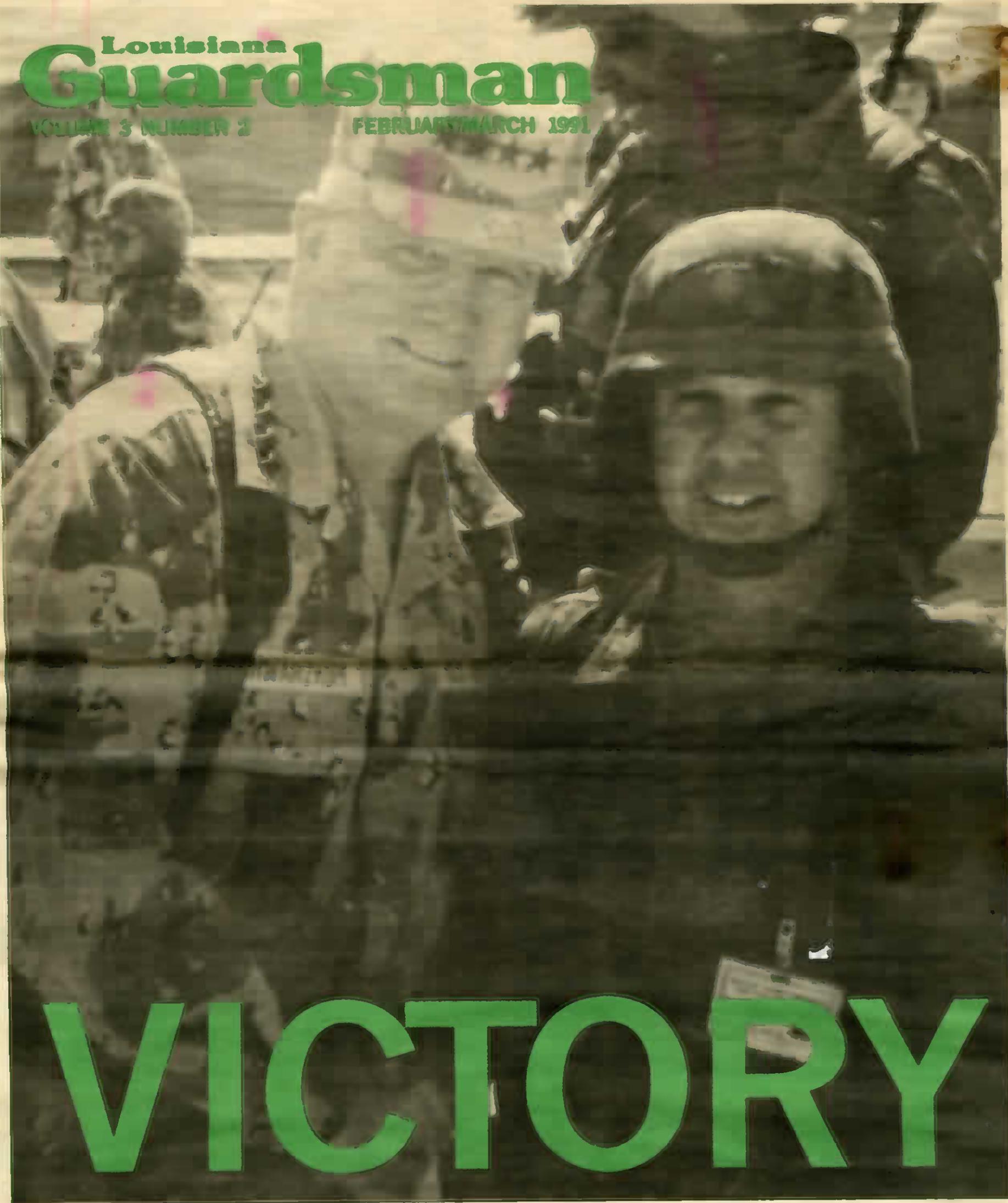


# Louisiana Guardisman

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1991



# VICTORY

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Fuel for the Force.



## On The Front Cover:

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Central Forces commander, visited with the 3673rd Maintenance Company in Saudi Arabia. Standing with Gen. Schwarzkopf is Maj. Marc McNeil, commander of the 3673rd. Gen. Schwarzkopf commanded Louisiana Guard units and said he appreciated the great contributions they had made in support of Operation Desert Storm. (3673rd Maint Company Photo)

### IN MEMORIUM

With deepest sympathy the Louisiana Army National Guard announces the death of Sergeant Robert Perry Foreman, HHC 204th Area Support Group, Louisiana Army National Guard.

SGT Foreman died on March 12, 1991, from a heart attack while participating in a local athletic event. The 25 year old soldier was an eight year veteran with the last 10 and one half months of service in the LAARNG. The soldier had an outstanding service record with affiliation related to service with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Federal Republic of Germany. In his

most recent assignment, SGT Foreman served as a Material Management Supervisor in HHC 204th Area Support Group. Sgt. Foreman is survived by his mother, Sandra Bates, his father, Perry J. Foreman, and two brothers, Derrick Bates and Michael Redfud.

Sgt. Foreman's Military Awards and Decorations include: Army Service Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with no numeral, Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 1, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, and Expert Badge M16A1 Rifle.

# Rush For The Border With The 159th

By CPT Tracie Kivlaho  
159th MASH

Saudi Arabia—For the 159th MASH from Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, it all started with the rush for the border as the land assault began. There was a brief lull in activity and an interlude of hope and news of the failed talks between Azziz and Gorbachev were reported on the Armed Forces Radio. The MASH received its orders and there was a feeling of trepidation as the Advanced Party left, but the hospital would be soon to follow.

Braced for the worst, the convoy of vehicles, three and four lanes across with 50 meters in between each lane, started out shortly after noon. To break the tension, many MASH members joked that it must be time to go since it was raining - a natural phenomenon that has happened each time that the hospital has moved since mobilization on December 8th, nearly three months before. The rain ended shortly after the last truck was loaded, but was replaced by a fierce sandstorm with 50 miles an hour winds.

Hospital personnel were transported primarily on the back of 5-ton trucks,

open to the elements, as cover would have impeded the use of weapons in case of an aerial attack. Most huddled with cravats, scarfs, goggles and rain gear, left on after the morning showers, to protect themselves from the sand.

The convoy halted due to the large number of flatbed trucks stuck in the sand during the storm. Travel was across open desert with road being nothing more than packed sand from vehicles that had passed earlier.

Deeply imbedded tracks with sand drifts indicated minesweeping vehicles and armored tanks had passed before us. The roads were hazardous, the elements harsh, and yet the people remained hopeful. The convoy stretched for miles as units merged and moved ahead together. As the evening came and the sandstorm diminished, the full impact of the number of vehicles in the convoy was apparent. Many who had been in the military for years remarked that they had never seen anything like it.

Vehicles were storming to war, an objective as far as the eye could see. It was comfort in numbers, and this was heaven, because vehicles of every kind and description kept coming and coming.

The rush for the border was on. The

departure from the forward assembly area had been a mark in time, the beginning of uncertainty. Chemical equipment like the M17A2 mask with hood and protective clothing consisting of gloves and charcoal lined suits, otherwise known as ICE, (individual chemical equipment) was kept close at hand-no further than arms reach away. In a potentially dangerous situation, the troops were ready.

The pyridostigmine bromide anti-nerve agent tablets were issued and the hourly ritual of "don't forget to take your pill" began. This, along with the order of MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) chemical suits, took place and then the 159th MASH of the Louisiana Army National Guard crossed the border into Iraq.

The difference between Saudi Arabia and Iraq was ominous. No "Welcome to Iraq" signs were seen and the tourist bureau wasn't available to give directions. The barbed wire fences and a double berm with a single road running between was the signal that passage had been made into a new land. The landscape was marred by the berm which stretched for miles in both directions. This was different from where the

MASH had come. This was enemy territory; Pandora's Box had been opened and only time would show what was ahead.

On the second day of the hospital's trek across the desert, news reports were listened to on the Armed Forces Network every half hour. Smiles were evident as reports told of thousands of Iraqi enemy prisoners of war and light multi-national casualties.

While the news blackout clouded the situation, morale improved with what little was available. "All right" and the thumbs up signal were passed from vehicle to vehicle and from truck to truck. The ominous potentials of being in Iraq in a war zone seemed less threatening, particularly with the support of your buddy. The sun started to retreat as the rains came. Canvas was thrown over the backs of the trucks to offer as much protection from the torrential rains as possible, but the day of joy ended in cold, wet misery.

The situation was accentuated by the side effects of the pyridostigmine tablets, nausea, gastrointestinal irritation and stomach cramps. Still, the 159th MASH had a mission. The rain, once again with

Cont'd on p. 16

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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## Abercrombie Promoted to BG

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest  
241st PAD Staff

Valentine's Day was observed and observed in a distinguished style for W. Arthur Abercrombie, a local attorney and consummate National Guardsman. Abercrombie, who serves as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Louisiana Army National Guard, was promoted to Brigadier General effective Dec. 7, 1990 and pinned with new rank on Feb. 14, 1991.

Abercrombie played a significant role in the lawsuit filed against the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau by Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts and Gov. Rudy Purvich of Minnesota. The case was being disputed over gubernatorial vs federal control of state national guard units. Abercrombie argued the lawsuit and won the decision for the Federal Government.

A 1962 graduate of Baton Rouge High School, Abercrombie continued his education at LSU and received a B.S. in Accounting in 1966 and a law degree in 1969.

His military career was set into motion in 1966 when he was commissioned as a distinguished second lieutenant and assigned to a field artillery unit. As a lawyer and paratrooper, Abercrombie served four years of active duty to include two years with the 82nd Airborne

Division of Fort Bragg and a tour in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was decorated with the distinctive Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He has also been awarded the Army Commendation with three Oak Leaf Clusters and numerous other medals, badges and ribbons.

Presently, as the Assistant Adjutant General, Abercrombie supervises many National Guard programs including the Drug Interdiction Program, the Marksmanship Program and the Volunteer Civil Action Projects. He also handles any authority delegated to him by Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, adjutant general, Louisiana National Guard.

Abercrombie's civilian occupation is with the Taylor, Porter, Brooks, and Phillips law firm of Baton Rouge. He is a senior litigation partner specializing in insurance defense and banking litigation.

