

LOCKHART

# Guardman

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4 JUNE/JULY 1992



Before the Wake of Civil Unrest, Louisiana  
Engineers Were Training to Maintain

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## ON THE FRONT COVER:

Sgts. Larry Babin (Front) and Adrian Bourgeois participated in civil disturbance training with Charlie Co., 769th Engineer Battalion. See pages 8 and 9 for the story and more on the successes of Charlie Co. (Photo by SGT Robert C. Williamson, Co. C, 769th ENGR BN)



In July, members from the Louisiana National Guard and the National Federation of Federal Employees Council of Locals (NFFE) joined in the office of MG A.M. Stroud, Jr., the adjutant general, to sign the new NFFE contract. "This contract marks the cooperation between the National Federation of Federal Employees and the full time Military Depart-

ment of the Louisiana National Guard," Stroud said. "The good faith bargaining of this contract displays cooperation and a willingness to fully accept the unique responsibilities of both management and the union in obtaining the highest levels of mission readiness." (Photo by CPT Maria LoVasco Jonkers, State PAO)



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

**Chief of Staff (Army)**  
Col. Paul D. Alford, Jr.

**Deputy Commander (Air)**  
Col. Harry A. Trosclair

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Capt. Maria LoVasco 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 (SGT Moon), Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La. 70146-0330.

## 241st PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Editor: SGT Kristi Moon  
Copy Editors: 2LT David Barham  
SSG Paul Sylvest  
Journalists: SGT Lucas Landreneau  
SPC Rebekah Smith

## In Memorium

It is with profound regret that the Louisiana National Guard announces the untimely deaths of four dedicated Guardsmen.

Sgt. Anthony Levy, 24, died June 18, 1992.

Levy served on active duty for over three years (July 5, 1985 through October 10, 1988) before joining the Louisiana National Guard (January 5, 1989). He served as combat engineer team leader with the 256th Engineer Company in Opelousas.

Levy was mobilized stateside with his unit in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

He was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, Louisiana War Cross, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Lapel Button. His badges include the Hand Grenade Sharpshooter Badge and the M16 Rifle Expert Badge.

Levy is survived by his mother, Henrietta Baker Levy and brother Terrell Baker.

Spec. Ryan Paul Dubois, 20, died June 5, 1992.

Dubois enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard and attended Basic and Advanced Individual Training from August 7, 1990, through December 27, 1990. Upon his return, Dubois was mobilized for Operation Desert Shield/Storm with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 256th Infantry Brigade from Abbeville. He served as an equipments records and parts specialist and distinguished himself as such.

Dubois was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, Army Lapel Button, National Defense Service Medal and the Louisiana War Cross.

He is survived by his father Donald Dubois, mother Sandra S. Meche, sister Dana

and brother Troy Dubois, step brother Karl Meche, (a member of Co. A, 2/156th Inf Bn), step sisters Dawn Agilar, Courtney Hulin and Robin D. Girouard.

Sgt. Joel E. Guimbellot, 30, died May 30, 1992.

Guimbellot enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard July 21, 1986 and was assigned to Co. A (-), 528th Engineer Battalion in Winnsboro. He served as a heavy construction equipment operator.

Guimbellot was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Louisiana Emergency Service Ribbon, Louisiana Emergency Service ribbon and the Louisiana Longevity Ribbon.

He is survived by his wife Karen, daughters Kristin and Dana and son Zachary Guimbellot.

Pvt. 1st Class Van Douglas Taylor, 20, died May 25, 1992.

Taylor enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard October 17, 1990, and completed his initial training March 15, 1991.

Taylor served as a construction equipment repairer with HSC, 527th Engineer Battalion in Ruston.

Taylor was awarded the Army Service Ribbon. His badges include the M16 Rifle Sharpshooter Badge and the Expert Hand Grenade Badge.

He is survived by his wife Cassandra, his mother Rhonda K. Taylor and his father Van D. Taylor, Sr.

Members of the Louisiana National Guard mourn these deaths and extend deepest sympathies to their families.

Mayor Ronnie Harris of Gretna was recognized recently by members of the Louisiana National Guard for his continued support of the Guard's mission. Harris donated office space inside the Gretna City Hall for the West Bank Section Recruiting Office to base its operations. SFC Steve Hebert (left) and SFC James Compliment (right) presented plaques to Susan Percal, chief administrative officer

and Harris. Harris said "I found out from Susan that the National Guard was looking for office space for their recruiting station. We have an open office, so I offered it to them. Any time the City of Gretna can help out our military effort in Louisiana, we will." Harris went on to say that he would like to see an Army National Guard unit stationed on the West Bank, in Gretna. (LAARNG Photo)

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# BG Melancon Retires as Asst. AG, Air

By SSG Suzanne Chailot  
159th FG/PA

Brig. Gen. Ralph J. Melancon, Sr., ended 37 years of military service with his July retirement.

"Even though I am retiring from the National Guard, I will keep an active interest in the various units, the museum program and the performance ratings of our organizations," said Melancon.

Since June 1987, as Assistant Adjutant General (Air), Louisiana National Guard, Melancon has assisted and advised the Adjutant General on all matters concerning the Louisiana Air National Guard units.

"I have mixed feelings about seeing Gen. Melancon retire. On one hand I regret losing a good friend and confidant; someone I have worked well with in the past," said Maj. Gen. A. M. Stroud, Jr. "But without retirement there is no advancement for people such as Col. Sam De Genes who will succeed Melancon as assistant adjutant general."

Reflecting on the status of the Louisiana National Guard Melancon stated, "Looking back five years, I have seen a consistent improvement in all areas of our guard units. What I would like to remind guardsmen is to pay attention to the small things such as discipline, 35-10 and overall attitude. We are judged by active duty inspectors so we need to keep our polish up and remain as competent and professional as our active duty counterparts."

Mrs. Louise Melancon, wife of the retiring general, commented on their transition,



MG Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., congratulates BG Ralph J. Melancon, Sr., on his retirement

"We are sad to see this part of our lives come to a close, but we are looking forward to spending all our weekends together. We are even working on a cookbook specializing in low calorie cuisine."

At the retirement ceremony Stroud awarded Melancon the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal. His exceptionally meritorious and outstanding service earned him the highest award ever given to a Louisiana Air National Guardsman.

Also awarded by the direction of the President was the Legion of Merit Award.

Other awards included the National Guard Bureau Certificate of Service, the Loui-

siana Distinguished Service Medal, and the Minuteman plaque for over 37 years of military service.

His past awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award with one silver and one bronze oak leaf cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two hour glass devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Louisiana Commendation Medal, Louisiana Emergency Service Medal, and the Louisiana Longevity Medal with four fleur de lis.

Before becoming assistant adjutant gen-

eral, Melancon was the plans and programs officer for the Air Guard from 1984 to 1987. He oversaw both the successful conversion of the 159th Fighter Group to the F-15 Eagle and the construction of new facilities for the 236th Combat Communications Squadron.

From 1969 through 1982, Melancon, then a major, was commander of the 159th Engineering Flight. During those 13 years the Louisiana Air National Guard built virtually all the modern operational facilities now in use. "When we started out we had the hangar and two other buildings," stated Chief Donald Seals, first facility manager under Melancon. "Under the command of Melancon we engineered the layout and construction of the existing base," Seals said.

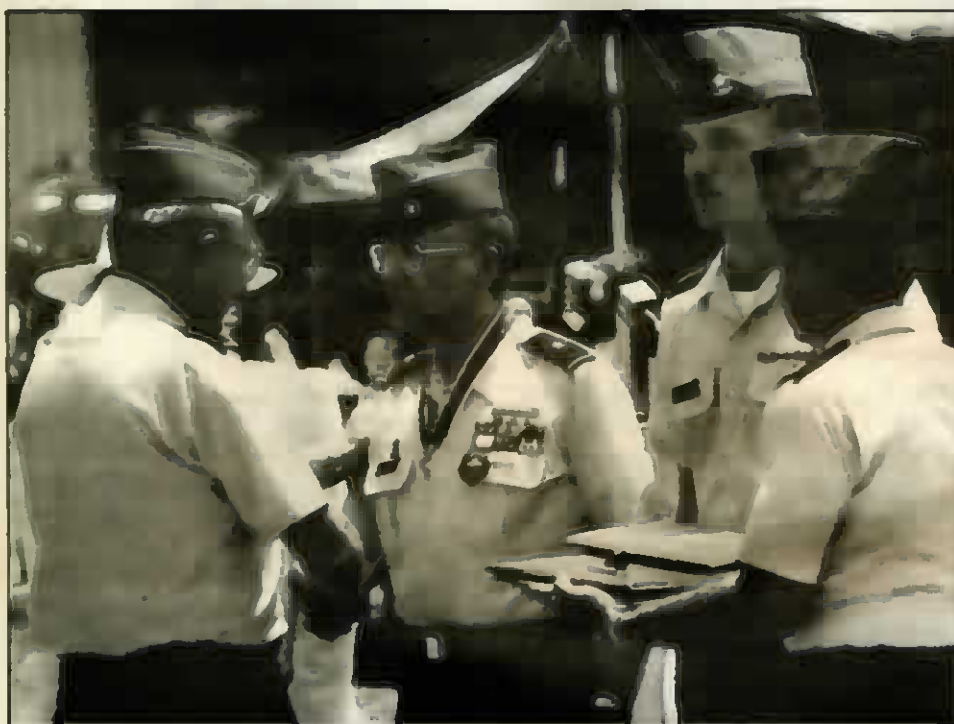
Melancon started military life as a fighter pilot earning his wings in 1956. His first active service assignment was Hanscom AFB, Mass., as an interceptor pilot of an F-86 Saber. In 1958, then 1st Lt. Melancon joined the Louisiana Air National Guard as an Interceptor pilot. By 1967 he was a flight commander in the 122nd Fighter Squadron.

Melancon has logged more than 1800 flying hours in the F-102 Delta Dart, the F-86L and F-86 Sabers, the C-54, C-47, U-31, T-33 and T-28.

Melancon is a 1972 graduate of Loyola University School of Law and a 1955 graduate of Louisiana State University. In his civilian role Melancon is the regional supervisor of production and development in the Department of the Interior.

Born in Thibodaux, La., Melancon has served most of his 37 years in his home state.

## Judge Lindsay Says Good-bye After 32 Years



BG Charles R. Lindsay, former Deputy STARC commander, receives the Legion of Merit and the Louisiana Distinguished Service Cross from MG A.M. Stroud, Jr., during his

retirement ceremony held at Camp Beauregard in July. (Photo by 2LT David Barham, 241st PAD)

By 2LT David Barham  
241st PAD

After spending more than 32 years in the National Guard, Bng. Gen. Charles R. Lindsay said the biggest part he will miss about the military is the soldiers.

"The units are in great shape," Lindsay said. "The people in the Guard are some of the best we have had."

