosen various methods of reduce operating costs including raising tuition costs, faculty and employee pay freezes and layoffs, and reducing curriculum offerings.

In an effort to assist schools the Adjutant General recently implemented several new policies designed to stabilize program growth while economic stress persists. These policies further define

STEP qualifying criteria by placing new emphasis on existing personnel performance programs such as:

- Passing physical fitness tests
- Meeting weight control standards
- Not obtaining unexcused absences
- Passing drug and alcohol tests
- Completing Basic Military Training

Meeting annual weapons qualification requirements

Additionally, members joining the Louisiana National Guard after 14 Aug 89 must meet the school's residency requirements. A recent legislative change, however, requires members placed on academic probation to repay the exempted tuition for the current academic period rather than for the entire academic year.

Some administrative changes have occurred during the past year that provide for better accounting while reducing unit work loads for providing benefits to members. "Tuition Exemption Letters" are no longer issued to qualified participants. Rather, all LANG members are verified for program participation before each academic period. STEP Eligibility Reports indicating eligibility statuses of all LANG members are then issued to the schools and units. The only requirement of the member now is to gain program eligibility and to coordinate with the school of planned attendance in the two weeks prior to registration of each academic period.

To better inform the Guard membership of its educational benefits and changing requirements, the Education Services Office is planning the distribution of an updated Civilian Education Regulation to each soldier by 1 October 89. This publication will provide important information on STEP policies and procedures and for other educational programs available to members of the Guard.

As the need and cost for education rises, so will our need for better programs for meeting them. The STEP, like any valuable item, will serve Guard members well for many years to come with proper care and maintenance.

Editorial...

By SGT Michael J. Farrar
241st PAD Staff

The State Tuition Exemption Program (STEP) is a great way for Louisiana Guardsmen to seek higher education at little cost. The program improves the Louisiana Army and Air Guard's capacity to serve the state by increasing recruitment and by allowing each service member who qualifies the opportunity to further develop him or herself through education.

There are some, however, who don't fully appreciate the value of STEP and, in fact, question its need to exist. Louisiana's economy is in a troubled state due to falling oil revenues. During such times state officials look for ways to cut programs. In the past, discontinuing the State Tuition Exemption has been considered by the Legislature.

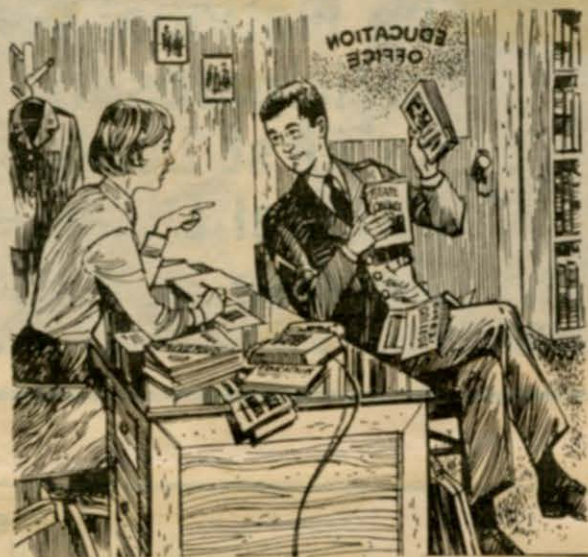
Exacerbating this situation is a recent incident in which an LSU employee (Viola Hayes of the LSU Veteran's Affairs Office) was arrested for falsely listing friends and families as guard-

members for exempted tuition benefits. Even though the Louisiana National Guard was not responsible for the abuse, and had nothing to do with hiring Ms. Hayes, her actions tarnished the exemption program's reputation.

We must also answer to those who think STEP is a "give-away" by reminding them of the services the Louisiana Guard provides to our state and nation in times of disaster and war. Working with civilian authorities the Guard has helped citizens reach safety when hurricanes, floods and tornadoes threaten. We step in when public and civil servants go on strike. And we recently enlisted in the War on Drugs.

If we are to preserve our State Tuition Exemption Program, we as guardsmen and voting citizens must make our views known to our elected officials.

If your future depends on this program, let them know. Their future depends on your vote.



Front Cover: Civilian medical and guard personnel came together in August to conduct the largest disaster exercise drill ever held in Louisiana. Details inside. (Photo by SPC Danny P. Keating, 241st PAD)

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

Chief of Staff
Col. James K. Corley

Public Affairs Officer
2LT Maria L. Jonkers

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard. Contents of the Louisiana Guardsman are not necessarily the official views, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Louisiana National Guard.

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.

Cpl Wiggins Uses National Guard Training To Save Two Lives on Interstate 49

By CPT Eric P. Jensen
199th Spt Bn

CPL Leonard Wiggins discovered his National Guard training paid big dividends when his medical know-how helped him aid two youths severely injured in an automobile accident on Interstate 49.

Last fall Wiggins and his wife, Rachel, were returning home after visiting relatives in Evangeline Parish when they came upon a burning automobile with two youths trapped inside and a third semi-conscious nearby. Wiggins pulled one of the youths out and was returning for the second occupant, when the fanning flames forced him away.

Wiggins' wife went to a nearby residence and called for a medical airlift while Wiggins rendered aid to 16 year old Kevin Perry, who was wandering near the wreck in a semi-conscious state.

The accident occurred when Perry, along with Cory Deville were passengers in a vehicle driven by Jack Ortego Jr. All of the boys were 16 years old.

The youths were on their way home to Washington from Alexandria where they had been shopping for new outfits to wear to their junior-senior prom. Ortego exited off of U.S. 167 onto I-49 but didn't realize that the entrance ramp was closed. The ramps were blocked by barricade signs reading "Closed Road."

As they entered the entrance ramp, the vehicle hit an open space 20 feet long, with 13 inches of reinforced concrete and 12 inch long steel dowel bars. As the vehicle continued traveling over the concrete and bars, flames rapidly spread to the car's fuel tank which had been torn open. Perry was ejected from the vehicle and landed about 50 feet in

front of the car. Ortego was still sitting behind the steering wheel and Deville was lying face down between the seat and the dash with his feet hanging out of the passenger window.

"I was scared," Wiggins admitted, but he pulled Deville from the wreckage and took Perry aside and wrapped his bleeding head in a T-shirt. He made the youth lie down until an ambulance arrived.

"Other people stopped, but they didn't want to get involved," Wiggins said. "One guy helped me move the boy (Perry) from a fire ant bed onto the shoulder of the road."

Wiggins, an armorer with Detachment 1, Company B, 199th Support Battalion in Alexandria, received medical training while serving as a medic in Company C in St. Martinville. That prior training paid off when Wiggins pulled Deville out of the burning car and rendered assistance to him and Perry. Ortego did not survive the accident.

"The reason I was able to stay level-headed was because of the training I received in the National Guard," Wiggins said. "More than anything else, though, I was scared of a lawsuit."

Both Perry and Deville were airlifted to Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria.

Wiggins assisted for twenty minutes.

"The next day, my wife called the hospital to see how they were doing," Wiggins recalled. "We talked to Perry's family. That was how they found out about us. They knew someone had pulled him from the vehicle, but they didn't know who."

The next day, the Wiggins met with the family. Wiggins said he was amazed at Perry's recovery.

"The doctors said he could never come



Corporal Leonard Wiggins

out of a coma, but now he's walking," he said. "He called me about a month ago. He asked me questions concerning his condition."

Deville's parents wrote Wiggins' battalion officers and described the accident and Wiggins' efforts.

"Cory suffered severe head injuries, remaining in a deep coma for six weeks," the Devilles wrote. "He then slowly began to come out of the coma, and was sent home in March 1989. He is still

undergoing physical therapy, and has other problems also. His road to recovery will be long and slow, and we do not know if he will be complete. But he is here with us at home, thanks to Corporal Wiggins, who risked his own life to save another, while others panicked and watched. Corporal Wiggins is certainly a man we must be proud of, and which you must be proud to have serving under you. He is a credit to his country," the Devilles wrote.

The Saga Continues...

New procedures for Commissary card

The Department of Defense recently issued a Fact Sheet identifying interim procedures to be used for Reserve Component use of commissaries.

According to the DoD Fact Sheet, the new Armed Forces Commissary Privilege Cards originally scheduled to be issued in time to implement the new entitlements by July 1, 1989, will now "be distributed to the National Guard and Reserve units beginning in late August, and issued to authorized members as soon as possible."

DoD also indicates that "during the time units are issuing the cards, the interim procedures for Guard members to use military commissaries will continue until Dec. 31. Members and their dependents are authorized up to 12 commissary visits during calendar year 1989 by showing a copy of orders demonstrating the member performed active duty or active duty for training during either calendar year 1988 or 1989, and as appropriate, the Reserve member's military ID card, or Reserve dependent's ID card," Army Form 5431

or Air Force Form 447.

DoD also notes that dependents who have not been issued a Reserve dependent ID card must also present a photo identification along with a document proving dependency status in order to gain entry to the commissary.

Starting January 1, 1990, DoD states "Reserve members and their dependents will be required to show the new Armed Forces Commissary Privilege Card listing their name (certified by the unit commander) and a photo identification such as a driver's license, or an authorized Reserve dependent ID card." Previous reports of delaying implementation until July 1990 are incorrect.

According to the Fact Sheet, National Guard commanders issuing the new commissary privilege cards will verify the authorized dependents by typing the names of each dependent in spaces allotted on the privilege card, and signing the card. This process will not be required for dependents who have Reserve dependent ID cards.



Flea and Tick Collars No Good on Dogfaces

(ARNEWS) — Flea and tick collars may offer good protection for Garfield and Odie, but not for soldiers, according to Health Services Command entomologist.

LTC Anthony Bosworth says the collars aren't designed for use on human skin, and the pesticides they contain may even pose a health threat to soldiers who try to use the collars to protect themselves from ticks, chiggers and fleas while on field exercises.

"Direct and prolonged dermal (skin) and respiratory exposure can have toxic effects on humans," Bosworth said.

