

Louisiana Guard sman

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 3 APRIL/MAY 1991



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La. Takes 2nd in ACOE

The Louisiana National Guard is once again a winner in the Army National Guard Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Competition.

The Chief of Staff, Army (CSA) ACOE Award winners are congratulated for outstanding attention to facilities and services excellence. Competition was extremely spirited. Assessment particularly noted extraordinary community support for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The top finishers in the ACOE Competition for FY 91 and the amount of their awards are: North Carolina - \$250,000, Louisiana - \$150,000, Utah - \$100,000.

In a memorandum to Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, Chief, National Guard Bureau, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr., adjutant general, LAARNG, said, "The singular purpose of this effort (ACOE Competition) is total involvement providing a multiple payoff of total customer orientation focused on ex-

cellent people-oriented services offered in Louisiana National Guard.

Gov. Buddy Roemer in a letter to Lt. Gen. Conaway said, "Through the high standards established by Maj. Gen. Stroud and the leadership of the outstanding corps of officers and non-commissioned officers he has assembled, I am confident this superb organization will continue to be a leader in the Army Communities of Excellence Program.

Excellence is a way of life in the Louisiana Army National Guard. Its persuasive presence is seen and felt throughout the entire Louisiana Army National Guard organizational structure. In what has become an annual event, the LAARNG command group, all directorates and special staff, met in September 1990 to formulate the 1991 goals.

As the fiscal year's ACOE plan revealed, the Louisiana National Guard is, indeed an Army Community of Excellence.

On the Front Cover:

Glory and pride admiration escalated between the anxiously awaiting crowds and the passengers of this 747 as it taxied onto the runway at England AFB, Alexandria, May 18. These three soldiers couldn't stay couped up another minute. Spec. John Santoro and 2nd Lt. Terence Watley of the 527th EngBn and 2nd Lt. Greg Wright of the 1087th Trans Co climbed atop their huge bird to wave the flags of the land they fought so courageously to defend. (Photo by Spec. Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)

In Appreciation: Airlines Honor Vets

American Forces Information Service

Service members returning from Desert Storm can fly to many vacation spots with their families at greatly reduced rates. Family members can fly cheaper to greet returning service members.

Airline companies are offering 70 percent discount fares and other deals as a thank-you to American service members. Some deals are good only for those directly affected by Desert Storm; at least one program is for all service members.

Delta Airlines is offering its "Welcome Home" fare to all active duty U.S. military men and their immediate dependents. Through Sept. 30, round-trip travel is 70 percent below normal coach fares to more than 230 cities served by Delta. Dependents need not travel with the service member, and there are no restrictions on days of travel or length of stay.

Continental Airlines is offering "Yellow Ribbon" fares through Sept. 30. Service members returning from Desert Storm and their families can fly at fares up to 70 percent off regular coach fares. Dependents can also get the reduced fare to travel to U.S. cities to greet returning service members. Continental also offers other special deals applying to military and reservist family members.

Alaska, American, America West, Northwest, Pan American, Trans World, United and USAir also have a variety of Desert Storm-related deals, according to Military Traffic Management Command officials. For example, United and USAir will waive penalties and advance purchase requirements to give Desert Storm returnees the lowest round-trip excursion fare. Alaska Airlines will allow authorized dependents to travel at furlough fare without the military sponsor.

Installation travel offices and the airlines have full details. ✉

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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Update on Our Troops . . .

1090TH TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT

The 1090th Trans Det of Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, departed the United States bound for Saudi Arabia September 18, 1990. The 10 soldier unit was the first unit from the Louisiana Guard to be alerted, activated, and deployed.

Sgt. Gregory Martin commands the detachment that is stationed at a port along the Persian Gulf in Saudi Arabia. Their equipment includes forklifts that are used to complete the unit's mission of providing fixed site cargo handling support.

Due to the influx of troop and equipment redeployment, the mission of the 1090th is much in demand and will be moving their own equipment and troops home soon.

1083RD TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

The 1083rd is comprised of heavy equipment tank haulers and tractor-trailers to provide transportation for tanks and other heavy tracked vehicles. The Jonesville based 61 member unit is commanded by Capt. Brian Durbin. The unit served in Saudi Arabia from November 21, 1990 until their return to Louisiana April 25, 1991.

The 1083rd's first job upon arrival in the theatre of operations was to move M1A1 tanks to the front line in order to replace the M1 tanks of the 1st Cavalry Division. Once the war started, the 1083rd directly supported the 24th Infantry Division. Their 22 vehicles traveled 283,000 miles with no serious accidents.

3673RD MAINTENANCE COMPANY

The 3673rd Maint Co commanded by Maj. Marc McNeal has been on active duty since October 16, 1990 and moved to Saudi Arabia November 30. Since overseas deployment McNeal has taken over as acting executive officer to the area battalion in Dhahran and Capt. Cesar Casanova Ochoa has filled in as acting commander for the 3673rd.

The Jackson Barracks based unit spent their time maintaining allied equipment from countries including Japan, Germany, Czechoslovakia and the United States, and processing units into the area of operations. The 3673rd received personal recognition for their outstanding performance during the war from Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Supreme Allied Commander. Since the war's end, the unit has concentrated its efforts on preparing troops and equip-

ment for redeployment and are anxiously awaiting the notification to begin their journey back to home station.

159TH MASH

The Jackson Barracks based 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital returned to mobilization station, Fort Polk, La. from active participation in Operation Desert Storm in three elements on April 19, May 1, and May 5, 1991. The unit commander Capt. Nathan Bailey and the hospital commander Lt. Col. Michael Jennings led their troops to establish the first MASH in Iraq with equipment from all over the world. The 159th MASH supported 7th Corps and the 3rd Armored Division. While carrying out their mission of providing initial resuscitative surgery and medical treatment necessary to prepare critically injured or wounded patients for further evacuation, soldiers of the 159th captured a Soviet troop carrier and had nine Iraqi soldiers surrender to them.

1086TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Capt. Raymond Scott commands the 179 soldiers of the 1086th Trans Co from Jena, Louisiana and Detachment 1, 1086th from Camp Beauregard.

Using their 5-ton trucks and 40-foot tractor trailers, the 1086th deployed to Saudi Arabia November 21, 1990, has since traveled over a million miles and transported about 20 million gallons of water to troops near the front lines. The 1086th's mission also included providing medium to light heavy equipment transportation for general cargo and light wheeled vehicles.

39TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

The 117 members of the 39th MP Co from Jackson Barracks arrived in Saudi Arabia on February 8, 1991, under the command of Capt. Frederick Edgecomb. They were attached to the 800th MP Brigade where they conducted security for hospitals, air fields and command and control centers during the war. Once the ground war began the 39th shifted from fixed security to handling, escorting and processing Iraqi enemy prisoners of war. They returned home to Louisiana May 18.

812TH MEDICAL COMPANY (AIR AMBULANCE)

The 812th Med Co (AA) with soldiers from New Orleans and New Mexico came together to train and perform as a whole company for the first time as they were called to active duty in sup-

port of Operation Desert Storm.

Under the command of Maj. Dennis J. Favalaro the unit mobilized to Fort Polk November 26, 1990. While at mobilization station, the 812th flew 324 hours of training missions. Since deployed to Saudi Arabia February 12, 1991, the unit has flown medevac missions, hospital transfer missions and 45 enemy prisoner of war (EPW) missions. The unit, with considerable combat experience, consists of 83 members and 12 UH-1V helicopters. They returned to Louisiana May 28.

1087TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Capt. Carey O'Neal led the 131 members of the 1087th Trans Co from Vidalia, Louisiana, to Saudi Arabia January 20, 1991. The unit provided transportation for light and medium equipment as well as troops. The 1087th also transported supplies to front line units and then moved enemy prisoners of war (EPWs) to confinement areas during the ground war. They returned to Louisiana May 18.

527TH ENGINEER BATTALION

The 527th Engr Bn headquartered in Bossier City, La. arrived in Saudi Arabia December 9, 1990 and immediately began constructing burms, emplacements and trash burning pits. The 777 member unit, commanded by Lt. Col. Bennett Landreneau also constructed an airstrip which was Corps commander's priority. The mission was completed in less than 48 hours with members from each element of the battalion working around the clock to finish the project. The unit was responsible for constructing 35 fighting positions, widening breach lanes and the formation of decontamination sites. They returned to Louisiana on May 11, May 14 and May 18.

256TH INF BDE

The 256th Inf Bde made up of battalions headquartered in Lafayette, Shreveport, Abbeville, Lake Charles, Alexandria, New Orleans, Opelousas and Natchitoches met every requirement established by the Department of the Army while training stateside in preparation for overseas deployment.

Gen. John B. Conaway, chief of the National Guard Bureau, praised the Brigade and said, "They are trained past readiness standards. All elements of the 256th have returned to their home armories at towns and communities throughout Louisiana."

The Brigade served from November 30, 1990, until each was deactivated individually, with the last unit deactivated May 10, 1991.

204th ASG Changes Command: Col. Marion Simpson Passes Guidon to Col. William Thomas

By PFC Rebekah D. Lloyd
241st PAD Staff

The 204th Area Support Group held their change of command ceremony, during the May drill at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans. Col. Marion G. Simpson, commander of the 204th since May of 1988, was replaced by Col. William Thomas III, full-time General Supervisor of the Combined Support Maintenance Shop, at Camp Beauregard.

Simpson, a member of the Louisiana National Guard since 1978, has held several distinguished assignments, including State Surgeon, Hospital Commander of the 159th MASH, and Flight Surgeon for numerous battalion and brigade-size units.

His accomplishments while commanding the 204th ASG include: 5th Army Outstanding Company Commander Award for the second consecutive year, 5th Army Superior Training Award, 5th Army Conneley Award for food service excellence, National Guard Bureau Superior Unit Award, Army Community of Excellence Award for company, battalion, and major command levels, the



Pictured standing from left to right are: Maj. Daniel Falanga, Col. Edmund Geiring, Col. Lester Schmidt, Lt. Col. Mike Sembar, Col. Fred Palmer and CW2 Kim Ansardi. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD Staff)

Eisenhower Trophy for Superior Unit Training, and most recently, the successful deployment of six out of seven combat service support units to

southwest Asia as part of Operation Desert Storm.

The 204th ASG units called to federal service include the 209th Transportation

Detachment, 1083rd Transportation Company, 1087th Transportation Company, 39th Military Police Company, 3673rd Maintenance Company, and the 1086th Transportation Company.

Simpson addressed his unit during the ceremony. "In the past you have settled only for excellence, take pride in that, strive for perfection and have confidence in the future," he said.

The new commander, Col. Thomas, has been a member of the Armed Forces since 1964. His distinguished career includes tours as a platoon leader, detachment/company commander, battalion, operations officer, and battalion commander.

Thomas believes "Col. Simpson has done a fantastic job in establishing a new direction for the group." He said, "It is self-evident when you look at the mobilization of six of the groups units which mobilized and provided tremendous service in Saudi Arabia.