Lindsay inspected his battalions for the last time July 12 during a retirement ceremony at Camp Beauregard - complete with bands, tributes and a screaming F-15 flyover.

"The hallmark of Gen. Lindsay was his leadership," said Maj. Gen. A. M. Stroud, Jr., adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard. "I think the character of Charles Lindsay is one that anyone would want to emulate."

Lindsay was presented with the Legion of Merit and the Louisiana Distinguished Service Cross for "outstanding military proficiency and exceptional leadership." His wife, Janet, was given a certificate of appreciation from the Department of the Army for the support she has given her husband throughout his career.

Lindsay, who is a judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in Shreveport, was the Deputy State Area Command commander before his retirement. He said he would not give up his civilian job.

The 225th Engineer Group, the 256th Infantry Brigade, the 204th Area Support Group, the 156th Army Band and Troop Command stood at attention as Lindsay and Stroud inspected the units. Lindsay said his only concern for the units is their ability to keep the readiness level they have achieved.

"We've come a long way," Lindsay said. "We're a full partner with the active army. We need to maintain a high level of readiness." He said units throughout the state are preparing and training well, and he hoped they would continue doing so.

Lindsay said his biggest accomplishments came while commanding the 225th Engineer Group. He said moving units to Central America and completing engineering projects there gave him the most satisfaction.

"He led from up front," Stroud said. "He is a classic leader."



## ACOE Sports Underway

By Katie Gagliano  
Sports Commissioner

The Louisiana National Guard Intramural Sports Program started as part of the Army Communities of Excellence Plan to encourage a spirit of camaraderie and fair play among the full time LANG staff and families in an informal and healthy environment. All full time employees, staff, spouses and children are eligible to participate in the intramural sports activities.

There is an Overall ACOE Intramural Sports Trophy which will be awarded to the directorate, unit, group or team with the highest point total at the end of the year. The points

are accumulated through participation in an event, and where that team placed in the league.

The Mixed Cabbage Ball League is now underway. There are nine teams. These games are played on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30 and 5:30 in the field behind Bldg. 223, Facilities Engineering at Jackson Barracks.

There were two Volleyball Leagues, Co-Rec and Power Ball. The winner of the Co-Rec League was the Directorate of Facilities Engineering. The winner of the Power Ball League was the combination team of the Directorate of Security and Training and the Directorate of Military Support.



The 1992 ACOE Mixed Cabbage Ball League started off with DMS (Director of Military Support) playing AASF (Army Aviation Support Facility). SGT Patrick Graves hit the first game pitch thrown by CPT Pat Griffin.

DMS won the first game of the season.

MG A.M. Stroud, Jr., blessed the league by throwing the opening ball. (Photo by SGT Kristi Moon, 241st PAD)

## Butler Retires From "Combat Dentistry"

By SGT Kristi L. Moon  
241st PAD

During an April 26 ceremony, Col. Bruce B. Butler relinquished command of the 2224th Medical Detachment (Dental Services) after five years.

Butler, who commanded the unit from March 1987 through April 1992, nurtured the unit from a fifteen member cell to a thriving group of some of the best soldiers in the business, he said. Under Butler's direction, the unit earned the Superior Unit Award in 1990 and supported mobilization station dental activities at Fort Polk during Operation Desert Shield.

"The unit is now combat dentistry ready," Butler said. Butler attributes the success and growth of the 2224th to the great support the unit received from Troop Command and other directorates at Jackson Barracks, and to the great recruits and dentists that have served with the 2224th. Volunteer participation in overseas deployment missions has

been another key factor in the excellent training our soldiers received, Butler said.

"The last four years have really been fun. And it's because the unit pulled together. We made a real group effort," Butler said.

Butler will retire in September with 39 years service in the Armed Forces. He has served with the 159th Fighter Group, the 377th Medical Detachment (Dental Services) U.S. Army Reserves, and the 2224th. He will spend the remainder of his time reviewing dental records of Desert Storm veterans, with Troop Command.

"This has been the greatest opportunity of my entire Army career," Butler said.

Butler is succeeded by Col. Phillip L. Carruth, who is continuing the fine traditions of the unit. The 2224th received outstanding ratings during their recent Army Training Evaluation Plan (ARTEP) during annual training 1992 at Camp Shelby, MS.



1992 Jr. Olympic Rifle and Pistol Teams

## Trp Cmd Sponsors Jr. Olympics

Jackson Barracks recently hosted the Junior Olympics Rifle and Pistol Matches from June 24 through 28, 1992.

About 20 kids, all from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, lived in the open bay barracks at Jackson Barracks during their stay in New Orleans.

The matches included competition in running targets, pistol shooting, small bore rifles, and air rifles.

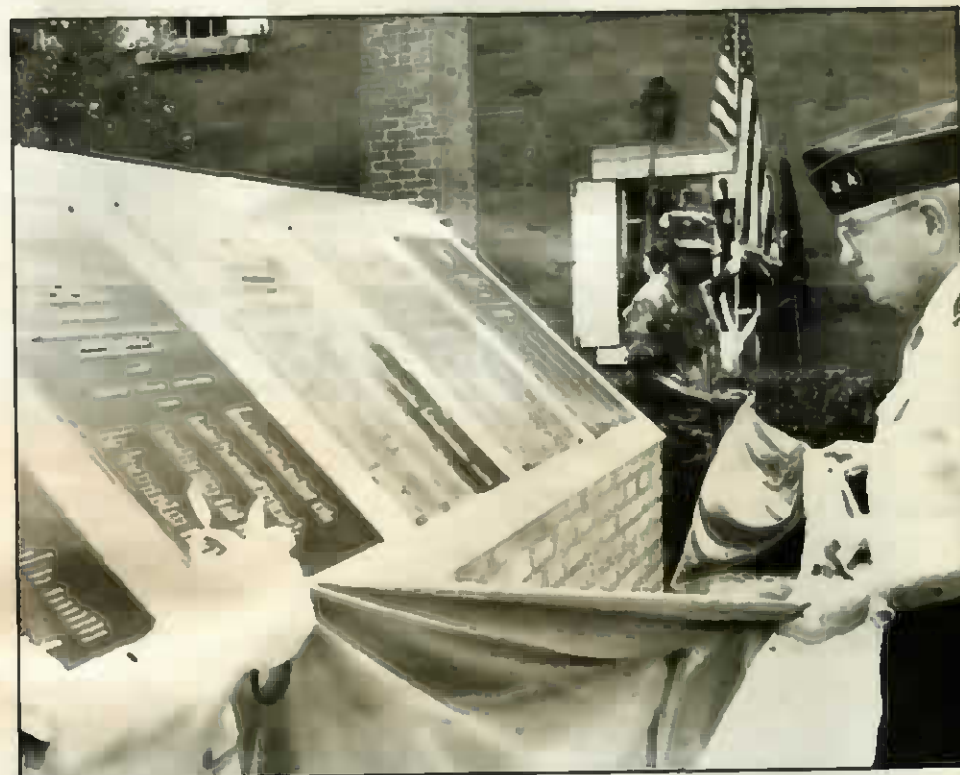
At an awards ceremony held the last day of camp, Lt. Col. Charles Watts of Troop Command and retired Sgt. Maj. Mickey Brondum presented the winners in each category with medals. They also thanked several key volunteers for providing meals for the kids

and for keeping them entertained after the matches ended each day.

"It has been a privilege for us to support you, the kind of club that builds character," Watts said.

The overall winners were: Kurt Ochler, running target; Harry Kneisler, pistol; Troy Hollomon, small bore rifle; and Nicholas Gagliano, air rifle.

Coaches for the event included: Brondum, Hale Davison, Jack Winters, James Sanders, Tracey Pertuit, Dan Saxon, Wilber Haas, Henry Couvillion, and William Johnson (Photo by SGT Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)



MG A.M. Stroud, Jr., unveils five holly bronze plaques dedicated to the 1/141st Field Artillery during an August 1 ceremony. The dedication marks the fine commitment of the Washington Artillery during Desert Shield/

Desert Storm. The plaque monument is displayed at the 1/141st armory at Jackson Barracks. (Photo by SPC Rebekah Smith, 241st PAD)



# From the Desert to the Jungle: Storm Veteran Reminisces in Panama



**SGT Rodney L. West**

By SPC Don Cygan  
104th PAD, COARNG

Howard Air Force Base, Panama—Louisiana Army National Guardsman Sgt. Rodney L. West, Jr., still likes to tell the story: how a moment of fate turned into a reunion with his father in the Saudi Arabian desert.

West, a helicopter mechanic working with Co. B, 1/228th Aviation Regiment at Howard Air Force Base, said that running into his father, retired Master Sgt. Rodney L. West, Sr., was like finding a needle in a desert haystack. The tale is just one example of the unique bond between this young man and his father.

The 20-year-old guardsman likes to share the story with his fellow mechanics as he works on helicopters during his 90-day service

tour in Panama. West, a member of the 812th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) is in Panama working with the 228th on a Key Personnel Upgrade Program (KPUP).

The program arranges for national guardsmen to live with and train with regular Army soldiers and perform their military jobs in an active duty role.

The program is a way for guardsmen like West to travel to places around the world. Although the Slidell, La., native is only two years out of high school, he has already travelled to Southwest Asia and Central America.

His service last year in Saudi Arabia included the remarkable chance meeting with his father, West said. He was stationed with his unit at King Khalid Military City when he walked into a large operations tent and bumped

straight into his father.

"My buddy came to get me and said they needed me in the tent," West said. "I walked right past him at first. I didn't recognize him. I had to stop and think—that's my dad. They had a good laugh on me."

He said the meeting was even more of a surprise because he had no idea his father was in the area.

"My dad used to be in my national guard unit, but then he got into the Marine Corps Reserve," West said. "I knew he was in Saudi, but I thought he was in another part of the country."

West said his father's influence has played an important part in his own life, both military and civilian.

"We're more like friends—we do a lot of things together," he said. The elder West's influence led his son to choose the Army National Guard as a training ground before aiming for a career in law enforcement. West, Sr., a veteran of both Operation Desert Storm and Vietnam, currently works in Slidell as a reserve police officer.

Before retiring, his father worked in the 812th as a helicopter crew chief and helped bring his son into the unit.

"He said he'd like to serve with me," West said. "I signed up two months after my 17th birthday."

West said he enjoys working in Panama, and especially working on the helicopters. A love of helicopters comes from early memories of his father, he admitted.

"I used to wave at my dad when he'd fly over our house," West said.

While in Panama, West is helping mechanics with the 228th perform overhauls on two of the unit's helicopters. The training will provide valuable hands-on experience in repairing and maintaining helicopters.

As a trade-off for the know-how West is acquiring, the 228th is getting a little extra help in performing the required maintenance.

"He really helps pick up the slack," Sgt. Aronteri Santiago, a mechanic with the 228th said. "We're a little short on mechanics at times, and having people like him really helps."

