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Louisiana Scouts & Soldiers Make A Clean Sweep

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In Memorium

It is with profound regret that announcement is made of the untimely deaths of six members of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

SGT Emile I. Armstrong

Sgt. Emile Isiah Armstrong, 36, died September 8, 1992.

Armstrong enlisted in the Louisiana Guard August 16, 1985. He served with the 812th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) as an aircraft electrician.

His awards include the Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Lapel Button.

Armstrong is survived by his wife Debbie G., son Emile I. Armstrong, IV, daughter Alicia A., and stepson Derick G. Martin.

SPC David C. Perkins

Spec. David Christopher Perkins, 19, died October 8, 1992.

Perkins enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard April 11, 1990. He was originally assigned to Charlie Company, 527th Engineer Battalion in West Monroe, La. He later transferred to Charlie Company, 4156th Infantry in Minden, La., where he served until his death. He attended Infantry Advanced Individual Training from June 4, 1991, through July 20, 1991.

Perkins' awards include the Army Service Ribbon, Sharpshooter Badge for M16A1 Rifle and the Sharpshooter Badge for Handgrenade.

He is survived by his mother Belvia C. Huckabee and his father Edgar Perkins, Jr.

PFC Eddie J. Updite

Pvt. 1st Class Eddie Jermon Updite, 17, died August 24, 1992.

Updite enlisted in the Louisiana Guard July 20, 1992. He was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1/156th Armor Battalion.

He held the duty position of ambulance aide driver in the medical platoon.

Updite is survived by his mother Evelyn M. Fields Khelama, father Eddie J. Updite, Sr., and sister Dawn Solomon.

SFC Joseph R. Richards

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Reno Richards, 44, died August 25, 1992.

Richards enlisted in the Louisiana Guard May 24, 1978. His first unit assignment was with the 39th Military Police Company. May 12, 1985, he transferred to the 3673rd Maintenance Company, where he served until the time of his death. He was mobilized in support of Operation Desert Storm from October 19, 1990 until July 6, 1991, to include a tour in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He served as a construction equipment repairer and a special purpose equipment repairer.

Richards' awards include the Army Service Ribbon, Army Lapel Button, National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Bronze Service Star with number 2, and the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal.

He is survived by his wife Patricia D., son Joseph R. and daughter Amina K. Richards.

PV2 Eliud E. Fernandez

Private 2 Eliud Enrique Fernandez, 20, died September 5, 1992.

Fernandez enlisted in the Louisiana Guard June 5, 1991. He served as a motor transport operator with Alpha Company (-), 527th Engineer Battalion at Camp Beauregard after completing Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training from July 2, 1991 through November 15, 1991, at Fort Leonardwood, Mo.

His awards include the Army Service Ribbon and Marksman Badge M-16A1 Rifle.

Fernandez is survived by his mother Maria D., father Enrique, sister Deborah and brother Terrell Y. Fernandez.

SFC Ross A. Smith

Sgt. 1st Class Ross A. Smith, Sr., 42, died August 25, 1992.

Smith enlisted in the Louisiana Guard April 23, 1978, and was immediately assigned to Det. 1, Charlie Company, 205th Engineer Battalion. He served with the 205th until April 22, 1988, when he transferred to the 2224th Medical Company (Dental Services) where he served until his death. He became a member of the Active Guard and Reserves August 17, 1981. He served as a dental specialist, engineer supervisor and personnel and administration supervisor.

Smith's prior service includes, U.S. Army from January 1969 until December 1972 including a tour in the Republic of Vietnam and the Louisiana Air National Guard from January 1973 until April 1978.

His awards and decorations include: the National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 4, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one device, Louisiana General Excellence Medal, Louisiana Longevity Medal, Louisiana Commendation Medal and the Louisiana Emergency Service Medal.

Smith is survived by his wife Irma D., son Ross A. Smith, Jr., and daughters Terolynn S. and Kezia M. Smith.



Members of the Armed Forces who participated in Operation Desert Storm between January 17, 1991 and February 18, 1991 in the Persian Gulf Area are authorized to wear the Kuwait Liberation Medal. These Medals, which are valued at over \$350, have a center design element of real gold. (State PAO Photo)

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Giving up a Saturday morning of watching cartoons to collect trash is what many Louisiana Boy Scouts did to help clean up the Louisiana Interstate System. For more photos and stories see pages 4 and 5. (Photo by 2LT Kenneth Orgeron, 204th ASG/PAO)

**DRUG USE
IS
LIFE ABUSE**

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

LOUISIANA GUARDSMAN
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Original articles pertaining to Louisiana National Guard units or individuals that would be of interest to the Guard community may be submitted to La. National Guard, Public Affairs Office, (Attn: SGT Moon Graves), Bldg. 32, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330.