The new commander envisions a continued march for the 204th. "I would hope to meet the new requirements and continue to develop procedures and programs that keep up with the changes of the National Guard," Thomas said.

NBC Training Dominates 204th FTX

By SPC Dane Kerne
204th ASG/Public Affairs

As the ongoing conflict in the Middle East was continuing to expand, the soldiers of the 204th Area Support Group engaged in an FTX/CPX (Field Training Exercise/Command Post Exchange). It was conducted under the blue skies of Camp Villere from February 22-24.

Although it is not uncommon for the professional soldiers of the 204th to engage in (and excel at) a field exercise, this FTX had a couple of different aspects about it. First of all, the utilization of the unit's command post for such activities as intermittent briefings was an interesting and realistic addition to normal procedures.

The usual activities held during an FTX, such as setting up a fighting position, were complemented by the addition of NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) training. This training was done in light of the fact that the recent turn of events in the Persian Gulf has underscored the necessity of skill proficiency in this area. Furthermore, the real threat of chemical attack against allied forces shows that NBC will continue to be a top priority for soldiers for years to come.

The type of NBC training conducted during Forward Sentry was "Hasty Decon". It is intended to provide the soldier with the means to decontaminate themselves and their equipment just enough to be effective as a fighting force during a battle. This type of decon-



HHC, 204th ASG personnel perform a MOPP suit exchange during Operation Forward Sentry held at Camp Villere in February. (Photo by SPC Dane Kerne, 204 ASG PAO).

tamination may be done repeatedly during a battle until the opportunity for more comprehensive and complete "decon" can be conducted. Hasty Decon consists of two parts: the temporary decontamination/replacement of a soldier's contaminated gear and the stop-gap decon of vehicles.

The soldiers engaged in the training for both these skills. SPC Doug Farrell, the 204th NBC NCO, was an instructor. "I feel that the soldiers were attentive and motivated," said Farrell. "Operation Desert Storm has improved the soldiers' feelings about NBC. It used to stand for No Body Cares. Now, they respond much better." When asked what aspect of training he thought most important for today's soldiers to be proficient in, he responded in a straightforward manner. "I feel that they should keep training in their Basic Soldier Skills. These skills must be done repetitively; if not, they tend to deteriorate.

The entire exercise was conducted in the professional, injury-free environment that has become the norm for 204th training. In addition to maintaining the high level of MOUT (Military Operations on Urban Terrain) proficiency typical of 204th soldiers, they have become better at handling NBC tasks. "Chemical Warfare is the Third World's 'nuclear bomb,'" said Farrell. "It's cheap, easy to produce, and effective. The likelihood that chemical warfare will play a part in future conflicts is great and we need to keep that in mind when it comes to maintaining NBC proficiency."



Maj. Johnny O. Anderson, 244th AV BN Commander, left, accepts the 5th U.S. Army Outstanding Training Award from Col. Fred Palmer, on behalf of his unit. (Photo by 1st Lt. Maria L. Jonkers, State PAD)

244th AV Honored

Louisiana National Guard Unit Receives
5th U.S. Army Award

The 244th Aviation Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard, received the Fifth U.S. Army Outstanding Training Award. The award was presented by Colonel Fred A. Palmer, Commander of Troop Command, during a ceremony held May 18 at the unit's Lakefront Airport hanger in New Orleans.

Major Johnny O. Anderson, battalion commander, received the award for his battalion's outstanding readiness status.

"I'm real proud of my unit for receiving this award," Anderson said.

The 244th won the award over all other battalion size units in the eight state Fifth Army area. It represents significant accomplishments in the areas of both individual and unit training readiness and performance of unit missions.

The superior effort of the officers and enlisted soldiers of this command reflect great credit to the LA. Army National Guard and its soldiers.

"I have no intention of letting up on training now just because we won the 5th Army award," Anderson said, "if there's a national award, that'll be our next goal."

Conaway Singles Out La.

By SFC John A. Sullivan
241st PAD Staff

ALEXANDRIA - Guardsmen who were not activated during Operation Desert Storm should consider volunteering to help bring back troops and equipment from the Persian Gulf, the nation's top National Guard and Air National Guard officer said.

Gen. John B. Conaway, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told the National Guard Association of Louisiana recently that there are still 30,000 Army National Guard and between 4,000 and 5,000 Air National Guard members still in Saudi Arabia.

Conaway said he will go to Saudi Arabia soon and "I will try to see how many volunteers we are going to need" to get equipment back to the United States.

He urged guardsmen who didn't get activated to volunteer for 40 to 120 days of active duty to help out.

"Going over was a lot easier than coming home," Conaway said. Getting everyone and their equipment home will be a logistical problem of staggering proportions, he said. Conaway pointed out that the United States sent 540,000 soldiers and their equipment to the Persian Gulf from 30 ports in the U.S.

The same amount of equipment and troops are now leaving Saudi Arabia through two ports, it's like putting something through an upside funnel, the general said.

Conaway had high praise for the National Guard and its role in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"Everyone did their part. Every role was important. It was a team effort. You are what we call America at its best, and it has not gone unnoticed," he said.

He singled out the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) for its performance in Operation Desert Storm. "It was the first and most forward hospital in the

EOC Adds Branch

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD Staff

A Louisiana National Guard Emergency Operations Center (LANG-EOC) was set up at Camp Beauregard on May 6 to serve as the command and control headquarters for cooperating agencies assisting in the clean-up and aftermath of damage incurred by recent massive flooding.

The LANG-EOC was established and directed by Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud. He tasked Brig. Gen. Charles R. Lindsay, Deputy State Area Command (STARC) Commander, with running the EOC.

This is the first time that guardsmen have been placed on state active duty since the Military Department took over as lead agency for state emergencies. The EOC is equipped with the necessary directives to conduct continuous 24 hours operations. Whenever a situation warrants, supporting agencies, to include the State Police, law enforcement agencies, civil defense, etc., are invited to provide a liaison to the EOC. The Office of Emergency Preparedness also works in conjunction with the EOC.

The EOC is located at Jackson Barracks, but a temporary branch was set up at Camp Beauregard because of its proximity to the flooding in North Louisiana. There have been as many as 100 National Guardsmen simultaneously placed on active duty since the spell of bad weather began. Their missions have included the evacuation of civilians, security patrols, exporting sandbags and general support.

More than 1.5 million sandbags have been issued by the National Guard to requesting parishes. The unit primarily involved in the sandbag operation was the 528th Engineer Battalion headquartered in Monroe, La. Early on the 769th Engineers were providing assistance in the Grande Isle area.

The parishes affected by flooding where the National Guard has assisted include Ouachita, West Carroll, Caldwell, Richland, Claiborne, Madison, Franklin, West Monroe, Monroe, Caddo, Lasalle, Catahoula, St. Martin, Rapides and the Red River Levee District.

The EOC staff is designed to escalate with the scope of the emergency and may be modified by increasing or reducing personnel when the situation dictates.



About 100 Louisiana National Guardsmen answered the call for state active duty during a week of intense rain and flooding in May. Hardest hit areas were Monroe, Central Louisiana and Grande Isle. Most missions included hauling sand bags and exacuating people. (Photo by SSG Sylvest, 241st PAD Staff).

ground war as it got started," Conaway said.

The 159th gained some notoriety when nine Iraqi soldiers surrendered to it during the Gulf War. The unit is back in the United States now, having arrived at England Air Force Base recently then through Fort Polk for demobilization and on to their home station, Jackson Barracks.

He also praised the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) which was one of three National Guard combat brigades activated. "They are trained past readiness standards," Conaway said. Elements of the 256th have already passed from active service and have returned to their home armories at towns and communities throughout Louisiana.

SPOTLIGHT . . . Williams-Keeps up with ANG

By Sgt. Debbie Hebert

Chief Master Sgt. Johnny F. Williams was appointed the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Louisiana Air National Guard on December 1, 1990. Chief Master Sgt. Williams primary duties are keeping the Adjutant General and other senior officers informed of personnel and organizational issues and changes. His main concern is improving the "Quality of Life" within the Guard and enhancing the enlisted program. "We need to do everything we can to assure that the Air Guard is the best for all members and their families", says Chief Williams. "Please feel free to send comments and suggestions for improvements my way."

Chief Williams was born in Louisiana November 24, 1935 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on November 1953, and served in Korea. In July 1958 he enlisted in the Louisiana Air National

Guard. By April 1967, he was a Chief Master Sergeant and Munitions Maintenance Branch Chief.

Chief Williams lives in Picayune, Mississippi with his wife Mary Anne. They have a son and two daughters. He raises cattle and in his leisure time he trains for his annual athletic event, the National Guard Roadrace, where he placed third in his age group. He keeps in shape in order to "keep up with the younger guys", he says.

Chief Williams brings many years of Air National Guard experience to his new position. He will be challenged to significantly enhance the enlisted program and welfare of all the enlisted community throughout the state. His natural abilities and extraordinary experience are well suited to his new assignment as Senior Enlisted Advisor", adds Col. Kenneth L. Ross, Commander of the Louisiana Air National Guard.



Chief Master Sgt. Johnny F. Williams, Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Louisiana Air National Guard took over his position last December. (LAARNG Photo)

Santos Family Strength Prevails Over War

By Spec. Kristi Moon
241st PAD

Rosali Santos, wife of Col. Earl Santos and mother to Patrick, Belinda, Cheryl, Dion, and Will is known around the Santos home as a 'Paragon of Virtue'. Three of the five Santos children are members of the National Guard with Pop. All three children were activated in support of Operation Desert Storm, while their father held down the fort at home. Before their children all returned home, Col. Santos reminded his wife of how much work it is to have a house full of people to care for. Rosali said, "even though it's more work, I just want my kids home." During the peace and quiet, Rosali never doubted for one minute that her kids would come back, but for the first two weeks she was afraid to close her eyes. "It was hard for her," Spec. Will Santos, of the 159th MASH, says of his mom, "because during the war she experienced so many different degrees of loss."

First activated with the 141st Field Artillery was Capt. Patrick Santos, eldest of the Santos children and father of two boys. While Patrick stayed in the United States training for the Gulf Crisis, his absence from home was deeply felt. He is now settling back in at his full-time job with the 141st FA and at home as well.

Then there is Spec. Dion Santos of the 159th MASH, youngest Santos daughter. Dion and Will both contributed to the forward most mobile hospital set up within Iraqi borders during the ground war.

Of his experience in combat, Will, the baby of the family, says "the best time of the war was during the actual ground offensive because we got to do our jobs for real." Needless to say, Will is glad to be home. "I did it and now it's over," Will says. For now, Will plans to finish his degree at LSU in exercise physiology. A

real lesson learned from being away from home Will said, "is to respect my mom for going through what she did without us."

Although Col. Santos works out of town, Rosali wasn't all alone while her kids were gone. During the four months the MASH was overseas, Rosali kept Dion's son, Trevor. According to Rosali there is a special reason for giving them Trevor, who is now eight months.

