

HAITIAN VACATION TERMINATION



f.



g.



h.



e.



c.



i.



d.



j.



b.



a.

WELCOME HOME-- After four long, hot months of malaria pills, bottled water, port-o-lets, and living in tents at the Port-au-Prince International Airport, the 55 members of Det. 1 Co. A 1/244th Aviation returned home to civilization Thursday Sept. 21, 1995. Our Louisiana soldiers were highly recognized and decorated for their outstanding performance and skills by members of the United Nations, American and Canadian Forces. Their mission was to transport VIPs to polling places and to areas where military forces worked and lived. They provided security and were a strong presence in the peacekeeping efforts of our nation. For photo explanations see page 2. (Photos a-f by WO1 Patrick M. Graves, Det. 1 Co. A 1/244th AV, photos g-j by SGT Mark Smith, 204th ASG/PAO)

Haitian Vacation Termination... (photos from p.1)

a. This sign welcomes all in-coming troops to the peacekeeping mission in Haiti. It's the first primitive thing soldiers see when they get there and the last when they leave, but far from the worst while they were there. b. The mountainous terrain provided real high altitude flying experience for our troops. This peak drops 1,000 feet just beyond the helicopter overlooking the town of Miragoane. c. SFC Brian Stovall supervised tours of a UH-1 Huey helicopter for local Haitian children. d. An aerial view of the American Forces camp reveals

bare lodging, facilities and surroundings. e. Our troops left their "Bayou Voodoo Krewe" mark in Haiti in true Louisiana fashion. f. The remnants of this 1860s fort overlook the Bay of Port-Au-Prince. g. Families and friends gathered at England Air Park in Alexandria Sept. 21 to greet their heroes. h. SPC Jose Jaramillo holds his country's flag high as members of Louisiana's senior leadership await to greet their Guardsmen. i. SGT Raymond Marzilli is reunited with his family. j. SPC Wade Janes and his wife Kim meet again, happily.



CONSERVING THE FORCE— Louisiana receives the Secretary of the Army Energy Conservation Award for its second place finish in this national competition. The state was previously awarded 2nd place in 1992, 1st place in 1993 and 2nd place in 1994. Along with these national awards, Louisiana has received five consecutive first place energy awards for the Fifth Army area from 1989 through 1993. This latest award represents the cumulative efforts of all soldiers and airmen in saving both facility energy and mobility energy. The many success stories of units turning off unnecessary lights, air conditioning and heating; coupled with conservation efforts in vehicle and aircraft fuel usage has made this state a winner time and time again. (From left to right: COL Lester Schmidt, director of facilities and engineering; Honorable Robert M. Walker, asst. sec. of Army, installations, logistics and environment, MAJ Robert Jones, DFE- environmental coordinator; MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr, Louisiana adjutant general. (DA Photo)

769th, once again, the best

Engineer units in the Louisiana Army National Guard are making it a habit.

Again this year, the Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood awarded the most outstanding engineer company award to a Bayou State unit.

This year, Bravo Company of the 769th Engineer Battalion received the Itschner Award, named after the late Lt. Gen. Emerson C. Itschner, a former chief of engineers.

The current chief, Lt. Gen. Arthur E. Williams, said Bravo company of Marksville "contributed significantly to the image of the Corps of Engineers ... and the soldiers are to be commended for their many

accomplishments."

The award is presented each year at Fort Leonard Wood.

This award marks the third consecutive year a company from the 769th has won this most prestigious award. Bravo Company in New Roads (before the reorganization with the 1088th Engineer Battalion) and Alpha Company in Baker won in training years 1992 and 1993 respectfully.

The Society of American Military Engineers and the chief present the awards to the most outstanding engineer companies in the active Army, the Army Reserves and the Army National Guard.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard. Contents of the Louisiana Guardsman are not necessarily the official views, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Louisiana National Guard.

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 Kristi Moon Graves), Bldg. 35 Rm. 213, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330.

LOUISIANA GUARDSMAN

The Adjutant General La. Army and Air Guard

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr.

Chief of Staff (Army)

Col. Paul D. Alford, Jr.

Deputy Commander (Air)

Col. Harry A. Trosclair

Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Maria L. LoVasco

In Memorium

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

Spec. Christopher John Lopez, 19, died May 15, 1995.

Lopez enlisted into Company D, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry, in DeRidder on March 19, 1993.

He attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in June, 1993 and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Va., in June, 1994.

His military awards and badges include the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Marksman M16 Rifle Qualification Badge, and the Marksman Hand Grenade Qualification Badge.

He is survived by his parents, Dennis P. Lopez and Wanda L. Lopez of DeRidder.

Master Sgt. Wilbert A. Raney, 52, died July 7, 1995.

Raney enlisted into Detachment 1, 39th Military Police Company, Oakdale, La. on March 22, 1975. On March 2, 1977, the unit reorganized and became Company B, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry. Raney served with several units of the 3rd Battalion throughout his military career; his most recent assignment was with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry, Lake Charles, La. His military occupational specialty was 11M50 (Bradley Fighting Vehicle Infantryman).

He was mobilized with the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Brigade in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm during the period November 30, 1990 through May 5, 1991.

His prior service includes two tours of active duty with the United States Army during the period December 4, 1962 through December 3, 1964 and September 3, 1968 through September 2, 1971.

His military awards and badges include the Army Service Ribbon, National

Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Louisiana Commendation Medal, Louisiana Emergency Service Medal, Louisiana General Excellence Medal, Louisiana Longevity Medal, and the Senior Parachute Badge.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda M. Raney, and daughters, Pheatra F. Raney and Natasha W. Raney of Oakdale, La.

Spec. Anthony James Rogers, 34, died June 8, 1995.

Rogers enlisted into Detachment 1, Company B, 769th Engineer Battalion on Nov. 21, 1978 and served until Nov. 20, 1984. He re-enlisted into Detachment 1 on Sept. 1, 1986. He transferred to Company A, 769th Engineer Battalion Oct. 18, 1993.

His military awards and badges include the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon and the Army Achievement Medal.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte A. Rogers; a daughter, Lekisia D. Rogers; and sons Anthony J. Jr. and Frederick D. Rogers of Baton Rouge.

Pvt. Stephen Bryan Austin, 17, died August 18, 1995.

Austin enlisted into Detachment 1 239th Military Police Company, Camp Beauregard, Pineville, La. on June 9, 1995.

He graduated from Avoyelles High School May 19, 1995 and was scheduled to attend Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort McClellan, Ala. January 2, 1996.

He is survived by his parents, Sidney Austin and Donna L. Austin of Hamburg La.

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

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241st PAD

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Kids see NASA first hand

By SSG Suzanne Chaillot
159th FG PAO

Many people don't know that the power behind the U.S. space shuttle is built right here in south Louisiana.

But about 90 children from the New Orleans area discovered that little-known fact during a recent tour of the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility. The tour was scheduled as part of a Drug Demand Reduction field trip conducted by members of the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Fighter Group.

The children were selected through the Housing Authority of New Orleans, the McCaleb Foundation and Bridge City Elementary School.

"We wanted a cross-section of today's youth to be able to attend this trip," said Capt. Lorraine Patin, 159th FG. "Most of these children did not know that this facility was even here."

Construction of the massive external fuel tanks that power the space shuttle into orbit are built there. The facility is so huge that four Louisiana Superdomes could fit under its roof.

If that wasn't enough to awe the children's imagination, they stood next to the 154-foot long external tank that can hold up to 66 thousand pounds of fuel.

"Man, that's one big gastank," said Jeffery Caigle, a Bridge City Elementary sixth grader who gazed straight up at the tank.

NASA workers presented a detailed video of the space facility to bring the whole picture into focus for the group of youngsters.

Lt. Col. Robert Lemoine, a 159th pilot, gave a motivational speech for the kids and other workers put on a skit on the dangers of drug use.

The tour finished with the children talking about conflict and resolution problems.

More than 20 Air Guard personnel chaperoned the group, and transportation was provided free by Hotard Bus Lines of New Orleans.

"The next time the space shuttle goes into orbit, I feel safe to say that 90 children from this area will have a better understanding of the mission," said Kim Case, a Bridge City teacher.



CELEBRATE—To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the Jackson Barracks Military Museum held a mini-exhibit at Lakeside Shopping center in Metairie, La. from August 24 through September 4, 1995. Pictured in the photo from left to right: 1LT Jacques Walker, museum curator; Ms. Donna Mumfrey, Lakeside Special Projects Coordinator; and Mrs. Deanna Schmidt, museum director. (Photo by David Tompkins)

Medic gets dose of Russia

By SSGT Suzanne Chaillot
159th FG/PAO

It was an opportunity he could not pass up. A chance to visit a former communist country and witness democracy in its early stages of development.

Capt. Andre Long, an optometrist with the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Group, was a member of a U.S. National Guard delegation that traveled to the former soviet state of Georgia in mid-August as part of the National Guard

State Partnership program.

The humanitarian program was organized three years ago through the State Department to assist newly independent states in Eastern Europe to develop citizen based military organizations. The program also places emphasis on the proper role of citizen soldiers in a demographic society.

Several of these roles demonstrated by the team were in the areas of medical assessment, civil engineering and a project dubbed "Cyclops", which consisted of two optical teams assembled by the National Guard Bureau.

"Project Cyclops" is designed to assess eye disorders and distribute glasses to these countries. Organized by the Lions Club, doctor's offices nationwide collect donated glasses for "Cyclops".

"When I first heard of the program, I volunteered right away," said Long, whose optometry practice is in Alexandria.

According to Long, the trip took them to the second largest city in the former soviet Republic of Georgia where in two short days, they saw more than ninety pa-

tients.

"Once we arrived in Kutasia, it was obvious that two days would not be enough time to see everyone who needed attention," said Long. "On the last day, they literally broke through the door and a mass of angry people flooded in."

Long added that he never felt threatened through this ordeal because the people were not mad at him. They were angry at the hospital staff for not providing enough time and information on something they so desperately needed.

A light-hearted experience for Long was the amount of positive attention he received from the native Georgians.

"One thing I didn't realize was they had never seen a Black person before," said Long with amusement in his voice. "So I was treated as an oddity, a novelty, and actual curiosity."

One amusing story Long shared was while at the hospital, a group of children were in the hall waiting with their parents. At first they hid behind their mothers' skirts, braving a peak or two at the dark man. Then one by one they would approach him and want to touch his skin, as if to rub off the rich color.