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527th Engineers Respond to Tornado in Arcadia



SPC Frank Wells of Headquarters Service Company, 527th Engineer Battalion, clears debris and fallen foliage in Bienville Parish after a tornado wrecked the small town of Arcadia. Wells, accord-

ing to his Commander 1LT Terence Whatley, has proven his worth time and again with his commitment and drive during the cleanup efforts. (Photo by SGT Kristi Moon Graves, 241st PAD)



SSGs Stacy Taylor (on truck) and Jack Dortch of the 527th Engineer Battalion provided roving maintenance for all the clean up sites in Arcadia, Louisiana. It was easier for the mechanics to travel through the tornado stricken area to the broken

equipment than it was to get the equipment to a central location. Taylor is a mechanic at OMS #2 and Dortch is an aircraft mechanic at Bastrop Airport. (Photo by SGT Kristi Moon Graves, 241st PAD)

By SGT Kristi Moon Graves
241st PAD

When a tornado blasted through Bienville Parish about 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, Louisiana Guardsmen didn't wait until they were called to state active duty to respond. Within three hours of touchdown, our generators restored power to city hall and our citizen-soldiers had phone lines ringing.

Members of the 527th Engineer Battalion headquartered in Ruston and former members of 4/156th Infantry Battalion, now assigned to detachments within Headquarters State Area Command (HQ STARC), all volunteered to assist with the cleanup efforts. None of the 39 Guardsmen waited to be activated. They all showed up ready to help, according to Master Sgt. Larry Billberry of the 527th.

"I don't know how Maj. Ronnie Stuckey, found out about it, but he was here about five o'clock," a mere hour and a half after the tornado hit, Mayor Ray Smith of Arcadia said.

"Most of these guardsmen are friends of the community and came out to help even before they were contacted by their unit," Smith added.

So far, Louisiana Guardsmen have cleared impassable streets and removed debris from the sides of roadways. They've cut up large limbs and pulled up stumps and hauled them to a pit/dump site to be burned. They've also been performing roving patrols to deter any hint of looting. According to some locals, Arcadia is the kind of good ol' town where looting isn't a big concern.

The response to the strong Guard presence has been a positive one. At the intersection of Myrtle and Line Streets, Jimmy Jowers said, "I sure am proud of these boys. I know a lot of them and they're doing a great job."

Pvt. 1st Class Jarrett Bowman of the 190th Maintenance Company at Fort Hood, Tex., was visiting Jowers while on leave from his unit. "These guardsmen got here that evening, were back the very next morning and have been here ever since," Bowman said.

Officer Candidate Matthew Bratton said, "The residents have been a tremendous help by pushing the debris, fallen limbs and trees towards the side of the street so we can pick it and take it to the pit site. They bring us coffee and check on us to see if we need anything."

"My vocabulary can't describe how the people of Arcadia feel about and for the Guard," Mayor Smith said.

According to Master Sgt. Larry Billberry of the 527th, the city has put the Guard in charge of the clean up effort.

"Maj. Ronnie Stuckey, also of the 527th, has been the task force commander for the whole parish during Operation Joint Effort," Billberry said.

"There's lots of teamwork here between the city, parish, and us," 1st Lt. Terence Whatley, commander of Headquarters Service Company, 527th, said. "Even the inmates (from Minden) come out here and give it everything they've got," he said.

Whatley, officer-in-charge of clean up at the intersection of Line and S. Line Streets, praised Spec. Frank Wells, also of HSC, 527th. "If there is anyone out here who deserves an A plus, it's Wells. He's done a great job and never complains," Whatley said. Wells has been chain-sawing limbs, operating front-end loaders and driving dump trucks.

"The only regret these guys have is that it gets dark too early and they have to quit working. This is what they want to be doing," Whatley said.

Sgt. 1st Class George Shelton, of HQ STARC, said, "The mayor has been the real key. Anything we need, all we have to do is say the word."

Cochran's Nursery of Arcadia was contracted to assist with home-clearing. Shane Cochran and his father Don have never worked with the Guard before. "If it wasn't for the Guard, it (Arcadia) wouldn't be this cleaned up," Shane said. "They've been a lot of help."

Guardsmen like Staff Sgts. Stacy Taylor, a mechanic at Organizational Maintenance Shop #2, and Jack Dortch, an aircraft mechanic at Bastrop Airport, have been performing roving maintenance on all Guard equipment being used in the effort. It's easier for them to get to the equipment than it is to maneuver the equipment through the debris-filled roadways.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Ray Hutson, property book officer for the 527th, the state's experience with Hurricane Andrew prepared us to handle this type of state emergency—logistics and supply have been no problem.

"In a word, the Guard has been Superb," Mayor Smith said.

ROCK and the National Guard Join Hands to work with Inner City Youths

By CW3 Louis L. Joseph
205th ENGR BN

The New Orleans Housing Authority in conjunction with the Louisiana National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program hosted approximately 100 black males at Camp Villere in Slidell August 21 and 22. The youngsters were assembled from various housing projects in New Orleans. The purpose of the gathering was to bring the youths together whose ages ranged from 10-18 for a week-end of games, lectures, getting to know each other and to receive instructions on the dangers of drugs, as well as implementing sound Christian principals. The youngsters were also taught how to associate, cooperate, communicate, help and love one another.