"That special reason was to get me through the war," Rosali expressed with tears in her eyes. "I would've been sad and depressed but because Trevor is such a happy baby, I kept an up-beat like nothing in the world was wrong"

Now, Rosali hopes there will always be that "special bond" between grand-

mother and grandson, "just like velcro." She added that while Trevor is special, she loves all of her grandchildren the same.

While all this talk is going on, Dion is very quiet and almost reserved. She says, "I just roll with the waves." And that's exactly what she did when she left her three month old son to go off to war. Dion spent the war assisting in surgeries, observing, scrubbing and meeting new patients/ friends; making the most of the experience she could gain.

One fond memory Dion has is of one of her patients who stepped on a land mine and received considerable damage to one of his legs. While she was caring for him, he was presented with a Purple heart. For the occasion, Dion clean-

ed the soldier up and made him extra comfortable.

The war "didn't make me bad-hearted," Dion says, she took from it what she could use and left the other experiences behind.

She's now ready to go on with her life and raising her son, along with grandma, of course. Dion plans to attend another MOS school in the medical field and become a nurse. She's going to start planning now for Trevor's future so hopefully her son won't have to go thru hell, or war, aren't the two synonymous?

Of their combat experience, Dion and Will both agree they wouldn't want anyone to go through what they did, but would both love to see Iraq after it has been rebuilt and peace restored.



Baby Trevor Santos needed a few minutes to get reacquainted with his mom, Spec. Dion Santos after she returned from duty in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Santos waited patiently with Trevor for his mom and their daughter to come home May 1. The Santos' youngest son, Spec. William Santos served along side his sister with the 159th during the war. The Santos' eldest son, Capt. Patrick Santos, also served stateside during Operation Desert Storm with the 141st Field Artillery. (Photo by Spec. Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

Desert Storm Veteran Information

MEDICAL CARE

During out processing your soldiers received a physical. Any military related illness or injury was treated before release from Active Duty. You have been using the CHAMPUS program to cover your medical needs and the needs of other qualifying dependents. The question that usually comes at this point is "What do I have in the way of medical benefits, and what benefits does the soldier have after release from active duty?"

Let us take a look at the soldier's benefits first. The soldier, as previously stated, will undergo a physical. The purpose of this physical is to ensure that the National Guard soldier is medically cleared and qualified for release from Active Duty. The Army and the National Guard do not want soldiers to be returned to their families in a medically unfit condition. In support of this belief the Army is going to ensure that up to 30 days after release from active duty or until the soldier's private insurance carrier renews the coverage the soldier can be treated at a military medical facility. However, this period can not exceed the 30 day limitation.

Now, what about you, the family member? If you are a qualified dependent of a service member you should have been participating in this CHAMPUS program. At this time, you are no longer covered by CHAMPUS as of midnight the day your sponsor is released from Active Duty. You must submit all claims for reimbursement by the 31st day of December of the year the expense was incurred. It is important to remember this date for submitting claims.

You can also receive medical care at a military medical facility for up to 30 days after your sponsor's release from Active Duty. Remember your coverage is just like your sponsor's. You have 30 days or until personal medical carrier resumes your coverage.

DENTAL

The President has signed into law a bill that will provide VA dental benefits for personnel who were called up on presidential order and who served for 90 days after August 2, 1990. These benefits are available upon release from active duty.

The VA will provide a one-time complete episode of dental care which includes the full range of dental treatment, with the exception of orthodontics and dental implants. The treatment includes the replacement of teeth lost on active duty.

This is a one-time benefit. When treatment is complete the soldier will not be entitled to additional dental care by the VA unless there is entitlement under some other program.

Soldiers may apply for this benefit through the State Veterans Service Officer or at any VA Medical Center (in New Orleans, Alexandria, and Shreveport) or any VA Outpatient Clinic (Baton Rouge and Beaumont, Texas).

The treatment is usually provided at one of these VA facilities, but if the soldier lives a long distance from these locations the VA will pay a private dentist to provide the treatment. The decision as to where the soldier will be treated will be made by the VA.

The Army may have provided all necessary treatment before the soldier was released from active duty. If he received this treatment from the Army, he will not be entitled to VA dental benefits. The appropriate statement in this matter appears on the soldier's DD Form 214. If the soldier knows that his treatment was not completed by the Army, or if he is not sure, he should file an application with the VA within 90 days of the day he is released from active duty.

The time limit to apply for VA dental care is 90 days after release from active duty. **THE SOLDIER MUST APPLY WITHIN THESE 90 DAYS OR THIS BENEFIT WILL BE LOST.** After the application is received and approved by the approved by the VA, the soldier will be sent an appointment to report to a VA clinic for an examination or will be directed to go to a private dentist for an examination. **THE SOLDIER MUST HAVE THIS EXAMINATION WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF HIS RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY.**

All Louisiana Army National Guard soldiers are entitled to have the government replace those orthodontics appliances which were removed during soldier readiness processing for Desert Shield/Storm.

This benefit only extends to replacing what was removed during mobilization processing. If the bill will be more than \$600, the treatment plan must be approved in advance by the commander of the Army DENTAC. Coordinate this action by the Commander of the Army DENTAC. Coordinate this action through LANG-DPA-HS at CML 504-278-6351 or DSN 485-8351.

Soldiers should initiate replacement care within 90 days of separation from active duty. This is necessary to make sure the dental condition does not worsen before the soldier seeks care.

The soldier should seek this care from the hometown orthodontists, the same one who did care before the soldier entered active duty for Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

The soldier simply presents the letter given by the Fort Polk Outprocessing Team to his orthodontist. The letter will explain the entitlement to the dentist. Submit the bill from the dentist and a copy of the letter to the unit. The commander must forward both to LANG-DPA-HS for payment.

If the bill will be for more than the allowable rate, the soldier will have to pay the difference unless the amount is approved in advance by the DENTAC commander. To obtain advance approval, ask the dentist to prepare a treatment plan to send to the approval authority. Send it through your unit to LANG-DPA-HS.

COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES

You and your sponsor can use the services of the military commissaries as you have been. The fact that your sponsor has turned in his green ID card has no bearing on the use. You can still use your card and his orders until the period when his total active service ends. This includes the transitional leave period.

When your sponsor's active duty time ends you will revert back to using the commissary with your dependents ID card and your commissary card.

EMPLOYMENT

As a Guardsman who has served on active duty, your sponsor has certain guaranteed rights in relation to their reemployment status. They must be restored to their jobs upon their return from military duty. This law covers employees in private industry and employees of federal, state and local governments. It does not apply to temporary employees. The law as it is written does not discriminate in relation to branches of service, so Guard members are covered. In order to get their job back your family members must meet the following 5 eligibility requirements:

1. The job that was left must not have been a temporary position.
2. They must have left the job for the purpose of entering active duty.
3. They must have served on active duty satisfactorily and been released from active duty.
4. If they were called to active duty on or after January 19, 1991, they have 90 days to request reemployment. If they were called up prior to January 19, 1991, they have 31 days to request reemployment. To be fair to the employer they should contact the employer and make their intentions known as soon as they are released from active duty.
5. The total amount of time served cannot exceed 4 years unless an authorized presidential extension is granted.

In order to ensure that you get your job back your family member needs to go to their place of employment and speak with someone in authority. They must tell them I used to work here. I had to leave to go on active duty. I have been released under honorable conditions and I would like my job back. It is important for them to bring a copy of their DD 214 Discharge document. It substantiates the claims and shows a characterization of service given.

If your sponsor volunteered for active duty and received orders their rights are also protected. Remember they must follow the guidance in the preceding paragraph to ensure their rights.

There is no waiting period on reemployment, but sometimes it can take as long as two weeks for the employer to make arrangements. The service members rights are protected, but use common sense in dealing with the employer. If the service member does as is suggested this transition from

military life to civilian life should go smoothly.

Your family member is entitled to the same or similar job they left. Their seniority status and rate of pay are protected. They may be entitled to a promotion if one was granted. Remember if a layoff took place they could come back to a laidoff status.

Under the COBRA law the soldier and their qualifying dependents are entitled to immediate reinstatement of Company-Sponsored health insurance upon their return from military duty. Waiting periods and "Pre-existing conditions" exclusions are prohibited.

More information and assistance can be obtained by calling 504-278-6311. Ma Touchard will gladly assist you in locating someone who can give you more answers to your questions and concerns.

TAX EXEMPTION FOR OPERATION DESERT STORM

The President—by Executive Order on January 21, 1991, declared the Persian Gulf as a combat zone for the purpose of excluding some or all military income from federal tax withholding.

The exemption applies to all Regular and Reserve Component Soldiers who spend any portion of any month in the Persian Gulf. The entire month is covered by the exemption; the month is not prorated.

The exemption applies differently to enlisted soldiers and warrant officers, and to commissioned officers. Enlisted soldiers and warrant officers have all military income for the month excluded; commissioned officers have only the first \$500 excluded.

The exclusion also applies for any month in which the soldier is hospitalized as a result of wounds, diseases, or injury suffered while serving in the Gulf.

There is no action required by the soldier to stop withholding of Federal tax. The exclusion will be applied based on the existing authorization for Imminent Danger Pay. Tax withholding will be started and stopped using the same criteria already used for Imminent Danger Pay.

State tax will not be withheld for any month that federal tax is not withheld. All states are anticipated to exempt from state tax any income exempted from federal tax. Regardless, the Army will not withhold state tax. Social Security Tax (FICA) will still be withheld.

VETERANS BENEFITS

If your sponsor/family member qualifies they are entitled to Veterans benefits. The G.I. Loan is one of these benefits. The VA will guarantee your loan for the purchase of a home, farm, manufactured home, or condominium. Educational Assistance is available. The educational benefit at this time is based on every month of active duty served. This benefit is in the process of being increased. The Veterans Educational Assistance Program is a matching plan that is available through the VA. This is a savings plan for education which is

Cont. on page 11



The Atwell's welcome home their father/husband, a member of the 1083d Trans Co of Jonesville on April 25. (LAARNG Photo)



A former member of the 39th MP Co welcomed home after serving with the 39th in Operation Enduring Freedom, 241st PAD)

WELCOME



The 527th Eng Bn received a heroes welcome as family and friends anxiously awaited their return. This element returned on May 11, with others on May 14 and May 18. (Photo by 1Lt Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO)



Upon arrival at England Air Force Base in Alexandria, La., Cook welcomed home the 1087th Trans Co of Vidalia, La. (Photo by Spec. Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