"By the time my trip was coming to a close, they were following me around, right on my heels," said Long with a smile.

The opportunity to return to the Republic of Georgia is one Capt. Long would not refuse.

"I would go back without a second thought," he said with determination.

The National Guard State Partnership program is now working or proposed in 21 nations.

159th FG welcomes Green



LTC James E. Green

By SSG Suzanne Chaillot
159th FG

A Louisiana native accepted the staff of command for the 159th Fighter Group, Louisiana Air National Guard from Col. John H. Boh, August 5, at the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse, La.

Lt. Col. James E. Green is originally from north Louisiana, having been raised in Monroe and Tallulah. He graduated from West Jefferson High School in 1968. In 1972 he earned a BA degree from

Northeast Louisiana University. He then served 13 years active duty in the Air Force with assignments in Keflavik NAS, Iceland; Luke AFB, Ariz.; MacDill AFB, Fla., and Nellis AFB, Nev. During his active duty career he flew the F-4 and F-16 aircraft.

Green departed active duty in 1987 to join the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Fighter Group as a full-time F-16 instructor pilot. In 1989 he joined Northwest Airlines and concurrently joined the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Group in Duluth, Minn. as a traditional guardsman.

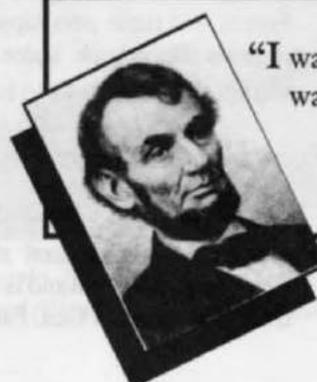
Desert Shield/Desert Storm brought changes for Green when he deployed with the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing "Boys from Syracuse" to AL Kharj Air Base in Saudi Arabia. There he flew 36 combat missions during Desert Storm.

Following Desert Storm, Green returned to the Minnesota Air National Guard. In September 1993 he departed on a leave of absence from Northwest Airlines to accept a position as 148th Fighter Group, Detachment 1 commander at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

In October 1994, he joined the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Group as vice-air commander of the Air Technician Detachment and vice-commander of the group.

Green currently resides in Covington, La., with his wife Ann, and their one-year old daughter, Molly.

WORTH REPEATING



"I walk slowly, but I never walk backward."

—Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)
U.S. president

Tribute may be last for many who remember

By 1LT David Barham
241st PAD

James Odom said it's nice to see people still thanking him after all these years.

Odom was a sergeant fighting the Japanese in the Pacific 50 years ago. But Saturday, August 12, soldiers, officials and family members gathered at Camp Beauregard near Alexandria to pay tribute to Odom and his comrades.

"It's really nice," Odom said of the tribute to World War II veterans. "They've let us know they haven't forgotten us."

Odom, of Elizabeth, said he was also a veteran of the Korean war and eventually retired through the Louisiana National Guard. He said he felt the ceremonies were particularly noteworthy because "it won't be many years until there won't be many of us left."

Veterans and their family members were treated to speeches, a fly-over and several nostalgic displays of WWII relics during the ceremonies. The Tioga High School Band (most parents of the band members weren't even born during the war) and the Veteran's Administration Choir performed for the troops.

"With all its horror and sacrifice, World War II was a special time in history,"



SALUTES-- Veterans of all ages from all over the state joined at Camp Beauregard to remember and help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of WWII. A grateful nation truly remembers. (Photo by 1LT David Barham, 241st PAD)

said Bob Lawrence, a former POW during the war and current councilman from Alexandria. "I have never met a veteran who was ashamed of his service during World War II."

Lawrence said the dropping of the atomic bombs - considered controversial now by some groups - was a necessary evil. He said it spared many American lives.

"Warfare in those days depended

on destroying the enemy's will to fight," Lawrence said. "We did and we won."

But not all memories of the war were bad ones. There was one love story being told at Camp Beauregard during the weekend.

Clarice and Ted Kosienki met in Washington, D. C. during the war. Ted is an active member of the Disabled American Veterans and Clarice is now the commander of the Disabled American Veterans' Auxillary in Alexandria. She was also one of the first WAVEs in the war.

She and her husband brought their children and grandchildren to the event.

"It's very important new generations know about the war," Clarice said. "Let's hope they don't have to face it."

The Louisiana National Guard's top officer, Maj. Gen. Ansel Stroud, Jr., said the country shouldn't forget what the war meant.

"I'm not sure we always consider the great impact of what a loss of that war would have meant," Stroud said. "There would be one word missing from any public event such as this: God."

"We wouldn't have elections...we would not have freedom of the press," he said. "That was a significant victory for mankind, not just for Americans."

WWII bomb not the end of the war

By SPC Karen E. Leger
241st PAD

In Sept. 1940, National Guard troops reported for active duty "for a year of training". This military move doubled the size of the U.S. Army, adding 18 infantry divisions, 80 separate regiments, and 29 Army Air Force flying squadrons to the nation's active duty forces.

In Aug. 1941, Congress extended an additional year to the term of service for those mobilized Guardsmen. Thus the entire National Guard was already on active duty when the U.S. entered WWII.

Four years later, on May 8, 1945 Germany surrendered to the U.S., and on Aug. 14, 1945 Japan surrendered to the United States ending WWII. Although the ending to the war was a victory, the death toll for America was over 400,000.

That was fifty years ago, and America still remembers.

On Aug. 12, 1995 the La. National Guard hosted a statewide open house to celebrate the 50th anniversary of that event - the end of WWII.

To commemorate the event Gov. Edwin Edwards signed a Proclamation declaring Aug. 12th "World War II Victory Day."

In his proclamation Gov. Edwards states, "...the freedoms we enjoy today are

the results of our victory over aggression, and the efforts the United States makes to work with all other nations who love and believe in freedom are a testimony to the wisdom of the lessons learned in World War II; and it is important to remember those who served their country and dedicated themselves in other wars so that our nation could remain free and strong, so that the deeds, the commitment, and the sacrifices of those who made this commitment will not have been in vain."

In coordination with over 60 other communities throughout Louisiana, New Orleans hosted its ceremony at Jackson Barracks.

On behalf of Maj. Gen. A. M. Stroud, Jr., 1st Lt. Glen Tortorich, master of ceremonies, welcomed the guests to the New Orleans area WWII Victory Celebration.

"(We're) honoring the great men and women of the United States Armed Forces and those who supported their courageous efforts back home in ensuring the victory that permits us to be here today."

"I'm proud of the armed forces and our country," Col. (ret.) Richard J. Stillman said.

Stillman served as Gen. Patton's secretary of the general staff during the European Campaign and is now the leading living authority on Gen. Patton and his 3rd



COL Richard J. Stillman, ret.

Army.

As a guest speaker, Col. Stillman spoke on Gen. Patton's secrets to success.

Also in attendance were many veterans and their families who came out to enjoy the music, provided by the Post 64 American Legion Band, and to visit the Jackson Barracks Military Museum, library, and the "Washington Artillery" armory which were open to the public.

"This is very nice. It's nice to get

recognized," said William Blackwell, a veteran who joined the 1st Battalion 141st Field Artillery in 1936.

Retired Air force Senior Master Sgt., Ferd Gonzales, a member of the Washington Artillery Veterans Association (WAVA), said he served in the European Campaign with his two brothers in the 141st, 2nd Battalion.

"It was like a family thing," he said. "There were many sets of brothers and father/son teams in those days."

Even if most of the veterans on hand weren't related, the memories of 50 years ago brought them together as if they were.

But it wasn't just veterans who felt moved by the ceremony.

"This is very moving. It's nice to honor them (veterans), so they're not forgotten." Theresa Bock said.

The Bocks were on a visit from Arkansas when they heard about the celebration ceremony from a friend of the family.

The lessons learned from WWII surely strengthened our armed forces. And now that the cold war is over, the veteran's of yesterday look upon us -- the soldiers of today -- to keep the freedoms and the peace between nations.

Newly polished top brass in 256th Inf Bde

By MSG John Sullivan
241st PAD

Cajun Field became a military parade ground Saturday as the command of the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) was handed over to Col. Bennett C. Landreneau.

Landreneau, who commanded the Louisiana National Guard's 528th Engineer Battalion in Saudi Arabi during Operational Desert Storm, took command of the infantry unit from Brig. Gen. Frank A. Catalano, Jr.

Headquartered in Lafayette, the 256th is the single largest command in the Louisiana National Guard. The 4,791 guardsmen who make up the unit are in units from Lafayette, Abbeville, Opelouses, Houma, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Shreveport and New Orleans as well as smaller communities through South and Central Louisiana.

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, commanding general of the Louisiana National Guard, took part in an ancient military tradition of accepting the brigade's flag from the outgoing commander, Catalano, and presenting it to the new commanding officer, Landreneau.

Stroud also presented Catalano with the state Legion of Merit award during the ceremony.

Both Landreneau and Catalano said they appreciated the history of the 256th, which dates back to the time when Louisiana was still a Spanish possession in the New World.

"This is a unit who's tradition is one of pride and unity," Catalano said. "This pride has shown itself wherever this unit has served, and I have seen it at Fort Polk and at the National Training Center in the Mojave Desert in California."

The unit was founded in 1769 in New Orleans and was known as The Regiment of City Militia by Gen. Don Alejandro O'Reilly, governor of the Spanish Province of Louisiana.

Since then, the 256th or its predecessors have fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II and Operation Desert Storm.

Though called to active duty for Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the 256th spent its time at Fort Polk, La., and Fort Hood, Texas, training on newly issued equipment such as the M1A1 Abrahams Main Battle Tank and the Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicle.

"This unit has faced many challenges and will have more challenges to face in the future," Catalano said. A member of the U.S. Federal Marshal's Office, Catalano assumed command of the 256th in September 1992.

Since then he has seen the unit become what is known as an "Enhanced Readiness Brigade".

With the shrinking of the post-Cold War Army from 18 to 10 active combat divisions, the Pentagon in 1991 created the "enhanced readiness brigade" concept to beef up its land combat power in the event of a major conflict.

Fifteen Army National Guard brigades, of which the 256th is one, were selected to receive modern equipment, specialized training and additional support to enable them to mobilize, train and be pre-

pared for combat after 90 days.

The Pentagon's target is to have the units ready for wartime mobilization by 1998.