He added that electronic tick and flea repellent devices don't work, and that electronic tick and flea repellent devices don't work, and that commanders and medical personnel should ensure that soldiers don't try to wear flea and tick collars to the field.

Instead, Bosworth says, soldiers can protect themselves with these measures:

- Blousing pantlegs inside boots
- Applying insect/tick repellent to exposed skin and to clothing near openings on the skin
- Use of an approved tick repellent on the clothing

One such commercial tick repellent for clothing treatment is permamone, which is currently approved for use in 31 states: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Registration of permamone is currently pending in other states.



ESGR State Committee members attend a ceremony to honor the military dead. Among the group is Hunt Downer, Speaker Pro Temp of the House of Representatives; MG W. E. Boomer, U.S. Marine Corp, and Rear Admiral Richard Chambers, U.S. Navy. (ESGR Photo)

The ESGR is Here to Help

By Madro Bandaries
State Media Chairman

The ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) is a national group of active duty, reserve and guard members as well as non-military personnel that volunteer their time and energy to assist members of the Guard and Reserve in their relationship with their employers.

Each state has its own organization. The Louisiana committee is headed by Mr. Edward L. Diefenthal, President of Southern Scrap Metal of New Orleans.

It is more than a public relations group, though. Its primary mission is to educate your employer as to your mission as a guardsman. This is done with speeches, public events, radio and television ads as well as "boss lifts". During a boss lift employers are taken

into the field to see their employee/guardsmen in action.

Of added importance is the Ombudsmen Program, where the ESGR will provide you with a member of the committee to assist you in any employer-employee related Guard problems. The new State Ombudsman is Wil Joffrion of Baton Rouge. He may be reached at (504) 922-4242. Each of Louisiana's five sectors has a local ombudsman. These individuals are helpful in solving many problems and are available at no charge to the Guard.

Now that you are aware of the ESGR, why don't you make contact with you sector chairman. He will be happy to visit your unit and explain the things that ESGR can do for you.

For additional information or the name of your sector chairman call COL Mike Martinez at Jackson Barracks, (504) 278-6311.

415th Military Intelligence Battalion: New Unit in Baton Rouge Looking For Linguists

By SSG Richard Roy and
SPC Gavin Falconi

The 415th Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist) of the Louisiana Army National Guard, is currently being organized. Headquarters and Company A will be located in Baton Rouge. Companies B and C are scheduled to be organized in FY 1991 and FY 1992 respectively.

The 415th MI Bn is a language intensive organization designed to research and process tactical and strategic military information from numerous sources. Each company/platoon/team should be prepared to deploy to areas in which the designated language is spoken.

Positions currently being filled are:
MOS 97B - COUNTER-
INTELLIGENCE: provides support to operations security, supports rear battle operations, supports the counterterrorism effort, and is heavily involved in deception planning and operations.

MOS 97E - INTERROGATOR: conducts tactical interrogations, interviews refugees and line crossers, exploits captured enemy documents, and provides limited translation and interpreter support.

MOS 96B - INTELLIGENCE ANALYST: collects, analyses, processes, and disseminates combat strategic and tactical military intelligence.

The languages sought and/or trained are: German, French, Polish,

Czechoslovakian, Dutch, Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Norwegian, and Italian. Other languages will be considered on an individual basis.

MOS and language training will be given to those meeting the qualifications outlined below. Language training varies in length from 25 to 53 weeks at Presidio in Monterey, California and MOS training is from 11 to 14 weeks at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Applicants to this unit must meet the following criteria: a general technical (GT) score of 100 or higher, a skill technical (ST) score of 100 or higher, must be in good health, have normal hearing and color vision, be a United States citizen (naturalized is acceptable) along with his/her immediate family, have no business interests in certain foreign countries, and be willing to accept certain foreign travel restrictions. Applicants who do not possess skills in a foreign language must take the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test and receive a score of 89 or higher.

All interested personnel are encouraged to contact CPT Steven J. Wilson or SSG Richard P. Roy, Jr. at (504) 358-0669 or (504) 358-0676.



Harry Truman:

**To Get Profit Without Risk,
Experience Without Danger,
And Reward Without Work
Is As Impossible As it is
To Live Without Being Born**

528th Engineers Renovate World War II Buildings at Fort Huachuca

More than 100 Louisiana Army National Guard members got a chance this week to practice their skills in construction trades and, in the process, save taxpayers some money.

The 102 members of Company C, of the 528th Engineering Battalion accomplished that feat by renovating two World War II-era Buildings that would otherwise have required the services of salaried civilians, said LT Robert Nash, the platoon leader in charge of the unit's two construction projects.

"It's going to be cost-effective, I guarantee you that," Nash said. "It's going to save the taxpayers thousands of dollars...And it's a good training exercise for us also."

"It's our mission. This is what we do," he said.

The 102 "citizen soldiers" comprising Charlie Company's two platoons took time off from their jobs for what has become an annual exercise for units from the 225th Engineer Group, — coming to Fort Huachuca for two weeks to make the worst of the 400-plus World War II-era buildings habitable.

"The units specialize in renovating buildings and earth-moving operations," said Nash. It employed the latter skill in another project — extending a rifle-firing range to the regulation 100 meters.

Nash said it appears the buildings — located near the intersection of Carter and Clarke streets — will be used as barracks by other Guard and Army Reserve units that come to Fort Huachuca for exercises, said MAJ Richard Nichols, the operations/unit training officer for the post's Directorate of Reserve Component Support.

Among other things, the guardsmen hung and painted sheetrock on the ceilings and walls, replaced wiring and insulations, as well as doors, windows,

heating and cooling ducts, bathroom fixtures and cabinets.

"This is the first year the 528th — which is headquartered in Monroe, La. — has ever been to this area," said Louisiana Army National Guard spokeswoman 2LT Maria L. Jonkers. "Other units from the 225th have done much the same work in years past," Jonkers said.

1st Sgt. Caldwell Flood said the soldiers have had no problem in adapting to the blast-furnace-like heat that has scorched southern Arizona every day for the past week. The soldiers have, however, had to remember to watch out for dehydration, he said, because they are not accustomed to a dry desert atmosphere vaporizing sweat as soon as it beads up on the skin.

Heat is one of the conditions the engineers of the 528th are expected to work in, he said. Nash said a group from the unit recently completed renovation work on some buildings in Panama, a tropical climate that is as humid as Louisiana's.

Like every exercise, the 528th tries to simulate an environment that, to the extent possible, resembles the wartime conditions in which the unit would be expected to operate in less-peaceful times, Flood said.

Heat is not the only difficult condition under which the unit is expected to operate. The building being used by the 528th as its center of operations was set up like one located in an area in which NBC — nuclear, biological or chemical — warfare is or had been waged, Flood said.

The building was surrounded by concertina wire and guarded with an armed sentry who demanded a password.

"That's part of our training," Flood said. "We must train to operate in a dirty battlefield...or any kind of setting."



Plumbers from the 528th Engineering Battalion, of Monroe, La., cut pipes to exacting standards during a project to remodel World War II-era buildings at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. From left, SPC Bernard McDowell, PV2 Andre Buford and SPC Antonio Mock. (U.S. Army photo by Jack Loudermilk).

1LT Buck Graduates From The Engineer Advanced Course

By CW2 Louis Joseph
205th Engr Bn PAO

Perhaps a more appropriate title would have been "Buck Bucks Odds", however, for the sake of clarity, the former will suffice.

First LSG Caldwell Flood, said the soldiers have had no problem in adapting to the blast-furnace-like heat that has scorched southern Arizona every

Buck, a native of Washington State, arrived in Louisiana in the first quarter of 1988, just in time to be placed in an overstrength position in Company D as an Armor Officer. His major assignment was performing engineer platoon leader duties prior to AT 88.

In just three months, he advanced to the XO position. He attended the Engineer Officer Advance Course for branch qualification in April 1989. His

initial order was to attend the Engineer Basic Course, but the Engineer School Cadre refused to allow his participation due to a previous Armor Basic Course he had attended at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Buck had to request special National Guard Bureau authorization to attend the Engineer Advance Course. LTC James R. McCall, Battalion Commander, intervened and permission was granted.

When he arrived at EOAC, the Cadre had mixed feelings about a second lieutenant at an advanced course. Tactics Division however wasn't concerned because of Buck's previous experience.

The Engineering Division was apprehensive because it wasn't sure he could complete the course without having any engineering training or prior experience.

As it turned out, he had no difficulties with either portion of the EOAC program. Buck graduated with 3 out of 5 superior ratings on his academic efficient report.

He returned from EOAC in May in time to perform duties as an Executive Officer in Company D in preparation for AT 89. he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in June, and is awaiting federal recognition at this time.

His aspirations are to become a company commander in the 205th Engineer Battalion, and eventually acquire an Active Guard position at Jackson Barracks on a full-time basis.

This story is a classical example of the attitude and fortitude of the men and women of the 205th. With 1LT Buck's "FISHDO" attitude, he has made us proud.



1LT Steven A. Buck, Executive Officer, Company D, 205th Engineer Battalion. (205th Engr Bn Photo)

SFC Angelo Phillips:

I Loved It, I'll Miss It, But It's Time For Me To Go

By 2LT Maria L. Jonkers

"I can't make you understand what this job means to me". SFC Angelo B. Phillips said. After fifteen years as a recruiter, Phillips is retiring.

Prior to joining the Louisiana National Guard in 1975 as an artillery cannoner, Phillips spent eight years in the Navy.

"When I got out of the Navy, I didn't wanna see another uniform. But while I was in college I got hungry, and that uniform started to look good. So I joined the National Guard. Before then, I'd been very disappointed with the military, but not anymore. I've had a great time," Phillips said.

Phillips confesses that he never wanted to be a recruiter.

"I was the most unlikely recruiter you'd ever seen. But while I was in college I had to wear my uniform every Wednesday night, because I'd work on some publications at the armory after classes. Kids were always following me to the armory. More kids followed me than followed a recruiter," he said laughing.