The program called ROCK, which stands for Reclaiming Our Christian Kindheartedness, got its

start with Reverend Willie Gable, pastor of the Progressive Baptist Church in New Orleans. He issued a call and a challenge for 500 black men to come forward and work with 1500 inner city boys. His goal was to pull the youngsters out of their urban environment and match them with black male role models who could mentor and help them achieve positive experiences and manhood. The idea is to give them access to black men who could guide and teach them in the areas of career choices, community responsibility, positive attitudes toward black women, avoidance of drugs and other harmful substances, proper peer relationships, responsibility to families and positive concept of God. Reverend Gable hopes to accomplish these tasks in three phases: the first outing was held at the Army

Reserve Center in New Orleans; the second at Camp Villere and the third to be held Camp Beauregard in Pineville.

The National Guard got involved through its Drug Demand Reduction Program, part of the Counter Drug Program directed by Lt. Col. James McCall. The guard was responsible for securing the facilities at Camp Villere and for teaching numerous classes for the group. But the Guard goes beyond interdiction. In many communities, the Guard is actively involved with schools and youth in demand reduction programs. The Guard teaches responsibility, accountability and offers basic values to emulate while developing young citizens through leadership. The Louisiana National Guard adds value to our communities, our home towns.



Louisiana ESGR Chairman Ned Dieffenthal, right, presents the Order of Saint Andrew (Knight Commander) award to Executive Director COL John Landry at the annual meeting held at Jackson Barracks. (Photo by Bernard Baisier, LA ESGR)

Boy Scouts and Guardsmen Join Forces

Interstate 610 and 10 — New Orleans

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

Driving down the interstate and what before my eyes appear, tons of troops and Boy Scouts standing ear to ear. Flanking shoulders and medians never ever to cross the lines. Picking up the trash of others that would have warranted fines.

Twenty three-hundred Boy Scouts and over 1,000 National Guard volunteers collected over 6,500 bags of trash from highways throughout Louisiana as Operation Clean Sweep came to a squeaky clean end on the afternoon of Nov. 7.

Scouts and Guardsmen were divided into groups which covered approximately three miles of highway each. Den leaders and Cub Masters also joined in the cause and assisted the guard in the supervision of the scouts.

The volunteers removed numerous types of eyesores that littered the highways of the state including tires, wood and cardboard boxes in addition to the standard paper items. The groups also had separate receptacles for recyclables which consisted

mostly of aluminum cans.

The guardmembers involved also hauled the scouts and picked up the neatly stacked bags which dotted the highway. Throughout the operation the units maintained radio contact with each other to update progress and to communicate in the event of an emergency.

The six-hour operation drained a lot of energy and probably beckoned a couple of charlie horses later in the evening, but it also strengthened the bond between guardsmen and scouts giving both a special sense of pride within and between the two organizations.

Shelia and Christopher Schiff, a mother and son team from Pack 53 in New Orleans East joined the Guardsmen from the 209th Personnel Services Company from Jackson Barracks in policing an area between the Causeway Blvd. and Williams Blvd. exits.

Shelia Schiff said that the scouts associate with the Guard well, with both having uniforms and rank structures. "The scouts feel like they are part of the team," she added.

"Right now I'm trying to earn my Webelos badge which is the final rank as a Cub Scout," Christopher Schiff said. "Then I become a Boy Scout."



SGT Percy Joseph of the 209th Personnel Service Company assists Cub Scout Christopher Schiff on Interstate 10 near the Veterans Blvd. exit. Christopher's mother, Sheila, (background), a Den Leader for Pack 53 also helped in Operation Clean Sweep. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)

527th Engineers Set the Example in Lincoln

Interstate 20 - Monroe

By 2LT David Barham
241st PAD

Sinsboro Cub Scout David Cedotal, 8, said he wanted to participate in Operation Clean Sweep "to help the earth."

"(There is) a lot of trash all around the earth and if it gets in the water, it'll kill the fish," he said.

Cedotal was only one of many cub scouts, boy scouts, law enforcement officers and Louisiana National Guardsmen who participated in the state-wide interstate clean-up effort.

The headquarters unit of the 527th Engineer Battalion sponsored several boy scout units, including Cedotal's Pack 58.

"That's what the Guard is supposed to do," said Staff Sgt. Archie Brown of the 527th. "We're here to help our community and help our area."

The two dozen or so scouts rode around in military vehicles and ate military rations during their afternoon clean-up efforts. The 527th soldiers watched carefully as the scouts picked up trash and recyclables on Interstate 20 in Lincoln Parish.

"This is the first time that the National Guard

has done this in Ruston," said Milton Love, a parent of one of the cub scouts. "They're setting an example."

