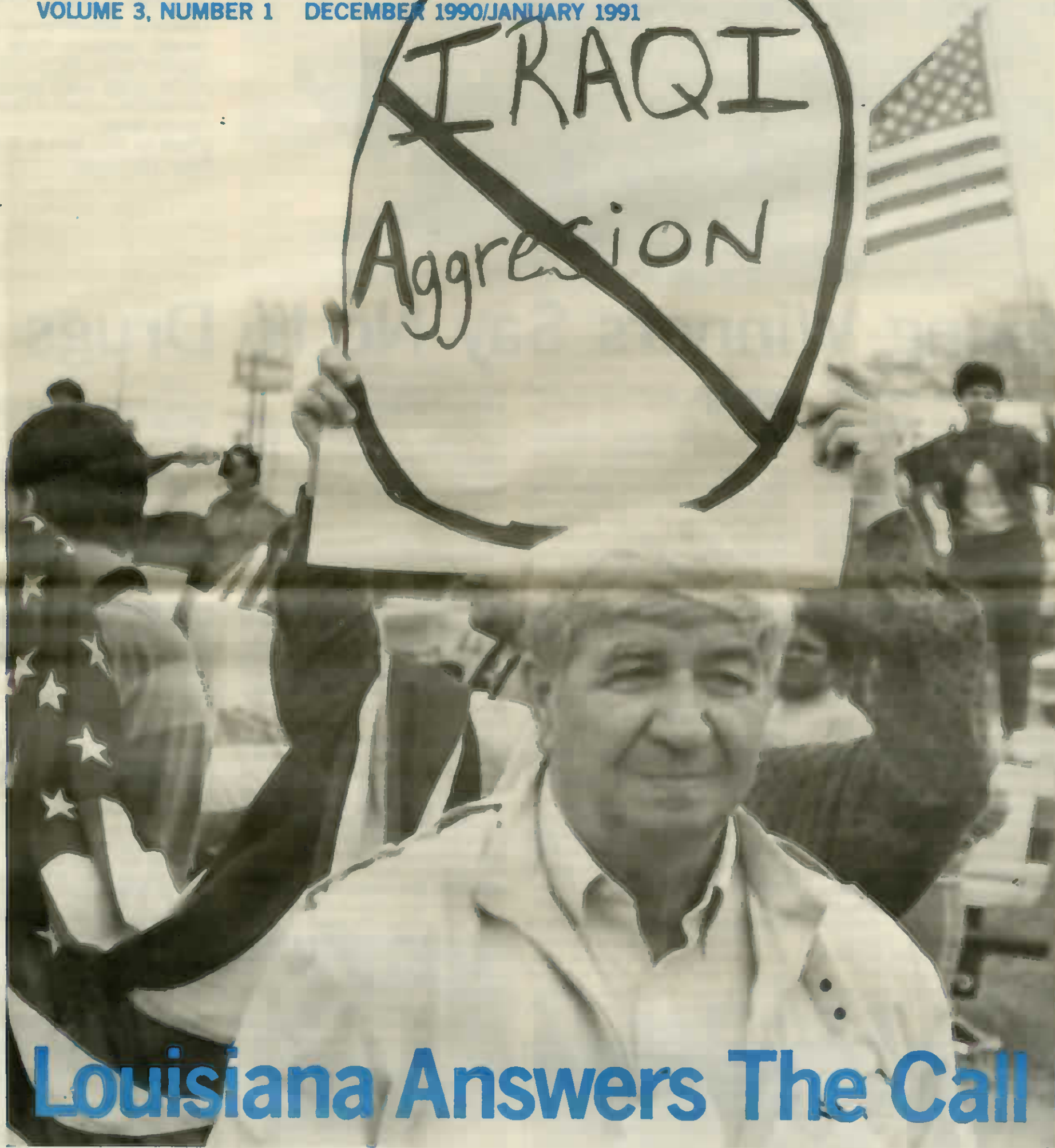


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Louisiana Answers The Call

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On the Front Cover:

Louisiana citizens turned out in record numbers from communities across the state to send off the nearly 6,400 guardsmen activated in support of Operation Desert Shield.

(Photo by SFC John A. Sullivan, 241st PAD Staff)

Young Winners Say No to Drugs

YOUNG WINNERS OVER DRUGS

Today's news is full of stories telling what happens to society when people use alcohol, tobacco, cocaine, and other harmful drugs. The stories are all too familiar: auto accidents, train wrecks, airplane crashes, family problems, heart attacks, cancers, strokes, robberies, murders, suicides, abused children. In fact, it almost seems as though the list has no end.

But wait. Have you heard the latest news? The news about a new breed of young people today? They are a group that has decided not to use drugs. Now that's good news. Especially when you hear what some of them are doing. So take a few minutes and let me bring you up-to-date on a young, intelligent, and exciting group of people who are young winners over drugs.

WINNERS ARE INFORMED ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS

Good information is very important when it comes to making wise decisions. If there is one advantage that today's winners have, it is good information about the many dangers of alcohol, tobacco, cocaine, and other drugs. Today's researchers are able to provide volumes of information regarding the harmful effects of a wide variety of drugs. This information appears in numerous magazines, films, and television programs and is available for use at home and school to help keep young people up-to-date on all the latest findings.

WINNERS ARE COMMITTED TO BEING DRUG-FREE

One of the most important characteristics of winners is that they have made a commitment to be drug-free. Thousands of young people across America are signing pledges confirming their commitment to be free from drugs, to choose healthy habits in life and help others do the same. They are making this a continuing commitment by choosing daily a drug-free lifestyles.

WINNERS DON'T LET OTHERS MISLEAD THEM

Winners are well aware of the misleading nature of advertising. They know that billions of dollars are being spent each year in trying to convince people to use products like alcohol, cigarettes, and chewing tobacco. However, they have decided not to let fancy advertising trick them into believing that these products make you look young, sexy, glamorous, or tough, when all they actually do is rob people of good health, family, friends, money, and life. In short, they are too smart to get ripped off.

WINNERS ARE SAYING NO TO DRUGS

Winners don't let their peers pressure them into using alcohol, cocaine, tobacco, or any other drug in order to be part of a group or to have "friends." When today's winners are asked to try drugs, they say, "No, thank you."

WINNERS ARE INVOLVED IN DRUG PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Winners want to do more than sit on the sidelines and watch while drugs cause problems for their family, school, and community. They are becoming involved in activities that help keep the drug problems from getting worse, and will eventually help the situation to get better.

At school they are forming clubs and groups that focus on being drug-free. They are planning special events at which everyone can have a good time without drugs. They also sponsor drug prevention education for schools and the community. Their efforts are often reported by newspapers, magazines, and TV and radio stations, which all helps to promote their message of a drug-free life.

In order to help their families, they are taking home printed materials that show with pictures and tell with words the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, cocaine, and other drugs. They have used these materials along with their love and influence, to help many of their relatives choose to give up the use of drugs (or better yet, not to start).

WINNERS ARE ROLE MODELS

Winners have come to realize that they are examples for others to follow. Yes, they are role models. Winners know that they are special and are setting positive examples that will help lead others into making healthy choices. With all the problems facing us today, we need many more role models who are

winners.

WINNERS ARE LOOKING OUT FOR OTHERS

Because winners are concerned about others, they are providing information to teachers, counselors, principals, or local authorities regarding the presence of drugs in their school or community. They know that in order for this information to be valuable, it must include answers to the questions WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? and HOW? Of course they are wise enough to provide specific information while at the same time protecting their own identity. Therefore, they provide information only to people they know can be trusted to keep their name confidential.

YOU CAN BE A WINNER

The circle of winners is large enough for all who want to come into it, so there's no need for you to be left out. But being a winner isn't easy; it takes action on your part. But remember, nobody can make you a winner, the choice is up to you. Also remember that by choosing to be a winner you can take part in the best things in life today and even better things in the future. So today I place before you the choice of losing and winning. BE A WINNER

EDITOR'S NOTE:

As of January 16, 1991, the United States is officially involved in OPERATION DESERT STORM, war with Iraq.

Continue to support our troops and pray for speedy resolutions.

Troops: Good luck, God Bless you'all, Be safe and Give 'em hell for us!

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
1LT 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 (1LT Jonkers), Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La 70146-0330.

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1086th/1083d Trans Company "Do Us Proud, God Bless You" 3673d Maint Company

By 1st Lt Maria L. Jonkers
State PAO

Hundreds turned out in the communities of Jena, Jonesville, Alexandria and New Orleans for the departure of three Louisiana National Guard units from home stations to the mobilization station.

It was a scene repeated in countless cities and towns throughout the United States as the Reserve Forces, ordered by President Bush under the 200 K Call-up, mobilize to take their place alongside their active duty counterparts.

A father and son team deployed together from the 1086th Transportation Company in Jena, commanded by CPT Raymond E. Scott.

Staff Sgt James D. Robertson and his son Pvt 1st Class James W. Robertson locked their entire family in a single embrace as they waited for the convoy to pull out.

"It's our job. I did it once, and I'll do it again," said the elder Robertson.

His wife said, "I know they feel good about what they are doing. . . It hurts, but I'm proud of them and know they will come home safe and sound."

The 1086th, a medium truck company that hauls general cargo to support Army operations, activated 181 soldiers.

A local district judge, Jimmie Peters, spoke to the 1086th as they gathered at home station.

"Americans are the missionaries of peace and freedom in a troubled world," he said. "You have responded without complaint. We want you to know we are intensely proud of you."

Mrs. Jimmy Dean watched her son Sgt. Herbert Tracy Dean and Sgt. Charles Trevor Dean, both with the 1086th, say goodbye to their families.

"I think this is something that has to be done. But I feel awful about it," she said.

Her oldest son, who lives in the eastern United States, had called her earlier.

"He wanted to go in place of his brother who has a wife and child," she said. She told him she didn't think the Army would take him without proper training. "But it was sweet of him."

The employees of a local pharmacy nailed signs with the name of every 1086th member to utility poles along the convoy route.

The 1086th also has a detachment which deployed from Camp Beauregard.

The community also turned out in Jonesville to give the 1083d Transportation Company an emotional send-off.

"We draw a lot of people each year to our Christmas parade," said Jena Times publisher, "but it was nothing compared to this."

The town treated the soldiers to a fish fry the night before departure, and church services were cancelled or delayed the morning of departure so that members could help line the parade route.

"This is great," one man said. "This is how Americans are supposed to send off their soldiers."

The 1083rd, commanded by APT Brain Durbin, is a heavy truck company that hauls armor, artillery and equipment for mechanized infantry. Sixty soldiers were activated, among them policemen, construction workers and farmers.

Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud addressed the soldiers and families before their departure.

"People ask why this unit was activated? Why not others? Because you're a trained unit. Because you've proven you can move a heavy unit. Because no one can do it better. You are a credit to the Army, the Army National Guard, to your community, and to the state of Louisiana. Even though you'll be on federal active duty, you're still a part of the Louisiana National Guard. You families are still our responsibility, and will be cared for."

The 1086th and 1083rd convoys merged along roads that led into the Pineville-Alexandria area of central Louisiana. Well-wishing crowds awaited them there, as did others in downtown Pineville-Alexandria.

The 1 1/2 mile long convoy passed bumper-to-bumper through throngs of supporters with horns blaring. Some held signs for loved ones to read; others held balloons, yellow ribbons and American flags.



