

# *Louisiana Guardian*

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*The new adjutant general  
Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau and  
Command Sgt. Maj. John Morrow*

*see related story, page 3*

# Troops immunized against Anthrax

The Department of Defense announced plans that will lead to the systematic vaccination of all U.S. military personnel against the biological warfare agent Anthrax.

The vaccinations are expected to start next summer.

After a three-year study, Secretary of Defense Williams Cohen concluded that the vaccination is the safest way to protect highly mobile U.S. military forces against a potential threat that is 99 percent lethal to unprotected individuals.

The Anthrax vaccine will initially be administered to approximately 100,000 military personnel assigned or deployed to the high threat areas of Southwest Asia and Northeast Asia.

Within the next several years it will be given to all active duty and reserve personnel.

"This is a force protection issue," Cohen said. "To be effective, medical force protection must be comprehensive, well documented and consistent. I have instructed the military to put such a program in place."

Vaccinations would start only after several conditions are met:

- Supplemental testing, consistent with Food and Drug Administration standards, to assure sterility, safety, potency and purity of the vaccine.
- Implementation of a system for fully tracking personnel who receive the Anthrax vaccinations.
- Approval of appropriate operational plans to administer the immunization and communication plans to inform military personnel of the overall program.
- Review of health and medical issues of the program by an independent expert.

"Our goal is to vaccinate everybody in the force so they will be ready to deploy anywhere, anytime," explained Deputy Secretary of Defense John Hamre, who will monitor imple-

mentation of the program.

"This is an important new dimension to overall force protection. The Anthrax vaccination will join other immunizations we already give everyone in the military."

The Anthrax vaccine is FDA-licensed and exhibits fewer side effects than flu or typhoid vaccines. It has been widely used in the U.S. since the early 1970s by livestock workers and veterinarians.

The military currently immunizes people working in at-risk jobs and some 3,000 personnel assigned to special operations units, the Army Technical Escort Unit and the Marine Chemical-Biological Initial Response Force.

The DoD will immediately begin consultations with Congress and other federal government agencies and brief military personnel.

Vaccinations for the first group of personnel who serve in or who would deploy early to the high threat areas are planned to begin in the summer of 1998.

Details of the schedule for the total force vaccinations will be determined as the program moves forward.

Defense Department officials have been reviewing an implementation program with the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the past year.

The immunization program follows the recommendation of Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The immunization program will consist of a series of six inoculations per service member over an 18-month period, followed by an annual booster.

Although protection levels increase as shots in the series are given, the entire six-shot series is required for full protection.

Consistent with the Force Health Protection Program announced by President Clinton in November 1997, the Anthrax vaccination plan will serve as a prototype for long term force pro-

tection.

The Secretary of the Army is the executive agent for the effort, including procurement of the vaccine, tracking and oversight of the vaccination program, and coordinating with other service secretaries on the execution of the program.

Because of the mobility of military personnel, Cohen said he must be satisfied there is a medical management system in place to track individuals through the series before the immunizations begin.

The Secretary of the Army, as executive agent, will serve as the focal point for the submission of information from the services.

Anthrax is a disease that normally afflicts animals, especially cattle and sheep. Anthrax spores can be produced in a dry form that can be incorporated into weapons.

When inhaled by humans, these particles cause severe pneumonia and death within a week.

At least ten countries have or are suspected of developing a biological warfare capability.

"We owe it to our people to move ahead with this immunization plan," Cohen said.

"But we also want to make sure that our overall immunization program is safe and effective."

Since the Gulf War, the DoD has increased the level of attention given to biological warfare defense and other force protection measures.

The current world threat environment and the unpredictable nature of terrorism make it prudent to include biological warfare defense as part of our force protection planning.

Anthrax is one such threat. If placed into weapons, it would be 99 percent lethal to unprotected individuals who have been exposed.

A safe and effective vaccine is available that will protect our forces.

## LOUISIANA GUARDSMAN NEWSPAPER

*The Adjutant General  
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## Throw me something, Mister!



Photo by Benjamin Mitchell

While visiting the U.S. to attend a symposium in Washington, D.C., the Minister of Defense of Uzbekistan, Hikmatulla Tursunov, visited with the Louisiana Army National Guard, its sister state under the Partnership for Peace Program. He was given a warm reception at the adjutant general's home and then was escorted to the Bacchus parade where he got a chance to participate in the Mardi Gras festivities and taste the flavor of New Orleans.

# A few words from our new Adjutant General

I am delighted to have this opportunity to share some important thoughts with you as your new adjutant general.

We owe a great debt to those who have gone before. Join me in ensuring that their legacy, our Guard, maintains its position as an elite organization among the country's armed forces.

I would like to discuss a set of business principles for us to operate from: our mission, vision, values, goals and our pillars of excellence.

The Louisiana National Guard has three clear and distinct missions:

- Our federal mission calls for us to provide combat-ready individuals and units for mobilization and deployment in support of national military objectives. We must always be ready to answer the call to serve our nation wherever and whenever needed.

- Our state mission requires us to preserve and protect life, property, peace, order and public safety under state authority. While we hope that trouble never comes, one has but to look at recent events to see that it does. And when it does, we are there.

- Finally our community mission enables us to support local domestic concerns through community action projects and programs.

Whether it is in serving as positive role models, teaching children about the dangers of substance abuse, or participating in the many other programs available, we are there to build up, encourage and assist.

The accomplishment of these missions requires a fully qualified, well-led, well-trained force, properly maintained equipment, and safe mission execution. We must always be vigilant to this high calling.

My vision statement, which I ask you to consider and share as your own, is this:

*We envision the Louisiana National Guard to be a proud, values-based, customer-focused organization that will continue to be recognized as one of the most reliable organizations of its kind. We are an organization committed to taking care of its members and families, while delivering quality services to those who depend upon us during times of peace and war, now and into the next millennium.*

This vision statement captures the essence of where we are going. It is a way to look into the future and visualize the kind of organization we want to become.

Making this vision a reality is only possible by each of us doing the right thing, the right way, every day.

To accomplish our missions and achieve this vision, we must have organizational values. As part of the Total Army Team these are values we share with the Army and the Army Reserve.

Our values include:

**Loyalty** should be to the U.S.



Constitution, the Army, the Louisiana National Guard, our families and loved ones and ourselves.

**Duty**, which consists of obeying the laws and rules that make up our service and moral obligations. I expect all members to fulfill their duties and even to exceed them, especially in ethical matters.

**Respect** means recognizing the dignity that every human possesses. It is an indicator of compassion and consideration for others and regard for the feelings and needs of others. Respect demands fairness.

**Service before self** should be the order of your priorities. The welfare of the nation, state and the organization comes before the individual.

While the focus is on service to the nation as a whole, the idea also requires that the service member take care of his or her family and self.

**Honor** is the set of values that make up the public code for our Army and our Guard. It demands adherence to a public moral code rather than protection of a reputation.

Our **integrity** represents our values and private moral code. A breach of any of these values damages the integrity of the individual.

**Personal courage** is the premiere military virtue because it enables us to conquer fear, danger and adversity no matter what the circumstances. Courage includes taking responsibility for your decisions and actions. Courage challenges you to confront new ideas and change.

Each member of our team must practice these values. We must en-

courage one another to embody them, and further, to be intolerant of anyone who abuses them.

If an organization is ready to confront change, it must have goals—some measurement of performance towards which it can strive. Our strategic goals include the following:

**Strategic Goal #1**—To attain and maintain the highest level of personnel readiness. Without our people, we can't answer the call. We need every soldier who can meet the demanding requirements of military service.

**Strategic Goal #2**—To attain and maintain the highest level of training readiness. You have an obligation to be the best-trained and most competent soldier you can be regardless of what unit you're assigned to.

**Strategic Goal #3**—To attain and maintain the highest level of equipment readiness. Everyone must be vigilant to the care, security and maintenance of the equipment needed to accomplish the mission.

**Strategic Goal #4**—To provide the highest level of "quality of life" for our guard members and their families.

We cannot separate the importance of the quality of life from our strategic goals. We should challenge the way things have always been done and look for ways to improve our service and work environment.

**Strategic Goal #5**—To manage our resources properly and wisely. We do not have unlimited resources, and the competition is intense.

I will always argue for what we need, but I need the credibility of your efficient use to make my case.

An individual or unit alone can't meet these goals. It takes all of us using working together to achieve that. In our day-to-day operations, there are those things we do that define our absolute reason for being. We call these our "key business drivers," and we have aligned our goals to these.

Finally, our ability to create the kind of organization that we want to be a part of is supported by what I call Pillars of Excellence. These pillars are drawn from the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC). I'm committed to the full deployment of these principles throughout our organization.

The pillar of **leadership** requires that each of our leaders be committed to the mission and the people and that they lead by example. Good leadership also requires that you be aware of what kind of role your unit plays in the community.

The pillar of **customer focus** supports the idea that we are an organization of people focused and motivated to satisfy our customers. The idea of customer focus may seem foreign to you, but the idea that an organization would value the customers who use its products and services should become commonplace.

I keep coming back to this idea of our organization being one that is people centered. People must be treated with dignity, trust and respect. They should be praised and recognized for their contributions. Empowering individuals gives them ownership of their processes.

Sustaining our performance strengths and improving our performance processes as a way to close our performance gaps should be the natural outcome of continuous improvement. "Ever Improving" is our credo.

**Measurements** validate what is important to us as an organization. We should measure internally and compare externally to seek the best. I would ask that all leaders look at what we measure, how we measure it and use the resulting information to help improve our Guard.

Think of these Pillars of Excellence as a framework on which we can build an exciting, meaningful and capable organization.

Mission, vision, values, goals and pillars of excellence take into account all that has gone before, while positioning us for the future. I believe the future can be rewarding. It is in large part ours for the taking. I take great pride and comfort in this undertaking when I think of the energy, intelligence, selflessness and ability each of you bring to these tasks.

I believe that all we set out to do is possible. Join me in this great adventure. I charge each of you to do what it takes to get the job done in the Louisiana Guard.

# The times, how they are a'changin'

## Giering takes over as asst. adjutant general, Army



**Brig. Gen. Edmund Giering**

With the retirement of Brig. Gen. Wylie A. Abercrombie in October 1997, Brig. Gen. Edmund Giering, former deputy STARC commander who was to retire at the end of the year extended his enlistment and was appointed as the new assistant adjutant general, Army.

**Q:** What does it mean to you to be able to stay a little longer in the Louisiana Army National Guard?

**A:** I love this country and this state, and as long as I am allowed to contribute something to the security of this great country or to the security and welfare of the state I want to do so. My participation in the Louisiana Army National Guard provides me with that opportunity. It has been my privilege and honor to wear the uniform and soldier for almost 37 years, 15 of which were in the Air Force or the Air Force Reserve and 22 in the Army National Guard. I have met a lot of great soldiers in my lifetime, but none finer than those in the Louisiana Army National Guard. I like winners. I like being part of a winning team, and the Louisiana Army National Guard is a winner.

**Q:** What do you see as our greatest challenge in the future?

**A:** Three things. First, to

achieve a true Total Army where the National Guard is treated as a full-partner in the decision making process. To accomplish this I believe we must attain and maintain credibility with our active component counterparts. Second, to continue on the course toward excellence. While I believe we are the best, there are still areas in which we can improve. We are only limited in what we can achieve by what we are willing to give to accomplish our goals. Third, in view of shrinking resources and continued downsizing, to be able to continue to maintain the levels of readiness, particularly in the areas of personnel and training, that we have achieved in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

**Q:** How do you see your role changing as the new Assistant Adjutant General, Army?

**A:** As the deputy STARC commander I was principally concerned with the readiness of our units and their ability to mobilize when called. I also served as a principal assistant to the TAG (The Adjutant General). With the restructuring of the 61st Troop Command and the inactivation of the 204th Area Support Group, the new deputy STARC commander will have a big job just caring for and training the units of the 61st Troop Command. As a result, I don't see much change in some of my old responsibilities. General Landreneau has indicated that he would like for me to continue working in the areas of mobilization and readiness. As General Abercrombie worked closely with General Stroud on a number of special projects, I will be doing the same for General Landreneau. One area I will be concentrating on is Reports of Survey regarding damage, loss, or theft of government property. I am looking forward to working in both the State Partnership and the Partnership for Peace programs. Also, I will continue to be involved in APIC and our Louisiana Army Communities of Excellence program.

