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"Managing Change Through Leadership"

SUMMER 1994

812th Med. Co. (AA)--

Air crews rescue flood victims from tree tops

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

The rain stopped hours ago, but the water rose quickly and the rapids intensified. There was no way out. The last time I climbed this tree I was 10 years old. I never imagined that I'd climb it again to escape the raging waters of a flash flood.

Water engulfed everything around me for miles. A few treetops, chimneys and boats were all I could see.

The path of the water was erratic, the currents shifted as though there was purpose for destruction. The grain elevators just down the road toppled over like dominoes and washed away with many other buildings I thought were permanent structures.

The tropical storm entered the Gulf of Mexico in late August. It had already done some damage in the Caribbean, but the chances looked slim that it would come our way. And even if it did, the weather forecast said it would move in and out. It moved in, but didn't move out until days later.

I thought I'd be able to grab a couple of things from the house, but the water swept through too quickly. Before I could think about what was happening, I was waist deep in water at the top of a tree holding on for dear life.

That was a fictional account of a man trapped in a flood. In the event that something like this comes true, it would be nice to know someone could get you out, wouldn't it?

If called upon for an emergency, the Louisiana National Guard will be ready to assist.

The 812th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), stationed at the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans, recently conducted rescue training exercises at Lake Buhlow near Camp Beauregard in Pineville.

I wasn't so sure this was a good idea, but this soldier volunteered to jump into the lake in full BDUs, even the boots. For safety measures I also

wore a life jacket, a helmet and goggles.

Assisting in the rescue exercise was the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Department, who provided a boat to transport the makeshift flood victims to the middle of the lake. I hopped aboard their boat with another soldier and then hopped into the lake shortly after.

There were three of us in the water, two "victims" and one safety swimmer, Chief Warrant Officer Byron Hummel. Hummel, a repair supervisor for the 812th, made sure that the victims were properly hooked up to the rescue collar.

It seemed like the natural thing to do so I offered to be rescued first. It was apparent that the aviators from the 812th knew what they were doing because I didn't stay floating very long—maybe three minutes.

The helicopter was flown by Chief Warrant Officers Lois Christensen and Robert Spitzer. They flew down to about 50 feet above the water and hovered over me. And by that time, the rescue collar was already being lowered by Sgt. Rodney West, the crew chief of this operation. It only took a few seconds for them to position the collar where I could grab it.

I was instructed earlier on how to put it on by Staff Sgt. Clarence Lick. Lick is the standardization instructor for the 812th and the sergeant-in-charge of all high performance training.

After securing the collar around my body, I latched it on to the hook of the hoist cable. I then fastened a safety strap beneath the water.

I was ready to be lifted so I extended my left arm and gave a thumbs up. It seemed as though I was riding an elevator cable, but I felt extremely safe and secure. It took less than a minute for West to electronically hoist me into the helicopter. Assisting West with the rescue was Spec. Mark Marquez, a flight medic with the unit.

As I buckled myself into a seat, the chopper was circling around to pick up the next victim. The same sequence of events took place for this rescue and we landed on the ground two or three minutes later.

"You can't simulate aviation in a classroom. It's important to do this kind of training annually, if not semi-annually,"
— CWO Lois Christensen



BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY— SSG Paul Sylvest is "rescued" from Lake Buhlow during annual training exercises conducted by the 812th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) near Camp Beauregard. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)

The 812th, commanded by Maj. Dennis J. Favalora at the time, performed these exercises as part of their two-week annual training. "I feel comfortable with all 812th personnel operating the equipment," Favalora said.

"The technical expertise and professionalism of Chief Warrant Officer William Girard and Staff Sergeant Clarence Lick are directly attributable to the successful accomplishment of the mission," he said.

Girard is the standardization instructor pilot and the unit standardization officer. He ensures that all 812th personnel are trained to standards and are proficient in their assigned positions.

According to Lick, the 812th has six quali-

fied crews. A crew consists of two pilots, a crew chief and a flight medic.

"Eight of nine crew chiefs and all of our flight medics are qualified to do rescue missions," Lick said.

"You can't simulate aviation in a classroom. It's important to do this kind of training annually, if not semi-annually," Christensen said.

The operations officer for the 812th is Capt. John LeBlanc. "This is the most realistic training we can get in a peacetime environment," he said.

There's no doubt that the 812th Medical Company (AA) is proficient in their missions. I'd never hang from a helicopter 50 feet above the ground without feeling perfectly safe.

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Army Communities of Excellence--

State's climb to perfection reaches new heights

By CPT Maria L. LoVasco
State PAO

When the Louisiana National Guard took second place in the Army Communities of Excellence this year, guardsmen not only brought home another \$125,000, but they made Louisiana the first state to place in the top three spots since reserve forces were allowed to compete five years ago.

Last year's money was put toward the purchase of needed equipment and renovations to existing facilities. Some of the money was farmed out to the winners of the in-state ACOE competition.

Already, we're gearing up for 1995's national and in-state competition, and this time there are a few changes.

— Brig. Gen. Edmund Giering, deputy STARC commander, will be this year's state program director.

— All organizations will receive on-site visits, not just the top finalists in each competing zone.

— At the company level there will be two award winners in each major command, with the best of these having a run-off for the top spots.

— A few units have been placed in different categories to make the competition more balanced.

— Also the third place award has been eliminated from all categories, save the company level.

Unit in-state plans are due to the state headquarters in November. This is earlier than in the past because the ACOE committee plans to visit the best of the best during their tour of Louisiana.

Therefore, the state winners need to be determined prior to the national visit in February/March.

There is chauvinism in making this decision, as it implies that we are already counting on making the top five finalists and earning a visit. If it's chauvinism, so be it. Louisiana hasn't placed five out of five for being mediocre.

Maj. Gen. Stroud's guidance for this year's national ACOE competition is eloquent and simple:

Recapture 1st place.

1-800-796-9699

Desert Storm Hotline

For "mystery illness" symptom sufferers. Call Monday - Friday 0800-2300 hours EDT to report any symptoms resulting from Desert Storm service.

Chief of Staff Hotline

1-800-233-6796

State Family Assistance Office.

1-800-541-5860



Quick response, safe landing

DUE RECOGNITION— Chief Warrant Officer 2 Philip Cancienne (left) and Sgt. Randall Primes (second from left) received citations from 1-244th AVN Commander Lt. Col. Thomas J. Bourgeois for successfully landing a UH-1 Huey helicopter during an in-flight emergency. The drama took place in April 1993, during a maintenance test flight when Cancienne first noticed an abnormal gauge reading at 1,000 feet. With smoke filling the cockpit and the engine compartment in flames, Cancienne safely landed the aircraft on a small cement slab in the Venetian Isles area of New Orleans East. Even though the landing took place only 200 feet from a fire station and fire fighters quickly doused the fire, the helicopter was a total loss. For his actions, Cancienne received a Broken Wing award. For his role in spotting the trouble and assisting the pilot in finding a landing site, Crew Chief Primes received a framed Certificate of Appreciation. (Photo by CPT Maria L. LoVasco, State PAO)

HELP WANTED! HELP WANTED! HELP WANTED!

The Louisiana Guardsman Newspaper Staff is in search of photographers. We are aware that many Guardsmen take photos of unit activities throughout the training year. We'd like to see your work and give you the opportunity to get your work in print. You don't have to be a professional, but your photos have to tell a story. Simply identify the individuals in the photo (by name and rank), explain what is going on in the photo and include the photographer's name, rank and unit. Send photos to: Louisiana Guardsman, ATTN: Editor, SGT Kristi Graves, Bldg. 35, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330.

159th FG honors own with coin

By SSG Samantha Theriot
159 FG

The 159th Fighter Group recently awarded the Louisiana National Guard Community of Excellence Coin to 22 people for contributions to the Guard and the community.

159th Commander Col. John H. Boh Jr., presented the coins.

Steve Jenkins, Rick Rauch, Al Eisten and Bob Sedgebeer, all support personnel from U.S. customs, and Master Sgt. Ron Alexis and Sr. Master Sgt. Casmear Larriecu of the 159th, were recognized for the expedient response to a June 1993 F-15 crash in south Louisiana.

Several people were recognized for their support of the 1993 159th family day activities.

Carrie Jones, Caroline Clark, Joanne Damare, Jay Chedville, Joyce Krail, Joel Helmer, Iris Johnson, Shonie Burris, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Bourdais, Janice Misuraca, Capt. Tena Moore and Capt. Romie Gallo-way were also awarded the Community of Excellence Coin.

Other members of the 159th recognized for community service were Tech. Sgt. Bobby Guillory and Staff Sgt. Lionel Jones Jr., coordinators of the Black History Month program, and Sr. Master Sgt. Charles Helmer for coordinating Air Guard participation in the Kiwanis International activities.



PRESENTATION— COL John H. Boh Jr., commander of the 159th Fighter Group, presented some much deserved recognition to members of his unit, their families and members of the community recently at an awards ceremony. Recipients were awarded the Louisiana National Guard Community of Excellence Coin for their outstanding contributions in various activities. (Photo by TSGT Greg Guerra, 159th FG)

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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, Public Affairs Office, (Attn: SGT Graves), Bldg. 35, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330.

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159th FG sponsors inner city youth

By SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr.
241st PAD

For the second time in as many years the 159th Fighter Group welcomed 25 inner city children from New Orleans-area housing projects for a day of activities at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chase.

The program is an attempt by the Guard to combat the many problems the children face everyday in the inner city.

"We inform the kids of the problems drugs cause and try to present a positive side of life," said Capt. Lorraine Patin, coordinator of the program. "We try to make them realize they can do anything they want if they study and stay in school."

"We inform the kids of the problems drugs cause and try to present a positive side of life." - Capt. Lorraine Patin, coordinator for the program.

The children, who were joined by six adult chaperons from their respective projects, spent the day participating in many activities including a flight suit demonstration, parachute and life support displays, as well as aircraft and weapons displays. U.S.

Customs was also on hand to speak to the group about drugs and to give a demonstration with a drug-sniffing dog.

For Kentriell Clark, 14, a seventh grader at McDonough 28, this was his second trip to the airbase under the program. Clark said he enjoyed seeing all of the military equipment, especially the jets.

"This year is better because we got to watch that dog tear up that box looking for the drugs," Clark said. "We never had that the last time I was here," he added.

"The way things are in the streets, it's good to have kids exposed to something that is positive," said Tech. Sgt. Les M. Durette, a Life Support Technician with the 122nd Fighter Squadron who demonstrated to the kids some of the survival equipment fighter pilots are trained to use.

"Hopefully, today will help the kids realize how important it is for them to stay in school and make something good out of themselves," Durette added.

Diana Battiste, a Housing Authority of New Orleans representative who coordinates activities for the children said that "it's good to do something the kids really enjoy. Many of the programs we go to don't seem to keep the kids' attention as long as the activities that are put on here. They would be ready to come back tomorrow if you would let them."

Second YCP class meets challenge

By CPT Maria L. LoVasco
State PAO

A second class of high school dropouts met the challenge of the Youth Challenge Program when they completed the five-month course with a commencement ceremony held at Tioga Senior High School in August.

Dressed in blue satin and mortarboards, the 110 graduates of YCP Class 2-94 looked every bit the graduating high school seniors. All but two had earned their General Education Development by the end of the course, and these two are scheduled to take the exam shortly.

This student body began five months ago with a roster of 181 teenagers, but drug use and disciplinary problems pared that number down by 70 candidates.

The daily regimented military environment proved to be more than some could handle, especially those who had become accustomed to sleeping late and loafing

through the day. But for many, fear, pride or a lack of anywhere to go, served as motivators.

Those graduates who pursue further educational or vocational training will now be eligible for the \$2,200 stipend offered upon completion of the course. More importantly, each graduate will be matched up with a mentor who will provide him or her with guidance and moral support for the upcoming year.

Back in 1993, the Louisiana National Guard received \$4.9 million dollars from the Department of Defense to conduct two classes annually of the Youth Challenge Program. At \$10,200 per dropout some may question the value of this government program.

But for the hundreds of families and friends who crowded into the Tioga High School auditorium to see a commencement ceremony they'd only dreamed of, it is worth every penny.



GRADUATION, ALAS!—The candidates of the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program cheer with excitement as they have just walked across their high school stage and graduated. More than 100 high school dropouts received their GEDs in August through the second rotation of the Department of Defense-funded program. (Photo by CPT Maria L. LoVasco, State PAO)



BONDING -- (Top) TSGT Les M. Durette talks to a group of inner city youth about his job as a life support technician and the equipment that Air Guardsmen wear to help protect themselves. (Bottom) CPT J.B. Waltermire talks about his job as an F-15 fighter pilot. (Photos by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)



In Memorium

It is with profound regret that announcement is made of the untimely deaths of the following Louisiana Guardsmen.

Staff Sgt. Larry James Coleman, 43, died August 22, 1994.

Coleman served in the active Army from January 4, 1973, through December 13, 1975, and the USAR Control Group from December 14, 1975 through July 25, 1976. His initial enlistment into the Louisiana Army National Guard was July 26, 1976. During this period he served as a tank commander. He was honorably discharged from the National Guard January 26, 1986.

Coleman then reenlisted into the Louisiana National Guard November 26, 1991. He served with Company A, 4th Battalion 146th Infantry as a squad leader. The unit reorganized to the 1083rd Transportation Company in February 1993, where he served with honor as a heavy vehicle driver.

His military awards and decorations include the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Louisiana Commendation Medal, Louisiana Longevity Ribbon, Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon, and the Louisiana Emergency Service Ribbon with two fleur-de-lis.

He is survived by his wife, Carlisle M. Coleman, and sons Siegfried C., Miklos R., and Audrie R. Coleman.

Spec. Robert Shane Credeur, 22, died August 12, 1994.

Credeur enlisted into the Louisiana National Guard March 8, 1990, and served with Company C, 769th Engineer Battalion in Gonzales, La., and Det. 1, Company C, 769th in

Napoleonville.

He attended Basic and AIT at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri from August 10, 1990, through December 8, 1990, and graduated as a carpenter/masonry specialist.

His military awards include the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon (3), Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon, and the Louisiana Emergency Service Ribbon.

He is survived by his wife, Jenny Alyssa Terrell Credeur.

Spec. Gregory Lamar Williams, 22, died August 20, 1994.

He enlisted into the Louisiana National Guard January 10, 1990, into Det. 1, Company C, 527th Engineer Battalion in Homer, La., and later transferred to Det. 1, Company A, 527th where he served honorably as a carpentry/masonry specialist.