MG AM Stroud addresses the soldiers of the 1083d Trans Co in Jonesville before the trip to Polk. The 1083d spent Christmas in Saudi Arabia. (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

Ms. Lydell Bloch said that in her eyes, the convoy and display of patriotism by onlookers were overwhelming.

Up until then she said her only impression of the conflict in the Middle East came from what she read in magazines and newspapers, and had seen on television.

"But watching the men go by makes it so much more real," she said. "It puts faces and names to the print."

Maj. Gen. Stroud said "such a display of support helps calm the fears the troops have of what is in store for them in the weeks to come."

Cheering crowds and patriotic music was a scene echoed in New Orleans when the 3673rd Maintenance Company deployed from its home station at Jackson Barracks. The 190 soldiers of the 3673rd provide direct support maintenance and repair parts, supply and service to Army units. The commander, Marc E. McNeal, was promoted to the rank of major in a brief ceremony at the home station before the unit pulled out.

The soldiers and families were treated to refreshments donated by area merchants the night before departure in the Enlisted Club.

"The hardest part is leaving your family," said Sgt Carol K. Matis who leaves behind a husband and two small children.

She said she joined the Guard several

years before to travel and because she had "no direction in life." But now she radiates confidence in her abilities and training.

"You were activated because you're the best," said Maj. Gen. Stroud in an address at home station. "I know you'll do us proud. God go with you, and God bless you."

A local high school band from the neighboring community of Chalmette played on the street corner as the convoy pulled out onto the road. The convoy passed several other schools as it made its way down to the interstate highway. These schools turned the children outdoors to wave to the soldiers as they passed.

A detachment from the 3673rd Maintenance Company in Camp Beauregard received a similar heroes departure later that same day.

Said Stanley Nelson, a columnist with the Concordia Sentinel in Ferriday, Louisiana, "America has learned a good lesson during the past two decades. A country that turned its back on the veterans of Korea and Vietnam has learned that we cannot turn our backs on our veterans any longer. If anything, the American people have learned soldiers bear no responsibility for starting or ending wars. They only follow orders."



Louisiana soldiers garbed in desert camouflage have a few last moments with family members before they face duty in the desert. (241st PAD Photo)



The 3673d Maintenance Company embarks on their flight to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield in December 1990. (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD Staff)



MAJ Dennis J. Favaloro, Commander of the 812th Medical Company accepts two television sets and two VCRs from Tony Campo, the "Appliance Giant", a local retailer in New Orleans. Movietime Video also donated 25 videos to the aviation company in conjunction with Campo's gesture. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)

812th Equipped With New Blades

By SPC Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD Staff

Fort Polk, Louisiana—The current crisis in Saudi Arabia has brought about a wealth of problems for those involved.

For the military, equipment malfunctions and wear are a main concern. The elements in the desert are extreme, for the troops as well as the weapons, machinery, and vehicles.

The inability of the national guard's air transportation to properly operate is being corrected before any more helicopters are sent overseas.

Aviators of the 812th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) of the Louisiana Army National Guard will be the first equipped with the new composite rotor blades on their UH-1V Huey helicopters in theatre.

These new rotor blades made by Bell Helicopters are designed to overcome many of the problems aviators have faced who are already in country.

CW2 Michael R. Metzler, Maintenance Test Pilot for the 812th said that the Hueys already in country aren't able to hover with a heavy load because of the intense heat.

These blades, new to the military systems, are like fiberglass blades, lighter and wider than blades used previously. Since the blades are able to withstand more heat and rougher climates, the life expectancy of the blades is longer.

"Quicker response time," said Metzler, "is the name of the game."

Some of the other improvements made by the new blades, according to Capt Barry Keeling, maintenance officer for the 812th, are increased life capabilities, decreased fuel consumption, and more ballistic and erosion proofing, so the blades can take more battle damage, if necessary.

Metzler added, "hopefully we won't get a chance to test the new blades."

812th Med Co Called to Duty

By SPC Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD Staff

Fort Polk, Louisiana—It was overcast and gray at Lakefront Airport the day the 812th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) embarked on their convoy in desert painted vehicles and old green helicopters.

The convoy and flight commanders led their troops to Fort Polk, Louisiana, in support of Operation Desert Shield.

The 83 members of the company (headquartered in New Orleans) married up with their 35 member detachment from New Mexico upon arrival at mobilization station to begin mission training and orientation with each other. This is the first time the two combat veteran-strong elements have operated as an entire company, under the command of Maj. Dennis J. Favaloro, since they came on line September first of this year.

1st Sgt. Wayne A. Ponsaa said, "that both groups are highly professional. We meshed together unbelievably." Ponsaa referred to the mixture as "a bunch of

crazy coonasses and mexicans."

Of the 118 members, 24 percent are combat veterans. The breakdown of the 24 percent is as follows: 14 pilots (2 served in combat as crewchiefs), 2 crewchiefs, 3 medics, 2 mechanics, and 1 maintenance technician.

The mission these veterans accomplished in previous combat situations is similar to that of the 812th.

The mission of the 812th is to medevac wartime casualties from the battlefield to battalion aid stations and Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH).

While at Fort Polk, the pilots have undergone intense night vision goggle (NVG) training. Medics have participated in medical maneuvers and updates. Crewchiefs fly with the pilots to enhance their responsibilities. And all personnel receive the required NBC and CTT training.

Currently, the 812th is still at Fort Polk. They have shipped all aircraft and are preparing all other equipment for shipment.



The 812th Medical Company (AA) headquartered at Lakefront Airport in New Orleans departs for Fort Polk in support of Operation Desert Shield in an impressive helicopter formation flight, November 26, 1990. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD Staff)





The 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital prepares to settle in at Fort Polk for intense training and preparation. (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD Staff)

159th M★A★S★H Called To Duty

By SPC John A. Sullivan
241st PAD

NEW ORLEANS, La. — The 240 members of the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital left Jackson Barracks Dec. 11.

Bound for Fort Polk, La., the unit was the latest National Guard force from the state called to active duty for Operation Desert Shield.

With friends, family and fellow Louisiana National Guard members waving flags and banners, the unit pulled out for what Maj. Thomas Kinney, a chaplain, said, "is a long journey with many uncertainties."

Kinney asked for "the Lord's blessing" over the unit as it goes to Fort Polk and whatever missions it will be assigned to.

In a brief ceremony before the unit's doctors, nurses and other personnel, Maj. Gen. Ansel Stroud, complimented them on their abilities.

"I don't know what mission you will get, but I know that whatever unit you

are supporting will get a good unit," Stroud, the state's adjutant general, said.

Stroud went on to say that the mobilization and deployment of the 159th MASH "will end the first phase of our involvement in Desert Shield."

He told the guardsmen and their families, several hundred of whom turned out under almost picture-perfect skies to say good-bye, that the mobilization "has been difficult."

Stroud told the audience that Gov. Roemer is establishing an 800-number for Louisiana residents with loved ones called up to call if they have a problem.

"God bless you," Stroud said.

The 159th MASH provides initial resuscitative surgery and medical treatment necessary to prepare critically injured or wounded patients for further evacuation. They are equipped with the U.S. Army's new deployable medical system.

The hospital is commanded by Maj. Michael P. Jennings.



The 1090th Transportation Company from Camp Beauregard, La. was the first La. National Guard unit to be called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield.

The 1090th Trans Co and its 10 members are commanded by SGT. Gregory Martin and have been in Saudi Arabia since September 18, 1990.

Mirror Appearances Make Life Easier

By SPC Michael Ritter
241st PAD Staff

It wasn't the first time someone had done a double-take upon seeing Spec. Toby and Spec. Tony Murphy, identical twins and truck drivers in the 1087th Transportation Company of Vidalia, La.

The Murphy's will soon be escorting National Guard trucks to Texas, where the vehicles will be loaded onto ships en route to the Persian Gulf.

"We don't want to go over there, but if we have to we will," said Toby, 19, a

student at Northeast University. The twins say they don't mind going to the desert, as long as they get to go together.

"We're best friends. I don't mind saying I love this guy to death," said Tony, a drafting and design major at NLU.

If their previous military experience is any indication, the twins should be able to endure the desert deployment. Through the years they've learned how to use their mirror appearances to make life easier.

In Advanced Individual Training truck driving school, one drill sergeant

did not realize that there were two Murphy's until seven weeks into the course. Tony, an assistant platoon leader was often excused from many details. When the sergeant saw Toby, he would dismiss him from duty also.

If one brother had all-day KP duty, the other brother would sneak in the mess hall at lunch and relieve him so that neither had to break his back.

"I think it makes our mother feel more secure knowing that both of us are going, because I would feel bad if it was only one of us. I don't know if I could take

it," said Toby.

The twins aren't the only part of a close-knit group from West Monroe activated for Desert Shield. Spec. Michael J. Spears who grew up a few blocks from the twins said they grew up together.

"I remember two years ago we were in Mrs. William's English class and they talked me into joining the Guard. We grew up together, and now we're going to war together. It's weird," said Spears.

Tony married his sweetheart when the soldiers were allowed to go home on Christmas break.

39th MP Company:

"Tell 'Em I Love 'Em"

By PV2 Rebekah D. Lloyd
241st PAD Staff

A routine morning, brisk and cloudless, Sunday, a day usually set aside for church and leisure, a day that will forever scent the lips of those touched in its passing. A unit of Army soldiers, the 39th MP Company, prepared for what may lay ahead.

The company, departing from Jackson Barracks on Dec 9 had a limited number of days to choose. Their once a month military training had become a full-time occupation. The military police unit headed to Fort Polk for extensive training, training which could lead them to the desert in support of Operation Desert Shield. The training includes qualification with the M-16 rifle, NBC classes and demonstration, and the task of installation security. The soldiers' mission, in the event of war, would be to man Prisoner of War compounds.

This activation had no personage - no discrepancies or biases - nothing to distinguish one face from another. The shades of brown and hues of green combine to form one mass of determined and dutiful soldiers.

The soldiers' view: "Apprehensive," said Spec. Dennis Gerarve, a member of the MP Company. "I feel apprehensive and nervous, and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't scared." His serious eyes conveyed concern as he lifted his ruck-sack and secured his belonging to be carried with him to the bus that awaited. "I have confidence in our company and what they're going to do," he said as he quickly darted to the vehicle when given the order to "load up."

"Excited," said Spec. David Houston, another member of the company, as he sat in the driver's seat of the camouflaged truck. "Life is a challenge. You could walk out your front door and anything could happen. If I'm gonna go, I'd rather go a hero," he declared. His voice was of confidence, yet tears swelled in his eyes with his last words of departure, "If you see my family, tell 'em I love 'em."

The parents' view: Mrs. Annie Brooks didn't have much to say. She stood motionless next to her husband who didn't cast a glance my way. My questions seemed menial compared to all that they were enduring. They were lost in a situation that I could not fully become a part of. My existence there was that of a bystander; a mere stranger, there to record time's passing and notable events for future reference. "We don't like to see him go," was an obvious phrase that was better left unspoken. I left them staring motionless at the soldiers who were loading onto buses and into military vehicles, wondering with uncertainty if their son Paul would return.