Pack 81 Cub Master Lloyd Bruner said the scouts were learning about helping out and getting involved in the world around them. "We're out here to let the children have a chance to help out their community," he said.

Brown said his major concern was safety for the scouts. He said one Guardsman and two den leaders were assigned to every five scouts - enough to corral the children away from traffic.

Staff Sgt. Joey Hunt gave each of the scouts a t-shirt before the clean-up began. The Guard is supposed to help civilians whenever possible, he said. Hunt cited the Guard's efforts during Hurricane Andrew and the recent tornadoes in Arcadia as examples of the Guard's commitment to the state.

"From Hurricane Andrew to what's been going on in Arcadia, the public is super glad we're out there," Hunt said.



Nine-year-old Will Seale, a Pack 174 Cub Scout, helps SGT Curtis Walton of Bravo Company, 528th Engineer Battalion load a trash bag Saturday, Nov. 7. Operation Clean Sweep brushed across the state in a joint effort between the Boy Scouts and local National Guard units. Seale and Walton were helping along Interstate 20 in north Louisiana (Photo by 2LT David Barham, 241st PAD)

Operation Clean Sweep Facts and Figures:

Boy Scout Participation: 2,300

Guard Participation: 1,300

Garbage Bags Collected: almost 8,000

Total Tonnage: Approximately 68 tons

"We cleaned up about 450 miles of interstate. Although we may not have picked up every speck of trash on every mile of road, we accomplished what we set out to do: provide a presence and high visibility to the problem of litter, and show our communities that the Louisiana National Guard cares."

to Clean Up Louisiana Interstates



Guardsmen like LT Chris Black, foreground, volunteered their time to supervise and assist with the interstate clean up efforts with Boy Scouts from across Louisiana. Together, about 68 tons of trash were collected. (LAARNG Photo)

Scouts Dream of Being Soldiers on I-10 in B.R.

By PV2 Samantha Kuehn
241st PAD

Whether cleaning up the Louisiana interstate roads was done for fun or out of respect for a clean state, the Louisiana National Guard and the Boy Scouts of America covered approximately 450 miles of highways in Operation Clean Sweep.

Saturday, Nov. 7, the nine-mile stretch from the East Baton Rouge Parish line to the Gonzales exit on Interstate 10, was covered by Guardsmen of the 773rd Maintenance Battalion from New Orleans and the scouts from Troops 65 and 769 from Ascension Parish.

The main purpose of the Guardsmen was to keep the scouts safe, said Lt. Col. John W. McInnis, commander of the 773rd.

During the safety briefing given by Maj. William Kegerris, the executive officer of the battalion, the scouts were told to be sure of what they were picking up before actually handling the trash. They were also told to keep the trash separated; paper should go into one bag, recyclables in another.

"The (scouts) love the idea of working with the Guardsmen," said Capt. David G. Delaune,

commander of the 2226th Transportation Company in New Orleans, who is also Cub Master of Pack 330 in Thibodaux.

Before the day was over, most of the scouts had decided that when they grew up they wanted to be soldiers, said Johnel Eliser, Webelos Den Leader of Troop 65.

McInnis said there were 17 Guardsmen from his unit, 23 scouts and five boy scout leaders for this section of the interstate, and they were divided into three groups that covered three miles each. Each group went up one side of the interstate picking up trash, and at the three mile point, crossed over and went back down the other side, McInnis said.

Two Army vehicles followed each group carrying drinks, snacks and trash bags for the scouts. In case of an emergency the Guardsmen were also ready to provide transportation, McInnis said.

For the Guardsmen, this was a way of helping the younger generation, while making the highways a little bit cleaner. For the scouts, this was a way of paying back their community, by making it a cleaner place to grow up.

Interstates 49 and 10—Lafayette

By MSG John A. Sullivan
241st PAD

Parts of Interstates 49 and 10 around Lafayette got a good cleaning Nov. 7 thanks to the combined efforts of the Boy Scouts and the Louisiana Brigade.

Early morning saw the Boy Scouts and volunteers from the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) staging at a Lafayette mall.

It was all part of Operation Clean Sweep — the joining together of military assets such as trucks and materials and the volunteer muscle of the Boy Scouts to clean up the state's interstates.

"Basically, what we're doing out here is supporting the scouts," said Spec. Gary Dykes. Dykes and the other volunteers from his mechanized infantry company were with Boy Scout Troop 405 along a stretch of Interstate 49.

Troop 405 was just one of several Boy Scout and Weeblo troops that hit the roads from the Evangeline Area Council.

"Overall, I don't think any of the guys out here today mind volunteering for something like this," Dykes said.

All of the 60 or so guardsmen taking part in Operation Clean Sweep in Acadiana were volunteers from the Brigade.

The scouts appreciated the military presence with them as they walked along the banks of the highway picking up the litter and trash left by motorists.