The recruiting and retention manager (then) LTC Urban Martinez and John Saleeby, area recruiter, noticed the soldier with the following and asked him if he wanted a job as a recruiter.

"I said no. I was in college. I had eight weeks left, and I had my hands full. I wasn't a salesman. I didn't like paper work," Phillips said. "But Martinez kept asking me. He said he'd work around my schedule. Hah! last time a recruiter told me that, I ended up in the Navy in Hong Kong. But he kept asking, assuring me that it wouldn't interfere with college. So, finally, I said O.K. But I had big time reservations."

By the time Phillips graduated he was hooked. He even turned down a fellowship for a university in New York to continue recruiting. In Phillips career he has recruited 723 guardsmen.

"I have my own philosophy about recruiting for the guard," Phillips said. "I tell them what it's gon na be like, and a little worse. If you lie about it, they're gonna tell all their friends. If they come back, and they're in a job that makes them unhappy, they'll spread the word, and their friends won't come to you. Most of my recruits come from referrals. I guess I missed out on a lot of kids by not telling them what they wanted to hear."

Phillips will miss the kids most, he said, their enthusiasm and self-confidence when they returned from basic.

"They looked great. But they all told the same lies! My drill sergeant made me do 200 push-ups! We had to get up at four every morning! I had to do pull-ups till my arms fell off!" he recounted laughing. "The stories and enthusiasm was always the same, but it always got me worked up."

Recruiting involved working long hours and spending a lot of time away from the family, but for Phillips, certain recruits made the job gratifying.

"I remember one girl. She was so skinny she could hide behind a bean pole. I



LSFC Angelo Philips does what he loved most - recruit. After fifteen years of working as a recruiter for the Louisiana National Guard, Phillips moves on to another phase in his life: teaching in Honduras and writing. (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO).

had spoken at her school, and six months later the school counselor called and said this girl wanted to join," Phillips said.

Now according to this counselor she would only speak to the typing teacher and himself. So I went to meet her and interview her, and I ending up doing all the talking. I drove her to the westbank [New Orleans] to take some tests and on the way there she didn't say a word-just sat all hunched up against the car door. When the test results came out I had to make arrangements with her mom to schedule a physical."

Phillips pauses, remembering the events.

"Well-it turns out she failed the physical, the mental portion. She'd been abused growing up. She'd tried to commit suicide, but the psychologist even said she hadn't wanted to commit suicide-it was a call for help," Phillips said.

"Well, this girl told me she'd come to a point where she had to do something with her life. She had to get out. She wanted to join the guard. So the psychologist approved her - but none of the units wanted her. Nobody wanted this little girl," Phillips said, "So I cashed in a favor with a training NCO and he accepted her."

"Well - off she went to basic. And when she got back she called her high school counselor and said 'Hi Earl. I'm back!' Phillips beams as he tells it. "She was a different person! Her training NCO called me and told me - send me more like her. Well, this little girl went on to college and joined ranger school.

She graduated top in her class. And at the graduation they gave her a trophy as big as she was."

Phillips pauses, and his voice chokes as he continues. "Last December she got a commission as an officer. God, I love recruiting."

After retiring Phillips plans to go to Southeastern and take up some education courses. His desire is to teach at an orphanage in Honduras where his wife's family is from.

"They're expecting me down there," he said. "My family has always supported me. I met my wife in college. She wanted me to accept the fellowship and become a doctor," he laughed. "I couldn't have done it without her."

Phillips is unconcerned about the political turmoil in Central America. "Oh, there are no problems in Honduras where I'll be. If there are problems, I'll just get in a piroque and paddle back to New Orleans," he said.

Phillips has also written a book about a cajun grandfather, his grandsons, a dog based loosely on his grandfather, his brother and himself.

"My cajun grandfather used to tell us some big lies. And we were kids, we believed every word. Why, I remember when my father would write us when he was in World War II, and the words were always censored with black marks. My grandfather claims he could read underneath the black marks cause he used to be in the French Underground and he knew the code. Oh, he made my father out to be such a hero in those letters," he laughed.

Phillips also recalls a story his grand

father told him of how the governor called him to Baton Rouge to translate the Napoleonic Code.

"And the only reason it took him as long as it did, he said, was cause he had to make some corrections to the original document," Phillips laughs and takes off his glasses to wipe his eyes as he recalls the tales.

Phillips is waiting word from the publisher as to the fate of his book. In his book the cajun grandfather has his grandsons convinced that he can talk with the dog. And the dog has revealed that the great works of Shakespeare and the story of Frankenstein was stolen from the cajuns.

"Why, the lone ranger was cajun!" Phillips said.

SFC Phillips grows quiet as he contemplates the last fifteen years of his life.

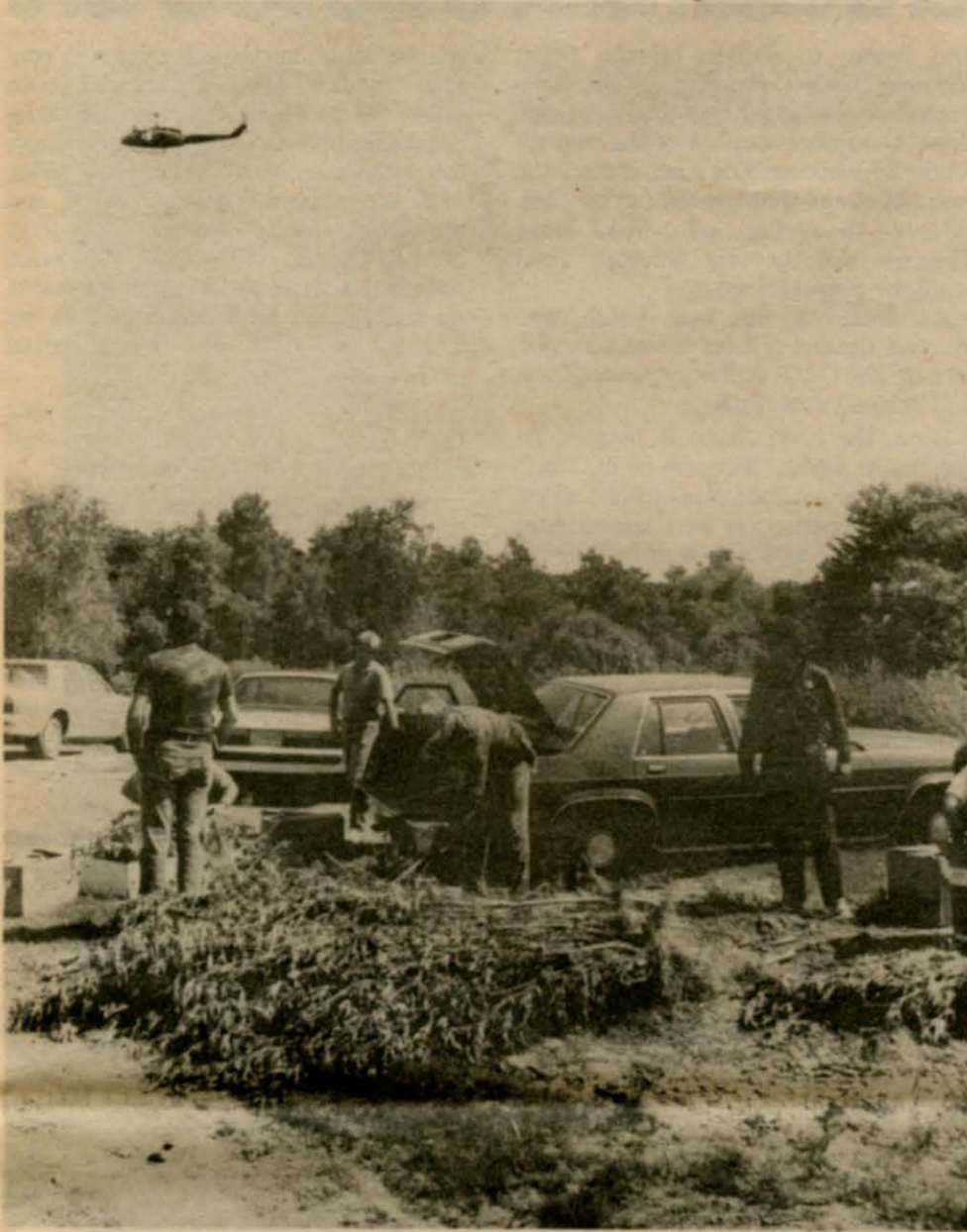
"Most people don't realize how hard a recruiters job is. And Martinez was hard to work for. But I loved him. Every year I wanted to quit. He's the reason I stayed this long. But it's time to do something else. I used to stand in front and say, come on kids! Lets run up this hill! Now I say - Y'all go on ahead, I'll catch up."

Phillips advice to new recruits would be to seize the opportunity the guard offers.

"It's all up to them and nobody else," he said. "And to other aspiring recruiters I'd say-don't do it, ha ha."

It's a hard job-long hours. But I love it. I'm gonna miss it. But it's time for me to go," he said.