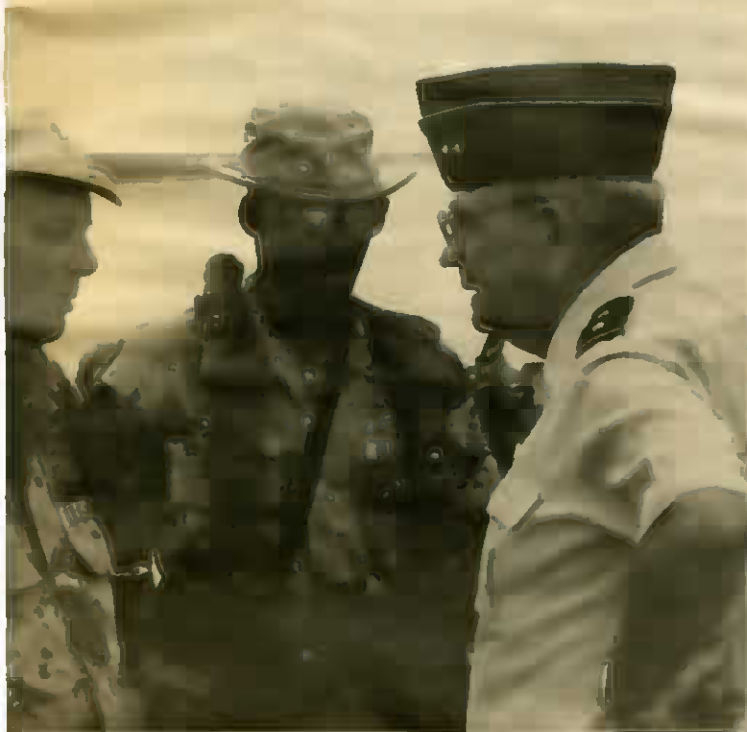


...es home Sgt. Chris Campbell from Saudi Arabia
Desert Storm on May 18. (Photo by Spec. Kristi



Chaplain Thomas Kinney (far right) of the 159th MASH is only one of the 244 members of the MASH happy to be back on familiar ground. The 159th returned home in three elements on April 29, May 1 and May 5. (Photo by Spec. Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

HOME



aj. Gen. A.M. "Buddy" Stroud and Command Sgt. Maj. H.B.
...stened to stories from the 1087th's commander, Capt. Carey



It goes without saying how relieved members of the 812th Med Co (AA) were upon arrival on home soil. The 812th arrived in Louisiana May 27, Memorial Day. The unit found it ironic that they left the country on a holiday (Mardi Gras) and returned on a holiday. (Photo by Spec. Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

Ceremony Marks End of Mobilization

By Bernard Chaillot
256th Inf Bde PAO

The historic mobilization of the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) for Operation Desert Shield/Storm came to a symbolic end on April 17 as the brigade passed in review before Gov. Buddy Roemer and numerous dignitaries and distinguished guests.

The crowd estimated over 1,000 cheered as the Army National Guard units of the Louisiana Brigade marched past the reviewing stand in battle dress uniform, bayonets glinting in the midday sun.

But first came the word of praise, "thanks for a job well done" in the 4 1/2 months since the brigade was put on active duty last November.

"You have trained well, maintained high standards and excelled in the face of adversity and uncertainty," said Maj. Gen. William Crouch, commander of the 5th Infantry Division and Fort Polk.

Crouch noted that as the roundout brigade for the division, the 256th under Brig. Gen. Gary J. Whipple, accomplished all of the tasks necessary to achieve combat-readiness.

THE DIVISION commander also took the opportunity to thank the civilian employers of nearly 5,000 citizen-soldiers in the brigade for supporting their employees' call to arms.

Crouch also recognized Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr., adjutant general of the Louisiana Army National Guard, whom he called a "close advisor and friend."

Gen. Edwin H. Burba Jr., commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, took the podium to characterize the soldiers as "dauntless patriots - the great Louisiana Brigade."

Burba said the ultimate purpose for activating the brigade was to have those

soldiers "close with and destroy the enemy in lethal combat."

The commander said that the brigade was asked to perform a feat of readiness "faster than any unit in modern military history" - and "accomplished that goal with distinction."

"We had great expectations; and you were up to those expectations," he said.

"IN THE COLD and rain and clinging mud, covered with grease, oil, mud and blood, grabbing meals and rest when they could, with the thought always in mind that they would soon be called to battle, they showed an elan and esprit equal to any unit, reserve or active," Burba said.

"Theirs is the legacy of the Minuteman, from the bloody snows of Valley Forge to the present day, perpetuating a legacy of freedom for all to admire and enjoy," he concluded.

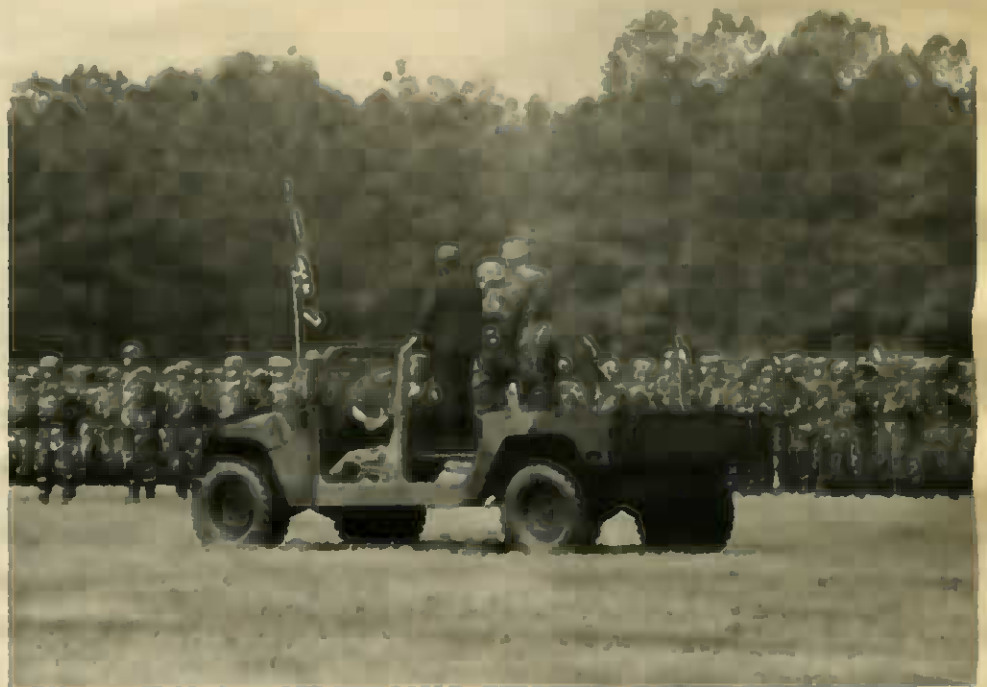
Brig. Gen. Whipple, looking out over the troops said, "I stand here today a very proud man. I will always remember what we did the last months, from the time we left brigade headquarters through a gauntlet of wellwishers giving us flowers, through the months of training until now."

Whipple said there was a big question from the start: "Could we - you and me - meet the challenge before us? Well, the Louisiana Brigade measured up."

Whipple thanked Stroud and the division for "crucial assistance in helping the brigade meet the standards and accomplish each of its missions."

IN CLOSING, Whipple once again gazed out over the ranks of crisply-uniformed soldiers, the battalion and company colors snapping in the breeze, and said "As your commander, let me say you have my undying gratitude. I am proud of you soldiers. You have the warrior spirit."

"Soldiers of the brigade, I salute you."



Governor Buddy Roemer and General Edwin Burba review the troops of the 256th Infantry Brigade during a demobilization ceremony held at Fort Polk, LA on April 17. (Photo by 1st Lt. Maria L. Jonkers, State PAO).

Gov. Roemer, commander-in-chief of the Louisiana Army National Guard, offered the "thanks and gratitude of the people of Louisiana."

He declared Wednesday "Louisiana Brigade Day" in the state and signed into law two pieces of legislation authored by Maj. Hunt Downer, speaker pro tem of the House of Representatives and an attorney with the brigade Judge Advocate General's office.

"You did your part and the state wanted to do its part, and with a team effort on behalf of you troopers, we did," Roemer said.

THE BILLS update a number of employment, educational and other benefits afforded guardsmen and reservists called to active duty and make it easier for their chosen representatives to

conduct legal affairs in their absence.

"I know it hasn't been easy these past months, but you did your very best and the people of this state are proud of you for a job well done," Roemer said. "Welcome home."

One by one the elements of the brigade stopped smartly in unison before the assembly, eyes right and saluting as the reviewing stand was passed.

Family members, friends and well-wishers cheered them from the bleachers and rushed up to stand next to the columns of soldiers as they marched past, to reach out and touch an individual now and then as they did when the troops departed their hometowns.

"They'll never be the same," said one woman. "They've changed a lot - for the better."

2nd Bn/156 Inf Heads For Home

By SFC John A. Sullivan
241st PAD Staff

ABBEVILLE - They left to waves and cheers and the members of the 256th Infantry Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry returned home to cheers and flag-waving.

"I'm happy my daddy's coming home," said Dillon Briggs, 5. "The first thing I will tell him when he gets home is I love him and I'm not going to let him leave again."

When the convoy of Army trucks was spotted, Dillon and his mother Stella Briggs quickly moved to join the crowd of about 150 spectators who were awaiting the arrival of the mechanized infantry group to come home.

Members of the 156th Infantry left Fort Polk recently headed for armories in Abbeville, New Iberia, Eunice, Ville Platte, Breaux Bridge and Jeanerette.

The groups have been on active duty for five months in support of Operation Desert Storm and spent time training at Fort Polk and Fort Hood, Texas. Two previously scheduled dates for the group to return had been cancelled.

Family members gathered with flags and banners to welcome the troops. Perched in his mother's arms, Dillon waved red, white and blue ribbons at the approaching motorcade.

He had a large smile and waved frantically as the first Army truck approached the crowd.

As the vehicle came closer, Dillon's mother also smiled because seated in the passenger side of the vehicle was Dillon's father, 1st Lt. Dwayne Briggs, a company commander in the 156th Infantry.

"I am really glad to be home," Dwayne Briggs, 28, said as Dillon stood close to his side. "It seems like we were away forever."

Eighty-eight members of the 156th Infantry returned with the 36-vehicle convoy to Abbeville. Later in the day about 100 returned on charter buses.

Several residents and members of local support groups were on hand to greet returning family members. "I feel like I'm going on my first date," said Mona Hebert, head of the Abbeville support group, whose husband is a first sergeant with the 156th Infantry. "I've got butterflies in my stomach."

Hebert and her two daughters welcomed home the first group of returning soldiers and waited patiently.

First Sgt. Carl Hebert would probably be one of the last ones to return that day, said Mona Hebert. We've been waiting for five months so a couple more hours won't hurt," she said.

Cakes and other treats were prepared for the returning troops and other ac-

tivities would be held to honor the group.

"We are planning a big party on May 19 we will have a family day," Hebert said.

Also, a Memorial Day celebration and parade will be held.

"It's a collective effort on the part of the elected officials to be here to welcome them home to show them we support them," state Sen. Cecil Picard said. "We want them to know we support their efforts and their future endeavors."

"They served us and now it is our turn to serve them," said Vermilion Parish Sheriff Ray LeMaire.

Other troops from the brigade headquarters in Lafayette and the Oakdale based company of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry are scheduled to return later this month.

Cont. from pg. 7

administered and augmented by the government. There are job training programs which are available to qualifying service members. There is a myriad of benefits and services available from the Veterans Administration.

These services and benefits are there for the service members use. Encourage your service member to avail themselves of some excellent opportunities.