Williams attended Basic at Fort Jackson, South Carolina from June 13, 1990, through August 10, 1990, and AIT at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri from July 18, 1991, through September 13, 1991.

His military awards include the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and the Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon.

He is survived by his mother, Charlene Williams.

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

Louisiana Military Academy-- Consolidation makes academy stronger, turns out better officers

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

"Candidate, Ex-cuuuze me!" "Sir, yes sir!" "Sir, no sir!"

These are popular phrases you hear at the Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La. Polite students? Perhaps, but more likely it's the unquestioned obedience which is all part of the program.

"We purposely create a stressful environment for the candidates because our main objective is to create future combat leaders," said 1st Lt. Randall Bouley, senior TAC officer for the Louisiana Military Academy. "TAC" stands for teach, advise and counsel, some of the basic principles needed to develop good leaders.

The class at Camp Beauregard this summer consists of 213 potential leaders from seven states, making up the largest consolidated class in the 5th Army region. The consolidation includes seven of the eight states which represent the 5th Army Area: Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas. The 5th Army also includes Nebraska, however their candidates are assigned to an OCS program in a different region.

Previous classes brought soldiers together from Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico. The original consolidation began in 1985 with Louisiana and Texas.

The concept was spearheaded by Col. Calvin Washispack, the superintendent of the Louisiana Military Academy. "In February of last year the National Guard Bureau encouraged us to consider further consolidation and we did," Washispack said. As chairman of the State Military Academy Advisory Council for Region 5, Washispack had the responsibility of getting the 5th Army states together to come up with a plan.

With the cooperation of the other states in the 5th Army region, the Louisiana Military Academy has become a model for the training of prospective officers. Throughout the year, three reviews are conducted to plan the program. "This is

when we iron out all the details for Phase I and Phase III," Washispack said. "It's also when we align the programs of the 5th Army states," he said.

The school is divided into three phases which span 15 months. The first phase is two weeks of annual training conducted at the academy. The students are addressed as junior candidates during this period which begins in August. The soldiers are in a drill status for the second phase at their own state academies. For the third phase, the students return to Louisiana as senior candidates and wrap up the end of their training. They graduate and receive their commissions at their own state academies.

"There have been other consolidations, but not to this magnitude," Washispack said.

"In Louisiana, we have evidence that we're the best in the nation," he added.

"We've received the 5th Army Training Award for the last three years, so I'm pleased with the success we've had."

The National Guard Bureau directed military academies around the country to begin consolidating their programs last year. Louisiana had a headstart, having merged with Texas many years ago. New Mexico joined the effort in 1989 and until this year, the consolidation was limited to these three states.

The integrated training within the state academies is expected to continue for at least two more years. More evaluation will follow to determine the overall effectiveness of the system. Washispack said, "Our recommendation to the Bureau is that the consolidation remain in the 5th Army area."

The first officer candidate class at Camp Beauregard was offered in 1960. To date, the school has graduated and commissioned 892 soldiers.

Twelve soldiers graduated in Class 34 this summer. As they completed their final phase, Class 35 was just getting started.

In each class, a small number of students from the top 10 percent of the senior class are hand

TAC:
TEACH
ADVISE
COUNSEL



GETTING BY-- Officer candidates attempt to maneuver their way across one of the obstacles on the Leadership Reaction Course at Camp Beauregard, La. Over 200 candidates from seven different states are vying for officer positions. Pictured are: (front) Andre' Herpin of St. Martinville, La.; (standing) Ken Amarine of Marianna, Ark.; (and on the wall from left to right) Rodney Reeves of Fayetteville, Ark.; Joseph Shalabi of Austin, Tex., and Jake Moore of San Marco, Tex. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)

Guard's response to education crisis provides direction for teens

By 1LT David Barham
241st PAD

The National Guard is used to responding to emergencies. Hurricanes, floods, wars... Now the education crisis.

Many people would agree the nation's youth are in trouble in school. Every eight seconds, a teen drops out of school; Louisiana's dropout rate is hovering around 12 percent, and most of those in prison today have no high school diploma.

But the Louisiana National Guard is attacking the problem.

The Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program kicked off its third class August 17 at Camp Beauregard. Almost 250 teens between the ages of 16 and 18 are trying to get General Education Development (GED) diplomas through the Guard program.

Since September, 1993, the cadre in the Youth ChalleNGe Program have given hope to 227 teens.

And the Guard may be the best hope for many teens.

It's expensive to have a residential program," said Chief Warrant Officer Douglas Peterson. "It's cost prohibitive for schools" to run such a program.

Peterson should know. He's spent most of his life in education and was the superintendent for schools in Bossier Parish for three years. It costs about \$10,000 to house, clothe and feed the teens for a five-month course at Camp Beauregard, Peterson said, and the public schools just can't afford it. The Guard received a federal grant to pay

for the program, but only the Guard has the buildings and facilities for such an endeavor.

Officials at the special school hand-pick troubled teens from around the state and put them through a military-type training environment where they are given leadership positions, physical training, and more importantly, training to successfully complete the GED test.

Leonard Vander Hoff, 16, of Slidell, said he kept getting in trouble in high school. But he wanted to get to college somehow. So, he joined the Youth ChalleNGe Program.

"I came here on my own to make something of myself. I plan on making it all the way through. I'm here to stay out of trouble." -- Leonard Vander Hoff.

"I came here on my own to make something of myself," Vander Hoff said. "I plan on making it all the way through. I'm here to stay out of trouble."

After completing the course, the teens have several options. They are

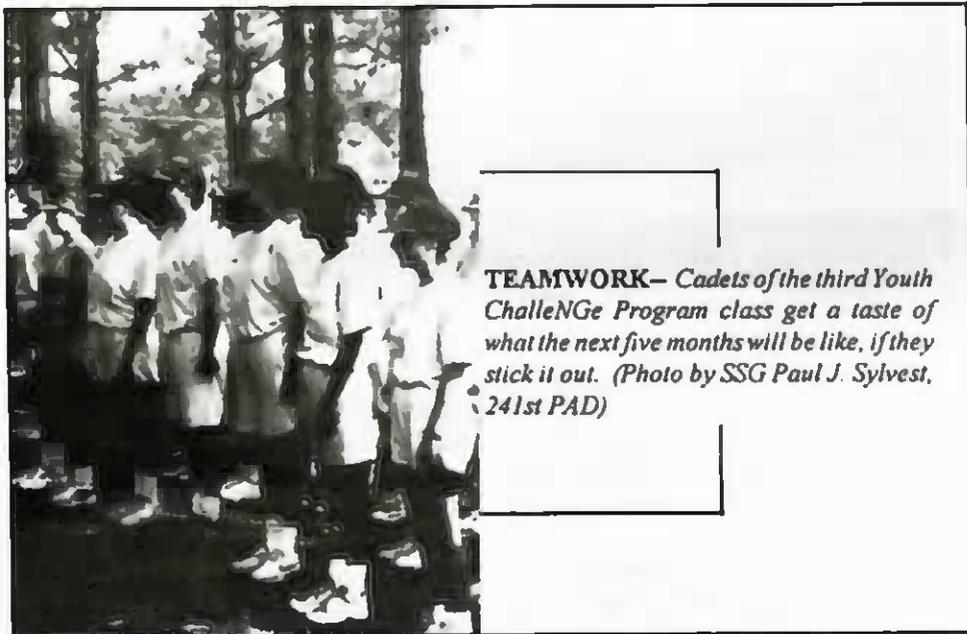
given a \$2,200 scholarship to pay tuition at a college or a vocational school. Or they can use the money to buy tools or clothing - depending on what job they land when they leave Camp Beauregard.

But Peterson said the teens are also given a sense of responsibility.

And the Guard doesn't leave them hanging once they leave Camp Beauregard. Each teen is assigned a home-town mentor. Peterson said the mentor guides the teen through job placement, and hopefully, the mentor and the teen become friends.

"What they do after they (complete the program) determines if they'll be successful," Peterson said.

To become a mentor, or to get more information on the program, call 1-800-CAMP-KID or (318) 641-3311.



TEAMWORK-- Cadets of the third Youth ChalleNGe Program class get a taste of what the next five months will be like, if they stick it out. (Photo by SSG Paul J. Sylvest, 241st PAD)

Continued on page 18

The PVT Joseph L. Nuzzolillo Scholarship Award

By CW3 Louis Joseph
205th Engr Bn

The parents of Pvt. Joseph Nuzzolillo, Anne Hock and Joseph Nuzzolillo, have chosen to continue the military spirit that their son exemplified by starting a post secondary scholarship in his memory to any qualified soldier in the 205th Engineer Battalion. The \$500 scholarship is set up by the Christ Episcopal Church in Covington, La., and will be awarded annually. Their son was a member of Co. A, 205th. He was killed in an automobile accident earlier this year.

Pvt. Nuzzolillo, an outstanding soldier, was awarded the Army Achievement Medal posthumously. His citation reads:

"Distinct service rendered 21 July 93 - 14 May 94 for initiative, technical expertise, devotion to duty, competitive spirit, and a high degree of physical fitness, and served as role

model and inspiration for all other troops. Pvt. Nuzzolillo reflected great credit upon himself, the 205th Engineer Battalion, Louisiana National Guard and the United States Army."

The first scholarship was awarded to Sgt. Kenneth Weichert of Co. A who was honored in a special ceremony held on Sept. 10, 1994. The parents presented the scholarship to Weichert with Lt. Col. Henry A. Boese, battalion commander, assisting in the ceremony.

Hock presented Pvt. Kevin Heck, Joey's best Army buddy, a framed poem entitled Friendship. She also presented a framed set of musical notes entitled No. 6 Extinguish Lights to Sgt. Evelyn Burns who played "Taps" at his funeral.

The Nuzzolillo family will select future scholarship recipients who meet the following criteria: current drilling member of the 205th;



HONORING- (top photo) Mr. Joseph Nuzzolillo and Mrs. Anne Hock, (left), parents of the late PVT Joseph "Joey" Nuzzolillo of Co. A, 205th Engr Bn, donate a \$500 college scholarship in remembrance of their son. (bottom photo) SGT Evelyn Burns receives a gift from Joey's mom for playing "Taps" at his funeral. (Photos by CW3 Louis Joseph, 205th Engr Bn)

basic training and AIT graduate; no record of disciplinary action pending or otherwise, have successfully passed his/her last regularly scheduled PT test, must not be on the Army weight control program; be a full-time college student and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; be nominated by his/her command; be enlisted in the grade of E-5 or below; have more than one year remaining on his/her current enlistment; must qualify with his/her individual weapon annually and must not have more than four periods of equivalent training, split training, or absent leave in any one year period.

After the ceremony, the family gathered with the soldiers of Co. A. Because of this special bond with the family, A Co. will include them in all of its special occasions.

Pvt. Nuzzolillo will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

Region VI NCO Academy--



PRESENTATION- MSG Michael Wilde (right) presents SFC Mark Walker with an Army Commendation Medal during a PLDC graduation in August. Walker and the other instructors and cadre members at the NCO Academy at Ball, La., received recognition for their roles in making the Academy one of the best in the Army. (Photo by SSG Paul J. Sylvest, 241st PAD)

Facilities and soldiers deemed best in the Army

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

The NCO Academy at Ball, La., is the most organized, well run facility of its kind according to the U.S. Army.

This assessment was made by the accreditation team directed by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. The team was sent from the Sergeant Major Academy which is located at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Morrow, commandant of the academy, said the federal accreditation enables them to run the academy.

The academy, also known as the military education center, offers PLDC, BNCOC and ANCOC for both the reserve and active duty components. In training year '95, the academy will offer numerous reserve and active NCO development courses. These courses serve the needs of all 50 states and four U.S. territories.

The latest PLDC course graduated 122 soldiers in late August. However, there have been larger classes. "We had 365 in PLDC during Desert Storm," Morrow said. From 1984 through April 1994, the Academy has graduated 14,168 students from its many courses, according to official records.

The education center employs active duty Guardsmen in addition to federal and state technicians. There is also a small number of soldiers serving in an active duty training status.

The Academy also has a developmental counseling program which is one of the best in the Army, according to the accreditation team. They also considered the self-help improvement program exceptional and said that the Academy gets better with each visit.

Several of the instructors and cadre members were recently recognized for their dedication to and accomplishments at the

Academy.

"The willingness of the cadre to work on projects at the facility indicates their desire to have the best NCO Academy in the Army," Morrow said.

The Academy instructors and cadre members who received awards are:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL-

SFC Rickey Bragg
SFC Grady Coulter

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL-

SFC John Brown, 3rd award
SSG Warren Currey
SFC Roger Drake, 2nd award
SFC Dankel Ducote
SFC Eugene Earnest, 4th award
SSG Brian Jackson, 2nd award
SSG Gerald Martin
SFC Gary Walker, 3rd award
SFC Mark Walker, 2nd award
SFC John Woods, Jr., 2nd award
SFC Ranier Woods, 3rd award

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL-

SSG Delores Banks, 2nd award
SSG Michael Bell, 4th award
SSG Milton Billberry, 2nd award
SSG Michael Braswell, 2nd award
SGT Michael S. Corley, 2nd award
SFC James Grace, 2nd award
SSG Michael LaCour
SGT Mathew Lejeune, 2nd award
SSG Trixy Lejeune
SGT Timothy Livingston, 2nd award
SFC Jason Lott, 2nd award
SGT Mark Matney, 2nd award
SSG Gary Newcomb, 2nd award
SSG Charles Nichols, Sr., 2nd award
SGT William Nugent, 2nd award
SSG Joel Ortiz-Rosado, 2nd award
SGT Wilburn Sneed

Mrs. Louisiana

Guardsman's wife is crowned
Mrs. Louisiana and Mrs. America
2nd runner-up

By SFC Joseph Vanderpool
39th MP Co.

Mrs. Loretta S. Dunn, the wife of Staff Sgt. Michael W. Dunn, was recently crowned Mrs. Louisiana and Mrs. America, 2nd runner-up.

Staff Sgt. Dunn is a member of the 39th Military Police Company and a full-time member of the Counter Drug Program.

On July 22 and 23, 1994, 17 contestants competed for the title of Mrs. Louisiana at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel in New Orleans. Mrs. Dunn went on to compete as Mrs. Louisiana against 50 other contestants in the Mrs. America Pageant held in Fort Worth, Texas, September 8-10, 1994. She was selected as 2nd runner-up.

Mrs. Dunn credits her supporters: family, friends and coworkers for her success. Her supporters donated much of her



Photo by Glamour Shots

wardrobe and accessories for the events, part of what made her so successful.