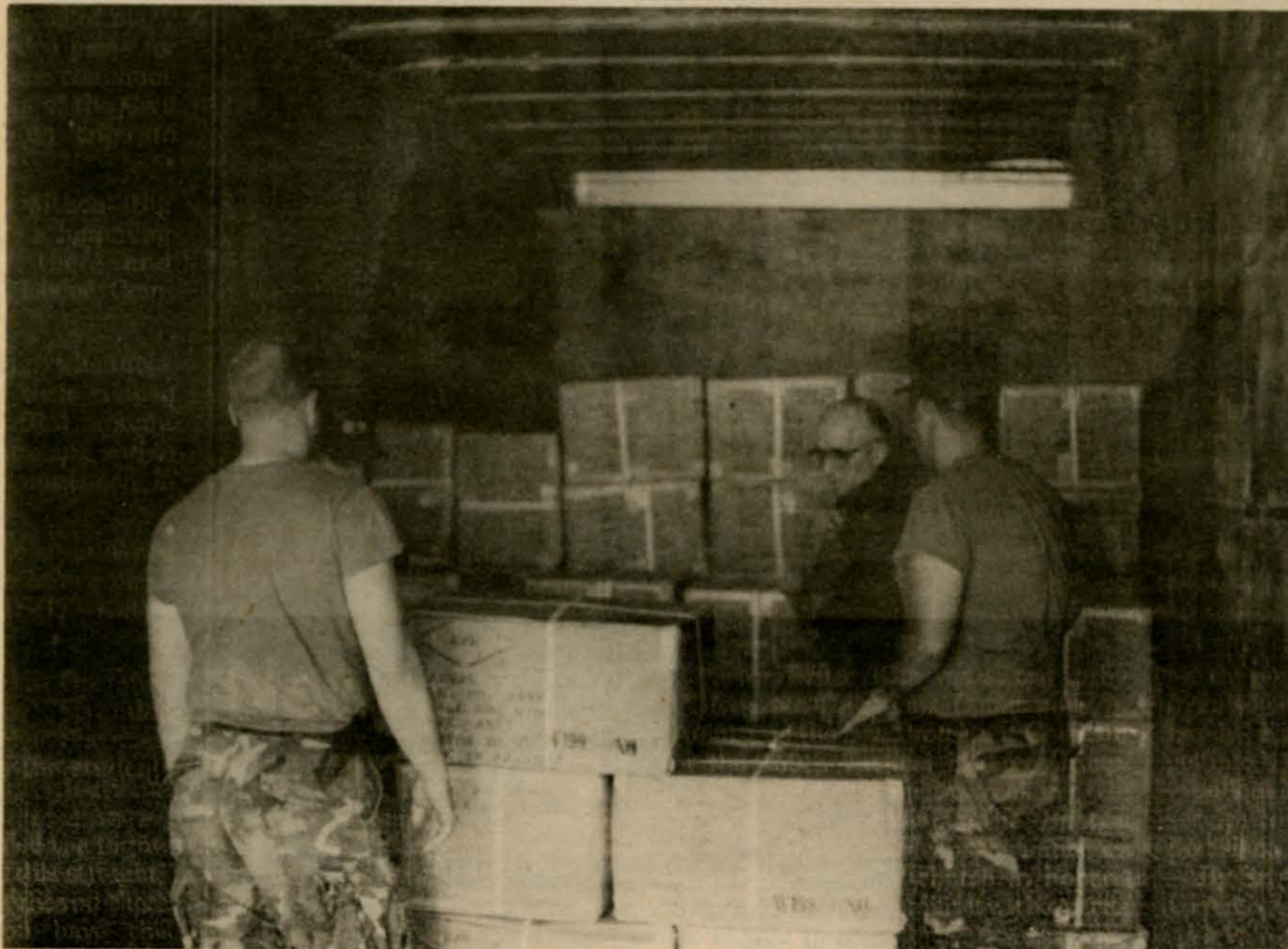
Operation Guard Wins Battle in War on Drugs



An Army Guard helicopter circles overhead as New Orleans police chop and bundle up eight and ten foot marijuana plants spotted earlier by a Guardsmen in the air craft.



An anonymous tip on a marijuana field in New Orleans East led Guardsmen and police to several patches totaling over 150 plants.



Guardsmen in Lake Charles assist U.S. customs agents inspect boxes of clothing arriving from Brazil.

New OCS Recruiting Officer

MAJ David Stoltz

The Officer Procurement Section of the Louisiana Army National Guard announced today the appointment of 1LT Haywood T. Migues as the new Officer Candidate School Recruiting and Induction Officer effective 1 Aug 89. Migues takes the place of 1LT Paul Vorenkamp who transferred to the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery as a Fire Direction Officer.

Migues has been a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard since 1971 and was commissioned at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1973. He resigned his commission in 1984 to become an enlisted recruiter in the Lafayette area.

He has received a number of honors and awards including the Army Commendation, the Army Achievement Medal and the Chief's 50 Award for being the top recruiter in Louisiana.

As the new OCS recruiter, Migues will vie to capture the Chief's Award again this year.

Migues can be reached at (318) 264-9802.

Guard tackles disaster exercise at

By SPC David Oliver
Unit Public Affairs Representative

Hundreds of civilian and military personnel came together at the New Orleans International Airport in August to conduct one of the largest emergency medical exercises ever performed in this area. The drill was conducted under the guidance of the National Disaster Medical System, a Maryland based organization which operates under the auspices of four departments in the federal government, including the Veterans Administration and Health and Human Services Department.

Guard personnel from the 159th MASH, the 812th Medical Detachment and the 222nd Medical Company worked alongside medical personnel of the 4010th Army Reserve Hospital. Participating in the military joint effort were medical teams and flight crews from the 167th Tactical Airlift Group of the West Virginia Air National Guard, and the 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

The military units worked in cooperation with a variety of civilian emergency teams. Ambulances were dispatched from eight local companies, buses were on loan from the Orleans Parish School Board; Army National Guard

helicopters from the 812th Med Det worked with participating choppers from the United States Coast Guard, Ochsner Hospital and West Jefferson Air Care.

Additionally, volunteers from the local Red Cross, area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and junior and senior civil air patrol squadrons were on hand to assist with a variety of chores ranging from passing out free coffee and doughnuts to playing the parts of simulated casualties.

The day's activities began at 5 a.m. as Guardsmen checked their equipment listened to final debriefings, and assisted members of the local Red Cross in applying moulage kits to the two hundred simulated casualties. Each casualty was also affixed with a multi-colored information tag. The color coded tags explained the condition of the victims: green for non-essential treatment, red for immediate, and black for dead or near-death and untreatable.

At 7:30 a.m. seventy-one Army Reservists boarded two school buses that carried them down the runway to a C-130 transport plane from the West Virginia Air Guard.

At 7:45 a.m. the buses met two medics at the rear hatch of the aircraft

and began to sign-in on the flight manifest before boarding. 43 litter patients were stacked dormitory fashion down the massive cabin of the aircraft while 28 walking wounded sat on the web net slings that passed for benches.

Inside the cockpit, pilot MAJ Jesse Thomas silently ran through final preflight preparations.

As soon as the rear hatch was lowered, dozens of litter teams scrambled onto the C-130 and began evacuation and triage procedures.

Soon, the commands so familiar to the Army medic, "Prepare to lift...lift!" filled the air. An hour of controlled chaos followed as casualties were triaged and evacuated by ambulance or helicopter. By 10:00 the first plane load were on their way to secondary care.

At 10:30 the West Virginia aircraft simulated a collision on the tarmac with the Kentucky aircraft as called for in the scenario. Each plane carried over a hundred patients already injured in an imagined earthquake in California. Within moments, hundreds of bodies and limbs littered the tarmac.

Commercial air passengers arriving on an opposite runway must have been horrified to see the catastrophic scene outside of their cabin windows: Fire

trucks, ambulances, helicopters in constant motion; Army greens and scrub shirts racing across the field; Red Cross trucks and MASH tents with the huge red crosses emblazoned on their sides; and everywhere bodies, bloody and mutilated. Many appeared to have severed limbs and exposed internal organs (a tribute to the moulage make-up artists), and between the bodies, the gruesome site of disembodied extremities.

And the volunteers, coached to play their parts, wailed and screamed and called for God, mother and mercy.

The authenticity was further enhanced by the wailing ambulance sirens, and the rhythmic pant of circling helicopters.

By 2:30 p.m. the last of the patients were whisked away to a medical facility, and the morgue was cleared. Military personnel began dismantling the site, and National Disaster Medical Service (NDMS) evaluators began working on their after action critiques to be presented later that evening.

"Sure, there are some things we'll do different the next time, if there is one," said LTC Evans J. Rosa, Executive Command and Control Officer for the Exercise. "But overall, this exercise was a tremendous success."



When the triage tents filled up, victims were laid out in the grass. Guardsmen worked in cooperation with several civilian medical agencies, law enforcement agencies, military organizations and veteran's groups during a National Disaster Medical Exercise held in August at the New Orleans International Airport. (Photo by 2LT Maria L. Jonkers, 241st PAD Staff)

New Orleans International Airport



Civilian paramedics prepare a patient for the short drive to the nearby helicopter pad for a medevac to a nearby participating hospital. (Photo by SPC Danny P. Keating, 241st PAD Staff)

"There's a danger when we're going this fast..."



Medics from the 159th MASH race to the C-130 loaded with victims of a simulated earthquake in California. The victims were volunteers from veteran's groups, the Army Reserve, the civil air patrol and Boy and Girl Scouts. (Photo by SPC Danny P. Keating, 241st PAD Staff)

Medics Carry the Load

By PFC Michael A. Ritter
241st PAD Staff

"It was a new experience to work with civilians and coordinate this. We all worked together and things went smoothly," said medic PV2 Jeannine Mullins, of the 159th MASH.

Mullins said that the disaster exercise provided medics with a rare opportunity to train in a hurried environment.

"We had to improvise a lot, and we got to experience some of the problems that can occur. We were short on some supplies and had to use cardboard boxes for splints in some cases," said PFC Amy K. Tinker.

Flight crews from the West Virginia and Kentucky Air Guards flew in patients and used C-130s to simulate an air crash.

"We had 45 patients in the litters and 20 ambulatories, so it was good training for us to handle that many casualties in the planes," said CPT Cheryl A. Siler of the 167th Tactical Airlift, West Virginia National Guard.

The casualties were removed from the planes and taken to triage tents which were set up near the runway.

"There's danger when we're doing things this fast, we try to double-check

each other," said SPC Kenneth W. Tobony.

Each casualty had been assigned a specific medical condition.

"I've just had a baby, and I have a fractured femur," said Audrey Rolland, a pharmacy specialist with the U.S. Army 4010th Reserve unit who volunteered to be a casualty.

In the scenario, Rolland's baby (a bag of rocks) was whisked off by helicopter to an intensive care unit, while she remained waiting for a later flight.