The bus driver: The civilian who carried the soldiers from Jackson Barracks to Fort Polk was a bus driver for Hotard Transportation. He was merely doing his job in which he will probably see more troops come and go in the days to come. He seemed a little distraught at the mission of bringing the guardsmen into such an unstable situation. But, he was soon home again with family and friends to make other decisions about his immediate daily concerns. The effects of such a transitory state cannot readily be determined. This man is the one who closed the door behind the soldiers as the signal was given for the convoy to move out.

Perspective: Everyone - the soldiers, the parents, the bus driver, each individual, however minute, has a way of seeing these fragments. Though their eyes, watch the flags blowing in the breeze, see the waves, handshakes, hugs and last minute goodbyes. Through their ears, listen, hear the sound of the motors, shouts, and sobs?

The convoy is gone now. The crowd watched as the vehicles rolled out, staring until they could no longer see the last vehicle of the convoy, listening until the drum's beat became a faint thump in the distance as the convoy slowly disappeared into silence.



Soldiers of the 39th military Police Company engage in NBC training at Fort Polk in Preparation for their final destination. (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

MPs train in NBC Posture

By SPC Michael Ritter
241st PAD Staff

Like other active and reserve soldiers, SPC Dennis Gerarve of the 39th MP Company closely followed the events in the Persian Gulf since they began in August. Most soldiers have realized the crisis dictates an increased focus on NBC training.

"People know that this is real, everyone's taking it very seriously, we all want to get the proper training," said Gerarve who is training at Fort Polk with other members of the 39th.

Gerarve said that the focus on training also relieves stress for him and his family, in what would otherwise be an uncertain situation.

After the NBC class was given a five minute break, the instructor casually came back and shouted, "Gas! Gas!" Gerarve said that in the past, the command wouldn't have been taken seriously. But everyone donned their masks quickly this time.

"I take it a lot more seriously than I

used to," said Gerarve, 22, a fine arts major at Louisiana State University. "It's starting to become natural, and now it's surprising to see how much I've retained."

Gerarve said that normally students would be trying to impress an evaluator and get a "go" on a score-sheet, but now he's more interested in learning every aspect of the NBC training.

The chemical training is especially important to MP's. The Iraqis use the Soviet battle stratagem of rear-defense attack, where MP's are often involved in prisoner of war detention and battle field circulation.

Gerarve said the urgency of deployment has also brought his unit closer together. He said that all of the troops are striving for excellence in every phase of training.

"When zeroing weapons, I tried to go beyond getting a good shot group. It's a pride thing now, you're doing it for more than a badge, this is your country."

Former 204th Commander Dies

Col Pierre J. Bouis, a former commander of the 204th Artillery Battalion, Louisiana National Guard died in October. He was 72.

Col Bouis was a native of New Orleans and lived here for many years before moving briefly to Kenner and then, in 1982, to Palm Harbor, Fla.

He fought in the Pacific and in Europe during World War II. He landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day with the 105th Cavalry and fought in the Battle of the Bulge with the 461st Anti-Aircraft Battalion.

After the war, he remained active with the Army Reserve and the Louisiana National Guard, and was commander of the 204th Artillery Battalion. He was a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College. He was a member of the Military Order of the World Wars and local VFW posts and was historian for the 461st Anti-Aircraft Battalion. He

received the Bronze Star, commendations for valor and the Louisiana Distinguished Service Medal. He retired from the Army in 1972.

He resumed a career in the paper industry after the war. He was executive vice president of D&W Paper Co. in New Orleans and was president of Graphite Paper Inc. at his retirement in 1976. He was a past president of the Southern Paper Trade Association and a member of the Advisory Board of International Paper Co. Inc.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine O. Bouis; a son, Pierre J. Bouis Jr. of Tampa, Fla., a daughter, Suzanne B. Heck of Lake Charles; two sisters, Lee Gonzales of Slidell and Theresa Elmer of Pass Christian, Miss., and two grandchildren. A military, graveside funeral was held at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Fla.



The 39th MP's get the order to "Move Out" and "Load up" as they depart Jackson Barracks for Ft. Polk in support of Operation Desert Shield, December 9th. (241st PAD Photo)

The LAARNG Armory at Napoleonville which houses Det 1, Co C 769th ENG BN, is part of a renovated jail house. This cell block is located in a condemned corridor of the armory with all beds and cells still in place. (Photo By SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD, LAARNG)



769th Engineers Drill In Renovated Prison

By SPC Lucas J. Landreneau Jr
241st PAD Staff

There are few units in the state that claim the uniqueness of C Company, 769 Engineering Bn office quarters. First of all not too many armories can claim bats in their Unit Administrator's office. Nor can they claim to drill in a building, nearly a century old, that served as home for many years to murderers, rapists, robbers and vagabonds.

Yes, that's right C Co's armory was at

one time the county jail for Napoleonville, and its outskirts. It was still in operation until 1984 when one office was reserved for C. Co. and its administrators. The following year it was condemned because the air conditioner went out, and the facility was having trouble keeping the water running smoothly.

By 1988, C Co. had renovated facility into an armory. Drill weekends alone, however, did not provide enough time. The tasks included, not only knocking

down walls and erecting new ones in more suitable positions, but also hanging ceiling tiles on a previously drab concrete overhead; as well as installing new lighting fixtures and pipes.

The 63 member unit has spent many drill weekends and an annual training exercises on the modifications, with countless numbers of man hours put towards the accomplishment.

"We're a vertical construction platoon," said SSG Farrel Gros, Unit Administrator for C Co., "that means we

are composed mostly of carpenters, electricians and pipe fitters. We're trying to continue renovating as much as possible on drill weekends, but we also have training to take care of in Gonzales."

Charlie Co. still receives a lot of financial and maintenance assistance from the Napoleonville Police Jury, who owns the building.

Gros said work on the armory continues every drill weekend, and adds jokingly that they have one of the most secure armory's in the state.

When the Balloon Goes Up

By SPC Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD Staff

Inside Deployment — The intensity begins with that dreaded phone call resounding those assigned call words notifying part-time soldiers that their national guard unit has been placed on alert as part of the presidential call-up for Operation Desert Shield.

Alert status is the first step in the call-up process. Each member of the unit is notified by phone as to the present situation facing the unit. Alert means to simply get ready.

This is a time for personal preparation as well as soldier preparation. At the personal level, individuals must deal with the reality of active duty, of being away from family, home and jobs.

They should make arrangements for family members, for bills to be paid, and as a courtesy, notify their civilian employers of upcoming possibilities. Bear in mind that this is just an alert - no one is going anywhere yet.

At the unit level, 10 percent of key personnel report to home station. Now, records and equipment evaluation and plans begin. The unit area resembles that of pre-annual training period. Somehow, something feels different though. Suddenly, the feeling that this is possibly for real seeps in through the cracked window panes. Supply personnel

scurry about locating equipment they do not have or that is on order. Administrative personnel struggle to ensure all regulations are met for each soldier's paperwork. Officers and NCO's map out emergency training schedules and coordinate logistics.

The frenzy doesn't begin, however, until the activation notification is received. Activation is the second step of the call-up process.

At this time, all soldiers must report to home station with all issued gear. As of this date, all members of the unit become federal troops. Even though they are on active duty and fall under federal provisions, Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud likes to remind soldiers that they came into the Louisiana National Guard as guardsmen and will continue to be guardsmen.

Now, a different kind of intensity sets in, uncertainty coupled with fear and animosity.

Most of the Louisiana National Guard units have a large population of college students. These students worry about how active duty will effect their credits earned halfway through the semester. And of course, no time is opportune to leave families and jobs.

From the initial notification most Guardsmen reconfirm that sense of patriotism and pride. As each stage of the call-up process progresses more and more troops become acclimated and adjusted to the active way of life, and that sense of pride and patriotism grows.

Soon after the activation notification, unit's are relocated to their mobilization station. Fort Polk is the mobilization station for all Louisiana Guard units. At mobilization station, troops are housed in barracks and operate out of old World War II buildings for classes and mission preparation.

All units, once at mobilization station, become part of the Devil Troop Brigade. It is with this headquarters that in-processing begins. There are four phases of in-processing. All soldiers must report to the personnel records station to take care of individual 201 files, identification tapes and cards.

The next station is finance. It is here that soldiers arrange for payments of bills, direct deposit of paychecks, and take advantage of the 6 percent loan interest rate, providing the individuals can prove loss of pay while on active duty.

Troops now proceed to the medical and dental stations. Here they undergo complete physical and dental examinations.

Individuals are screened and given a complete bill of health. If not, arrangements are made for rehabilitation or dismissal from active duty. If the soldier will conceivably heal in a reasonable amount of time and the nature of the problem is not severe, the soldier is expected to remain with the rest of the unit. If the healing process is not timely, other arrangements are made.

Once paperwork and exams are complete, intense training begins. Much emphasis is placed on NBC skills. The threat of chemical attacks is the cause of much concern for our troops. Because of this threat, our soldiers are "learning" NBC skills and techniques with a more determined attitude. In normal training circumstances, getting a "go" has perhaps sufficed. Now that the possibility of life is on the line, the troops are more than ever training to survive.

The training also includes training on individual weapons, and preparing the equipment and vehicles for desert conditions.

Once the unit's equipment arrives at its final destination, the soldiers are then transported to their new duty stations where they put their training and preparedness to use in defense of their country.

2nd Bn, 156th Inf : The Hardest Part Is The Wait

By SPC Bernard Chaillot
256th Inf Bde PIO

ABBEVILLE, La. — Most soldiers agree that waiting is the worst part of Army life, and it was no different for the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry of the Louisiana National Guard, which was the last of three 256th Infantry Brigade battalions to move out.

Lt. Col. Sans Broussard, battalion commander, said prior to leaving for Fort Polk Thursday that he felt like a father in a waiting room whose wait is finally over.

"The hardest part is over now," Broussard said. "My people are ready to get on with it."

On the wall above Broussard was the battalion nickname, "Cajun Warriors" and motto, "Dieu et moi," God and I.

Maj. Gen. Ansel Stroud, state adjutant general, flew in by helicopter to give the 2nd Bn Headquarters Company A few words of encouragement before their departure. "We at the state level are very impressed with 2nd Battalion," Stroud said. "You're as good as any troops in the Guard and better than most."

"I know it's hard to leave jobs, school and family, but be assured we will be providing all the help we can to your families while you are gone," Stroud said.

"Your prior achievements speak for you, and we know 2nd Battalion will do well on this mission. Good luck and God Bless you," he said.

The company snapped to attention and shouted in unison, "We are one!"

While waiting for the buses which would haul most of the troops to Fort Polk, Spec. Chad Bearb, a medic, with his wife Denee and children Lana, 3, and Cortney, 2.

"We've got one on the way, so I hate to be leaving right now, but I've got a job to do," he said.

1st Bn, 156th Armor: Shreveport Sends Off Its Soldiers

By SPC Michael A. Ritter
241st PAD Staff

SHREVEPORT, La. — The people of Shreveport didn't mind braving cold temperatures to see members of the 156th off as they were activated to training at Fort Polk for possible deployment to the Persian Gulf. Perhaps one reason why support for troops in this area is so strong is that soldiers in these units are often vital parts of the communities they live in.

Spec. Dennis Jackson and Spec. Gleonard Roberson were attending college and interning as teachers at their alma mater, Booker T. Washington High School before being called to duty.

"My class didn't want me to go, they gave me a big going away party, and they told me I better come back. I told them I would," explained Jackson who attended Grambling State University.