While in Fort Worth, Mrs. Dunn's supporters wore buttons with her picture to boost her recognition.

Second runner-up Mrs. America was presented with a crystal trophy as a token of her success.

Mrs. Dunn is currently employed by the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office as a juvenile detective. The Dunn's have been married seven years and have two children.

From paper to pop-ups-- New record fire range challenges all soldiers

By 1LT David Barham
241st PAD

A camouflaged soldier stands in his fighting position, looking out, waiting for the expected attack from the enemy. His weapon is locked and loaded and he knows exactly what to do with it.

Suddenly, in his firing sector a squad of paper targets appears 25 meters away.

The enemy stands very still as the soldier unloads his weapon.

Not a very likely scenario.

That's why Louisiana Army National

Guard officials built the new record fire range at Camp Beauregard. Soldiers began qualifying at the pop-up target range in April. The new range is more realistic than shooting at the 25-meter paper targets. The automated targets are only visible for a few seconds, they are located at different distances and the closer they are, the faster they move.

But there has been a major problem with the range: bolos. Officials say soldiers are simply unfamiliar with the automated target range.

"A soldier has to learn to shoot," said Sgt. Maj. Ronald Besson, a special projects NCO for the Guard. "(The range) is designed to be challenging and to be realistic and to prepare that soldier for what he'll see in combat conditions."

One way to limit bolos is to get the troops familiar with the range, Besson said. The 241st Public Affairs Detachment is making a video for troops to see before they go to the range.

And before qualifying, leaders should make certain the soldiers have zeroed weap-

ons. Without a good zero, officials say soldiers don't have a chance of hitting some of the distant targets.

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Ruff, the range training NCO, said soldiers are required to shoot from a foxhole and from the unsupported prone position. The scoring doesn't change: a soldier with 36 hits in 40 shots is still considered an expert and a soldier with less than 23 hits does not meet the standards.

The only new part of the scoring is the computer that prints results instantly.

The pop-up targets appear in 16 lanes at 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, and 300 meters. The 50-meter targets stay up for about

three seconds and the 300-meter targets stay up for about 10 seconds.

Sometimes, more than one target will pop up in the soldier's lane. Shooters must scan their firing lanes constantly.

Ruff said he won't hold up the computerized range for people with jammed weapons. If there is a serious problem with the weapon (like a pop and no kick), the soldier will have to qualify with another weapon later. But if it's a simple jam, the soldier will have to clear the weapon and keep firing.

Again, officials say that's realistic.

"In the real world, if an (enemy soldier) is coming up the hill, you can't say, 'Hey, I have an alibi!'" Besson said.

Ruff said leaders should go over the basics of marksmanship with unit members before going to the range. Classes on zeroing, breathing, SPORTS and the trigger squeeze should be reviewed.

Range officials said soldiers shouldn't be scared of the range, but they should be well prepared.

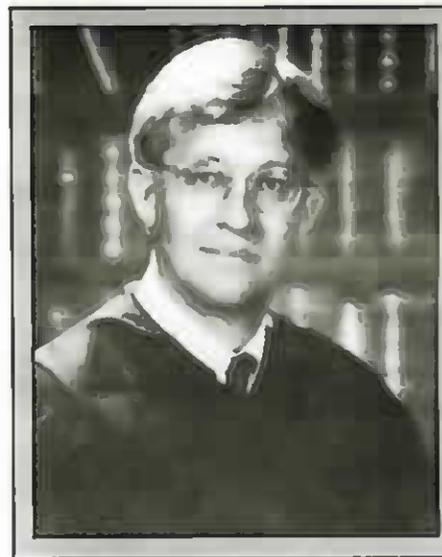
"It's a whole new ball of wax from shooting at the paper targets," Ruff said.

SPORTS

- * S - Slap the bottom of the magazine
- * P - Pull the charging handle
- * O - Observe the chamber
- * R - Release the charging handle
- * T - Tap the forward assist
- * S - Squeeze



FIRE- Louisiana National Guardsmen from around the state now have a firing range that will give them a true measure of their marksmanship proficiency. Pop-up targets appear in 16 lanes at 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, and 300 meter intervals. (Photo by 241st Public Affairs Detachment)



LTC Darrell D. White

Minuteman Award

Lt. Col. Darrell D. White has been selected as the 1993 Army National Guard Judge Advocate of the Year by the National Guard Bureau.

White was awarded the NGB Minuteman Award for his meritorious service during 1993. He successfully secured the enactment of the Louisiana Military Justice Code and the compilation, publication and distribution of the Louisiana National Guard Military Justice Manual.

White displayed outstanding leadership, initiative, and creativity with his unselfish dedication and efforts which have greatly enhanced the readiness of the Louisiana National Guard.



ALERT- An F-15 Eagle inside the alert pod at the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, Belle Chasse, La. (Photo by SMSG Ken Barlow, 159th FG)

159th FG alert mission ends

By SSG Suzanne Chailot
159th FG/PAO

The regional air defense alert mission for the 159th Fighter Group ended in August after 34 years of service. This closure for the Louisiana Air Guard is due to the current trend in military downsizing.

The 159th started the mission of guarding the gulf coastal region on a 24-hour posture in 1960. They were equipped with the F-102 convair aircraft. This mission continued through 1970, when during the conversion to the F-100 aircraft for the 159th, alert ceased for a short period.

During this conversion time, a Cuban airliner landed at the New Orleans International Airport. This undetected landing caused concern about the coastal radar coverage and air defense capabilities.

Because of this occurrence, air defense alert was reinstated and the responsibility fell to air defense units from the Texas, Florida and Michigan Air National Guards.

The 159th resumed the mission in 1980 upon completion of the conversion to

the F-4C Phantom. The Louisiana Air Guard has maintained the responsibility of the alert mission since then, except for a short period when the Texas Air Guard took over the mission during the 159th's conversion to the F-15 Eagle.

The 159th had the only general purpose F-15 aircraft to assume the role of air defense alert in the country.

According to Lt. Col. Dusty Rhoads, 159th fighter pilot, the personnel assigned to the alert mission never missed an intercept or an active air scramble.

"We were able to maintain air sovereignty for our area of responsibility," Rhoads said. "We were always ready for a quick response."

Such quick responses included such intercepts as assistance to commercial and non-commercial aircraft flying off-track, identification of suspect aircraft and involvement in the counterdrug mission.

The responsibility for the regional air defense alert mission will fall to the Houston and Panama City, Fla., areas to continue to insure air sovereignty for the gulf coast and the country.

*"We were always ready
for a quick response."
— Lt. Col. Dusty Rhoads*



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

Louisville means "team" to family support leaders

*No matter where
they are, Guard
family members
know that
Together Everyone
Achieves More*

By SFC Robert Morrisette
Area Retention NCO

Lou-ce-ville, Lou-ah-ville, Lewis-ville. Even Kentuckians will argue over how to pronounce the name of the city that is home to the famous Louisville Slugger, Kentucky Fried Chicken and the annual Kentucky Derby. But to the representatives of all 50 states attending the Guard Family Program Workshop, Louisville was pronounced 'T.E.A.M.' TEAM stands for Together Everyone Achieves More, which was the theme for this year's workshop held July 31 through August 4, 1994.

Louisiana was well represented and during the national roll call, proudly proclaimed ourselves as an Army and Air Force Community of Excellence. Capt. Robert Fink led the Louisiana delegation through a maze of 28 different seminars and lectures ranging from Marketing the National Guard Family Program to Disaster Preparedness.

Iris Johnson and Norma Williams, Louisiana Family Program civilian volunteers, contributed personal concerns to the National Guard Bureau representatives. Their ideas, along with ideas from other state volunteers, are to be carefully considered by the Family Programs section at the Pentagon for implementation in the near future. Some of the major concerns included more support for soldiers suffering from Southwest Asia Syndrome, low cost medical/dental insurance for all Guard members, unlimited commissary/PX privileges, and increased benefits for Active Guard and Reserve and M-day soldiers.

A panel of National Guard Bureau representatives and Family Program Coordinators participated in a discussion where

audience members were allowed to ask questions. These coordinators came from Florida, California, and South Carolina, states that have recently suffered from natural disasters and had to mobilize their family assistance program. Their stories confirmed the idea that a good family support program is not something to be put off, but must be in place today in order to be effective whenever disaster occurs.

Special speakers during the five day event included Mr. Frank Rush, assistant undersecretary of National Guard and Reserve Affairs. Rush emphasized that retention has not suffered because of Operation Desert Storm, but recruiting has suffered because of downsizing in the military. Rush expressed the importance of producing New Member Welcome Packets containing information important to a new soldier and his or her spouse. He assured everyone that the Secretary of Defense is looking into a tax credit for employers of Guardsmen, activation insurance for professionals who may lose money in the event of mobilization, and more importance placed on family program status within National Guard units.

Also speaking was Ms. Dorothy

The Secretary of Defense is looking into a tax credit for employers of Guardsmen, activation insurance for professionals who may lose money in the event of mobilization, and more importance placed on family program status within Guard units.

Ogilvy-Lee, NGB family program coordinator. Lee discussed changes in the family support program over the past 10 years and how nice it is to finally have the ear of the top brass at the Pentagon.

As the annual workshop wound to a close we started making plans for the next one, to be held in Portland, Oregon during August 1995. It promises to be even bigger and better than this year's workshop. We are looking forward to representing Louisiana in Oregon, Oregawn, Oregin.....



Local volunteer gets second national call

Mrs. Jan Washispack, family support group leader for the Louisiana Military Academy and state volunteer, was recently selected again by the National Guard Bureau to attend the Army's 12th Annual Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference in Washington, DC. AFAP is a continuing initiative to identify and prioritize soldier and family issues that assist the Army's top leadership in reshaping the Army.

Washispack was selected last year during the nationwide search, as one of only 11 delegates to represent the entire National Guard. This year, based on her knowledge

of family programs, and experience as a former delegate, she has been asked to come back again as part of the staff.

Capt. Robert Fink, family program coordinator, has also been selected to attend this year as one of the 12 National Guard delegates.

Considering that there are 53 other states and territories vying for any one of these positions, Louisiana is once again lucky to have been selected for two.

These selections are indicative of how well the Louisiana National Guard's Family Program is thought of at the national level.

IRS changes moving tax

Good news for Army families. The Internal Revenue Service clarifies policy on the latest tax law on reimbursements for soldiers' moving expenses, which will save some military members up to thousands of dollars in taxes.

Under the 1993 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, relocation allowances became taxable. At first, the IRS applied the law to everyone - military and civilian. The result would tax the temporary lodging expense (TLE) and temporary lodging allowance (TLA), which hadn't been targeted before. Then the IRS announced that the tax change wasn't intended for the military after all.

The reasoning refers to the basic allowances for quarters (BAQ) and subsistence (BAS). BAQ and BAS are not taxable and since TLE and TLA are paid to reimburse the soldier for lodging and subsistence

during a move, these two are just extensions of an already non-taxable entitlement.

Army officials expect the IRS to follow up with more details on moving allowances, after further study. Meanwhile, military officials are pleased with the change interpretation.

"The act had the potential of creating serious problems for up to 800,000 military personnel," said Defense Secretary William Perry. This announcement "resolves the dilemma we confronted concerning these allowances. The financial cloud over the head of our military personnel has been removed."

For more information on IRS rules as they develop, contact a local legal assistance attorney or Army Community Service financial counselor. (Based on a report filed by ARNEWS, reprinted from ARMY FAMILIES, Summer 1994.)

National network provides helpful tips for women

Stay-at-home women trying to enter the job market can get a free packet of information on local job-readiness and training programs, support groups, financial aid options, health insurance rights and child support agencies by calling the helpline of Women Work! the National Network for Women's Employment. Call toll-free 1-800-235-2732, 24-hours a day. If you are overseas, you may write to:

Women Work!
1625 K St., N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

Keeping our families informed



Local family issue gets national attention

At this year's Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference in Washington, DC, a locally generated issue will be receiving national attention.

In July, Capt. Robert Fink, the state family program coordinator submitted an issue statement to the National Guard Bureau which was considered to be of such significance that it has been forwarded to the Department of the Army as one of only a hand full of issues to be discussed at this year's AFAP Conference in October.

The issue deals with the maximum amount of military leave that a reserve component soldier can return to the government in exchange for cash payment.

The Department of the Army has a policy stating that soldiers can "cash-in" a maximum of 60 days of leave throughout their military career (active or reserve). Just like active Army soldiers, National Guard soldiers sometimes earn leave when they perform active duty for extended periods of time. In most cases, the Guard soldiers do not have the opportunity to use the leave while on active duty, and therefore have to cash it in. The problem occurs once the soldier has cashed in 60 days of leave. Every

day of leave earned after that can not be cashed in, and is lost.

With the active Army continuing to draw down, many former Army soldiers are entering the National Guard unaware that they may continue to earn leave. If not informed, some soldiers will cash in the maximum amount not knowing the repercussions that may come about later.

Fink's proposal is to either reset the soldiers "cashed-in" balance to zero upon their initial enlistment into the Guard, or to do away with the 60 day rule for reserve components altogether.

We will continue to keep you posted on the outcome of this issue.

We would also like to hear from you. If this has happened to you or someone you know, we would like to hear about it. Any examples that Capt. Fink can gather will help justify his point at the October conference. Please send your stories to:

Louisiana National Guard
ATTN: Family Services
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70146

AFTB comes to Louisiana

In the last issue we reported that the Army had developed a new training package for family program training called Army Family Team Building (AFTB). Recently at a train-the-trainer conference in Washington, DC, Capt. Fink and Mrs. Beverly Hefner, volunteer from the Louisiana Military Academy, were trained as Master Trainers in this program.

The program consists of over 50 individual modules separated into four levels of experience. Level One classes deal with basic military family knowledge and are geared toward the family members of new soldiers. Level two deals with family members who have been around the military for a while and are starting to get involved in unit activities. These classes deal with management type skills and family support group activities. Level three classes are geared toward the advanced volunteer. These classes discuss topics such as mentoring and conflict resolution. The fourth level is instructor training. These classes cover topics like adult learning and communication skills.

According to Hefner, the first step for Louisiana is to train other trainers. AFTB has been

developed by family members for family members and is designed to be taught only by family members. According to Fink, he will be assisting Hefner by calling a special meeting of the State Family Program Advisory Council in order for Hefner to begin training others.