Abercrombie married the former Rebecca Cutrer of Baton Rouge. They have two children, Stewart, 20, is attending LSU and Jane, 15, attends University High. His family resides in Baton Rouge.

See Sidebar p. 16



Newly promoted BG W. Arthur Abercrombie, Assistant Adjutant General, Army, sits before his recently delivered one star flag at Jackson Barracks. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr. 241st PAD Staff)



Gen. Edwin H. Burba, FORSCOM Commander opens his address to LANG commanders and their staffs by saying there are "No greater Americans in our country than our Guardsmen" at Camp Beauregard Mar 8-10. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD Staff)

## Burba Commends LANG

By SPC Kristi L. Moon  
241st PAD Staff

Silence fell over the post theatre as words of commendation and appreciation for the Louisiana National Guard's tremendous accomplishments in recent wartime events penetrated each commanders thoughts.

General Edwin H. Burba, FORSCOM Commander, delivered these expressions and many others at the recent Commander/Staff Conference held at Camp Beauregard March 8th through 10th. Burba's speech sounded very much like a college sociology lecture as he discussed the crisis and the socio-economic issues that precipitated the events.

This is an opening chapter of history, of National Defense history," Burba said, "and Louisiana is a major role in that making," Louisiana's role being that of providing the most national guardsmen from any state in the nation for Operations Desert Shield and Storm.

As for those events that existed prior to the war, Burba said they still exist. He spoke specifically of political instability, religious fundamentalism, and ethnic inequality, how each condition still exists and the possible causes of future similar incidences. He didn't offer any solutions to these unpredictable

conditions but cautioned the audience about reality—that we've got to deal with it.

The reality of spending/budget cuts was also mentioned. The government stands to lose spending and possibly divisions because of the budget deficit, he said. As a result, the reserve forces will have a much greater role to play in national security. And in this arena, "We'll do well," Burba said, "we've proven that in spades in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait."

Burba talked about the changing ways of the world and the challenges it holds. He said that we will be able to handle the regular army cuts because of "the marvelous contrast of folks here and throughout the United States." This speaks highly of the skills, education, and abilities of the reserve forces and the reinforcement their military skills are provided with because their duties are often performed in the civilian sector, he said.

Burba ended his talk with a quote from General Stormin' Norman, "We simply could not have won without the reserve components." This performance by Burba, reiterating Schwarzkopf, earned him a standing ovation from all present. And the post theatre grew loud with pride.

## 91 AG Rifle/Pistol Results

The 1991 Adjutant Generals Rifle and Pistol Competitions were held at Fort Polk March 16 and 17.

The 205th Engineer Battalion took first place in both the rifle and pistol events.

The 1/244th Aviation Battalion took second place in the rifle competition and Headquarters Company 204th Area

Support Group took second in the pistol event.

High shooters in the rifle and pistol competition, respectively, were SGT Ernest J. Yancey, III of the 205th ENGR BN and SGT Jonathan Miller also of the 205th ENGR BN.

Congratulations to all that participated.

## Health Corner

As the new year unfolds, we in the health field face many challenges in making our soldiers more aware of how to use the health care system wisely. The Adjutant General mandates that Louisiana National Guard members receive only the best health care while keeping skyrocketing costs under control. Health care consumers in the past have been dependant on the physicians to care for all illnesses. The emphasis today on

health care is "Prevention", with the consumer being the active member of the health team. Therefore, the modern day soldier is more responsible for meeting his own health needs. In future columns, current health issues such as diet, smoking, stress and prevention of back and other injuries will be addressed. The occupational health care professionals are here to assist you. Please phone if you have any questions, (504) 278-6229 or AV 485-8229.



Two soldiers of the 39th Military Police Company, Jackson Barracks await the orders to load 'em up and move 'em out in early February. The soldiers met with their families one final time in the Exhibition Center in Alexandria before they boarded buses that carried them to England Air Force Base for the 18 hour flight to Saudi Arabia. (Photo by 1LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)



SFC Jack Leftwick of the 812th Med Co (AA) shown in the foreground sports a lone strand of Mardi Gras beads as this national guard unit assembles for the last time on American soil before departing to Saudi Arabia, Feb. 12th, Mardi Gras Day 1991. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD Staff)

# A TRIBUTE TO OUR TROOPS

**Mothers Against Saddam Hussein**  
 Recently, Bobby Giles of Giles Nissan-Volvo in Lafayette presented \$2,350 to the M\*A\*S\*H, proceeds from every car the dealership sold during a one week period.  
 Patricia Mason, a spokeswoman for the M\*A\*S\*H said the money will be used to continue sending packages to the 256th Brigade and our soldiers overseas. Mason said the M\*A\*S\*H will remain open 'til they all come home.'  
 (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD Staff)



*till they all come home*



CW2 Branam of the 527th Engineer Battalion spends time with his loved ones during the farewell ceremony held at the Exhibition Center in Alexandria. Families and friends and our engineers gathered together to hear remarks from MG A.M. Stroud and Governor Buddy Roemer before their flight to the Persian Gulf and their date with destiny. (Photo by 1LT Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)



SGT Mary T. Molony poses in the Saudi Arabian desert with her new friend she met while serving with the 3673d Maintenance Company in Operation Desert Storm. Molony sent the picture, home to her father, CW2 Geary Molony of the 244th Aviation Battalion to let him see that she is doing fine.

# Downer's Service Hailed by President

In a televised appearance Friday, President Bush praised state Rep. Hunt Downer of Houma as an example of legislators who are serving as reservists and National Guardsmen on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Downer was led to an aisle seat Friday as Bush prepared to give a speech to a group of legislators from across the United States.

"I was less than 10 feet from the president," Downer said afterward in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C. "I felt awed to be that close. But I really didn't think anything would come of it."

During his speech, the president mentioned the many legislators serving in the military reserves and the Army National Guard in the war against Iraq.

"He said something like, They are doing double duty as citizen soldiers, and he said, 'they are America at its best,'" said Downer who was on a brief leave from his duties as a major in the Louisiana National Guard stationed at Fort Polk.

But the Houma attorney was surprised when the president mentioned his name and home state as an example of the legislator-soldiers called to duty as part of Operation Desert Storm.

"When the president made his remarks, it just shocked me," Downer

said. "When he did that, I stood up and saluted him and said 'I'm proud to serve.'"

"I was humbled by the president's comments. There are just so many more deserving people for those comments. The sacrifices we make are miniscule compared to those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country and for democracy."

Downer was also surprised to learn that the event was televised live by CNN. He found out after his Houma law office was deluged with telephone calls from constituents who had seen the event on TV.

Downer, a Democrat and speaker pro-tem of the Louisiana House, is a major in the judge advocate general corps, the legal arm of the Army. He is a member of the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade, based in Lafayette.

He went to Washington Thursday for a convention of the American Legislative Exchange Council, a group of about 2,000 state lawmakers from throughout the country.

Downer received a letter Tuesday at Fort Polk from council Executive Director Sam Brunelli, inviting him to the convention. After receiving permission from his supervisors in the National

Guard, Downer left for Washington. He returned to Fort Polk Saturday.

As part of the convention, Downer attended briefings with White House Chief of Staff John Sununu; Secretary of State Dick Cheney, Special Assistant to the President Richard Hass and Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp.

"It was moving at this time in our country's history to be there actually serving the armed forces to see my commander in chief and his right-hand man right there," Downer said.

He said he was pleased Bush mentioned the importance of guardsmen and reservists to the allied victory in the Persian Gulf war.

"I really think the president and Mr. Cheney are committed to the total-force concept," Downer said. "They are doing everything in their power to make it work. The war gave everyone a new appreciation and understanding for the abilities of the reserve soldiers."

"I'm proud of the role I played, but there are many more who have a lot more to be proud of. What we have seen with the victory in the Mideast is truly a team effort from everyone: soldiers, their families, the community and the American public." (Reprinted from Houma Daily Courier)

## Roemer Supports Changes

State Rep. Hunt Downer prefiled bills for the April legislative session to help soldiers move back into civilian life.

"It looks like we may need this sooner than expected," Downer said. He said he heard about the cease fire in the Persian Gulf Wednesday night while training with the 256th Inf Bde at Fort Hood, Texas.

The legislation filed by Downer in February would protect the jobs, retirement benefits, education, health education and other aspects of the lives of National Guard and U.S. reservists. The bills are supported by Gov. Buddy Roemer and co-authored by a majority of the House and Senate, virtually assuring passage.

House Bill No. 2 would enact the Military Service Relief Act. House Bill No. 3 would enact a Uniform Statutory Form Power of Attorney Act. Both will be considered April 15 when the

Legislature convenes.

The Military Service Relief Act will apply to reservists activated after Aug. 3. It authorizes both public and private employers to pay the difference between their employees' civilian salary and military pay, declares reservists on leave, allows for sick leave to accrue and helps maintain life, health and accident insurance.

It provides for reinstatement in a job of like seniority, status and pay; retaining retirement or employee benefit credits, deferral of state income taxes for six months, waiver of compulsory liability auto insurance and suspension of license fees.

It requires public colleges and universities to give reservists an opportunity to make up school work. The act also says offices held by public officials will not be declared vacant because the official is on active duty.

## Tax Exemptions Named

The president signed an executive order designating the Arabian Peninsula areas, airspace and adjacent waters as combat zones. This designation means that for federal tax purposes military pay received by enlisted personnel while serving in the combat zone will be exempt from income tax. For commissioned officers in the combat zone, the exclusion is limited to \$500 a month.

In addition, members of the Armed Forces in the combat zone will not have to file their income tax returns until at

least 180 days after they depart the Persian Gulf."

The following locations are designated as combat zones

The Persian Gulf

The Red Sea

The Gulf of Oman

That portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees North Latitude and West of 68 degrees east longitude.

The Gulf of Aden

The total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United States Emirates.

The airspace above each location.



The St. Joseph's Altar Society of the St. Marks Church in Chalmette, Louisiana dedicated this year's altar to the troops in the Middle East. A rosary made of candy dedicated each bead to a state and branch of the Service. (Photo by Mary Ann Touchard, LANG)



SMSGT Joel A. Brightbill, 159th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (159th PAO Photo)

## Brightbill: "Flying Is A Career"

That man in the fatigue uniform with the seven stripes is much more than just the phase maintenance supervisor. In addition to professional and technical skills, he has a tremendous number of talents and hobbies. Senior Master Sgt. Joel A. Brightbill, fulltime phase maintenance supervisor with the La. Air National Guard, is featured this month in this debut column designed to let members of the La. Army and Air National Guard know their fellow employees.