Jackson and Roberson attended the same high school, and both are interested in education. Jackson teaches telecommunications, and Roberson is a



This youngster doesn't realize her dad is making history with the 256 INF BDE in Operation Desert Shield. (241st PAD Photo)

"Hopefully we can get it done quickly and get back home." "I'm a little scared, but with the support being supplied by the Guard, we'll be OK," his wife said.

"I'm looking at this activation as a positive experience," Spec. Billy Senegal

of Scott, a USL finance student who is a medic in the Guard.

His mother Virgie Senegal said she is sending both Billy and his brother Charles in Lafayette's Brigade headquarters company off to active duty. "I'm

just praying for a peaceful settlement," she said.

Senegal's girlfriend Jamie Menderson seconded that emotion, saying "I think the American people want President Bush to give negotiations every chance to succeed."

When asked for his reaction to leaving home, Pfc Marvin Heath simply tightened his grip on his wife Barbara and politely refused comment.

1st Sgt. Carl Hebert said that for the most part, morale was high. "I'm glad we're getting started, he said. "You can't finish unless you start."

Hebert noted the 2nd Bn includes units from Abbeville, New Iberia, Jeanerette, Franklin, Houma, Breaux Bridge, Crowley, Eunice and Ville Platte.

Crowds lined Highway 14 on the route out of town, rivalling the sendoff for brigade headquarters in Lafayette a week before.

At least 2,000 family members, friends, and supporters waved flags and cheered as the convoy of military vehicles and troops buses rolled by.

At one point, the buses stopped and the troops piled out. A local priest blessed their mission, followed by local dignitaries offering words of encouragement and support.

Among the speakers were Sen Cecil Picard, Rep Sam Theriot, Vermillion Parish Sheriff Ray LeMaire and Abbeville Mayor Brady Broussard.

1st Lt. Dominick Bianca, battalion motor officer, said the troops are serious

about training hard and excelling at their jobs.

"D-Day is here, but this is only the first small step in what could be a long journey," he said.

His wife of eight weeks, Kristy, said "I'm fortunate to have a lot of family around me right now. I'm taking it one day at a time."



The Sons of Confederate Soldiers presented Lt Col Stapleton, commander of 1st BN 156 AR in Shreveport with a flag they made in support of the 156th's mission in Operation Desert Shield. (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

that at all, it's a totally different picture here. It looks like Mardi Gras on Youree Boulevard. There's a lot of patriotism out here," said the reporter.

Even outside of the city limits onlookers stopped their cars along the interstate and on overpasses, to wave and scream for anything green.

199th Practices Survival Skills

By SPC Michael A. Ritter
241st PAD Staff

The times they are a changing. The old Soviet-style range target had a turban on his head and a sign that said, "Our Buddy: Ahab the Arab."

Soldiers of the 199th, aimed at the targets for record fire, night fire and NBC fire exercises at Fort Polk completing reviewing and improving upon skills they learned in basic training.

"If you can't hit these pop-up targets, you won't be able to hit an enemy that's shooting at you," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Sumbler, an instructor on the range.

A greater emphasis was placed on the NBC training, that might have been neglected in a routine annual training. The NBC fire consists of 20 rounds shot at 25 meters. Soldiers said that the main problems were tilting the M-16 sideways around the mask, and the decreased visibility.

"You get a bad glare coming from goggles," said Spec. Randy G. Whitley, 24, a student at Grambling State University.

Whitley shot a 36 expert in basic training but did not qualify on his first

time on the range at Fort Polk. On the 199th's second day on the range he posted a 35.

"You've got to get serious now, it's time to get down and dirty," said Whitley.

"When I see those targets coming up my adrenaline starts flowing. In the back of my mind I know a lot of people are counting on me," said Whitley. Other soldiers say the increased training is a good review that gives them an inner confidence that they've never felt with weekend training.

Spec. Jerry A. Stallings, a tanker in the 5th Infantry, said that without training these troops could never learn to fire in a chemical environment. Soldiers must not only concentrate on targets but on protection.

"Put the Kevlar on (over the mask), Lane 2," yelled the range officer.

Stallings said that he will normally have 50 percent qualification on range record fire. The 199th had 53 of 83 soldiers qualify. In NBC fire, 46 of 48 soldiers qualified.

"This is what it's all about. These soldiers are learning individual survival skills," said Brig. Gen. Gary Whipple, 256th Infantry Brigade commander.

PLDC Graduates Increase

By SPC Bernard Chaillot
5th I.D. Public Affairs

A Primary Leadership Development Course at Camp Beauregard, swelled by reserve components activated for Operation Desert Shield, graduated a class nearly twice the normal size this week.

The Dec 17 pinning of sergeants' stripes on 138 graduates culminated a grueling 14-day course, said the new NCOs.

"It was rough. They really put us through our paces," said Sgt. Dianne Renee Robin, a former HHC 256th Infantry Brigade medic who will now join the 705th Medical Company.

"Some of my classmates from the 159th MASH from Jackson Barracks learned during the course that they will soon deploy to Saudi Arabia," Robin said.

Robin said the long hours of classes, 10 to 12 hours a day, supplemented by drill and ceremony, land navigation and a four-day FTX, presented a full slate of challenges.

"Like the course name says, displaying the proper leadership is drilled into everything you do," she said.

Sgt. Lance Broussard, a computer repairman, came from Det 2 of 256th headquarters.

"I was amazed at how the book training held so quickly when we got to the field," Broussard said.

"I didn't know much about land navigation before, but my partner and

I had no trouble using our compass and plotting our way to the target area 3,000 meters away through thick woods," he said.

Sgt. Brain Guidry said reveille was at 0430 each morning, followed by PT, personal hygiene, and preparations for class.

"The classroom instruction the first week was practically from first light until well after dark," Guidry said.

"Our instructors really knew their stuff, and taught us that leadership capability consists of being fair but firm," he said.

"The second week we practiced what we'd learned in a war games exercise, with offensive and defensive coordination, recon missions and going to MOPP 4 each morning during stand-to," Guidry said.

"NBC was emphasized a great deal due to the chemical threat the troops in the Middle East are facing," he added.

Guidry said he was impressed by the lesson that a good NCO would never ask his people to do something he wouldn't do himself.

"You will hear that some people are just born leaders, but we learned at PLDC that leadership can also be taught," said Guidry, also a former HHC 256 medic now part of the 705th.

"It felt good to get that stripe and accept NCO responsibility," Guidry said. "If the 705th is deployed, we will be ready to help shoulder the load."



The Haynies, shown here with a huge sign in support of their son, Jason, a member of 199th celebrated Christmas early in case Jason gets shipped out. The 199th SPT BN is currently at Fort Hood continuing their training for possible overseas deployment. (Photo by Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

Christmas Celebrated Early

By SPC Mike Ritter
241st PAD Staff

Alexandria — There was a big sign held up by two American flags that said, "GOOD LUCK, WE LOVE YOU, HURRY HOME!"

"That's a big sign," someone said.

"I've got a big boy," replied George Haynie, father of Spec. Jason C. Haynie, a light-wheel mechanic in the Louisiana National Guard.

The Haynies were one of hundreds of families who came out to send their sons off to Fort Polk, La., where Guard troops will train for a possible deployment to Operation Desert Shield.

"This is the most people I've seen out here for a movement," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Sumbler of Det 1 B Co. 199th Spt Bn. "It's good to have your family and friends out here for support."

The early December departure meant that the Haynies celebrated Christmas

early.

"We had our Christmas early this year, and I guess we had to spoil him," said Elaine Haynie. "He got a tape deck, a radio (that he's bringing with him), stereo speakers, and tapes."

"I really don't want him to go," she said.

Haynie Jr. said his parents have stood behind him.

Kyle Bell, 5, said goodbye to his father, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Bell. "What I'm going to remember most about him is just the stuff he used to do with us. I remember when he and my cousin washed the dog together."

As the trucks pulled out, all with the names of girlfriends written on them like, "I love Linda, and Miss you Monique," there was Elaine Haynie running amongst them shouting for her son.

"What's the matter, you already miss him?" a sergeant asked.

"No, he's got our car keys," she said.

LA Air Guard Activated

By 1LT Maria L. Jonkers
State PAO

The first Louisiana Guardsmen have been activated in support of Operation Desert Shield. These four airmen, one from Covington, one from Slidell and two from New Orleans, are attached to Headquarters, Louisiana Air National Guard at Jackson Barracks.

They represent the Air Force Component Commander as an Air Guard ad-

visor to the 256th Infantry Brigade. In this capacity they advise the Brigade and maneuver battalion commanders as to what assets are available to them.

In an air land-battle they would serve as the link between the Army and Air Force in combat.

These Louisiana Air Guardsmen will train with the 256th Infantry Brigade soldiers, and will remain with them for the duration.

Louisiana Soldiers and Communities Ar



The soldiers of the 527th Engineer Bn in Bossier City await the call to load up and move out to Fort Polk (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)



Family and friends gather at Jackson Military Police Company. This was a (Photo by PV2 Rebekah Lloyd, 241st PAD)



Over 2000 well wishers turned out in the community of Lafayette to see the 256th Inf Brigade off. (Photo by SFC John A. Sullivan 241st PAD)



Answer the Call To Defend and Serve

**WE SUPPORT OUR
LOUISIANA TROOPS
OPERATION DESERT SHIELD**



Arrangements for the departure of the 39th Infantry Division were repeated throughout the state. (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

**JOINING DESERT SHIELD
YOUR
LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD**



The worried and pensive faces of loved ones at Lakefront Airport speak of concern and pride as the morning the 812th Med Co departs N.O. for Fort Polk (Photo by SPC Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

The 3673d Maint Company boards the civilian aircraft that will carry them halfway around the world to Saudi Arabia. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)



Louisiana Brigade Answers Call to Defend

by SFC John A. Sullivan and
PV2 Rebekah D. Lloyd

HQ, 256 INF BDE

LAFAYETTE, La. - On a foggy morning Dec. 2, the headquarters elements of the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) left this south Louisiana city for Fort Polk and a place in history.

Known as the Louisiana Brigade, the callup of the guard unit affected 4,800 citizen-soldiers, placing them on active duty as part of the United States' commitment to Operation Desert Shield.

The mechanized infantry group, made up of units from 43 Louisiana cities and towns, combines a headquarters company, two infantry battalions, armor and artillery battalions and a support battalion.

"I couldn't be happier with the way the troops have conducted themselves in getting ready for mobilization," said Brig. Gen. Gary Whipple, brigade commander and a professor at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La.

"I think we have outstanding troops who are up to the challenge of whatever lies ahead of us," Whipple said.

Whipple added that the brigade's elements would first report to Fort Polk, where they will "undergo some intense individual training" before facing a possible move to Fort Hood, Texas, or Fort Irwin, Calif.

The brigade's lead elements left on a foggy morning to find a crowd police later estimated at almost 3,000 lining the road out of town. The crowd waved flags and showed banners giving the troops their love and support and cried as each truck or bus rolled past.

"We were expecting a few people to come out and see us off," said one private as he waved to the crowds, tears streaming down his face. "We never expected anything like this. Man, this is too much for me."

Away from the last-minute hustle of troops preparing to leave their armory in Lafayette, PFC Mark Leger said he was leaving his wife and his life as a student at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

"I've got this kind of mixed emotions about all of this," Leger said. "Our first anniversary will be in January and I'm not sure I'll be with her to celebrate it."