"With Mrs. Hefner's help, our goal is to create a network of family member trainers at the state, major command, and unit levels," Fink said. "We hope to eventually have instructors in each unit who could focus on Level 1 subjects to teach to unit family members. Levels two through four would be reserved for actual volunteers and would be taught at the MACOM or state level," Fink added.

"The key to this program's success will be the volunteers. This is their program. My purpose in being trained is to facilitate the program providing the necessary coordination with the units and the funding and supplies that will be needed to carry it out," Fink said.

Initial plans are being made now to start the train-the-trainer sessions as early as October with the major push starting at the first of the year.

Colorful nutritional guide available from USDA

Linda Smith, who heads up child development and youth programs within the Office of Family Policy, Support and Services, says that program managers in the Services continue to emphasize the importance of nutrition in child development programs.

Nutritional deficiencies were among at-risk factors identified early on among children in DoD's "Sure Start Program" - a program for selected pre-schoolers of military parents living overseas. Among the first 20 -student Sure Start class, several of the pre-schoolers were identified with elevated cholesterol levels (over 240) and one child was discovered to have a protein deficiency. The screening convinced DoD officials to take a hard look at children's nutritional issues in military communities.

A DoD-wide study of cholesterol levels in military families with pre-school children is scheduled to get underway later this year.

Healthy nutritional habits are impor-

tant for children of all ages, and good nutrition is underscored by educators throughout the Department of Defense.

A helpful booklet titled Building of the Future: Nutrition Guidance for the Child Nutrition Programs can be obtained at no cost by family centers, child care providers, and school officials. The colorful 61-page guide also could be a valuable resource for programs related to parenting education.

Nutrition Guidance, developed jointly by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and Human Services, is an inviting publication that is colorfully illustrated. Installation newspaper editors may remind readers that they may obtain a single, free copy by writing directly to the Department of Agriculture.

For a copy, write the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Dr., Room 607, Alexandria, VA 22302. Ask for the guide by name and its identifying publication number which is FNS-279.

Commissary labels tell all

To reduce the risk of food-borne illness and help protect consumers from exposure to possible contaminants found in raw meat and poultry, commissaries worldwide have introduced new labeling on those items.

The labels provide information on how to store and thaw those products, how to protect them from cross-contamination, and give cooking and leftover storage instructions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and Inspection Service requires the safe handling instructions and symbols on all meat and poultry that is not pre-cooked by manufacturers and retailers.

All military commissaries managed and operated by the Defense Commissary Agency are complying with the industry's new food labeling standard, recently announced by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Prices will not increase because of the labeling requirement.

Planning for a successful family meeting

- Announce the meeting far enough in advance to ensure that families can place the meeting properly in their already busy schedule.

- Send the invitations directly to the family members at their home address.

- Provide child care during the meeting if at all possible. Make sure that you inform the families of the child care in their letter of invitation.

- Conduct the meeting in a clean and friendly environment.

- Unless absolutely impossible, the commander and the unit point of contact should be in attendance to show command support.

- Try to have an organized agenda.

- In addition to the Family Support Group meeting, provide information or a speaker. Examples of subjects might be: financial management, drug awareness for youth, etc.

- If possible, provide refreshments.

Source: Wyoming National Guard

Tests continue for Operation Ready

In the last issue of Family News In Brief, we reported that the Louisiana National Guard was selected as the only National Guard command in the country to participate in an Army wide field test of the new "Operation Ready", family member training program.

Since then, Capt. Fink and two volunteers, Mrs. Carrie Morrisette and Mrs. Mary Baird, attended a meeting in Dallas to make final plans for the test. The meeting was designed to make final revisions to the material, as well as the next phase of the planning and evaluation process.

The Louisiana National Guard will be testing two of the segments in October. Fink will be presenting the Family Assistance Center (FAC) module at a gathering of Area Retention NCOs at Camp Beauregard. Morrisette and Baird will be presenting the Advance Family Support Group Subjects module at a gathering of the State Family Program Advisory Council.

During the two presentations, evaluators from the Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service and the Army Community Services Organization will be in attendance to see how well the information meets its objectives. Assuming all goes well here, and at the other five test sites, the material will get its final approval and should be distributed nationwide starting in January.

According to Fink, Louisiana is truly fortunate to have had a voice in the final revisions and test process.

Additionally we are fortunate to have the advance copy to start using in the field now. Fink hopes to start using portions of the package as soon as possible with gatherings of unit leaders and family support groups.

The Operation Ready training package consists of four main training modules covering Family Support Groups, Pre- and Post- Deployment Planning and Family Assistance Center Operations.

Operation Four Corners-- 1994 Wrap-up



CHECKING- Crew Chief SGT Ronald May of the 159th FG (left), goes over the thru flight check with CPT Steve Saari, 159th pilot. (Photo by SSG Suzanne Chaillot, 159th FG)



BUSTED-- Louisiana Guardsmen and law enforcement officials from all over the state participated in one of the most successful marijuana eradication efforts ever this year. Operation Four Corners 1994 covered Louisiana from corner to corner.

In spring, the joint teams searched fields and backyards from the air and on the ground for newly planted crops. Once spotted, their locations were recorded and often times, surveillance was set up to gather evidence against the farmer.

As harvest time approached, Guardsmen again teamed up with law enforcement agents to eradicate their crops right out from under their noses. From the air, pilots get a plant's location using a GPS, global positioning system. Once the coordinates are locked in, in a matter of seconds, the information is used in one of two ways. Either the coordinates are relayed to forces on the ground who will then go in and eradicate or the helicopter lands and the law enforcement agents and possibly Guardsmen find the plot and eradicate it.

The ground teams often get to assist law enforcement officials with searches, seizures and gathering evidence that will assist in building cases against the criminals, who are often times caught with their hands full.

This year's operation was scaled down tremendously from last year's efforts, but still just as successful. Last year Guardsmen flew UH-1 Hueys, whereas this year they stuck with the more fuel efficient and cost effective OH-58s. We also flew more missions with less aircraft and less people. The ground troops also had less manpower but were still invaluable to the overall marijuana eradication mission. (Photos by SGT Kristi M. Graves, 241st PAD)



159th FG gets face lift

The people, missions, equipment and readiness of the Group enhance with changes

By CPT Romie Galloway
159 SG/CCE

For the last two years, the 159th Fighter Group has endured numerous changes. For example, due to defense budget cuts the 159th Fighter Group has gone through "Right

Sizing", the closing of the 24-hour alert facility and prepared for a Quality Air Force Assessment.

Also during this same period, the unit has gone through an aircraft conversion. MSIP or Multi-Staged Improvement Program, is the term used to describe the conversion of the F-15A to the F-15MSIP-A and has involved almost every unit within the 159th. To explain the conversion the shortest way possible is to say MSIP has given the F-15A the ability to shoot the

AIM120 Missile. However, until recently, the 159th has not had the opportunity to test its pilots, maintenance crews and upgraded airplanes with live AIM120s.

On Aug. 7-20, the unit participated in a WSEP or Weapons Systems Evaluation Program. WSEP is designed to determine the overall effectiveness of weapons systems such as the AIM120, in a realistic environment. The unit was tasked to participate in live missile firings conducted over Air Force test ranges in the Gulf of Mexico. The targets used in this exercise are drones, which are unmanned aircraft operated by remote control.

For a lot of the younger airmen and pilots in the unit, this was their first experience with live munitions. According to 1st Lt. Ray Roszkowski, WSEP is important because it gives some of the newer guys the opportunity to experience shooting live missiles versus relying on computer-simulated missile launches. "Also, because we got to shoot the AIM120 missile," Roszkowski said, "which was an awesome experience."

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204TH ASG: Soldiers

JRTC starts, stops with security

By SGT Lucas J. Landreneau Jr.
241st PAD

Usually, units at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk prepare for weeks before going into the realistic training area called "the box" for combat training.

But the 239th Military Police Company from Baton Rouge didn't go into the box as part of their annual training. It came to them.

The MP's provided perimeter security, traffic control and main gate security for the 25th Infantry Division's Initial Staging Base before the movement into the box.

During this time, the MP's faced realistic scenarios while providing security for the base - especially at the main gate.

The MP's directed all convoys of vehicles directly through to the gate where they would be stopped and identified. All non-convoys of vehicles would be funneled through a maze of concertina wire, complete with speedbumps made of sandbags, to a checkpoint in order to be identified.

Non-military drivers received a more

in-depth investigation complete with a thorough check of vehicles if identification was questionable.

"All non-government vehicles are checked carefully regardless of whether the passengers are in uniform," Sgt. Jack Lightfoot of Lafayette said. "We have a lot more to be concerned with since we are not confined to a field-type environment. There are a lot of civilians going in and out and they must be checked carefully. This is like the real world because you are not sure who's playing the game, but you have to act as if everyone who approaches the gate is playing the game."

"JRTC makes this as real as possible," Lightfoot said. He said some of the civilian vehicles even had license plates identifying them as automobiles from a foreign country.

The MP's also checked all outgoing military vehicles for passes in order to make sure each was leaving the base on official business.

"I just got out of basic where I learned a lot in classes. But here, I am able to put what I have learned into action," Pvt. Patricia Arnold of Baton Rouge said.



Photos by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau Jr., 241st PAD

On the move with soldiers at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

Kegerreis climbs to top of 773rd

By SGT Lucas J. Landreneau Jr.
241st PAD

Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

After serving 10 years with the 773rd Maintenance Battalion, Maj. William R. Kegerreis has assumed command of the unit from Lt. Col. John W. McInnis.



COMMAND— MAJ William R. Kegerreis (right) accepts the 773rd Maintenance Battalion's guidon from MG Ansel M. Stroud, Jr. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)

Kegerreis' previous positions at the 773rd included commander of the headquarters detachment,

battalion maintenance operations officer and battalion executive officer.

He received an associates degree from Valley Forge Military College and a bachelors degree from Liberty University. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army

McInnis, who commanded the 773rd for three years will become the executive officer for the 204th Area Support Group.

He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Special

Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge and Pathfinder Badge.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the 773rd," McInnis said. "I will be leaving my position in good hands."

In his first address to the men and women of the 773rd Kegerreis said, "I challenge each of you to do your best as I promise you I will do mine."

Training today's soldier

By SPC Karen E. Leger
241st PAD

The Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) located at Fort Polk for the past year, uses real world scenarios to train soldiers in light infantry operations, both war and other than war.

JRTC is one of four training centers that train in real world scenarios. The others include the National Training Center (heavy mechanized training in desert terrain); the Combat Battle Center (computer battle simulations); and in Germany (mountain terrain training).

JRTC is set up to train troops in all types of realistic scenarios including special operations, deployment and planning operations. Troops are introduced tactically into an area of operations and fight in low to mid-intensity scenarios, all of which have positively reinforced training for the National Guard especially for the 204th Area Support Group, headquartered at Jackson Barracks.

The JRTC conducts 10 rotations a year with each rotation receiving a different mission to accomplish. During each rotation approximately 5,000 soldiers are present at Fort Polk to take part in the real world enactments. Active, Guard and Reserve components from all branches of the U.S. military and national organizations participate.

This year's rotation 94/9 was logistically organized by the 204th which provided support for the 25th Infantry Division stationed at Schoefield Barracks, Hawaii.

The objective of the 204th's training was to enforce a fragile peace agreement in the buffer zone area between two warring nations on the fictitious island of Aragon, which is really Fort Polk. A Joint Task Force, with soldiers from all over the United States, Australia, Britain, Denmark, and local civilians, conducted operations for a 30-day period in support of a United Nations' agreement.

The exercise involved deployment of U.S. forces to enforce a United Nations negotiated cease fire in the war-torn country of Cortina-located on Aragon. The Cortinians and the Acadians, from another country also located on Aragon, claimed the same historical territory causing conflict between the two countries.

The 204th provided command and control of the logistical operation of the entire exercise, which included transportation, maintenance, food rations, supplies, medical, military police, billeting and many other necessities that were needed for the August rotation.

According to Capt. Donna Lajoie of the 204th, the task, while demanding for our type of organization, was not impossible. "We're a very flexible organization," she said. "Based on the needs of units operating

"JRTC is a demanding and valuable real world training experience."

-Capt. Donna Lajoie

Supporting Soldiers

Guardsmen run resort community for visiting soldiers

By CPT Maria L. LoVasco
State PAO

There are no luxuries on the island of Cortina.

Actually, there's no water surrounding it either.

Cortina is a fictional nation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk where 4,000 troops of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade participated in a "peace enforcement" mission.

The 2nd Brigade came from a true island, Hawaii. But for two weeks they were

the guests of the 773rd Maintenance Battalion's "downtown resort" at the Intermediate Staging Base (ISB) set up in an enclosed area at England Air Park in Alex-

andria.

Although the ISB served as a holding station while the troops arrived from abroad and awaited further transportation to Fort Polk, it was not exempt from playing the game.

Capt. David Delaune, S-3 and Provost Marshal for the staging base said that the MPs from the 239th Military Police Company, Baton Rouge, had been alerted that potential terrorists and other unfriendly

natives might attempt to penetrate security. A zig-zag lane of concertina wire at the front entrance was constructed to stop potential gate crashers. Troops were also warned that the

native Cortinian food cart vendors (the AAFES on wheels) could be possible spies or saboteurs. Despite this, Delaune had to remove grenade simulators he had placed

along the weaker areas of his perimeter, because an international incident could have been sparked if a friendly Cortinian walked too close to the fence and blew himself up. Force used only in self defense is what characterized this scenario as a peace-enforcing mission as opposed to a hostile one.

Besides security for the troops and their equipment, the 773rd's other missions included providing food, showers and laundry facilities for the 4,000 men and women housed in huge blue and white festival tents.

Normally a real-world mission would dictate how long a unit could wait in a staging area, but the Hawaiian brigade had a definite window to make at the JRTC. So while their vehicles and equipment arrived and were loaded onto C-141s for the flight to Fort Polk, they spent the long hours cleaning their weapons, practicing tactics and getting to know every inch of the ISB on their interminable road marches.

They didn't question where the food came from or how it was prepared. They didn't wonder how their laundry was being sorted or if the port-o-johns were being emptied. They didn't ponder if they were safe under the blue and white canvas at 3 o'clock in the morning. These were the concerns of Lt. Col. John McInnis, 773d Battalion commander, and his staff. It was their responsibility to make the operation of the ISB seamless and incidental. Not being noticed was the mark of a smooth operation. The cooks rose before the crows, the MPs patrolled by moonlight, and the medics slept with gauze and bandages by their side.