Senior Master Sgt. Brightbill has been with LAARNG since December, 1958. His job is to administer the 100-hour inspections and maintenance of the F-15 jets. Since he has been with our unit he has worked on F-86's, T-33's, F-102's and F-4's. He has also worked on F-86's and T-33's while on active duty before joining the Guard.

When he's not at the base you can find Senior Master Sgt. Brightbill at a car show (showing his Corvette), at Bayou Segnette State Park (bass fishing), in the sky (flying his airplane), or at home practicing TaeKwonDo or talking on his ham radio. He is also a skindiver and has driven to Canada and back on his motorcycle.

Flying, his number one hobby, sparked his interest at a very early age, but it was not until he was 14 that he would actually begin to live out his dream. Joel would catch the bus to New Orleans Lakefront airport and help wash planes and hangars in exchange for flying lessons. Restrictions kept him from flying solo until he was 16 but he was ready and willing before that. This love of airplanes was instrumental in his

decision to make the military his life. Occasionally, he flies his Cessna 177 Cardinal to work at Belle Chasse. "It's quicker than driving and there is no problem finding a parking place", adds Senior Master Sgt. Brightbill with a warm and glowing smile.

His 1976 custom Corvette was last shown at the World of Wheels Car Show. He has received numerous awards.

His love of fishing motivated him to organize the First Annual Maintenance/Bass Fishing Tournament that took place at Bayou Segnette State Park. Members of the maintenance section rented cabins, fished for bass, and swapped fisherman stories for the weekend event.

In his home, Senior Master Sgt. Brightbill practices TaeKwonDo in which he has attained a 4th degree blue belt. When he's not just "kicking around", he "talks all over the world" on his ham radio. Russia, Yugoslavia, and New Zealand are just a few of the countries that he has talked to. "There's a whole room in my house devoted to amateur radio equipment", states Senior Master Sgt. Brightbill with a boyish grin.

Senior Master Sgt. Brightbill also enjoys working in his vegetable garden and has begun some woodworking projects. Now we know what Senior Master Sgt. Brightbill does in his spare time.

In the future, the Louisiana Guardsman will explore the diverse interests of other Guardsmen and examine the multidimensional personalities in our unit.

## SPOTLIGHT...

### Carollo: SIDPERS/PEABODY A Tough Act To Juggle

By SGT Lucas J. Landreneau  
241st PAD Staff

The band Peabody has been called the "most original and best band in New Orleans" by local writers and critic Ralph Adamo of the WYES television show "Steppin Out". Sgt. Louis F. Carollo of the 209th Personnel Services Company at Jackson Barracks has been the band's bass player since its inception nearly a year ago. It seems that each time they perform, the group receives more and more exposure from fans as well as music business people.

"We've been asked by a couple of recording studios to make a demo tape basically free of charge but we have turned them down in favor of choosing another studio which will capture the uniqueness of our sound," said Carollo, who has also been on full time Active Guard Reserve at Support Installation/Division Personnel Services (SIDPERS) for the past one and a half of his three years in the Guard.

"Everyone in the office is supportive of me and the band but it's tough juggling the two," he said. "The thing that makes it easier to endure is that I

thoroughly enjoy both of them."

"When the band first got together we felt we were going to play together just for fun, but after the positive response we got from our first couple of gigs we knew it become more than a hobby."

Carollo has been playing in different bands "off and on" for the past eight of his last 23 years. He feels this is the strongest band he's been a member because "we mesh together well". He said, "we have a totally original sound since everyone is contributing their own personal style to the band."

For now the band has to work around drill weekends and training schools as much as possible. Sgt. 1st Class Erril Schwartz, NCOIC of SIDPERS, says he's very supportive of Carollo and his band. "I'm always encouraging him to make influential contacts in the business because you can't promote yourself too much when your band is this young."

Aside from playing local clubs for exposure the band also plays benefits including an Amnesty International Concert held February 23 at the Clarion Hotel's Grand Ballroom.

## BG Walters Named 5th Army Chief of Staff

The 5th U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston will have a new chief of staff this summer.

Brig. Gen. Floyd J. Walters is to replace Brig. Gen. Sherman H. Williford as head of staff for the 127,000 member military organization with units in eight states.

Williford, who is scheduled to retire after 32 years of military service, has been 5th Army chief of staff since August 1989. His retirement date is to be announced later.

Walters is now commanding general of the Third Reserve Officer Training Corps Region, U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command, Fort Riley, Kan. He has held that assignment since December 1988.

As 5th Army chief of staff, Walters' responsibilities will include overseeing the accomplishment of all programs assigned to headquartered staff elements. Those programs deal primari-

ly with training and mobilization readiness of Army Reserve and Army National Guard units in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

In previous assignments Walters has served as commander of the 1st Battalion, School Brigade, Fort Benning, Ga.; executive officer, 197th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Fort Benning; chief of staff, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.; and commander, 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Polk, La.

The general served two tours of duty in Vietnam. From 1966 to 1967 he was operations officer for Detachment B-52 (Project Delta) and later commander, Detachment A-221, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces. In 1970 he was deputy G-1 (personnel) officer, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-1, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).



April 15th FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEADLINE



Louisiana Air Guard presents the Senior Airmen of the graduating class of 91-1. They are as follows: Front row left to right - Brian Schexnaydre, Jimmy Hunt Jr., Gregory Guerra, Keith McKendall, Patrick Newman, Michael Perrien. Second row: Robin Wright, Stephen Gauthé, Danielle Haynes, Selina Duncan, Tammy Dunagan. Third row: Karen Travis, Mark Hymel, Shari Kampitsis, Gerasimos Skordoulis, Steven Scott. Fourth row: Gerald Debrow, Frederick Morton, Jeffery Ridge, Lee Saunier, Bryan Roundtree, Paul Wilson III, Michael D. Cole.

## Air Guard Graduates 24 from NCO Prep Course

By Suzanne Chailot  
159th TFG PAO

Twenty-four airmen from the Louisiana Air National Guard recently graduated from the Non-Commissioned Officers Preparatory Course.

The fourteen day program, held at The NCO Academy at Ball, La., involved intensive instruction in many facets of the military and air guard.

The courses included proper wear and upkeep of the uniform, military and air guard history, military courtesy, management training, and instruction in the art of public speaking.

Prior to 1989, the course was conducted out of state or through the customary mail correspondence course. The availability of the program being held in house allows many more airmen

the opportunity to experience professional military education on a first hand basis.

"There is no comparison between the physical participation and the correspondence course," expresses Senior Airman Michael D. Cole, "The ability to demonstrate our leadership skills and the one-to-one counseling were just some of the benefits."

The mid-January graduation was held in conjunction with an evening banquet. Guest speaker for the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard. His message was timely and concise, the armed forces are in need of strong leadership and perseverance for the future. His pride and faith in the graduating class went far beyond just his speech.

Awards were presented by Maj. Gen. Stroud to the outstanding airmen of class 91-1. The John L. Levitow Honor Graduate Award went to Senior Airman Bryan L. Roundtree for his outstanding attributes of intelligence, leadership, enthusiasm, military bearing and dedication to the spirit and mission of the NCOPC, the ANG, and the USAF.

Senior Airman Michael Cole was awarded the Paul Boren Distinguished Graduate Award named in honor of Sgt. Boren, recipient of the Louisiana Medal of Honor in 1949. Mrs. Paul Boren was on hand to present the award to Senior Airman Cole.

A new commendation, coined the Team Spirit Award, was given to Senior Airman Bryan Roundtree, who was perceived by the students as the person

who did the most to foster a spirit of cooperation and mutual support within the class and with the NCOPC Staff.

Kudos were also given to the staff members for their outstanding job and their unselfish nature. The program manager was Maj. Jerrold A. Richard, course managers were Tech Sgt. Gary Johnson, Tech Sgt. Lisa Franco, Staff Sgt. Marvin Vicknair, and Staff Sgt. Perry Otillic. Adjunct instructors were Senior Master Sgt. Zel Rice, and Master Sgt. Billy White. The support staff included 2nd Lt. Helen Galloway, Master Sgt. Myra Kinderknecht, Sgt. Gina Vendetti and Airman Gina Locatto.

The next NCOPC will be conducted this summer. Any qualified personnel should contact their section supervisor for additional information.

## Outstanding Air Guardsmen Honored

Two airmen of the Louisiana Air National Guard have been selected as outstanding guardsmen/reservists for the Engineering Installation Division at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Airman 1st Class Bernard L. Treadaway, a cable splicing installations and maintenance specialist with the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron, Jackson Barracks, was selected as the outstanding air national guardsmen of the year in the E-1 to E-4 category.

Treadaway's motivation and teaching abilities have earned him the respect of his supervisors and peers. He has volunteered to aid other young airmen in their achievement of five-level training.

He earned Honor Graduate status from Cable Splicing and Installation Maintenance Training School, and is

pursuing a nursing degree at Louisiana State University.

Tech Sgt. Jerome J. Bradley, a training technician also with the 214th, was selected as the outstanding air national guardsmen of the year in the E-4 to E-6 category.

In his position he is responsible for all up-grade, on-the-job and formal training, and was largely responsible for the units 96 per cent average pass rate. In serving as the 214th's first social actions officer Bradley established and implemented programs and aids to assist members of the unit in areas which were previously unavailable.

Bradley is a candidate for an Association degree in Electronics Systems Technology from the Community College of the Air Force, and serves as the State Equal Opportunity Representative for the Louisiana Air National Guard.

## National Defense Medal

The Pentagon is awarding the National Defense Service Medal to all members of the U.S. armed forces in connection with Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The medal goes to all members of the armed forces who were on active duty after Aug. 2, 1990, whether or not they served in the Persian Gulf.

The award recognizes "the outstanding performance of our Armed Forces during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm," said Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, who authorized the award. The red, white, blue and gold ribbon is coupled to a circle of brass bearing the insignia of an eagle and the words "National Defense." The medal was awarded to members of the armed forces during the Korean War and Vietnam War. The National Institute of Heraldry, an Army organization, designed the award.