Army planners said the training is critical for units such as the 256th because an inescapable reality is that an active-duty unit has about 230 training days each year, while Guard units have 39.

Guardsmen as a result tend to work many unpaid days preparing for the week-

end drills and two-week summer training to make every hour count.

Landreneau, who is the assistant state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, said he is eager to take command of the 256th.

Tomorrow is a new day and with it new challenges for both the 256th and the Louisiana National Guard, Landreneau said.

Angelo paves way for women in Guard

BY SPC Karen E. Leger
241st PAD

May 30 was a big day for women in the National Guard. Chief Ellie Angelo, HQ STARC, became the first woman CW4 in the Louisiana National Guard.

Angelo, who joined the Guard in 1972 as an enlisted member, paved the way once before as one of the first women to join the Guard.

When the Guard opened its doors to women 23 years ago she decided to take the risk and the challenge, she said.

And a risk it was. She, along with a prior-service female, became the first women to enter the National Guard.

As she looks back over the years, it's easy to see the changes that have occurred.

"There have been many changes in the Guard in the past 22 years," she said. "The most important is that women, other than nurses, are able to go into combat."

Many more doors are open for women in positions not related to administrative/nursing-related positions and that's good, she said.

Today there are female pilots, commanders, doctors and a number of other highly trained professionals in the military.

"I feel these changes, not only in the military, but also in society, can only boost women's self-esteem," Angelo said.

Other changes, which she sees as a major benefit for Guard, and other military branch members, is the Tuition Exemption Program and the GI Bill.

"This is an exceptional change," she says, "whereby many soldiers can get a higher education."

Angelo herself believes in a higher education. She is currently working on a degree in Social Sciences.

Basic training is different today too, she says. Today women are trained alongside the men. When she was at Fort McClellan in 1972, there were only female trainees.

But the biggest difference in the military now as opposed to when she first joined is that women now have more opportunities to show their expertise, she said.

"They (women) are now afforded the opportunity to compete not based on their sex, but on their talents," she said.

Her advice to the young women in the Guard is to "follow your dreams and make the most of the world as it is at the time".

"With each passing day, many changes will come to pass," she said. And CW4 Angelo has seen many changes and probably will see many more.



CW4 Ellie Angelo, HQ STARC, first female Chief Warrant Officer Four in the Louisiana National Guard (Photo by SPC Karl Kratberg, State PAO)

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

Helping soldiers cope with deployment

Here are some tips, shared by mental health experts, to keep soldiers emotionally healthy during deployments:

- Build a strong family-support network before you deploy so soldiers can leave knowing their families have someone to turn to.
- Encourage soldiers to talk about an upcoming deployment with the mental health team as they go through their standard soldier readiness check. Mental readiness is as important to the mission as is physical readiness.
- Keep soldiers informed. Ambiguity - about the mission, its length, the risk involved and expectations of the soldiers - increases soldiers' apprehension. So does uncertainty about what's going on at home.
- Recognize that all soldiers, whether they wanted to deploy are not, are likely to feel "down" as they adapt to a new environment. The symptoms should ease within two to three weeks.
- Keep soldiers busy so they feel a sense of purpose about their deployment.
- Encourage soldiers to make themselves as comfortable as possible in their environment. Building make shift furniture and cardboard porches on the sides of their tents can be a big morale boost.
- Invite the mental health team to hold classes in stress management, battle fatigue and suicide awareness. The best mental health therapist is the soldier himself.
- Teach soldiers to use the "buddy system," looking out for each other's physical and mental health.
- Offer morale, welfare and recreation opportunities as possible so soldiers can enjoy whatever free time they have.
- Provide soldiers showing symptoms of stress the three R's: reassurance that they're OK, rest and replenishment of physical needs such as food and water.
- Encourage soldiers to talk regularly with mental health teams. These professionals can help soldiers keep their problems in perspective.

- Don't announce a redeployment date unless it's firm. Slipped dates are more stressful to the affected soldiers than an honest admission that no definite date has been set.

- Recognize that the homecoming is one of the most stressful parts of a deployment. Encourage soldiers to be realistic about their expectations.

Family Information Hot-Line Available

Family members needing information about any Army quality of life issue, may call a toll-free number at the Pentagon.

The Army Family Liaison Office Information Line - 1-800-833-6622 - takes calls Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., eastern time.

All requests are handled confidentially and dealt with promptly.

Army family members who do not live near a military installation have found the information line particularly valuable.

Often asked questions on the toll-free line include, but are not limited to:

- * Family support questions.
- * Single soldier/parent questions.
- * Reserve component family member questions.
- * Active duty soldier/spouse questions.
- * Army finance system questions, particularly about allotments.
- * Questions on how to set up a family support group.

The staff answering the telephone doesn't always have the experience or information, but they are willing to help you find it.

Toll-Free Help-Line for Gulf Vets

The Department of Veterans' Affairs operates a toll-free help-line for Persian Gulf war veterans and their families.

The line provides information about medical care, disability compensation and other benefits and services. *For more*

information, call 1-800-749-8387.

The line is staffed Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Central Time. It also provides a pre-recorded message seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Credit Union for soldiers

It was noted recently that many of you are not aware of the financial services available to you and your family by becoming a member of the Louisiana National Guard Federal Credit Union. All Louisiana Army and Air National Guardsmen and their immediately family members are eligible for membership.

In addition to the credit union's basic function - providing member loans and savings - it offers a variety of financial services to help you in your financial needs.

● The credit union offers a number of loan payments including home equity loans, automobile loans, boat loans, and general purpose. These loans are offered with highly competitive rates with payment schedules to fit just about any budget.

● The credit also offers a savings program which include share accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs), individual retirement accounts (IRAs), and Christmas and vacation clubs.

● For your convenience, the credit union can handle loan payments and savings deposits through their Direct Deposit program. Other services include checking accounts, money orders, Travelers' Checks, and bank & western Union wires.

● But the most important element in the Credit Union's continual efforts to meet your needs is its friendly, courteous staff whose only job is to provide you with the best financial services.

Pay the credit union a visit next time you're at Jackson Barracks or Camp Beauregard, or call us at (504) 277-0288 for information on how you can benefit from being a member of LANG FCU.

**LANG Louisiana National Guard
Federal Credit Union**



Are your ducks in a row?



If Uncle Samuel Duck activates your spouse will you still be able to still run the nest?

Do you know what you need to know?

Do you know where to find birth, marriage and other certificates; deeds, titles and tax information; wills, power of attorney and business documents; medical and other emergency information; etc.?

Don't be a quack and assume you'll be able to run everything without any planning. You may have a quack-up!

A whole gagle of information is available to you through your local Family Services Office. These checklists and helpful booklets will guide you through the planning process and give you tips to help you run your nest better - even on a daily basis, right now.

So get your ducks in a row and be prepared to protect your flock. Your Family Services Office is ready to help you (and that's no Mother Goose story).

Understanding the fundamentals of our legal system is not optional, it is an integral feature of our mobilization preparedness. A soldier is better able to devote full concentration to performance of the military mission is not preoccupied with unresolved legal difficulties.

Following is one in a series of informational articles dealing with various aspects of the American and Louisiana systems of justice. This general information,

while valuable, is no substitute for individually tailored, fact-specified legal advice from your attorney. If you do not have a personal attorney, your community may have a "Lawyer Referral Service" designed to assist you in locating an attorney who concentrates in the area of law in which you are interested. For further information, you may contact the Louisiana Bar Association at 1-800-421-5722.



You and the Law

By Thomas K. Kirkpatrick, State Judge Advocate

Is your car a lemon?

In 1984 the Louisiana Legislature enacted Louisiana's "Lemon Law." This law is located in Louisiana Revised Statutes 51:1941 et. seq.

Under this law, a consumer who purchases or leases a new motor vehicle for personal, family or household purposes has certain remedies against the manufacturer and seller of the automobile if the vehicle does not conform to an applicable express warranty.

To benefit from this law, you must:

Report the nonconformity to the manufacturer or any of its authorized motor vehicle dealers;

Make the motor vehicle available for repair before the expiration of the warranty or during a period of one year following the date of the original delivery of the motor vehicle to you, whichever is the earlier date.

The manufacturer, its agent or its authorized dealer shall make such repairs as are necessary to conform the vehicle to the warranty.

Refund Entitlement

If after four or more attempts within the express warranty term or during a period of one year following the date of the original delivery of the motor vehicle to you, whichever is earlier, the non-conformity has not been repaired or if the vehicle is out of service by reason of repair for a cumulative total of 30 or more calendar days during the warranty period, the manufacturer shall do one of two things:

Replace the motor vehicle with a comparable new motor vehicle or, at its option;

Accept return of the motor vehicle and refund the full purchase price plus any

amounts paid by the consumer at the point of sale, and all collateral costs less a reasonable allowance for use.

Reasonable Allowance For Use

According to the statute, a reasonable allowance for use shall be that directly attributable to use by the consumer prior to the first notice of non-conformity to the manufacturer, agent or dealer and during any subsequent period when the vehicle is not out of service by reason of repair.

Manufacturer's Refusal to Replace or Refund

If the manufacturer refuses to replace the vehicle or refund the money, first determine if the manufacturer has established an informal dispute settlement procedure. If so, you must follow that procedure before the Lemon Law will apply.

Consult your attorney to be sure you do not waive any of your rights.

Attorney's Fees Entitlement

The statute provides that, if you comply with the requirements of the Lemon Law and you are successful, you are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred.

Time Limit for New Vehicle or Refund

If you win the case, you must return the nonconforming vehicle and the certificate of title to the manufacturer, who then has 30 days to replace the vehicle or refund your money.

If you win after a decision by the informal dispute settlement procedure, the manufacturer has 30 days after the decision to replace or refund.

Always consult an attorney to make certain of your particular rights and remedies under the law.

--Printed with permission of the Louisiana State Bar Association

Baca speaks to families

From the blazing heat of the south to the cool Pacific coast, six representatives formed the Louisiana delegation to attend the annual National Guard Bureau Family Program Workshop conducted in Portland, Oregon from July 28 through Aug. 1, 1995.

The four day workshop provided an excellent opportunity to network and share ideas for family programs with representatives from all 54 states and territories. A display booth showcased our state's program and classes were conducted in a variety of specialized areas.