## 3rd Bn, 156th Infantry welcomes new commander

By Todd J. Landry  
256th Brigade PAO

Maj. Roy I. Nomey, Jr. assumed command of the 3rd Battalion 156th Infantry, recently commanded by Lt. Col. John P. Basilica, Jr. in a ceremony held at Fort Polk, culminating the 256th Infantry Brigades annual training rotation.

Nomey has been part of the 256th Brigade since Sept. 28, 1973. He began his career as an enlisted soldier and earned the rank of Sergeant First

"I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead of me. (Lt.) Colonel Basilica has set some high standards for this battalion, which I plan to continue."

-- Maj. Roy I. Nomey

Class. He graduated from Louisiana's Officer Candidate School and received his degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Some of his former positions include: Assistant S3/LNO, Battalion S1, and Company Commander (2-156th Inf); Battalion S2/3 (199 SB); and Battalion Executive Officer (3-156th).

"I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead of me. Lt. Colonel has set some high standards for this battalion, which I plan to continue."

"This is a fine organization with some of the best NCO's and officers in the Army. How could anyone not be excited about the opportunity," said Nomey.

Nomey resides in Breaux Bridge with his wife Susan, 15-year-old son Aaron, and 11-year-old son, Matthew.

Basilica, the outgoing commander, is a graduate of West Point and holds a masters degree from the University of Maryland. He has held various positions on active duty and the Connecticut Army National Guard and the (U.S.) Army Reserve.

His awards include: the Meritorious Service Medal (w/ two OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (w/ two OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, and the Louisiana Cross of Merit. He has also been awarded the Parachutist Badge and Expert Infantryman's Badge.

"I leave this battalion with mixed emotions. On one hand, I am very excited about the new opportunity; however, I am leaving an outstanding organization," said Basilica.

"I am confident, however, that I am turning over the reins to the right person. I know that he will continue the great tradition of the 3rd Battalion."

Basilica was presented the Louisiana Legion of Merit award by Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr. for outstanding service to the 3rd Battalion and for being among the top one percent of all battalion officers in the country. Basilica resides in Baton Rouge with his wife Karen, 15-year-old daughter Kristin, and 13-year-old son Timothy. Basilica has assumed command of the 225th Engineer Group, headquartered at Camp Beauregard, La.

## 528th Engineer Bn. faces challenge of different mission

By Patrice Sawyer  
Reprinted from the News-Star  
Monroe, La.

The 528th Engineer Battalion will change its mission for the first time in 22 years.

The battalion will be reorganized from its present designation as a "combat heavy" engineer battalion to a "corps wheeled" engineer battalion said Capt. Andrew Magee, adjutant for the battalion.

"The reorganization will also include the addition of a bridge company, which will result in some unique

and interesting training opportunities," said Maj. Ronnie Stuckey, executive officer for the battalion.

Stuckey said the battalion will "still have the equipment and still be able to respond to any natural disaster in the state."

Stuckey said 668 guardsmen across Northeastern Louisiana will be affected by the change.

"No jobs will be lost. It's just a change in authorized strength and a change in title," Stuckey said.

The battalion was last reorganized in 1975 to an engineer battalion.



# Air Guard deploys goodwill in Turkey

By Suzanne Chaillot and Kristi Moon  
159th Fighter Wing PA

The network of narrow streets amplified the blast of honking horns as too many determined automobiles jammed toward mutual directions.

A tiny white bus, filled to capacity, broke out of the noisy macrocosm and escaped down a quiet driveway.

As the bus came to a stop in a large courtyard, the doors flew open and couriers of good will spilled out armed with gifts of necessity.

Members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing and staff from the combined Task Force Family Support Center, Incirlick Air Base, made a special trip on June 27, to an orphanage in Adana, Turkey.

After fund raising more than \$500 during their 45-day tour at Incirlick Air Base, the guardsmen, along with LeRoy Thomas, Family Support Center Tent Annex manager, shopped for the things most needed at the orphanage, such as toothbrushes, paper products, grains and a stove.

According to Thomas, the project began through the community-minded

spirit of National Guard units.

Thomas said he was approached by Louisiana Guard personnel, who were deployed for Operation Northern Watch, to organize a project within the local community. With the assistance of the Family Support Center, an orphanage was adopted and the project began.

Getting the project rolling is simple.

"Cash donations are gathered, then we take a trip to the store and buy whatever they need, like baby food and rice," said Thomas of his tented office.

The packages could not be unloaded from the bus fast enough.

Excited children of all ages ran out of the concrete building that bordered the courtyard and swarmed the bus like bees to a hive dripping with honey.

Boxes and bags disappeared into the orphanage within the blink of an eye. But the children returned immediately to collect what could not be contained in a box or a bag, the simple gift of attention.

To the 15 people who made the trip in that tiny white bus, what hap-

pened for the next hour was an experience of basic human emotion.

The youngsters gathered around the goodwill ambassadors to touch and explore with a natural curiosity only children possess.

The interaction took many avenues, some played hand games, a few played marbles, but mostly it was just touching and eye-to-eye contact as if the children were looking for something deep within the strangers' souls.

"Seeing the looks on their faces as we gave them a simple thing like peppermint candy was amazing," said Tech. Sgt. Frank Tunstall, from the egress shop.

Tunstall, along with Tech. Sgt. Gina Vendetti and Senior Airman Kathy Krail, information management specialists, were instrumental in starting and carrying out the 159th FW program.

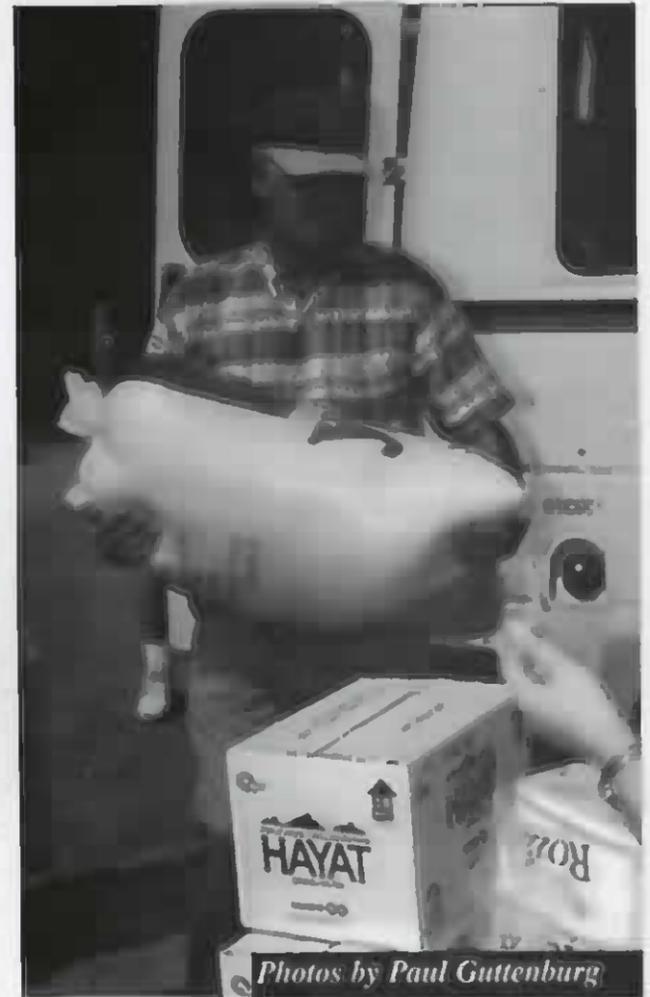
"You have a natural urge to care for these children and want the best for them," Tunstall said.

As time drew to an end, the children clung even more.

For a brief hour, both guardsmen and children felt hope, life and bonds of friendship.

The circles grew tighter.

They exchanged traditional Turk-



Photos by Paul Guttenburg

Lt. Col. Glen Huth, a member of the 159th Fighter Wing, unloads a sack of rice during an afternoon visit to a local orphanage in the city of Adana, Turkey. The 159th was deployed in support of Operation Northern Watch, formerly known as Operation Provide Comfort, to protect the no-fly zone over Iraq.

ish kisses that no water will soon wash away. Slowly the couriers of goodwill climbed aboard the tiny white bus and once again entered the noisy and chaotic macrocosm.

As horns blasted through the network of narrow streets, these Louisiana Guardsmen silently realized they had discovered something deep within their own souls -- compassion for mankind -- regardless of who and where they are.



Tech. Sgt. Frank Tunstall, 159th Fighter Wing, plays with a group of children during an afternoon visit to their orphanage in the city of Adana, Turkey.

## Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum dedicated

By Suzanne Chaillot  
159th Fighter Wing PA

As Maj. Gen. George Patton's soldiers crested the piney hill, they saw what lay before them - camouflaged in the thicket of dense forest was the enemy.

Conventionally armed, the defenders were no match for Patton's tanks, but the disputed river's navigation rights were not yet to be his, and the general failed to achieve a spectacular victory.

Divided into two imaginary countries, 400,000 American troops simulated war over Mississippi River navigation rights during the largest peacetime training exercise the army has ever witnessed.

To honor these maneuvers three World War II replica buildings and a museum complex was dedicated at

Camp Beauregard, November 8 beneath a clear blue sky.

The air was as crisp as the starched uniforms of the 1st NOCA Battalion as they posted the colors. After a dedication by Rabbi Arnold Task, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr. stressed the importance of the Louisiana maneuvers and the role it played in the victories of WWII.

"This museum should remind all Americans of the seriousness of being prepared," Stroud said. "Because of the Louisiana maneuvers, the army was able to enter the war in Europe properly trained."

In 1940, more than 13 million acres were made available through government and civilian donations. Army commanders were able to encounter reconnaissance and troop supply problems expected in battlefield conditions.

This enabled the leaders to formulate solutions before the U.S. entered WWII.

Capt. R. Beauregard Bradford, curator, assisted in organizing financial support for the museum site.

"We raised funds for the collection, preservation and exhibits of historically significant military memorabilia of the Louisiana National Guard," Bradford said. "Through a grant from the Rapides Foundation, the Louisiana National Guard and donations by numerous individuals, the construction of the buildings became a reality."

Bradford stressed the importance of continuing to locate memorabilia relating to the time period for donation to the museum.

Commander Frank Smith of Alexandria VFW Post 1736 traded their Sherman tank for a M60A1 tank for a

static display on the museum grounds.

"We received a letter from (Major) General Stroud to trade tanks," Smith said as he stood in front of the massive machine. "I assume it's the only one in the area in this good of shape."

According to Smith, the tank had been parked in front of the VFW Post for 40 years. "It was originally a National Guard tank belonging to the 773rd Battalion," Smith said. "With it being here at Camp Beauregard, I feel like the tank has come back home."

It is this sort of interaction that emphasizes the continuing partnership between the military and civilian community in Central Louisiana. The museum will stand to preserve information about Louisiana's history while providing future generations with a rich resource from which to learn.

## Air Park dedication honors La. Air National Guard

159th Fighter Wing PA

It was standing room only as waves of people spilled out of the museum theater and flooded the surrounding courtyard.

The occasion was the dedication of the Jackson Barracks Military Museum Air Park and Air Gallery.

The ceremony, which was moved inside because of a torrential down-pour, began with the presentation of the colors and an invocation by 159th Fighter Wing chaplain Lt. Col. Thomas Kinney.

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., former adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, dedicated the Air Gallery by recognizing the family of

proceeded with a proclamation from Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster read by the Honorable (Col.) Huntington B. Downer, Jr., Speaker of the House. Downer, who is also a member of the Louisiana National Guard, read praises from the Governor to Stroud on the devotion and dedication of the thousands of civilians who make up the Louisiana National Guard.

Because of the damp conditions, the ribbon cutting ceremony was held on stage in front of projected images of aircraft which make up the Air Park.

Stroud and Brig. Gen. Samuel DeGeneres, commander of the Louisiana Air National Guard, cut the ribbon in unison as the Air Park was of-

*The way of life for today's Air National Guard is to train side-by-side with active military forces ..."*

*-Maj. Gen Donald Shepperd*

Bob Maurin, one of the founding members of the 122nd Observation Squadron. The 122nd was created in 1940 at the New Orleans Airport, and since then has evolved into the many flags the Louisiana Air Guard currently maintains. The Air Guard was made possible by a generous donation from the Maurin family.

Located on the second floor of the Military Museum, the gallery exhibit displays photographs and memorabilia of early 122nd actions.

Also on display is an exhibit honoring Maj. Samuel Zemurray, Jr., an early commander of the 122nd OS. Zemurray was killed in action while flying an A-20 during the North African campaign in World War II.

Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, director of the Air National Guard, made a special trip from Washington, D.C. for the dedication and to honor the Air National Guard, past and present.

According to Shepperd, the Air National Guard of the past stayed home to train and train, hoping one day to participate in a "big one", referring to a major war.

"The way of life for today's Air National Guard is to train side-by-side with active military forces," said Shepperd.

He went on to state, while thunder boomed outside the packed house that "the National Guard is the most cost-effective defense there is."

Shepperd informed the audience that the 122nd Fighter Squadron and 159th Fighter Wing are preparing for their third mission to the Middle East to enforce the No-Fly zone over Iraq. "That mission is real world stuff," he said.

The dedication of the Air Park

officially proclaimed open.

As if on cue, the rain stopped, allowing the throngs of people to cross into the Air Park. The park was conceived as a way to honor the men and women, past and present, who have served the Louisiana Air National Guard and to honor the aircraft they have flown and crewed. The park consists of past and present attack and fighter aircraft the Louisiana Air National Guard has flown.

The highlight of the dedication was the story of the restoration of a Douglas A-26. With only a few of these aircraft left in the world, retired Staff Sgt. Clarence Eckelmann was instrumental in convincing Stroud to try and locate the vintage aircraft. With the assistance of Senator John Breaux and Representative Bob Livingston, one was located in South America and acquired from the country of Chile.

Eighteen former members of the 122nd Bomb Squadron meticulously completed the restoration of the A-26. Former commander retired Lt. Col. Robert M. Monsted, led the restoration efforts with the same diligence he showed in leading his men years ago. Eckelmann managed the organization of their efforts.

The Air Park and Gallery preserves the rich heritage of the Louisiana Air National Guard and educates the general public on the weapons, banners, memorabilia and equipment used in our state's history.

According to Stroud, all construction and work on the Air Park and Gallery was accomplished by National Guardsmen.

"This is truly a monument to all who worked and are working for the Louisiana National Guard."

## Living history brings World War II to life

By Suzanne Chaillot  
159th Fighter Wing PA

Beneath the tall pines, a wisp of smoke hung in the still air like a suspended serpent. A World War II soldier, perched over a warm fire, poured himself a cup of coffee and stirred the embers sending sparks into the air like tiny fireflies.

The year was 1997, but to the time traveler, it could have been 1942. The soldier was dressed in an authentic uniform of WWII and a 1936 army tent was erected nearby.

The Northeast Louisiana Military Living History Association had camped out to honor the dedication of the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum, November 8 at Camp Beauregard.

The association honors the history of the greatest conflict of the twentieth century by reenacting the time through living history displays, active involvement with museums, participation in parades and the collection and restoration of WWII memorabilia.

"We do a living history display whenever we can," said Jimmy Vickers, president of the association. "We bring along tents, trucks, jeeps,

equipment, whatever we have to make it as true as possible."

Vickers, who teaches high school Louisiana history in Jena, also donated memorabilia to the museum.

"I plan on making field trips to the museum with my students," said Vickers. "The museum has been a long time coming and I am glad it's finally here."

The Association's main impression is that of the generic American infantryman circa 1942-45. Bill Soileau of Cottonport, recalls the day his grandfather was stationed at Camp Beauregard during World War I.

"In 1917, Adeline Soileau was a stablemaster here," Soileau said. "They even have a horsedrawn plow on static display. Who knows, my granddad may have even operated it."

According to Vickers, the club's mission of honoring, preserving and educating means great fun for its members. Many tacticals are held at active military sites and accommodations are often provided in barracks.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Association can contact Jimmy Vickers at (318) 765-3197.

## Enlisted Association honors Stroud

By Rochelle Touchard  
Det. 1, 102nd PAD

Emotion was felt among all soldiers and airmen present at the 25th Anniversary of the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association Conference, held September 19-21, 1997. Not only was it the Association's silver anniversary, but it was the last address ever to be given to the Association by long-time supporter and friend, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud Jr., former adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard. Stroud relinquished his command on November 8, 1997.

"It marks the end of the career of a great man," Command Sgt. Maj. John Morrow said. "It saddens our hearts to lose the TAG (The Adjutant General). It will be hard to replace such a great guy."

Stroud played a prominent role in shaping the leadership of the Louisiana National Guard. Deputy STARC Commander, Brig. Gen. Edmund Giering, remembers the first leadership training put on by Stroud.

"Stroud said that we are going to train soldiers. We are going to make them better," Giering said. "Now look where we are. Soldiers are professional and proficient."

Brig. Gen. Samuel G. DeGeneres, assistant adjutant general for the Louisiana Air National Guard, also addressed the association. "The Enlisted Association is very valuable to the state and the nation," DeGeneres said.

DeGeneres reflected on the changes that 1998 will bring to both

the Army and Air Guard. The most obvious change is the change of the TAG.

"General Stroud is a visionary for the National Guard," DeGeneres said. "He is a true mentor for everyone."

In an emotional farewell to the association, all eyes were locked on Stroud. "This is the last time I will talk to y'all, and I am going to miss it," Stroud said. "You have been good to me." Stroud commended the Association for the support it has given to the guard. "If it were not for a strong group and the work of the Association, the Louisiana National Guard wouldn't be what it is today."

One of Stroud's strongest leaders, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Assistant State Judge Advocate, Representative (Col.) Hunt Downer, Jr. spoke very highly of the General. "Union, justice, confidence is our states motto," Downer said as he looked from the podium at Stroud. "General, you are that motto."

As Stroud prepared for his departure from the Guard, he reflected on his years of service. "I have been truly blessed and will miss what I do," Stroud said. "I want to go out with the band playing and my head held up high. I believe that soldiers and airmen are entitled to the best leadership possible. With Brigadier General Landreneau being appointed to the TAG, that has happened. He will be an absolutely phenomenal AG. In the years ahead he will take the National Guard to places you never thought it could go."

## Spotlight On...AGR Soldier of the Year

Staff Sgt. Michael A. Lee, 528th Engineer Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled) was selected the Active Guard and Reserve Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 1997.

Lee serves as the Personnel Services NCO for the 528th. He has also served as a readiness NCO, supply sergeant, unit clerk, battalion NBC NCO and a training NCO.

In the past he has been named the 225th Engineer Group AGR NCO of the Year for 1989, State AGR NCO for 1990, FORSCOM NCO of the Year for 1990, State AGR NCO of the Year for 1991 and 1992.

Lee has been on the AGR program for ten years. He and his wife Mary have one son.



## Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance terminated

The National Defense Authorization Act for 1998 mandates termination of the Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program effective November 1997.

Congress has provided continued insurance protection for an insured soldier currently serving on "an order to covered service" as of November 1997.

In addition, coverage will be provided for soldiers who, on or before November 18, 1997, have been issued "an order to involuntary active duty for covered service" under the authority of section 12304 of Title 10, USC. In either case, benefit payments will continue for the duration of the soldier's covered service as defined in section 12521 of the title 10, USC.

Financial liability for the program will continue to accrue throughout most of Fiscal Year 1998.

For more information on the termination of RRMIIIP, please call Chief Warrant Officer Bradford at (504) 278-8247.

## Two 199th soldiers serve ADSW in Europe

Maj. Carl Fry and Capt. Linden Bercegeay, both officers in the 199th Support Battalion, were selected after Annual Training 1997 by the Senior ARNG Advisor at HQ, United States Army, Europe and NGB for Active Duty for Special Work. Both 199th soldiers are assigned under the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, in Heidelberg, Germany, but their positions require travel "downrange" to Bosnia, Croatia, and Hungary.

Fry is the liaison officer for all Army National Guard units deployed downrange in support of Operation

Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard. He coordinates and tracks movement of all units downrange.

Bercegeay is the protocol officer for all National Guard general officers and distinguished visitors authorized to travel in Europe. He coordinates trip itineraries, military air travel, monitors country theater clearance requests and escorts the visitors according to their schedule. He hopes to escort the new adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau within the theater before his tour ends in July.

Fry and Bercegeay are both former commanders of the 256th

Brigade's Company C, 199th Support Battalion located in St. Martinville, La. They have worked very closely in the past in a number of different assignments and spent six months on active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Storm at Fort Polk and Fort Hood.

Lt. Col. Michael Wood, former 199th commander, recommended approval of his two officers for ADSW tours to expand their experiences as staff officers prior to returning to the Battalion. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience working in a major US Army theater command and the local culture in Central Europe.

## Desert Storm Syndrome testing now available

In 1992 and 1993, Dr. Edward Hyman treated a number of veterans of the Gulf War who were suffering from what we now call Desert Storm Syndrome.

Hyman and the veterans believe that they were helped. Some were fully restored.

Recently the Department of Defense has given Hyman funds to conduct a study with veterans of the Gulf War.

The funding will cover travel, hospitalization, and oral medications after discharge. Half of the veterans accepted into the study will be treated

and the other half will receive a placebo.

When the study is completed the veterans who were in the untreated or placebo group will be given the opportunity to be treated at no cost to them.

If you are interested in this study call Hyman's office at (504) 899-2228 during working hours Monday through Friday.

If your condition fits the criteria established for the study and you are interested in participating we will:

- send you a questionnaire to complete,
- have you obtain and send us

copies of all your medical records, before, during, and after the Gulf War; and

- have you send a written summary listing your symptoms and the medicines you have taken.

Hyman will review the information sent by you and determine if you meet preliminary criteria for the study.

If so, you will need to make an appointment to be evaluated in New Orleans.

If you meet the criteria you will be sent to the State University of New York, Health Sciences Center at Stony Brook, New York for further examination (at no cost to you).

This exam takes two days, plus travel time to and from New York.

If further determined that all criteria are met, Hyman will hospitalize you in New Orleans for two to four weeks.

Two or three months following your hospital discharge, you will return to Stony Brook for reevaluation. In that interim, you may be invited back to New Orleans for further treatment, at no cost to you.

You must be able to take time away from your regular activities or job to participate in this study.

## Louisiana enlisted personnel can now get USAA insurance

Active duty enlisted personnel in Louisiana, as well as Louisiana residents actively serving as enlisted members of the National Guard or Reserve, can add USAA to their shopping list. The San Antonio-based Association opened its doors to people in these categories of enlisted service who live in the state.

Louisiana is among the first 14 states in the Continental US where USAA offers enlisted personnel its property and casualty insurance products. The Association plans to phase in its new business with enlisted personnel by expanding to other states periodically until it serves enlisted people in all states by the end of 1998. The insurer began offering auto insur-

ance to enlisted personnel in Germany in January 1996.

Army officers founded USAA, which stands for United Services Automobile Association, in 1922. For 74 years it has provided competitive, high-quality insurance for U.S. military officers and their families.

Today, the Association is a diversified financial services provider.

In addition to property and casualty insurance, it offers its members banking services, life and health insurance, annuities, no-load mutual funds, and a discount brokerage.

USAA has more than three million members, and it is the fifth largest auto insurer in the country.

Asked why USAA chose to begin accepting enlisted members in 1996, retired USAF Brig. Gen. Wilson Cooney, president of the USAA Property and Casualty Insurance Group, said the timing was just right.

"We are pleased circumstances permit us to reach out to active enlisted people and their families," Cooney said.

Defense Department downsizing has given us the smallest enlisted corps the nation has had in about 50 years," Cooney said.

"The smaller number of potential policyholders and USAA's financial strength made us confident we could phase-in the new business, while we maintain the high level of quality ser-

vice USAA is known for around the world," Cooney said.

Standard & Poors, Moody's and A.M. Best Company, all independent raters of insurance companies' financial strength, give USAA their highest ratings.

And, the Association has consistently placed first or second in claims-satisfaction surveys by one of the country's leading consumer organizations.

If you would like more information, or would like to receive a price quote on automobile insurance, please call the USAA at 1-800-531-8319. Call 1-800-531-8222 for claims services.

## Representative (Col.) Hunt Downer named Public Official of the Year

Reprinted in part from the *Governor* December 1997 publication

The national publication *Governor* has chosen Representative (Col.) Huntington Downer, Jr., Louisiana Speaker of the House, as one of its 10 Public Officials of the Year for 1997.

Downer's military background—he is a colonel in the Louisiana Army National Guard—manifests itself in a certain straightness both of posture and of purpose, and despite a quick, clever wit, he can sometimes seem a bit out of place among his more relaxed, almost insouciant colleagues.

But at the moment, those qualities are pushing the House in a direction many Louisianians believe it needs to travel.

"He's very tradition-bound, and he reveres the institution as a body,"

says Peppi Bruneau, the speaker pro tem. "To a great extent, we've lost the collegiality that existed some years ago. He's worked very hard to try to restore that."