# LAARNG ACOE COMPETITION RES



TAG Award - HHC, 204th Area Support Group (Capt. Eugene L. Barattini Jr.)



CS Award - 209th Personnel Service Company (Capt. Clarence Becknell)

### Zone #1 - Company Level

As follow-up to Louisiana winning the prestigious \$100,000 1989 chief of staff - Army ACOE runner-up award, Maj. Gen. Stroud stated on May 25, 1990, to all directors and MACOM commanders that Louisiana would continue its total commitment to the ACOE program. The main thrust of this commitment centers on our in-state competition program which has proven to be, the most aggressive and ambitious ACOE initiative within the Army National Guard and Active component as evidenced by the fact that Louisiana has again been selected as a finalist in the 1990 National competition. Results of this National competition will be announced on April 8, 1991.

Our in-state competition program was organized into seven separate zones consisting of 134 individual organizational entities ranging from STARC Directorate level down to company level. During 1990, all 134 entities implemented ACOE within their organization and submitted a plan following the criteria established in LAARNG Reg 600-45. These individual plans were reviewed by an administrative review board. All finalists were selected and received an on-site visit by a LANG General officer and senior Army Advisor led evaluation team. The results of the 1990 competition are as follows:

Win  
1st Place - TAG As  
plaque and \$500 ch  
2nd Place - CS As  
plaque and \$300 ch  
3rd Place - CSM  
a plaque and \$200  
COMPETITION ZO

Lev  
TAG Award - HH  
port Group  
CS Award - 209th  
Company  
CSM Award - 209  
Company

COMPETITION ZO  
LEV

TAG Award - 165  
Battalion

CS Award - 199th  
(Forward)

CSM Award - 58  
talion (CBT HVY)  
COMPETITION ZO  
LEV

(Note: Only TAG  
PRESENTED IN

TAG Award - 20  
Group

CS Award - 225th  
COMPETITION ZO  
LEV

(NOTE: ONLY TAG  
PRESENTED IN



Zone #2 - Battalion Level TAG Award -165th Transportation Battalion Lt. Col. Bob Gillan

### Zone #3 - MACOM Level



TAG Award - 204th Area Support Group.

(Col. Marion Simpson)



CS Award - 225th Engineer Group

Col. Edmond Giering III  
LTC John Douglas

# RESULTS IN EXCELLENCE FOR 1990



TAG Award - CSMS

Col. William Thomas III  
CW4 Sammie L. Kelly



CS Award - USPFO Warehouse  
Col James Flick

TAG Award - Directorate Logistics and  
Services Zone #5 - STARC Level

TAG Award - CSMS  
CS Award - USPFO Warehouse  
**COMPETITION ZONE #5 - STARC  
LEVEL**

Zone #4 - Activity Level

TAG Award - Directorate of Logistics  
and Services  
CS Award - Directorate of Manpower  
Management

CSM - Directorate of Mobilization  
**COMPETITION ZONE #6 - OMS LEVEL**

TAG Award - OMS #5  
CS Award - UTES #2  
CSM Award - OMS #10  
**COMPETITION ZONE #7 - INSTALLA-  
TION LEVEL**

(NOTE: ONLY TAG AND CS AWARDS  
PRESENTED IN THIS CATEGORY)

TAG Award - NGB Region VI NCO  
Academy  
CS Award - Camp Beauregard Train-  
ing Site

Not Pictured: Zone #2 CS Award Win-  
ners and Zone #6 Winners, All CSM.  
Awards.  
(All photos by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st  
PAD Staff)



Zone #5 - STARC Level

CS Award - Directorate Manpower Management  
Col. Ignatius Purpera Jr.

Zone #7 - Installation Level



TAG Award - NGB Region VI NCO Academy. SGM Johnny R. Morrow



CS Award - Camp Beauregard Training Site.

Col. Charles Partin  
CSM Jimmy Cook

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NE #1 - Company  
el  
204th Area Sup-  
Personnel Service  
71st Maintenance  
IE #2 - BATTALION  
EL  
th Transportation  
Support Battalion  
3th Engineer Bat-  
NE #3 - MACOM  
EL  
ND CS AWARDS  
THIS CATEGORY  
4th Area Support  
Engineer Group  
NE #4 -ACTIVITY  
EL  
AND CS AWARDS  
THIS CATEGORY)

# Desert Storm Takes its Toll on CPP

By CPT William C. Ratcliff

The final results of the Composite Performance Profile (CPP) for the first quarter of fiscal year 1991 are shown here. The report measures the administrative and personnel management proficiency of each battalion level command each quarter for the LAARNG. Units are listed in order of the percentage of attainment of these areas. The Adjutant General's goal is 85 per cent.

One observation is immediately obvious when comparing the unit performance with the last quarter's CPP results - on the average, units achieved 17 per cent of their management goals. Ten of sixteen units met or exceeded TAG's goal of 85 per cent last quarter while no unit was able to equal that achievement this quarter.

There are two significant reasons for these drastic declines. The first is something called Operation Desert Storm. The fact that the LAARNG provided the most Army National Guard units and personnel to support this effort has enormous impact on the personnel management areas that are monitored for the CPP. Additionally, generalizations cannot be made about unit performances on the CPP. For example, activated units that received cross-leveled personnel to fill unit MOS vacancies in order to deploy at 100 per cent MOS qualification also lost excess personnel to deploy at 100 per cent strength were the TAG goal in unit strength goal is 125 per cent. On the other hand, units like Det. 3 HQ STARC, HHC 225th Engr Group and 204th ASG received those excess personnel from activated units, many of

whom were non-deployable because they were not yet MOS qualified.

While Operation Desert Storm had considerable impact on the results of this CPP, another impact was made by the addition of more management areas reported on the CPP. Particularly, units now have goals in Enlisted Civilian Education, Officer Civilian Education and Delinquent Student Loan Repayment Program levels. Again, Operation Desert Storm has considerable impact on these areas since personnel cannot pursue civilian education goals while on active duty and many deferments were processed for activated members' student loans.

In all, the results of this CPP show commanders and leaders at every level how the CPP can be used as a tool for determining personnel readiness even during mobilization.

### FY 91 CPP Results

- (1) 199th Spt Bn.....80 %
- (2) 165th Trans Bn.....78 %
- (3) 2/156th Inf Bn.....74 %
- (4) 1/244th Avn Bn.....73 %
- (5) 769th Engr Bn.....71 %
- (6) 773rd Maint Bn.....71 %
- (7) 415th Maint Bn.....70 %
- (8) 528th Engr Bn.....68 %
- (9) HHC & Sep Units of 256th Inf Bde  
68 %
- (10) 2223rd Engr Bn.....67 %
- (11) 527th Engr Bn.....66 %
- (12) 1/156th AR Bn.....66 %
- (13) 1/141st FA Bn
- (14) 205th Engr Bn.....64 %
- (15) 159th MASH.....60 %
- (16) 3/156th Inf Bn

## NGALA MEETS IN APRIL

By MAJ David O. Miller

The 61st Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of Louisiana will be held at the Convention Center April 26-27, 1991 in Alexandria. Over 400 officers and guests are expected to attend the two day meeting. Guest speakers will include Lt. Gen John B. Conaway, chief of the National Guard Bureau and Lieutenant General Lavern E. Weber (Ret.), executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States.

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) was first formed in 1878 when a group of volunteer officers, veterans, of the Civil War from both the North and South, gathered in Richmond, Va., to discuss "matters of practical reform which would make the Militia a more effective instrumentality in our system of National Defense."

The officers' military experiences had demonstrated to them the importance of a trained Militia, and they in turn sought changes which would again make the Militia a key element in America's defense. Out of their informal meeting grew an organization they called the "Association of Officers"

The following year, the group met again and became better organized and renamed their organization the "National Guard Association." Today, their two major reasons for establishing the organization remain the same, and they are clearly stated in the Association's bylaws: (1) To promote national security, and (2) To improve and maintain a strong Army and Air National Guard of the United States as components of the country's Armed Forces.

The NGAUS has played a major role over the years in gaining better legislative support for Guardsmen. Such programs as Servicemen's Group Life Insurance; better pay, equipment and retirement programs; improved medical and death benefits; civil services status and retirement for Guard technicians, and new recruiting incentives to attract and retain Guardsmen in the zero-draft era, owe a large measure of their acceptance to the efforts made by the NGAUS. Most recently, the efforts of the Association have been on fully equipping the Guard with modern, deployable equipment.

The president of the Louisiana Association is Colonel E. J. Giering III.

### Job Opportunity

The Louisiana Air National Guard has been given the golden opportunity of obtaining a Tactical Control Party Flight which will be located at Camp Beauregard, Pineville, LA. We will be looking for approximately 40 Tactical Air Command and Control Specialists.

Tactical Air Command and Control Specialists advise both Army and Air Force personnel on the use of tactical air resources. They assist the Army Liaison Officer in Close Air Support mission planning. They set up, operate and main-

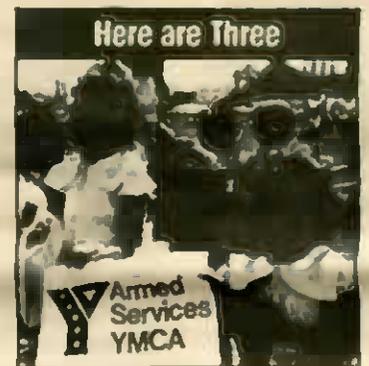
tain in the field with all assigned communications, equipment and vehicles. They utilize highly mobile communications equipment.

We are looking for highly motivated people. This career field places a high degree of responsibility upon its members. If you desire to stand out as a member of this elite group, please contact Master Sgt. Heidi Pinkham, HQ Louisiana Air National Guard, at (504) 278-6489.

## There are a Million Reasons to Give

America's young military and their families desperately need our support—and yours! For 130 years the Armed Services YMCA has served those who serve America, but the need has never been greater than now.

Mail your donation today to: The Armed Services YMCA, #215, 8225 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, Virginia 22150-2510. If you'd like to do more, call Dick Stotz, National Executive Director, at 703-866-1280.



## Writing for Dollars

One of the enduring problems for the NGAUS over my 27 years on the Executive Council has been how to more effectively involve company grade officers in the workings of our Association.