Representing Louisiana included Maj. Donna Lajoie, the State Family Program Coordinator; Master Sgt. Heidi Pinkham, Air Guard Coordinator; Sgt. 1st

Class Robbie Morrisette, Retention NCO; Carrie Morrisette, Area 1 (Southeast rep); Iris Johnson, Area 1 rep; and Catherine Letendre, Area 4 (North LA rep).

An interesting note in Lt. Gen. Baca's (Chief of National Guard Bureau) presentation was his reference to the first organized Family Support Program in the country came from war. The artillery marched home as a unit and upon reaching New Orleans, they assessed their losses and immediately went to work coming to the aid of their soldiers' families and provided for the families of their fallen comrades. Louisiana has a proud heritage that we continue today. "We recruit soldiers... We retain families."

Prepare for any deployment, legally

By SFC Stephen Barrett
AFIS

Troop deployments to Haiti and Kuwait prove how fast American soldiers can move into a potential combat zone. That's especially true for those assigned to rapid deployment units, who can be "wheels up" in as little as two hours.

With short-notice deployments becoming common, commanders are urging soldiers to have their legal affairs in order beforehand. Those arrangements - wills and powers of attorney - allow spouses to handle family affairs during a soldier's absence and to settle estates should something happen.

The push on updating legal affairs follows a Defense Department survey showing that less than half the 100,000 participating service members and their spouses had wills or powers of attorney.

Senior officers and senior NCOs were more likely to have updated wills. Soldiers with children were also more likely to have wills, and married enlisted men were more likely to have wills than married enlisted women.

However, only about 25 percent of single men and 31 percent of single women had current wills at the time of the survey.

Howard Nollenberger, legal assistance chief for the Military District of Washington, said most single soldiers don't consider having a will to be a matter of immediate concern. "Every state has a law that disposes of property should a soldier die without a will," he said. "Normally, for a single soldier without children, this law would return the soldier's property to his or her biological parents."

But the disposition of property gets more complicated when a soldier marries or has children. "So anytime you have

a change in lifestyle - marriage, retirement, separation, divorce, death or birth of a child - you need to complete or update you will," Nollenberger said.

This also applies to powers of attorney, used by spouses, family members or designated representatives to act on a soldier's behalf during extended absences. Nollenberger said most powers of attorney have limits on their effectiveness and need periodic updates.

The Army's concern about legal matters increased during Operation Desert Storm. Although some soldiers had wills and powers of attorney in place, many had to meet with legal assistance representatives before deploying to Southwest Asia.

Since then, the Army has developed a range of family readiness programs, including those for preparing wills and other documents to help families through separations.

"We can't force members to complete wills," said Col. John Nelson, an Air Force officer who serves as DOD's associate director for family policy support and services. "That is a personal choice. However, we can educate individuals on the advantages of having a will and the benefits to their families should something happen."

Soldiers and family members wishing to complete or update wills or powers of attorney can usually walk into their assistance office, complete the necessary forms and have the document in minutes.

However, special powers of attorney - needed for real estate purchases and loans - may require more preparation. Nollenberger suggested soldiers first organize important information and decide what they wish to accomplish before making an appointment to have wills or powers of attorney prepared.

256th Inf Brigade units cover all s



Cooks "spice up" life at Hood

By SGT Anita M. Roberts
256TH INF BDE PAO

Food Service personnel from 256 Inf. Bde. Headquarters Detachments 2, 3, and 4 teamed up to prepare meals for brigade troops training at Fort Hood, Texas, during 1995 annual training exercises.

Sgt. 1st Class Willie Anderson, Det. 2 Food Service Sergeant, described the mission as "to make sure the soldiers get fed" and "to make sure the food is good."

Asked about the importance of providing healthy meals, Det. 2's First Cook, Staff Sgt. Leslie Mire, replied with his motto for food service, "One bullet can kill one soldier, one bad meal can kill 1,000 soldiers."

Anderson said that this was the first time Det. 2 HHC has worked with Dets. 3 and 4 in a field environment. Det. 2 traditionally operates a dining facility in garrison during annual training.

From July 5 to 13, food service personnel from the three detachments combined forces providing a hot evening meal of A-rations for brigade soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Newman Dupas, Det. 3 Food Service Sergeant and NCO in charge of the consolidated dining facility, said that because each detachment is equipped with its own Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT), he set up two MKTs back-to-back to better serve the amount of soldiers, to cook twice as fast and for training purposes.

According to Dupas, the MKT takes about a half hour to set up. The field unit is completely set up in 2 1/2 hours, including tactical concealment with camouflaged netting.

The detachments worked in two teams of six soldiers. The two shifts alternated food preparation with details such as distribution of food to other sites.

Asked about the discontinued use of field mess kits, Dupas said that the disposable plates are safer and more sanitary. The disposable products also work faster in terms of negating the old wash lines used to disinfect field mess kits.

The consolidated dining facility used the Fort Hood Field Training Menu to plan its meals. At any given time in the field environment, all troops at Fort Hood should be eating the same meal, Anderson stated, although its taste may differ by dining facility.

Anderson said that he has learned to tailor his menu to what works best. Putting importance on the soldier who eats the meals he prepares, Anderson stated that he also goes by what the soldiers request.

BEST OF THE BEST-- Secretary of Defense William Perry (with baseball cap) visits with the 2nd Armored Division Commander and the 256th Infantry Brigade soldiers during Annual Training 1995 at Fort Hood, Texas. (256th INF BDE Photo)

Perry praises La. Brigade soldiers

By SGT Anita Roberts
256TH INF BDE PAO

U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry observed the quality of training the 256 Inf. Bde. (M) received from 2nd Armored Division on a visit to Fort Hood July 10.

In the field, Perry received on-site briefings by brigade and 2AD leaders, talked to brigade troops about their jobs and training, and even indulged in a Meal Ready to Eat (MRE) with brigade soldiers for lunch.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Deborah Lee said Perry came to look at the 256th during training because as one of the 15 Enhanced Readiness Brigades, the 256th is a major force in the Total Army setup.

"Our whole concept of the total Army revolves around the combat strength of the 15 Enhanced Readiness Brigades," said Perry.

Lee said that Perry has been taking the paper plan he has been studying and seeing how the National Guard applies it to actual training, in line with Perry's philosophy of "management by walking around." He wanted to see how the Armed Forces are doing things since Desert Storm.

Perry said he had three purposes for the Fort Hood visit, the first being "to see in operation the total force" of utilizing both active and reserve components effectively.

"The need to use reserve and active components is very significant," Perry said. "The training of the 256th and 2nd Armored Division soldiers demonstrates that concept. I wanted to see first-hand how well this Enhanced Readiness Brigade is work-

**"I leave feeling a sense of satisfaction,"
Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.**

ing out.

"I was very satisfied with what I saw both in terms of effectiveness of training and the way in which the 2nd Armored Division was operating effectively as advisers and supporters," Perry said.

Perry's other interests included gaining insight on Force XXI, the Army's effort to harness information age technology and techniques for the 21st century army, and military housing. He said that he has spent some time reviewing computer-simulated training and training out in the field. During his visit, he toured the Fort Hood Battle Simulation Center.

He said the 2nd AD has been selected to test develop digital combat communications that will provide instantaneous communication on the battlefield.

"We scratched the surface of doing that in Desert Storm, but to really bring it together is the purpose of the experimental force," said Perry.

Perry also addressed the issue of readiness versus modernization of weaponry and equipment.

"I have chosen to put the priority on readiness," continued Perry. "That has been the first priority. But inevitably, it's done at the expense of modernization. My judgment is that we had a period of time when we could safely do that."

"It is the trade-off between today's readiness and tomorrow's readiness," stated Perry. "We have to get a balance between those two."

Accompanying Perry on his Fort Hood visit were National Guard Bureau Chief Lt. Gen. Edward D. Baca and Director of the Army National Guard Major Gen. John R. D'Araujo.

"I leave feeling a sense of satisfaction," Perry concluded at a press conference at Robert Gray Army Airfield.

Soldier training bases during AT '95



Bradley troops run lanes for Perry

By SGT Bernard Chaillot and
SGT Anita Roberts
256TH INF BDE PAO

Bradley Fighting Vehicle troops of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry impressed not only their commanders and 2nd Armored Division evaluators during annual training at Fort Hood -- they also drew the praise of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Perry witnessed the Louisiana Army National Guard soldiers of the 256th Infantry Brigade undergo lane training exercises July 10 in preparation for task force maneuvers.

Capt. Greg Myers, Delta Co. 3rd Bn., 156th Inf. commander, said training on attack, breach and react-to-contact lanes all came together as the Lake Charles-based battalion, headed by Lt. Col. Clyde Guidry, entered the task force phase of the annual training period.

"All of the pieces are falling into place," Myers said. Delta Co. is located in DeRidder, not far from Fort Polk, but Myers said the space available at Fort Hood added a new element to the training this year.

"We've got the room out here to maneuver our vehicles and really do some full-scale training operations," he said. "It's like the National Training Center in California, only a lot closer."

Myers' Bradley driver, Spec. Anthony Andrepont, and his gunner, Spec. Will Cates, agreed that it helps to have wide-

open spaces to test the Bradley's capabilities.

"We've been running lanes every day," Cates said. "On the react-to-contact lane, we go through an area looking for enemy and suppress them. We want to get them out of the area or kill them."

On the attack lane, the Bradley troops go to a specific grid coordinate and secure the area so rear elements can move through, while on the breach lane, mounted or dismounted troops clear wire obstacles, mines and other obstructions with the help of combat engineers, Cates said.

Perry also spoke with Bravo Co. soldiers preparing for a dismounted exercise to suppress enemy fire coming from a nearby line of trees.

Staff Sgt. Roddy Cramer briefed Pfc. Anthony Walker and other platoon members, who applied camouflage paint to their faces and hands as they got their instructions.

"Good luck, guys," Perry said "I'm very impressed with the job you're doing out here. Now, go make your assault count."

Lt. Col. William Troy, an evaluator with the 2D AD's 1st Bn., 41st Inf., said the 3rd Bn., 156 Inf. troops advanced well from platoon level to company level training.

"We're using a segmented, building-block approach of situational training to go from one level to the next," Troy said. "The soldiers of the 256th have shown a lot of motivation. They've definitely got the desire it takes to do what they need to do."

199th fuels the force

By SGT Anita Roberts
256TH INF BDE PAO

The 199th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) set up the Battalion Support Area (BSA) in West Fort Hood during 1995 annual training exercises at Fort Hood, Texas.