When West spent four months in Saudi Arabia, he performed similar work under drastically different conditions.

"Actually, there's more to worry about here (Panama)," he said. "With the salt water air we have to pay more attention to corrosion."

West said those conditions are very similar to the heat and humidity of Louisiana. Combined with the greater amount of flight hours logged by the helicopters at Howard AFB, the training is turning out to be a real gold mine of experience for West to bring back to his unit.

Helicopters aren't the only thing West has in common with his father. Both men share a love of scuba diving, sailing and target pistol shooting.

"I've been shooting since I was 11," he said with a smile. "Last September, me and my dad competed in the Ball Steel Challenge Marine Corps Pistol Match. He placed second; I won first."

Although the younger West sees his father as a friend, he's quick to admit that his father doesn't hold back when it comes to teaching him about the military.

"Every once and a while he gets on this senior NCO trip," West said.

But learning from his father's example has already taken the young guardsman far in his military career. He thrives on attending professional NCO development schools and strives to live up to a personal code of professionalism.

West said he thinks there was more than just fate at work when the two found each other last year. Like birds of a feather, the two men have much more in common than blood ties.

"It's a family tradition, serving our country," he said. "And I hope when I have kids someday, they'll serve too."

## Flight Companies Unite As One

By MAJ Tom Mix  
Exec. Off. 1/244th Avn

The Louisiana National Guard's 1/244th Avn received praise and admiration for a job well done during annual training '92 at Fort Hood, Tex. The 1/244th Avn supported the 49th Armor Division with 30 Huey helicopters from June 13-27, 1992. Although there were approximately 110 aircraft in support of the 49th AD, the 1/244th completed 45 percent of all aviation support missions.

On the first day of annual training the 1/244th was given an air assault mission to lift a battalion of the 7th Infantry Division from Fort Ord, Calif. This was a pre-dawn lift involving two companies from 1/244th and a company of UH-60 aircraft from the 49th Avn Bde. As usual the 1/244th was on time, on station, and received praise for the professional attitude and mission accomplishment by the III Corps commander.

What makes this annual training a major

accomplishment for the 1/244th is that this was the first time any of the three flight companies have worked together. When you consider that the Headquarters, HHC, Delta and Alpha companies are in New Orleans; Charlie Company is in Alexandria, La.; and Bravo Company is in Winder, Ga., just the fact that logistically this unit massed as one is extraordinary. The companies and detachments meshed together as if they had done this every year. This proves that if properly planned, subordinate units from other states can work in harmony together and accomplish their mission above the standards.

The 1/244th was evaluated by the Deputy Commander of the 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat). Lt. Col. Timothy Stoltz stated, "This unit not only accomplished an outstanding logistical challenge but is one of the best aviation battalions I have worked with in either the active or reserve component."



The 1/244th AVN makes history as the entire battalion unites for their first composite

annual training at Fort Hood, Tex. (49th AD Photo)



# Optimal Focus Uses Real Life Approach to Training

By SPC Dane A. Kerne  
204th ASG/PA

The successes earned by National Guard units that were activated for service in Operation Desert Storm are shining testaments to the effectiveness of the "Real Life" approach to training the Guard now uses. Authentically rigid and thorough training exercises, such as the recent "Optimal Focus" exercise, is the way of the present as well as the future for reservists. Therefore, when a detachment of soldiers from the 39th Military Police Company descended upon Louisiana's own Fort Polk, they knew they would be put to the task of dealing with "Real Life" situations.

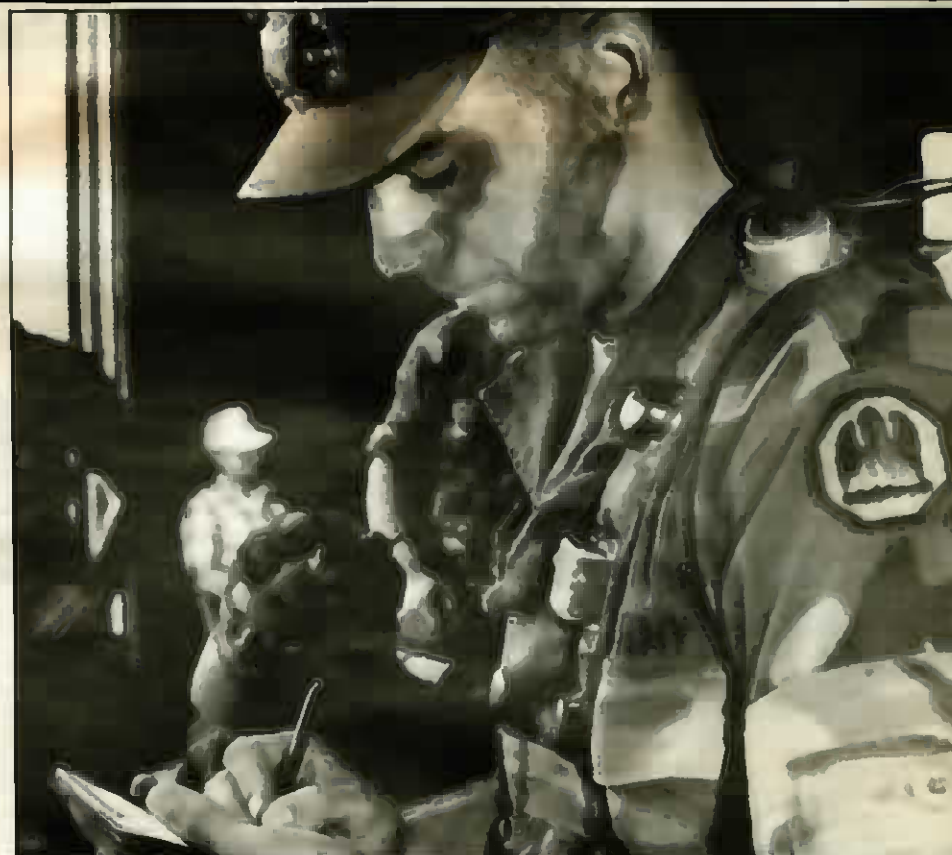
The detachment, 48 members strong, was at Fort Polk from May 27 to June 3, 1992. While there, they supported the 2223d Engineer Battalion from Baton Rouge on a mission of their own. Part of the 39th's mission was to act as operations post for tactical operators. This type of mission only strengthens our unit in light of our Operation Desert Storm exposure, stated Staff Sgt. Eric Guelzow.

There was another part of their mission

that was much more meaningful to the 39th. In true "Real Life" fashion, these guardsmen stood side by side with Fort Polk's MPs. It's hard, however, to imagine how an exercise can approach the effectiveness levels (training-wise) of Desert Storm. Guelzow insists otherwise, saying, "I think that this exercise was very representative of our unit's mission." They spent the week providing the same support to the 10,000 military and civilian personnel who live and work on Fort Polk as the active Army MPs do. Some of the MPs duties including working accidents, managing the flow of post traffic and performing basic physical security checks of base property.

Guelzow noted how this "Real World" training (i.e. mission specific) is so important. "An exercise like this fortifies skills already learned by experienced soldiers and is also good for our newer troops," he said.

"The main reason it was good was because military law enforcement and real operations is our primary mission and that's just what we did."



SGT Dennis Gerarve, 39th MP squad leader, takes notes as 2LT Abraham Layani briefs his non-commissioned-officers (NCOs) prior to their convoy that will take them on a secure and defend mission as part of Coastal

Crescent '92. Gerarve sports MILES (Multi Integrated Laser Engagement System) gear, which is used to simulate "wargames". (Photo by SGT Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)

## 39th MPs Secure Strategic Reserves

By SGT Kristi L. Moon  
241st PAD

"When we arrive on site, be sure your men hydrate. It's going to be hot and we can't afford any heat casualties," 2nd Lt. Abraham Layani, platoon leader for the 39th Military Police Company, expressed to his squad leaders.

Layani was going over his operational plan for Coastal Crescent '92, a joint exercise between the Louisiana National Guard, the Coast Guard and the Strategic Petroleum Reserves in St. James Parish, La.

The 39th MPs were tasked to secure and defend a designated section of the Strategic Petroleum Reserves while two Coast Guard cutters provided a security zone in the bordering Mississippi River. All of this was part of a planned training mission designed to exercise the concept of key asset protection.

Before the 29-man cell headed off to secure and defend, they were issued MILES (Multi Integrated Laser Engagement System) gear, by members of Wackenhut Security, Inc. This equipment operates on a laser principle.

Each member of the 39th was issued a harness and a halo designed with laser detectors, along with a special weapon. The weapons, rifles and pistols, fire blanks that send out a signal. If the signal strikes one of the detectors on the harness or halo, a sharp shrill resonates, indicating the individual has been struck.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Robert Nagy, an observer and advisor from the 39th, the exercise was "outstanding." "But, I'm prejudice about my unit," he said.

Once the MPs arrived on the levee in St. James Parish about 3:30, they took their defensive positions and deployed strategically throughout the area. For the next few hours, while combatting rain, these veterans of Desert Storm overcame obstacles, protected their area, and stood their ground completing their mission with great pride.

The MPs finally returned home to Jackson Barracks in the early hours of the morning, fatigued, but pumped. This is only one of the many exercises the 39th has participated in or conducted recently. Others include the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials and Optimal Focus '92.



SGM Edward Walsh

## Walsh Retires After an Active 20

By SPC Dane A. Kerne  
204th ASG/PA

The 204th Area Support Group said good-bye to one of its own recently. Sgt. Maj. Edward A. Walsh, the unit's 5th U.S. Army Advisor, ended his 20 years of service with the Army in June, and was awarded one of its highest awards: The Louisiana Cross of Merit.

Walsh has had a number of different stops during his term. He performed a variety of logistical duties while stationed at a number of posts, both here and abroad. Walsh spent time serving his country in Germany and Korea, to name a few. He spent the final two years

of his enlistment with the 204th.

At a retirement service held in his honor June 7, Walsh was presented the Louisiana Cross of Merit by Col. William Thomas III, the 204th ASG's commander. The ceremony was orderly and precise, two traits readily found in the sergeant major. A man of few words, Walsh declined to give a speech during the actual ceremony. Afterwards, however, he was asked how he would like to be remembered. He responded, "I guess I want to be remembered as someone who did the job right and didn't complain. Just get it done, I guess."

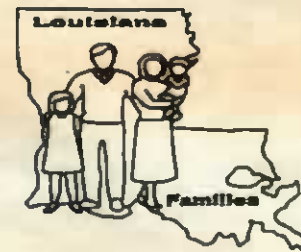
Walsh, now officially retired from the military, is residing in Missouri.