In particular, one of the glaring deficiencies noted at the 112th General Conference in Reno last September was the absence of lieutenants and captains in proportionally large numbers, when company grade officers are a majority of the membership. Why is it that junior officers are so reluctant to participate in our Association's business and attend its Conference?

I would like to offer an incentive. I am prepared to fund five \$1,000 grants to junior officers who write the best letter to the editor of this magazine suggesting ways to improve company grade involvement in the NGAUS. Eligible to compete are captains, lieutenants and warrant officers under the age of 35. The money must be used to attend the 113th General Conference in Honolulu this year.

Judging will be at the discretion of the editor. I also urge industry and other in-

dividuals to add part or all of a \$1,000 grant to my \$5,000 so that further company grade officers can attend the Honolulu conference.

Brig. Gen. William W. Spruance (Ret.)  
Delaware National Guard

National Guard Magazine Editor's Note: Officers interested in competing should address their entries to: Editor, National Guard, One Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

The magazine editor will establish a screening committee to judge the letters to the editor submitted on the subject identified by General Spruance. To be eligible for one of the \$1,000 grants, writers should postmark their letters no later than May 1, 1991. As many of the letters will be published as possible without regard to the judging process. Winners will be announced in the July issue of the N.G. magazine. Those submitting letters should make arrangements for travel to Honolulu and hotel accommodations through their state associations.



Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud presents HHC 204th ASG commander Capt. Eugene Barattini with the distinguished Eisenhower Trophy, an award from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau for the most outstanding unit for training year 1990. (Photo by Capt. Marcy Jo Gower, 204th ASG PAO)

# LANG Committed to Equal Opportunity

The Louisiana National Guard is committed to ensuring equal employment opportunity for all federal technicians and applicants for employment regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap. It is the Louisiana National Guard's policy to implement a strong affirmative action program and to provide equal opportunity for all in the areas of recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, reassignments, training benefits, separation and in all policies affecting the treatment of National Guard Technicians.

The Adjutant General has given his personal commitment to the Louisiana National Guard's equal employment program and encourages each employee to dedicate themselves to the full success of this program.

An analysis of the state's work force was conducted by Professional, Administrative, Technical, Clerical, Blue Collar, (PATCOB) and grade grouping for fiscal year 1987, using the Military Work Force Data.

The analysis revealed that there is a manifest imbalance in the following categories:

## LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

PROFESSIONAL  
Black Males  
Black Females

ADMINISTRATIVE  
Black Males

TECHNICAL

CLERICAL  
Black Males

BLUE COLLAR

GS 13-15  
Black Males  
White Females

GS 9-12  
Black Males  
White Females  
Black Females

GS 5-8  
Black Females

GS 1-4  
Black Males

## LOUISIANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

ADMINISTRATIVE  
Black Males

TECHNICAL  
Black Males  
Black Females

BLUE COLLAR

Black Males  
Black Females  
White Females

GS 13-15

Black Males  
White Females

GS 9-12

White Females

GS 5-8

Black Males  
Black Females

## 6800 TRANS/MOBILE EQ MAINT FAMILY

Black Males  
White Females  
Black Females

## 8800 AIRCRAFT OVERHAUL FAMILY

Black Males  
White Females  
Black Females

## 6900 WAREHOUSING AND STOCK HANDLING FAMILY

Black Males

## 6900 WAREHOUSING AND STOCK HANDLING FAMILY

Black Males  
White Females

## 8600 ENGINE OVERHAUL FAMILY

White Females  
\*Black Males  
Black Females

## 8800 AIRCRAFT OVERHAUL FAMILY

White Females  
Black Males  
Black Females

## 6652 AIRCRAFT ORDNANCE SYSTEMS MECHANICS

White Females  
Black Males  
Black Females

The analysis also revealed that there is a low application rate for EEO group (minority and female) in all of the occupational categories, although the

lowest application rate was shown in the Technical and Blue Collar occupational categories.

Therefore, the Director of Manpower Management is tasking managers and supervisors to encourage minorities and women to apply for jobs in all of the occupational categories with special emphasis in the Technical and Blue Collar occupational categories.

Our records show that of women minorities and women applying for jobs, a good percentage of those are being selected.

An assessment of the State's Employee Development Program revealed that there are few minorities and women technicians applying for or participating in existing development training opportunities.

Supervisors are primarily responsible for ensuring that those technicians selected for training programs progress according to criteria set forth in their individual training plan to reach the desired level of attainment. The Employee Development Specialist (Lt. Mary Pal) provides technical guidance, counseling, monitoring and evaluation of each participant's progress on a quarterly basis.

Supervisors need to make minorities and women aware of the development training opportunities and programs available to them.

As a result of increased advertisement of development training opportunities and targeting of minorities and women by supervisors, the rate of minorities and women taking advantage of these programs should increase.

## RECRUITMENT AND HIRING EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT AND STRATEGIES

External recruitment sources generally include circulation of job announcements to other Government Agencies, and Local employment offices (where appropriate). Most external

recruitment efforts are aimed at filling entry level positions such as wage grades 5-8 and general schedule grades 1-4 and 5-8. The majority of internal selections to higher level positions are through internal promotions. The majority of Technician positions approximately 95 per cent are in the excepted service requiring compatible military membership, because of this, most positions are filled by individuals who are already military members of the Louisiana National Guard

## INTERNAL RECRUITMENT SOURCES AND STRATEGIES

Most trainee, mid-level and senior level positions are filled through merit promotion procedures. Upward Mobility and Merit Promotion programs are presently the most effective methods for internal advancement of appropriate EEO groups (minorities and women). The Upward Mobility Program provides a means for employees lacking qualifications to enter mainstream occupations having greater promotional opportunity. The Merit Promotion Program has traditionally served as the bridge between lower graded and mid-level positions.

Supervisors and managers need to stress to minorities and women the importance of additional training, as well as re-training in other fields that will lead to higher positions. Supervisors and managers also need to stress to minorities and women the importance of applying for jobs. If minorities and women do not apply for these jobs then they can not be selected.

The Louisiana National Guard is committed to achieving established goals, in both the Technicians and AGR Programs. We feel reasonably sure that these goals are attainable.

For further assistance, contact Lt. Theresa McInnis, State Equal Employment Manager at 504-278-6240 Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La.

## Army Equipment Criticized

One of the the fastest growing cottage industries in Washington is that of taking pot-shots at some of the Army's latest weapons and equipment. That is especially true of the M1 Abrams tank and the Apache attack helicopter.

In the case of the tank, the two most often repeated criticisms center on high fuel consumption and an imagined inability of soldier-mechanics to keep it operating in the harsh environment of the Arabian Desert. Army leaders readily admit that the M1's 1500-horsepower turbine engine makes it comparatively fuel-hungry, but that same engine gives the M1 its great speed and remarkable agility even in the roughest terrain. Those factors, along with its special armor, compartmented fuel and ammunition storage and automatic fire suppression systems provide Abrams crews with the greatest possible levels of protection of any tank in the world.

Army Secretary Michael Stone responds to the maintainability of the M1 by citing one Army report of an operational trial of the M1 in a desert environment. It reads: "the Abrams travelled 392 kilometers as part of the long distance run. All the driving was at high speeds over extremely difficult

terrain. High temperature was 112 degrees; low 79 degrees. The vehicle performed superbly in extremely difficult terrain. All systems operated satisfactorily."

Much of the carping about the Apache helicopter is based on a September 1990 General Accounting Office report which used old data obtained shortly after severe freak windstorms in Texas (May, 1989) and South Carolina (June, 1989) had damaged a large number of Apaches. Naturally, the readiness rate for this fleet was down, but repair to the damaged aircraft and replenishment of the spare parts pool have since added to a steadily increasing readiness rate.

Again Army Secretary Stone helped spike the criticism when on October 15th, he reported the Apache readiness rate to be "within one percent of 85 percent," a rate that "consistently exceeded" Army expectations. His information was not based on some stacked-deck reports of a few Monday morning experts who can't seem to see beyond the Washington beltway. Maybe they ought to be required to talk to the troops who fly, fight and maintain these systems before they try to shoot them down.

## 159th MASH— "Alive and Well"

By CPT Tracie Kiviaho  
159th MASH UPAR

The quiet was ominous at King Fahvp Airport as members of the 159th MASH set foot on Saudi soil for the first time.

The unit has found a temporary home in North Central Saudi Arabia. Unit members consisting of medical and health professionals and support personnel were transported to the site primarily on Saudi Regional transit buses.

The 22 hour bus ride left many with a yearning for wide open spaces. The cramped quarters were accentuated with load bearing equipment (LBE), Kevlar helmets, weapons, briefcases, personal items, protective masks and chemical protectors.

At one site, horns started blowing and the dreaded "Gas, Gas" alarm was heard. Tight quarters were forgotten and all obstacles overcome as the priority became immediate to use the protective mask. Signs of relief were evident when the all clear was given and everyone unmasked. Ironically, home was like any other piece of desert real estate there at the proverbial end of the earth. There were no trees, few camels and nothing was green except for the soldiers.

Within days, the MASH had erected tents for billeting and operations. Sleeping tents initially very primitive now have electricity provided by generated power, heaters and improvements through creative construction. Tables, benches, shelves and other furnishings were made from crates, boxes and pallets.

Central to the camp is the Hospital

Operations Center (HOC) and the recreation tent.

The HOC houses the administrative offices and functions. The recreation tent provides an area for nightly movies shown on the TV provided by the Enlisted Club fund and a VCR donated to the unit by a local retail store.

Mass, protestant services and classes are also convened there. Mess, has been intermittnet due to logistics, but there is never a shortage of the NO MESS MRE, (meals ready to eat). Latrines are a reminder of days gone by when outhouses were in vogue and showers were a luxury.

Laundry is done by a trailer type unit, the cleaning best described as industrial strength and in industrial quantities. It is greatly appreciated since the alternative is hand washing.

Mail has started to trickle in, but there has been no shortage of generic, to any service member mail, a hazy reminder of home.

Before this desert trek, most folks here identified with making groceries, the sounds of the telephone and insistent call of a beeper. These were replaced with the sound of a SCUD or a chemical attack alarm signal and the wop, wop, wop of helicopters constantly passing the area. NO more were the frustrations of free way traffic or the CBD rush hour.