Involved in the 24-hour operation were soldiers of the 3673d and 3671st Maintenance Companies, the 239th and 39 Military Police Companies, the 1090th Transportation Detachment, the 2222nd Medical Clearing Company, the 2226th Transportation Terminal Service Company and Headquarters of the 773rd Maintenance Battalion. Also involved were the 229th Field Services Company from Fort Polk and the 769th Transportation Detachment of the North Dakota Army National Guard.

When these units arrived on July 31, all they found were the showers and tents in place. It was their job, in the next four days, to turn this hardscrabble compound into home-sweet-home for a small city, population 4,000.

While the JRTC rotation would ultimately result in an evaluation for the 2nd Brigade, the report card for the 773rd Maintenance Battalion was coming from the ISB.

And when it did,

the unit got all A's.

Brig. Gen. Lawson Magruder, III, commander of JRTC and Fort Polk, presented the 773rd with three coins. One was given to Maj. William Kegerreis, ISB commander. Another was presented to Battalion Sergeant Major Cliff Warner, who also received a second one to present to the lowest ranking soldier of the operation.

This individual returned the coin to be framed and presented to the entire organization.

When the 2nd Brigade cleared the compound, the 773rd soldiers inventoried the 4,000 cots, mobile kitchen trailers and countless other pieces of equipment that had kept the machine running. A day later they also left the island of Cortina, just as they had found it - desolate.

For Battalion Commander Lt. Col. John McInnis it was a bittersweet departure. The ISB mission marked his last as battalion commander.

Before a crowd of battalion representatives and special guests at Camp Beauregard he turned command over to Maj. Kegerreis.

Establishing and operating an intermediate staging base is not a normal function of a maintenance battalion, but it is one that all battalions, in this era of downsizing, need to be prepared to do.

The 773rd Maintenance Battalion proved they are equal to the task. Magruder recognized and rewarded it, but more importantly, so did 4,000 soldiers from Hawaii.

Not by clapping and cheering - just by not noticing.



COME AND GET IT— Members of the 773rd Maintenance Battalion used these mobile kitchen trailers to prepare meals for the 4,000 troops of Hawaii's 2nd Brigade before they plunged full force into JRTC at Fort Polk. (Photo by CPT Maria L. LoVasco, State PAO)



COMFORT— Comfort is exactly what these soldiers at the Intermediate Staging Base were searching for, with their mosquito bars draped over their cots in central La. (Photo by CPT Maria L. LoVasco, State PAO)

in our areas we can put together whatever logistical support is required." The 204th proved to be a very dynamic group which is capable of handling the logistical needs of between 15,000 and 30,000 soldiers.

The 204th was commended by Brig. Gen. Lawson W. MacGruder, III, for having a "0" dollar loss, meaning the organization as a whole wasted no money, had no damage to the environment nor did they lose any equipment at the Intermediate Staging Base located at England Air Park where the 773d Maintenance Battalion operated as the base support battalion.

"JRTC is a demanding and valuable real world training experience," Lajoie said. "As a trainer on drill weekend there is only so much training you can do at home station, but when you can be in an environment where you can put all that training together you gain full exposure of your unit's capability."

The future of JRTC is positive. As the military continues to recognize the need for more realism in today's soldier training, the need for a site with the necessary resources, as well as a location where any unit can train, the JRTC will continue to grow.



SOLDIERING— LTC William R. Hilborn, right, commander of the 204th ASG takes time for common task training with SPC Paul Meeker during annual training. (Photo by 204th ASG PAO)

Louisiana National Guard Counter Narcotics--

Guardsmen redefines operations at DEA

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

He's a soldier on the move and a Guardsman with a mission. And his mission is drug related, but don't look for him in a rehab clinic. Sgt. Dial Johnson is a Louisiana Guardsman who works for the Drug Enforcement Administration at the New Orleans Field Division.

With a year and a half on the Guard's Counter Drug Program, Johnson has offered the kind of support that has made him indispensable at the DEA.

Louisiana Guardsmen have made a tremendous impact in the war on drugs. Presently, there are about 140 soldiers and airmen assigned to over 60 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout Louisiana.

Agencies who benefit from Guard assistance include: the DEA, the US Customs Service; Louisiana State Police; Louisiana Sheriffs' and Police Department and diverse narcotics task forces located across the state.

In 1989, the US congress mandated National Guard counter drug programs in the 50 states and four U.S. territories. Since that time, in Louisiana alone, tens of millions of dollars in drug money has been seized; a number of automobiles, weapons and drugs have been confiscated; and numerous drug suppliers are behind bars.

One of the few federal agencies where guardsmen are assigned is the New Orleans Field Division of the DEA. About 15 Guardsmen support three DEA offices in Louisiana; two in Baton Rouge, two in Shreveport and the remainder in New Orleans.

Johnson, a member of the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion in Baton Rouge, is one of the many guardsmen who makes a difference supporting federal drug enforcement.

Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Coordinator Lt. Col. Larry DeBlieux said,

"The rewarding part of my job is being able to work with high caliber, young soldiers and airmen, like Sgt. Dial Johnson" - Lt. Col. Larry DeBlieux.

"The rewarding part of my job is being able to work with high caliber, young soldiers and airmen like Sgt. Dial Johnson," said DeBlieux. "He represents the essence of this program's mission, which is to get trained National Guard personnel to apply their military skills in support of drug law enforcement agencies."

Much of Johnson's time and efforts have been devoted to two large drug cases, one of which recently resulted in ten federal

grand jury indictments. The indictments followed a 16-month investigation.

Johnson assisted in this case by identifying organizational members and preparing a link diagram which showed the structure of a large drug organization. With a flow chart illustration, he identified the drug dealing mastermind and then linked all of his associates depicting the relationships of midlevel traffickers directly to the street level dealers.

The chart was used in federal court to display the size and structure of this criminal organization. Johnson also procured pictures of the suspects through communications with various law enforcement agencies.

A substantial amount of information was obtained through administrative subpoenas, another critical element of the never ending paper trail.

Taking pride in his work, Johnson said,

"It's a good feeling to see a case result in arrests and indictments." - Sgt. Johnson.

"It's a good feeling to see a case result in arrests and indictments," Johnson said. "I get a rush when I see individuals arrested in a case I've been working on."

Johnson received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. And with the help of the Louisiana National Guard and the DEA, he's been fortunate enough to succeed in his vocation.

Johnson's military career, however, began when he was 14. As a freshman at

Belaire High School in Baton Rouge, he signed up with the Junior R.O.T.C. program.

In his four years of high school, he rose to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and became the battalion commander, the highest command position of Junior R.O.T.C.

In his junior year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve to become an engineer for the 245th Engineer Battalion in Baton Rouge. In 1991, Johnson transferred to the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion.

After receiving the required training in his military occupational specialty, Johnson became a qualified Spanish linguist.

His National Guard training is instrumental in his work at the D.E.A. where he's involved in sustained operations.

He's presently occupied in another on-going drug investigation which began 18 months ago. Much like the last investigation he worked with, Johnson has spent a lot of time conducting research, gathering information and writing reports.

Johnson's familiarity with the case enables him to forward pertinent information to the investigating agents so they can follow up on the latest leads

Johnny Phelps, special agent-in-charge of the New Orleans Division, said, "The Louisiana National Guard is the first organization we've allowed to work within our agency. Guardsmen contribute greatly in administrative work as well as providing analytical and technical assistance."

The variety of duties Guardsmen perform for the DEA cannot be underrated. Their responsibilities cover the gamut of drug enforcement.

"We've placed Guardsmen in every area short of making the actual arrests," Phelps said.

Although thoroughly involved in the maintenance of equipment and other technical support,

one of the most vital functions Guardsmen perform is the essential paper work associated with a case.

Many D.E.A. agents, for instance, rely on Johnson and other Guardsmen to provide them with critical information pertaining to on-going investigations. "It is appropriate that the Guardsmen are behind the

scenes here," Phelps said.

In a letter to Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr., the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, Phelps wrote of the tremendous impact Louisiana Guardsmen have had at the New Orleans Field Division.

Phelps informed Stroud that the security system at their new location had not been installed at the time construction was completed. This meant that a security detail would be needed to protect a variety of evidence, files, equipment and firearms. Guardsmen provided security for nine

months for a total of 2,900 man-hours.

"The Louisiana National Guard is the first organization we've allowed to work within our agency..."

-Sp. Agent Johnny Phelps

"Had the Guard not provided that support," Phelps said, "D.E.A. special agents would have been reassigned from investigative duties to the security detail."

He estimated that 1.4 man-years would have been required for special agents to provide the security.

Phelps wrote, "Using conservative estimates, that means that 28 individuals that were arrested for drug trafficking would not have been arrested."

Phelps said that he was impressed with the "extremely high quality of personnel selected from the National Guard to work for the D.E.A."

If it were not for a federal hiring freeze, Phelps said many of the guardsmen would be considered as prospective applicants.

Johnson endeavors to work for the DEA one day, but is pleased to have the association through the National Guard. Even in his spare time Johnson can't get away from the Guard.

He plays second base for the National Guard Softball Team Athlete's Choice.

Johnson's team is presently in third place, but there's consolation. In August, they will participate in the National Guard tournament.

The team will travel to Battlecreek, Mich., where teams from across the country will participate.

This will be Johnson's third long trip in four months. On May 7, 1994, Johnson tied the knot with the former Lauryn Salassi of Baton Rouge.

The newlyweds travelled to Jamaica for a tropical honeymoon and most recently returned from a trip to Branson, Missouri where they spent the 4th of July weekend.

In addition to his work and travels, Johnson participates in volunteer civic action projects, too. In conjunction with the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, Johnson provided language support for the Kiwanis Club International Convention at the New Orleans Convention Center. Using his Spanish language skills, Johnson translated for those who spoke little English.

It's evident that keeping busy isn't a problem for Johnson. His only obstacles might be whether to sacrifice a pop fly in a game or to admit to his wife that he doesn't know where he is during their travels.

At any rate, don't get in his way; at 6'2", 200 lbs, Sgt. Johnson is a soldier on the move.



ON THE MOVE— SGT Dial Johnson prepares research for D.E.A. agents who are involved in a lengthy drug investigation. (Photo by SSG Paul J. Sylvest, 241st PAD)

It's Your Life, Your Health, Love It

New health care standards for military hospitals

A F I S

Dr. Stephen Joseph, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, has asked all military hospitals to meet new standards for active duty health care by August 1995. Officials will phase in the same standards for care of family members and retirees by a later date.

Here are the standards:

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

- More than 75 percent of all adults must have had their cholesterol levels screened within the last five years.
- More than 80 percent of all women between the ages of 40 and 49 must have had their base-line mammogram.
- More than 80 percent of all women 50 and older must have an annual

mammogram.

•• More than 85 percent of sexually active women 18 and older must have an annual Pap smear test.

•• Mammogram and Pap smear results must be available within two weeks.

TREATMENT

•• Appointments for nonurgent primary care must be available within one week.

•• Urgent care appointment must be available within 24 hours.

•• More than 90 percent of patients must be satisfied with the quality of their care and availability of appointments.

•• More than 90 percent of specialty appointments must be available within the time requested by the referring doctor.

Military looks at diet supplements to enhance combat performance

By Jim Garamone
AFIS

An old Warner Brothers cartoon had a scientist electrocharging a carrot. Bugs Bunny ate it and became Super Rabbit.

While service members are not going to get super powers, military scientists are looking at food supplements to give combat personnel physical and mental edges. By 1996 scientists at the U.S. Army Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, Mass., want to show they can enhance physical or mental performance by diet or diet supplements.

"This is just a demonstration project now," said Col. Wayne Askew, chief of nutrition research at the institute. "We are not adding supplements to the rations now. We want to demonstrate it's possible, then it becomes an operational decision to continue."

The Army asked the National Institute of Medicine in Washington to look at whether certain supplements could improve service members' performance in stressful conditions. Army officials wanted a third party to verify their plans. A committee recommended a few promising supplements. "We're not talking about doubling a soldier's performance," said Askew, who holds a doctorate in nutritional biochemistry. "We'd be happy with a five to 20 percent improvement."

Scientists have long known some supplements do enhance performance. Caffeine, for example, can keep service members alert. Natick researchers are looking at a caffeine-laced chocolate bar as a way of getting the substance into personnel (fewer soldiers drink coffee these days).

Marathon runners have long known of the benefits of carbohydrate loading. Military rations already contain a high percentage of carbohydrates. The committee recommended supplements to give a quick

extra 100 or 200 grams of carbohydrates service members can eat during stressful periods like combat operations. The committee report highlighted glucose, because this form of sugar may further improve mental functions, too.

Army scientists have already studied carbohydrate loading. They tested Special Forces soldiers and found a group taking carbohydrate supplements performed 17 percent better than a group taking a placebo.

Another substance the committee recommended was choline found in egg yolks. This substance is not well understood, Askew said. "In one test it helped marathoners shave five minutes off their times for a 20-mile run," he said. "We need to examine this and ask if a substance can help marathoners, is it something we really need for soldiers?"

Tyrosine is an amino acid that may help service members in high-stress situations. "Soldiers in cold- and high-altitude areas experience a degradation of performance (because of the weather)," Askew said. "Soldiers getting a tyrosine supplement do not experience this performance drop." He said tests do not show improved performance, but will stop the degradation.

Less promising is a chemical called carnitine. "You see ads for this in magazines all the time," Askew said. "It's billed as a fat oxidizer - meaning it helps the body burn fat off. Our tests don't show this."

Askew said even if the diet supplements are approved, not all service members would receive them. "We're not going to put this in 400,000 rations," he said. But, he noted, a small special operations force might need them.

Askew said the supplements will be in food, too, rather than as pills. "We want our people to eat the rations," he said. "We don't want them to get the idea that all they have to do is pop a couple of pills and their nutritional needs will be met for the day."

Radial keratotomy may bar members from enlistment

By Evelyn D. Harris
AFIS

Ads promising the end to a life behind glasses or contact lenses are springing up in newspapers and magazines like wildflowers after a rain. But, say all the service surgeons general offices, any photorefractive surgery bars individuals from enlistment and, if unsuccessful, could end a member's career.

No service accepts individuals who have had the surgery -also known as radial keratotomy (RK)- for enlistment, commission or flight training, including entrance to the service academies. The Army and the Air Force warn active duty members they may have to pass a medical board to remain on active duty after the surgery.

Navy regulations prohibit the surgery for active duty personnel in certain fields, such as diving and aerospace. Navy and Marine corps personnel should check with their military doctors before getting the surgery.