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# Louisiana National Guard Family Assistance Program



Office of the Adjutant General, LANG - DPA - FS Jackson Barracks  
New Orleans, LA 70146-0330

## Family News In Brief

### New Family Assistance Officer

Capt. Robert (Roo) Fink is the new State Family Assistance Officer. He replaced 1st Lt. Dianne Mandeville in June. Mandeville is pursuing her doctorate in psychology while continuing her career in family service part time with a local community agency.

Fink is also the commander of the 209th Personnel Services Company at Jackson Barracks.

### What are Bold Shift and ORE?

#### BOLD SHIFT? ORE?

Family members are already wondering what BOLD SHIFT and the new acronym "ORE" stand for. Basically, Bold Shift is the new Fifth Army program designed to integrate both the active and reserve component forces in joint exercises. It is the first training program of its kind and designed to help meet readiness needs in lieu of restructuring and drawdown. ORE stands for Operational Readiness Exercise. An exercise occurs in five phases:

- 1/ Preparation Phase
2. Compliance Phase (surprise)
3. Training Phase (Actual Scenario)
4. Report Phase
5. Follow Up Phase

According to the ORE checklist, a unit's level of readiness to mobilize is affected by the following:

1. Has a family support group been

established?

2. Is the notification plan accurate?
3. Is a list of supporting Family Assistance Centers available?
4. Have soldiers completed family care plans?

Family Support Groups can assist their units in passing the unannounced inspection by making sure the units have records and contact names to validate the existence of a family support group in the units. Also, you can ensure the phone roster is accurate by using your telephone tree to validate numbers.

Check that a list of Family Assistance Centers in your area is available, as well as family care plans for single parent and dual status military families. Your unit will thank you.

### Desert Storm Family Updates

The American Red Cross Desert Storm project is looking for you if your family was involved in that action. The Red Cross has now opened up its Employment Assistance Service for those whose civilian jobs were affected by Desert Storm. They are eager to get the word out to all reserve component families that they are ready to serve you.

Funds in the new program will be available for service members or their spouses to purchase courses and vocational training or to reimburse for costs.

While the majority of services were for

child care reimbursement, there has been an increase in amounts awarded for family counseling. Families at high risk can receive more. Check with your local Red Cross Chapter to see if your costs can be reimbursed. They are eager to help.

Boys and Girls Clubs of America have distributed flyers for free memberships in their clubs. Check with the clubs in your area for more information.

The USO, Salvation Army, YMCA and American Legion also received small grants to assist Desert Storm families. Check these agencies in your area for more details.

### Second Chance Open for RC-SBP

An open season for Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) and Retired Reserve soldiers to elect participation in the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP) runs from April 1, 1992, through March 31, 1993. The RC-SBP allows the soldier the option of providing a monthly annuity of up to 55 percent of their retired pay to survivors following their death. The annuity is paid with deductions from retired pay which will begin at age 60. Those who have already elected a lower than maximum coverage can also increase base amounts. A supplement package (SSPNB)

allows the spouse to maintain the annuity after age 62. There is a two year waiting period for the RC-SBP coverage to go into effect. Participants who elected coverage for dependent children only can now add spouse coverage. Once elected, these coverages are irrevocable. Spouses should review their retirement plans carefully to determine if this option is for them. The Army Reserve Personnel Center has forwarded letters to all eligible Reserve soldiers to inform them of this enrollment period, but spouses need to study information as well.

### 5th Army Presents Awards

Louisiana National Guard Units walked away with many of the awards presented by Lt. Gen. Neil T. Jacob, commanding general 5th Army, at a recent Family Support Group (FSG) workshop and awards banquet in San Antonio, Tex. The 527th Engineer Battalion Family Support Group received top honors as an Outstanding Family Support Group. Mrs. Mary Billberry, FSG Leader accepted the award. The 236th Combat Communications Squadron surprised everyone by walking away with three honors: Outstanding Family Support, Creative Fund Raising, and Initiative. Mrs. Anita Gerarve (Leader) and Mrs. Norma Williams (treasurer) accepted the awards for the 236th CCS. Other units recognized for their contributions were the HC 204th Area Support Group and HHC 3/156th Infantry Battalion. All units received certificates of appreciation from 5th Army.

Among the elements considered critical

to a successful FSG are:

1. A regularly published newsletter.
2. Leaders who have been trained.
3. A functional telephone tree.
4. An active program of at least two social activities per year.
5. A strong core group or board.

Next year the competition will get tougher, in addition to the criteria listed above. The Sponsorship Program will have a great impact on next year's selections. Another intangible factor hard to relate on paper is the degree to which the family support group contributes to the military mission and gives substantial support to family members in crisis. In general, Guard family support groups fare better when measured by contribution to the military mission and the goal of preparing for family assistance in mobilization. Start beefing up your FSG program now, all will benefit from your efforts.



# Engineer Unit From Gonzales Prov

## Charlie Co. Conducts Civil Disturbance Training

By SGT Robert C. Williamson  
Co. C, 769th Engr Bn

The recent events in Los Angeles, Calif., brought a little known and seldom needed mission of the National Guard into the national spotlight. This mission is called Civil Disturbance. The Governor of Louisiana has the authority to call in the National Guard during cases of extreme civil unrest to assist the local authorities in returning an out-of-control situation to normal. To be ready to accomplish this mission, certain units in the LAARNG conduct annual Civil Disturbance Training.

Units of the 769th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) commanded by Lt. Col. William Hilborn conducted Civil Disturbance Training prior to the infamous riots in Calif. The 769th's Civil Disturbance Training is conducted annually at each unit's home station with a "graded" practical exercise on the Sunday of drill involving the Headquarters Service Company and a line company. The "tested unit honor" is rotated between the three line companies of the battalion each year.

This year Charlie Co. from Gonzales, commanded by Capt. Gregg A. Putnam, was selected to participate in the Civil Disturbance Training with HSC. The practical exercise was held at the abandoned Hollywood Elementary

School in northwest Baton Rouge. The training was a challenging, realistic, and very educational exercise complete with rioters and terrorists, according to members of Charlie Co.

The exercise started off right on time with HSC and the Special Reaction Team (SRT) conducting joint training at the battalion headquarters at the Metro Airport in Baton Rouge; and Charlie Co. setting up security and conducting last minute rehearsals at Hollywood Elementary School.

The mission was to secure the school in the wake of civil unrest. Everything was peaceful and quiet until they appeared. About 25 of the meanest, nastiest and most obnoxious rioters you have ever encountered (actually, they were members of HSC in civilian clothes participating in the exercise) showed up at the school. The rioters were armed with flour bombs, water balloons, eggs, a loud mouth, and a poor attitude. They put the members of Charlie Co. to the test. Through a barrage of thrown objects, insults, and verbal abuse the soldiers stood firm. Throughout the standoff, Charlie Co. held their objective, to safeguard the school.

All of the sudden, shots rang out from the top floor of the school building and the crowd scattered. Four terrorists were holding

a teacher hostage and the crowd (all actually members of HSC 769th participating in the exercise). They demanded food, money, a television interview, and free passage out of the country. Putnam and Staff Sgt. John Gonzales negotiated with the terrorists while First Sgt. Carroll Smallwood kept the soldiers safe and called in the SRT located at Metro Airport for help.

The SRT entered the Hollywood School grounds through an adjacent wooded area by crawling under the school yard fence and were briefed on the situation. The SRT then entered the building the terrorist were holding, undetected. The team worked its way to the top floor and were able to free the hostage situation without loss of life.

After the terrorists were dislodged, the crowd returned, entered the southern side of the school yard and held a sit down demonstration. Members of Charlie Co. broke up the demonstrators and herded them out the exit of the school grounds. At this point, the crowd had enough and disbanded. The situation was back to normal and the local authorities, once again, took over control. Members of the 769th, again, successfully accomplished their mission.



CPT Gregg

## Putnam recognized

By SGT Kristi L. Moon  
241st PAD

Team efforts, once again, prevail. At least that's what Capt. Gregg A. Putnam, commander of Charlie Co., 769th Engineer Battalion says.

Putnam was selected as the 1992 Louisiana National Guard Company Commander of the Year. At the same time, his unit was selected to receive the prestigious Eisenhower Trophy.

"It is a great honor for me to win this year's company commander award, but I have to be realistic. The commander's award may be given to an individual, but it is the culmination of the work of a lot of people on a team," Putnam said.

Putnam attributes his personal success as a commander and the success of his unit to two entities: his full time staff at Charlie Co. and to his boss, 769th Engineer Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Randy Hilborn.

Putnam says Hilborn is easy to work for because he gives them (commanders) the necessary room and encouragement to grow and work. The tough part, according to Putnam, is not letting him (Hilborn) down.

"The most over worked people in my

## Engineers Capture Coveted Eisenhower Trophy

By SGT Kristi L. Moon  
241st PAD

For the second time in the history of the 225th Engineer Group, one of its subordinate units claimed the coveted Eisenhower Trophy.

In July, Charlie Company, 769th Engineer Battalion accepted the highest symbol of unit pride at an awards ceremony at Camp Beauregard.

The Eisenhower Trophy represents the ultimate in training excellence, as established by the National Guard Bureau. It is a revolving award, that changes hands annually.

Staff Sgt. Johnny Gonzales, unit readiness non-commissioned-officer, and Capt. Gregg A. Putnam, commander, accepted the trophy on behalf of the 207 members of Charlie Co.

"Receiving this award tells me we've come to a point in the unit's career that proves we are ready to perform the whole Guard mission scheme," Gonzales said.

Putnam said, "We've been working for this a lot of years. We take things one day at a time, one mission at a time, and at the end of the year, look back in amazement at what we've done."

Putnam, Gonzales and 1st Lt. Michael Deville, battalion S-1, spent many hours putting the unit's packet together. The packet included proof of the unit's family support group success, their Army Communities of Excellence endeavors, drug demand reduction initiatives, and, of course, their training evaluation reports that reflect perfect scores.

"We're maintaining what we've established while we're introducing new programs," Gonzales said. The unit sponsors teen dances, annual military balls, blood

drives and plans a fishing rodeo for disabled veterans this fall.

Charlie Co. has been selected as the best company in the battalion for the last three years. "We're setting the precedence. We've reached the pentacle of achievement. We knew good thing we're coming," Gonzales said.

Successes like this prove collective efforts work when used, according to Gonzales. "Our officer and enlisted corps work in cohesion within the unit and within the battalion," he added. Proof of this lies in the fact that Charlie Co. received the Eisenhower Trophy, Putnam received the Company Commander of the Year Award, the 769th was nominated for the Milton Reckford Award Alpha Co. was nominated for the Connally Award and Bravo Co. was nominated for the Ischner award.

"This is a direct indicator that we've got battalion support," Gonzales said.