It was clear that the legislature was ripe for change. And with the election of Republican Mike Foster as governor, there wasn't much question that it would get it.

Since then, Downer has pushed in big ways and small, to bring a measure of luster to his chamber.

He has moved to professionalize the legislative staff, raising salaries to match other Southern states and making sure that raises are given based on merit.

He has launched an all-out effort to modernize the House, this has meant not only such steps as putting computers on legislators' desks to give them

immediate access to bills and their status, but refurbishing the chamber itself.

He launched an initiative to put legislators in closer touch with citizens and to give them a better feel for the state's problems by taking committees on the road, a move that has won plaudits around the state.

And he was one of the forces behind new ethics legislation that tightened up the state's laws and, crucially, gave the state's ethics board teeth by allowing it to initiate investigations on its own.

The term "businesslike" has come into vogue in Baton Rouge, and it is in no small part due to the efforts of H.B. "Hunt" Downer.

In the National Guard he serves as the Deputy State Judge Advocate with Headquarters, State Area Command in New Orleans.

## Guard 'Cajun Cooks' try for Regional Crown

By Bernard Chaillot  
256th Inf. Bde. PAO

A team of state champion Cajun and Creole cooks wore combat fatigues instead of aprons at a recent regional competition, but what mattered was not the attire, but the preparation and food quality, contestants said.

The cooks of Lafayette's headquarters company of the 256th Infantry Brigade were up against teams from Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and New Mexico.

Staff Sgt. Leslie Mire of Lafayette said that after besting 63 other units in the state, "We feel good about our chances in the regionals."

When you're the best in a state

## Plan career path with new OCS programs

By now, you should have heard about the new Officer Candidate School programs. I am sure that you have a lot of questions, some of which may have already been answered by a friend or your commander. I realize, however, that nobody can adequately address the specific needs of every individual. So, I invite you to contact me, Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Martin at 1-800-830-6205, so that I can help you plan a new career path as an officer. Together we can explore the details of the application process and the requirements that will be placed on you being a member of the Officer Candidate School program.

Objectives of the OCS program are to teach the individual to take initiative, think clearly, take orders as well

as give them, and be able to set the example for the personnel he/she will lead. The individual is subjected to an OCS environment exceeding that expected of the ordinary soldier and is required to achieve a standard of excellence. Emphasis is placed on practical exercise and performance. Training conducted is strictly "hands on." The individual candidate's ability and progress is closely monitored, tested, and evaluated both by formal examination and demonstrated ability to comply with OCS standards.

Over 1,021 soldiers have graduated from Louisiana's OCS program and have gone on to serve in the Army National Guard, USAR, and on active duty as second lieutenants. Their training is mostly conducted at Camp

Beauregard, a modernized and revitalized National Guard facility located near Pineville in Central Louisiana.

Since February 1996, the OCS program provides two means for commissioning using the same program of instruction and evaluation requirements as dictated by the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. The traditional 14-month program is divided into three phases: Phase I consists of three MUTA-4 assemblies and a two-week AT period; Phase II, 12 MUTA-4 assemblies; culminating with Phase III, a second two-week AT period. The accelerated program is a two-week AT period, Phase II, 24 days active duty training; culminating with Phase III, a second two-week ADT period.

## N.O. Mayor Morial awards guardsmen for community service in New Orleans



Two Louisiana National Guardsmen were awarded the New Orleans Mayor's Community Service Award in a multi-service ceremony. Mayor Marc Morial presented Lt. Col. Larry DeBlieux and Tech. Sgt. Gina Vendetti with plaques for their service to the community of New Orleans. DeBlieux works as the Counter Drug Task Force coordinator for the Louisiana National Guard. Vendetti works as Secretary to the Logistics commander at the 159th Fighter Wing.

"When you're the best in a state known for its good cooking, it gives you a lot of confidence"

-Staff Sgt. Leslie Mire

known for its good cooking, it gives you a lot of confidence."

The headquarters cooks set up a mobile kitchen, which looks like a large pop-up camper, at the Surrey Street armory for the competition.

Judges will go to each state in the region to rate teams individually, said Warrant Officer Richard Bottrell, brigade food service advisor.

Sgt. Joseph Campbell was busy adding his special blend of Creole seasonings to the pot roast entrée, while junior non-commissioned officers Louisa Kennedy, Desha Williams and Melanie Matthews cooked rice, cut up potatoes and carrots, made a fresh tossed salad and checked fighting positions.

Sgt. 1st Class William Anderson said the latter assignment is part of an Army cook's job too.

"These soldiers are judged on their combat skill readiness as well as how they do in the kitchen."

"They have to know how to handle not only what's in the pots, but also what's going on around their perimeter," Anderson said.

"They are soldiers first."

Besides serving the judges and 150 fellow soldiers at the armory, the headquarters team trucked food to 50 more soldiers firing their M-16 rifles at the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office firing range near Breaux Bridge.

"Winning awards is nice, but taking care of the troops is really what it's all about," Mire said.

# Stroud retires after 53 glorious years

By Bernard Chaillot  
256th Inf. Bde. PAO

CAMP BEAUREGARD - When Maj. Gen. Ansel M. "Buddy" Stroud, Jr. walked into his office on the last day of a remarkable 53-year military career, the last 17 as commander of all National Guard forces in the state, he had a beautiful woman on his arm.

Throughout the day, as the retiring adjutant general greeted comrades and dignitaries, accepted congratulations from soldiers of all ranks and oversaw the pageantry of a historic change of command, his attention never strayed far from the elegant lady, Jane, his wife.

"When we woke up this morning, we took our coffee out on the porch, and there was frost on the grass. The band was practicing a military march and we could hear drums and troops calling cadence as they marched on the parade field with the sun coming up over the trees," he said wistfully.

"You know, it doesn't get much better than that."

Jane Stroud smiled at her husband, her genial, loyal warrior, her Buddy. In the look he returned was all the emotion of the day at hand, and more. Something more.

The general walked over to the fireplace mantle in his office, where two group photos were front and center. "This was at Baylor University in June 1944. I had just enlisted in the Army. That's me there, see? And this one was at Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox in January 1946." He paused. "That was a long time ago. We've come a long way."

Later, after giving Col. (Chaplain) Jim Comer of state headquarters a Meritorious Service Medal, Stroud greeted Richard Wayne Billings, president of the Rapides Parish Police Jury. "Remember, I told you on the Fourth of July on your back porch that this was coming," he told Billings. "You were one of the few civilians who knew of my decision."

Stroud, 70, recalled his first summer in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

"We wore these heavy starched khakis, and it was hot, and we paraded almost every day, and I can still remember standing there in formation, sweating, tired, listening to some old geezer make a speech." He turned to his successor, Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau. "You know what Benny? Today, I'm going to be that old geezer."

Gov. Mike Foster arrived with his wife, Alice. Stroud told of giving Landreneau's resume to the governor in December 1996.

There were at least 30 officers who met the minimum requirements to succeed Stroud, but he gave Landreneau's resume, and no other, to Foster.

"There was a reason General

Stroud did that," the governor said. "He could have stayed if he wanted, but I respected his judgment and made my appointment accordingly."

The general pinned an award on Lt. Col. Herbert Fritts, former commander of the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry of the 256th Infantry Brigade, now a training and maintenance leader here. "Herb, you've shown us all how to put into action with a positive attitude the things we hear every day, the importance of maintenance and of training hard." Fritts came to attention and saluted Stroud.

"I'll never forget you, Sir," he said.

Stroud and Landreneau strolled over to the parade field to watch rehearsals for the change of command ceremony. A formation of Louisiana Youth Challenge cadets, products of a program Stroud started to help troubled youth develop discipline and purpose, marched by in their distinctive black fatigues and red baseball caps. They saluted as a group.

At the dedication of the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum, Stroud cited the support of the communities of Central Louisiana for the military, from the time of the 1940 maneuvers to the present day. "It's hard to describe the deep debt of gratitude I feel today," he said.

"As I end my career, I take great pride in being part of this historic dedication and I must express a deep-felt thanks for having had the opportunity to serve."

Sgt. Chris Dunn of the 2nd Battalion Headquarters Company watched Stroud circulate in the crowd. "He's given us so much," Dunn said. "Probably more than we'll ever know."

Former state Command Sgt. Maj. Harold B. Cook, his creased, weathered face towering over the crowd atop his gangly frame, couldn't agree more.

"From an NCO perspective, General Stroud's influence over the years can't be overstated," Cook said.

"Any positive thing you can think



Photo by Greg Guerra

Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr.

of associated with the National Guard, he's been responsible for it. And he always took time to visit and talk with rank and file soldiers. That always meant a lot."

Sonny Berry, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army said Stroud has had a nationwide influence on upgrading guard training and capabilities. "He's provided a great deal of wisdom, of planning, and the list goes on. He's given us a tremendous amount of stability."

Stroud briefly became separated from his wife while greeting visitors to the museum. He began looking around, subtly peering over the shoulder of whoever he was talking to until he saw her with Landreneau's wife, Delores.

He walked over and gently squeezed Jane's arm. "Hey lady, I've been looking for you," he said with a grin. She reached up and brushed an errant lock of silver hair back into place on her husband's head.

Shortly before the change of command ceremony, Stroud huddled in his office with Landreneau.

"Well Benny, in about an hour you're going to inherit all my problems," he said. "How does it feel?"

The ceremony went off without a hitch. Foster saluted Stroud and said, "If you get bored in retirement, let me know. I'll put you back to work."

Gen. Dennis Reimer, Army chief of staff, cited Stroud's extraordinary stint of more than a quarter century as a general officer, covering roughly half of Stroud's unparalleled career in the Army and the National Guard.

Stroud kept his composure until the end of the ceremony, when his beloved band played Dixie, the name of his tiny hometown near Shreveport, and Auld Lang Syne, bidding farewell to the fabled warrior, leader, mentor, soldier. The great American bowed his head and brought his hand to his face as tears welled up in his eyes.

Jane Stroud spoke of her admiration for her husband. "I am very proud of him today and of all he has achieved," she said. "Words truly cannot express how I feel. He has all the love I have to give and more. He has my undying respect." \*

And so the day came to an end with a reception line that snaked far back under the pines on a hill overlooking the parade field. The Strouds will now settle into their dream home recently built in Shreveport, not far from the general's humble beginnings in Dixie.

Ansel M. "Buddy" Stroud Jr., at long long last, has realized his place in history, his destiny, and above all, has found someone he can love as much as he loved the soldiers and airmen of the Louisiana National Guard.



Photo by Greg Guerra



# We'll miss you

By Rochell Touchard  
Det. 1, 102nd PAD



Photo by Todd Enlund

"It is a great day to be in the Army, whether it is your first day or last day," said Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr. on his last day in uniform.

More than 1,200 men and women, young and old veterans joined together at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La. to pay tribute to a soldier that served his country for over 53 years.

Anticipation was felt by audience members, as well as, the 2,800 soldiers and airmen that lined the parade field awaiting the arrival of Stroud and Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau.

"Sound Attention!" belted Col. William R. Hilborn, chief of staff of the Louisiana National Guard, as the 156th Army band began to play.

One by one each unit was individually called to attention.

The audience looked on as military commands were sharply executed. Hilborn prepared the troops for the presentation of Stroud and the reviewing party's arrival.

Previously seated, Mrs. Stroud and Mrs. Landreneau were each presented a bouquet of roses on behalf of the men and women of the National Guard.

Mrs. Stroud received open red roses, symbolizing the completion of her role as the first lady of the Louisiana National Guard; while Mrs. Landreneau received closed yellow roses symbolizing a new beginning.

The reviewing party arrived consisting of Stroud, Landreneau, Gov. Mike Foster, commander-in-chief of the Guard, and Gen. Dennis Reimer, chief of staff of the United States Army.

Once the reviewing party was in place, an exploding boom rang through the crowd as a 13-cannon salute was sounded.

Throughout the crowd, veterans, soldiers and civilians held their hands

tightly to their hearts as the smoke from the cannons hovered above head.

An artillery shell casing was presented to Stroud which symbolized the last salute fired in his honor as the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard. The Humvees arrived presenting Stroud the chance to review his troops ... for the last time. Each unit saluted the general as he passed with the governor at his side.

After inspecting the troops a roar could be heard from behind the tree-tops. Four F-15 Eagles flown by the 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard, soared overhead as a salute to Stroud.

The color guard then, in unison, marched forward with flags representing every Louisiana unit.