The medics used color coded tags to label which patients would be flown to hospitals according to medical priority.

"I've done this a few times for real, and this is great training to work under these conditions," said volunteer casualty SGT Ronald M. Shexnayder, who was a battlefield medic from 1983 to 1986.

Once tagged and evaluated, technicians busied themselves with the logistics of which patients would go to which hospital and how.

Throughout the exercise, realism was intact to the last detail. State police blocked local traffic as ambulances rushed through the streets. Helicopters airlifted patients to participating area hospitals.

"It won't be the same without Big Bird"

By SRA Debbie Hebert
159th TFG UPAR

A part of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group will be gone forever this month.

"Big Bird" as the old C-131 was affectionately known joined the ranks of the Louisiana Air National Guard on June 6, 1975, and displayed outstanding service.

She was well traveled, having been to almost every state in the continental United States, including Puerto Rico. She has been through bad weather in Texas and Louisiana.

"The Bird has served us well for many years," said COL James L. Thibodaux, commander of the 159th TFG. "Although we're sorry to see it go, we're pleased and satisfied to see its replacement with the new C-130."

She has survived the treacherous winds over the coast, bringing hurricane evacuation crews back home to their families. She has had military and civilian dignitaries aboard, providing them with the comfort and knowledge that they would arrive at their destination safely, though not swiftly.

"This is the last of the round-engined airplanes. It's sad to see a piece of aviation history leave us," said TSGT Wayne Gaudin, flight mechanic.

Several commanders flew with her to the Commanders Conference in New York, and some enlisted folks were flown to their conference in Oregon. And who can forget the trip to Puerto Rico? That trip brought members of the 159th TFG to work with the Navy in their FLEET exercise.

"It represents a unique chapter in the 159th's history. It has supported us well, and I'm sorry to see it go," said LTC Bob Lemoine, Safety Officer.

She has come to the rescue of many grounded pilots with needed parts for their grounded F-15s. In the community, she has aided members of the Civil Air Patrol and ROTC on trips to Washington and Texas.

"It won't be the same without Big Bird around. She was like a hummingbird, flying here and there and everywhere," said TSGT Elaine Comeaux, Unit Historian.

During annual training, when National Guardsmen leave their civilian jobs for two weeks, Big Bird brought their bosses over to the training site to observe their employee-guardsmen in action.

"She was comfortable to sit in. We're going to miss her, because the new plane is all straps," said TSGT Kathy Menendez, Personnel.

After completion of the last Operation Readiness Inspection, stranded students were rescued by her. She made three successive trips so the students wouldn't miss any classes.

MAJ Art Voltz scheduled the flights for Big Bird. "Let me get this straight," he said. "You want me to fly you there, wait for you while you have this meeting, and then fly you back?"



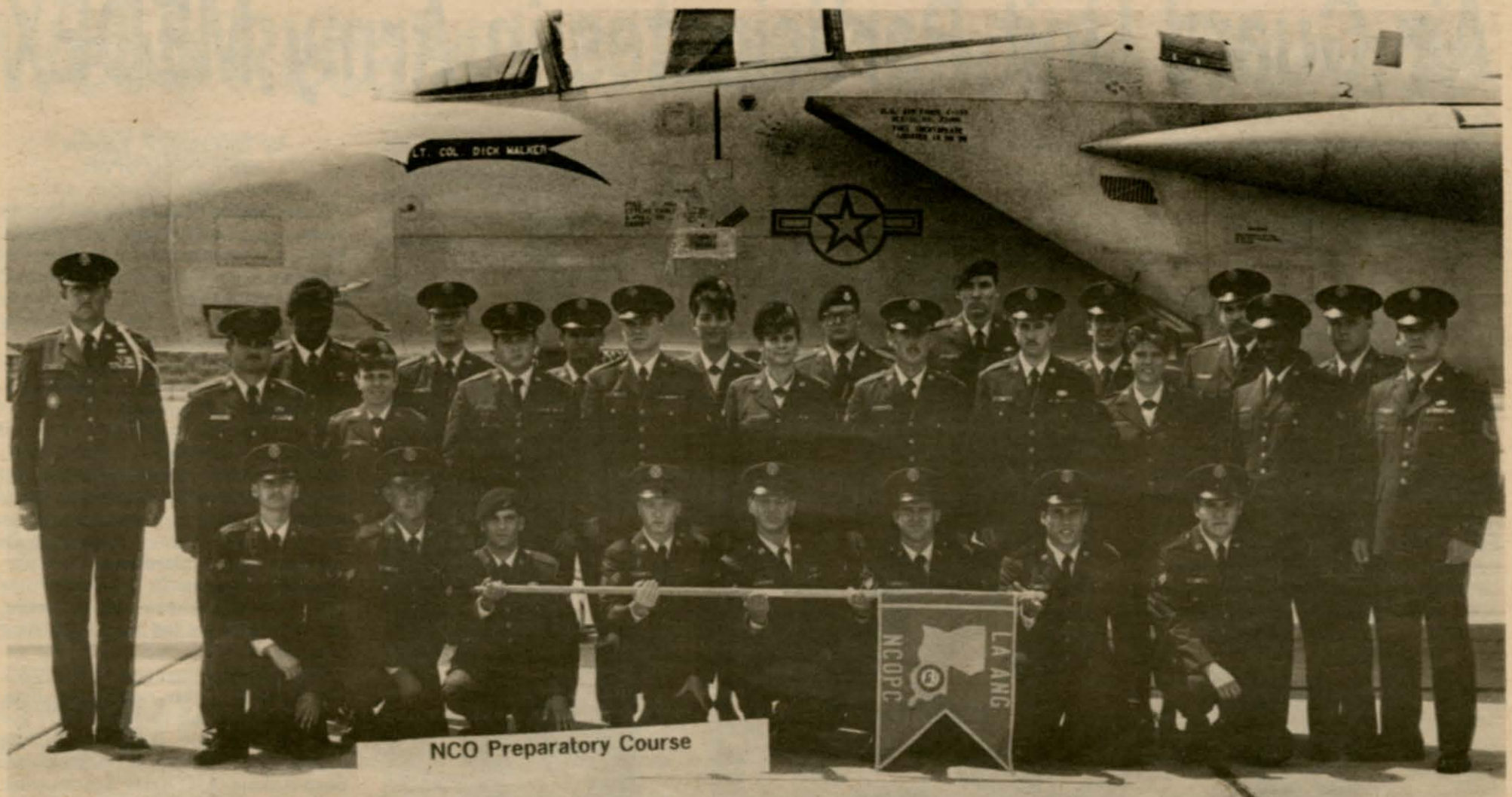
The "Big Bird" retires. (159th TFG Photo)



New pastor sworn in at 159th TFG

Pastor Bruce Kite was sworn in by COL James Thibodaux, Commander, in August as the new Protestant Chaplain of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group. Kite is married and has two children. He is pursuing a PhD at the Baptist Seminary in New Orleans. He ministers to a small country church in Robert, Louisiana. "In the military, the needs

are the same as in civilian life - perhaps more so because of the separation from family," Kites said. Kites cannot wait to get into the uniform and learn the ropes. "I'm looking forward to many years of service to the men and women of the Louisiana Air National Guard," he said. — By SRA Debbie Hebert, 159th TFG UPAR



The first graduates of the new Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Military Education Training Program offered at Camp Beauregard.

New NCO Professional Military Education Program

By SRA Debbie Hebert
159th TFG UPAR

There is a new Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Military Education training program offered to E3s and E4s of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group, the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron and the 236th Combat Communications Squadron. Members of this rank who meet the requirements are eligible to forego the Career Development Course of the same subject matter, and experience in-house training. MSGT Mike Muth, who is the coordinator of the program, says the purpose

of the course is to enhance an airman's career by improving managerial skills, leadership abilities, and overall knowledge of the Air National Guard in the Total Force Concept.

The first class which commenced in January, was conducted at the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station. The graduating class of July went through their course at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, TSGT Justin Jones, the course manager, notes that the change in the location of the course is more conducive for learning. In both groups, there was 100% graduation rate.

The demanding and challenging curriculum included lectures on Air Force history, organization and mission, correct wear of the uniform and Air Force customs and courtesies. Two objective examinations, three open ranks inspections, and ratings on conduct and participation were also part of the program.

SRA Andre M. Lemoine, the class commander of July's graduating class, stated, "I have learned a lot about myself, and how important it is to listen, help and work with others. This is what the Air Guard is all about, people working well together."

The renewed "Blue Pride" is evident in all the graduates of the course. SRA Michelle Hall, who also participated in the July course, said, "The knowledge I gained in this course built up my self-confidence and instilled in me a pride for my country."

Added SRA Paul Schultz, "This course taught me more about the customs of the Air Force and the responsibility I have to my unit. I will be able to set an example for others, and I hope to become a better leader."

Several members of the course have since advanced to NCO status, and two have become a part of the officer corps.

214th Installs Interfacing Equipment in Florida

By SGT Dean M. Arnett

Eleven members of the Louisiana Air National Guard spent Annual Training installing fiber optic interfacing equipment at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

The members of the 214th engineering Installation Squadron, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, were split into three teams. Each team spent weeks assisting with the installation of the interfacing equipment.

The 1839th Engineering Installation Group, Keesler AFB, Mississippi, in-

stalled the fiber optic cable and interfacing equipment. The new equipment is capable of carrying more than 16,000 communication circuits that will link the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill.

According to MSGT Thomas Landa of the 214th EIS, the equipment will be used for data transfer, and it will allow for increased intelligence data handling between the security offices of both commands. The new equipment will also provide for future expansion and a previously unavailable backup system.