CPT Gregg Putnam, commander  
Johnny Gonzales, readiness NCO accept  
Arthur Abercrombie at an awards ceremony  
by 2LT David Barham, 241st PAD)



# es What Engineers Are Really Made Of

## Wold Learns to Communicate with Culture



A. Putnam

## is Outstanding CDR

company are, of course, my full time staff," Putnam said. Staff Sgt. Johnny Gonzales, Staff Sgt. Marty Longa, and Staff Sgt. Farrell Gros in Gonzales and Sgt. Bonnie Hymel and Staff Sgt. James Dewhurst in Napoleonville handle all the unit business from administrative duties to supplies and logistics.

"I am no lone ranger at my company," Putnam said. "First Sgt. Carroll Smallwood really does a fantastic job. He tackles every mission and leaves me very little to worry about. And that's the way it should be."

For the last few years Charlie Co. has done some really good things. They won the best company in the battalion award three years in a row. The last four years have rendered perfect scores on annual training evaluations (FORSCOM 1-R Reports). In training year 1992, they won the 5th U.S. Army Training Award. Every year the unit has been a finalist in the state Army Communities of Excellence competition. And this year, they won the Eisenhower Trophy.

Winning this award came quite unexpectedly to Putnam. He didn't even know he had been nominated. "It was a complete surprise," Putnam said. "But for once, it was a pleasant surprise."



of Charlie Co., 769th ENGR BN and SSG the coveted Eisenhower Trophy from BG y held recently at Camp Beauregard. (Photo

By PFC Donnie Sewell  
176th PAD, ARARNG

Several soldiers gather on top of the pavilion. While installing a new roof, they are also learning a new language.

Sgt. Thomas Wold of Co. C, 769th Engineer Battalion, in Gonzales, is one of them. While remodeling a medical clinic, Wold helped build a new pavilion designated as a waiting room. It offered some new experiences.

"This is definitely a different experience for me," said Wold. "In the civilian world, I work for Baton Rouge Vending and in the unit I'm classified as a carpenter. I don't get to do this type of work very often."

The 769th travelled to Sigua te Peque, Honduras for their two-week annual training to remodel a local medical clinic. Part of the

project was to build a pavilion to be used as a waiting room.

One of the new experiences was the type of roof Wold helped install. Instead of shingles most commonly used in the United States, the Hondurans commonly use ceramic tile, which is overlapped.

When the locally-made tile overlaps it forms small funnels allowing better drainage when it rains.

"I've never seen roofing done this way," said Wold while laying tile. "You can use regular cement to hold the tiles in place. The way they roof here makes it last longer than the shingles in the United States."

Another new experience Wold came across was the language barrier. Hand signals were the most popular way to communicate at first, but as time passed Wold was able to learn

a bit of Spanish.

"It was rough at first not being able to speak the language, but we worked through it," Wold said. "As we go along, we are getting to know each other better. It's been good to get the chance to deal with different people."

Working with the Hondurans gave Wold a good view of the local residents. Hard workers with a good attitude were the words used by Wold to explain his new co-workers.

"Whenever we asked them to help with something, they were right there," said Wold. "We didn't have any problems with anyone. It was a good change of pace."

After returning to the United States, Wold will probably remember the people he helped and worked with in Central America. Just as the roof tile will last longer, friendships will last forever.



SGT Thomas Wold, a member of Co. C, 769th Engineer Battalion in Gonzales, La., experienced a new way of roofing a building during his two-week annual training held in Sigua te Peque, Honduras. (Photo by PFC Donnie Sewell, 176th PAD, ARARNG)

## Engineers Use Extra Materials to Enhance

By PFC Donnie Sewell  
176th PAD, ARARNG

A child gets on the swing set to see how high he can go. To be able to swing high enough to grab a palm tree leaf would make his day.

This soon will be possible for some Honduran children in Sigua te Peque, Honduras. Specs. Lane Louque and Elvis Jacob have been working to make the playground a reality.

Both are members of the 769th Engineer Battalion. Louque is a member of Co. C of Gonzales and Jacob is a member of Det. 1, Co. D at Napoleonville, La. The primary mission of their unit was to build a medical facility. With extra materials, the unit decided to rebuild the existing playground.

"It's great just to know that we were able to be helpful to these people," Louque said. "The people have been helpful and friendly,

especially Roberto."

Roberto Bautista is a local Honduran citizen that worked at the construction site since the arrival of the unit. Bautista helped Jacob and Louque put finishing touches on some playground equipment.

"It's given me great pleasure to work with them," Bautista said in Spanish. "I like working with them a lot."

Jacob and Louque also have acted as translators for other members of the unit. Both took Spanish in high school and remember enough to understand what the local residents are saying.

"I'm glad we were able to make this trip for annual training," Jacob said. "It gives me a chance to deal with something new that doesn't happen back home. Being able to understand the local people has been great."

The medical facility the 769th has been

working on is essential to the local community. The clinic provides free immunizations, medical care and dental care. Building a waiting room in a pavilion and remodeling the old clinic has dominated the time of most members. However, extra work such as the playground has been allowed.

Working with Honduran citizens and military have given Louque and Jacob a special look at the people.

"They are hard workers," Jacob said. "Whatever we ask them to do, they help us to do it."

"It's different than back home," Louque said. "There we build for practice. Here we see the people that we are building for, and they help us do the work."

Both would like to remember their time in Honduras helping someone and in return learning a lot.





## Drug Demand Reduction and Leadership Reaction

# Seek Safety and Pleasure

Seventeen million boats make up our nation's recreational flotilla, a veritable navy of maritime pleasure-seekers. From these boats, people attempt to absorb the overwhelming expanse of sky and water. All too often, though, the boaters themselves are the ones absorbed-overboard.

In the U.S. in fact, 965 people checked into Davy Jones' Locker last year. While this is a definite decline from the 1,066 in 1986, it's still more deaths than from airline, commercial shipping, and rail accidents combined.

A general pattern emerges from most of the recreational boating accidents: They occur in small boats on inland waters, and the skipper of the craft who has not had any training, is at fault.

The operator of a vessel is responsible not only for the prudent and safe operation of his boat, but also for the lives and safety of his passengers and others around him. And considering the amount of time spent working to pay for these vessels, boaters should understand the importance of investing time in learning safe operating practices.

Boaters need to be familiar with federal, state, and local regulations regarding safe boat operation. In addition, they need to learn all the aspects of good seamanship, boat handling, navigating, piloting and weather considerations. The Boating Education Hotline, 800-333-BOAT informs callers of where they can obtain boating education. Most courses are free.

Recreational boaters spend a lot of time preparing for their days on the water. They load up on munchies, beverages, cameras, suntan lotion, sunglasses, towels, radios, water

skis, fishing equipment, and a whole heap of other "essentials"—while forgetting about personal flotation devices (PFDs). In fact, PFDs—or "life jackets"—are mandatory. Drowning was the cause of death in 90 percent of boating fatalities, and 80 percent of those drowned were not wearing PFDs. In addition, boaters should know how to swim. As a matter of fact, any water enthusiast should learn. That's one skill that's a must for those who'll be spending any time around water.

While making their preparations, boaters should also check the seaworthiness of the craft, to include posted load limits, fire extinguisher (mandatory Coast Guard approved Type B-1, B-11), adequate fuel supply, charged battery, and inserted drain plugs. (Failure to insert a drain plug has swamped many a boat before it even left the dock area.)

Finally, alcohol consumption contributes to more than half of all boating accidents. Boaters should wait until their vessels are safely moored before hoisting a bottle to quench their thirst. Operating a boat while intoxicated is illegal and can subject a boater to a \$1,000 fine, with increased penalties for causing injury or death.

Jet skis are included in the recreational boat category. These small motorized water-propelled crafts are made to accommodate one to three people. Since they fall into the same category as boats, they must adhere to the same rules and regulations. This includes PFDs, fire extinguishers, tow ropes, and registrations.

Skippers who pay heed to these and other safety rules are more apt to find real pleasure on the water, and they won't have to worry about taking casualties.

# Kids Learn Army Adventure

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest  
241st PAD

The popular Army slogan, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure" could also be "It's not just an adventure, it's a job."

On the last Sunday of May, 80 teenagers realized the meaning of an adventurous job as they were led through the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La. The activity was part of the Drug Demand Reduction Program of the Louisiana National Guard.

"This isn't easy! We have to climb that! You've got to be kidding!" How do I get down? You want us to get wet!" These were some of the feelings expressed to guardsmen who led the participants through the field day activities.

Teamwork and discipline combined with communication and confidence turned some difficult tasks into obstacles which would soon be overcome by the goal oriented youths. "This is definitely challenging," said Marcie, "I couldn't have done it without y'all cheering me on. I accomplished something I never thought I could."

"This is the first of a series of field days in which we will assist youth organizations with substance abuse prevention/education," said Capt. Greg Varoz, a Drug Demand Reduction coordinator.

"All of the support we provide goes to programs which already exist. The foundation for these programs is already laid; we're just assisting them with meeting their goals."

"We're hoping to build the confidence of these kids, giving them leadership skills to deal with the peer pressure of drugs," Varoz said. He added that this leadership course was perhaps the most psychologically demanding training he had ever encountered in his military career.

Soldiers of the 3/156th Infantry Battalion, the Officer Candidate School and the 165th Transportation Company joined forces to host this field day for approximately 80 teenagers from Lake Charles, Kinder, Oakdale and Alexandria.

Two army buses were used to transport the teenagers from the different cities to the Leadership Reaction Course. Many of the youth participating in the field day serve as counselors for Camp New Directions, a program which deals with at-risk youths in Calcasieu and Allen Parishes.

Others taking part came from the Renaissance Home for Youth in Alexandria, the Lake Charles Memorial Chemical Dependency Unit and the Department of Corrections' Office of Youth Development.

"This field day is a classic demand reduction activity," Varoz said. The Guard has many resources available like transportation and training sites like the LRC," he added. "When we're able to utilize existing resources, we can better serve the community in civic action projects with a minimum amount of effort."

Social cliques were broken down when a National Guard leader reorganized the youth into teams. With the concepts of planning and communication, these teams experienced both victory and failure, but most importantly they learned what working together truly accomplishes.

These teenagers built friendships in a matter of minutes and discovered that with teamwork, they could overcome almost any obstacle.

A steel cable is suspended above a river, it's the only way across. A team of six must cross the river and carry with them a stretcher filled with medical supplies and ammunition. Crossing the river must be negotiated quickly as enemy forces approach the area. If contact is made with red zones which surround the area, it could trigger enemy alarms or booby traps.

This was one of many scenarios which challenged the participants. While looking at one of the course obstacles, one girl told her National Guard mentor that it was support and planning that helped them accomplish the most difficult tasks. "I really didn't think we could do it, but we came up with a plan, followed it and accomplished it," she said.

All of the course tasks demand a collaborative effort by the teams in order to meet the time constraints given by the Guardsmen.

The course was designed to encourage teamwork, discipline and communication among National Guardsmen. The youth were afforded the same opportunity as they discovered their physical limitations and experienced true teamwork.