As they were posted in front of the reviewing party, Stroud sounded, "Present the command!" The colors were then presented as the national anthem was played.

The colors under which troops train and fight symbolize the very soul of a military unit. They remind us of the glories of the past, stand guard over the present, and provide inspiration for the future.

The reviewing party then moved into position for the actual change of command.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Morrow is charged by tradition with the safeguarding, care and display of the colors during peace and war. Morrow passed the colors to Stroud, who then passed them to Foster.

In doing so, Stroud relinquished his command as the adjutant general. Foster then passed the colors to Landreneau, giving him the legal and moral responsibility for the accomplishment of all assigned missions.

Foster also reaffirmed the trust and the confidence that he places in the



Photo by Todd Enlund



Photo by Greg Guerra



Photo by Anne Stohl

# Buddy



Photo by Greg Guerra

adjutant general.

Landreneau returned the colors to Morrow, who returned them to the custody of the color guard.

After the official change of command, Stroud was presented the Meritorious Cross by Foster symbolizing Louisiana's creed of union, justice and confidence.

The Distinguished Service Medal was given to Stroud by Reimer for his "professionalism and commitment to excellence...exemplifying our nation's military creed of duty, honor and country."

Mrs. Jane Stroud received the Civilian Service Medal for her "outstanding support, loyalty and dedication."

To bring a close to his military career the flag of Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr. was retired.

"By order of the governor of the state of Louisiana, you are retired from active service, released from assignment and duty, and placed on the retired list," read Capt. Patrick Simon, narrator.

Foster, the host of the event, reflected on Stroud's commitment to the military. "The concept of duty, honor, and country are the personification of General Stroud's service to the state. He will be greatly missed."

As Foster stepped back from the podium, he turned and said, "From one old soldier to another I salute you General Stroud."

The governor then turned to Landreneau. "I want to salute you General Landreneau. I have the utmost confidence in your ability to lead the troops."

Reimer then addressed the troops. "General Stroud considers himself a simple soldier, which is not adequate for someone who has served his country and dedicated his life for over half a century.

"He is a remarkable human being and an extraordinary soldier. General Landreneau is cut from the same piece of cloth. I have full confidence that he will continue to carry on the tradition."

Stroud embraced Reimer before stepping up to give his farewell speech.

The general reflected on his career and the support of his family and fellow soldiers through the years.

"I'll miss you, for you are a great group of Americans...citizen airmen and citizen soldiers who serve your nation, state and fellow man," he said.

"I leave you with a great feeling of admiration and of appreciation for having the opportunity to soldier together."

The crowd came to it's feet upon the last words of Stroud. Applauds of admiration and great respect reigned throughout the field.

Landreneau approached the podium and spoke his first words as the 48th adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard.

"Governor Foster I look forward to the challenge to continue the tradition of the Guard," said Landreneau.

"I commit to you that there are many challenges ahead, but standing shoulder to shoulder, the Louisiana National Guard will continue to succeed."

The final command of the day was given by the new Adjutant General.

"Pass and review!"

The sun reflected off the musical instruments of the 156th band as they led the way for the pass and review.

Stroud tapped his foot to the beat of the drum as nearly 3,000 troops representing every unit in the state passed in front of the reviewing party.

As the last group of troops exited the field, it marked the end of one legend and the beginning of a new one.



Photo by Suzanne Chaillot



Photo by Kristine Baeharach



Photo by Todd Enlund

## 1083rd TC Combat HET Co. sets record for largest convoy

By Gene Barattini  
773rd Maint. Bn. (LAARNG)



The 1083rd Combat Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) Company, Louisiana Army National Guard set a new record for transportation units by conducting the largest consecutive HET convoy.

Recently, the 1083rd Combat Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) Company, Louisiana Army National Guard set a new record for transportation units by conducting the largest consecutive HET convoy.

Using the excellent training road network on the La. Army Ammo Plant (LAAP) in Minden, La. the 1083rd TC demonstrated the ability to fully man 96 SUPERHET systems (M1070/M1000) along with 24 support vehicles.

The convoy exercise included tactical mission briefings over sand tables by HET platoon leaders, rock drills of the convoy by squads, and coordination of assigned mobile maintenance teams (MSTs). The marshalling area to line up the convoy required 3.1 miles. Over 236 of the 400-assigned 1083rd TC soldiers operated vehicles in the convoy. The convoy consisted of over 4,700 tires on the ground.

"Only on the Louisiana Army Ammo Plant could we execute a SUPERHET convoy like this," said Capt. David Humphries, the unit commander. "We have here a premier HET training area for tactical, technical, and operator HET training found nowhere else in CONUS." The convoy was designed as a follow-on exercise to the successful TAM, ORE, and Lanes Training (E) conducted during the 3rd quarter training year 1997. The 1083rd TC training officer commented as he observed the SUPERHET convoy passing with M1A1 tanks on the trailers. "Now you can see why a fully trained SUPERHET company like the 1083rd TC can make such a difference on a future battlefield...as this exercise shows, now a Brigade or Division commander can influence a future battle, by having the 1083rd TC relocate in just one lift an entire armor battalion with their tanks and crewmembers."

## 528th, 2225th Eng. 'make a difference' with Girl Scouts

By Lisa Murphy  
HHC, 528th Eng. Bn.

On October 25, 1997 units of the 528th Engineer Battalion (Corps) (Whld) and the 2225th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge) teamed up with the Girl Scouts of America in order to complete a very important mission - to make a difference.

The Silver Water Council Girl Scouts decided the best way to do this was by joining the nation for the first time in holding a used clothing drive for Goodwill Industries, a rehabilitation center. During October, Girl Scouts in eleven parishes across Northeastern Louisiana distributed clothing bags right to the doorsteps of hundreds of homes. People were asked to fill the bags with used clothing and set them out on the morning of October 25. On this "Make a Difference Day," the guardsmen eagerly pitched in to help the Girl Scouts complete their mission.

"It was a great success," said Sgt.

1st Class Calvin R. Sistrunk, readiness NCO for Headquarters and Headquarters Company located in Monroe. "It was a well planned and executed mission. As we enter this holiday season, it is refreshing to give to those in need."

Among the units assisting this first time event were HHC, Company A in Winnsboro, Company B in Farmerville and their Detachment in Bastrop, Company C in Oak Grove and the newly organized 2225th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge) in Monroe. All of the guardsmen worked hard to coordinate this event with the Girl Scouts, parent volunteers and Goodwill representatives, as well as, a host of sponsors and volunteers.

The event turned out to be a huge success in many ways. The battalion helped the Girl Scouts find out that even young people have a way of giving their services to the community.

Additionally, the mission of the Goodwill Industries was greatly aided.



Guardsmen help out during Goodwill used clothing drive.

Goodwill stores help people with disabilities or disadvantageous conditions to get job training and job placement opportunities. The donated goods from the drive will greatly benefit their store sales.

Due to the great success of this event in Northeastern Louisiana, the Girl Scouts, the 528th Engineer Battal-

ion (Corps) (Whld) and the 2225th Engineer Company plan to make it an annual event. Dottie Spangler of Goodwill Industries said, "Your contributions made it possible for us to have a worthwhile event. A special thanks to you because your contribution was so critical to our success."

## Guardsmen build up levee at Angola prison facility

Reprinted in part from the *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate* and the *Alexandria Daily Town Talk*

Groups of Army National Guardsmen served time at the Louisiana State Penitentiary to help keep Ole Man River in his place.

Members of the 225th Engineer Group dredged, transported, dumped and graded 125,000 cubic yards of dirt along 4,800 feet of the main levee that protects the Angola prison from Mississippi River floods.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended the berm to prevent "sand boils" from developing and possibly causing a levee failure.

The governor's office requested on August 7 to use National Guard personnel and equipment, and by the next day, the 225th Engineer Group had completed an operations order to mobilize the equipment and personnel. By the next week they had completed the move and by August 18 they were on the job.

"Just in a week you can't believe how much dirt they moved," said Burl Cain, Angola warden.

The troops worked on a section of levee that was tested severely by last spring's record flood.

The 769th Engineer Battalion based in Baton Rouge began the

project. The 205th Engineer Battalion based in Bogalusa furthered the project, and the 527th in Ruston completed the project.

Master Sgt. Randy Davis of the 769th said the work was a "textbook project" because the wide open space of a soybean field in front of the levee allowed plenty of room for the heavy equipment to maneuver.

Capt. Shane Elkins of the 225th Engineer Group and Project OIC said,

"Essentially what we're doing is putting down a whole lot of dirt and compacting it to prevent it from falling through and crumbling."

When the Mississippi River rose

last year it flooded various parts of the prison.

The prisoners had to sleep on top of buildings.

"If the levee had broken then all 18,000 acres of Angola would have been flooded," said Angola Executive Director Cathy Jett.

"This was one of the best projects I'd ever been on and was certainly a testament to the National Guard engineers," said Elkins.

"In a wartime mission, this is what these guys do."

They build something out of nothing."



# For our families

## La.'s dropout program wins best in U.S.

The Louisiana National Guard's Youth Challenge Program has been selected the best overall Youth Challenge Program in the United States by the United Services Organization (USO).

The USO and USA Today will honor the Louisiana Program at a special awards ceremony at the USA Today's Headquarters, the Gannet Building in Arlington, Va.

Dr. Douglas Peterson YCP director, and two Youth Challenge Cadets from the current class will attend.

Cadets Monica Branco of Gonzales and Derrick Broussard of Crowley have been selected to attend the ceremony. The Louisiana Youth Challenge Program is completing its fourth year in meeting the educational and other special needs of at-risk high school dropouts. Of the 1,400 students who have attended the program, approximately 1,000 have received their GED diplomas.

A yearlong tracking system on every graduating class reveals that the majority of graduates have gone on to college or vo-tech school, have joined the military or have found employment.

"Last year our program was recognized for its excellence in education," said Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr. "To be selected best overall this year is a great credit to Doctor Douglas Peterson, the faculty, staff and students." Louisiana is one of only 15 states nationwide to offer this DoD funded program.

A graduate of the Youth Challenge Program who went on to join the Louisiana National Guard was selected as the Soldier of the Year in 1997.

## TRICARE

### Dental services provided to guardsmen, reservists

**LOUISVILLE, KY—** Selected Reservists and National Guardsmen who are eligible for the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program (TSRDP) will be receiving enrollment packages and information about this new benefit in early September.

Approximately 780,000 Selected Reservists and National Guardsmen of all branches of the Uniformed Forces who live in the United States, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands will be receiving information from Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (HMHS), the contractor for this program.

The enrollment package will explain this voluntary low-cost dental program and will include an enrollment application, a benefits brochure, a postage-paid reply envelope, and a toll-free number which Reservists and Guardsmen may use if they have questions.

Since the Department of Defense is paying 60 percent of the monthly premium, each enrollee is responsible only for \$4.36 per month.

For covered restorative services, E-4s and below will pay a 10 percent cost-share and E-5s and above will pay a 20 percent cost-share. For covered oral surgery, E-4s and below will pay a 30 percent cost-share and E-5s and above will pay a 40 percent cost-share.

There is no deductible for the TSRDP-covered geographical area. Reservists and Guardsmen who enroll may use any licensed dentist.

There are several advantages to using network providers. All network providers have agreed to accept the program's payment for covered dental services as payment in full.

There will be no balance billing for the covered services and these providers will also file all claims. The enrollee will only be responsible for the applicable cost-share.

Reservists and Guardsmen may call a toll-free telephone number for a listing of the network providers in their area. This telephone number will be included in the enrollment package.

If a non-network dentist is chosen, the enrollee may be balance-billed, meaning the enrollee will have to pay the difference between what the plan pays and what the dentist normally charges, plus the cost-share. Non-network dentists may also require enrollees to file their own claim forms.

A large and vital portion of the United States Armed Forces are now in Reserve and Guard status. The Department of Defense has made this new benefit available to ensure that the dental health of these service members does not interfere with their mission-ready status or the government's ability to quickly deploy troops.

## OPM launches homepage

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) launched its Employment Information Homepage, "USA Jobs," last September. OPM developed the web site to provide the public with easy and readily available information about federal job opening.

The homepage, located at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov), provides worldwide job listings that are updated daily. Job searches can be tailored by occupational category, geographic location and pay level. There is information on how to apply for veterans' preference, salary and benefits, qualification requirements and many other similar items. An application can be filled out and submitted on line.