Armored vehicles and tanks patrol outside the perimeter. Unit members will tell you Saudi Arabia won't be a preferred vacation spot, but the 159th MASH is standing tall here, aliye and well, in Saudi Arabia.



An estimated 5000 patriotic citizens showed their support in one of many military support rallies held in Louisiana supporting troops in Operation Desert Storm. Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud was a speaker at the rally which took place in Jefferson Parish. (241st PAD Photo)

## Saudi Style Mardi Gras Held

By CPT Tracie Kiviaho  
159th MASH UPAR

It wasn't exactly St. Charles Avenue, but Louisiana National Guard soldiers in Saudi Arabia took a break from Guard duty, command briefs, logistics and communications for the first annual Saudi Mardi Gras.

A truck parade and party was hosted by the 159th MASH from Jackson Barracks and was heralded a huge success by participants. The festivities started with a toast by King Saudi Mardi Gras, Lt.Col. Michael Jennings to his queen, Spec. Rachel Winters. Jennings, commander of the 159th MASH, is a family practice physician at Ochsner Hospital. Spec. Winters is an operating room technician and studied aviation prior to mobilization for Operation Desert Storm.

The royal couple was dressed in full military regalia from Kevlar helmet to chemical protective masks and combat boots. Both sported capes made of visquine acetate and they were embellished with silver foil.

Spec. Kenna Woods, a lab technician, Spec. Marie Dautenhahn, power generation equipment repair and Pvt. Karye Mather, a patient administrative division clerk served as the maids for the Saudi Mardi Gras and were dressed in traditional Saudi costumes with veil.

King Saudi Zulu was Sgt. 1st Class Don Thomas, the motor sergeant and Spec. Anyssa Johnson served as his queen, she is a communications specialist. Thomas is a maintenance technician at organizational maintenance shop 13 at Jackson Barracks. Johnson is a computer science student at Delgado.

The parade started at the 159th MASH unit's perimeter and travelled around the 341st Medical Group's cluster perimeter. The 345th MASH from Jacksonville, Fla. were treated with being the first on the parade route not unlike the parades in New Orleans, beads, dubloons and candies were thrown. In addition to these items, however, deodorant, boot laces,

sunscreen, writing material and other useful items were thrown to revellers.

Many soldiers coming out to greet the parade of seven five-ton trucks had instructions shouted at them, "Raise your hands and yell, 'throw me somethin mister.'" The trucks were decorated with engineer tape and garbage bags cut into streamers as well as colorful cardboard signs.

Zulu's coconuts reknowned for being a treasure to parade goers were no less a treasure in Saudi. Coconuts not available to the troops were replaced with one of the most sought after and fiercely rare commodities, toilet tissue.

The paper rolls were covered in brown plastic and painted with gold ink with the inscription, Zulu Saudi Arabia '91. Zulu Queen Johnson presented King Saudi Gras, Lt. Col. Jennings with a commemorative roll at the end of the parade. He stated, "I think I'm going to have to keep this one; this is really special. King cakes were as close a facsimile as possible that can be made with reddish purple coloring and Bisquick. The King cakes were made by the unit's Mess section.

Another Krewe was the Krewe of Lawrence and Florence of Arabia. Lawrence was depicted by the male Krewe members costumed as Lawrence of Arabia. Florence was represented by nursing caps super imposed on Kevlar helmets.

The parade's flat vehicle was the Nasty Boy Krewe consisting of the male junior officers led by Capt. Lane Moore, a unit physician and third year surgery resident of L.S.U.

Tankers from the armored unit in the vicinity provided the extra manpower to complete the Nasty Boy Krewe. The Nasty Boy were also responsible for a tropical punch mix since the traditional alcoholic beverages were not allowed for the Saudi based troops.

Such a good time was had by all. The plans are already in the making for next Mardi Gras, but next time Mardi Gras will not be held in Saudi, but back home in New Orleans.

# 256th Brigade Trains for Ultimate Test

By SPC Bernard Chaillot  
5th Army Div. Public Affairs

With a ground war in the Persian Gulf imminent, the men and women of the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mech.) were putting in 80 to 100 hour work weeks to prepare themselves for a possible combat role in Operation Desert Storm.

Activated Nov. 30, these Louisiana Army National Guard members put in two months at Fort Polk, La., on individual, squad and platoon level training before moving on to Fort Hood, Texas, for company, battalion and task force maneuvers.

A rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California was scheduled for early April.

Training is proceeding according to the plan established when the brigade was activated, according to the 256th commander, Brig. Gen. Gary Whipple.

"I am extremely proud of the job these soldiers are doing," Whipple said from Fort Hood. "The training is tough and the schedule rigorous, but they understand what it takes to adequately prepare for a possible combat mission."

"My guys are battle-focused," said 1st

Lt. James F. Chisholm IV, a platoon leader for Alpha Co. of the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry. "They know why they're here," said the 82nd Airborne veteran.

Master Sgt. Sean Dill, support platoon sergeant for Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor, said his soldiers are not only performing their own jobs, but cross-training with fellow platoon members to make sure that the crucial mission of providing "beans and bullets" to line units is not jeopardized.

The tankers of Lt. Col. Ralph Stapleton's 1/156 have been going force-on-force with Opposing Force elements provided by the 5th Infantry Division, and using "Sumerian" tactics. The 256th is enduring long hours of day and night training in all types of weather to bring the battalions up to speed on the M-1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

The soldiers of division artillery's 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, the historic "Washington Artillery" from New Orleans, were far from the Crescent City on Mardi Gras Feb. 12, but had reason to celebrate as they became the first Guard battalion declared mission capable.

Lt. Col. Glen Appe, the battalion's commander, said the standardized external evaluation meant "in plain and simple terms that this battalion is on equal footing with other artillery battalions in the active Army.

Nuclear, biological and chemical skills have been a highlighted part of the training since day one, with the 100th Support Battalion of Division Support Command providing certification in the crucial tasks.

Lt. Col. Cecil Sanner, battalion commander, said the troops realize that exacting proficiency in NBC skills could spell the difference between life and death on the battlefield.

NBC was part of the training when Lt. Col. John Gavel's 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry, underwent mounted and dismounted infantry training with its Bradleys recently.

"No war has ever been won without the foot soldier," said Alpha Company commander, Capt. Frederick Bias.

2nd Battalion commander Lt. Col. Sans Broussard and Tactical operations sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Barry LeBlanc said that according to regular Army evaluators, the "Cajun Warriors" are one of the best infantry battalions not only

in Louisiana, but in the entire U.S.

"They are a highly-intelligent bunch of soldiers who don't require a lot of micro-management," LeBlanc said of the Bradley-equipped troops, many of whom left college upon being activated.

Women soldiers are also pulling their weight in the field. Sgt. Dwana Calhoun, and Spec. Karen Chastant and Laura Broussard seldom see the barracks as members of the 199th Charlie Company.

Calhoun, a licensed practical nurse, and field medics Chastant and Broussard treat real-world training injuries as well as practicing their medical skills in mass-casualty and other exercises.

All three said they are aware of and accept the risks of working close to the front lines. "Women should be given the opportunity to do whatever job they feel capable of," Calhoun said. "If they can cut the mustard, gender should not be a deterrent.

All of the battalions working together are a part of an "irresistible force" of modern Minutemen who came from civilian ranks to play a historic role when their country called them to arms, Whipple said.

## OCS Opportunities UNLIMITED

By Maj. David Stoltz

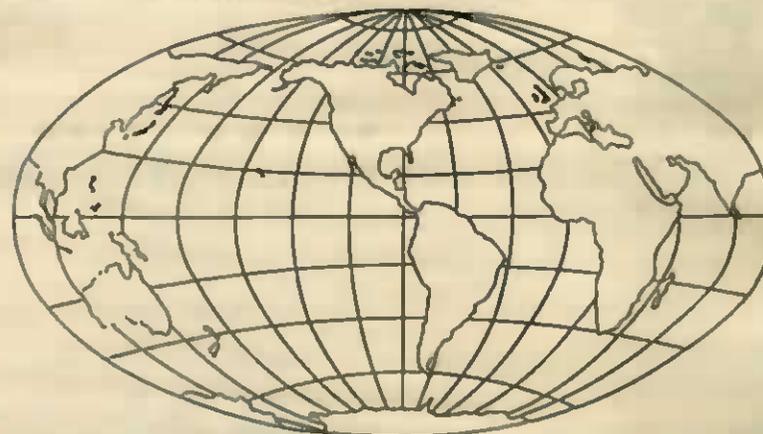
The Louisiana Army National Guard offers many leadership opportunities to service members. These opportunities include a chance to obtain training which will lead to leadership positions in the enlisted ranks and the possibility to move into the Commissioned Officer Corps. The Guard offers two types of Officer Candidate School courses, one requiring active duty and the other allowing for weekend attendance.

The federal Officer Candidate School program was established during a time when officers were needed to man leadership positions on the battlefield. Today that program lives on at Fort Benning, Ga. It requires attendance on active duty for 14 weeks and results in the awarding of a federally recognized commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Reserve of the Army. The State Officer Candidate School is designed to meet the needs of the National Guard through weekend attendance and also results in awarding of a federally recognized commission.

The Louisiana Military Academy was opened in 1960 and has produced over 550 officers. Originally consisting of only OCS, the Louisiana Military Academy today fields the weekend NCO Academy and the Regional NBC NCO Academy

in addition to Officer Candidate School. The Louisiana Military Academy also is responsible for conducting specialized training for SRT and meeting other unit training needs. Many of the commanding officers found in the Louisiana Army National Guard today are graduates of the Louisiana Military Academy and past graduates have said that attending Officer Candidate School has opened up new and exciting civilian careers for them.

The State Officer Candidate School program starts one class per year. Qualifications for attendance include possessing 30 college hours, 110 GT score and 90 or above on the Officer Selection Test. You must be commissioned prior to age 30 and with a waiver your age can be 32 yrs 6 months. If you meet these qualifications and have the support of your commander, now is the time to begin your application. The Officer Procurement Section can assist you with the application process. You should contact Maj. Stoltz at (504) 278-6393 or call 1-800-442-2751 for more information. Today is the day to begin changing your life. If you enjoy what you are doing and don't want a change, don't call. But if you enjoy a challenge, and want to open new doors for yourself, don't wait, call now.