"This is what it's all about, kids working together and having fun," said Varoz.

For more information on the Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program, call Capt. Greg Varoz at 1-800-662-5054.

Here are a few common sense rules that will help keep the nation's maritime pleasure-seekers afloat while avoiding casualties:

**FLOAT PLAN:** A boater should inform a responsible person of where he's going, when he'll return, what the boat looks like, the boat's registration number, and other identifying information. That will make finding the boat much easier should the need arise.

**WEATHER:** Weather and water conditions should always be checked before leaving shore. Boaters should take a radio and stay up to date on the latest weather reports.

**LIFE JACKETS:** One per person must be on board and accessible (preferably worn). The skipper should set the example by wearing his. It won't work if it's not worn.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** A fire extinguisher and tow rope should be on each boat and accessible to the skipper.

**FUEL:** Boaters should ensure they have enough gas and use the one-third rule in reserve.

**ALCOHOL:** Boating and booze don't mix.





Louisiana Guardsmen compete for the Expert Field Medical Badge at Fort Polk, La.

during annual training 1992. (Photo by 2LT David Barham, 241st PAD)



TSGT Troy Pou of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron operates the Tactical Satellite System during the unit's recent

Operational Readiness Inspection. (Photo by SPC Rebekah Smith, 241st PAD)

## Guard Medics Compete for EFMB

By 2LT David Barham  
241st PAD

Fort Polk, La.—Army medical Spec Cale Smith ran through the underbrush, moving as fast as he could to get to the wounded soldiers just ahead.

He came upon five hurt soldiers with head wounds, missing limbs and massive bleeding. Now he must decide which ones to treat now, which ones can wait and which ones just won't make it.

Smith of Church Point, treated the soldiers and was graded on how well he performed. After the grading was complete, all of the soldiers got up and waited for the next medic to come running down the trail.

The simulated wartime situation is one of many obstacles Smith and other Louisiana National guard medics must go through in order to obtain the expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). Around 200 medics from the Guard and the regular Army are trying to get the coveted badge. But only a few will succeed.

Smith, 21, works with the Headquarters Company of the 2/156th Infantry located in Abbeville. He is a student at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

"It is the hardest badge any medic can get without going to combat," said Sgt. 1st Class James Malbrue, the non-commissioned

officer-in-charge of the training. Usually, only about 20 percent of the candidates will pass the course and receive the badge, he said.

Candidates must pass many "lanes" that require stamina and mental concentration. Medics seeking the badge must carry stretchers through an obstacle course (which includes carrying a soldier over barricades, through a ravine and under barbed wire); loading helicopters and different trucks with wounded soldiers and, of course, the triage lane, said Master Sgt. James Allison, a regular Army medical advisor. The triage lane forces the medic to make decisions on the wounded (who to treat and when) so that the medic can save as many lives as possible.

All of the lanes must be passed and the medics must pass the Army's physical fitness test and the weapon qualification test, he said. Allison said this test will be hard for any medic.

"If they come away with the badge, he or she can hold up his head and be proud," Allison said.

He and Malbrue said the Guard medics are doing as well as the regular Army medics.

After the medics complete the land grading, the land navigation test and a grueling written exam, they must complete a 12-mile forced road march in three hours to get the EFMB, Allison said.

## 236th CCS Rates Excellent in First Ever ORI

BY SPC Rebekah Smith  
241st PAD

The Air National Guard's 236th Combat Communications Squadron of Hammond was recently evaluated by the Inspector General in an Operational Readiness Inspection. They were the first combat communications unit in the Air Force to be inspected.

The overall mission of the exercise was to provide tactical communications for a host base, flying wing commander. This included: air traffic control service, message travel, radar and tower surveillance, and telephone service, with command network communications ranging to units in Oklahoma and Alabama.

The members of the squadron were tested on their ability to monitor and maintain the command network in an expedient manner under adverse conditions. This required an evaluation of their performance in a realistic training environment which was created by simulating chemical attacks, grenades, bombs, and direct fire.

"One command and control team was blown up, everyone was killed except the commander. These were scenarios during which the commander had to maintain control

of the entire element," said Lt. Marc D. Jones, a member of the squadron.

The exercise was aimed at testing alternate communication capabilities. This required battle damage assessments, casualty counts, and personnel accounts. "Providing alternate communication in a wartime situation tested the units ability to think and react under pressure," said Maj. Noel J. Ricord, a member of the 236th.

The proficient level of training was heightened by the use of T-37 Aircrafts from Columbus and Barksdale Air Force Bases to fly radar approaches, according to Lt. Col. Rufus L. Warren, a squadron member.

"This training proved how well our people work together, and their readiness for war at any time," Warren said.

The Squadron was satisfied with the outcome of this inspection; their positive reactions to the implementation of various tasks in a field environment concluded the exercise on a positive note.

The unit's commander Lt. Col. Michael Cushman confirmed this level of Esprit de Corps, "As a result of this exercise our squadron is even better. We learned more in four days than we have in four years about what our mission is in a wartime environment."



# 225th Engineer Group Enhance Chicot State Park

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest  
241st PAD

The Louisiana Army National Guard submitted Chicot State Park in Evangeline Parish as a proposed engineer training project for fiscal year 1992.

Once the proposal was approved, engineer units from around the state scheduled their annual training periods to support the project.

Col. Lester Schmidt, Director of Facilities Engineering, said, "Congress made available funds to the National Guard Bureau to train engineer units while also enhancing state parks."

"Assets of the 225th Engineer Group and its four combat heavy engineer battalions have been utilized to complete this project," Schmidt said.

The units involved in this project include the 527th, 528th, 769th, and the 205th Engineer Battalions. The 527th was responsible for clearing the area and placing the slab for the upcoming construction of a maintenance building. The 769th then erected the building. The 528th completed construction of the building and built interior rooms to include some plumbing and electrical work. The 205th was assigned to complete construction of offices, latrines and storage space.

Throughout the summer, these four engineer battalions performed their annual training on the project at Chicot State park. The project would not have been successful without the support of these four units.

Company B of the 205th Engineer Battalion, which is based in Amite, La., began putting the finishing touches on the maintenance building at the park. Approximately 20 guardsmen, primarily younger soldiers, had the task of smoothing out the edges of the project.



Their mission, while acquiring valuable MOS training, involved installation of gas and air lines, installing plumbing and electrical work, running conduit and various other construction duties.

Sgt. Chris Primes of Amite, La., the Project NCO at the park training site, said, "We came with one experienced electrician and trained about six soldiers. We came with one experienced carpenter and trained five or six. That says a lot for the training going on here."

"We brought 20 young people here who had little experience, but they'll leave here with real engineering knowledge," Primes added.

2nd Lt. Stuart Burruss of St. Francisville was the officer-in-charge of the project. Burruss, who is a full-time school teacher at West Feliciana High School, said, "This is the most productive camp I've ever been involved in. I didn't have to double check each detail handed to the NCOs."

Spec. Robert Castello, an equipment operator from Kentwood, La., is a junior at Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) majoring in secondary education. Castello

spoke with the same sentiment as most members of Co. B saying, "Everybody is willing to help wherever help is needed because all of us know one another."

Sgt. Charles "Bubba" Blevins of Roseland, La., is the veteran of Co. B. With 23 years of service, Blevins continues to see soldiers come and go. He proclaimed with much enthusiasm how he enjoys sharing his knowledge of carpentry work with the younger troops. "I take great interest in the type of work our unit does because it's the way I make my living," Blevins said.

Staff Sgt. Edward Ferrell of Ruston, La., was on hand as a construction inspector with the 225th Engineer Group. "Co. B has some well trained soldiers with high technical skills," Ferrell said. "I've found many units concentrate too much on the completion of a project. The leadership here has focused on the training aspect in addition to getting the job done," he said. "Company B leaders don't put training on the back burner," Ferrell added.

Spec. Troy Barron of New Orleans is a light equipment operator for the Guard, but as a civilian he works full time as an electrician in

Baton Rouge. Barron's experience enables him to cross train other soldiers. He said, "Each day we leave, you can tell we've been working. Morale is high, everyone's staying on top of things; we're showing a lot of progress."

Most of the guardsmen in Co. B, 205th Engineer Battalion are in their early twenties. Three quarters of the company have about two and a half years in the Guard. Because of this, there's a lot of high energy that goes into their work. The incentive of college benefits caused many of the troops to enlist and none spoke of any regrets about being in the Guard.

Sgt. Pat Bales of Kentwood, La., is 23 years old and is a carpenter with Co. B. He, like many others, joined the Guard because of his interest in the military and also the added incentive of educational benefits. Bales is a third year student at SLU majoring in physical education. Speaking of his experience with his Bravo Co. comrades, Bales had this to say, "If someone picks up something, everyone grabs a hold of it. The authority figures (NCOs) can tell their troops what to do and they don't have to repeat it."

Burruss said this engineer project may be his last annual training camp. He wanted to express his appreciation of Co. B by saying, "I have felt quite privileged to work with such highly motivated soldiers. They are an extremely closeknit group with an unmatched degree of professionalism."

The Chicot State Park Engineer Project has provided training enhancement for all of the battalions in the 225th Engineer Group. The training of the Group on this project was compatible with ARTEP tasks and MOS skills. It is evident that the 225th Engineer Group has exemplary characteristics of unit readiness.

Any incomplete work on the project at Chicot State Park will be completed by the 225th on temporary duty assignments.

## 205th "Sharpshooters" Sweep the Competition

By CW2 Louis Joseph  
205th ENGR BN

The 205th Engineer Battalion recently participated in a group and state shooting contest and fared extremely well. The battalion's rifle team won the state championship for the third consecutive year. Their M-60 machine gun and .45 caliber pistol teams also took first place. Quite possibly, this is the first time any unit won all three events in the same year.

The 205th will represent the state and the 225th Group, at the Winston P. Wilson Matches in Little Rock, Ark., this October. The Wilson Match is an international competition including Australia, France and Canada, just to name a few. The 205th Rifle Team placed 13th in the Wilson Matches last year.

The weapons program began about four years ago when group headquarters tasked the battalion to develop marksmanship teams and to seek entry into competitive events. The battalion made a strong commitment to strive

for excellence and to improve its marksmanship capability.

Master Sgt. Jewell White, who serves as the battalion's sergeant major, started working with the different companies to help identify the top shooters. He pointed out that the three teams had to make personal sacrifices in order to be successful and that it took a tremendous amount of effort and dedication on everybody's part. During their spare time the teams would coordinate, set up and run the ranges for practice sessions. "They didn't just show up for the competition and shoot," he remarked.

The first year the 205th competed they won first place in the MACOM rifle competition and second in the pistol competition. The M-60 team competed that year but did not place, however it was a valuable learning experience. The second year the battalion kept the nucleus of the teams that competed in 1990 and developed a stronger team for 1991. 1992 speaks for itself, they won it all!