Haunting Thoughts

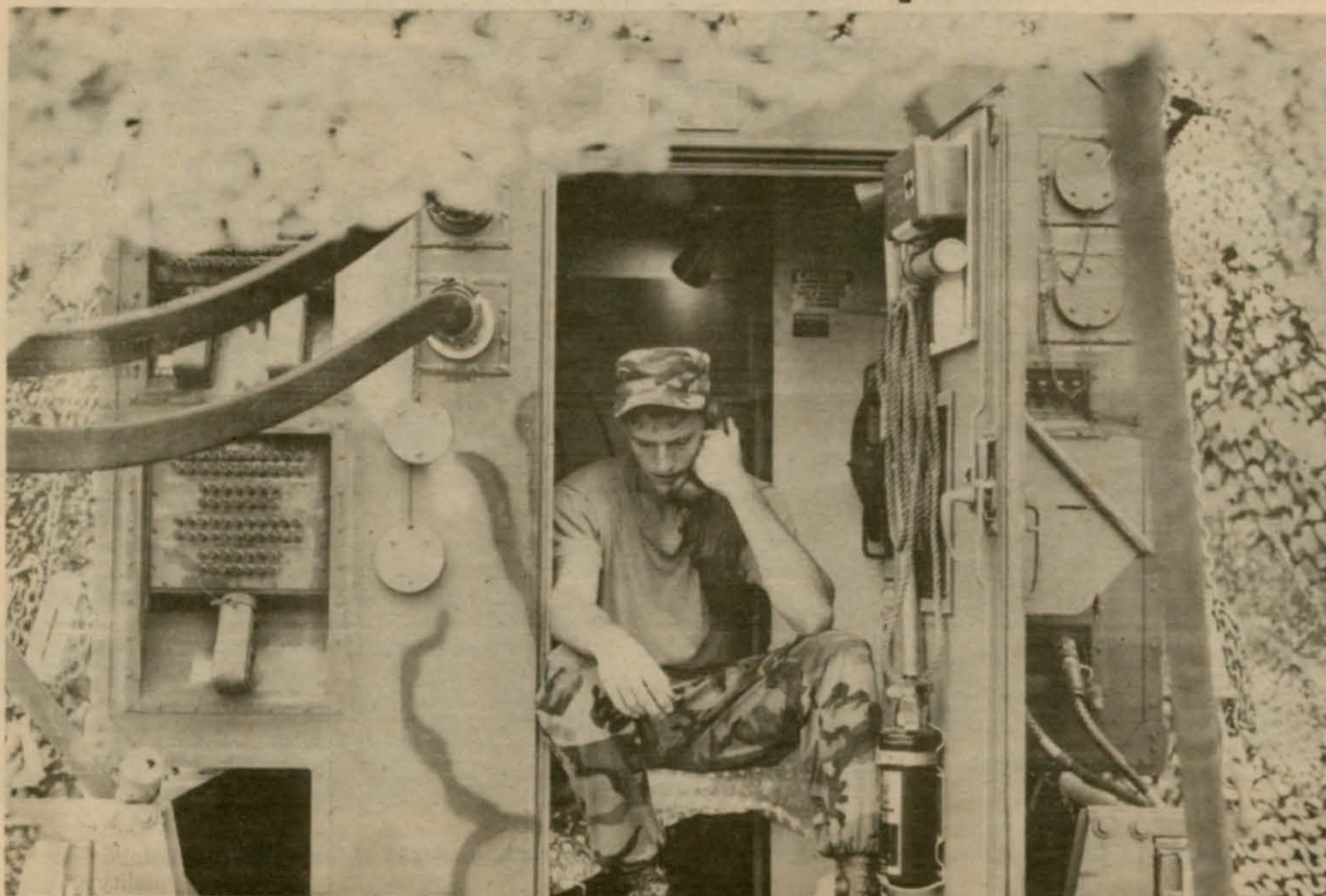
Good Ghosts know that regular saving with U.S. Savings Bonds is the way to financial security. Bonds are competitive and safe, guaranteed by the U.S. Government. Ask about them where you bank or work.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS
THE GREAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT

The responsibilities of an office are quite analogous to those of a policeman or fireman. The better he performs his daily task, the less frequently does he have to take direct action.

—Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.

Air Guard Unit Participates in Army MEDEX



SGT Troy Pou helped to set up a TRC-097 which served a communications link between deployed sites and the main switching terminal. (Photo by MSGT Harold Lockwood, 236th CCSQ)

By TSG Holly F. Lanoux
236th CCSQ UPAR

Camp Shelby, Mississippi was the site for an Army medical exercise, MEDEX 89. Units from various active duty and Army national Guard units participated in this exercise designed to test their ability to survive and operate in a hostile environment. The Louisiana Air National Guard was represented by the 236th Combat Communications Squadron located in Hammond.

The 236th CCSQ provided the vital communications link between numerous MASH, Medevac and surgical hospital insuring instantaneous communications to the main base for the exercise director, Army MG Wafford H. Merrell. Of the four deployed locations, the 236th operated two sites. They installed over 75 miles of field phone wire connecting the four sites to the main switching terminal.

The following members of the 236th participated in this exercise in June: MSGT Harold Lockwood, MSGT Zel Rice, TSGT Troy Pou, TSGT Greg Mascarella, SSGT Daryl Hornsby, A1C Sean Adkins, A1C Kraig Schexnayder, A1C John Metrejean, A1C Steve Bogan, A1C Daren Burns, and A1C Chad James.

New Hispanic Employment Program Manager

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and explain to you the Hispanic Employment Program (HEP). My name is 1LT Jorge F. Roca and I have been designated as your Hispanic Employment Program Manager (HEPM) for the Louisiana National Guard Federal Technicians.

It is my responsibility to advise the State Equal Employment Manager on matters affecting the employment and advancement of Hispanics, and to ensure that necessary actions are taken to protect the interest of Hispanics working for the Louisiana National Guard.

The Hispanic Employment Program (HEP), originated as the Sixteen-Point Spanish Speaking Program which was established under former President Nixon on 5 November 1970. The intent of this program was to assure equal opportunities in federal employment for Spanish surnamed Americans. The program, which in 1975 became known as the HEP, is an integral part of the Government's equal opportunity effort under executive order 11478 and PL 92-261. Its purpose is to enhance the recruitment, employment, advancement, and treatment of Hispanic employees



and applicants to the Federal Government.

I invite you to contact me to discuss any questions, suggestions or problems that you might have concerning the Hispanic Employment Program, and if necessary I speak fluent Spanish. I can be contacted at 504-278-6424 or AV 485-8424. I can also be reached thru the Director of Manpower Management, COL Ignatius P. Purpera Jr., at 504-278-6341, or AV 485-8341 or thru the State Equal Employment Manager, MAJ Richwell Ison at 504-278-6342 or AV 485-8342.

"The power to command has never meant the power to remain mysterious."

—Marshal Ferdinand Foch,
commander of World War I allied forces



Four new Louisiana Air National Guard second lieutenants take time out after graduation to be photographed with their commanders who flew up to attend the graduation ceremony. (159th TFG photo)

La. Air Guard Gains Four New Lieutenants

By SRA Debbie Hebert
159th TFG UPAR

Four new lieutenants celebrated their graduations from the Academy of Military Sciences: Lori Lisotta, John Dugan, Shirley McVicker, and Glen Bouchard.

The hard earned gold bars were earned through a rigorous program that included academics, physical conditioning,

and drilling. They were taught leadership and Air Force doctrine, and they also participated in a mobility exercise and daily inspections.

2LT Lori Lisotta said, "It was an honor to be selected to attend. My renewed enthusiasm (i.e. "re-blued") makes me proud to be a member of the Louisiana Air National Guard. I hope to accomplish a lot of things in my new position as an officer."

Webb Recalls His Experience in Grenada

By SGT Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD Staff

As he airdropped into Grenada, a medical helicopter whirled into the air carrying away two dead American combat soldiers. "That ruins my John Wayne image," Don Webb, management senior form New Orleans, exclaimed. "This is for real!"

Webb, 25, acting platoon leader of the Scout Platoon for HHC 1/256th in Jeanerette, is presently a cadet in the senior ROTC program at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA.

But in 1983, Webb, a short and stocky paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, received orders to take part in a reconnaissance patrol mission in the Middle East.

"I was a member of the peace keeping force there," Webb said. "When I enlisted in the Army, I looked forward to the adventure, but my tough guy image was blown when I saw those dead

soldiers carried away."

"There are two occasions when my squad was under fire," he said. "Those were the most frightening experiences of my life."

"Once during a combat patrol in the Middle East, I packed 110 pounds on my back in 120 degree heat. This was certainly life threatening, but to make matters worse, we walked into an active mine field. I was anxious to end that adventure," Webb said.

At 17, he enlisted in the Army and joined the airborne division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. "My motivation for signing up came when I was a kid watching John Wayne's movie, The Green Berets, he said.

He said the Duke was his hero.

An interesting aspect of Webb's military career was his sidekick Leo.

Leo was Webb's ragged looking stuffed lion. Webb claims that Leo was

a great morale booster for himself and the rest of the troops.

"I carried him in my cargo pocket wherever I went," he said. "I made 53 parachute jumps and Leo was with me for 33 of them."

Recalling a story which took place at Fort Bragg, Webb spoke of his misadventure with Leo.

"We were on a jump one day and just as I jumped from the plane, Leo fell out of my pocket."

Webb thought he had lost him forever.

"The medics covering the jump saw where he landed and rushed to the site in an ambulance. They placed a neck brace on him and put one of his paws in a cast."

The medics took Leo to the Aids station. Returning from his jump in despair over the loss of his partner, Webb was given a note to report to the station, on-

ly to find Leo well-mended and in stable condition.

Webb spent four years in the army. He received jungle training in Panama, arctic training in Alaska and desert training in the Mount Sinai area.

His overseas' tours of duty included seven months in the Middle East, one month in Honduras, two months in Panama and two weeks in Grenada.

Webb entered the ROTC program and joined the National Guard this spring.

Webb plans to finish school in two years. By age 35, he would like to be a corporate manager in a Fortune 500 company.

With his military discipline and youthful determination, Webb is bound to succeed, but not without his faithful sidekick Leo, who can be found in the pocket of his school sack. What a trooper!