"I bet if you used a tank out here, people would get the message not to litter," said a member

of Weeblo Pack 456 from Milton, La.

"The scouts like what they're doing out here because they realize it's helping the environment," said Pack Leader Darlene Babin. "It's a little cool out here this morning, but they are enthusiastic about what they're doing, and that makes it kind of fun for them."

Pack 456 filled up 12 garbage bags before completing the first five miles of their 10-mile trek.

"The kids really like riding on the Army trucks," said Babin. "They thought that was a lot of fun. Plus, they are all looking forward to eating the MREs."

"At least they say they are. I think by the end of the day they'll be some pretty tired scouts."

One of the guardsmen walking with Pack 456 was Sgt. Scott Moss, of 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry (Mechanized). Moss was one of the guardsmen detailed to make sure Operation Clean Sweep was a safe operation as well as a successful operation.

"It's a good thing, these kids are really enthusiastic about what they're doing," Moss said. "They're a good bunch."

Scouts, their leaders and guardsmen all said they hoped the uniform presence of all the forces walking along the side of the highways would help drive home the point to motorists — don't litter.

"It's a pretty good idea," the trooper said. "Lord knows our roads need to be clean. It wouldn't hurt my feelings if this were done again — or even a couple times a year."



Willie Fleenor, from Boy Scout Troop 170 in Hammond, discovers an old liquor bottle on Interstate 55 during Operation Clean Sweep in November. (Photo by SPC Rebekah L. Smith, 241st PAD)

Boy Scouts Marvel Over Items Found on I-55

By SPC Rebekah L. Smith
241st PAD

Boy Scouts from Troop 170 recently discovered that concern for the environment is instilled at an early age. Their participation in Operation Clean Sweep, a coordinated cleanup of Louisiana's interstate highways, gave them a different perspective on pollution.

The troop, sponsored by the local Knights of

Columbus Council 2952 of Holy Ghost Church in Hammond, scanned Interstate 55 north between Hammond and Independence collecting litter and debris. The activity was a part of the statewide effort which involved more than 6,000 Boy Scouts who teamed up with the Louisiana National Guard in an effort to control the state's litter problem.

The boys, ages 11 through 14, were assisted by local Guardsmen from the Headquarters Service

Company Detachment of the 205th Engineer Battalion. The Guardsmen acted as safety guards and provided transportation and meals.

The scouts were surprised at the variety of articles that had been thrown from car windows. "It was good for them to see how much people litter," said Therese Wingo, the troop's committee chairperson. They were amazed at how thoughtless people are," she said.

This project — coordinated by Gov. Edwin Edwards and Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., state adjutant general — was an affirmation of the Boy Scouts' three main goals: citizenship, character and fitness. Through community service, the scouts are able to increase their rank, and reach personal goals. This project, according to Wingo, instilled a sense of pride in the community through "a close-up look at pollution" that will not easily be forgotten.

Operation Eagle's Nest Unites Businesses, Military and Civilians in Miss. and La.

BY CPT Maria L. LoVasco
State PAO

Gulfport, Miss.—A continuation of the Southern Bald Eagle restoration project took place in October along the Mississippi coast after an eight month collaboration between Louisiana and Mississippi government and private industries.

Under the eager watch of dozens of media representatives, industry and government officials and military and civilian volunteers, two Chinook helicopters of the Mississippi Army National Guard's Golf Company based at the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Aviation Support Facility in Meridian, airlifted six artificial eagle nesting towers to pre-determined locations along the gulf coast.

This event marked the completion of Operation Eagle Nest, a project which began in March of this year. The hope now is that these man-made structures, constructed of telephone and power poles, will attract mature eagles returning to the area to nest for the first season since their release from Horn Island, Miss., and Dupont Pigment Plant property in DeLisle.

The bald eagle population was nearly decimated in this area 40 years ago by the use of DDT and other insecticides. Since then, volunteers from all walks of life have worked to restore this endangered southern sub-species.

The Louisiana Air National Guard first became involved in 1987 when Lt. Col. Dennis Hugg of the 159th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron assisted the Gulf Islands National Seashore, U.S. National Park Service, in locating and

positioning an abandoned steel radar tower on Horn Island to use in raising young eaglets for release. Since then Hugg's interest has continued, and eventually the 159th Fighter Group adopted the eagle restoration project as its community volunteer project.

Operation Eagle Nest began eight months ago with a promise by the Mississippi Power Company to donate the needed poles and hardware to construct six artificial eagle nesting towers. Of the nearly 60 eaglets hand-raised and released almost five years ago, it is hoped that about 30 birds will return to within 50 miles of the location where they were released into the wild. There are not enough large trees remaining for proper nest sites in the region.