## WAR MAPS Available

All eyes are on the Middle East and especially Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. To help loved ones and friends of service members involved in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, a commemorative set of maps has just been published.

The Desert Shield Commemorative Maps are maps with a difference. Over forty color and black and white duotone photos of those involved in Desert Shield surround the Saudi Arabia side of the map. The photos cover the first phase of operations in Saudi Arabia and mark the transition from Desert Shield to Desert Storm.

Professionally cartographed, the maps are 44" wide and 27" high. Maps buffs will enjoy the special features which include oil fields, pipelines and terminals, sand and salt deserts, mountains, water depths and detailed longitude and latitude lines every five degrees. Disputed territorial areas are also shown. In addition to national and international boundaries, country and national roads, railroads, seaports and airports are displayed.

Sixteen country profiles compiled from U.S. State Department information will

also help anyone interested in this intriguing part of the world.

The maps are designed so that the individual serving in the Middle East can personalize his or her participation in Desert Shield and send them home as a keepsake for viewing many years from now. The publishers expect the service members to have their buddies autograph their maps as well.

Desert Shield Commemorative Maps are excellent for school children. The photos were especially chosen so that the maps could be used as an educational tool as well. They give an excellent view of the Desert Shield phase of this military operation.

Military Living Publications of Falls Church, VA, the producers of the Desert Shield Commemorative Maps, have set up a special toll-free phone number for orders and inquiries. Direct shipments to APOs and FPOs, complete with gift cards are available. The price of a folded map sent by first class mail is \$6.50; wall maps, two unfolded maps in a tube, are \$13.00. The toll-free number is: 1-800-WAR MAPS; listed with 1-800 information as Desert Shield Commemorative Maps.

# MILITARY REUNION NEWS

## USSATR-16 Rescue Tug (USN)

Reunion Date: May 25-27, 1991  
Reunion Site: TBD  
POC: William (Bill) Pinkerton, Jr.  
5306 Starling Drive  
Charleston, WV 25308  
(304) 925-5854

## WWII

Looking for Shipmates to hold 1st reunion

## USS Rotanin (AK-108) (USN)

Reunion Date: Jul. 12-14, 1991  
Reunion Site: Post Falls, ID  
Westlins Resort Hotel  
POC: Dale A. Bullock  
1119 Brookside Dr.  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
(412) 836-4285

## World War II

Annual reunion  
(Mr. Robert's ship)

## USS Independence (CVA-62) (USN)

Reunion Date: Jul. 11-14, 1991  
Reunion Site: Washington, D.C.  
Sheraton Crystal City  
POC: Denis Bagley  
12 Trenton Ave.  
Edison, NJ 08817  
(908) 819-0359

## Korea

Annual reunion

## 3rd Annual Empire State Vietnam Veterans Encampment (All Services)

Reunion Date: Jul. 12-14, 1991  
Reunion Site: Peekskill, NY  
Camp Smith  
POC: SASE to Empire State  
Vietnam Veterans, Inc.  
P.O. Box 274  
Hawthorne, NY 10532  
(914) 592-4438

Sponsored by: Chapter 49, Vietnam  
Veterans Westchester Co. NY

## USS Callaway (APA-35) (USN/USCG)

Reunion Date: Aug. 5-9, 1991  
Reunion Site: Minneapolis, MN

## Best Western Normandy Inn

POC: CDR R. L. Stambach  
4283-B Island Circle, Apt. B  
Ft. Myers, FL 33919-4427  
(813) 481-0359

## World War II

Annual reunion

## PT Boats, Bases & Tenders (USN)

Reunion Date: Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 1991  
Reunion Site: Pittsburgh, PA  
Pittsburgh Hilton &  
Towers

## POC: Alyce N. Guthrie

P.O. Box 38070  
Germantown, TN 38183  
(901) 755-8440

## World War II

27th annual reunion

## USS Portland (CA-33) (USN)

Reunion Date: Sep. 2-6, 1991  
Reunion Site: Portland, ME  
Sonesta Hotel

## POC: Ted Waller

P.O. Box 515191  
Dallas, TX 75251-5191  
(214) 341-7152

## World War II and before

Annual reunion

## Navy Mail Service Veterans Assn., Inc.

(USN/USMC)  
Reunion Date: Sep. 10-15, 1991  
Reunion Site: Buffalo, NY

## POC: Maynard L. Hamilton

5501 Seminary Rd. Apt. 1109  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
(703) 845-5428

## World War II to present

19th annual reunion

## 92nd Air Drome Squadron (AAF/USAF)

Reunion Date: Sep. 11-15, 1991  
Reunion Site: St. Louis, MO  
Drury Inn

## POC: Larry Kabat

1001 Woodlawn Ter.

## Madison, FL 32340 (904) 973-2306

## WWII

Annual Reunion

## 13th Airborne Division (USA)

Reunion Date: Sep. 18-21, 1991  
Reunion Site: Niagara Falls, NY  
Days Inn

## POC: C.E. Beckman

420 South Ashe Street  
Southern Pines, NC 28387  
(919) 692-7574

## WWII

Annual Reunion

## 97th Bomb Group (USAF)

Reunion Date: Sep. 25-28, 1991  
Reunion Site: Omaha, NE  
TBD

## POC: Harry Alsaker

1308 Jackson St.  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 543-5388

## WW II

7th annual reunion

## 793rd Military Police Bn (USA)

Reunion Date: Sep. 28 - 29, 1991  
Reunion Site: Anniston/  
Fort McClellan, AL

## POC: A. W. Sherokow

Rt. 1 Box 7870  
Wildersville, TN 38388  
(901) 845-5854

## World War II/Korea (1943-53)

Annual reunion

## USS Foote (DD-511) (USN)

Reunion Date: Sep. 26-30, 1991  
Reunion Site: Denver, CO  
Sheraton Tech Center  
Hotel

## POC: Wilbur V. Rogers

12243 Brookshire Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815  
(504) 275-9948

## World War II

Annual reunion

## USS Cor Caroli (AK-91) (USCG)

Reunion Date: Oct. 4-6, 1991  
Reunion Site: Hartford, CT  
Holiday Inn Downtown

## POC: Lee Bergfeld

609 S. Ridge Ave.  
Steeleville, IL 82288-2117

## World War II

Biennial reunion

## 28th General Hospital (USA)

Reunion Date: Oct. 10-13, 1991  
Reunion Site: Galveston, TX  
Key Largo Resort  
Hotel

## POC: Floyd J. Friloux, Sr.

P.O. Box 338  
New Sarpy, LA 70078  
(504) 764-6030

## Korea (1951-1953)

Annual reunion

## 17th Bomb Group (WWII)

## /17th Bomb Wing (Kor)

(AAF/USAF)  
Reunion Date: Oct. 17-20, 1991

Reunion Site: New Orleans, LA

Clarion Hotel

## POC: W. D. Baird

8776 E. Northwest Hwy.  
Dallas, TX 75231  
(214) 348-9124

## World War I to present

Annual reunion

## Marine Detachment

## USS Charleston (PG-51)

(USMC)

Reunion Date: Jun. 1992

Reunion Site: TBD

## POC: Jerry Beno

1939 Zeise St.  
Green Bay, WI 54302  
(414) 468-6018

## World War II and prior (1936-46)

5th biannual reunion

# "The Dawgs of War are on the Prowl"

By SPC Bernie Chaillot  
256th Bde/5th Inf Div PIO

The challenge was issued by the "Team Dawg" commander as his OpFor troops did reconnaissance of the area from which they would launch a dug-in barrage against 1st Battalion, 156th Armor.

"Their tanks will be maneuvering against us, and as they do, we will kill them," said Capt. William MacDonald, commander of Delta Co. of the 1st Battalion, 70th Armor. "Let them come. The Dawgs are waiting."

The force-on-force engagement pitted elements of the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division from Fort Polk against one another in the sweeping hills of Fort Hood.

The former National Guardsmen from Shreveport, now part of 5 ID's 3rd Brigade, performed deliberate attacks, consolidation and reorganization while the 1st Brigade's 1/70th tankers offered resistance.

"We're using Sumerian tactics like the Iraqis do, picking our spots, digging in and hitting them with everything we've got when they approach our positions," MacDonald said.

Behind the lines of battle, maintenance and medical support teams checked and readied their equipment. OpFor maintenance supervisor Sgt. 1st Class Paul White directed work as an M-88 recovery vehicle pulled the back plate off an M-1 Abrams to fix a leaking oil line.

"These tanks are a lot more technical than the old M-60s, but at the same time easier to work on," White said.

"Maintenance is an everyday job," added "shop foreman" Sgt. Steven Thompson. "You've got to keep on top of things so you don't get behind."

Sgt. Homer Money Jr., medical NCO, got his M-113 track in order with the help of field medic Spec. Mark Wilson.

"When there's no shooting going on, we handle regular sick calls as well as emergency treatment, while during battle, we pick up wounded on the front lines and take them back to the jump aid station," Money said. Money is trained as a flight medic to work with helicopters, which means he uses more emergency medical skills comparable to that of a civilian paramedic, he said.

Wilson, in face paint and his helmet covered in cammo netting, said his field duties represents the "first echelon of treatment for troops in battle. Their health and welfare is what my job is all

about."

On the firing line, M-1 gunner Sgt. Don Rolston, loader Pvt. Alan Griffen, and driver Pfc. Tony Gospodarek sat and waited for the 1/156 to attack. They checked over the tank and did last-minute maintenance.

"We've been taking classes at night study Sumerian tactics," Rolston said. "Basically we're just going to sit there and plug away."

"The Iraqis don't move and shoot that much," agreed Gospodarek. "They dig in and bombard you, so that's what we'll be doing."

MacDonald warned the 1/156th that nevertheless, the 1/70th would "be very aggressive against great odds and are planning on coming out victorious.

"Take heed, all who would enter this area," growled MacDonald. "The Dawgs of war are on the prowl."

# Updates from Our Troops in the Field . . . .

## 1087th TRANS CO

Has been very busy. Their main mission has been supporting the movement of forward units into Iraq, according to Gen. Stroud. Capt. Eugene Barattini of the 204th ASG has been in touch with members of the 1087th. "We never thought we'd be haulin' EPOW's," they said.