In the armory's motor pool, PVT Eric Gabriel shrugged when asked how he felt about the mobilization.

"No big deal to me," the Morgan City, La., resident said. "Everyone who joined the National Guard knew what they were getting into."

A mechanic with the headquarters company, taking a last look at the trucks and wheeled vehicles he had been preparing for the convoy, Specialist Gregory Walker of Lafayette, said the possibility of being called to active duty was something they all lived with.

"It's something we all have to do," Walker said. "I don't want my wife to worry, though."

Throughout the early morning hours,

the unit scrambled to get those last few items packed and stowed and their duffel bags on the charter buses that would drive them to Fort Polk.

"I've seen a lot of pride in this unit surfacing in the past few days," said 2LT Michael Hulin. "There was one specialist in our unit who put up a sign in her yard saying she was a member of the Brigade."

"There was a little bit of nervousness and anxiety at first, but I think the soldiers in the Brigade will give 110 percent in whatever they do."

Along the parade route taken by the Brigade, citizens stood shoulder-to-shoulder with flags and signs of support.

"I'm hoping and praying for peace," said Mrs. Joyceln Cortese, a Lafayette resident who has a son in the 256th. "He said he would support the president and defend the country."

For Deon Peterman, the wave good-bye to the troops was bitter sweet.

"My husband Eldridge is in the 256th... we've only been married a month. It's very hard to see him leave. It's very hard."

With tears and cheers and flags waving, the 256th rolled out.

TRP E, 256 CAV

"These young people really have the warrior spirit," said First Sergeant Darrell Meyers of Troops E, 256th Cavalry from Natchitoches, La.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Meyers said he and the rest of the cavalry unit have been surprised and moved by the amount of community support.

"The other night I was driving home and 120 people in my neighborhood were waiting and cheering as I drove up,"

Meyers said. "They had a fireworks display and wished me luck and it was a very moving experience."

"I didn't experience anything like this when I got back from Vietnam."

Meyers said many members of the unit are students at Northwestern State University there and that university officials "have been really supportive of the folks in the unit who are students."

The town's high school even dismissed classes and the students lined the fence facing the road where the buses would pass five and six deep waving flags and holding up their signs.

It was a woman said waving good-bye to her son, "the proper way to say good-bye to these boys. And when they come home, we're going to have an even bigger celebration. I promise you that."

3rd BN, 156 INF DNE

A chilling December rain greeted the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry of Lake Charles as they arose and assembled to a call most thought would never come. Out of the 246 troops departing to Fort Polk on Dec. 3, 70 percent are college students.

Mixed emotions were displayed by each individual who was involved, however slightly, in the recent activation of this Army unit in support of Operation Desert Shield. The transition seemed the most difficult for those soldiers directly involved.

"It's like a dream, you want to slap yourself in the face because you can't believe it's happening," explained SPC David Ardoin - a member of the battalion - on the day of departure.

Two infantry men/best friends of the 156th, SPC Jim Barnes and SPC David

Ardoin, who joined the National Guard together, awaited their duty - together - with uncertainty. The soldiers enlisted to receive the tuition benefits offered by the Louisiana National Guard.

"It's an indescribable feeling when you're going about your daily routine as a college student and suddenly you receive a call saying you've been activated," Barnes said. "Our families aren't sure if we're ready for this, but they support us in our commitment," he added.

Despite the weather conditions family and friends stood in and about the armory as a cajun band, characteristic of Louisiana's heritage, assembled in front to play "French" tunes and to bid farewell to the soldiers.

The members of the 156th departed and traveled to Fort Polk in Army vehicles and public transportation buses. Members of the American Legion, Post 1, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars stood amidst the puddles waving flags and displaying signs as the convoy made its way through town. McDonald's employees were also there to witness the occasion with U.S. flags and cheerful shouts to the men defending our country.

The bystanders could only witness the expressions of the soldiers as they moved rapidly in camouflage creations to reach their destination.

"It has taken a little transformation time for the National Guardsmen to realize that they must shed that role as a civilian," explained Lt. Col. John A. Gravel Jr., battalion commander. "They must now assume the role of an American soldier."

Staff SGT Kevin Fendley said he, like many members in his platoon, were "a little worried" about the mobilization. Once the activation orders went into effect, though, "there weren't any problems. I had a lot of ROTC cadets in my platoon who resigned those positions so they could come with us."

Fendley said the mobilization has affected everyone in certain ways - having to say good-bye to friends and family or causing delays in future plans. For him, it meant a delay in becoming a registered nurse.

"It has its down side, of course," Fendley said. "But we're ready."

The cavalry unit's executive office, 1LT Brian Lovemore, also a student at Northwestern, said the troops approached mobilization "as efficiently as possible. On the most part, I'd say our people are very enthusiastic about what they're going to do."

On the night before the unit's departure, the citizen soldiers were treated to a special presentation at the city's rodeo grounds. Speakers complemented the troopers on their abilities and wished good luck and God-speed on their journey. The troops were also treated to musical entertainment by local singers and bands.



Hands, young and old, waved flags in support of the 256 INF BDE, the Louisiana Brigade, as they departed for active duty from Lafayette. (241st PAD Photo.)

Cont'd on p. 16

2nd Bn Trains on Bradley Simulator at Ft. Polk

By PFC Clay James
5th ID Public Affairs

Inside the cramped turret, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle commander and his gunner lean over their sights and scan the horizon.

Buildings and other obstructions block much of their sight picture. They stare intently into the scopes, searching for an enemy target.

An enemy personnel carrier crawls into view, causing the commander to inhale sharply before shouting his instructions: "Drivers, move up!"

The gunner works feverishly as the Bradley emerges from its defensive position, exposing its turret in order to fire. "Identified," crackles in the commander's headphones, telling him the gunner is ready.

The commander's response is quick: "Fire!"

"On the way," shouts the gunner into his microphone as a spotting round's streaks downrange.

"Up one! Up one!" directs the commander as his eyes rivet on the screen in front of him. With each command, another round is launched.

Craning his head down at the gunner, he shouts, "Target!" This lets the gunner know his aim is true, and a long burst of fire follows as the target explodes into smoking flames.

"Cease fire. Driver move back," says the commander.

The Bradley crew, hot and sweating from the intense encounter, crawled out of the turret door and into a clean white room where a technician sat calmly in front of two video screens and evaluated the just-completed simulation.

Bradley commander 2nd Lt Lewis Post left to check another training mission. Cpt Ronald Fusilier of Delta Co in New Iberia, part of the recently activated 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry, studied the simulation results.

"We were extremely nervous the first time we did this, but the second time we were hot," grinned the gunner.

The simulated battle exercise is just one of many different types of training the federalized National Guardsmen undergo each day at Fort Polk, Fusilier said.

"Putting in long days is the norm," he said, soldiers' work days begin before light and end after dark.

"Even the simulation is very realistic," he said, with the training turret identical to a real one, right down to having

to plug in your helmets to the console.

Fusilier said this week he and other Bradley crewmen had about eight hours of simulator training left, including blocks of instruction on night fighting, nuclear-biological operations and engaging multiple moving targets.

He said teamwork and confidence in



The 2nd Bn, 156th Inf trains on the Bradley Simulator at Fort Polk. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)

each other's abilities keeps him and his fellow soldiers from the New Iberia company close-knit.

The Bradley is a quality piece of equipment, but the quality of the people operating it is what spells the difference between success and failure, Fusilier said.

The "Delta Dawgs" are taking their training in support of Operation Desert Shield very seriously, knowing they could possibly be called upon to deploy to Saudi Arabia, he said.

"We will be ready for whatever mission we are called upon to achieve," Fusilier said.



Pat Taylor of Taylor Energy presents Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud with a contribution of \$20,000 toward the ongoing expansion of the Louisiana National Guard Military Museum at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. (State PAO Photo)

Bde Cooks Feed 900 Soldiers A Day

By SPC Michael A. Ritter
241st PAD Staff

Sgt. 1st Class Dave Gilbeau and Sgt. Louis Louviere have begun preparing 900 meals a day in a WWII building at Fort Polk's North Fort.

Gilbeau, a mess sergeant for over 13 years had four months left to ETS before he was called to duty. They follow a 14 day menu issued by the active Army.

Louviere entered the Guard in 1950 in ammunition, and re-entered in 1978 with a promise from the company commander that he could be a cook. Louviere, and his cousin Farrel, another mess sergeant are known as the "cooking cousins."

"That's the only way I'd come back. I love to cook," said Louis, a native of

Jeanerette, and a deck-hand for Otis Engineering.

Louviere said that he has tried to spice up the menu with Worcestershire Sauce and Hot Sauce.

"We try to make it so that everyone likes it," Louviere said.

The cousins have been trying to commandeer rice that is not included in the Army's menu. So far they have run up against a brick wall of red-tape and regulations. South Louisiana dishes such as red beans, and jambalaya have not been incorporated yet.

But sources inside that kitchen say that a secret mission back home will be made for a Christmas party that will include some seafood gumbo.

The Louisiana Brigade Becomes Part of 5th Infantry

By SPC Michael Ritter
241st PAD Staff

While the troops have been sweating it out in the field, the 256th Brigade staff has been sweating it out in makeshift orderly rooms, trying to marry up their troops with Fort Polk's 5th Infantry Division.

Snakes of industrial computer wire and computers sit on a desk in WWII barracks that once only knew Royal typewriters and tailor made cigarettes.

2nd Lt. Jonathan L. Richard has been working with the 5th Infantry Staff to find out what the Guard units need to improve upon. According to Richard and training officer Capt. Frank Lena, the Guard troops are up to snuff.

The Brigade staff has trained with a full mobilization in mind, but the Guard's support of Operation Desert Shield is a presidential call-up. Soldiers

in the field won't know the difference, but it has meant plenty of extra paperwork.

Richard said that Guard cadre are being used to review basic skills such as weaponry and NBC training, but the 5th Infantry sends instructors to teach special classes.

"We are top priority with them, whatever facilities or supplies or personnel we need for training, they've supplied it," said Lena.

5th Infantry instructors have trained Guard troops in such things as sniper tactics.

"They've also helped us with Bradley training and Master Fitness training," said Lena.

Lena said the troops had a sense of urgency about learning how to do things the right way, anticipating deployment to the Persian Gulf. "We'll be ready in a matter of days," he said.

EDITORS UPDATE:

In Saudi Arabia: 1090th Trans Det, 1083d Trans Co, 1086th Trans Co, 3673d Maint Co, 159th MASH.

At Fort Polk: 812th Med Co; 39th MPC; 527th Engr Bn; 1087th Trans Co; HQ, 256th Inf Bde; 1st Bn, 156th Ar; 2nd Bn, 156th Inf; 256th Engr Co; Troop E, 256th Cavalry; HQ LA Air Guard.

At Fort Hood: 3rd Bn, 156th Inf; 199th Spt Bn; 141st Field Artillery.



The 256th Engineers depart from the community of Opelousas on a gray overcast day. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)

Opelousas: Mother Sends Off Second Son

By SPC Mike Ritter
241st PAD Staff

OPELOUSAS, La. - It's hard for some of them. Perhaps not everyone supports Operation Desert Shield. For some soldiers, facing the prospect of war square in the eye is tough. Maybe they should talk to Irma Jane Hansen.

When the 256th Engineers left Opelousas, Hansen was sending off her second son to battle, PVT Kirt Hansen. Her youngest son Dwight has already deployed to the Gulf with the Navy.