These towers, which weigh 7,000 pounds and stand 40 feet tall, were designed by engineers of the 159th Civil Engineering Squadron, Louisiana Air National Guard and of the Mississippi Power Company. They were built by volunteers from the 159th Fighter Group, Chevron, Dupont, General Electric Plastics, Mississippi Power Company, Gulf Coast Electrical Association and the Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources. The tower was designed to appeal to the bald eagle's instinct to select a nesting tree with a substantial fork below the crown. There is a risk that if this selective mechanism is strong the artificial nest tree will be bypassed.

According to Dr. Robert J. Esher, project director and supervising scientist from the Mississippi State University Research Center's DeLisle Environmental Laboratory, the chances are good

that eagles will be attracted. "These are young, inexperienced birds, and they are basically lazy," he said. "We expect them to be attracted to these structures."

This risk doesn't bother Hugg either. "What we have here is a win, place, show situation," he explained. "If we attract eagles that's great. We've accomplished what we set out to do and that's a win. Place - we get the osprey. Show - we get the great horned owl, and we're sure to get those. All of them are magnificent birds to protect."

The towers were set down in remote locations inaccessible to human interference. If a mated pair does take up residence they could add up to an additional 2,000 pounds in woody material and remain for the next thirty years.

"Once an eagle takes up residence the land on which it is nesting becomes federal property subject to the strict regulations and policies which protect the habitat of an endangered species," Hugg said.

There will be much interest in the next few weeks to see if the nesting towers prove to be irresistible. In the meanwhile, Hugg and the airmen who labored to build the towers are looking forward to the pay off.

"This was the first chance we've ever had to do something for the environment," said Master Sgt. Thomas Jennings, operations and maintenance supervisor for the 159th CES. "It felt good to pool our talents with other people who felt as we did. And as the construction progressed, the project took on even more meaning."



A Chinook CH-47 Helicopter of the MS Army National Guard airlifts an artificial eagle nesting tower to a location along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The towers were put into place to attract the endangered Southern Bald Eagle. (Photo by CPT Maria LoVasco, State PAO)

Operation Igniting Dreams Sparks a N.O. Community

By SGT Kristi Moon Graves
241st PAD

Over the past five years Louisiana Guardsmen have been activated for over 20 state emergencies, like hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and prison riots. Recently, Guardsmen reacted to a different kind of emergency, that of blighted and abandoned crack houses.

In the 9th Ward, the community surrounding Jackson Barracks, people don't have much hope in restoring property and houses that have long been abandoned by their owners and taken over by drug lords. It's probably a good thing, too, because Guardsmen went into the 9th Ward in November and "cleaned house", as part of Operation Igniting Dreams.

About 40 engineer guardsmen, all members of the 205th Engineer Battalion, along with front end loaders, bull dozers, dump trucks and chain saws demolished five abandoned structures and discarded the remains. The New Orleans Police Department had determined that all five structures: three houses, a grocery store and an old lumber company, were being used for illegal drug transactions. The Department of Health Environmental Enforcement labeled the structures as "imminent danger". Then the Office of Housing and Urban Affairs legally cleared the buildings for removal by demolition. Other organizations involved were the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, the Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Council, Holy Cross High School, Lawless High School, ROCK (Reclaiming Our Christian Kindheartedness), and Work Train-

ing Facility South.

According to Capt. Mike Toney, officer-in-charge of the demolition sites, the engineers had to be very careful with adjacent structures. To avoid debris falling on surrounding buildings, the skilled engineers wrapped cables around the buildings and pulled the cable with a bull dozer, squeezing the building and forcing it straight to the ground. Quite a site for neighborhood residents.

Ethel Griffin, who has lived in the 9th Ward most of her life, said, "I have a vision. A vision that this blighted area will be cleaned up." Louisiana Guardsmen are making her vision a reality.

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., said, "Although we may be a military entity isolated from the day-to-day business of the community, we are still a part of District 99. We are undertaking this operation in conjunction with the District 99 Enhancement Corporation as part of an ongoing community project." Stroud hopes to continue this clean-up effort on a quarterly basis, as long as the people of the community continue to help themselves. The only foreseen restriction is the lack of funds for this type of operation.

"If there's a way to put our guardsmen on active duty, we can take down 1,000, even 5,000 houses. Just give us the resources, we've got the man power," Stroud said.

"This is a fantastic example of what can happen when government agencies and the people of the community work together," District 99 State Representative Sherman Copelin said.

Stroud hopes projects like this send the message to people that we do care and that we will help.