## Social Security benefits request

You can find out what you'll receive in Social Security benefits by calling the Social Security Administration and ask for Form 7004, Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement. Fill out the form, estimating your average annual salary until retirement. In about six weeks, you will get a statement estimating your benefits in current dollars. Social Security is now indexed for inflation, so your actual benefits will be higher in dollars but have the same buying power.

## Legislation will expand veterans' preference laws

The House Civil Service subcommittee passed a bill that will give eligible veterans for greater protection against losing their jobs in layoffs.

Under the bill, veterans who think agencies violated preference laws would have an avenue for complaints similar to that used in discrimination cases involving race and sex. An eligible veteran who alleges an agency has violated preference laws could file a complaint within 60 days with the Labor Department. If Labor were unable to resolve the complaint within 60 days, the veteran could appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board. After the Board has the case for 120 days, the veteran could choose not to continue with the administrative process and to file a lawsuit in a U.S. District Court within 60 days of deciding to discontinue. The veteran could also appeal in court after the Board finishes.

## TRICARE INFO

If you would like to learn more about the three TRICARE plan options, visit or call your TRICARE Service Center. You'll be able to get all of your questions answered by a trained beneficiary service representative. You'll also be able to enroll in TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Service Centers are located in four areas:

**Alexandria TRICARE Service Center**  
3600 Jackson Street, Suite 127  
Alexandria, La. 71303

1-800-406-2832 (Select option #3 and option #3 again),

**Shreveport TRICARE Service Center**  
1255 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy. Shreveport, La. 71105  
1-800-406-2832 (Select option #3 and option #1),

**Fort Polk TRICARE Service Center**  
Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital 285 3rd Street  
Fort Polk, La. 71459

1-800-406-2832 (Select option #3 and option #2),

**New Orleans TRICARE Service Center**  
3520 General DeGualle Drive  
Timbers Building, Suite 1050  
New Orleans, La. 70114  
(504) 361-4965 or 1-800-444-5445

**Louisiana National Guard TRICARE AGR point-of-contact** (504) 278-8344



Col. Jim Donelon

# It's the Law

## Sexual Harassment often falls within grey area

By Jim Donelon  
Staff Judge Advocate

One need only open a newspaper or turn on the evening news in order to realize that sexual harassment is a recognized problem in today's society. In the military arena, it can result in military discipline and has and will become the tombstone of many otherwise unblemished careers. Therefore, it is a problem that demands the awareness and attention of every soldier and airman.

The Department of Defense's definition of sexual harassment is contained in the Adjutant General's Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy Statement of Jan. 1, 1998. It should be posted on every unit bulletin board.

This policy has been explained to all of us on numerous occasions. We undergo training in this area on an annual basis.

Most of us know and understand what is and what is not sexual harassment. However, sometimes the dividing line is not clear. This is because many claims fall within a "gray area."

Clear claims include conduct that is clearly of a harassing nature such as promises of advancement and better working conditions in exchange for sex.

"Gray area" claims can result when one person hears something you say and deems it offensive. It can also result from an innocent touch that the

recipient deems to be offensive. Comments, gestures and physical contact may be considered harassment by one individual, but not by another. Your intentions may be innocent, but are not necessarily the determining factor in a harassment complaint.

How the other individual views your words or actions is important. This difference in perception indicates that many claims will be of a subjective nature.

In addition, an individual who laughs at the comment, gesture or contact today, may not tomorrow. The failure of an individual to object and their willingness to go along in the past will

not be a defense for tomorrow's complaint.

Like many problems in the work environment, sexual harassment can be avoided.

- Think before you act or speak.
- Keep your language clean and your hands to yourself, and
- Avoid making comments of a sexual nature.

Sexual harassment can and will be eliminated from the National Guard workplace. Each of us can contribute by maintaining a high degree of professional conduct sensitive to and respectful of the rights of others.

## Your testimony may make or break a case

### THE IMPORTANCE OF A WITNESS

The American justice system is based upon the discovery of truth through the testimony of witnesses. A judge or jury acts as the "finder of fact" by listening to the testimony of the several witnesses in a case. The judge or jury then weighs and discounts that evidence as it deems fit, and renders a verdict based upon the facts. Witnesses, therefore, are an essential part of the American system of justice.

It may not always be convenient for you to leave your job or home and spend the day in court; nevertheless, each citizen has a responsibility to himself and to the community to serve as a witness for others whose fate may hinge on others coming forward to tell what they know.

Some day your life, your freedom or your livelihood could all hinge on the willingness of someone else coming forward to speak the truth. Is it too much to suffer some inconvenience in order to testify in a case? Ask yourself if you would feel that way if it was your case and you were requesting that someone come forward to tell the truth, to make matters right, to achieve a just result.

The simple and uncomplicated task of the witness is to do no more and no less than tell the truth. Witnesses are not required to make or break a case. The facts will do that. There can be no case for either side, and therefore no justice, without the truthful testimony of witnesses before an impartial judge or jury.

Fifty years ago the chances of ever testifying under oath regarding anything of substance were very small. In today's world, the increase in population has increased the odds that you may some day testify in court or in a

deposition. Frankly, because more than 90 percent of all lawsuits are settled before a trial is held, it is more likely you will testify in a deposition or in a pre-trial hearing rather than in open court before a judge or jury.

### DEPOSITION TESTIMONY

A deposition is one of the tools of what the legal profession calls discovery. Discovery means the investigation of your opponent's case with a view towards learning its weak and strong points, and preparing your case accordingly. Discovery is not merely a strategic tool. Exposing the strengths and weaknesses of each side's case promotes the settlement and resolution of those matters which quite rightly ought to be settled, and narrows down the important issues of those cases which should be tried. The testimony which you may give in a deposition, therefore, may be as important as any testimony you would give in open court before a judge or jury. Many of the same rules which apply to testifying in court apply in a deposition for that very reason.

A deposition is usually taken away from court, often in a lawyer's office. The lawyers who are representing each party to the case will be present, and possibly their clients as well. A court reporter is hired to record and later transcribe the entire proceedings, from opening to closing remarks. Your testimony will be given under oath, just as it would be in open court. You are sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

The mere fact that a deposition is taken outside of a traditional courtroom does not mean that your testimony is any less important than it would be if given in a courtroom. As a result, you should take the procedure just as seri-

ously as you would if it were in open court.

If you are a party to a lawsuit, your attorney will prepare you prior to the deposition. If you are not a party and are just being called for your knowledge of the facts, you can still prepare yourself for the deposition just as you would for testifying in court by reviewing the suggestions below.

### TESTIMONY IN COURT

Part of the fear and trepidation involved in being a witness comes from uncertainty over the conditions under which your testimony will be given. Sometimes witnesses aren't sure what to wear or where the courthouse is. Perhaps the potential witness has seen enough dramatic interrogations on television or in movies that the witness is apprehensive about the treatment he or she will receive from the litigants. A few suggestions are in order.

#### • Before You Testify

Contact the attorney who has scheduled your testimony or issued you a subpoena and ask what the attorney will inquire about in the course of your testimony. You are entitled to know the subject matter which will be covered in your testimony.

The law provides for certain fees to be paid to witnesses in some circumstances, including mileage, fees and expert witness fees. If you are not a party to the case, you may want to inquire about this by asking the attorney who issued you a subpoena or the court before you testify.

Hanging around a lawyer's office or a courthouse waiting to testify is no fun. To some extent, waiting is a fact of life at almost any trial.

If the case is going to be a lengthy one, the attorney who issued the subpoena may be able to arrange with you

to be on a standby basis, so you would not have to leave your home or your job until shortly before your testimony would be given. Check with the lawyer who issued the subpoena.

If any documents are involved, review and familiarize yourself with those documents before you testify. Refreshing your memory with respect to documentary evidence can be beneficial not only in helping you to testify truthfully about the facts, but also in eliminating the unnecessary and time-consuming task of digging through the documents each time you are asked a question.

Try to refresh your recollection before you testify. If you are a witness to an accident, you may want to go to the scene of the accident again so you can familiarize yourself with distances and locations. If you have given anyone a statement in writing or by recording, ask for a copy. You are entitled to receive it.

#### • Your Day as a Witness

As for what to wear, dress neatly out of respect for the court and the justice system.

Wearing a coat and tie or nice dress is appropriate if you are comfortable. A comfortable dress or other normal business attire will bring you respect and will reflect your respect for the court.

When you are called as a witness, stand upright when you take the oath. Pay attention and say "I do" clearly and loudly so everyone can hear you. Try not to be nervous. There is no reason to be.

Don't be intimidated by the legal process itself. As stated earlier, your job is not to make or break anyone's case. If you confine yourself to the facts, testifying will be much simpler.

## It's a tie... Colonel of the



Col. Everett J. Bonner, Detachment 4, HQ STARC and Col. Claude Hempel tied for the "Colonel of the Year" Award given by the Region II Selective Service during the Selective Service Biennial National Conference in New Orleans in August. Left to right: Mr. Gil Coronado, Director, Selective Service System (SSS), Col. Bonner, Col. Hempel, Col. Keith Scragg, Region II Director SSS.

## "Dog tags" headed for museum, replaced

By John Sullivan  
Public Affairs NCO

The "dog tags" that every GI is familiar with may soon become a museum piece.

They may soon be replaced by a PIC—Personal Information Carrier—carried by soldiers, containing X-rays, medical history, shot records and other personal information in the form of a computer chip.

"Historically, medical record-keeping and documentation has been imperfect, especially during deployments," said Lt. Gen. Ronald Black, the Army's surgeon general.

The small plastic tags will be tested in 1998 and should begin operational use with troops by 1999. Medical personnel using portable computers at the time of any examination or treatment will update PIC's. Copies of the individual's records would be stored centrally, according to Black.

Black did not say if this central core would be at a regional or national level.

The new "dog tags" will be able to store information on the environment and the area where a serviceman was located, Black said. He added that this would allow the Defense Department to assess "when and where individuals might have been exposed to hazardous conditions."

Black said one of the major problems with trying to track down the cause of what has become known as Gulf War Syndrome, has been a lack of accurate environmental information.

According to Black, the new system would address this as medical personnel could quickly key in vital information about the environment into a soldier's PIC.

There are still some things that have to be done before the new system goes online, Black said.

The cost? The final cost of the computerized "dog tag" will eventually be about .75 cents a piece, once full production is reached, while the device to read the tag would cost about \$130 each.

## Guardsmen climb 750 ft., replace light bulb on tower

By Gregory C. Garcia  
Superintendent Wire Section

In November two members of the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron, New Orleans, performed a dangerous and exhaustive task in response to a request for help from the Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.

Master Sgt. Andre' Paille and Staff Sgt. Fred Dietz braved near freezing weather to replace a light at the top of a 750-foot tower that needed to be fixed immediately.

The Center Communications System had to be shut down because of a

damaged wave-guide and the burnt-out bulb.

It took them nearly two hours to ascend to the top and change the bulb. On the way down they located the damaged wave-guide where a large caliber bullet had gone completely through about 600 feet up.

Prior to this climb the highest tower anyone in the 214th EIS Wire Section had climbed before was a 550-foot tower in January 1997.

The tower's lights are now glowing. The wave-guide is repaired and the system is up and running.

## Quality Corner

By Charles K. Tolleson  
Quality Management Officer

As 1997 passes into memory and 1998 presents exciting possibilities, the new year can also bring uncertainties. The one constant however, is change. It goes on around us all the time in both our personal and professional lives. It also goes on in the life of an organization. This one constant "change" demands that an organization and its members be equipped to anticipate, structure, implement and evaluate change.

Someone once said that the best way to deal with the future is to create the future the way you want it to be. The Louisiana Army National Guard has adopted a seven part framework called the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC), fashioned on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria for Performance Excellence used by businesses and the Army, as the tool for fashioning the future and dealing with change.

The Army runs the APIC from the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Office at the Department of the Army and the National Guard Bureau. Even though the criteria basis has shifted from the "ACOE of yesterday" to the Baldrige-based APIC, the name has and will remain ACOE.

In the Louisiana Army National Guard, we want to keep the many positive attributes or tenets of the "old" ACOE because of the tremendous benefits realized with relation to our soldiers, employees, families and facilities. This is right and good. It is part of our organizational culture.

However, the "old" ACOE was never meant to be a management philosophy or strategy. In adopting APIC as our strategy, we have trained over 200 of our members in the "pure" APIC philosophy. We have application writers who can interpret the criteria and apply it to the LA ARNG.