"It's good that they're sending them over there (to Fort Polk) to get trained. I think once they go through that they'll relax, they'll have confidence," Hansen said.

The day was just beginning for this mother. Hansen said she was going to the MASH (Mothers Against Saddam Hussein) office to be there for other parents who might be experiencing pain.

This ain't no time to get down and depressed, I have a load of faith in the lord," Hansen said. "I've got to help others be strong."

The Washington Artillery Departs New Orleans

By SPC Bernie Chaillot
256th Inf Bde PIO

As the 1st Bn, 141st Field Artillery prepared to pull out to Fort Polk as part of the Operation Desert Shield activation, the state adjutant general had a very personal reason for seeing the convoy off.

Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud's son, Capt. Bill Stroud was one of the deploying troops. "He's a volunteer like the rest," Stroud said. "I'm very proud of him and of all the Louisiana Army National Guard soldiers who are making the necessary sacrifices to serve their country."

One of those soldiers is Spec. Tommy Costales, whose parents John and Grace Costales and fiancée Teena Pillitere were there to see him off. Costales said he's confident the battalion will perform well. He sported the imprint of red lips on his cheek.

Battalion executive officer Maj. Ivan Jones shouted at the truck drivers, "Be careful, you guys, or you'll all be privates tomorrow!" Jones noted it was 50 years practically to the day since the unit had been activated for WWII duty.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Glen Appe said, "this is just another chapter in the storied history of the Washington Artillery," as the 141st Field Artillery is known. "We're grateful for the community support and will make Louisiana proud," he said.

A crowd of several hundred lined the street outside the gate of Jackson Barracks, including a couple dressed as Uncle Sam and "Aunt Sam", with stars and stripes, top hats and a bag full of multi-colored beads.

"That's New Orleans for you," said one onlooker, "Turn every parade into Mardi Gras."

M★A★S★H: Mothers Against Saddam Hussein

By SPC Michael A. Ritter
241st PAD Staff

OPELOUSAS, La. - In combat MASH units provide emergency medical relief. For Opelousas resident Patricia Mason the acronym MASH (Mothers Against Saddam Hussein) means something different, but the group does provide emergency relief of sorts.

MASH is a support group that provides information and help troops from St. Landry who have been deployed to the Persian Gulf.

In a corner building situated along the parade route, Mason and other members of MASH organize support and assemble care packages for soldiers in the Gulf. The location has become a clearing house for anyone who wants to help Desert Shield soldiers.

Mason's son, Raymond, was deployed with the 101st of Fort Campbell, Ky. Mason said she was upset that her son was going to war and she needed to talk to other people who were experiencing similar emotions.

After a period of not knowing what to do, Mason talked to Bobby Ardoin, a writer for the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate. She expressed her plans of forming a network of family and friends who had loved ones in the Gulf or being activated there.

"The next Sunday I picked up the paper and there was everything I said, there were people calling me all over the place," Mason said.

Mason compiled a list of 53 soldiers native to the St. Landry Parish area and began sending soldiers care packages. The list has expanded to 96 with recent call-ups and will grow larger when the names of the 256th are added.

Some of the care packages soldiers have received include cookies (donated by Wal-Mart), beef jerky, dried fruits, envelopes, toiletries, and assorted supplies that have been donated by the Girl Scouts.

Schools and churches have donated Christmas ornaments to a tree that stands in a corner of the MASH office. Mason said she plans to have one or

naments for every one of the MASH-sponsored soldiers.

Dorothy Dossman, one of several volunteers at the office sporting "Till Our Troops Come Home" sweatshirts, has a son in the Marines who has been in the desert for three and half months.

"We're not here for the troops only," said Dossman, "but also for other parents who have boys over there."

But the troops have been thankful for the MASH project. One entire wall of the MASH office is covered with letters from soldiers who have been touched by this unique group of people.

"It really means a lot to me that I have your support at home front. I thank you very much for taking the time to show you care..." wrote SPC Marc Boudreaux, of the HHIC 3d Brigade of the 82nd Airborne.

"It's a good feeling knowing that the people in St. Landry Parish are behind the soldiers in Desert Shield. I appreciate the prayers you have bestowed upon me. I will remember the MASH in my prayers," wrote Kendall J. Sylvester, of E Co. of the 8th Engineers, First Cavalry.

If the power of Mason's message affects the soldiers the same way it has many of the local residents, the conflict may be over soon.

A group of youngsters came into the office with frowns on their faces, having just said goodbye to their brothers and sisters. Mason straightened them up.

"Smile yall, it was beautiful," she said.

MASH currently has three major sponsors: Louis Viviano donated the office building, and American Bank and Dupre-Godchaux Insurance have also made contributions.

If you would like to help out, or order a "Till Our Troops Come Home" sweatshirt write to:

PROJECT MASH
P.O. Box 7326
Opelousas, LA 70570

Or if you would like to start a MASH unit in your area, Mason said she would love to help. Call her at: (318) 948-8018.

PROJECT MASH

OPERATION
DESERT SHIELD



Patricia Mason, co-founder of the support group M★A★S★H is shown here at their headquarters in Opelousas with a list of St. Landry Parish Residents presently serving in Desert Shield. (Photo by Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

Find A New Pen Pal

Any soldier:
"Any Servicemember"
Operation Desert Shield
APO New York 90848-0006

Soldiers at Fort Polk
Rank and Name
Social Security Number
Unit
Devil Troop Brigade
Fort Polk, Louisiana
71459-5001

1083rd & 1086th Transportation
Companies:
Rank and Name
Social Security Number
1083rd or 1086th Trans Co
Operation Desert Shield
APO New York 09657-0006

3673rd Maintenance Company:
Rank and Name
Social Security Number
3673rd Maint Co
ASB-DHAHRAN
Operation Desert Shield
APO New York 09616-0330

Soldiers at Fort Hood:
Rank and Name
Social Security Number
Unit
Fort Hood, Texas 76544

1090th Transportation Det:
Rank and Name
Social Security Number
1090th Trans Det
Operation Desert Shield
APO New York 09616-0006

159th MASH:
Rank and Name
Social Security Number
159th MASH
C/O 341st Medical Group
Operation Desert Shield
APO New York 09623

Wanted: Civil Engineers

Civil Engineering positions now available with the Louisiana Air National Guard. You've engineered your way through a lot of technical theory and now it's time to put it into practice. As a Reserve Officer in the Louisiana Air National Guard, you'll be part of an elite management team in one of the most exciting vital organizations. To qualify, you must have a Baccalaureate degree with academic specialization in Civil Engineering that has at least one program accredited by a nationally recognized body in engineering. For additional information contact MSG Heidi Pinkham at (504) 278-6489.

L-Birds Unite

March 1-3 1991: The International Liaison Pilot & Aircraft Association, (ILPA) will host the first world wide gathering of L-Birds in San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Bill Stratton
16518 Ledgestone
San Antonio, Texas, 78232.

Smart Weapons Help But Wars Are Won By Soldiers on the Ground

In the recent PBS documentary, "The Civil War," one of the more poignant nuggets of military wisdom was in the report of a common soldier writing home to say, "I only shoot the privates." Left unsaid was the reason-privates were engaged in the lethal business of trying to kill him, and his salvation was to get them first. Officers and sergeants-leading, inspiring, communicating, planning-could be dealt with later.

Should the Persian Gulf crisis become a shooting war, the sage counsel embodied in the Civil War soldier's statement must not be lost on our national leaders. It is a historical fact that wars are finally won when soldiers occupy the land or destroy the capabilities that are critical to an enemy's ability to continue the fight.

That is not to say that enemies have not resigned from battle in recognition of an overwhelming threat that is perceived as making their situation hopeless. The Japanese surrendered in World War II for exactly that reason. But, even then, it was the physical occupation of Japan that concluded the conquest and drove home to the Japanese people the realization of their

defeat.

But the perception of hopelessness and the recognition of an overwhelming threat are in the eyes of the beholder, and an enemy can never be counted on to reach a logical conclusion that he is faced with such. Adolf Hitler didn't. The Kaiser did. The defenders of the Alamo didn't. Lord Cornwallis did. The North Vietnamese ignored it and won their war anyway.

It is important to realize today that, if Saddam Hussein is not cowed by the overwhelming threat or by the economic war being waged against his aggression, any plans to defeat or destroy him must include the means and methods to "shoot the privates."

Theories, schemes and pronouncements that a war with Iraq can be won relatively cheaply-using only firepower or a naval and air blockade-must be given some credence because they might be enough and Saddam Hussein might be another Cornwallis. But if he is a Ho Chi Minh or Davy Crockett reincarnate, we had better be prepared to couple our firepower with the maneuver of our frontline ground combat forces to achieve our goals in the Persian Gulf.



Roemer Declares Dec. Louisiana National Guard Personnel Month

WHEREAS, our nation was born of a people whose hunger for freedom far surpassed the challenges they faced. Forging ahead, unwilling to settle for anything less than liberty, our forbears relied upon their spirited determination in the protection of their communities and our infant nation; and

WHEREAS, today, the tradition of citizen defense is continued through the loyal dedication of the 14,000 citizen soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard who stand ready to protect Louisiana's communities and defend our unmatched liberties and democratic society; and

WHEREAS, without the dedicated support and professional skills of the Louisiana National Guard personnel during national disasters, annual training, inactive duty training, fire disasters, police strikes, civil disturbances, federal mobilization missions, and community

assistance projects, Louisianans would not enjoy the security and confidence currently felt by all our people; and

WHEREAS, the families of Louisiana National Guard personnel must do without their presence during family activities and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, it is both fitting and appropriate that we set aside a time to salute both the Louisiana National Guard personnel and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BUDDY ROEMER, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim the Month of December, 1990, as LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL AND NATIONAL GUARD FAMILIES MONTH in the State of Louisiana, and call upon all Louisianans to observe this month with the appropriate ceremonies and activities.

One Soldier's Dilemma: Torn Loyalties

By SPC Bernard Chaillot
256th Inf Bde PIO

For one National Guardsman activated for Operation Desert Shield, training to fight the army of Iraq's Saddam Hussein presents a moral dilemma shared by few, if any, of his fellow citizen-soldiers.

SPC Tahanie Thibodeaux of St. Martin Parish is half Palestinian.

Thibodeaux is a supply specialist with the 2nd Battalion headquarters company in Abbeville, part of the 256th Infantry Brigade of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

"I am proud to be an American soldier and will follow orders and do my job to the best of my ability," Thibodeaux said.

"But a part of me has mixed feelings on the Palestinian issue that Saddam

Hussein wants on the negotiating table," he added.

Thibodeaux's mother Elene came from the West Bank of the Jordan River in 1966 to attend USL and stayed to marry Clarence Thibodeaux, a civil engineer, in 1969.

She stood next to Tahanie as his unit prepared to board buses in Abbeville on December 6. Mother and son are both strikingly Middle Eastern-looking.

"I am a native of Palestine, which is now called Israel," she said. "When I left in 1966, my village of Belt-Jala, which is just 2 kilometers from Bethlehem, was part of Jordan.

"The next year, during the Six-Day War, the Israelis took it over, and I have not been back since," Mrs. Thibodeaux said.

"I am sending my son to prepare to

fight a country that is standing up for the rights of Palestinians, so my emotions are very mixed," she said.