## 1090th TRANS DET

The 1090th is still at port and continuing on with the same mission they've been doing since September, reported Gen. Stroud.

## 527th ENGR BN

Lt. Col. Bennett Landreneau told Gen. Stroud they secured some Iraqi uniforms and flags for the museum but didn't allude to how they secured them. They are presently back in Saudi Arabia awaiting missions on main supply routes.

## 1083rd TRANS CO

Members of the 1083rd have been in touch with the 204th ASG and report that "it may be over, but we're still rollin'".

## 159th MASH

Lt. Col. Michael Jennings called his wife Sunday, Mar. 17 with news that everyone is fine and doing a great job supporting the 1st Armor Division. Capt. Tracie Kiviaho called the PAO Monday, Mar. 18 with news that the MASH is alive and well in Saudi Arabia.

## 1086th TRANS CO

Gen. Stroud spoke with Capt. Raymond Scott, of 1086th on Mar. 18, and the count of total gallons of water transported was 18 million 760 thousand and they had travelled 1 million 342 thousand miles. The unit was in Ryiahd for a few days of R&R.

## 3673rd MAINT CO

Recently, the 3673rd had dinner with the Secretary of the Army and 15 Congressional Representatives. They are still processing units, but now it's for redeployment.

# Operation Desert Storm

## 812th MED CO (AA)

Dear Bill,  
Feb. 28, 1991  
I believe the war will be over by the time you receive this. We pitched our tent camp up in a blinding sand storm. Everyone and everything was covered with dirt. Now it is raining and we're wading in mud. The expression "War is Hell!" . . .  
Our mission is simple and safe, so far.  
Best Regards,  
CW4 Roger Watkins

## Operation Hero's Welcome Scheduled

"Operation Hero's Welcome in New Orleans" has been conceived to bring together the people of New Orleans in a resounding celebration honoring Veterans of Operation Desert Storm (and saluting veterans of the Vietnam and Korean Wars). The project is being coordinated by New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, with input from city, state and federal officials.

The date for the celebration is Saturday, June 29th. It will begin with a Mardi Gras-style parade through the streets of New Orleans (with fly-overs by military aircraft). This parade will wind up at the Louisiana Superdome, where the troops will dismount their floats and have the best seats in the house for a star-studded performance in their honor. A variety of famous national entertainers will be on the bill, along with nationally-recognized New Orleans performers such as Harry Connick, Jr., Aaron Neville and Wynton & Branford Marsalis. We also plan to have national television coverage of the extravaganza, which will climax in a "Voices That Care"-type finale with a fireworks

display inside the Dome.

When the Mayor announced the plans for "Operations Hero's Welcome," citizens from every quarter came forth to volunteer their time, energy and creative input to a unified effort that will "bring down the rafters" for our heroes. The energy is reaching fever pitch, and just as we did for the last Republican National Convention, the people of New Orleans will put on a celebration not soon to be forgotten.

We have invited the President and Mrs. Bush, the Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell and, of course, General Norman Schwarzkopf. The War in the Gulf has brought our nation together in a way few could have been foreseen. Louisiana is one of the state's that sent the most troops to the Persian Gulf, but we are not organizing this event just for our own troops. Our spectacular celebration will honor all the fighting men and women from around the nation.

## 39th MP CO

Corp. T. J. Pierce, unit clerk, told Capt. Eugene Barattini that "their mission escorting EPOW's has been the most challenging experience surely in the history of the 39th MP's."

## 256th INF BDE

The Dept. of the Army indicates no military requirement to retain the 256th on active duty so they will be back at Fort Polk by the end of March and fully demobilized by April 30th. By demobilized, that means "at home."

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF  
WASHINGTON, DC

## To: The Men and Women of the National Guard Who Have Every Reason to be Proud

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait more than seven months ago, U.S. military forces, at the request of our commander-in-chief, have performed the herculean task of moving more than half a million troops into the Persian Gulf theater to deter any further aggression and begin the implementation of the U.N. sanctions, including the removal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

This remarkable achievement has been further enhanced by a combined air, land and sea campaign that is likely to go down as one of the most successful in history, involving some 700,000 allied forces.

This monumental undertaking could not have happened without the fine men and women of the Army and Air National Guard.

Here are a few reasons why:

Of the some 200,000 Guard and Reserve forces federalized for Operation Desert Storm, some 75,000 are from the National Guard.

Half of these 75,000 are in the theater of operations in such roles as air combat, ground and air combat-support, and ground and air combat-service-support. The rest are in critical support roles, in other overseas posts and statewide.

In addition, almost 15,000 Army National Guard combat troops have undergone vigorous stateside training in preparation of the then possible deployment to the Persian Gulf.

Thousands of other National Guard personnel have volunteered and deployed to the Persian Gulf, some in the first days of the conflict.

Often overlooked during this time of tremendous strain on our military resources is the fact that the Guard continues to serve in its state role with drug interdiction/eradication operations in all 54 states and territories, and state callups in response to hundreds of state emergencies.

Despite any negative comments you may have heard, all these indisputable facts testify to the quality of today's citizen-soldiers, the finest America has had in its 354-year history and arguably the finest any country has ever had. All Guardsmen and women can be proud.

Thank you for all you are doing for our country. You truly are "Americans at their best."

Sincerely,

JOHN B. CONAWAY  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Chief, National Guard Bureau

## Rush For The Border

Cont'd from p. 2

the unit while it moved, was just another obstacle. The consensus was the rain would end in Iraq.

The winds were strong, the rain continued and the urgency to reach our site intensified. Orders for where the hospital would end up changed as the battle moved on ahead, but stability was the keystone of all operations.

Scud missiles, hasty fighting positions, burned out enemy tanks and enemy prisoners of war camps were packed. Guards were alerted for each vehicle. Chemical detector kits were kept close by. Flares and artillery bursts could be seen in the distance. Word was passed that tanks at battle raged ahead. Tension was high and the expectation was that the long journey was near an end. Ten more miles remained and we were almost there.

Guards on the vehicles perked up as the word spread, "friendlies in the area." Two hours later, a command and control vehicle passed each trek announcing that we had captured nine enemy prisoners of war, three officers and six enlisted men - unheard of for a MASH.

Daylight of February 27th and still the MASH was moving hard miles that seemed to have no real beginning and no definite ending and then the order came to set down. The order came at 10:30 a.m. from the Hospital commander Lt. Col. Michael Jennings, recently promoted from major. A pain and spirit pep talk was given and the hardship of the weather and sleep deprivation was acknowledged and then the 159th MASH went to work.

The advanced party attached to a Forward Support Battalion, the 3rd Armored Division, followed behind the Division's Front. Contact with the Abdullah-Medina Republican Guard left the party with a sleepless night and a

spectacular view of the combined arms battle. The morning of the 27th brought news that the hospital had been dropped and the setting up had begun. Setting up was a feat accomplished by exhausted troops who pushed a little harder ready for the mission they had been trained to do.

Lay out of the hospital was made a little more difficult by the fact that the most qualified specialists had been sent with the advanced party. The main hospital body arrived on site before the advanced party. Still, despite the hardships the members of the MASH worked together for the common goal of erecting the hospital.

At 10 p.m. February 27, the 159th MASH was operational and accepted its first patient. The hospital had been set up and become operational in a record 11 hours. This included an emergency room, operating room, x-ray and lab section, a biomedical section, a pharmacy and 24 intensive care unit beds waiting and ready.

Since the initial patients have crossed the threshold to the 159th MASH door, operations of the hospital continued in Iraq until March 15th. Quality professional care was provided each patient in the austere conditions by the 159th MASH from Jackson Barracks, New Orleans. The 240 personnel of citizen soldiers returned to Saudi Arabia and is now in a redeployment area awaiting the signing of the peace treaty and further orders. The 159th MASH, a national guard unit committed to excellence has set the standard for the use of the Army's deployable medical systems in a combat situation. The unit, proud to have done the mission is now ready for another rush for the border not leading to Iraq, but home to New Orleans.

# Abercrombie Becomes "Project Man"

By PFC Rebekah Lloyd  
241st PAD Staff

W. Arthur Abercrombie, 46, plays the civilian role of a local attorney and the military role of an Army National Guardsman. He enjoys his part as what he calls "project man" for the adjutant general of Louisiana's Army National Guard.

Abercrombie, who serves as Assistant Adjutant General has a wide-range of duties. His main priority is to maintain close contact with the Army National Guard Adjutant General, Ansel M. Stroud and to carry out the projects which are delegated to him.

Some of the tasks Abercrombie is involved with on a monthly basis include: the Drug Interdiction Program, the Marksmanship Program, the Volunteer Civic Action Program, and an ongoing correlation with the National Guard Association.

The Civic Action program is a plan which Abercrombie designed to get the National Guard actively involved in a good cause which would benefit our

state," he said. Each unit chooses a project and volunteers their time and energy to promote a worthy cause. Some of the activities include drug prevention, working with retarded children and visiting area nursing homes. The program is monitored through the general's receipt of letters from each unit, telling of their progress.

He is also a member of the National Guard Association, a non-profit organization comprised of voluntary National Guard officers. The association meets on a monthly basis to implement the improvement of the guard and to discuss beneficial issues to present to congress.

He is immersed in what may be considered a high profile position in both respects. His responsibility to the Army takes away leisure time and becomes, "in a sense your hobby, because when you are dedicated you don't have time for all the leisure activities," he revealed. Although time is a precious commodity, Abercrombie's employment with a private law practice allows him to set his

own hours. This makes possible the combination of two demanding careers. "Without flexibility I couldn't do both jobs," he said.

There is a third role required of a man in his position. Abercrombie is looked up to as a role model. He is a standard or example for imitation which is not necessarily a chosen role, but one that goes with the territory. "This involves doing everything in moderation and being careful about what you do and say," he said. Every aspect of his life is viewed, not only the professional, but also the private life in which he plays the role of husband and father. He has a supportive wife Rebecca, and two children, Stewart, and Jane to stand by his side.

His advice to those looking to his life as an example is positive and out-reaching. "The sky is the limit. Work hard and always be honest and straight forward. So many people have potential that goes untapped. You are only here once and there are only two choices. Be the best that you can be, it is either that or nothing," he says.