To give you some idea of how many things are available, below is a list of the changes which have been passed into law by the President.

1. Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty basic education rates are increased from \$300 and \$250 per month to \$350 and \$275 per month, beginning October 1991 through September 1993.

2. Rates for full-time training under the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve are increased from \$140 to \$170 per month, beginning October 1991 through September 1993.

3. Eligibility for VA guaranteed home loans is extended to each veteran who served during the Persian Gulf War for 90 days or more (previously 181 days or more), even if they did not serve in the combat area.

4. Eligibility for VA pension programs is extended for Persian Gulf War veterans and their survivors.

5. Persian Gulf War veterans who develop an active psychosis within two years of discharge will be presumed to have incurred this disability during active duty (for health-care purposes).

6. Dental benefits are authorized for veterans who served on active duty for 90 days (previously 180 days) during the Persian Gulf War.

7. Maximum Servicemen's and Veterans' Group Life Insurance coverage is increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

To be able to know what all of the benefits and services cover, and how to see if your service member qualifies call the VA office nearest you.

Louisiana has three offices. The New Orleans office is 504-589-7191. The Shreveport office is 318-221-8411 and the Baton Rouge office is 504-343-5539. If you live outside of these calling areas use 1-800-827-8022. You may also want to obtain a copy of the booklet "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" dates January 1991. The largest majority of veterans benefits are the same. The only real changes are in qualifying time and amount of benefit to be given.

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

The state has passed a Military Service Relief Act (MSRA). This act is designed to offer protection for those citizens who were called to service for their country. It is applicable to active duty or other training which occurred after August 3, 1990 as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, and has been satisfactorily been completed. The Act is very comprehensive and covers many important issues. The Louisiana Act can be summed up as follows:

1. Authorizes employers to provide differential pay to reservists during their military service.

2. Provides that the reservists shall be considered on leave during his period of military service; authorizes the use of annual leave during military service;

provides for the accrual of annual and sick leave during the period of military service.

3. Authorizes the employee to continue coverage under any life or health and accident insurance policy or health care services plan during his military service by paying required as provided under the policy or plan; requires matching employer contributions; provides for coverage of dependents called to military service; provides for reinstatement without any restriction or exclusion based on a preexisting condition; provides that life insurance policies which contain a "war clause" restriction or exclusion are not invalidated by the enactment of the MSRA.

4. Authorizes the reservist to suspend the payment of worker's compensation benefits, if he is found to be medically deployable militarily, during his military service; provides for reinstatement of benefits after completion of military service.

5. Provides that state income taxes shall be deferred until six months after the reservist is released from service or hospitalization incidental to service, if his military service affects his ability to pay; excludes accrual of interest on any tax owned.

6. Prohibits academic penalties concerning grade and opportunity to compensate for delinquent work for student/reservists enrolled at any public or private college or university in the state; provides for enforcement by the respective boards of trustees.

7. Provides that an office held by an elected official shall not be deemed vacant by reason of absence due to military service.

8. Waives compulsory liability insurance reinstatement fees due to non-payment of premiums during his military service; suspends the payment of any state or local license renewal fee applicable to any license validly held by the reservist at the time he entered military service; provides for the exemption from occupational or professional license fees applicable during his military, except those due for the year in which he is released from service (requires payment within 90 days after release from service; waives compliance with any educational requirements, except those required for the year in which he is released from service; requires completion of requirements within six months after release from service.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION:

REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

National Committee
1-800-336-4590
LA Department of Labor
Baton Rouge Office
504-342-5691
LA Department of Labor
New Orleans Office
504-589-6173
LA Army National Guard
504-278-6311
CHAMPUS Office
1-800-236-6000

VA OFFICES

New Orleans	Shreveport
504-589-7191	318-221-8411
Baton Rouge	Statewide
504-343-5539	1-800-827-8022

Roemer and Cheney Join Forces In Appreciation of Desert Storm Veterans

By Spec. Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD

Governor Buddy Roemer issued a challenge to all Louisianians in Baton Rouge at the "Louisiana Honors Its Own" ceremony held May 18.

Despite the enclimated weather, Roemer made his challenge for each civilian to hug a servicemember in appreciation for their jobs well done. Roemer spoke highly of all soldiers serving during Operation Desert Storm, including those who dedicated their abilities stateside in support of counterparts overseas.

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney expressed the same appreciation and gratitude for American and Louisiana troops that afternoon in the Governor's Mansion. Cheney reiterated that this nation's "global defense was not let down for one minute," during the entire opera-

tion. He reminded the public of "the thousands of servicemembers who worked around the clock to maintain and support our defenses." About the families of military personnel, Cheney deemed them, "truly the heart of our military community." Through families and support, our troops made overcoming the world's fourth largest Army look easy according to Cheney.

Cheney quoted President Bush's promise that we would not send "our troops into harm's way with one hand tied behind our back." And they lived up to that promise. As a result, American troops restored our nation's confidence and remind us of their sacrifice for what we hold so dear.

"It's a great state," Roemer concluded, "I know it is because I can see it in your eyes." He promised we'll have another party when all Louisiana troops are home, when it is sunshining.

Louisiana Honors Its Own



Golf Tournament Invitation

The Washington Artillery will hold its 7th Annual Golf Invitational Tournament at Bayou Barriere Golf course, Belle Chasse on June 22, 1991 at 7:30 A.M. Fees must be postmarked by June 14, 1991. The tournament is open to all National Guard members (Army & Air Guard) both active, retired and spouses. Fees of \$30 will include; green fees, cart, shrimp and crab boil, drinks and prizes. Come join the fun and excitement of "Operation Golf Storm." For further information POC is 1st Lt. Paul D. Vounkamp or Staff Sgt. William R. Thompson at (504) 278-6387 or Autovon: 485-8387.

Send Check to: Washington Artillery Fund.
Armory #1, Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, Louisiana 70146-0330
ATTN: 1LT Paul D. Vorenkamp

Lafayette Welcomes 256th

By SFC John A. Sullivan
241st PAD Staff

LAFAYETTE - They left on a foggy morning to a sea of flags and well-wishers. On May 8 more than 400 members of the 256th Infantry Brigade's headquarters returned to their home armory here.

The returning troops, many of their vehicles still sport desert tan after they had been painted for possible deployment to the Middle East for Operation Desert Storm.

Among those at Gateway Lafayette were Tina Terro and Kelli Theall. This time, though, the mood was more festive.

Instead of saying good-bye, they were lining the street to say welcome home.

The troops left Lafayette for Fort Polk in December, when Operation Desert Storm was still Desert Shield.

Many of the friends and relatives who lined the thruway on a foggy December morning when the troops rolled out to Fort Polk seemed certain the troops would end up in the Middle East.

"Nobody knew what was going on," said Theall of Lafayette, wife of Sgt. Aaron Theall. "They were late, it was cold, and the weather was bad." "I didn't know if they were actually going to Saudi or not," said Terro, whose boyfriend is Sgt. Darrin Mury of Lafayette. "It was pretty scary." As it turned out, the brigade trained in Fort Polk, learning to use weapons that in-

clude the M1 tank and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. They moved on the Fort Hood, Texas, and were about to leave for the National Training Center in California when the war ended.

"The day he left was bad, but the day the war started - it hit home," Theall said.

Sgt. Bryon Guidry of Lafayette was one of a few troops who actually went to the NTC's desert training facility before the trip was called off. He said the desert was the worst part of the call-up - even the "desert" at Fort Hood in central Texas.

"They have a nice desert over there, too," Guidry said. Don't let Texas kid you," Guidry says the call-up made him appreciate America a lot more. Now he plans to return to work at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center - as soon as I get in a few rounds of golf. Sgt. Karen Carpenter, a Louisiana Tech student from Ruston, looks forward to being on her own. "We can have control of our lives again."

"It was a rewarding experience, though. Mostly personally, I've learned a lot about myself, and what I can do when I put my mind to it." Spc. Crystal Langlinais of Lafayette, works for the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office.

"When you get put on active duty, you're put to the test," Langlinais said. "You're put to the last nerve, and you see what you can do."

How We Did It — Smart Weapons Operated by Smart People

Every American leader gives credit for the success of Operation Desert Storm equally to the top-quality people in our Armed Forces and the superb weapons and equipment with which they are armed. But it hasn't been too many months since defense officials had to scramble to keep some of those weapons from falling victim to the congressional budget axe.

Take the Army's Patriot missile system, which nearly succumbed to budget cuts on at least two occasions. Of the 47 Iraqi SCUD missiles engaged by the Patriot, 45 were successfully intercepted.

Another Army success story is the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, which, as late as last December, was the subject of severe criticism in Washington and in the media around the country. On the night of January 17, Apache attack helicopters from Army's 101st Aviation Brigade fired the first shots of the war. Two teams of four Apaches each, conducted deep attacks into western Iraq to destroy early warning radar sites. The Apache mission took 15 hours and covered 950 miles round trip. All eight helicopters completed the mission with no damage.

Throughout the 100 hours of the ground war, the operational readiness rates for all the M1 Abrams tanks in both the VII Corps and the XVIII Airborne Corps exceeded the Army's 90 percent standard. Especially noteworthy was a night move by more than 300 tanks of the 3rd Armored Division that covered 120 miles without a single breakdown.

The list of Army weapons given high marks by the commanders and soldiers of Operation Desert Storm - such as the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the Hellfire antitank missile, the OH-58D Kiowa scout helicopter - has its counterpart in Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps systems, most of which were also the subject of hard-fought budget battles in past years.

But it is most important to remember that all these high-tech weapons are only as good as the people who operate them. The quality of the people in today's Armed Forces are, by every measure, the best we've ever had. That too, took a long time and a lot of persuasion in the right places to accomplish. As the only remaining superpower in the world, we can't afford to lose that edge.



This soldier of the 141st Field Artillery made no doubts about how he felt returning from Fort Polk. The convoy of wheeled vehicles returned to Jackson Barracks on April 18th. The 141st met and exceeded all active army requirements in preparing for a possible role in Desert Storm (Photo by SSG Paul J. Sylvest, 241st PAD Staff).

Services Flight Supports Operation Desert Storm

By Suzanne Chaillot
159 TFG/PAO

The 159th Services Flight from Belle Chasse is playing a small but significant role in Operation Desert Storm. Nine members of the flight were activated and deployed to England Air Force Base with the 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing. These nine, with members of the 442nd TFG from Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base, Missouri, are providing supplemental support in billeting, food services, linen and mortuary affairs.

Approximately 65 percent of England's base population deployed to Saudi Arabia with the 23rd TFW's A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft. Most of the support positions at Alexandria were left in civilian hands.

Master Sgt. Charles E. Allen, the NCOIC of the Prime Ribs team, feels they are playing a major role keeping the base operational. "The pressure, and the expectation, of performing to active duty standards were just two of the challenges we were faced with on arrival," said Master Sgt. Allen. "Our training consists of the monthly drills and the two week annual training - but

we were prepared."