Other factors that add to the significance

of this accomplishment is that each year the teams must consist of 50 percent new shooters. They must also run two miles in 25 minutes or less in full combat gear, carry all equipment needed for the match, and must finish as a team.

In talking with team members, it is the consensus of all that one of the reasons they excelled was because of the positive command climate that exists in the battalion and the group. They pointed out that Maj. Pat Drewitt, operations officer for the 205th, was always supportive and made key calls whenever needed; he too was dedicated to the cause.

According to Lt. Steve Buck, a member of the team, Col. Edmond J. Giering, III, who at that time served as group commander, was always there. Marksmanship was high on his list of priorities.

There was also a lot of community pride exhibited in this match. One way in particular the community helped was through the number of sponsors who defrayed costs incurred

during the event. The sponsors were: Mitchell Timber Co. of Ponchatoula, owned by Sam Mitchell; Durham Pontiac of Hammond, owned by Dick Durham; Superior Wells, Inc. of Slidell, owned by Ernest Yancy, III; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Yancy, III of Mandeville; Bayou Land and Marine Contractors of New Orleans, owned by Milton Gagnon; Ms. Monica Gates of Slidell Memorial Hospital and team members.

Members of the combat rifle team included: 1st Lt. Steven Buck, Sgts. David Parker, Christopher Gagnon, Thomas Kopfler, Michael Matran, Gary Root, Specs. Earnest Yancy, James Dillon, Robbie Gibbs, Joseph Wheelock and Pfc. Michael Morse.

Members of the combat pistol team included: Buck, Sgts. Troy Archote, Mark Willis, Scott Chaisson and David Knight.

Members of the M-60 machine gun team included: Sgts. Bradley Harris, Arthur Burgoyne, Leonard Castiglione and Spec. Thierry Gaubert.





As part of an Army Communities of Excellence initiative, the Directorate of Security and Training at Jackson Barracks recently hosted a Physical Fitness and Wellness Workshop. The workshop featured Dr. Richard C. Lewis from Fitness Management, Inc., of Little Rock, Ark. The class allowed each participant to determine his or her current degree of physical fitness through a simple battery of tests.

Participants at the workshop performed a series of recommended timed exercises to improve flexibility and stamina. CPT Paul Arbour teamed up with LTC Lloyd Lacoste for a 60 second long sit, with legs at a 90 degree angle, without leaning! Think it sounds simple? Give it a try. Lacoste and many others did it! (Photo by SGT Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)

## LA is ACOE

## Shooters Unite

The U.S. Running Target Development Training Camp was held at Jackson Barracks this year from July 6-18, 1992.

Shooters from all over the United States united to begin their journey towards the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team.

This is the first time the training camp has ever been held outside its home, the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Retired Sgt. Maj. Mickey Brondum, a member of Explorer Post 935 at Jackson Barracks coordinated the camp. All shooting activities took place at the Jackson Barracks indoor ranges. The events included mounting exercises, tracking targets and shooting running targets.

The next step after this competition, is to potentially become part of the travelling team and perhaps then on to the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team.

## Officers Must Graduate

The National Guard Bureau recently revealed that effective September 30, 1995, reserve officers in the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps Reserves must have a baccalaureate degree prior to promotion to captain or to a grade above lieutenant (junior grade) in the Naval Reserves, or be federally recognized in a grade above first lieutenant in the Army or Air National Guard. Some exceptions do apply. Contact State Military Personnel Offices for information.

## Guard Doctors Prison

The 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) has been conducting weekly rotations of medical teams to Angola State Penitentiary since May. The MASH is fulfilling federal requirements Angola has of providing 400 hours of medical services per week to inmates. Each Friday, through August, a 22-member team of doctors, nurses and other medical specialists travels to Angola for three days of highly sensitive and rigorous work.

The MASH is on state active duty, as directed by Gov. Edwin Edwards.

## Transition Video Made

A video created by World USO is helping to inform civilian employers that the service men and women leaving the military during the current restructuring and downsizing are highly skilled and represent a valuable pool to draw from in meeting their corporate needs.

Titled "Heroes for Hire," the 14-minute video is designed for human resource personnel. A shorter version is available for chief executive officers. "We want to show these decision makers that military training develops skillful, capable employees," said Janet Koster, USO's director of program and council relations. "The video discusses the skills civilian recruiters look for, and how military job applicants have a leg up in many of these areas," she added.

A copy of the video will be distributed to Transition Assistance Offices.

## Guard Joins Hands With Domino's

By CW3 Lowell D. Bradford  
209th PSC

Sun, sand, fun, and a little work set the scenario for members of the Louisiana Army National Guard who participated in the 1992 Domino's Pizza Volleyball Classic, May 31, at Coconut Beach in New Orleans.

The Classic is an annual fund raising event for Children's Hospital in New Orleans sponsored by Domino's Pizza. The event is conducted in conjunction with the children's Miracle Network Telethon. This year the Telethon and Classic set a new record.

Members of Troop Command, HQ STARC, HHC 204th Area Support Group, 1/141 Field Artillery, 209th Personnel Service

Company and their families set up national guard tents and provided equipment to support this event. All the work was completed before the 70 teams showed up for the event.

After the work was done it was time for sun screen and fun. Two teams represented the Louisiana National Guard: "Chair-Bourne Rangers" of the 209th and "Sick-Call" of Troop Command.

Both teams participated in a grueling full-day of competition where the sun and sand helped contribute to the final outcome. The guard teams finished with identical records of three wins and significant losses to keep them out of the play-off and final matches.

## Guard Helps Raise Over 500 Grand

By CW3 Lowell D. Bradford  
209th PSC

Members of Troop Command and the 209th Personnel Service Company provided support for the 1992 Children's Hospital in New Orleans. This year the telethon raised a new record of \$525,930 for the Children's Hospital.

The guardsmen and their family members performed an array of duties. Troop Command's Lt. Col. Charles Watts and Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Bradford; and 209th's Capt. Robert Fink, First Sgt. Victor Crozat, Sgt. 1st Class

Nelda Peterson, Staff Sgt. Debbie Gilmore, Spec. Susan Barnes answered phones to take donation pledges. CW3 Lowell Bradford and Staff Sgt. Matthew Lehmann of the 209th performed escort duties for celebrities and special guests of the telethon. Spec. Chad Guillory, Pvt. Pedro Rivera of the 209th and family members Mrs. Celeste Watts and Mr. Bill Gilmore were detailed as messengers.

The guardsmen worked the night shift from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The guardsmen and family members who participated agreed that the work wasn't that hard and were gratified to be able to contribute to such a worthy cause.

## WOCS Changes

The National Guard Bureau recently announced the elimination of the option to use the Army Correspondence Course Program for completing Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS). Resident training will be the only acceptable method for completing WOCS training. It is offered at Fort Rucker, Ala., (6 weeks) and Fort McCoy, Wis. At Fort McCoy, WOCS is configured in both the four week and split option (2 x 2) resident modes. The second portion of the split training option must be completed within one year of the start of Phase I. A transition period has been established for the discontinuance of enrollment after October 1, 1992. To receive credit, candidates are required to complete the correspondence phase by October 1, 1993. Contact the State Schools Program Manager or individual units for information.

## Troopers Graduate

The three members of the Counter Drug Program who recently attended Louisiana's State Police Training Academy are now state troopers.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Allen, who served as the class president, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey White and Sgt. Kenneth Martin reported to their respective troops July 6, 1992. White and Martin were also distinguished graduates of the 70th Cadet Class of the Academy.

## Brigade Called Out

Guardsmen were called to the rescue as Gov. Edwin Edwards declared a state of emergency when torrential rains bombarded south central Louisiana in June. Seven members of the 256th Infantry Brigade were called to state active duty in St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes to fill sandbags and assist with the evacuation of over 200 people from a housing area. Water levels rose three to four feet in a matter of hours in the cities of Ville Platte and Opelousas.

## Fellowship Available

Did you know that all U.S. citizens (except federally employed civilians) are eligible to apply for the White House Fellowship Program? Each year 14-20 individuals are selected to work full time for one year as special assistants to senior executive offices of the president or vice president. Military personnel are encouraged to apply. Applications can be obtained by writing to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, 712 Jackson Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20503 and must be submitted by December 15 each year.



## 159th FG Joins New ACC

By SSG Suzanne Chailot  
159th FG/PA

Introducing...the 159th Fighter Group. Louisiana's 159th Tactical Fighter Group has a new name.

On June 1, 1992, Tactical Air Command, with parts of Strategic Air Command and Military Airlift Command, become the new Air Combat Command.

All the former TAC units' names have been simplified. This includes La's 122nd Air Control Party, formerly Tactical ACP.

Air Combat Command will include all ballistic missiles, fighters, bombers, reconnaissance, command and control and battle management assets, some air refueling tankers, and a portion of theater airlift.

The ACC mission is to provide lean and mean combat forces trained to implement the

### United States National Security Strategy

ACC forces will be required to deploy, on a moments notice, to any global region and be ready to employ on arrival in theater. "Global deterrence is still a major objective of this National Security Strategy," writes Maj. Gen. Stephen C. Croker, ACC Commander (Provisional), "a strategy that can only be implemented through highly trained and well equipped combat air forces."

"This restructuring will allow us to expedite small packages going to small areas of the local impact of the Air Force-wide reorganization," said Col. Michael G. Sember, 159th FG commander. "The need to cross lines to get military airlift command or refueling tankers will be eased since we will all be under one command."

Other impacts, more personal, are that the TAC patch is to be removed from battle dress uniforms, and the 159th TFG patch will be altered.



Father and Son: MAJ Gerald Songy, Headquarters, La. Air National Guard swears his second son, Chris E. Songy, into the guard. Witnessing the oath are MAJ Songy's first commander, BG Ralph J. Melancon, Sr., assistant adjutant general (Air), and MAJ Robert L. Vaughn, the newest Songy's commander, at

the 159th Resource Management Squadron. Standing behind his father is SRA Adam Songy, a current member of the 159th RMS. Chris will attend the University of Southwestern La. Adam is a student at Southeastern La. University. (LAANG Photo)

## Calling All History Buffs

The Jackson Barracks Military Library, located in Building 51, is open to the general public Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:00, phone (504) 278-6241.