"The mission of the 199th FSB is to support the 256 Bde. logistically with all classes of supply," Cpt. Ricky Whitley, commander of 199th HHD of Alexandria, said about the battalion's mission. The seven units that comprise the battalion provided such things as food, fuel, ammunition, medical treatment and maintenance.

Whitley said the 199th FSB brought 353 soldiers to annual training this year. He said that once an account was made of their personnel, the battalion utilized soldiers from other brigade units to round out the BSA. Support was also provided by Fort Hood's 2nd Armored Division.

Among training exercises such as holding a perimeter, the BSA staged an NBC attack and set up a Personnel Decontamination Station (PDS). Each company worked together to make it a success, Whitley said. Co. C of St. Martinville provided medical support to the brigade, including staffing three Ambulance Exchange Points (AXPs) in three different training locations.

"Hats off to Bravo Co." for supplying augmentees as patients during the PDS exercise, said Spec. Richard Patin, a Charlie Co. medic.

"With the AXPs we've had time to

brush up on skills learned at AIT, that were not able to be practiced at the unit," said 2nd Lt. Michael Belgard, physician assistant for Charlie Co.

"We have extra medical assets that we haven't had in the past," Belgard said about the difference between Annual Training 1995 and those in previous years. He listed the larger number of medical doctors, physician assistants, and registered nurses working with the 199th FSB. Patin said the medics are basically there to give the doctors and nurses a hand.

According to Patin, the field medics work rotations between the ward, which is used to hold patients, and the recovery and dispensary (R&D) tent, where the patients are treated. He stressed the importance of putting the soldiers' needs first.

"It's an intricate procedure," concluded Patin, "but it works."

Jonesboro-based Co. A, 199th FSB ran the ration breakdown point, supplying seven units with such supplies as rations, ice and oil, said Sgt. Ricky Bryant. Bryant, of Det. 3 HHC, was one of the soldiers attached to the 199th's BSA for annual training.

Medical supplies and food weren't the only thing the 199th provided. Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Lowrey, maintenance control supervisor of Co. B, 199th FSB, said that his company provided direct support maintenance as well as maintenance in the field for the brigade with support elements from 2AD.

"We're starting to get parts in, and as soon as they're in we're jumping on it," said Lowrey. "The training is going well."



For more 256th Brigade stories see page 12

Guard observes monumental event with vets

By MSG John Sullivan
241st PAD

The old met the new at the headquarters of the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) on Saturday.

The old were the veterans of World War II, many with graying hair and a little slower in the pace. The new were the men and women of The Louisiana Brigade.

Together they shared memories and exchanged stories about how much the military has changed and how little it has changed.

The occasion was the Louisiana National Guard's statewide effort to pay tribute to the men and women who served in World War II and also to observe the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

There are actually two days designated V-J or Victory Over Japan Day: Aug. 15, when Emperor Hirohito announced to

his nation that the war was lost and Sept. 2, when the actual documents ending the war were signed onboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

All of that wasn't on the minds of the veterans who came out to the 256th's headquarters near the Lafayette Regional Airport, though.

They were members of the National Guard's 156th Infantry. The regiment, then as now, was composed of smaller units from South Louisiana -- a fact that shaped the regiment's role in the war effort.

"Probably 60 or 70 percent of us spoke French," Bacque said. "We had what I think must have been the only French-speaking unit."

The regiment went to Camp Blanding, Fla., for training a week before Pearl Harbor, and later underwent more training in Texas.

Some of the troops went to England.

Bacque went to North Africa in 1943 where he was transferred to the Signal Corps and spent the rest of the war in Oran, Morocco.

Lawrence Lee of Ville Platte, a member of the Military Police, also went to North Africa. He was eventually shipped out to Corsica and from there to Southern France in 1944.

Floyd Constantine of Rayne was a mechanic with the Eight Air Force in England. When he thinks, the sense of common purpose stands out.

"There was no difference of opinion like there was in Vietnam," Constantine said. "It was all for a common cause. Everybody was putting forth an effort."

Colley explained how German tanks attacked Allied riflemen in foxholes. The German tankers would park atop the

hole and let the treads dig in place, burying or crushing the men beneath. Allied tankers would do the same thing to German troops, also.

"How would you like to die like that?" Colley said.

But the U.S. infantrymen were trained to fight back, sometime using innovative ways. Bacque said one such was to jam a rifle into the tank treads.

Some, like C.C. Colley, Jr. and Gus Bacque had stories to tell. Other simply walked around the exhibits, occasionally thanking one of the guardsmen for his or her help.

Sometimes they asked a question about such vehicles as the M1A1 Abrahams Main Battle Tank, the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle or the Humvee. Shaking their head, they talked about the weapons of their war: the M4 Sherman, the half-track and the Jeep.

165th retires flag

By 1LT David Barham
241st PAD

The 165th Transportation Battalion is no more.

The Headquarters Company was deactivated in a ceremony on Aug. 20 at its headquarters in Bossier City.

Lt. Col. Philip Arthur, battalion commander and Sgt. Maj. Marvin Guillot wrapped up the flag for the last time as unit members and family looked on, and the National Guard's Army Band played tributes.

After the casing of the colors, Arthur reviewed the troops for the last time.

"I want to commend you for what you've done," Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr, adjutant general, told the members of the 165th. "There will be a place in the National Guard for each and every one of you. Good luck and may God bless you."

The unit was constituted in 1941 as the 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion. It was activated later that year at Camp Shelby, Miss. In 1942, the unit was designated a

part of the National Guard, and allotted to Louisiana and Pennsylvania. After World War II, the unit was given to Louisiana.

Its Alexandria headquarters was organized in 1949.

It was designated as the 165th in 1975.

The unit was known primarily for its service during World War II in Europe. In fact, its insignia symbolizes the service was a saltire and a fleur-de-lis.

The unit moved to Pineville in 1978, then to Bossier City in 1993.

It received campaign participation credit in northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and central Europe.

In 1990 and 1991 nearly the entire battalion was activated for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The transportation units of the 165th received praise for its service in the Gulf.

The soldiers of the HQ 165th Transportation Company will continue to be carried on the rolls of the 204th ASG major command as will its still-intact subordinate units.

\$10 million armory dedicated for engineers

The new 10 million dollar armory, home of Detachment 1, Company B, 205th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), in Independence, La. was dedicated September 16.

State Sen. B.B. "Sixty" Rayburn, State Rep. Buster Guzzardo, Parish President Gordon Burgess, Mayor of Independence Phillip Domiano and Adjutant General Major General Ansel M. Stroud helped make the ribbon-cutting ceremony meaningful by saying a few heart-felt words about the new armory.

"(The armory) shows the partnership of local people and the government,"

Stroud said, "we couldn't ask for more support."

The general thanked the audience at the ceremony for the 75 percent of funds (to build the armory) that came federally. "That is not government money or Army money, but your money; we are very appreciative to those who made it possible," Stroud said.

Detachment 1, the unit from Amite and Roseland, La. housed at the new armory, has a strength of 72 and a proud history of service. They have participated in seven major tours of state emergency service and six major overseas deployments.



PLUGGING AWAY - Louisiana Army National Guard SPC Teresa Brown of Baton Rouge bores a hole for a window with a jackhammer during annual training in Panama. Brown's unit, Company A, 769th Engineer Battalion, located in Baker, deployed to Panama this year to help construct new buildings and remodel existing ones. Brown, an electrical engineering senior at Southern University in Baton Rouge, learned her skills in the Army and has been doing carpentry and construction duties for over six years. The Illinois native said she's considering operating a hotel after graduating. (Photo by MSG Nestor Tamayao, 304th Public Affairs Detachment, 124th Army Reserve Command)

Keeping our families informed



"Drug Use Is Life Abuse" poster and essay contest winners Christine Kiely (l) and Rachael Griffin (r) were presented their plaques and savings bonds by MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., for their respective accomplishments in the recent Family Programs and Drug Demand Reduction Competition. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)

"Drug Use Is Life Abuse" contest winners recognized

The Office of Family Programs and The Drug Demand Reduction Program are pleased to announce the winners of the 1995 "Drug Use is Life Abuse" Poster and Essay Contest.

The winning entry for the poster contest was submitted by Cristine Kiely, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Russel & Shirley Kiely from HHC 3/156 Infantry Battalion in Deridder, LA.

Rachael Griffin submitted the winning essay. She is the daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Ricky & Gina Griffin from Detachment I, Company A, 1/244th Aviation Battalion in New Orleans, LA.

The state winners were presented a plaque and a savings bond from Adjutant

General Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr. The awards ceremony was held on Sept. 17, 1995 at Jackson Barracks.

The winning state entries will be forwarded to the National Guard Bureau for the national competition. The national winner will also receive a savings bond from the National Guard Association, and a National Guard Minuteman Award. Winners and their parents will be brought to Washington, D.C. to receive their awards from the chief of the National Guard Bureau on Oct. 27, 1995.

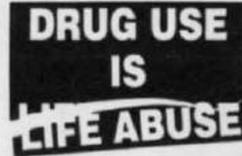
This contest is designed to involve National Guard Family members in a fun, learning experience that provides an opportunity to express sentiment and commitment to drug-free lifestyles.

Paperwork needs care

It is very important that we have a systematic way of keeping track of our important papers. Good organization can't prevent the unexpected, but it can avoid or minimize the consequences. Even if your Guard member never mobilizes, it is still important that you gather together and place the following essential documents in a safe deposit box, personal safe, or any other secure location.

- Birth certificates /adoption papers
- Marriage licenses and certificates
- Wills/Powers of Attorney
- Divorce papers/child custody documents
- Life insurance and medical policies
- Social Security cards and records
- Your personal inventory of DD Form 1543 (Annual Legal Check Up)

- Photographs of your real and personal property
- Automobile/truck titles, insurance, and/or registration form(s) (List the location of payment book(s) and any other repayment information or instructions.)
- Mortgages, deeds, titles, leases, or tax receipts for real property.
- Information about stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.
- Financial information such as name, address, account number of bank(s), or credit union (s), type of accounts whether joint or single.
- List the location of payment book(s) and any other repayment information or instruction(s). List the location to report lost, stolen or incorrect billing statement, and credit cards.



Mc-MRE on the way

Since America is the home of fast food, it's only fitting that the U.S. Army be the first to come up with a fast-food combat ration. Food scientists at the U.S. Army Soldiers Systems Command are doing just that.