The Prime Rib team received a rave review from Master Sgt. Joe Gorham, the 23rd TFW's Food Service Supervisor. "Their performance has been superb," boasted Master Sgt. Gorham. "They are an excellent group, very well trained." He continued to state that he was most impressed with how fast the guardsmen adapted. "I could not have made it without them," he went on, asking, "Can I keep them?"

The training from this active duty will benefit the 159th TFG in the future. Tech. Sgt. Paul Malbrough and Staff Sgt. John Robinson are mastering the new Air Force computer based control of supply and inventory. "This software eliminates lengthy forms," states Staff Sgt. Robinson. "I look forward to having a similar system on our own base."

Tech. Sgt. Malbrough says he feels real accomplishment stemming from his prior service in Vietnam. "My involvement in both Vietnam and Iraq is gratifying for me. I know that is one way I am preparing the world for young people growing up."

City of New Orleans Commended

At a press conference today, the New Orleans was presented the Department of Defense "Seven Seals Award" for its contributions to the recent national emergency DESERT STORM. Considered one of the highest honors for assistance to the national defense, the award receives its name from the official seals of the seven Reserve/Guard forces that participated in the war. It is given on the basis of support and assistance for America's Reserve/Guard forces. The City of New Orleans has been a leader in its support of its citizen soldiers.

Accepting the award for the City was Mayor Sidney Barthelemy who praised Louisiana's contribution to the national effort. Presenting the award for the Department of Defense was Mr. Edward "Ned" Diefenthal, State Chairman for the Louisiana Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The

committee is a national group that symbolizes the national defense partnership between employers and their Guard and Reserve employees.

Also in attendance was Col. Mike Martinez Jr., of the Louisiana National Guard, Mr. Frank Uddo, Deputy Chairman of the Louisiana ESGR Committee and Ms. Mary Ann Touchard, Assistant Executive Director of the Louisiana ESGR Committee.

Louisiana contributed over 8,200 Reserve/Guard citizens for active duty in DESERT STORM. The City of New Orleans by its support of its employee-soldiers was in the highest echelon of providing assistance to them and the DESERT STORM OPERATIONS as a whole. The Department of Defense is proud to present this recognition to Mayor Barthelemy and the City.

61st NGALA Conference Supports Our Troops

By SPC Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD Staff



The new officers of the NGALA Association were sworn into their offices during the military formal the weekend of the convention held in Alexandria, LA. Pictured standing from left to right are: Maj. Daniel Falanga, Col. Edmund Geiring, Col., Lester Schmidt, Lt. Col. Mike Sembar, Col. Fred Palmer and CW2 Kim Andardi. (Photo by SPC Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD Staff)

The National Guard Association of Louisiana held its 61st annual convention the weekend of April 26, 1991 in Alexandria, La. 'Until they all come home' was the theme for the Friday night social held at the Bentley Hotel as members, friends, and spouses arrived decked in red, white and blue garb in support of our troops. This year's convention, originally scheduled to be held in Lafayette was to be hosted by the Louisiana Brigade. When the Brigade was activated the convention was relocated with only a few months left for planning. Elements of the Brigade were able to attend the conference, however, as they were granted passes from their active duty assignments at Fort Polk.

Col. Edmund Giering III passed the gavel to Col. Lester Schmidt who will serve as president for 1991-92. By default, Col. Fred Palmer was named president-elect. Since hundreds of Association members were still on active duty and unable to attend, results from absentee ballots are being withheld until 60 days after the conference. Lt. Col. Mike Sembar took the Office of Vice-president (Air). Maj. Daniel Falanga will serve another year as treasurer; while CW2 Kim Ansardi will take over Lt. Col. Brenda Cook's position as secretary. CW4 Francis Sanders AUS (Ret.) will also serve another term as executive director of the Association.

3rd Armor Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The 50th Anniversary of the Third Armored Division was celebrated at Camp Beauregard, La. on Saturday, April 13. The 156th Army band played and Louisiana State Chaplain, Col. Hildebrandt quoted Psalm 118 "This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Nicknamed "Bayou Blitz," the 3rd Armored Division was established at Camp Beauregard on April 15, 1941 and trained in Louisiana, California and Pennsylvania. Although the 3rd Armored Division moved to Germany, Louisiana still remembers the division and proudly welcomed its past and present members.

Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud, Jr. praised the division as "One of the United States' truly great divisions." He explained how

Camp Beauregard played an important part in the history of the state and country. He also stated it is ironic that Louisiana National Guard members are currently serving with the 3rd Armored Division in the Persian Gulf while a ceremony is taking place in Louisiana to honor the division.

Maj. Gen. Stroud also extolled the accomplishments of the 3rd Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm. He referred to the division's Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Hill in saying "They chose to send their very best to represent them."

Command Sgt. Maj. Hill provided an account of the 3rd Armored Division's role in the Persian Gulf. He praised the Air Force and said due to their great job, the division did not send the Louisiana 159th MASH many casualties. Hill com-

plimented Maj. Gen. Stroud on the excellent medical personnel the Louisiana National Guard has at the 159th MASH and said he is impressed with the speed and mobility of the unit. He referred to all the soldiers in the Persian Gulf as motivated and well-trained. They fought bravely and knew what had to be done.

Two soldiers who served in the Persian Gulf with Command Sgt. Maj. Hill were present and recognized during the ceremony. Spc. Gary West serves with A 4/7 Cavalry and is a native of Florida, and Cpl. Jeff Rice serves with 4-3-2 Armored and is a native of Virginia. Both soldiers said they felt honored to be present with past veterans of the 3rd Armored Division and to be chosen to represent their fellow soldiers.

At the reception following the

ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Hill and the two soldiers were popular with the guests as everyone wanted to congratulate them. The southern hospitality experienced by the soldiers while in Louisiana was a pleasant surprise to them. Enroute to Camp Beauregard from New Orleans, the manager of a restaurant in Baton Rouge provided a complimentary lunch for the soldiers, and many patrons approached them to express appreciation for a job well done. Patriotism was evident in the many displays of American Flags, yellow ribbons and "Operation Desert Storm" support signs along the way.

A job well done is the tradition of the 3rd Armored Division. The past history of the division lives on with the present soldiers and continues to earn the respect of the country.

We're Proud of You All - A Poem

By Marc Matrana

We're proud of all of you who went without hesitation leaving family, friends, and jobs too.

You went to keep us free and for the red, white, and blue.

We're proud of all of you, so we wore our yellow ribbons and flew our flags high.

While you were over there watching the missiles fly through the sky.

We're proud of all of you. You're special in your own way.

That's why God heard us when we all began to pray.

We're proud of all of you who in the desert gave your precious lives so we may be free.

America sent its best, bravest, and strongest it's plain to see.
WE'RE PROUD OF ALL OF YOU

Operation Desert Pride Honors Storm Vets

By SFC John A. Sullivan
241st PAD Staff

LAFAYETTE - The Cajundome was packed here recently as Operation Desert Pride was held to honor Desert Storm veterans as well as U.S. veterans of other wars and conflicts.

Rocking Dopsie Sr. and Jr. and the Zydeco Twisters shared the stage with the Lafayette Concert Band, T.K. Hulin and The Basin Brothers Band, rattling the dome with American anthems played with fiddles and violins, flutes and accordions, cymbals and washboards.

Soldiers and family members filled the aisles with flags, balloons, "Support Our Troops" signs and dancing.

Sitting in the audience were many Vietnam veterans who reveled in the fanfare as much as their comrades from Operation Desert Storm.

"It got rid of some of my hostility although it's not my parade," said U.S. Army Sgt. Harold Meunier of Lafayette following the three-hour event filled with music, cheers and inspirational speeches. "I feel happy for the guys coming back from Saudi Arabia. This is great."

Meunier, a city of Lafayette employee and Army reserve member, has served in both wars now, spending the past 80 days training new soldiers at Fort Hood.

"I enjoyed every bit of it," Meunier said of his most recent tour of duty, adding that he will serve until "whenever the Army gets through with me."

The homecoming celebration was originally planned to be an Operation Desert Storm support rally, but became "Operation Desert Pride: The Homecoming" when the Persian Gulf battle came to a quick end in May, one sponsor said.

Flag-waving, whistling, cheers, yells,

hugs, thank-you's and God-bless-you's will be on hand again in June when the city of Lafayette hosts a homecoming parade for all of Acadiana's soldiers, sponsors added.

"It's great, but I'm not surprised by it because I've come to expect this kind of support from Acadiana," Marine Cpl. Hank Hebert of Scott said during the festivities. "I just hope all the other guys can see it when they get back."

Hebert, a member of the TOW platoon from Broussard happened to be in town Sunday on a two-week emergency leave.

"I heard about it, and came on over. I can't wait to tell the rest of the guys about it. That's what makes our day. We've been getting all of the papers and reading all of the stories. It really makes our day," Hebert said.

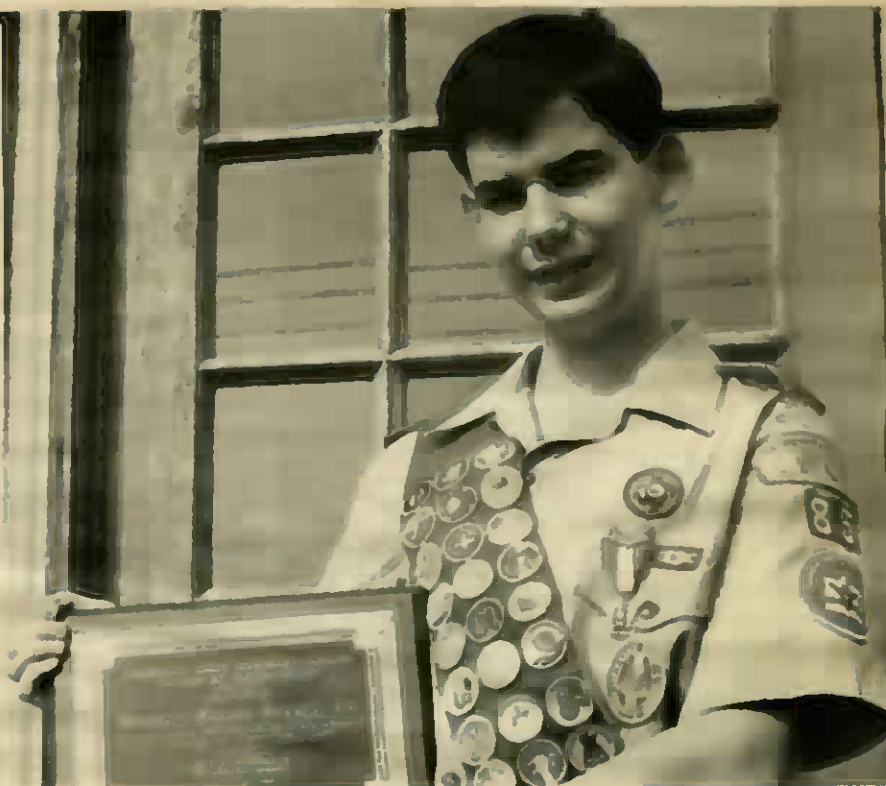
The only person not winning any applause at the Sunday homecoming celebration was Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"Saddam Hussein promised the world that it would see the mother of all battles. He didn't know he would do battle with the sons and daughters of freedom," Louisiana National Guard Gen. Ansel Stroud told the crowds, drawing cheers of agreement.