Did you know that the library:

- ▶ Maintains over 3,000 books & files on LANG history
- ▶ Maintains over 4,000 books & files on general military history
- ▶ Maintains over 1,000 books & files on genealogy
- ▶ Answers over 50 inquiries every quarter
- ▶ Maintains a staff to assist you in historical research
- ▶ Is always searching for donations, either monetary or items of military or historical interest

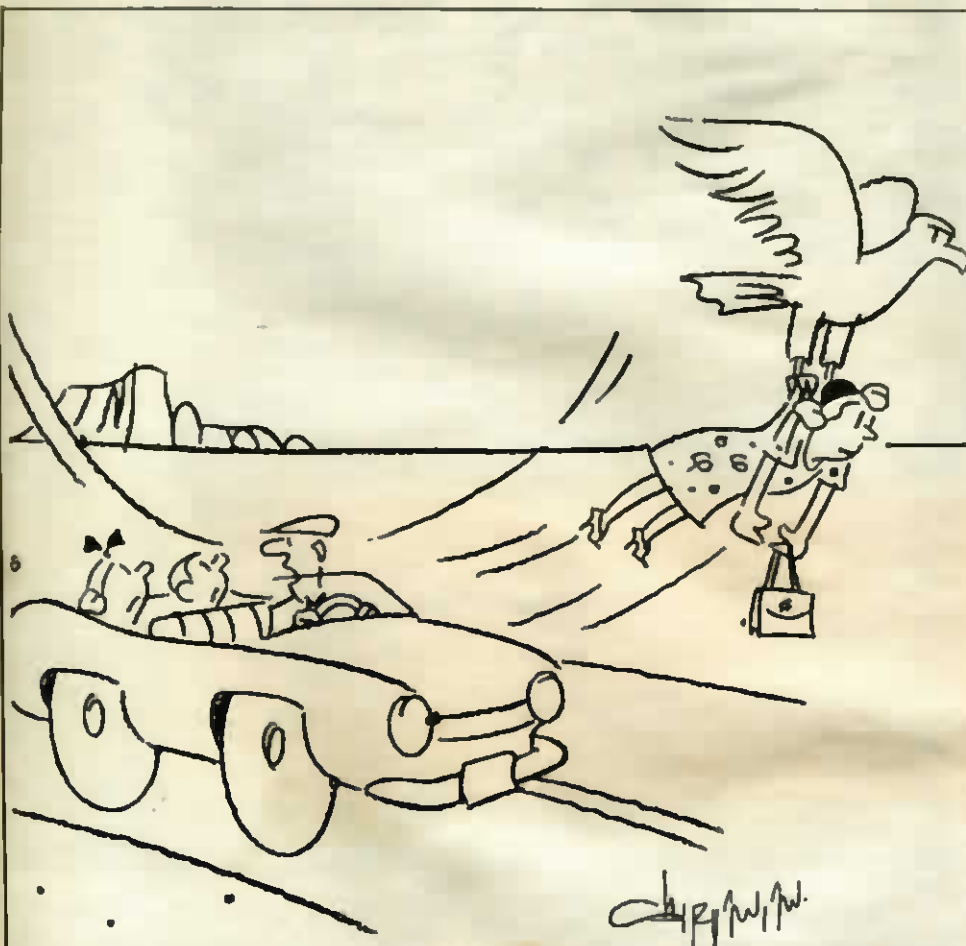
The library does all of this without an operating budget. If you would like to make a tax-exempt monetary donation to the library, make your check payable to the Jackson Barracks Museum "Dedicated to the Library Fund". Checks should be mailed to: Headquarters, Louisiana National Guard, Attn: Military History Library, Bldg. 51, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330





### Two signs of a valuable employee.

When your employees train with the National Guard and Reserve, they learn to be better decision makers, better team players, and better leaders. Please keep this in mind the next time they need time off work to serve. When they come back they'll be better prepared for the work they do for you. And that's the sign of a good employee.



"See! If mommy had been wearing her seat belt, that wouldn't have happened."

## ESGR Launches New Campaign

By Madro Bandaries  
ESGR PAO

Louisiana's Employer Support to the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) Summer and Fall billboard campaign has kicked off. Designed to be particularly relevant during the annual training period of our Guardsmen and Reservists, it will encourage employers to continue their support during this most important time.

Louisiana has been particularly effective in this matter in the ESGR public affairs is working with LAMAR Advertising to put over 500 billboards up. The Baton Rouge based company operates in 13 states and will publicize ESGR in all of them.

In addition, the new ESGR public service announcement (PSA) is being shown on all Louisiana television stations. Past PSA campaign efforts have realized increases in awareness of the critical role the Guard and Reserve play in our national defense. A recent survey of employers indicated that 88 percent

agree that employees learn skills in the Guard and Reserves that make them more cost effective.

Despite this survey, a full two-thirds of the 260,000 Guardsmen and Reservists that have left, did so because of job or family problems. One can easily see the value of your ESGR Committee as they deal primarily with employers.

Using the help of your local ESGR Committee, contact with employers leads to employer support. Such contact comes in way of speaker bureaus, ombudsman programs and recognition of employers whose policies support or encourage participation of their employees in the Guard and Reserves.

As to your participation as a Guardsman or Reservist, have you nominated your employer for an ESGR sponsored "Bosslift"? If not, do so. Contact ESGR Executive Director Col. John Landry at (504) 278-6311.

## ESGR Profile

NAME: J.R. "Snap" Oakes

OCCUPATION: Sheriff, Claiborne Parish

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Senior Sheriff in Louisiana, 6 terms, 22 years. Has 36 years in law enforcement.

MILITARY: Decorated Korean War Veteran

ADVICE TO OTHERS: "Join the military, it gave me leadership training."

VOLUNTEER WORK: ESGR Committee Member



## Louisiana Military Academy Recognized by 5th Army

By Jan G. Washispack  
Family Support Group Leader

"Congratulations, again!" - with these words Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud, Jr., presented the Fifth U.S. Army Outstanding Training Award to Lt. Col. Calvin Washispack, superintendent of the Louisiana Military Academy. This permanent trophy was awarded to Det. 2, HQ STARC during the recent Commanders/Staff Conference held at Camp Beauregard.

The Louisiana Military Academy has been selected as the winner of this coveted award for United States Army National Guard Academics for two consecutive years. The trophy is in recognition of "strong leadership

and training management programs" as evidenced in nomination packets submitted through the unit's chain of command. The Academy was cited for its "desire to excel and attain high standards in training readiness."

Washispack noted that every soldier assigned to Det. 2, HQ STARC contributed to this noteworthy achievement. He later presented the trophy to Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Addington during the NCOA's first formation and provided a written commendation to each unit member for their outstanding performance. A copy of this commendation has been placed in the individual's permanent records. The trophy is on display at the Louisiana Military Academy at Camp Beauregard.



# La. Guardsmen Play Major Roles In U.S. Olympics

By SGT Kristi L. Moon  
241st PAD

As a gun rings out "BANG!" An announcer screams "Let the games begin!"

And so it goes, the 1992 U.S. Olympic Tracks and Field Trials kick off at Tad Gormley Stadium in New Orleans, but not without the Louisiana National Guard. If Olympic officials had had to put on the show alone, it might not have happened.

Two Louisiana National Guard units performed official military duty in support of the trials. The 39th Military Police Co. and the 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital provided the better part of all security and medical support for the duration of the events.

The MASH, under the direction of Maj. Kathy Poole, set up their DEPMEDS, or deployable hospital and equipment. They provided initial treatment for minor injuries to athletes and spectators alike and prepared patients for more intense care and transportation to hospitals.

"We did have a few people who needed to be evacuated for more serious injuries," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael R. Sanchez, Chief Ward

Master of the MASH. "One athlete separated his soldier during a fall in the steeple chase, and one of the Olympic committee members became severely dehydrated."

Sanchez cited that most of the casualties were heat related. "I spoke with Carl Lewis for a few moments," he said. "He complained about trying to qualify in the heat and humidity of New Orleans."

Members of the MASH got in as early as 7 a.m. to fire up the generators and sometimes worked until 1 a.m. to evaluate all of the athletes and secure the medical site.

"It was great to work with all of the area medical organizations and meet the athletes," Sanchez said. "Just about every athlete came through the tent just to check us out."

While athletes were checking out the MASH compound, civilian spectators and interested parties were checking out the rest of the "secure" stadium area. The 39th MPs provided physical security and crowd control. The security perimeter and details consisted of the three main gates, the practice track, the medical center, vehicle searches, entry and access control, traffic control points, inside and

outside the stadium.

And the MPs worked 24 hours a day! The shift work paid off, however. The MPs apprehended an intruder. A curious spectator snuck into the stadium grounds to have a look around after the athletes were tucked in for the evening. Not for long, though. The MPs apprehended and escorted the individual out of the area.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Nagy, non-commissioned-officer-in-charge of the operation, said this was a routine mission for the 39th, especially after their role in Operation Desert Storm. The 39th worked closely with the New Orleans Sheriffs and Police Departments and had a concrete set of plans for the entire operation...until opening night. Some of the construction fell behind schedule and one of the main gates wasn't completely restructured. So, as with any mission, "Everybody had to be past flexible," Nagy said. "They had to be fluid."

The 44 soldiers involved, Nagy said, ran the show. "I didn't have to get involved a whole lot." Staff Sgt. Michael Dunn, platoon sergeant; Sgt. Shane Brossette, and Sgt. Michael

Bennett executed the entire operation, according to Nagy. They were also instrumental in briefing the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Committee on how to plan their upcoming events.

Now that it's all over, Nagy said, "It's kind of anti-climatic, because you're working at such a high level of intensity and then you don't have that adrenaline shove anymore."

More support for the trials came from seven members of the national guard who volunteered some invaluable time. The 209th Personnel Services Company and HQ STARC issued credentials to some 8,000 very important people. They also escorted athletes and guests, assisted Kodak with i.d. photos, compiled daily event updates and served as room mediators for the athletes.

"What started as a community action project of a couple of hours for a few days, ended up as a major task requiring 10 to 15 hours a day, for 16 days," said CW3 Lowell Bradford of the 209th Personnel Service Company.

While our background prepared us for this task, we will remember this experience for a long time to come, Bradford said.



At the recent U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials held at Tad Gormley Stadium in New Orleans Military Policemen SPC John Setnicky (r) and PV2 Ronald Lemoine of the 39th MP Co. maintain radio contact with their

communications center while manning the entrance to the medical center. The medical center was set up and run by members of the 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. (LAARNG Photo)



Members of the 209th Personnel Service Company and HQ STARC volunteered invaluable time and effort to the recent 1992 Olympic Track and Field Trials held in New Orleans. Pictured in their Olympic uniforms are (kneeling l to r) CPT Robert Fink, SPC

Charlotte Strecker. (standing l to r) Mr. Bill Gilmore, CW3 Lowell Bradford, SSG Debbie Gilmore, SSG Matthew Lehrmann, and SFC Edwin Guidroz. (Photo by SFC Nelda Peterson, 209th PSC)



The U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials were sponsored by many organizations, including the Louisiana Army National Guard. During all practice sessions, events and otherwise, the 159th MASH handled all medical concerns for athletes and spectators alike. The

39th MP Co. provided crowd control and around the clock physical security for the entire Franklin Roosevelt Mall area surrounding Tad Gormley Stadium. (Photo by SGT Kristi L. Moon, 241st PAD)