Mrs. Thibodeaux said while she cannot support the actions of Saddam Hussein, she does support his call for discussions on a Palestinian homeland.

My people have been scattered since 1945 when Israel established a homeland in Palestine," she said. "Here it is almost 50 years later and the Palestinians are still struggling for a homeland."

Her husband added that if the goal of U.S. policy is to promote peace in the Persian Gulf region, the Palestinian issue should be on the negotiating table.

"There will never be peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian quest for a homeland is addressed," Thibodeaux said.

"I support what President Bush is trying to do, just as my son does, but the president must recognize the reality and the validity of the concerns of the Palestinian people," he added.

Mrs. Thibodeaux questioned why the U.S. is so quick to condemn Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, while "doing nothing about Israeli aggression against Palestinians."

As an active duty soldier, her son avoided that debate, but Tahanie Thibodeaux did express the empathy he feels for those who share the blood that flows in his veins.

"I love the United States and am proud to be an American and a soldier," he said, "but part of my heart will always be in Palestine."

Vincennes University Offers Military Writing Course

By CPT William C. Ratcliff
Education Services Officer

This article is an update to a series devoted to exploring the Vincennes University (VU) program. Briefly restated, students can take a two-day Effective Military Writing course conducted by VU in their local community for \$64 and have their military experience evaluated for college credit. Students bring their updated DA Form 2-1 to class and the instructor assists them in preparing their portfolio for evaluation. In 5-8 weeks, the students receive an official transcript with the courses awarded for their military experience along with the credit hour Effective Military Writing course.

The second such class was conducted in Baton Rouge on 22-23 Sep 90. The participants were of varied employment statuses and ranks. A quick class profile shows that of the 22 students, 6 were Federal Technicians, 6 were M-Day soldiers while the remaining 12 were AGR soldiers. There were 8 SFCs, 2 CW3s, 3 SGTs, 8 SSGs, SSGs and 1 1SG.

Although this class consisted of soldiers with considerable military experience, this program is also attractive to relatively new members. Soldiers who have recently completed Basic Military Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) can use this program to get a head start on their educational goals. Since VU belongs to the Servicemen's Opportunity College (SOC) Network, all credits awarded will

transfer to any other SOC college such as Northwestern State University.

This course was conducted by Professor Jack Mahony from the VU faculty. He has been an English professor for 15 years and has taught this course to Guardsmen in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Texas and Oklahoma.

Some of the comments made by the students of this class were, "Not a fly-by-night program, surprisingly a very professionally taught class," "I wouldn't have believed I would gain so much from an effective writing class. My job will be enhanced." One M-Day soldier remarked, "My (civilian) employer thought it was such a good idea he paid my tuition."

This course enjoyed the emphasis of the 225th Engineer Group Ad-

ministrative Officer, LTC William Hilborn and was coordinated by Area Retention NCO, SFC Douglas Zetlemoyer. If you are interested in having VU conduct this program in your community, call 1-800-899-6355.

We urge all members who can benefit from this program to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity. Perhaps 1SG Carroll best related our enthusiasm for this program when he stated upon completing the last class, "The benefits of this course along with the military evaluation should start spreading now. Our soldiers need this type of opportunity."

In the next article of this series we will show the evaluation results for this class.

1087th Trans Co Quenches Thirst for Entertainment

By SPC Michael Ritter
241st PAD

FORT POLK, La. - With the variety of troops participating in Operation Desert Shield, one problem will be quenching a wide-range demand for entertainment. Even in a small seven-soldiers of the 1087th, there was a broad spectrum of musical possibilities of what the troops may want when they get to theatre.

In between firing at ranges, Spec. Michael J. Spears, 19, of West Monroe said that he had tickets to a Damn Yankees-Bad Company concert, and was forced to give them up when he was activated.

I think they should at least bring those groups, they owe me that," Spears joked. He said he would also like to see Guns N' Roses, Kiss, Poison and Warrant.

On the other hand, Spec. Toby Murphy, 19, a student at Northeast University is strictly a country-western fan, who

would like to see George Strait, Clint Black, and Garth Brooks.

Spec. Jerry E. Hayes, 24, a truck driver from Waterproof, La. disagrees. Bring on MC Hammer, Kid n' Play, and 2 Live Crew.

Spec. Kevin Hunter, a student at Southern University, and a jazz enthusiast would like to see Michael Franks and Kenny G.

Other members of the unit say they have already started entertain themselves by playing Boo-ray, a french card game of south Louisiana.

The soldiers who are staying in old WWII barracks also have access to electrical outlets, TV's, and VCR's. Bunks have been converted into mini-cinemas showing features like: "Tango and Cash", "Firefox", "Heartbreak Ridge", and "Iron Eagle I and II."

Fort Polk has also set up a recreation facility for the troops that includes: lounging chairs, pool tables, darts, TV, and beer.



Options For Activated Louisiana Student-Soldiers

By SPC Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD Staff

The recent activities initiated by President Bush, the 200K Call-up, have had a strong effect on the force of Louisiana National Guard Student-soldiers.

Literally hundreds of students enrolled in state colleges and universities are there participating in the tuition exemption program provided by the Louisiana National Guard. Hundreds of those students are now participating in Operation Desert Shield.

Some of these student-soldiers were called to duty at the onset of the crisis in August. Those students simply withdrew their enrollment. Others, unfortunately, had completed more than half or two thirds of the semester.

It was at this time that state colleges and universities had to reevaluate their policies on such occurrences. To the luck of the student-soldier, new options were set.

Students called to defend our country were given three options as to what to do with the work completed in the courses they were taking. Students could take an incomplete and take an exam the next semester back at school. Students could take their grade at the present time. Or, students could take a final exam early, providing it was feasible for the instructor as well.

It was because of these generous options that our student-soldiers were able to concentrate fully on training for the possible defense of our country.



The 527th Engineers depart from their home station in Bossier City. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD Staff)

Lessons Learned From Operation Desert Shield

An important part of the message coming out of the Middle East is that we might be looking at a worse-case example of the kind of situations our armed forces will be called upon to deal with in the future.

Yet, at the same time that many of our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine units were enroute to Saudi Arabia and adjacent waters, actions were underway in Congress to severely cut back troop strength and the very combat structure (heavy forces) needed for this type operation.

If some of these drastic proposals had run their course before Operation Desert Shield got rolling, our Army might well have found itself in a similar state of unpreparedness as when we were suddenly thrust into the Korean War in 1950.

As it happened, there were times - early in the deployment - when our troops were extremely vulnerable to attack by Saddam Hussein's 5,000 tanks, state-of-the-art aircraft, missiles and chemical weaponry.

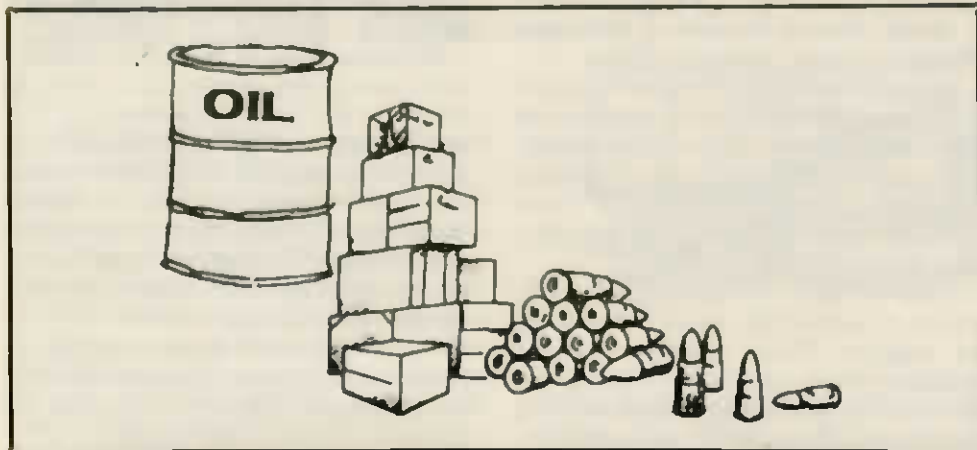
Had the draconian cuts proposed in Congress been allowed to run their course over several years, Hussein could have been in a great position to take con-

trol of 54 percent of the world's known petroleum resources.

The changing nature of the threat and our serious federal budget problem make it clear that we will be required to protect our national interests with a smaller defense force. But we need to get there in a deliberate and intelligent way.

We won't be able to meet contingencies like Operation Desert Shield if we cut the heart and muscle out of America's finest Army or let it lose its fine edge through a free-fall approach to personnel reductions.

Our security interests demand that we maintain a ready, deployable, lethal Landpower force, composed of a balance of heavy, light and special operations forces. To realize such a trained and ready force, we need to reduce the size of our armed forces in a sensible way. Near-total demobilization like that after World War I and II, after Korea and after Vietnam will only result in unnecessary casualties sometime in the future among the bright young people who serve in uniform. Avoiding such a disaster is the duty of our Congress, which has the constitutional responsibility "to raise and support armies. . ."



527th Engineers: "Give 'Em Hell For Us"

By SPC Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD Staff

For two weeks in the middle of fall, the streets of Shreveport and Bossier City resembled streets lined with parade goers during Mardi Gras.

Hands, young and old, waved flags and banners to convoys of two of the Louisiana National Guard's finest units as they made their way to Fort Polk, in support of Operation Desert Shield.

The 527th Engineer Battalion assembled at their headquarters in Bossier City to say goodbye to the families and friends of its 700 members.

Last summer Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud, in the same type of assembly had presented the 527th Engr Bn with the Superior Unit Award. The 527th Engineers was the first national guard unit to receive this award. At this particular assembly, Stroud told the engineers that they were the finest engineer battalion in the U.S. Army.

He said, "the reason for you all leaving is combat readiness. This speaks well for your leadership, soldiers and the support of your families."

State Representative Robert Adley reminded families and soldiers that their commander Lt. Col. Bennett C. Landreneau also has a son presently activated in support of Operation Desert Shield. Adley said, "this tells me even more reassuredly that he (Landreneau) will bring all of these young men and women home safely."

Adley concluded his address to the troops by saying, "if you have to use the forces you are trained to use, we ask that you Give 'Em Hell for us."

The 527th Engr Bn is presently at Fort Polk participating in intense mission training and readiness activities. The engineer's mission is to provide rapid runway repair and barracks and hospital renovation with equipment such as bulldozers, road graders, scrapers, front-end loaders, tractors and dump trucks.



Medics of the 199th Deploy With 15th Evac

By SPC Michael Ritter
241st PAD Staff

Most of the federalized National Guard troops training at Fort Polk in support of Operation Desert Shield have remained in their same units, under the same commanders they've had for years. But medics attached to the 199th Support Battalion got a shock when they were notified by Fort Polk that they would be leaving with the 15th Evacuation Hospital.

Eighteen medics, most of whom are from the Lafayette area said goodbye to their old unit, and joined the active-army hospital that will soon be deployed to the Persian Gulf.

"They're coming to us qualified, but we will have them trained and deployable by the weekend," said Sgt. 1st

Class Yvette Hardy of the 15th.

"They're way ahead of us in preparation," said Tracy Mire, 21, of Lafayette. "They knew about the deployment before we did."

The medics are completing basic skills training such as M-16 qualification and NBC validation. They also attend special classes in rules of engagement and terrorism.

"It was a big shock to me, we didn't expect to be deployed," said Pvt. 2 Dirk D. Duhon of Lafayette.