The new Mobility Enhancing Ration Component, or MERC, consists of an outer bread layer with various fillings, baked into a single sealed sandwich or pocket. These sandwiches offer soldiers a satisfying snack requiring no preparation or heating.

So far, a beef burrito has been developed, as have combinations of peanut butter with marshmallow, honey or jelly. Barbecued chicken and ham salad pockets are also scheduled for evaluation./

Unlike similar foods sold frozen commercially, the MERC can be stored at 70 degrees for up to three years.

Reprinted from Soldiers Magazines

Changes in dental plan for service families

CHAMPUS has recently announced two changes to the dental plan for families of active duty service members.

First, the plan has a new name - TRICARE-Active Duty Family Member Dental Plan (or FMDFP). Although the plan name has changed, FMDFP will continue to offer the same high level of dental coverage to service families.

Second, a premium reduction will soon go into effect. Beginning July 1, premiums for FMDFP will be reduced to \$6.77 a month for one family member (single premium) or \$16.92 a month for two or more family members (Family premium). Sponsors with enrolled family members will see this reduction reflected in their end-of-month Leave and Earnings Statement for June.

Family Member Dental Plan covers crowns, bridges, dentures, braces, root canal treatment, gum surgery and extractions, as well as routine checkups, cleanings and fillings. There is no deductible to satisfy, and the yearly maximum is \$1,000 per patient for all covered services except orthodontics, which has a lifetime maximum of \$1,200 per patient. In addition, family members enrolled in FMDFP can make appointments with any licensed dentist they choose.

For more information about FMDFP, contact the Health Benefits Advisor at your installation or call Delta Customer Service at (800) 337-9991.

Building the Army Family

On Aug. 25-27, 11 volunteers from the Louisiana National Guard's Family Program attended Army Family Team Building Training in New Orleans. The three day training session was divided in two sections:

Volunteer Instructor Training was attended by:

- Becky Cole - Deville, LA
- Rhonda Craig - Deville, LA
- Diana Fritts - Lafayette, LA
- Kathleen Gilmore - Bourg, LA
- Patsy Guerra - New Orleans
- Iris Johnson - New Orleans
- Carrie Jones - Belle Chase, LA
- Maria Mitchell - Baton Rouge
- Kimberly Provost - Baton Rouge

Staff/Volunteer Administration Training was attended by:

- Peggy Spiceland - New Orleans
- Clarence Becknell - New Orleans

Army Family Team Building exists to provide training and information to the total Guard Family (airmen, soldiers, family members, other loved ones, technicians, and retirees). There are many different classes and volunteer instructors will travel to your unit or other locations to provide readiness and wellness training.

If you're interested in learning more about Army Family Team Building contact Maj. Donna Lajoie at the Family Services Office (800)-541-5860.

Try a MOPP suit to cool off

Many soldiers wearing chemical protective clothing during Operation Desert Storm were quickly overcome by intense heat.

A micro-climate cooling backpack being developed for the army research, could offer future soldiers in such conditions welcome relief.

The backpack is a light weight cooling device worn with chemical protective clothing in high temperatures. The current prototype, developed by Carlson Technologies, weighs 20 pounds, but officials hope to cut that to 10 pounds.

The unit is constructed from carbon fiber materials that are strong and lightweight. It is designed to present a low silhouette and fit the natural curve of the soldier's back.

Carlson Technologies is now at work developing a functioning of its unique design concept.

Reprinted from Soldiers Magazine



Maneuvers show of natural born killers

By SGT Bernard Chaillot
256TH INF BDE PAO

The words "Natural Born Killers" scrawled on the side of one Bradley Fighting Vehicle summed up the attitude of the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry during annual training at Fort Hood.

But the troops of the Abbeville-based battalion also had their hands full trying not to become casualties themselves while battling the resource-heavy troops of the Opposing Forces (OPFOR) during task maneuvers, Master Sgt. Wayne Savoy said.

"We did pretty well the first day of the battle, and today there's a hell of a lot more OPFOR out here," including A-10 armor-killing "Warthog" aircraft, tanks and troops, Savoy said on the second day of the battle.

The battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC), which consisted of several armored personnel carriers at a crossroads near the battle site, was a hotbed of activity, with operations planners receiving reports and sending instructions to commanders in the thick of the fight.

Maj. Ronnie Johnson, battalion executive officer or "battle captain" had a field telephone pressed to each ear as he followed the action on a map. Dressed in MOPP gear in the 100-degree-plus heat, he said platoon lane training, company and team exercises preceded the task force operations.

"Yeah, we've been a little bit busy," he grinned.

Savoy said the battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Herbert Fritts, was the first National Guard unit to test out a new, more sophisticated version of laser-sensitive MILES gear that provides for a more accurate depiction of weapons fire in war games.

"The troop version is a vest that weighs about 12 pounds and is a lot more comfortable to wear than the old MILES equipment," he said.

Savoy said that during task force operations, the battalion receives a warning order from brigade and presents several possible courses of action drafted by the

battle staff. After input from intelligence and other elements, an operations order is put together and given to line units.

"From there, it's up to the troops to achieve the objective," he said.

Bradleys clattered by on the dusty tank trails on the way to the battlefield. Over a treeline a mile or so away, Warthogs banked, swooped low, and dropped smoking flares to simulate aviation ordinance.

"We're really getting good practice on our maneuvering skills because we've got plenty of room to move around," Savoy said. "At Fort Polk, we get more practice on our gunnery skills."

Near the battlefield, a Bradley manned by troops from Bravo Co. from Eunice sat on the side of a tank trail, a victim of an OPFOR Dragon anti-tank missile.

Cpl. David Tate, gunner, and Spec. Todd Frederick, driver, said 1st Lt. Lance Hargrave, the track's commander, was not happy about being knocked out of the action and was anxious to get back into the battle.

"When the MILES box gave us the kill code for a Dragon, we had to take

Lane training polishes engineer skills

Engineers tackle obstacles

By SGT Bernard Chaillot
256TH INF BDE PAO

The 1088th Engineers from Opelousas had their hands full with opposing forces while trying to breach obstacles during lane training at Fort Hood, but the tough, realistic training helped polish the critical skills necessary for combat readiness.

Between dry and wet runs on the breaching lane, with support from soldiers of the 2nd Armored Division, squad leaders outlined the tasks squad members must master to train up to Army standards.

"On a mechanical breach, the only time we dismount is to mark lanes, but we'll

Teamwork key for 1/141st FA

By SGT Bernard Chaillot
256TH INF BDE PAO

The 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery from New Orleans -- the famed Washington Artillery -- added to its long list of outstanding evaluations during annual training at Fort Hood this summer.

Gun crews working long, hot hours in the rocky hills of Central Texas were rewarded with a July 7 visit from Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard.

"I've certainly been impressed with the performance of the artillery

and with the quantity and quality of support we received from the 2nd Armored Division," Stroud said.

"I believe this is better than the National Training Center," where the 256th Infantry Brigade initially was scheduled to go, "because there everything is scenario-driven, while here we really get more actual training. We're learning more."

On the No. 4 155mm self-propelled howitzer, Section Chief Sgt. Dale Galloway and his crew prepared to live fire, after Stroud went through the area talking to soldiers.

Cpl. Brian McDow, the gunner, set the deflection, or angle of fire, after getting

ourselves out, but just the track went down, we weren't killed, so we're waiting now to find out what our next move is going to be," Tate said. "The training has been hard, but fun, too. We're learning a lot."

also be working on manual breach skills," Staff Sgt. Joseph Biagas said.

During a manual breach, once the platoon leader sights an obstacle, squad members quickly spring into action, Biagas said.

Soldiers run forward with grappling hooks and throw them from a safe distance over obstacles such as concertina wire to tug on the wire and see if the obstacle is booby-trapped. The wire then can be cut.

Lanes to be followed by vehicles and personnel are marked and C-4 explosives laid to clear mines, Biagas said.

Sgt. Joseph A. Thomas, commander of a Combat Engineer Vehicle, showed off the blade on the front of his vehicle that gives the machine the capabilities of a bulldozer -- the significant differ-

the target coordinates. The assistant gunner, Spec. Benjamin Vergona, set the quadrant. While the deflection moves the barrel of the gun up or down, the quadrant setting moves it from side to side to pinpoint the target location.

Spec. Dexter Lee, the cannoneer, or "No. 1 man," as Galloway called him, chose the proper round and fuse while the ammo team, led by Sgt. David Porter, readied the correct powder charge.

After priming the load, the crew was ready to receive the order to send a round down-range -- their favorite thing to do, Galloway said.

Other members of the crew are Spec. Brian Waples, the No. 2 cannoneer, and Spec. Rodney Hunter, the ammunition track driver.

"It takes teamwork," Galloway said. "Firing the gun takes a tight sequence of events, and everybody has to do their job right the first time. On time and on target, that's our motto."

Capt. Bob Hookness with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery at Fort Hood, who served as a "lane master," or trainer for the Washington Artillery soldiers, said there is no "we" or "they" regarding regular Army and National Guard troops. "It's us," Hookness said.

"Our success or failure is together."

Savoy said the motivated soldiers of 2nd Battalion give commanders confidence that the battalion will continue to set the pace for mechanized infantry in the 256th Infantry Brigade.

"I've certainly been impressed with the performance of the artillery and with the quantity and quality of support we received from the 2nd Armored Division,"
MG A.M. Stroud, Jr.

2222nd medics ready to support front lines

By SGT Kristine Bacharach
241st PAD

"Medic!" "Medic!"

When medics of 2222nd Medical Company (Clearing) hear these words, they are usually in a field environment, and the words are usually coming from a person who is simulating an injury for training's sake.

Medics from the 2222nd got a dose of reality during annual training at Fort Sam Houston's Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) May 20 - June 3.

While they are usually a field unit, giving medical assistance to units in exercises such as the National Training Center, Fort Irvin, Calif. and the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., this time around the 2222nd got to experience something new and real.

Depending on each medic's specialty, they were placed in different wards such as x-ray, labs, pharmacies, operating rooms and emergency rooms.

"This is not normal for us. We are a field medical company," Capt. Craig Knippenberg, 2222nd Medical Company commander said, "We don't normally work in hospitals."

But for about a week, the unit held on to its field roots. "Our AT overlaps with another unit's AT. The wards are full," Knippenberg said. "So the medics are training on their common tasks in anticipation of getting into the hospital to train in the 'real world'."