2224th Conducts Their First Ever Annual Training

Joseph F. Eguia
Field Medical Assistant

Early Saturday morning August 5th, darkness yielded to light as the 2224th Medical Detachment (Dental Service) commanded by COL Bruce B. Butler, prepared for its first annual training in its two year history.

Training NCO SFC Ross A. Smith scurried from office to office taking care of last minute details and dozens of questions.

It was only 0630 but the day was already in full swing. 47 soldiers were

present that morning, ready for their upcoming trip to San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The advance party of nine already awaited them at Fort Sam.

The 2224th is a field dental unit whose main purpose during their first annual training was to gain "chair-side" experience. Hence, Fort Sam Houston was selected because of its high patient demand and shortage of dental officers and clinical support personnel. The 2224th's training expectations were realized at both Fort Sam and Randolph

Air Force Base. The unit was divided into teams and was attached to three dental clinics; Rhoades and Budge at Fort Sam Houston, and the clinic at Randolph.

By the end of the two week period the personnel of the 2224th had completed over 1,995 dental services.

The unit then went to San Antonio to accomplish their second objective: successfully complete an NBC exercise at the Camp Bullis Gas Chamber under the direction of CPT TC. Morgan, a unit dental officer and unit NBC officer.

The 2224th Medical Detachment (Dental Service) was established in September of 1987. The quality and experience of the personnel assigned to it have made it possible for the unit to act like a seasoned team of veterans. The unit's ability to carry out its plans and directives throughout the training year as well as during annual training is evident. The 2224th is comprised of seventeen officers and 69 enlisted personnel; of those, over 90 percent are college students or graduates. With this level of education and a willingness to work, the 2224th has hit the ground running.

769th Engineers Adopt Prairieville Elementary

By 2LT Danny Thurmond

The Prairieville Elementary School has recently started upgrading and renovating its facilities in an effort to improve the school's usefulness to its student body.

In an effort to assist the school, the Second General Construction platoon of Charlie Company, 769th Engineer Battalion is constructing three 25 foot by 37 foot concrete bleacher pads for its football field. In addition, the unit is installing 476 feet of much needed 18 inch drainage culvert along the front of the school. The new drainage system will provide better access to the school grounds.

Training of C Company has been enhanced by incorporating the project into the unit's NCO Development Program, (NCODP). In early August the NCODP consisted of training fellow

NCO's unfamiliar with concrete slab construction on how to form and square foundations. The project is well ahead of schedule and will be completed soon.

C Company is planning to adopt the Prairieville Elementary School in the Louisiana National Guard's new Volunteer Civil Action Projects program. The program encourages Guard Members to come together and volunteer some of their own time to help communities our state.

According to CPT John Angeloz, company commander, "We would like to adopt a different school every two years to enhance the Guard's image, and assist the Gonzales area."

"The junior NCOs and promising E-4s benefited from the instruction the most. They will aid the company during annual training 1990," said 1SG Carroll Smallwood.

**H
E
A
D
S

U
P**

We are working on publishing a Louisiana Army and Air National Guard yearbook. This ambitious volume will take two years in the making, but in the months to come a civilian photographer will be coming to an armory near you to photograph you and your fellow guardsmen for inclusion in the book. You will be hearing more about this project in the months ahead.

To Blunder Twice Is Not Allowed In War — Latin Proverb

Soaring With the Eagles

By Dr. Paul W. Pifer

Midmorning June 7th, I am strapped in the back cockpit of an F-15 Eagle poised on the tarmac ready for take-off.

The pilot, 1LT Curt Hughes, throttles the huge engines to full power, releases the brakes and we hurtle down the runway. At 10,000 feet, he turns on the afterburners which thrust the plane another 500 feet and we are airborne, climbing vertically while slowly spiraling to 20,000 feet before heading out to the Gulf of Mexico.

Few civilians are fortunate enough to fly in a military fighter plane. For me it is the culmination of years of waiting and hoping. My good friend, James LeBlanc, drove me to the Naval Air Station at Belle Chase where we were welcomed by LTC John Boh, Headquarters, 159th Tactical Fighter Group. He referred me to TSGT Eric Birdsell, who "Suited me up" with boots, flight suit, G-suit and other necessary equipment.

Birdsell then directed me to the F-15 cockpit "mockup" where he proceeded to teach me ejection techniques. His lecture was clear and direct, but slightly

disconcerting, since it made me recall parachuting once before after being shot down over Germany in a B-24 Liberator Bomber.

The ejection system is very sophisticated. A rocket fires the seat and the pilot from a disabled aircraft. The seat falls away as the parachute opens automatically. There are no ripcords in modern fighter jets.

Our mission on my orientation flight was to seek out and destroy enemy fighters. In this case, two A-7s and two F-4 Phantoms. As we cruised out over the Chandelier Islands, Hughes demonstrated the radar system which can detect alien planes from 50 to 160 miles away. The F-15 can track targets day or night, "lock" it into the radar system, and destroy the alien plane with a missile without ever being visualized by the pilot. Amazing.

Hughes permitted me to take the throttle and stick and fly this \$26 million fighter. The aircraft responded to every nuance of motion transmitted to the stick. The thrill of doing that was indescribable. The B-24s we flew during

WW II were equipped with four 1200 horsepower Pratt and Whitney engines, producing 4,800 horsepower. The F-15s two Pratt and Whitney engines generated nearly 48,000 pounds of thrust - more than enough to reach outer space! An incredible powerpack.

Suddenly Hughes spotted two aircraft on the radar screen 22 miles out. He immediately began a steep climb to 41,000 feet, closing on the enemy all the time. Then we attacked.

A dog fight in a Mach 2.5 fighter was the most exhilarating experience I have ever known. Violent gyrations in turning, diving to the sea, streaking skyward, rolling over on our back and diving again. Flying from 50 feet above sea-level to 40,000 feet and back several times, tracking, "locking in" and destroying the evasive simulated enemy. The pilots of the other aircraft were no slouches either. They were seeking us with the same fervor.

My only problem with the experience was the G-forces (pressure felt when traveling at high speeds). Several times I asked Hughes to break off the engage-

ment because I could sense myself "greying out" due to hypoxia (lack of oxygen to the brain). Even the G-suit cannot prevent actually passing out. Truly, flying jet fighters is a young man's game; these people can withstand up to nine times the pull of earth's gravity (9-Gs!). Us older guys cannot.

I was impressed with Hughes' ability as pilot, and I dubbed him "The Hunter". He was wary, constantly searching the skies visually as well as monitoring the radar screen, always twisting and turning that F-15. He made Tom Cruise look like a neophyte.

On our return to base he flew us through Mach-2 (about 1,200 mph), dove in and out of the lovely cumulus cloud banks, showed me the extensive Mississippi River traffic, and the multitude of small fishing and pleasure boats along the Chandeliers.

And then the fun was over. We flew back to Belle Chase where Hughes executed a very smooth landing in one of the world's finest jet fighters. It was the end of a perfect morning.

Louisiana Guardsmen Initiate Armywide Policy Changes

SGT Eric P. Bettevy and SGT David Desselle of the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard recently submitted a logistics improvement suggestion to Project SMART which was evaluated by the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command (TACOM) and was recommended for Armywide adoption.

Bettevy's and Desselle's suggestion recommended that the oil sump screen on the M916/M920 Truck, Tractor transfer case be removed and cleaned at regular intervals and before any period of extended usage. The cleaning of this sump filter screen has greatly aided in reducing the high failure rate of the transfer case in the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard. The Program Manager's Office at TACOM has been investigating the M916/M920 transfer case problem since June 1988 and has fielded interim PMCS checks previously in MSG,k TACOM 022200Z Aug 88. TACOM concurred with this recommen-

dation which will be incorporated in the Technical Manuals to further improve the component maintenance.

SMART is looking for logistics improvement ideas that reduce the logistics burdens placed on units or that improve combat readiness. Ideas submitted to SMART are not required to be in any special format or on any special suggestion form, but must be logistics related and have Armywide applicability. DA Form 5533 can be used as an aid in submitting ideas.

Your solution to a problematic situation or observed deficiency may just be the answer the Army is looking for or may provide a clue to a better method or procedure. SMART provides the opportunity for you to participate in improving the Army Logistics System. Mail your SMART ideas to Project SMART, US Army Logistics Center, ATTN: ATCL-CFIS, Fort Lee, VA 23801-6000.



1SG Thomas Patterson

Patterson Hot With a Pistol

By MAJ Jim D. Henderson

1SG Thomas H. Patterson with the 2224th Medical Detachment (Dental Service) in Baton Rouge was one of 1,109 competitors on hand for the 1989 National Pistol Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Patterson was a member of the select All National Guard Pistol Team which is composed of the best 25 pistol shooters in the National Guard.

The Guard was prominent among the winners. Among their accomplishments at this year's "world series of shooting" were: eight guardsmen in the top 100 in the prestigious President's match, two selected for the Mayleigh Cup, third place overall honors in the Team Championship and fourth in individual competition.

"In two of the submatches I placed in the top ten nationally," Patterson said. "But, I've done better in previous years."

Over 4,000 shooters were on hand for the three phases (pistol, smallbore rifle, and highpower rifle) of the month-long matches.

The championships are open to members of the Armed Forces, National Guard, Reserve Officer Training Corps, Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps, Citizens Military Training Corps, Citizens Air Training Camps, rifle and pistol clubs and civilians.

"The team in Louisiana has been undergoing a lot of restructuring over the past several years, and now with LTC Bob Williams' guidance and leadership we're going in a positive direction," Patterson said.

LTC Robert Williams works as a full-time training administrator at Jackson Barracks.

LTG Stotser New Commander of Fifth U.S. Army

LTG George R. Stotser of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee has been nominated to command Fifth U.S. Army and Fort Sam Houston. He will replace LTG William H. Schneider who will retire on September 30 with more than 33 years of service.

Stotser will come to Fort Sam Houston from Heidelberg, West Germany where he now serves as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the United

States Army Europe and Seventh Army.