Radial keratotomy was refined in 1972 by a Russian ophthalmologist. In the former Soviet Union, the operation quickly became more common than

prescriptions for glasses. In the United States, however, the surgery is still controversial, according to Air Force officials.

Most health insurance plans, including CHAMPUS and those for federal civilians, consider it cosmetic surgery and do not cover the cost, which can range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per eye.

Radial keratotomy corrects nearsightedness with tiny incisions in the cornea that flatten it and change the way it focuses. The incisions radiate outward like wheel spokes from a central area of the cornea that remains untouched. But the incisions must be precise. If the cornea is flattened too much, the eye will become farsighted. If it is not flattened enough, the patient will still be nearsighted.

The surgery is tricky and requires a skilled surgeon; results are not consistent. A U.S. government-funded study followed 435 nearsighted people who had operations in 1982 and 1983 in teaching hospitals. Five years later the majority still had improved eyesight, although many did not achieve 20/20 vision. A sizable minority still needed glasses, and about three percent suffered worse vision than before the operation.

Col. John Burkins, a flight surgeon at Air Force Reserve Headquarters at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., is concerned about the increased popularity of the operation. He said the Air Force disapproves of radial keratotomy for several reasons.

"There can be a loss of night vision, severe glare problems in sunlight and severe day-to-day fluctuations in visual acuity," Burkins said. Because of these fluctuations,

some patients found their vision was fine in the morning but deteriorated to 20/70 or worse later in the day.

The cornea is weakened by these procedures, which increases the possibility of a rupture of the eye during any physical trauma, he said. The operation also increases the risk of a retinal detachment.

The Air Force surgeon general's office also advised Air Force doctors to warn teen-age dependents considering the operation that it will prevent them from joining the military. Since not all flying positions require 20/20 or better uncorrected vision, the Air Force wants young people to be aware of all career options before getting surgery.

A new surgery may provide a ray of hope for people who have trouble wearing glasses or contacts. Navy Lt. Cdr. Steve Schallhorn and Chris Blanton are testing the procedure, called photorefractive keratectomy (PRK), at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

No military service accepts individuals who have had the surgery.

The Navy study is part of Food and Drug Administration research. If all goes well in the study,

FDA may approve the procedure this year or next.

The new surgery uses a laser to flatten the cornea's contours. Researchers are optimistic that this surgery may be safer than radial keratotomy, because the laser does not weaken the eye. Also, the procedure is highly automated, with a computer doing much of the work. Because of this, results may be more predictable and consistent, Schallhorn said.

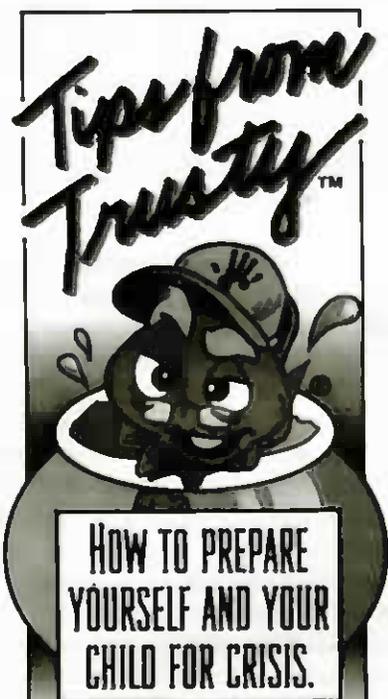
An ophthalmologist, Schallhorn is "cautiously optimistic" about the surgery. If FDA approves the surgery, he said the Navy may change its policy.

"Some individuals have problems with glasses and contacts. For these people, PRK may lead to improved performance," he said. "It could be very useful for Navy divers or Marines in the field whose glasses or contacts may become contaminated or scratched."

Schallhorn said both RK and PRK are successful only for individuals whose nearsightedness is not severe. He would not advise either surgery for someone with severe nearsightedness—a lens prescription of more than six to 10 diopters.

Army Col. Francis La Piana, an ophthalmologist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, agrees with Schallhorn that people who have problems with glasses should wait for the PRK research results.

"Radial keratotomy permanently weakens the cornea," La Piana said. "Military life is eye-hazardous in peace or war, and military members should not jeopardize their eyesight."



Every child will be confronted by crisis. Whether it's caused by bullies, drugs, violence in the schools, abuse or other trauma, crisis is a natural part of growing up.

Crisis is a turning point, as well. How you respond at the moment of crisis can determine whether its outcome will be positive or otherwise.

From this side of the fishbowl, I see parents trying to do their best to guide kids through crisis... but not always knowing how.

Tip

You can help your child DURING crisis by being prepared right now.

Know your child. The best way you can prepare is to see the crisis coming. But you won't see the crisis coming if you don't know your child. Crisis causes kids to change what they say, how they feel and how they act. Know what behavior is normal for your child so you can recognize the change.

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Watch for more 'Tips from Trusty the Goldfish.'

DoD chooses quality of life over equipment

By Jim Garamone
AFIS

DoD will look at reducing, canceling or stretching out several major weapon systems, Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch told reporters Aug. 23.

"Bill Perry and I believe that we must identify additional dollars over the five-year defense planning period to support readiness, military pay increases and quality of life improvements for our troops," Deutch said.

DoD has asked for \$20 billion over the next five years to fund military pay raises and other readiness issues. However, DoD does not believe the money will become available.

"Unless we get more money from Congress, which we doubt will happen, we still have to reduce some of our outyear modernization programs," Deutch said. "In sum, this message is, money is tight, and we're choosing people over systems. For example, if we must delay chemical lasers in space in favor of housing for enlisted people, then Bill Perry and I will do so."

Among the programs Deutch is ask-

ing the services to look into are the Air Force's F-22 fighter, the Marine Corps' V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft and the Army's Comanche helicopter. The Navy may have to build fewer ships and submarines or delay them.

Deutch stressed while the list of weapon systems under consideration for cancellation, delay or reduction is "awesome," nothing has been decided yet.

"There will be an extensive period of process for consultation with the services, with the Joint Chiefs," Deutch said. He said this has been an interactive process with the civilian leadership, the administration and the chiefs from the beginning. Perry has

visited all of the regional commanders in chief.

"In each one of these places he has been speaking with the officers and enlisted men and women about what is important from the war fighters' point of view to maintaining readiness and strength of our forces," he said. Deutch also stressed this does not mean any change in the force structure under the Bottom-up Review.

He said issues like military pay, quality of life, child care, adequate operations and maintenance funding and good housing will make the difference in effective forces, and "that's why the investment is being made now at the expense of postponing needed modernization."

Corps De L'Afrique Association of Louisiana, Inc.

The Corps De L'Afrique Association is an organization formed by African-American members of the Louisiana National Guard to serve our communities through achievement and excellence in military and community service, AND to serve as a vehicle for professional and social interaction for our members.

The concept of African-Americans achieving excellence through military and community service in Louisiana is not a new one. Our participation as citizen-soldiers in the Louisiana Militia dates back to the 1700's (the time of Spanish rule in Louisiana).

The "Free Men of Color" were free, African professionals, craftsmen, and laborers of New Orleans and southeast Louisiana who volunteered to serve in the Louisiana Militia. These companies and later battalions were an integral part of the Louisiana Militia.

Today, those same traditions of serving the community through military service continue as African-Americans account for more than one third of the Louisiana National Guard - more than 4,000 men and women.

In December 1993, a few African-American members of the Louisiana National Guard met with Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr., to present the idea of forming this organization. Stroud was receptive and sincerely enthusiastic in pledging his support. Stroud said the time for such an organization was indeed overdue. Thus, the

Corps De L'Afrique was born.

PURPOSES & OBJECTIVES:

The organizational purposes are:

1. To contribute materially to our communities through achievement and excellence in military and community service.
2. To educate the community about African-American achievement in Louisiana and American Military history.
3. To recognize and promote a positive image of African-American military service, history and involvement.

The organizational objectives are:

1. To serve our communities through achievement and excellence in military and community service.
2. To serve as a vehicle for professional and social interaction among our members.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to any Louisiana resident who is an active or retired member of any armed service of the United States, or member of the Inactive National Guard or Inactive Ready Reserve and who supports our purposes and objectives.

CAN AN ORGANIZATION LIKE OURS BE OF SERVICE TO YOU?

CAN YOU SERVE IN AN ASSOCIATION LIKE OURS?

If your answers are yes, fill out the information below and mail it to us at the address below. We'll be contacting you soon.

Air Guard experiments with education plans

By CPT Lorraine M. Patin
159th FG/PAO

Three Louisiana Air National Guardsmen recently graduated from the pilot Squadron Officer School Aug. 6.

Capt. Patrick Griffin, from Headquarters; Capt. William Doran and Capt. Lorraine Patin, both of the 159th Fighter Group attended the seven week course that was compressed into a four week experimental course with 12 hour days, six days a week, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

This was the Air Force's first attempt at conducting company grade officer Professional Military Education for both active and reserve members. Members attending the course were from all branches of the Air Force. The active Air Force, Reserves and National Guard split the enrollment in thirds. The course training included officership, force employment, leadership and communication skills. Studies included the principles of war, group interactions, history, strategic thought, written and oral communications, physical conditioning, team leadership practice and war games. Guest lecturers from all branches of the Air Force shared their experiences with the class members.

The course will be offered annually and school officials plan to increase enrollment to 300 at the next session.

CORPS DE L'AFRIQUE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Corps De L'Afrique Association of Louisiana, Inc.

650 Poydras Street, Suite 2700

New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Phone 1-800-915-5358

NAME: _____ RANK: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PARISH: _____

PHONE: _____

UNIT: _____

UNIT LOCATION: _____

COMMENTS: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10.00 ANNUALLY

Employers visit 256th Brigade

*"We can't make this training happen without you, the employers of our Guardsmen."
Lt. Col. Glenn Kent*

By PFC Dawn Butler
256th Inf Bde PAO

Even a boss needs a lift now and then, and that's exactly what several units did during AT '94. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve group brought several loads of employers for the AT '94 Boss Lift.

The program is designed to put employers in touch with how their employees train and contribute to the defense of the nation. The ESGR is a voluntary organization that educates civilian employers about the need to be supportive of soldiers in the Guard and Reserves.

"The reason is simple," said retired Army Col. Emile St. Pierre of New Orleans and ESGR representative. "The number one goal of ESGR is to work to protect the rights of part-time soldiers and assist in making employers familiar with the type of training these soldiers receive."

Boss lifts are one of the many programs in place to achieve this goal.

"I am pleased with the program turn out this year," St. Pierre said. "It's a real eye-opener for the employers. Many of them have no idea what their employees do for these two weeks of summer camp."

During a short briefing before the group headed out to the field Brig. Gen. Frank Catalano, the brigade commander addressed the group.

"I want to personally thank each of



Photo by PFC Dawn Butler

you for attending our training this year," Catalano said. "The boss lift provides the opportunity to demonstrate the training and demands placed on soldiers. It also gives you a great idea on how your tax dollars are being spent."

Employers were guided through training sites and every effort was made to link up the employer with the employee. At one training site Capt. Paul Vorenkamp, commander of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery of New Orleans asked employers for suggestions on how the Guard could aid the ESGR support effort.

Scott Giror said that knowing training dates in advance is very useful in coordinating work schedules and shifts.

Sidney Prendergast, a Navy veteran who served aboard the USS Arkansas at D-Day said, "Not enough people realize how much and what these soldiers do here in such a short time."

New armory combines units' homes

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

A state-of-the-art National Guard armory is expected to open at Fort Polk in early November.

This \$2.1 million facility is located at K Avenue and 13th Street on the north fort and will house two units: Det. 2, Co. B, 199th Support Battalion and Co. A, 3/156th Infantry.

The armory will replace two old buildings which can no longer accommodate the needs of these units. The detachment of the 199th is presently located at Fort Polk in a temporary facility which served as a World War II administrative building. Co. A, 3/156th Infantry will move from an old armory in Leesville which was built just after World War II.

This new facility is expected to add to the training, storage and administrative aspects and help the Guard complete its missions. Construction began in September 1993 by McInnis Brothers Construction, Inc., of Minden, La. The building was designed with energy conservation in mind

by Barron, Heinberg and Brocato, an architect and engineer firm from Alexandria. They are also providing inspection services to ensure that proper building specifications are met.

The 200-man armory will have twelve administrative offices and two additional areas which will be available for general administrative purposes. These offices were purposely aligned to ensure the most efficient use of energy.

The armory, which measures 30,000 square feet, is equipped with arms vaults for both units. It also has a modern kitchen and spacious storage areas. Each platoon will have its own supply room rather than one large storage area.

The armory is being built next to a mobilization and training equipment site to better serve the units' needs. Also close to the armory is a mobile conduct fire trainer which is used by soldiers for simulator exercises in shooting and maneuvering.

Selective elements of this armory are being used as prototypes for similar facilities which are under design in Napoleonville and Baton Rouge.

Federal Technicians-- OPM proposes ending promotion restrictions

AFIS

Federal employees would be eligible for much quicker promotions under proposed rules recently announced by the Office of Personnel Management.

The change is part of Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review. Officials said the change would make employees eligible for promotion based on performance rather than time in grade. The proposed rules appeared in the June 15 Federal Register and are subject to a 60 days' public comment before OPM issues the final rules.

"Abolishing the time-in-grade regulations will eliminate unrealistic expectations of guaranteed promotion after one year," said OPM Director James B. King. "Now employees will know that advancement hinges on their performance and skill levels."

Since 1951 employees have been re-

quired to spend one year in a general schedule pay grade before being eligible for promotion, regardless of skill level and experience. The statutory basis for the requirement expired in 1978. OPM continued the requirement under its regulatory authority.

OPM officials said the change would be most useful in situations where a person with a master's degree or other strong qualifications accepts a low grade position to "get in the door" of federal government. Under current rules such people would be stuck at that grade even if positions open up that are better suited to their qualifications.

The National Partnership Council, made up of labor and management representatives, approved the change. However, the council recommended retaining time-in-grade requirements for bargaining units in which unions have exclusive rights.

Time-in-grade requirements could drop later if these unions agree to the change.

Selective Service streamlines operations

The Selective Service System, the federal agency that maintains draft registration records and remains prepared to draft men for military service in a crisis, is cutting its size and streamlining operations.

The agency closed its regional headquarters offices in San Francisco, Dallas, and Philadelphia, and consolidated operations at existing offices in Denver, Chicago, and Atlanta in August.