In the hospital, medics will get the unique experience of assisting in many areas such as preparing patients for surgery, assisting doctors in surgery, rehabilitation, and post operation procedures. They will see things most of them don't normally see.

And what the Readiness and Training NCO hopes will come of this is that each medic, at every level, sees the big picture. "I want them to see what happens when a patient hits the emergency room and the wards. I want them to be a part of patient's care," SFC Ric Moore said.

"When they see what their work in the field leads to, they will see the big picture," Moore said.

Moore also hopes that the hospital experience will give some new soldiers the confidence they are lacking.

"We know (the soldiers) have the skills. We've seen them operate. They lack the experience to give them confidence in themselves," Moore said.

The unit may be lacking confidence in some areas, but one of those is definitely not in field tactics.

"We play tactical. We dig in," Moore said. "If you can't stay alive yourself, you can't treat anyone else." And that attitude has made them one of the best tactical units out there.

But being in the hospital for two weeks won't be the only change this unit sees in the near future.

The 2222nd Medical Company is changing in name and in structure. In March, 1996, it will become Company A, 217th Area Support Medical Battalion, under MEDFORCE 2000. MEDFORCE 2000 is a new organization training branch that will include a medical command, the senior medical command and control unit and a medical brigade and group, which will be subordinate medical command and control units.

The Area Support Medical Battalion and Dental Battalion will provide dental and health care. Three companies, including Company A, will fall under the Area Support Medical Battalion.

The company's capabilities will still include treatment of patients with disease and minor injuries, triage of mass casualties, initial resuscitation/stabilization, acute trauma management, and preparation for further evacuation of ill, injured and wounded patients who are incapable of being returned to duty within 72 hours. They will do all of this in theaters of operation, so not all that much has changed.

The new unit structure will include four ambulance squads, one patient hold squad, four treatment squads, one supply squad, one food service squad and one operations squad.

One major change is that they will be issued eight ambulances.

"This change fits us well. We will

be able to move a lot faster. The change will give us a chance to move into different areas," Knippenberg said.

The whole concept of MEDFORCE

2000 is mobility to support the front lines.

And it seems that this Louisiana unit is ready for the challenge.



FINISHING UP - SSG John Rhett Harris, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 2/156th Infantry Battalion, completes Nebraska's 18th Annual All-Guard Marathon in Lincoln May 7. Harris was one of three Guardsmen from Louisiana who finished the race. (Photo from the Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Office.)

Guardsmen pound ground in national run

By SSG Ron Bradrick
NEARNG PAO

Three Guardsmen from south Louisiana tore up the road during the 18th Annual Lincoln Marathon held in Nebraska May 7.

Tech. Sgt. Norman J. Martin of the 159th Fighter Group, Staff Sgt. John Rhett Harris of the 2/156th Infantry Battalion, and Chief Warrant Officer Gary M. Blanchard of HQ STARC pounded the pavement during the record 1,821-person turn out.

National Guard men dominated the group of top finishers in the marathon's

open category with 25 of the top 45 positions won by Guardsmen. Also, five Guard women finished impressively in the top 18 against a tough open category of female runners.

This year, 35 Guardsmen from across the country were selected to the All-Guard Marathon Team. The team promotes physical fitness in the Guard. They will run in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Marathon in Pensacola, Fla., as well as other races.

2nd Lt. Paul Laymon, of Lexington, S.C., was the Guard's top male finisher with a time of 2:29:45.

Bozeman takes 225th

Lt. Col. Allen R. Bozeman took command of the 225th Engineer Group in a change of command ceremony held July 8.

Bozeman, a Winnsboro native, is currently the facility manager at Camp Beauregard. He has served in various positions in the 528th Battalion and the 225th Engineer Group. He has also served as the chief of operations and training at Det 1, HQ STARC, the director of maintenance with HQ STARC and commander of Det 1, HQ STARC.

He has also served in the active military, as a platoon leader with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

Bozeman took command of the 225th from Col. Bennett C. Landreneau.

Landreneau, born in Eunice, served with the 3671st Heavy Equipment Maintenance Co., the 2225th Engineer Co., the 527th Engineer Battalion, the 528th Engineer Battalion, the 769th Engineer Battalion and the 225th Engineer Group.

Listen, do you want to know a secret?

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

According to Webster's Dictionary one of the definitions of intelligence is: those who gather secret information, especially those in the military. This definition certainly describes the skills of soldiers who belong to the 415th Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion of Baton Rouge.

Honing these skills was a high priority for nearly 100 soldiers of the 415th during their annual training this year. With Fort Hood, Texas as their training location, the MI Battalion soldiers were far from home with nothing to do but train. And train they did.

To prove their physical stamina as soldiers, their annual training kicked off with a grueling road march of seven and a half miles. After demonstrating their physical endurance, their mental skills were tested during an Interrogation Counter Intelligence Enemy Prisoners of War Exercise. The exercise was specifically geared towards dealing with EPW.

Assuming roles unique to their positions, the MI soldiers simulated war-time scenarios. Creating realistic situations appeared to be one of the goals for this exercise. There was no shortage of realism as some soldiers posed as enemy prisoners of war. It's no thrill to have your face shoved in the dirt, but, "the level of force used by the MP's would be the same in a real situation," said Capt. Don Wright, a battalion intelligence officer. "The training is brutally realistic."

Some 415th soldiers impersonated military police to keep prisoners from knowing who they were. It's a lot easier to gather intelligence from those being questioned if they think you're military police. Other soldiers impersonated local citizens and refugees who loitered, out of curiosity, near the military camp.

Wright said that military intelligence works with all types of people. "The soldiers in the heat of battle, refugees, even citizens." No one knows what intelligence might be gathered from ordinary citizens, except the interrogators.

Two of the most highly skilled soldiers in the Army are the interrogators and counter intelligence agents. These soldiers are the ones trained to press for information.

Throughout the exercise, military police brought prisoners to a holding area. Intelligence soldiers then questioned the prisoners to determine whether they have worthwhile information or not.

More than ten units participated in the ICEX and the personnel involved numbered more than 800. Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood were designated as controllers. Their job was basically to ensure that everyone was playing by the rules.

Also involved were eleven U.S. Marines from the 1st Interrogation Platoon

from Camp Pendleton, Calif. These soldiers not only acted as host country interpreters, but they were also researching how best to integrate training between the Army and the Marines.

The 415th was the only National Guard unit participating in the exercise, mainly because it's a linguist battalion. It's also the only reserve component intelligence battalion in the Army.

One of the goals of ICEX was to join intelligence units from active and reserve forces. This goal was easily reached.

For seven days, the ICEX kept all participating soldiers well occupied. According to Wright, all of the 415th soldiers were happy to be involved in a realistic scenario with active duty soldiers. "This is a very ambitious exercise as far as the scale of this operation," he said.

The other eight days of training were dedicated to language training. Sgt. 1st Class Paul Doughty, the 415th's Intelligence Sergeant and full-time Operations Sergeant said, "Previous AT's involved strictly intense language training." Most of the language training is also provided at Fort Hood.

The III Corps Intelligence Contingency Readiness Center at Fort Hood is the best resource for training the 415th's soldiers. The ICRC manager, J. Bachman Nabors III said, "Prior to the ICRC, each unit had its own instructor, but that was not effective." According to Nabors, the ICRC utilizes better resource management, and it's always available to all the forces." Doughty said the center is no cost to the 415th so it's a tremendous resource.

The center offers courses called Intensive Refresher Enhancement. The courses are available each month and last for three weeks. "This is the second year the 415th has had soldiers attend these courses," Nabors said. "The goal is to make the linguists better at their skill than they were when they arrived."

During the 415th's annual training, the languages taught were: French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Although many units utilize the center, these courses were provided almost exclusively for 415th's AT period.

A part-time instructor at the center, Irina Tedrick from Yugoslavia, said the 415th soldiers progressed well during the course. There's no doubt about this instructor's skill. Tedrick speaks fluent Serbocroatian, Russian, Italian, English and French.

Though most 415th soldiers specialize in only one foreign language, many of them have excellent ratings in their fluency. Chris Evanco, a third year ROTC cadet at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, is a Russian linguist. He said one of the benefits of being a linguist is the civilian marketability of his skills.

1st Lt. Herb Kerner, team leader of the 415th's German Interrogation Team said, "I'm pleased to be a member of the 415th because we have an interesting and real world

mission." This view is also shared by Spec. Dawn Aspuria who specializes in the Italian language. She spent six months at the Defense Language Institute in California and also went to Italy for a summer. Aspuria mostly enjoys practicing her language, but she's also a student at the University of New Orleans studying political science.

1st Lt. Scherloyn Davis has five years with the 415th, having joined only a couple of years after the battalion was organized. In August of 1993, Davis attended the Conference of Inter-allied Reserve Officers. This conference, which took place in Washington, D.C. brought reserve officers from NATO countries together to serve as interpreters.

1088th Engineers join Guard in Plaquemine

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

While our nation's defense is downsizing, there's at least one military organization that is still growing, the Louisiana National Guard.

On a hot September afternoon, an activation ceremony was held to introduce the 1088th Engineer Battalion of Plaquemine, La.

Lt. Col. John R. Douglas, the battalion commander, marked the occasion as a historic and memorable event.

"Being the battalion commander for these great soldiers has been the most challenging and most rewarding assignment of my career," Douglas said.

In addition to thanking the distinguished guests who were in attendance, Douglas gave heartfelt thanks to his soldiers for "their hardwork and dedication to duty and country."

It was in Oct. 1993 when four units of the 769th Engr. Bn. and one unit from the 256th Infantry Brigade combined to form the 1088th Engr. Bn.

The battalion was formed to increase the combat effectiveness of the 256th Infantry Brigade by accomplishing mobility, countermobility and limited survivability engineering tasks.

Douglas said, "There's still much to be done, but we've come a long, long way in a short time and we're getting a little better each day."

3671st's cajun magic outcooks seven states

By SPC John Cummins
241st PAD

Call it cajun magic or call it a taste of Louisiana, but be sure to call the 3671st Maintenance Company the best food service company in eight states.

The 3671st recently won the Region V Phillip Connelly Award, allowing the Camp Beauregard-based cooks to compete in the award's national round of competition.

The Connelly awards program - sponsored by the International Food Service Executives Association - awards state, regional and national prizes for outstanding achievement by Guard and Reserve component food service sections annually. The competition also awards active Army dining facilities and field kitchens.