Stotser was born on April 21, 1935. He received his military commission upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Middle Tennessee State University. He also holds a master's degree in Education from the same university. His military education includes completion of the Infantry Officer basic and Advanced

Course, the naval War College Command and Staff Course and the Army War college.

Stotser's military career includes a wide variety of important command staff assignments. He was previously assigned as commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Wurzburg, West Germany. Other key assignments include duty as Assistant Division (Forward), Germany and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, United States Army Europe. Stotser also served in Vietnam as commander of a cavalry battalion and as Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations and Training) for two 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

From the archives of a LANG anti- aircraft battalion

In July a 90mm gun was unveiled at the Military Museum at Jackson Barracks. This article should be reprinted in the Louisiana Guard's newspaper. It was originally published in 1959, but the young people should see how good this unit was. They were the best.
A Former Member

When members of New Orleans 527 AAA Battalion "fell in" that first morning at Summer field training, in 1949, they hardly would have rated as an inspiring military sight to the casual observer.

Even with all hands in ranks, there were barely enough to make up a respectable platoon for parade purposes during those frustrating days at Camp Polk. The battalion had been activated only two months before and as a photo taken during that first field training session shows, "all hands" meant not more than 50 officers and men. The battalion was sadly short, not only of "bodies" to flesh-out its ranks, but of the equipment needed to transform those bodies into efficient, team-trained Artillerymen.

Yet only a year later, when it journeyed across Texas to take its second training tour at Fort Bliss, The Nation's top laboratory and classroom for anti-aircraft troops, already a miracle had been worked.

The battalion still was small—maybe the equivalent of a good-sized Battery—and its property records could have been carried in the supply officer's pocket, but a spirit had been created in the intervening year, a lusty vigor that dared any critic to discount the battalion's potential championship caliber.

MG Raymond F. Hufft, Louisiana's Adjutant General, noted the energy and initiative which the still-fledgling battalion poured into its training and observed: "Never before have I seen a battalion start with so little and accomplish so much in such a short time. I predict that the 527th will do a remarkably fine job and add greatly to the military annals of Louisiana's militia forces."

His words were prophetic, for eight years later, in 1958, the 527th became the champion in name, as well as in the quality of its own indomitable spirit, when it won the trophy awarded annually to the outstanding National Guard Air Defense battalion in the United States.

Announcement of their achievement didn't particularly surprise the 450 officers and men who now constitute the 527th. They've had an efficient smoothly-functioning unit for several years—and they've known it! Over the years, they've become accustomed to "Superior" ratings from the Fourth Army Inspector General—anything else would have represented inexcusable failure in their eyes. So to the self-

confident gunners of the 527th, the ARADCOM Commander's Trophy was only the natural next step.

Pinpointing the factors which produce champions is not easy—you can't add two and two and get four because it's impossible to assign relative values to such intangible qualities as perseverance, loyalty, drive, ambition and pride. But it isn't hard to attribute the 527th's successes to an ample measure of each of those characteristics, and to the most undefinable element of them all: leadership.

The handful of officers who formed the nucleus of the new battalion back in 1949, and who still play a major role in its guidance, brought with them their pride in the accomplishments of its predecessors. As the 105 Separate Battalion Coast Artillery (AA), it had fought in the Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley campaigns of WW II. From the arid deserts of North Africa to the mud and slush of Italy, the 105th had given a good account of itself and the officers who presided at its rebirth in 1949 had gone all the way with it.

They had seen it set records before, when the price of failure would have

His words were prophetic, for eight years later, in 1958, the 527th became the champion in name, as well as in the quality of its own indomitable spirit, when it won the trophy awarded annually to the outstanding National Guard Air Defense Battalion in the United States.

been American lives. In Tunisia, 105th gunners set somewhat of a record by gagging 12 percent of all the enemy aircraft they engaged, averaging 111 rounds of ammunition per "kill." In Algiers, they earned a special commendation from the shrewdest fighter of them all, GEN George S. Patton, after they knocked-out 14 enemy planes and scored none probables shortly after the Oran landing.

Some of that small group of officers could look back even further, to the unit's prewar existence as the 108 Cav. There are not too many of that breed left: LTC William B. Cox, the battalion's current commander; MAJ Edward R. Herrman, Executive Officer; Maj William E. Cazaubon, S3; CPT Vincent A. Beninate, CWO Thomas Brown and CWO Aaron Edgecombe, who cut their military eyeteeth on the saddles and sabers of the old 108th, then graduated to the AAA-slanted Coast Arty, and finally evolved into the 527th AAA.

When the impressive Commander's Trophy comes to rest in the 527th Armory, which sits among a grove of ancient, moss-draped oaks on the banks of the Bayou St. John in old New Orleans, you'll see a deeper pride in their eyes—and in the eyes of LTC Joseph H. Cunningham, battalion Commander from its 1949 reactivation until 1954 and now assigned to the nearby 204 AAA Gp. He, too, was present when the old 108th put its horses out to pasture and took on an antiaircraft mission for WW II.

But it won't stop there. Up and down the ranks, you'll find men pausing before the trophy for a moment, remembering the work and effort and dogged determination that went in to its winning. Men like CWO Eugene Lala and WOJG Huey Monnerjahn and their Ordnance Detachment who worked all through one frustrating night last summer to put the fire control systems back in working order after an exasperating breakdown. The battalion was due to fire for record the next morning and, despite a lack of parts and of experience with M33s, the Ordnance team was determined that the complicated equipment would be ready. When the units

"Let There Be Fire" is the Battalion motto, but Col Cox adds a phrase which you would expect in the 527th: "...but be sure every round hits the target!"

moved to the firing line, guns and fire control systems were in tiptop shape for some serious shooting. Not to be outdone, gun crews piled-up a Battalion average of 97.11, Battery C leading with 97.49!

"Let There Be Fire" is the battalion motto, but COL Cox adds a phrase which you would expect in the 527th: "...but be sure every round hits the target!"

Formal presentation of the Commander's Trophy will be held later, according to an announcement from the Headquarters of LTG Charles E. Hart, Commander of the U.S. Army Air Defense Command.

Meanwhile, the trophy is being forwarded to New Orleans from Pittsburgh, where it has reposed the past year in the hands of the 708 AAA Battalion, last year's winner. The trophy itself is rotated from winner to winner each year but each battery in a winning battalion is given a plaque for its permanent display.

The winning battalion is chosen on the basis of a composite evaluation of performance of all National Guard Anti-aircraft battalions. Going into the evaluation were results of Army training tests, annual service practice at firing ranges, inspections, staff performance, recommendations of regional commanders and GEN Hart's own study.

**Reprinted from
the NATIONAL
GUARD MAGAZINE**



1/156th Works Out With M-1 At Polk

Story and photos by
SFC Kirk J. Barilleaux
256th Inf Bde PIO

Enthusiasm - Webster defines it as "intense or eager interest."

During the 1st Battalion, 156th Armor's annual training at Fort Polk this enthusiasm was very evident.

The Battalion is undergoing training with their newly acquired m-1 Abrams tanks.

Training started in mid-June and continued until early September. Battalion commander LTC Ralph Stapleton stated that the mission for annual training 89 was to qualify all of the tank crews on the M-1 Abrams tank, and to qualify all maintenance personnel in the MOSs.

This is a transition from the M-60 tanks to the M-1s. Stapleton further stated that the training was going well, the troops were enthusiastic, and the they were learning a tremendous amount of information.

In order for everyone to get the necessary individual hands-on training, the training was being conducted at company tank and crew level.

This AT period lasted 21 days instead of the usual 15. The units were trained by the Army New Equipment Team (A-NET) out of Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The training consisted of three phases: orientation and safety, hands-on in the motor pool with emphasis on preparing the team for their station training, and taking the tanks to ranges for live fire familiarization.

"We are all impressed with the speed, mobility and firing of this tank. The ability to fire on the move is the one thing most soldiers are impressed with," said MAJ Kenneth Valentine, Operations Officer for the battalion.

"Gunner PFC Tommy Ashton said, "It has an excellent firing system, more accurate than previous tanks. If you lay the sight on the target, you will hit it on the move. The laser system is accurate and accurate, and the lets the crew get a pretty good sight of the target, and how far it is."

Ashton, a student at Drauhan Institute in Shreveport feels that as the machines improve, the caliber of soldier must improve.

"The training is great, fantastic. The guys are learning quite a bit," said SSG David Wright, Field First Sergeant of Company C in Vivian. "The M-1s are a lot better than the 60s. The age of the dinosaur is gone. It was a good tank in its day, but it's obsolete now. The M-1 has a quick response, and is easier to operate and maintain."

SFC Billy West, battalion master gunner, touted some of the M-1s statistics, "The maximum speed is 45 miles per hour, and it carries a 105 millimeter main gun with one 50 cal and two 7.62 millimeter machine guns. The crew consists of the tank commander, gunner, loader and driver.

"The Lazer Ray Finder (LRF) fires a lazer beam at the target which is input-



The mighty M-1 Abrams tanks prepare to move to the ranges at Fork Polk during the 1st Battalion, 156th Armor's annual training.

micro-second. The tank fires sabot, heat and high explosive plastic rounds," he concluded.

The troops had high praise for the NET team working with them. Members of the NET team work one on one with one tank crew for the entire training cycle.

SFC Charlie Brown, a NET team member and a native of Shreveport now stationed at Fort Knox, enjoyed working with guardsmen from his hometown. "They are progressing along as planned, and some are far ahead. All the units that went through did good as far as training goes," he said.

A pre-introduction training was held at home stations prior to annual training. The Unit Maintenance Collection Point (UMCP) is run by MSG Micky Smith, Battalion Motor Sergeant. His crew is responsible for repairs to the tanks, and they are learning their tasks along with the rest of the company.

The live fire on the range during this annual training was for familiarization only. The units, however, are looking forward to At 90 when they will fire for record.

A support team from the 199th Support Battalion was working with the maintenance team at Fort Polk.



SGT Allen Thomas and PFC Ramone Dotson work on removing the final drive on the M-1 Abrams tank.