Members of the 205th Engineer Battalion wrapped cable around this abandoned grocery store-turned crack house and pulled the cable with a bull dozer. The menace came toppling down. (Photo by SGT Kristi Moon Graves, 241st PAD)

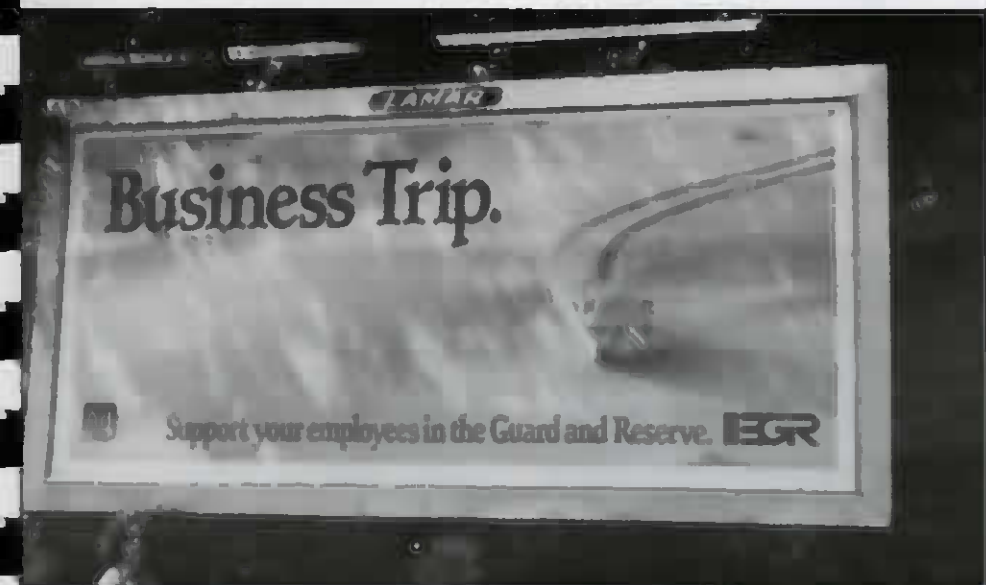
"It is an advantage to be a member of an organization with great tradition, and it is a responsibility to uphold that tradition."

—George Halas,
Chicago Bears owner

ESGR In The News



Four members of the Northwest ESGR committee received the Seven Seals Award, so named because it contains the seals of all seven armed forces. L to R: Charles Fellers, FORUM Magazine editor; Fourth District Congressman Jim McCrery; Mike Sullivan, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office; Curtis Warren, Caddo Parish Clerk of Court.



Thanks to our Louisiana Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), some 91 billboards have been erected in Louisiana by the Lamar Advertising Company. After discussions with ESGR Public Affairs Director Madro Bandaries, the Baton Rouge based company committed almost 600 billboards in the 13 states that it operates in. Department of Defense officials referred to the commitment as "the single largest billboard gift in their history." Both Bandaries and Lamar Director of Communications Suzanne Landry were honored by being the cover story for the August issue of the ESGRAM, the national magazine for DoD reserve affairs.



National Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Director of Operations Scott Simonton, right, presents the ESGR Medal to Louisiana Committee Members Madro Bandaries, left and Mary Ann Touchard, center. (Photo by Bernard Baisier, LA ESGR)

Two Hammond businesses were presented awards from the Assistant Secretary for Defense Office in Washington, D.C. Tech. Sgt. Bobby Burches nominated Mr. James Waits, warehouse manager for Winn Dixie Stores and Sr. Amn. Matt Greer nominated Mr. Frank Spalitta of S & W Wholesale Meats and Provisions for the prestigious award.

Burches and Greer are both members of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron located at the Hammond Airport. Without the support of their employers they would be unable to participate in the Guard program.

Sr. Master Sgt. Paul Lambert, an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) committee member, made the presentations on behalf of the Department of Defense. More than 1.4 million

men and women serve in the Guard and Reserve and employer support is vital to the mission of the reserve components. Guardsmen and Reservists would be unable to meet the readiness requirements imposed by high technology equipment and missions. More than 40 percent of the nation's total force is Guard and Reserve. Positive employer attitudes and personnel policies are crucial to the Guardsmen or Reservists making a decision to continue military service. With the down sizing of the military since Desert Storm, the Guard and Reserve will be called upon to play a larger role in the security of our nation.

The 236th Combat Communications Squadron and the Louisiana Air National Guard thank employers like Winn Dixie and S & W Wholesale Meats and Provisions for their support.

The following letter was written to Mr. John Darling, the chancellor of LSU-Shreveport in response to a letter he mailed to every Louisiana Guardsmen attending the university and taking advantage of the State Tuition Exemption Program. Darling challenged Guardsmen's ability to take future advantage of the benefit due to the university's budget constraints.

October 14, 1992

To: John Darling

One University Place

Shreveport, LA 71115-2399

Dear John:

I recently received the letter you sent out to the students who are members in the National Guard. There are several points in the letter I would like to make comments about.

Reading about the frustration you feel having to "upset a large and valuable part of our student population" caused me great distress. I have never been witness to a more artificial concern in my life. I hope you do not feel that the recipients of your letter would believe such a ruse.

Your statement that "lawmakers occasionally require actions but fail to provide funding for those actions" shows that your grasp of the situation is founded in complete ignorance. Mr. Darling, Louisiana State University in Shreveport is a state funded institution. When the lawmakers provided tuition exemption for members in the National Guard they basically told the state institutions to absorb the cost of tuition from the funding you already receive.