Duhon said his active-army counterparts have taken the new medics under their wings and integrated them into the team. The 15th Evacuation is a nationwide and worldwide deployable unit.

"They're outstanding soldiers, they're well-motivated and easy to train," said Sgt. 1st Class Boots Hawks of his new troops.

Military Reunions Notices

ITT Sheraton Military/Veteran Network (Reunion Planners)

Jan 21, 1991 - Nashville, TN
Sheraton Music
City Hotel

Jul 26, 1991 - Stamford, CT
Sheraton

Stamford Hotel

Oct 21, 1991 - Anaheim, CA
Sheraton

Anaheim Hotel

Nov 15, 1991 - Orlando, FL
Sheraton World
Resort

POC: Bill Masciangelo,
USMC (Ret)

Director

5530 Wisconsin Ave.

Suite 1230

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

(800)537-7882

One day, no fee, limited enrollment,
educational conferences on basics of reu-
nion and meeting planning.
For military Reunion Planners, veteran
organization meeting plan-
ners and active duty military
events planners.

Dustoff Association

(All Services)

Feb 22-24, 1991.

San Antonio, TX

Site: Holiday Inn Riverwalk

POC: Jerry Nolan

107 Wyanoke Dr.

San Antonio, TX 78209

(512)822-0120

Medical Evacuation

168th AAA Bn
(USA)

Apr 18-20, 1991.

Chattanooga, TN

Site: Best Western Hotel

6710 Ringgold Rd.

POC: Marvin Hundley

9102 Hundley Rd.

Chattanooga, TN 37416

(615)344-8266

World War II

401st FBG/TFW

(USAF)

Apr 25-27, 1991 - Alexandria, LA

Site: Hilton Hotel

POC: Anthony J. Gagliano, Sr.

300 Holcomb Blvd.

Ocean Springs, MS 39564

(601)875-5007

Korea, VN and following

(612, 613, 614, & 615 FBS/TFS)

2nd biennial national reunion

Include legal SASE

USS Barnett(APA-5)

(USN)

Jun 5-9, 1991 - Burlingame, CA

Site: Embassy Suites Hotel

POC: John E. Kolstad

2213 Ming Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93304

(805)831-6038

World War II

Semi-annual reunion

Base Hospital #15, Navy 3205
(USN)

Jun 6-9, 1991 - Milwaukee, WI

Site: TBD

POC: Marion R. Cook

Box 853

Laurens, SC 29360

(803)884-4466

Admiralty Islands

2nd annual reunion

CBMU-302/301

(USN)

Jun 13-16, 1991 - St. Louis, MO

Site: Holiday Inn Westport

POC: David A. Cooper

Rt. #3, Box 7000

Bartlesville, OK 74003

(918)336-1214

Vietnam

USS Wedderburn(DD-684)

(USN)

Jun 14-15, 1991 - Baton

Rouge, LA

Site: TBD

POC: James E. Allison

8401 Timber Glen

San Antonio, TX 78250

(512)681-0443

For all who served aboard

1st Cavalry Div

(USA)

Jul 3-7, 1991 - Killeen, TX

Site: Killeen Sheraton Hotel

POC: Bob Litle

302 North Main St.

Copperas Cove, TX 76522

(800)234-9313

All who served with division

44th annual reunion

USS Oswald
(DE-767)

(USN)

Aug 1991 - Las Vegas, NV

Site: TBD

POC: Thomas E. Beech

Rt. 1, Box 530

Moselle, MS 39469

(601)752-2274

World War II

44th Eng Combat Bn

(USA)

Aug 7-9, 1991 -

Frankenmeuth, MI

Site: Bavarian Inn Motor Lodge

POC: Albert B. Cline

P.O. Box 501

Gaffney, SC 29342

(803)489-6628

World War II

21st annual reunion

USS George E. Davis

(DE-357)(USN)

Oct 6-10, 1991 - Norfolk, VA

Site: Holiday Inn

POC: Stanley Cohen

33 Fairways Cr.

Palm Coast, FL 32137

(904)445-6254

World War II

Media Observes 1st Bn, 156th Armor Live Fire At Polk

By SPC Bernard Chailot
256th Inf Bde PIO
5th I.D. Public Affairs

The tankers of the 1st Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade had more than the usual observers on hand during live firing this week, as four newspapers and three television stations participated in a Media Day, complete with earplugs.

The reporters, anchors and cameramen visited the MultiPurpose Range Complex on Mill Creek Road, where the tankers were engaging targets as part of their Tank Crew Gunnery Skills Testing.

Maj. Kenneth Valentine, operations officer for the Shreveport headquartered battalion, briefed the civilian news peo-

ple on the TCGST qualifications.

"The guys are on Tank Table 6 today, which is defensive gunnery," Valentine said.

The media representatives then moved down near the firing line, far enough back for safety but close enough for adequate video, photos, and interviews with off-the-line tank crews.

Sgt. 1st Class William Wimmer, Bravo Company maintenance team chief, briefed them with some "fun facts" on the M-1 Abrams.

"It's got a 1,500 horsepower engine and will do 0 to 40 in just 60 seconds," Wimmer said in the manner of a car salesman.

The news people looked at each other,

arched their eyebrows and whistled, getting into the spirit of the presentation.

"I know that doesn't sound like much, but remember you're pushing 60 tons," Wimmer added.

"It fires a 105 millimeter projectile that weighs 70-something pounds at a muzzle velocity of one mile per second, with target stabilization features that allows accurate fire even at 45 miles per hour," Wimmer noted.

Tank systems mechanics Staff Sgt. Todd Kokoschke said the M-1 is "faster, has better computer technology, a more powerful weapons system, and is easier to work on to boot" than the old M-60s.

"We can pull the engine on one of these babies in 15 minutes," Kokoschke said.

Tank crews politely posed for photos once they were off the line, stood in front of TV cameras for some mild interrogation, and good naturedly allowed the news crews to scramble over their M-1s and take pictures of soldiers shaving and brushing their teeth atop the deadliest tanks on earth.

Newspapers represented were the Shreveport Times, the Alexandria Daily Town Talk, the Beauregard Daily News and the Leesville Leader.

Television stations KSLA and KTBS from Shreveport took part, as well as KALB from Alexandria.

MSE System Impenetrable to Enemy Eavesdropping

By SPC Bernard Chailot
256th Inf Bde PIO

A new communications system virtually impenetrable to enemy eavesdropping is being received by selected units of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

The Multiple Subscriber Equipment (MSE) consists of a transmitter and receiver, telephones (both secure and nonsecure), and even a FAX machine.

"It receives transmissions just like a radio, but uses multiple frequencies that

continuously change," explained SFC Fred Grass, assistant operations sergeant of 1st Bn, 141st Field Artillery at Jackson Barracks.

"We can load in a frequency plan integrating both high and low bands which continuously scans up and down so you're never on the same frequency for more than three seconds," said Grass.

"The system is voice and digital secure, scrambles voices in the secure mode, while also capable of wire-operated nonsecure transmissions," said

Grass.

"The facsimile capability is a big plus too, enabling us to FAX small overlays like road movement tables and march routes," he added.

"It offers basically the same capabilities as a cellular phone system; there are phone transmissions that can be picked up by a multiple area transmitter," he said.

Conference calls can be set up with any number of participants, not just three-way. A common, seven-digit system

is used to contact others with MSE capability, he said.

"We can also make direct, seven-digit calls from a directory of everyone with the equipment, as well as access commercial systems," he said. "The MSE combines military and commercial transmission capability."

"Commanders and key essential units authorized the equipment," said Grass.

Louisiana Maneuvers Remembered

Camp Claiborne Revisited

By SPC Lucas J. Landreneau Jr.
241st PAD

The next time you are driving down Highway 165, about 17 miles southwest of Alexandria, don't blink, you could miss Camp Claiborne, one of the sites that in 1941 was the home for the Louisiana Maneuvers. The only remnants of Camp Claiborne today are concrete slabs and columns of what once were theaters, finance offices and a series of other buildings. The U.S. Forestry Service has since reforested the land in order to return it to providing timber resources and other outdoor recreational activities as it did before the Maneuvers.

Camp Claiborne was basically a tent camp that was initially called Camp Evangeline but was renamed after the first governor of the Territory of New Orleans, Williams C.C. Claiborne. Construction began in 1940 with about 13,000 workmen being assigned the task

of building about 648 frame buildings and 6,796 tents on the 3,100 acres of garrison area at Camp Claiborne.

The first troops arrived in December of 1940 with companies E, G, and H of the 22nd Infantry showing up for maneuvers, followed by the 151st Engineer Regiment in January of 1941. The 34th National Guard Division composed of troops from Iowa, Minnesota and North and South Dakota arrived by February 1941. Nearly half a million troops trained at Camp Claiborne before it was deactivated on December 15, 1945. The Camp was also used to house several thousand prisoners of war.

These days there is still evidence around the camp where one can identify old structures by their slabs but it will be somewhat difficult since overgrowth of the forest has been successful. The United States Department of Agriculture allows for hunting, fishing and camping as long as regulations are obeyed.



LTG John Conaway, Chief, National Guard Bureau (second from left) and LTG (Ret) Robert Arter (extreme right) assist MG A.M. Stoud (center) with the unveiling of the Camp Beauregard monument. (241st PAD Staff Photo)



Modern and antique models depicting the improvements in Army vehicles and equipment throughout the decades was the highlight of the weekend. (241st PAD Photo)



Veterans and their families traveled from throughout the state to reminisce and relive memories of the 1940-42 maneuvers. (241st PAD Photo)

Veterans Tour The Remnants of Cp Livingston

By SPC Michael Ritter
241st PAD

One of the special attractions at the WWII 50th Anniversary celebration was the bus tours of Camp Livingston.

The remains of Camp Livingston are few and it seems to have disappeared just as fast as it went up. The Camp was ordered to be built on December, 14, 1940 as supplementary training post to Camp Beauregard. The Camp was closed for the last time November 7, 1945.

World War II veterans and their

families who toured the area could see the foundations of old buildings overgrown now with vegetation—just a shell of the post that for five years was bustling with the preparation of war.

Landmarkers showed the places where German, Japanese and Italian soldiers were buried in the post cemetery. Livingston once held as many as 5,000 POW's, including the first Japanese POW captured by the U.S. in WWII, Lt Kazuo Sakamaki, whose miniature submarine ran ashore at Pearl Harbor.

Many of the veterans learned things about the make-shift post that they

hadn't known before at a display tent. There the veterans were able to read newspaper clippings and examine photographs from the era. The Louisiana maneuvers which featured such luminaries as Gen George S. Patton and 2LT Henry Kissinger, were well preserved by the local media.

One celebrity who is associated with Livingston is LAARNG Adjutant General Ansel M. Stroud Jr., who attended basic training there, and who is probably the only remaining active soldier to have trained at Livingston.

Another stop on the tour was the post

swimming pool, which at that time was the largest in the state. It was said that an entire brigade could swim and sunbathe at the pool at the same time.

A live shooting demonstration was given at the Known Distance (KD) range by a soldier dressed in authentic WWII Kahkis complete with leather boots. Every soldier who trained at Livingston at one time or another trained at the KD range and it is still in operation today.

Camp Livingston was home to the 28th Inf Division, the 32d Inf Division, the 38th Inf Division, and the 86th Inf Division.