With a large U.S. flag as a backdrop, Stroud said that praise should be given not only for those who served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, but also "for those who served in Operation Just Cause, Grenada, Vietnam, Korea and World War II."

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Haynes added that "what Saddam Hussein - the mother of all mothers - did not understand was that this generation of Americans reached back to their ultimate roots" and joined America's founding fathers in a commitment to fighting for freedom.

The newest war heroes' reception has helped heal many wounds still left from the Vietnam War, he added.



William P. Schulz Jr. received the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Award in Court of Honor ceremonies held January 12 by Troop 85. William is the son of CW3 William Schulz, Legal Administrator for the Louisiana National Guard and a member of HQ STARC. William is a ninth grade student at Brother Martin High School and is a member of the school's Computer Club, Sword and Shield Club, and the Junior ROTC drill team. He is also a member of Chennault Cadet Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and holds the rank of Flight Sergeant. Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard was on hand for the presentation.

"They didn't get beat," Haynes hollered, referring to America's soldiers who fought on the Vietnamese front, drawing more cheers. "Their (Vietnam's) politicians beat ours, but they didn't get beat."

The Vietnam Veterans of America sponsored the event along with the city of Lafayette, Lafayette Parish Government, USL, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Cajundome and KLFY-TV 10.

Harry Albert, president of the Louisiana chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Association of America, said Vietnam veterans are actively supporting Persian Gulf veterans because "our generation of veterans would never abandon another generation of veterans."

He called on veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the

Vietnam War, the Grenada, Panama, and Persian Gulf battles to stand to be recognized.

"We must remember our veterans. We must support our veterans," Albert said while the crowd cheered and waved a virtual sea of U.S. flags. Haynes said he agonized "over the thought of sending children into combat," but concluded that freedom is worth fighting for and a battle every generation of Americans must be ready to fight.

"For as long as I live, every 12th of January will be imprinted in my mind," Haynes said.

Gov. Buddy Roemer called on all veterans to attend a statewide homecoming celebration in Baton Rouge May 18, promising "minimal political speeches" and special room reserved for Persian Gulf and Vietnam veterans.

Reward Offered For Drug Info.

With warm weather and sunny days returning, marijuana crops won't be far behind and troopers are renewing their seasonal efforts to curb production of the crop in Louisiana. State Police are enlisting aid on two fronts by initiating a statewide law enforcement training effort today, and promoting public use of a toll-free marijuana hotline, according to Superintendent of State Police, Col. Marlin A. Flores.

Working with the National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol, Louisiana law enforcement officers eradicated nearly eight times as many plants in 1990 as they did in 1989. Some 55 weapons were also seized and 120 growers arrested. Because the state's climate and soil provide a fertile growing environment, the state ranked 22nd in the number of plants discovered and eradicated in 1990.

"The 45,000 plants seized last year are an indication of how serious a problem domestic marijuana cultivation has become in this state," Flores said.

As they did last year, troopers will be asking business owners across the state for permission to post information about reporting the illegal crops.

More than 7000 posters were distributed in 1990 by troopers in hopes of gaining maximum exposure for the award's program. More than 150 calls were taken on the line last year during the growing season which runs from April through early winter.

This year an even greater effort will be made to educate the public on what to look for and how to report possible marijuana fields. The toll-free number is 1-800-535-3344.

Callers are required to provide detailed directions to the suspected marijuana

crop to be eligible for a cash award. Awards are given only after the crop's existence has been substantiated.

The amount of the cash awards has been based on the size of the crop, whether ownership could be proven or ascertained, and the potential for development of further information or intelligence.

Complicating the process of arresting the growers is the recent trend of cultivating crops on public lands such as in national forests. Ownership of the crop, unless the growers are caught in the act, is difficult if not impossible to prove.

Citizens are cautioned not to approach crop areas themselves but to contact law enforcement authorities. Sophisticated growing operations include booby-traps designed to kill or seriously injure intruders.

"We have found plots growing along and near the banks of bayous, streams and rivers, usually accessible only by boat," Flores said. "Other crops have been found hidden in open areas of thickly wooded tree stands and along tree lines."

Helicopter surveillance has proven successful at locating remote crops but aerial efforts can be expensive.

Troopers will be providing enhanced training to local law enforcement officers throughout the state in the coming weeks.

Additional State Police Tactical Unit personnel have been utilized in securing the often dangerous marijuana fields.

The Lamar Corporation in Baton Rouge has provided up to 50 billboard locations across the state to further publicize the marijuana hotline.

Installation Closures/Realignments Scheduled

By SFC Linda Lee, USA
American Forces Information Service

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney targeted 43 stateside military installations for closure in an April 12 Pentagon briefing. He also recommended reducing or realigning forces at 28 other installations.

"By 1995, the number of people in the U.S. military will be about one-fourth smaller than it is today. Smaller forces need fewer bases. It's as simple as that," said defense secretary.

According to DoD officials, the 31 major closures out of 43 proposed would cost about 5.7 billion during fiscal 1992-1997. Reduced operations would save about \$6.5 billion, for a net savings of about \$850 million. DoD expects to save about \$1.7 billion a year in operating expenses beginning in fiscal 1988.

Installations and facilities recommended to the Presidential Bipartisan Commission on Defense Base Closures and Realignments April 12 for closing are:

Army

Fort McClellan, Ala.
Fort Chaffee, Ark.
Fort Ord, Calif.
Sacramento Army Depot, Calif.
Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.
Fort Devens, Mass.
Fort Dix, N.J.
Harry Diamond Laboratory Research Facility, Woodbridge, Va.

Navy

Naval Station Long Beach, Calif.
Hunters Point Annex, Naval Station Treasure Island, Calif.
Naval Air Station Moffett Field, Calif.
Naval Space Systems Activity, Los Angeles, Calif.
Integrated Combat Systems Test Facility, San Diego, Calif.
Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, San Diego, Calif.
Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, Vallejo, Calif.
Naval Electronic Systems Security Engineering Center, Washington, D.C.
Naval Training Center/Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Fla.
Naval Ocean Systems Center Detachment, Kaneohe, Hawaii
Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, St. Inigoes, Md.
Naval Weapons Evaluation Facility, Albuquerque, N.M.
Naval Station Philadelphia, Pa.
Naval Shipyard Philadelphia, Pa.
Construction Battalion Center Davisville, R.I.
Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, Charleston, S.C.
Naval Air Station Chase Field, Texas
Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity, Yorktown, Va.
Naval Station Puget Sound, Sand Point, Wash.
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.

Air Force

Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.
Eaker Air Force Base, Ark.
Castle Air Force Base, Calif.
Lowry Air Force Base, Colo.
Moody Air Force Base, Ga.
Grissom Air Force Base, Ind.
England Air Force Base, La.
Loring Air Force Base, Maine
Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Mich.
Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station, Mo.
Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, Ohio
Nyrte Beach Air Force Base, S.C.
Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas
Carswell Air Force Base, Texas

Marine Corps

Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, Calif.
The 28 realignment and reduction recommendations are:

Army

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.
Fort Polk, La.
Fort Detrick, Md.
Harry Diamond Laboratory, Adelphi, Md.
Aviation Systems Command/Troop Support Command, St. Louis, Mo.
Fort Monmouth, N.J.

White Sands Missile, N.M.
Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa.
Army Research Institute, Alexandria, Va.
Fort Belvoir, Va.

Navy

Midway Island Naval Air Facility, Midway
Navy Weapons Center, China Lake, Calif.
Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, Calif.
Naval Underwater Systems Center Detachment, New London, Conn.
Naval Coastal Systems Center, Panama City, Fla.
Naval Weapons Support Center, Crane, Ind.
Naval Avionics Center, Indianapolis, Ind.
Naval Ordnance Station, Louisville, Ky.
David Taylor Research Center Detachment, Annapolis, Md.
Naval Ordnance Station, Indian Head, Md.
Naval Surface Warfare Center Detachment, Center Detachment, White Oak, Md.
Naval Air Engineering Center, Lakehurst, N.J.
Naval Air Propulsion Center, Trenton, N.J.
Naval Air Development Center, War-

minster, Pa.

Trident Command and Control Systems Maintenance Activity, Newport, R.I.

Naval Sea Combat Systems Engineering Station, Norfolk, Va.

Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station, Keyport, Wash.

Air Force

Mac Dill Air Force Base, Fla.

DoD criteria that pinpointed installations for closure or realignment included current and future mission requirements, force structure, cost, manpower and return on investment, Cheney said.

The eight-member bipartisan panel has until July 1 to make recommendations to President Bush. The president then has two weeks to respond to the commission, either accepting the report and sending it to Congress or rejecting it. If the president rejects the list, the commission has until Aug. 15 to provide a second one. The president's final deadline to submit the realignment and closure list to Congress is Sept. 1.

Congress has 45 days to enact or reject the list from the time the president submits it. Congress must accept the whole list or none of it; it cannot adjust the list. If Congress does not meet the 45-day limit, the list takes effect automatically.

Force Reduction Hits Guardsmen

By SFC John A. Sullivan
241st PAD Staff

The Pentagon has announced plans to cut the National Guard and Reserve force by 187,300 people over the next two years as part of its overall force reduction, a senior official said recently.

Stephen Duncan, assistant defense secretary for reserve affairs, told Congress that by the end of 1993 the ranks of the Guard and Reserve would dip below the one-million mark for the first

time since 1982. During the Gulf War, about 228,000 reservists from all four service branches were called to active duty, and about 106,000 were sent to the gulf.

The Army will take the biggest Guard and Reserve cuts in the coming two years, Duncan said in remarks to the House Appropriations defense subcommittee. The Guard will shrink by 91,000 to 366,300 members by the end of 1993, and the Reserve will drop by 64,200, to

254,500. The Naval Reserve will lose 26,300 positions, to 127,500; The Marine Corps Reserve will drop 5,000 slots to 38,900.