To reach the national level, the Camp Beauregard unit first had to prove itself against 80 other units in the Louisiana Army National Guard. The unit edged out the cooks from the HHC 244th Aviation Battalion to take the state round.

Winning at the regionals was more challenging for the cajun cooks, because

they had to beat the top Army National Guard food service crews from Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. The 3671st defeated a unit from the Kansas National Guard to take top honors.

The Connelly competition tests more than the taste of the chow, however. Chief Warrant Officer Johnnie Alston's crew also had to undergo examination in overall duties in field kitchen operation during both levels of the competition.

Food Service Sgt. Gene Gunter supervised the unit's personnel to make sure they followed the book, and Chief Warrant Officer Mike Hernandez led the field sanitation team in testing and treating water, along with other sanitation duties.

Sgt. Alfred Charles supervised the fueling and lighting of the burner units and First Cook Sgt. Brenda Jenkins supervised the actual cooking and serving.

In the next round of competition, the 3671st will compete against the top units from New Hampshire, Virginia, North Carolina, Iowa, Arizona and Washington.

(This story is being reprinted due to a headline error in our last issue.)

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204th changes command

The 204th Area Support Group conducted a change of command ceremony on July 22 to welcome in Col. William Rutledge and bid farewell to Col. William Hilborn.

The ceremony took place at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans and included the symbolic passing of the colors by Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr.

Hilborn commanded the 204th for the past 18 months. He remains the full-time state surface maintenance manager for the Louisiana National Guard.

During his 28 years in the Louisiana National Guard Hilborn has served in Det 1 3673rd, HHC 527th Eng. Bn., 769th Eng. Bn., and the 204th Area Support Group.

Hilborn is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and the Command and General Staff College.

As Commander of the 204th, Hilborn led the unit in supporting the 25th Infantry Division at the Joint Readiness Training Center last summer.

The new commander, William Rutledge comes from the Directorate of Command Logistics where he serves as the full-time logistics management officer.

Rutledge has been employed as a military technician since 1973. He first joined the Guard in 1978 after four years on active duty.

During his service with the Louisiana Guard he has served with the 1st Battalion, 156th Infantry; the 527th Engineer

Battalion; 1st Battalion, 156th Armor; STARC (State Area Command) and the 256th Infantry Brigade. He was mobilized with the brigade in November 1990 for Operation Desert Storm and was assigned as the Deputy G-4, 5th Infantry Division.

Rutledge is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Battle Staff Course of the U.S. Air Force Air Ground School and the U.S. Army War College.

His awards include three Bronze Star Medal with a V device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Louisiana Cross of Merit and the Louisiana Commendation Medal. He is a Vietnam War veteran.

Rutledge assumes command of a group that is currently in a state of flux. With the recent deactivation of the headquarters of the 165th Transportation Battalion, the 204th is left with one maintenance battalion and a diverse smattering of transportation and military police units.

In 1992, the 204th deactivated the 2223rd Engineer Battalion Headquarters. In upcoming years the 204th will also deactivate the 2226th Transportation Company. The combat service support units and missions are being transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve in accordance with the Off-Site Agreement.

Ironically, more units from the 204th saw direct duty in the Persian Gulf than from any other Louisiana major command.



LANGEA-- Zulu King and Queen MSGT Glenn Kirby, outgoing president of LANGEA and Mrs. Vicki Kirby pose with other costumed guests at the 1995 Annual LANGEA Conference Social in September at the Radisson Hotel in downtown New Orleans. (State PAO photo)

Flick says job, people best

Retires from highlight of career and biggest challenge

By SGT Mark C. Smith
204th ASG/PAO

Colonel James D. Flick retired July 25, 1995 at Jackson Barracks after serving in the Louisiana Air National Guard for over 41 years.

Flick's final and most challenging position was as the United States property and fiscal Officer. He was the first National Guardsman to hold that position in the state of Louisiana.

"I never thought I would be able to go beyond the rank of O-5," Flick said.

MG Ansel M. Stroud's rise to the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard changed Flick's thoughts. Stroud reconfigured the structure of the state headquarters, allowing an Air National Guardsman to become an O-6. This gave Flick the opportunity to move into an O-6 headquar-

ters slot.

Flick was working as a technician in the Office of the USP&FO when he received his promotion to colonel Dec 31, 1981. A short time later he was nominated by Stroud to be the USP&FO for the state and was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to that position in January, 1983.

Flick earned numerous awards and decorations as a member of the National Guard to include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, the Air Force Longevity Service Award with seven devices, and the Louisiana Cross of Merit.

"I really feel that becoming an O-6 and the USP&FO was the highlight of my career" Flick said. "I will miss the challenge."

Flick will also miss the people he served with for the last 41 years. "The camaraderie of the National Guard will always be special to me."

Following his retirement, Flick plans to do some traveling, see his family, golf and fish. He also said he intends to stay active in the National Guard social scene.



ONE, TWO, THREE-- Members of C Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, Slidell, erect a swing set and install monkey bars for the children of Florida Elementary School in Slidell. Last year the school's PTA raised the money to purchase the equipment but faced problems in having it installed. Lois Christensen, PTA president, called on the local National Guard unit to come to their aid. The unit took it on as a community service project. (Photo by SGT. D. Jason Lott, 241st PAD)



A FIRST-- Harold Butler Sr. is promoted to the rank of sergeant major on August 24, 1995, making him the first African-American AGR soldier to achieve that rank in the Louisiana National Guard. Butler has been in the Guard since 1979. He joined the AGR program in Jan. 1985 and currently serves as the 204th ASG's chief operations sergeant. He and his wife Beverly have five children, Harold Jr., Akimberly, Dwayne, Brittany and Jonathan. They reside in Kenner. (Photo by SPC Karl Kratzberg, State PAO)

Troops taking care of home folks

By SPC Karen E. Leger
241st PAD

Free health care is a desired commodity within the United States.

In recognition of that, the Louisiana National Guard, in coordination with state and the City of New Orleans' Health Department, conducted the state's first ever "Guard Care" health fair in New Orleans' City Park, August 4th through 12th, 1995.

"We send troops every year overseas to help under-served countries. The idea came up why don't we do this within our own states," said Maj. Burl "Buck" Eure of the State Surgeon's Office and project officer of "Guard Care 95".

According to Eure, Guard Care was initiated by the National Guard Bureau and a budget was set aside for each state to conduct a health and/or immunization related project. The monies allotted to Guard Care were used to purchase such things as bandages, needles, and any other needed materials for the operation to run smoothly. The project has been going on for about four years within approximately 20 states.

This year in New Orleans the National Guard, in conjunction with city and state health departments, Shots-For-Tots, and various other civic organizations set up a portion of the 159th MASH's deployable (air conditioned) medical site (DEPMEDS system). This site provided such services as height and weight checks, dental checks, immunizations, cholesterol checks, health education, blood pressure checks, eye screenings, blood sugar checks, and lead screenings.

These health services were primarily targeted toward the medically under-served population of New Orleans -- those individuals who cannot afford health care. A special emphasis was placed on children and infants who were in need of immunizations. The vaccines used for the immunizations were provided by the State Health Department.

The medical services were administered by National Guard doctors, nurses, and lab technicians. Many other soldiers, as well as health department employees, were on hand for administrative, maintenance, and food service needs.

"Our military is not just for combat, it's also for civilian use," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bookman, 159th MASH.

LSU School of Dentistry sent a different graduate each day, who specialized in pediatric dentistry, to help with the dental screening, said Col. Conrad Poe, a 159th MASH dentist, who is also a dental

instructor for LSU and has his own private practice in Morgan City, La.

Lt. Col. Dennis LaRavia, 159th MASH commander said, "Our whole impetus is to keep top quality medical training for all of our troops so that if we're called into action we're ready to meet any demand that's placed on us."



HAVE PATIENCE— SGT David Hagstad draws blood for a cholesterol check. (Photo by SPC Karl Kratzberg, State PAO)

At the end of each day of Guard Care all the medical screenings, including all forms, were turned over to the City Health Department. This helped the City of New Orleans identify the people who had certain medical problems for follow-up exams.

Brig. Gen. W. A. Abercrombie, Asst. Adjutant General, Army, who walked through the MASH site the second day of operation said, "This is good training and a good civic action project."

Promotion of "Guard Care 95" was done by sending over 10,000 fliers to over 156 churches, church organizations, homeless organizations, and city housing within the New Orleans area. The message about Guard Care was also sent through television and radio channels.

Col. Pat Prechter, state chief nurse and OIC of "Guard Care 95", Lt. Col. Marie McGregor, a nurse and consultant with the State Surgeon's office and a group of enlisted soldiers went door to door in the local city housing developments and handed out Guard Care fliers and personally invited the citizens to experience "Guard Care 95".

Mike and Koen Hamilton of Nashville, TN had just moved to New Orleans a week before with their three small children.

They read about Guard Care in a nutrition magazine promoting Shots-For-Tots.

"It's a great service. We didn't know where to go to get shots. Everybody's been helpful," the Hamilton's said. They also said they'd come again next year.

Alma Watkins heard about Guard Care on T.V. and brought her grandson.

These (customers) were either retired, prior service, or they know or heard about the army care and they came. I think it's a calling for us," McGregor said.

"Men identify with this (MASH site)," Col. Prechter added.

Other organizations, including Cynthia Guidry, with the Office of Family Support, and City Park helped make "Guard Care 95" possible. Various local businesses donated items such as water, stickers for the kids, sodas, and snacks. City Park allowed the National Guard to set up camp. The New Orleans Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, and City Park security provided day and night security along with National Guard MPs.

Sgt. 1st Class Cemetery A. Arnold said that toys were being brought in by Col. Prechter. Each child who showed up received two toys. Children were also given the opportunity to watch cartoons while their parents and siblings received needed services.

"We think it's good training for our troops, and we feel like it's a real privilege for us to come and help the people of New Orleans," LaRavia said.

"Guard Care 95" drew a larger amount of people than the City Health Department, alone, because people were curious about the Guard, McGregor said.

"We have a lot of males coming in. Routinely men don't come in for health care.

Editor's note: Over 800 New Orleans residence showed up during the week of "Guard Care" to receive medical services provided by the National Guard.



DEDICATED— LTC Marie McGregor (center) helps hand out Guard Care fliers to parents, and candies to the children of a local New Orleans housing development. (Photo by SPC Karl Kratzberg, State PAO)

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