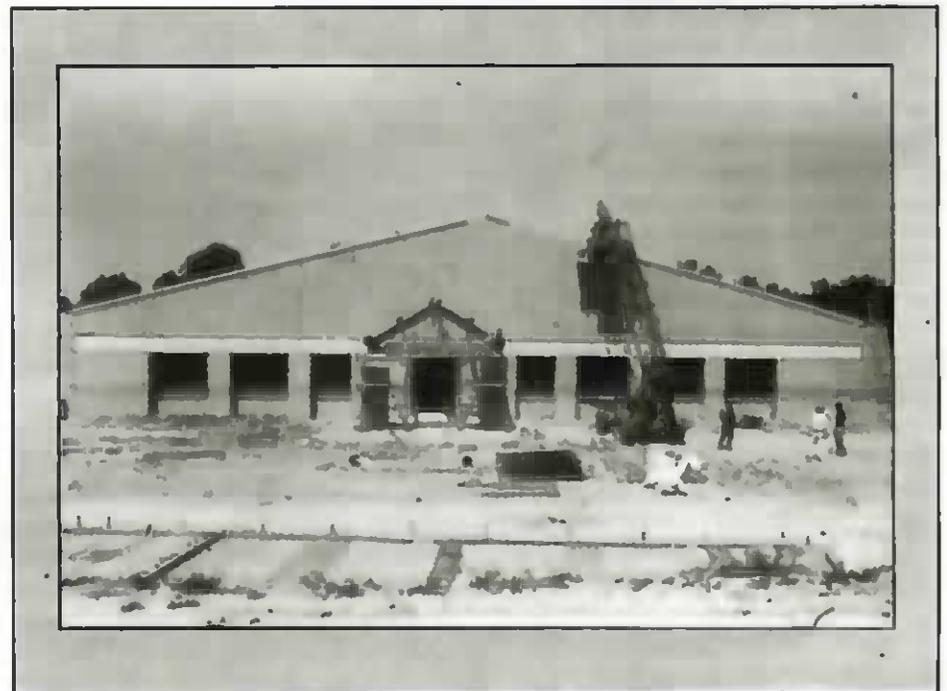
In May, President Clinton notified Congress that continuing draft registration, and providing funding to operate the standby Selective Service System, is "essential to our national security."

In letters to the House and Senate, President Clinton wrote that the Selective Service System and the peacetime registration of all young men must be retained as a "hedge against unforeseen threats and a relatively low cost 'insurance policy'." To

end draft registration now, he noted, "could send the wrong signal to our potential enemies."

The U.S. House of Representatives voted on May 23, and the Senate on July 1, to continue the requirement for all men to register with Selective Service upon reaching age 18. Since July, 1980, draft registration has been an obligation of virtually all men age 18 through 25. Federal law requires that every man must register within 30 days of his 18th birthday. Registration forms are available at any post office.

Men who don't register are in violation of federal law. Non-registrants can be prosecuted, and they are ineligible for federal student financial aid, most federal jobs, and federal job training programs. The law applies to most male aliens residing in the U.S., as well as all male citizens, 18 through 25 years old.



ARMORY— This state-of-the-art armory will house two elements of the 256th Infantry Brigade (M) at Fort Polk upon its completion sometime in November. Its construction is being used as a model for similar armories for other Louisiana National Guard units. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, 241st PAD)

205th Engineers--

Building on annual training

Through storms of rain La. engineers give what it takes

By CW3 Louis Joseph
205th Engr Bn

The 205th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Bogalusa, experienced another interesting and outstanding annual training period. Lt. Col. Henry A. Boese, battalion commander for the last three years, is extremely pleased with the accomplishments of his unit. He gives credit to the officers and enlisted soldiers who worked hard during drills and the 15 days of AT.

Bravo Company of Franklinton was assigned projects at Camp V Bar, a Boy Scout camp in Sellers, Miss. They constructed twelve sites for archery set ups, a baseball field and an activity center that required the removal of grub covering from four to five acres and leveling the field. The project also required the construction of a two mile road that had little or no preliminary work done prior to Bravo Company's arrival. Needless to say, the weather became a factor which limited the scope of the work. However, this project will be completed during drill weekends.

The vertical platoon poured the pads for three teepees as well as the pad for a look-out tower/imitation castle. The platoon erected two of the three teepees leaving some minor work to be done on drill weekends. This project was excellent training for the soldiers. It also provided a service to the community and the Boy Scouts of America.

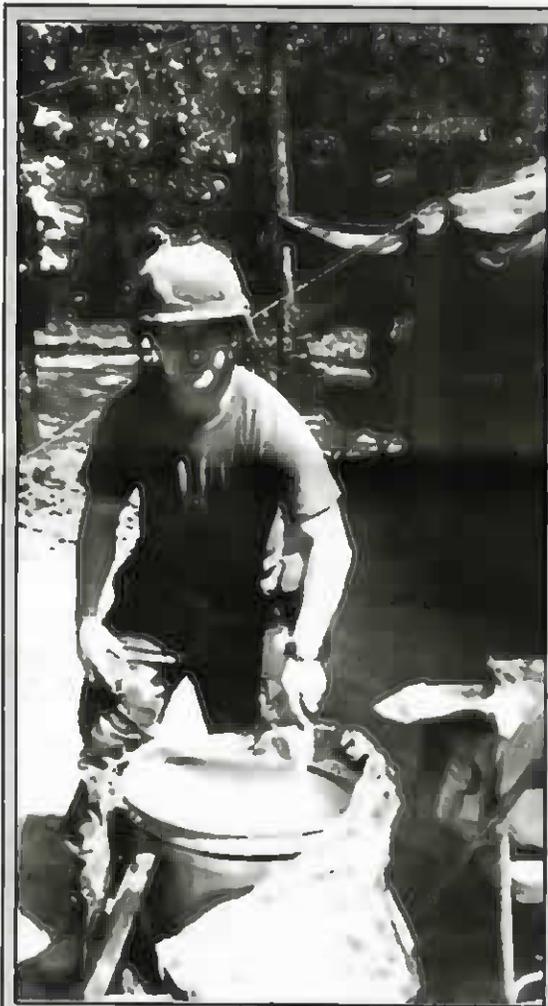
Alpha Company was responsible for six projects, both horizontal and vertical. Horizontal projects included Marco ponds which consisted of work on one twenty acre pond and two three acre ponds. Their primary responsibilities were excavating and moving 32,000 cubic yards of dirt in a two week period. Basically this was a dozer and scraper project with brand new troops who did an excellent job in spite of adverse weather conditions.

The Leesville project consisted of building baseball fields for the city of Leesville. The troops worked three different fields at one time. The members of Charlie Company who did not go to Jordan with their unit, assisted with the project.

The Arrowhead Road project at Camp Beauregard was the third horizontal task. This project consisted of a 4,100 yard road that was basically a wooded area. The soldiers put in culverts, shaped and compacted two-thirds of the road.

The vertical projects consisted of renovating Building 565 at Camp Beauregard which will be used as apartments. In order to do this, they had to frame up walls, and build smoke and draft walls. It also called for the installation of a sewer system, electrical wiring, panel boxes and erect siding. They also put in piers for the outside porch.

Another project was the construction of the parking lot for the chapel at Camp Beauregard. Alpha Company's scope was to construct the entire form and prepare for 12' x 60' pours. The troops completed all five pours and the project.



COOKING- Behind the scenes, SPC Doss Cummings, Co. A (-), 205th Engr Bn, cooks french fries on a burner unit during annual training. (Photo by SGT Ronnie Eleser, Co. A (-), 205th Engr Bn)

The last project was the confidence course, which was very taxing. The weather was a major factor but troops ended up very close to their scope. Many young troops learned a lot because they received major training in all phases of carpentry that included plumbing, electrical and wood work. The horizontal project allowed them full use of all types of equipment - scrapers, dozers, road graders, and compactors.

To put the horizontal projects into perspective, imagine moving 75,000 cubic yards of dirt in two weeks. This was no small feat accomplished by the soldiers of the 205th Engineer Battalion.

Safety May Save Your Life

Leader's POV counseling guidance

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guidance is to provide leaders with suggestions on how to conduct an effective counseling session that will contribute to the success of the POV accident prevention effort.

BACKGROUND:

This counseling is part of a program to reduce POV accidents. Army POV accidents, injuries, and fatalities continue to be a major problem, causing hundreds of soldier deaths and thousands of soldier injuries, not to mention the millions of dollars in

lost workdays and reduced productivity. It is important to create the understanding among soldiers that accidents don't just happen, they are caused by dangerous driver behavior.

YOUR ROLE:

As a leader, your role is to contribute to a positive change in driver perception by counseling all accident-involved drivers in a way that causes them to change their attitude and behavior. To do this, the counseling session should have the following elements:

DRIVERS INVOLVED IN AT-FAULT, INJURY-PRODUCING ACCIDENTS--

** Inform the driver that a records review of his or her overall performance was conducted as a result of the at-fault accident. Inform the soldier of the results of this review and the actions to be taken.

** Discuss briefly with the driver his or her injury-producing close call with death.

** Inform the driver that he or she is being referred for specialized counseling and the reason why.

DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS OR MOVING VIOLATIONS--

** Ask the driver what is causing the dangerous behavior and if there is anything that you as a leader can help with. Stimulate as much as possible an honest exchange of information. Stress that such behavior is unnatural and dangerous because it is potentially self-destructive.

** Ask the soldier's supervisor to follow up with similar counseling.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE COUNSELING PROGRAM TO MILITARY/CIVIL JUSTICE PROCESS-- This counseling is independent of any disciplinary actions taken under military or civil justice proceedings. It is recommended that the counseling procedure follow any such proceedings unless action will be unduly delayed.

-- From TranSafe, U.S. Army Safety Center

205th Battalion commander moves on

By CPT Timothy Chastain
205th Engr Bn

The 205th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) conducted a change of command ceremony Saturday, Sept. 10, 1994. Major Joe L. Price assumed command from Lt. Col. Henry A. Boese at the unit's headquarters in Bogalusa, La.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr., the adjutant general, praised Boese for his contributions to the improved readiness of the 205th and the Louisiana Army National Guard. Stroud awarded Boese the Meritorious Service Medal for his performance as the 205th's commander. The award cited Boese for his calm, effective leadership, his devotion to duty, and his performance during the Hurricane Andrew cleanup operation.

He now moves on to the 225th Engineer Group as the executive officer.

Boese, who is the state civil engineer with the Directorate of Facilities Engineering at Jackson Barracks will be moving on in his full-time career as well. In the near future he will become the Director of Security and Training. He feels that his experience as an engineer battalion commander will help him with his new job but he is looking forward to all he has to learn.

Being battalion commander was a wonderful opportunity to have over 700 people working for you with several hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment at your disposal, Boese said. "It was like owning your own construction company, like Boh Brothers, except you don't have to worry about profit loss," he added.

"It is satisfying to see the people who work for me progress and become quite skilled at their chosen profession. That's the most rewarding to me," Boese reflected.

Price is a 1977 graduate of the Louisiana Military Academy's Officer Candidate School. He has completed the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Course and is currently enrolled in the Command and General Staff College. During his career he has served as an engineer platoon leader, company executive officer, company commander and in various staff positions with the 527th Engineer Battalion. He also went to Desert Storm with the 527th. His more recent assignments include service as the maintenance officer and construction management officer for the 225th Engineer Group and executive officer of the 205th.

Price resides in Shreveport, La., with Barbara, his wife of 27 years. The Price's have five children: Pamela, Donald, Venessa, Joe Jr., and Gregory. ♦



LOADING- TSGTs Michael Bartel, Larry Garnett and Gerald Raynel, weapons load crew for the 159th Fighter Group, secure a missile to the wing of an F-15 during an integrated combat turn exercise. (Photo by SSG Suzanne Chaillot, 159th FG/PAO)

159th FG participates in worldwide exercise

A test to see who is the most accurate and precise team in the Air Force

By SSG Suzanne M. Chaillot
159th FG/PAO

The pilot guides the F-15 fighter to an abrupt halt. The ground crew hurriedly places bright yellow chocks on either side of the aircraft's wheels to keep them from rolling. As the jet engines hum to a stop, the crew begins to position missiles into place beneath the body and wings of the mighty jet. Within minutes, the eight missiles are in place and the engines start to roar once again. Chocks are pulled away from the wheels, and the jet rolls toward the runway for takeoff.

This integrated combat turn is just one of the many exercises members of the 159th Fighter Group have practiced in preparation for Air Combat Command's William Tell '94 competition held at Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Fla., Oct. 12-22.

The 159th has been selected as the representative for the Air National Guard in the F-15 category. This worldwide air-to-air meet tests all phases of air superiority and air defense in a live-fire environment conducted over the Gulf of Mexico.

The meet will allow the 159th to demonstrate their capabilities of fighter weapons systems, evaluate air-to-air tactics and team coordination. The competition will also give the unit the opportunity to inform the public of the role of air-to-air

forces, enhance esprit de corps and to increase the unit's training efficiency.

The competition is divided into four major exercises for the 159th: One missile live-fire profile involving two fighters versus two drones, a live gun fire exercise with two fighters against a towed target system, an area defense sortie involving four fighters versus 15 bombers, (B-1, B-2, learjet and F-11), and a defense scramble with two fighters versus four targets.

The unit will be judged on their performance and the meet winner will be the team acquiring the most points in air crew performance, weapon control, maintenance and munition load team performance.

Five Louisiana Air Guard F-15s and more than 50 personnel will deploy to Tyndall AFB for the competition.

There will be local and international media coverage during the competition and the 159th has designated their team song, "Dreams" by Van Halen.

Competing teams are chosen from USAF units from around the world as well as from the Canadian Air Force. Those participating are: F-15 units from the 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va.; 18th Wing Group, Kadena AFB, Japan; 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla.; 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; and the 159th Fighter Group, New Orleans. F-16 units from the 119th Fighter Group, Fargo, N.D. and the 158th Fighter Group, South Burlington, Vt. An F-18 unit from Bagotville, Canada will represent the Canadian Air Force.

The 159th's objective is to be the most accurate and precise team in the U.S. Air Force as well as the Air National Guard.

WILLIE & JOE Bill Mauldin



Copyright 1948 by Bill Mauldin, used with permission

"It's a habit Joe picked up in Rome."



Bill Mauldin achieved international fame as the youngest person ever to win a Pulitzer Prize with his famous World War II editorial cartoons. Though Willie and Joe were soldiers, service members of all branches could see themselves in their cartoons. Now 50 years after Mauldin brought Willie and Joe to the pages of the Stars and Stripes newspaper, they speak again to a new generation.