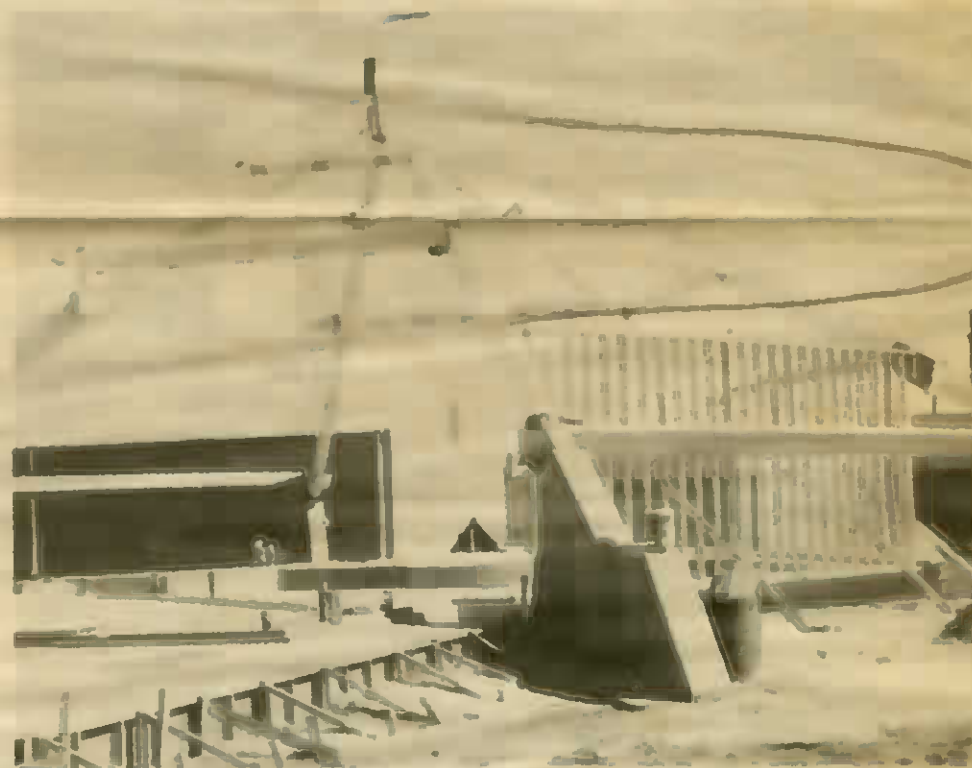
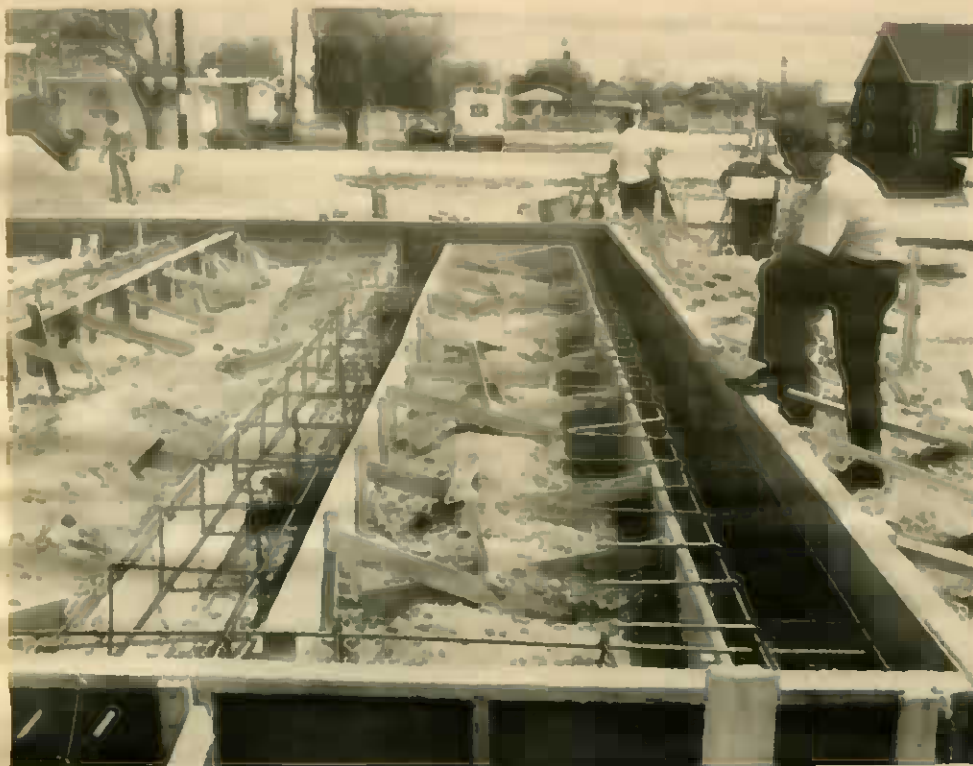
Only the Air National Guard will grow. It will have 119,400 members by 1993, a gain of 2,400, while the Air Force Reserve will slip to 82,400 members, a loss of 3,200.

The active-duty forces are scheduled to shrink by about 198,000 over that same period. This includes the U.S. Army shrinking from 18 divisions to 12.



Capt. Clarence Becknell, commander 209th Personnel Services Company, accepts the Louisiana General's Marksmanship Award for 1990 from Col. Fred Palmer in a ceremony held May 18. The unit distinguished themselves by achieving superior results and qualifying all assigned personnel with their individual weapons. (Photo by Spec. Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)

Following the Progress of History



Pictured clockwise from left are photos showing the construction progress at various intervals of the Media Center Complex at Jackson Barracks since March 15, 1991.

Media Center Complex Progresses Steadily

By Spec. Kristi L. Moon
241st PAD

The 50th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor will coincide with the opening of the Jackson Barracks Media Center Complex December 7, 1991.

The construction of the complex is about 60 percent complete according to Col. Lester Schmidt, Director of Facilities Engineering and officer-in-charge of the project.

Engineers of the 527th Engineer Battalion and the 205th Engineer Group

poured the concrete foundation for the center beginning in October 1990. The concrete was allowed to cure through the winter due to the lack of available engineering soldiers because of Operation Desert Storm. Construction resumed March 15, 1991, with annual training rotations of three Air National Guard Civil Engineer Flights from San Antonio, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; and Atlantic City, New Jersey. The remainder of the center will be completed by rotating elements of the 225th Eng Grp, 205th Eng Bn, 528th Eng Bn, and

the 769th Eng Bn around the end of October 1991.

The Media Center Complex will be utilized to promote United States history as well as U.S. military history, since its inception. The Complex functions are geared toward supporting all Louisiana educational institutions through lectures, movies, presentations and tours.

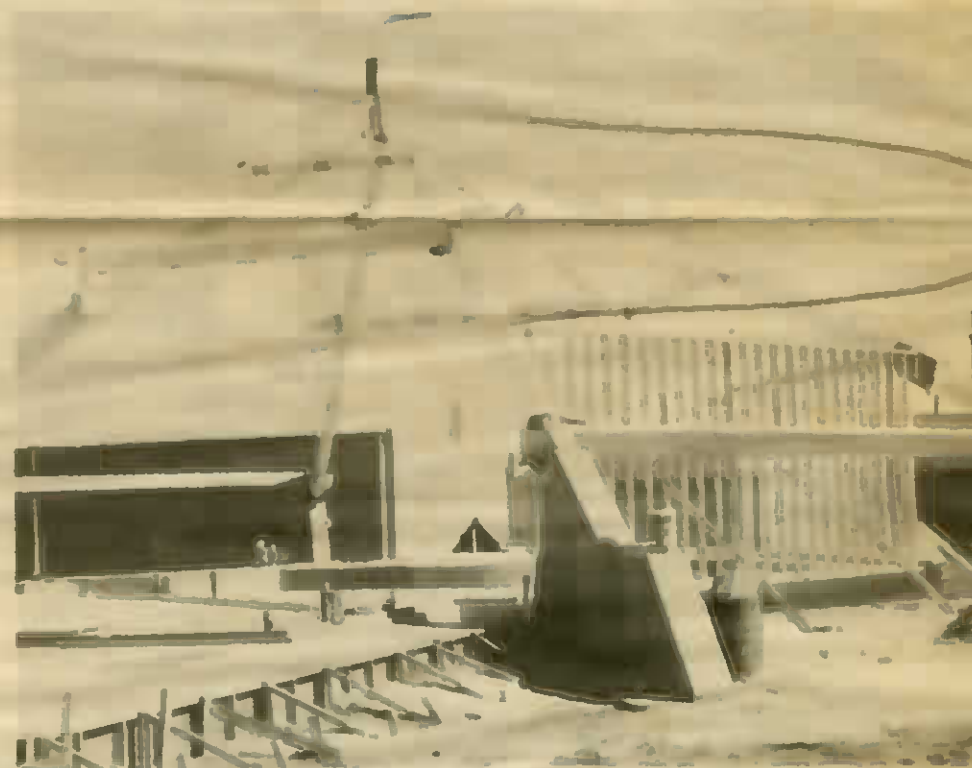
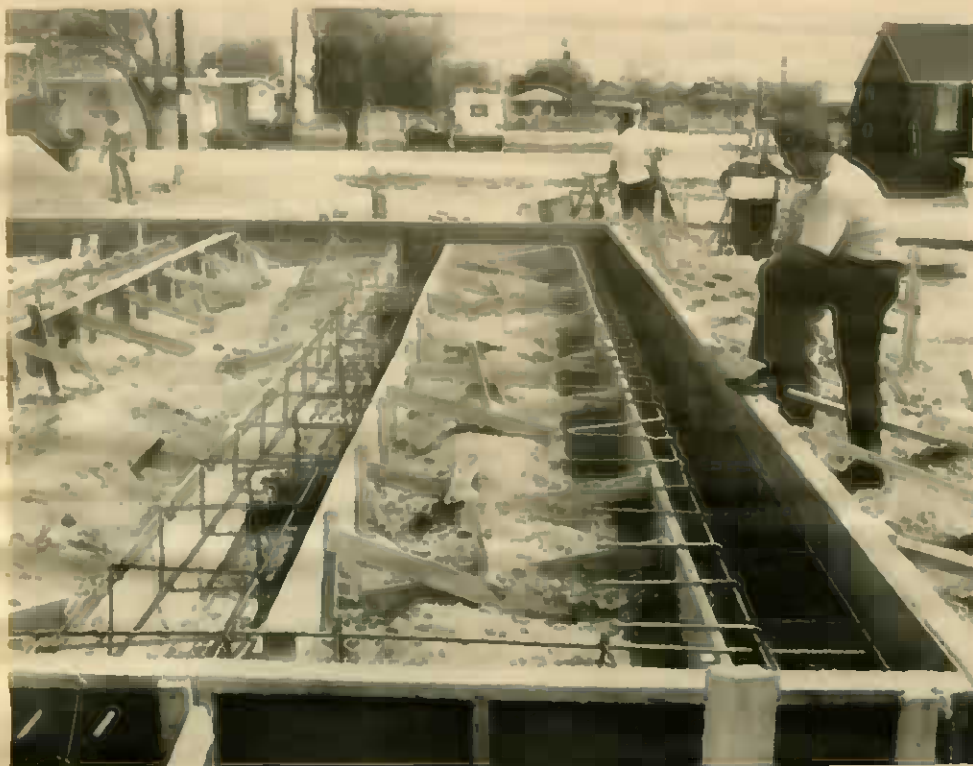
With 183 total seats the complex will house state of the art audiovisual equipment, 3-dimensional slide projectors, 32mm video capabilities and rear view projection.

The total project will include paved parking, additional display pads, and iron ornamental fencing along most outside boundaries.

The Media Center Complex is located adjacent to the new museum annex that will be part of the grand opening in December. This new annex will house artifacts from World War II and beyond.

The Louisiana National Guard Military History Museum is considered to be one of the finest museums in the nation. It appears on the National Historical Register.

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