We have examiners, trained at the Army level, who can analyze the deployment of the APIC in an organization. Further, we have competed at the state and national Quality Award levels by submitting organizational self-assessment applications based on the Baldrige/APIC framework. As with the "old" ACOE, our organization as a whole and the efforts

of its leaders, managers and process owners reaffirm the success of our commitment to continuous improvement and service to our soldiers, employees, families, customers and facilities.

Make no mistake about it. The APIC is challenging. It challenges all of the organization's leaders, demands constant review and improvement of processes, requires continuous definition and dialog with the organization's customers and the refinement of what results (measurements) are really important to the organization. The APIC says, "Show Me!" The APIC demands a look into the future through strategic planning. It is not a "headquarter's thing". We all have a stake wherever we are located in the organization. It may be said that while we have measured our organization against other competitive standards, measuring against the APIC is like the difference in measuring everything against a 12-inch ruler one day; then measuring everything against an 18-foot ruler the next! There is a paradigm shift.

In 1998 we will continue the APIC "culturization" process in the Louisiana Army National Guard. Every one of us should ask and answer these few questions for their own organization:

•What is/are the **Mission(s)** of my organization? The LANG as a whole?

•What is the **Vision** for the organization as articulated by leaders? Is it shared among all of us?

•What are our shared **Values**?

•What are the established **Goals** we must achieve to succeed in obtaining our objectives?

•Who are our **Customers**? (Internal to my operation and external as users/consumers of my services) Are they satisfied (delighted)? How do I know?

•What **Products and Services** do we produce?

•What are the **Key** (must happen) **Processes** in my operation/organization?

•What are the **Key "Drivers"** (the reason we exist) in my operation/organization?

•Do we, as an organization have a **Strategic** view/plan of the future for our operation/organization?

•What are the most essential and monitored **Results** (measurements) in my organization?

To answer these questions is to begin to anticipate, structure, implement, and evaluate the change that will confront the organization and its members.

# 244th Bn. faces "real life" scenario

By John Sullivan  
Public Affairs NCO

Gunboats on the Pearl River?

Heavily armed enemy helicopter gunships flying south of Slidell?

Part of a new Tom Clancey novel or the script for a new movie?

Neither. It was part of the scenario the 244th Aviation Battalion faced during a recent weekend field training exercise at Camp Villere in Slidell.

For the 244th, it meant moving a larger number of UH-60 Blackhawk and OH-58 helicopters, its maintenance personnel and its headquarter staff from the Lakefront Airport to the field environment of Camp Villere.

"It's taken 18 months of planning to get everything where it is now," said 1st Lt. Brett McCloud. Those eighteen months included coordinating the movement of helicopters throughout Southern Louisiana where the pilots would get a chance to practice their wartime missions.

It also meant a big first for the 244th.

This exercise involved the Louisiana National Guard working very closely with elements of the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy. Navy patrol boats operating on the Pearl

River represented the naval forces of an aggressor nation while the Sea Cobras represented the aerial threat.

"This is the first time in ten years that we've been able to do something

like this," McCloud said. "All of our planning had to take into account the safety precautions for us to work in this type of airspace."

Early in the exercise, McCloud

came to make all this work."

Taking one of the Blackhawks away from its planned missions meant having to realign the other aircraft and their missions.

"It's a problem that we had to work around," McCloud said.

Lt. Col. Tom Zabasky, battalion commander, said he was pleased with the exercise.

"We have to realize certain facts these days," Zabasky said. "In this day of shrinking budgets and dwindling resources, we have to train smarter and better with what we have.

"And that's what we're doing out here."

Zabasky said the 244th needed this type of training because it is in the process of rotating from the UH-1 Hueys that it formerly flew to the more advanced UH-60 Blackhawks.

"It's given us a tremendous boost in training our people," Zabasky said. He added that much of the exercise was devoted to the pilots, "but there is plenty of training for everyone involved."

The exercise ended with the aggressor forces leaving the Pearl River and the 244th landing at its designated landing zones.

*What it means is that it's as close a you can get to a combat scenario outside the National training Center or the Joint Readiness Training Center*

--1st Lt. Brett McCloud

like this," McCloud said.

"And it's the first time that I can remember where we've had a chance to work hand-in-hand with the Marines and Navy.

"What it means is that it's as close as you can get to a combat scenario outside the National Training Center or the Joint Readiness Training Center," he said.

Because the exercise took place in the very crowded skies over South Louisiana, McCloud said the aircraft had to maintain certain restrictions such as a minimum flying altitude of 500 feet.

"Realism is the key, but safety is the overriding factor involved."

said, the 244th ran into a real world problem that the battalion's planning staff had to tackle.

"We found that the radios in the OH-58s aren't compatible with the Blackhawks and with headquarters," McCloud said. To overcome this problem, McCloud said a UH-60 was re-assigned from its regular missions and switched to a command and control aircraft.

"This means that we have one aircraft that is basically receiving transmissions from the scout aircraft and then relaying that information back to headquarters," McCloud said. "It was a real world problem that we had to over-

## Montet "comes home" to command 199th Support Bn.

By John A. Sullivan  
Public Affairs NCO

Under a clear, blue sky, Ranzy Montet came full circle in his career in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

On March 14, in Alexandria, La., Maj. Montet assumed command of the 199th Support Battalion, the same unit he enlisted in as a private in December 1975.

"It's good to come home," Montet said. "We have a big job in front of us getting ready for our rotation to the National Training Center (NTC). But the 199th is a great unit, and I feel very privileged to be there."

Montet assumed command from Lt. Col. Michael L. Wood.

"Lieutenant Colonel Wood has been my mentor since I became commissioned," Montet said. "I feel that I have some very large shoes to fill."

After enlisting in the 199th in 1975, Montet remained in the enlisted ranks for 11 years before going to the Louisiana State Officer Candidate school and was commissioned a second lieutenant in January 1987.

He has served in a variety of positions, including the Brigade S-1 with the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mech).

Montet was mobilized with the 256th during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, and served as the 5th Infantry Division's Class VII officer during that period.

During the change of command ceremony, Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, commented on the work done by Wood.

He pointed out the 199th's support of the Georgia National Guard's 48th Brigade when it was deployed to the NTC.

"He's handled many major missions, and now I look forward to him coming to Jackson Barracks where he will serve as the new assistant chief of staff," he said.

As the outgoing commander, Wood said he felt honored to be standing on the parade field in front of the 199th's armory in Alexandria.

"The 199th is the best battalion in the Louisiana National Guard and the best battalion in the United States Army," Wood said. He said he was most proud of the tradition the soldiers of the 199th have carried on.

"I am proud of the support (you've given) to your communities, to the Louisiana National Guard, to the United States Army and to this nation," he said. "I thank you."

As the incoming commander, Montet said he felt he "has been given a great opportunity by coming here."

"Rest assured that I will give you the leadership you want, and rest assured that I will also challenge you to be the great soldiers that you are. Support to Victory."



From left, Lt. Col. Michael L. Wood, outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general, and incoming commander, Maj. Ranzy Montet.

## Proud history of 199th

By John A. Sullivan  
Public Affairs NCO

The 199th Support Battalion came to life in 1963 as a transportation unit.

The official history of the 199th Spt. Bn., headquartered in Alexandria, shows the unit unfurled its flag for the first time on April 17, 1963. It was known as the 39th Supply and Transport Battalion and was assigned to the 39th Infantry Division.

Battalion historians said that it was organized on May 1, 1963 from existing units in Central Louisiana with its headquarters being in Alexandria.

The unit was reorganized and redesignated on December 1, 1967 as the 199th. At the same time, it was relieved from its assignment to the 39th Infantry Division and assigned to the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade (Mech).

The men and women of the

199th were ordered to active duty on November 30, 1990 in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The unit was deployed to Fort Polk, La. and Fort Hood, Texas, for training, and on May 7, 1991, the unit was released from federal control and returned home.

The former commanders of the 199th are:

Col. Lacy Rogers (Ret.)

Lt. Col. Wilmer L. Bennett Jr.

(Ret.)

Col. Lucian J. Grass (Ret.)

Lt. Col. Benjamin Ritchey (Ret.)

Col. Leslie F. Prestridge (Ret.)

Col. Frank F. Pacholik (Ret.)

Col. Richard W. Averitt

Lt. Col. Cecil Sanner (Ret.)

Lt. Col. Louis P. Baldrige

Lt. Col. Mike H. Russell

Lt. Col. Michael L. Wood

Maj. Ranzy Montet

## Det. 2, 812th Med. Detachment returns from active duty

By Glen Tortorich  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

There were hugs and kisses galore at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport as the soldiers of Detachment 2, 812th Medical Detachment reunited with their families, friends and loved ones just in time for Christmas. It was a "welcome home" ceremony for the Army Guardsmen who had been on active duty for nearly four months serving at Fort Benning and Fort Stewart, Ga.

The Detachment was needed to fill in for an active duty unit that had been sent to Bosnia. The order to mobilize came on Sept. 4th, 1997. The mission didn't require the entire 812th Med Det., so a sub-detachment, Det. 2, was formed to handle the job. Three days later, they departed for Georgia.

While on active duty, the guardsmen provided medical air evacuation support to Fort Benning and Fort Stewart. According to the Det.'s com-

mander, Maj. Barry Keeling, the Detachment provided MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) services to soldiers and civilians. He says they performed approximately 45 missions altogether via UH-1V helicopters.

Keeling said the interaction with the active duty component of the Army was a very positive experience for everyone.

"The medics got very good experience," he said. One of Keeling's soldiers, Sgt. Daniel Warren, agreed. "We don't get to do true MEDEVAC here (during drill)," said Warren, "but over there we did real MEDEVAC. This brought a whole new meaning to our jobs."

According to Staff Sgt. Louis Michon, Jr., the activation was a learning experience for both the Guard, as well as the active army.

"The active component respected our level of medical expertise — most



of our medics are medical professionals in the civilian world and are highly skilled," he said.

The Detachment's mission could have lasted up to 270 days, but the unit they were replacing returned early from

overseas allowing the guardsmen to return home five days before Christmas. Shannon Warren, wife of Sgt. Daniel Warren said, "Having him home is our early Christmas present."

## NG teams train to respond against terrorist attacks

Associated Press

Specially trained National Guard units would be able to help local and state officials respond to potential terrorist attacks from chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons, Defense Secretary William Cohen announced.

"These teams will arrive quickly, assess the scene and help ensure the affected areas get the federal assistance they need," Cohen said.

Over the coming year, the Guard will set up ten units, each composed of 22 full-time members and 22 reserve members. Cohen has asked Congress for \$49.2 million in next year's budget to pay for them, their training and their equipment.

The teams "will be dedicated solely to assisting local civilian authorities in the event of a chemical or biological attack," he said.

Noting the threat posed by incidents such as the Sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway or the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, Cohen said the nation must be better prepared against potential chemical, biological or even nuclear catastrophes.

The new units will be given additional training and equipment, and National Guard and reserve forces could be deployed to handle reconnaissance and decontamination missions. A new office will oversee coordination of the

units with existing ones, said Pentagon officials.

The exact locations of the first ten units will be chosen by May. In the meantime, plans are being drawn up for one unit to exist in each of the ten localities used across the nation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Brig. Gen. Roger Schultz, who is deputy director of the Army office for military support.

"We may, in fact, be attacked, and we are preparing for a mission that may arrive," Schultz said.

The support will come from either Army or Air National Guard units. For example, they could provide security forces to cordon off a potential site,

medical support units, air transport, logistics or communications capabilities, among a number of things, Schultz said.

Barred by a federal law from acting in a police capacity, the military units will play a support role. Local authorities will retain their jurisdiction, and FEMA will keep its role of lead federal agency in handling disasters, officials said.

The Pentagon has been involved in a program to help train nearly 4,000 men and women in cities across the country who would assist local authorities in such incidents, but Cohen said it was clear that the military could offer more long-term back up to local officials.

## Guardsmen save shoreline with Christmas trees



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter lifts a bundle of trees for the drop. This is the sixth year that the Louisiana Army National Guard has been involved in this project.



Guardsmen aboard a barge tethered in the waters of Bayou Segnette prepare the Christmas tree bundles for sling loading. More than 40,000 trees were used in this year's effort to prevent further erosion of the Louisiana coastline.

# Get tough, females PT standards raised

By Robert Burns  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army is slightly toughening its physical fitness standard for women as part of a broader adjustment of physical qualifications for both sexes, officials said.

The new fitness system will not set standards for women equal to those demanded of men, but will require that women be able to do a few more pushups and finish a two-mile run slightly faster than under the current system, adopted in 1984. Army officials confirmed the change in advance of a detailed Pentagon presentation of the new standards.