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A Public Service of This Publication

Military saves marine life environment

Tanks dumped into ocean form artificial reefs

By 1LT David Barham
241st PAD

Tanks are used for killing. And blowing things up. And running over obstacles. And helping the environment.

Helping the environment?

A new Army Program is designed to make old out-of-date tanks do just that.

Old tanks that can only be used for scrap metal are being used for a higher purpose. Military officials - including soldiers with the Louisiana Army National Guard - are dumping the tanks into the Gulf of Mexico to create artificial reefs.

The artificial reefs will boost marine-life populations, officials say, and help get rid of equipment that can't be used for any other positive purpose.

Capt. Keith Kingston, the Louisiana

National Guard contract coordinator, said the tanks are environmentally safe. The hatches and doors are welded open for safety and all of the fluids in the engines are drained before they are dumped in the ocean.

Eventually, the old machines will be home to small fish. Bigger fish will follow, and then bigger fish - all the way up the food chain.

Kingston said people who fish in the Gulf fish near the oil rigs because that's where the algae, barnacles and other fish food gather.

"They've been dumping trucks and buses and cars" in the ocean, Kingston said. "REEF-EX is adding areas for that type of growth."

The Army started the REEF-EX program in September of 1993, officials said. A year later, Louisiana Guardsmen, along with other reservists, were dumping tanks about 10 miles off shore near Mobile, Ala.

The tanks are gathered from around the nation and shipped to the Gulf ports. Guardsmen then load them up on barges and ship them to points in the Gulf and simply drop them over the side.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency signs off on everything in the exercise, Kingston said.

The program is ongoing and Louisiana Guardsmen will stay involved, Kingston said.

Silver Flag Certification at Tyndall AFB

By TSGT Jeannine Minor-Welch
159 FG/CES

Have you ever been to central Florida in mid summer? There are definitely three things there: heat, mosquitoes and Silver Flag. Silver Flag? That's right, the U.S. Air Force Silver Flag Certification took the place of Base Recovery After Attack (BRAAT). It's not a bad change either.

Silver Flag is a biannual event hosted by Tyndall Air Force Base.

Unfortunately, beaches are not part of the scene in this part of Florida, but bull dozers and AM2 matting are. At Silver Flag, each of 31 critical Air Force Specialty Codes gets to show just what they've learned at their

home units. All personnel must be certified before leaving the Silver Flag training site to prove that in a war or contingency situation they have all the skills necessary to survive and operate.

The 159th Civil Engineer Squadron, Services Flight and Disaster Preparedness



REPAIR- Rapid runway repair during Silver Flag. (LANG Photo)

arrived ready for any situation they might encounter led by Maj. Mike Hatcher. Each critical AFSC was represented and certified. This means that the core personnel can lead and train their Prime BEEF teammates.

159th FG hosts quality awareness course

By MSG Justin Jones
159 FG/QA

The Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Group, located at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans, recently hosted a Senior Leadership Quality Awareness Course to coincide with the beginning of its Quality Improvement Initiative.

The three day course, held Aug. 23-25, was taught primarily by instructors from the National Guard Bureau's Directorate of Productivity and Quality. The course was designed to orient senior leaders, both officer and enlisted, to the concepts, tools and techniques that are the foundation of the quality movement.

Other Air Guard units represented were: 122nd Air Control Party from Camp Beauregard; 236th Combat Communications Squadron from Hammond; Headquarters, La. Air Guard; and the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center

in Gulfport, Miss.

Quality management, also known as Total Quality Management (TQM) or TQ Leadership, is a method of conducting day-to-day operations that constantly seek to analyze and improve operating efficiency and productivity, while reducing waste and redundancy. As part of the Louisiana Air Guard's commitment to quality improvement, the 159th's commander has hired a full-time quality advisor to help implement the unit's quality objectives.

The first task at hand will be to educate the nearly 1,200 members of the unit in the Basic Quality Awareness course. Other more in-depth classes will begin in early 1995. Unit members will ultimately incorporate the tools and techniques they learn into their own day-to-day operations as they identify process improvement opportunities.

Twenty-four Air Guardsmen from all over Louisiana attended the first course.

Louisiana Military Academy continued from page 4

picked to serve as training advisers to the junior candidates. Senior Candidate Mike Melancon is assisting with this year's junior class.

Melancon said, "Junior candidates can only address the TACs formally so the senior candidates serve as liaisons."

"We take them to the PX, to use the phones, to wash clothes - the essentials, basically."

Melancon was a member of the Army Reserve for three years before he transferred to the Louisiana National Guard in 1992. He is a member of the 256th Infantry Brigade (M). Upon receiving his commission, Melancon will be assigned to the Officers' Corps in the Infantry Branch.

Applicants to the officer candidate school must have at least 60 hours of college credit and 90 hours by the time they graduate and receive their commissions.

Junior Candidate Ronald Patrick of DeQueen, Arkansas, is a student in Class 35. Patrick has an undergraduate degree in Speech and Communications from the University of Texas. He is pursuing a teaching certificate in math and speech and Baylor University in Waco, Tex. "I guess you can call me a degree holder and a certification seeker," Patrick said.

Academic requirements are essential, however the candidates are also expected to meet intense physical challenges. The leadership reaction course at Camp Beauregard is one such challenge. Its purpose is to improve the leadership ability of young soldiers.

The course measures the degree of certain leadership dimensions employed by the candidates. It offers an opportunity for self-evaluation and enable the students to more accurately determine their strengths and weaknesses.

Capt. Greg Myers, company commander of 3/156th Infantry is a guest instructor for the academy. He supervises the candidates as they negoti-

ate the reaction course and the stream crossing. Although both tasks include competitive team building exercises, Meyer said, "It also gives them an opportunity to cool their heels and have a little fun."

Many candidates who've attended the academy have reached their goals. Washispack, for instance, was a student of Class 5; he graduated from the academy in 1965. He was promoted to colonel in 1993, but just recently received federal recognition. He has worked full-time at the academy for more than a decade. This is his fourth year as superintendent.

Others commissioned at the academy include: Col. Bennett Landreneau, commander of the 225th Engineer Group; Col. Thomas Rodrigue, Director of Military Support; and Lt. Col Clyde Guidry, commander of the 3/156th Infantry.

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, addressed this year's graduating class of second lieutenants. "You have chosen to be leaders. Your training has been intense, but it's just the beginning," Stroud said.

"As officers, society will expect more of you. Your greatest contribution as an officer will be as a role model and mentor," Stroud said.

Senior Candidate Wesley Pickens of Collinsville, Miss., was chosen to be this year's class speaker. In his address, Pickens said,

"Integrity is the foundation of the army officer.

As officers, we must know our mission, know our equipment and know our soldiers. It's also paramount that we consider our soldiers' welfare.

These simple, yet profound concepts will serve as our guide."



Photo by SMSG Ken Barlow, 159th FG

Quality Awareness Course Attendees

156th Army Band--

Annual training '94 dedicated to CW3 Leon Anderson



CW4 Douglas Peterson



Youth Challenge Program Graduation



Bastille Day,
Downtown New Orleans

I remember...

I remember the 21st day of May in 1977 when we both enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard. I was 17 and fresh out of high school. He was 34 and taught high school.

I remember reporting for basic training together, both of us unsure of what awaited us during our stay at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He was so much older than the rest of the company that everyone called him "mister" instead of "private".

I remember how the old man had to struggle to keep up with the younger trainees. The horizontal ladder gave him the most trouble. The ladder was suspended parallel to the ground about nine feet high, but the rungs were not set in place and they rolled in your hand when you tried to grab hold and hang on. The object was to complete as many rungs as possible before falling.

I remember that the old man could not do even one rung before falling and he had trouble just hanging from the ladder. I began to think that he wasn't going to make it. But at that point, I didn't know the old man very well.

I remember that he went to the PX and bought some hand exercisers to help increase his grip. At first I was skeptical, but my views changed. During every spare moment the old man would pull out those exercisers and use them.

I remember falling asleep every night to the

sound of those exercisers groaning in the dark as he worked while the younger guys rested.

But most importantly, I remember that at the end of basic training the old man could accomplish more rungs on the horizontal ladder than I could. It was my first glimpse of how he would endure, persist, and finally triumph. After returning home, the old man continued to endure and persist until he triumphed with an appointment to commander. We had known each other for some 17 years now, and I was no longer skeptical. The old man had proven that hard work does pay off.

I remember how enthusiastic he was upon assuming command of the 156th Army Band. The old man had great expectations for the future, but that was to end just two short weeks later.

I remember where I was when they told me that he had been killed in an automobile accident.

And I remember the pain and sorrow I felt.

Mr. Leon Anderson was many things to many people. Now he is gone and we miss him. We must never forget the good times and the way he shared so much of himself with others for they are the things that bring us comfort and give us strength.

That is why I remember.

-SFC Terry Nichols
156th Army Band



New Orleans' Zephyrs
Baseball Game



Jazz Night at Rowbatham Hall



Concert in the Oak Grove at Jackson Barracks

225th Engineer Group--

Louisiana engineers give work, get culture

By LTC James R. McCall
225th ENGR GRP and
SGT Kristi M. Graves
241st PAD

Soldiers of the 225th Engineer Group who deployed to the Kingdom of Jordan in Southwest Asia for some serious construction missions gained far more than just engineer experience as they became part of a multi-national team.

The 225th led the planning and coordination for the exercise while the four engineer battalions deployed a company-size element with the necessary equipment to complete their projects.

The units involved included:

225th Engineer Grp
205th Engineer Bn
527th Engineer Bn
528th Engineer Bn
769th Engineer Bn

As the units rotated in and out of country, each picked up where the other left off. The advance party set up the task force base camp, as their equipment arrived by boat, and the trail party dismantled it and moved the equipment back to port for the journey home.

"This was the most desolate place I've ever been," Command Sgt. Maj. Julius J. White of the 205th said.

Once the base camp was up and running, the mission involved four main construction projects. The first was a Special Forces Training Facility with four assault lanes and a centrally located control tower. The finished product provided a resource to practice Military Operations in Urbanized Terrain skills using individuals or teams in a live fire environment.

The Special Forces Training Facility was constructed with concrete masonry units and the hand grenade trainer utilized earth-filled tires to form the 'rubber room'. All events included electronic pop-up targets activated from the control tower. This close combat range required an engineer platoon from each rotation to devote its efforts to completing a portion of its construction.

"Additionally, soldiers were able to experience a part of the world with great Biblical significance, in the Dead Sea and Mt. Nebo." - Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr.

Another project included a parachute drying tower. This 50-foot structure allowed the Special Forces riggers to hoist 36 parachutes simultaneously in a protected, open air environment. The design involved placing 12, 50-foot telephone poles upright



DESERT AIR-- MAJ Joe Chesnut (center right), 168th Engrs, Mississippi National Guard, explains to MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., (center left) and Royal Jordanian Engineers how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed building materials out of recycled plastic trash. Louisiana engineers used these plastic resources in various stages of construction in the confidence course and base camps they erected during their stay in Jordan. (Photo by CPT Michael Toney, Charlie Co., 205th Engr Bn.)



CONSTRUCTION WORK -- Engineers of Charlie Co., 205th Engr Bn construct a steel arched structure which ultimately became range central for Special Operations Training during their annual training in Jordan. (Photo by CPT Michael Toney, Charlie Co., 205th Engr Bn)

with a deck, roof and pulley system. This task tested the capability of the Bravo Company, 769th soldiers because of the close proximity to other buildings and the need to interact with host nation special forces and crane operators with some communication barriers.

The third challenging task was to construct range central, a steel arch structure with a height of 40-feet and measuring 120x60 feet in length and width. This project involved platoons from Charlie Company of both the 205th and 527th Battalions over two rotations. The finished product entailed a vehicle and personnel door at each end, a concrete floor, electrical wiring with outlets and overhead and outside lighting throughout the building.

The Louisiana engineers from Charlie Company, 528th, built a confidence course. The course consisted of 22 various obstacles placed in a four-leaf clover pattern with each leaf designed with increasing degrees of difficulty. The obstacle construction tested

the unit's ability to work with metal and wood. And they passed the test.

The Commanding General of the 416th Engineer Command Brig. Gen. James W. Warr said, "Due to the commitment and hard work of the 225th Engineer Group and its subordinate engineer battalions, the exercise was a huge success. All projects were constructed to standard and completed ahead of schedule."

"Due to the commitment and hard work of the 225th Engineer Group and its subordinate engineer battalions, the exercise was a huge success." - Brig. Gen. James W. Warr

Each project was completed ahead of time and each rotation was still able to give

a little 'lagnappe' to their hosts. The Jordanians got a little something extra from our Louisiana soldiers, including a helipad, a hand-to-hand combat trainer, a door and walkway, and demolition pits to name a few. They also gave of themselves and formed lasting friendships with the Jordanians.

"From the military side, this was excellent training for a contingency mission - should it be necessary in that part of the world." - Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr.

Sgt. 1st Class Jim D. Rumpf of the 769th, said he recently received a letter from a warrant officer friend he made while working there. "I worked with him everyday and interacted with all of them well. We all developed a very good rapport with (the Jordanians)," Rumpf said.

The geographic region tested the mental and physical capabilities of the soldiers with temperatures ranging from 50 to 120 degrees, wind gusts of 25-40 miles per hour and the blowing sand of the Syrian Desert.

Rumpf said, "I was able to work jackhammering in 120 degrees and almost not sweat," because it was so dry. "It's definitely more comfortable there than it is here."

This exercise also provided an excellent opportunity for Louisiana engineers to work with soldiers from Illinois, Atlanta, Texas, Mississippi and Jordan. A big treat was working with and getting to know the soldiers from the Jordanian Special Forces and Engineers and touring their land. The language barrier did not prevent U.S. and Jordanian soldiers from exchanging techniques and understanding cultural differences as they worked together and visited places like the ancient city of Petra, known to most as the city in the movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade". Our engineers also got to visit the city of Jerash, an ancient buried Roman city that was discovered in the 1920s; the Dead Sea; and Mt. Nebo, where it is believed that Moses is buried.

Louisiana's Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr., said that "From the military side, this was excellent training for a contingency mission should it be necessary in that part of the world. It also gave Louisiana National Guard soldiers the opportunity to see the living conditions, customs and culture of Jordanians, while at the same time allowing them to better appreciate their philosophy of life that is based upon a very strong religious influence."

"Additionally, soldiers were able to experience a part of the world with great Biblical significance, in the Dead Sea and Mt. Nebo."