The new standards take into account contemporary knowledge about physiology, training and injury prevention. They also are expected to address a longstanding source of irritation for male soldiers who resent lower standards for women.

In a report last month reflecting results of a survey of male and female soldiers, an Army panel reported wide

spread complaints by females of sexual discrimination but also found that males felt aggrieved by some types of sex bias. Among them was what many male soldiers saw as too-easy physical standards for women.

The fitness test sets a baseline for physical qualifications in the Army. More specific minimum levels of strength and endurance are set for specific jobs in the service.

Under the old standards, a 25-year-old man was required to do 40 pushups and 47 situps in two minutes and run two miles in 16 minutes, 36 seconds. A woman the same age had to do 16 pushups, 45 situps and run two miles in 19 minutes, 36 seconds.

Besides adjusting the differences in standards for the sexes, the new system also will make changes based on age for both men and women.

The Army in recent years has opened more jobs to women soldiers. The combat arms—infantry, artillery and armor—remain the exclusive preserve of men.

## The standard

PUSHUPS AGEGROUP	M MIN	M MAX	F MIN	F MAX
17-21	42	71	19	42
22-26	40	75	17	46
27-31	39	77	17	50
32-36	36	75	15	45
37-41	34	73	13	40
42-46	30	66	12	37
47-51	25	59	10	34
52-56	20	56	9	31
57-61	18	53	8	29
62+	16	50	7	25

SITUPS AGEGROUP	M/F MIN	M/F MAX
17-21	53	78
22-26	50	80
27-31	45	82
32-36	42	76
37-41	38	76
42-46	32	72
47-51	30	66
52-56	28	66
57-61	27	64
62+	26	63

2-MILERUN AGEGROUP	M MIN	M MAX	F MIN	F MAX
17-21	15:54	13:00	18:54	15:36
22-26	16:36	13:00	19:36	15:36
27-31	17:00	13:18	20:30	15:48
32-36	17:42	13:18	21:42	15:54
37-41	18:18	13:36	22:42	17:00
42-46	18:42	14:06	23:42	17:24
47-51	19:30	14:24	24:00	17:36
52-56	19:48	14:42	24:24	19:00
57-61	19:54	15:18	24:28	19:42
62+	20:00	15:42	25:00	20:00

## Louisiana team to compete in NGB Marathon

By Gary M. Blanchard

The National Guard Bureau will sponsor the fifteenth annual NGB Marathon on May 3 in Lincoln, Neb. The Louisiana team will consist of a maximum of three males and one female.

Selections for the team will include both Army and Air Guard soldiers. Applications for the Louisiana National Guard Marathon Team will be distributed down to unit level through normal distribution and E-mail. Please contact your unit or the marathon coordi-

nator if an application is not available.

To qualify for the team each soldier must submit verification of a certified marathon (26 miles and 385 yards) completed within 18 months prior to May.

The soldier must also have approval from their command to participate in the competition. The maximum time requirements are as follows:

- 4:00:00 — Males under 40**
- 4:15:00 — Males 40 and up**
- 4:30:00 — Females**

Soldiers age 40 and over also

must have their over-40-year physical screening prior to participating in the NGB Marathon. If there are more qualified applicants than available slots, then the top qualifying times will be used to select team members.

A formula is used to equate each category equally by dividing the soldiers' qualifying time into their allowable time. The remaining qualified applicants will be listed as alternates in the event that someone must withdraw.

Each member selected will receive a marathon uniform to include a workup (jacket and trousers), running

shorts, singlet, and T-shirt. Each runner must provide his own running shoes.

Training for this event is imperative to insure a qualifying time. Please contact Chief Warrant Office Gary M. Blanchard, the Louisiana National Guard marathon coordinator, during work hours at (504)278-8570, or after work hours at (504)271-2943 for a training schedule if one is desired.

Three-month to eight-month training schedules are available. No additional training time will be allotted during work hours for soldiers working in an AGR or technician status.



Photo by Glen Tortorich

*The former adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr. (Ret.), poses with his wife Jane and 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Commander, Lt. Col. John Hennigan. Stroud received a special musical tribute called a Tattoo while attending the U.S. Field Artillery Conference at Ft. Sill, Okla. on Feb. 11, 1998. During the ceremony, Ft. Sill's Army Band played various musical selections while a narrator read Stroud's biography. Stroud is the first non-artillery officer and the first National Guard officer ever selected for the prestigious honor. The two main reasons for this selection were the "Stroud Study" which launched the AGR program in 1977, and the fact that he volunteered Louisiana to be the first state to participate in an experiment placing active duty officers in command of National Guard battalions. As a result, Hennigan was named commander of the 141st Field Artillery.*

# El Nino puts guardsmen to work

By Maria L. LoVasco  
State PAO

Guardsmen responded to state active duty calls across the state this winter as El Nino made its effects known in Louisiana.

Back in November, a tornado ripped through Covington, ruining Thanksgiving for many families.

Engineers from the 205th Engineer Battalion and airmen from the 236th Combat Communications Squadron worked during the period of Nov. 21 through Dec. 23, 1997 to provide security and temporary storage for courthouse records, debris clean-up and removal, generator power, mobile lighting and storage shelter.

In all, over 814 truck loads or 4,944 cubic yards of debris were hauled. The 205th deployed 37 personnel and the 236th deployed 39.

In January 1998, the Guard was called on to provide relief in the wake of flooding in the cities of Leesville, Abita Springs, Oberlin, DeRidder and Opelousas.

Again the 205th responded when

Company A provided two two-and-a-half ton trucks to assist in evacuation efforts.

Additionally 53,500 sandbags were provided to Vernon, St. Tammany, Allen, Beauregard and St. Landry Parishes.

The mission endured from Jan. 7-16.

Northern Louisiana experienced damage to water systems, sewer treatment facilities and utility services as a result of severe thunderstorms in February.

Fourteen personnel from the 2225th Panel Bridge Company and HHC and Company B of the 528th Engineer Battalion deployed with six generators to cities throughout North Central Louisiana during the period Feb. 11-20.

They provided power to water treatment systems in Eros, Homer, Minden, Union Grove and Farmerville.

Five personnel, eight generators and two water trailers from the 1083rd Transportation Company and 3671st Maintenance Company were dis-



A home is laid bare when a tornado tore through the community of Covington in November 1997.

patched to Coushatta, Pleasant Hill and Rambin during the period Feb. 12-18.

The 1st Battalion, 156th Armor deployed 27 personnel, eight generators, and two water trailers during the

period Feb. 12-18 to the cities of Mansfield, Union Springs, Coushatta and Benson.

## Air Guard chief of staff promoted to general



Photo by Gregory Ware

Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, left and Mrs. Barbara Trosclair, right, replace colonel rank with brigadier general rank on Harry Trosclair's shoulders. Trosclair, who works as the Louisiana Air National Guard chief of staff was promoted in March.

## Kids AT coming in June

The Louisiana National Guard will be offering a unique opportunity for our Guard children (ages 9-12) to attend a quality summer camp. Kid's AT (annual training) will be conducted four days (June 25-28) at Camp Beauregard. Our purpose is to foster a sense of well-being while forming friendships with fellow National Guard youths of different ages, communities, and backgrounds; to understand the role of the Guard in state and federal missions; and to better understand why their parents serve in the National Guard.

Kid's AT will be staffed by volunteers and operated through donations. A maximum of 120 children will be al-

lowed to participate in 1998. All dependent children of active National Guard members are eligible to apply. A registration fee will be assessed for each child to cover food, T-shirts, insurance and other expenses. Applications will be distributed through each unit.

The overriding objective of the Louisiana National Guard's Kid AT is to provide a positive experience for our guard youths in a safe and caring environment. The program demonstrates our family program policy that we care about the "quality of life" for our citizen-soldier and our families. This endeavor epitomizes that we are "One Guard, One Family."

By Maria L. LoVasco  
State PAO

Harry A. Trosclair, chief of staff, Air National Guard, sports the newest star in the Louisiana National Guard.

Trosclair was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on March 9, 1998 in a ceremony at Jackson Barracks attended by well wishers from both the Air and Army National Guard.

Trosclair first joined the Air Guard in 1958.

He has worked as a communications maintenance officer; an assistant chief, installation branch; a chief, communications electrical installation branch and a deputy commander for the Louisiana Air National Guard.

Until 1997 he worked full-time as the Executive staff support officer.

Among his awards and decora-

tions are the Air Force Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with seven devices, the Louisiana Distinguished Service Medal, the Louisiana Legion of Merit, the Louisiana Commendation Medal, and the Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon.

He has attended the Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College and the National Security Management Course.

Trosclair is married to the former Barbara Koehl. They have two children and two grandchildren.

## Family Program workshops to be held

■The State Family Program Advisory Council welcomes Iris Johnson as the chairwoman for a one-day workshop to be conducted in Alexandria on May 16. Two representatives from each unit throughout the state are invited to attend. The workshop is designed to present training on the Basic Unit Family Program, Family Support Group Administration and ideas for other successful programs. The workshop will also consist of an hour-long "brainstorming session" to surface issues, concerns and needs relating to family programs throughout the state. Ask your units for registration forms and for more information.

■The Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans has been selected as the host city for the 1998 National Guard Bureau Family Program Workshop August 10-14. Each year, family program coordinators and volunteers from all 54 states and territories meet in a major city to hold a four-day workshop to train, network and discuss topics concerning National Guard families. The theme for this year's workshop is "Mission First, Families Always." Anyone interested in volunteering please contact the Office of Family Services at 1-800-541-5860.

*It is with profound regret that we announce the untimely deaths of fellow Louisiana National Guardsmen.*

**Spc. Raymond Claude Pettit, Jr., 23, died Nov. 20, 1997.**

Pettit enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard on August 30, 1993 and was assigned to Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Brigade, Jeanerette, La.

His military awards include the Army Service Ribbon, Marksman Pistol Qualification Badge, Sharpshooter M-16A1 Rifle Qualification Badge, and the Expert Hand Grenade Qualification Badge.

**Pvt. Clint Michael Usie, 19, died July 23, 1997.**

Usie enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard on May 28, 1996 and was assigned to the 39th Military Police Company, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La.

During his service with the National Guard he was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, the Marksman M-16 Qualification Badge, the Marksman 9MM Qualification Badge, and the Expert Hand Grenade Badge.

**Spc. Marcus Terrell Davis, 23, died Oct. 4, 1997.**

Davis enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard on August 9, 1995 and was assigned to Company B, 527th Engineer Battalion, Ruston, La.

Davis' awards include the Sea Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Battle "E" Ribbon, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

**Spc. Earl Vinson, Jr., 20, died Jan. 5, 1998.**

Vinson enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard on March 29, 1994, and was assigned to Headquarters Service Company, 527th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), Ruston, La.

His military awards include the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Expert M-16 Rifle Qualification Badge, and the Expert Hand Grenade Qualification Badge.

## Horton offers Protestant service at Jackson Bks.

Earl Horton, Sr. has one job with the Louisiana National Guard that is an act of faith -- he's giving the Protestant church services during drill weekends at Jackson Barracks.

Horton, a staff sergeant and supply sergeant with the 61st Troop Command, has been ordained a Baptist minister. And now he's leading the Protestant church services at Jackson Barracks during drill weekends.

A veteran of over 11 years of service, Horton was in the regular U.S. Army from 1983 to 1986. Since then, he's been with the Louisiana National Guard. From 1986 until 1990 he served with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 141st Field Artillery and from 1990 until present he's been with the 61st Troop Command.

During a recent service, Horton got the congregation up, standing and singing a variety of hymns that had the small chapel rocking.

Horton has been licensed by the Asia Baptist Church, New Orleans, pastored by the Rev. Zebedee Bridges. The sergeant is an associate pastor and Sunday School teacher at the church.

This year, he is attending the Union Baptist Theological Seminary College where he is working for a Bachelor's Degree in Theology.

Horton said he was assigned the task of giving the Protestant services by the chaplain at Jackson Barracks.

"I just ask for everyone's prayers and support as we continue this ministry," Horton said.

Horton is married to Ashlie Horton and couple has two sons, Earl Jr. and Blake Horton.

## National POW / MIA Recognition Ceremony



*CW4 (Ret.) William P. Schulz, Staff Sgt. Catherine Winkler and Rev. Lawrence DeMaria participated in a National POW / MIA Recognition Ceremony at the VA Center in New Orleans last fall. Winkler sang the National Anthem and Schulz gave the benediction. POW / MIA Recognition Day honors all Americans who are former prisoners of war, or are still unaccounted for.*