Your analogy between personal budgets and the University budget was extremely enlightening. As a full-time student, I am well aware of the need to make sure my bills do not exceed my income. That is the reason why I joined the National Guard. I was promised tuition exemption as long as I maintained an acceptable level of performance at LSUS and in the National Guard. I continue to keep up my end of the bargain and I intend to see to it that Louisiana keeps up it's end of the bargain.

I would like to point out another error in the letter you sent. The last paragraph begins by stating, "The issue of unfunded fee waivers is currently being debated statewide." Every semester that I have enrolled at LSUS I have paid all applicable fees. It is tuition that the National Guard is exempt from. Also, I pay for every text book that I am required to use during the course of class work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address a statement I was told you made. It is my understanding that you feel the tuition exemption we receive is a "gift." This is quite puzzling. Could you please define gift for me? After your definition I would also like a statement on how my tuition exemption for service in the National Guard is different from your "gift" of a paycheck for service to LSUS. Are they not both promised compensations for service provided?

On the outside of the envelope your letter came in it states, "LSU in Shreveport: Where Quality Counts." As William Scherkenback stated, "Quality is defined by customers." As a student of LSUS I am also one of it's customers. If quality truly counts at LSUS how can you justify treating a segment of the student population with such malice? Those of us who receive tuition exemption can not believe that you can rationalize making us register last. Why do you feel that we deserve punishing? I refuse to believe that this measure will save LSUS one cent.

Mr. Darling, will you please respond to my questions? To do my part in helping relieve the budget burden, I am enclosing a self addressed, STAMPED envelope.

Thank you,

Terry A. Lawhead
Student

(SGT Lawhead is a member of 41156th Inf in Bossier City.)

Louisiana National Guard Family Assistance Program

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



Family News In Brief

Your News Here

The Family News In Brief is dedicated to the families of our Guardsmen. With this in mind, we want to hear from you about family issues and ideas that are occurring in your individual units. We would like to hear about your Family /Support Groups. Most of all we want to hear from you on how well you are doing. I would like to encourage all family members to submit stories to our paper. You do not have to be an English major or a newspaperjournalist. We are looking for real people with real stories to share with our family members. If you would like to submit a story or just a comment, please forward them to:

LANG-DPA-FS
ATTN: CPT Fink
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70146-0330

If we use your story or letter you will get full credit in the by-line.

WANTED

Are you tired of sitting home? Tired of looking at the same walls all day long? Longing for adventure and a real sense of accomplishment? Well whether you are, or not, we at the Family Services Office are looking for help. The Family Services Office at Jackson Barracks is responsible for all family oriented programs around the state. This is a big job, but unfortunately we are under manned to do it as well as we would like. We are looking to staff our office with some volunteers who would not mind giving a couple of hours every week to help us help our soldiers and family members. No experience necessary. All you need is the desire to help others, we will teach you the rest. The work is not glamorous, but the feeling you get from helping others, makes it worth the effort. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents to this worthy cause call CPT Fink at (504) 278-6325 or 1-800-541-5860 for further information.

Conference Provides Wealth of Info

The family members who attended this year's Leader's Conference in Alexandria, La., picked up on a lot of information about

the state's Family Program. CPT Fink of the state's Family Services Office hosted a workshop for family members. At the workshop family members shared information about their Family Support Groups and other areas of interest. Fink was joined by Mrs. Jan Washispack from the Louisiana Military Academy Family Support Group at Camp Beauregard. Washispack, a virtual pro at putting together and working with Family Support Groups, discussed ways to start and improve unit Family Support Groups. Washispack was followed by representatives from the Red Cross and the Veterans Administration who discussed the benefits available to the families of soldiers activated for Operations Desert Shield/Storm. After the formal function, the whole group was treated to lunch and door prizes.

Military EZZZZZZZZZZ

This is a new column which will appear in every issue of Family News In Brief. We hope to help you understand military acronyms and terms. If there is a particular acronym or term you would like to see explained, just drop a note to the Family Services Office.

LANG-DPA-FS

This is what we in the military refer to as an office symbol. All military offices use an abbreviated code such as this one to help direct mail without having to write out long office names. This office symbol stands for Louisiana National Guard - Directorate of Personnel and Administration - Family Services Office.

M-Day

Stands for Mobilization Day. Commonly used to describe the typical Guardsman who works only one weekend per month and two weeks during the summer.

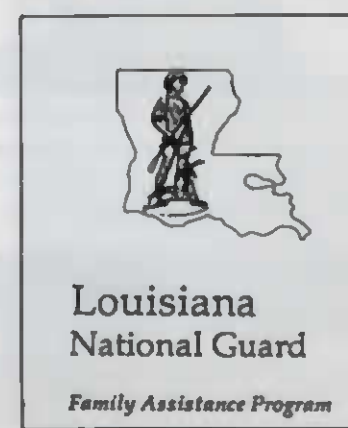
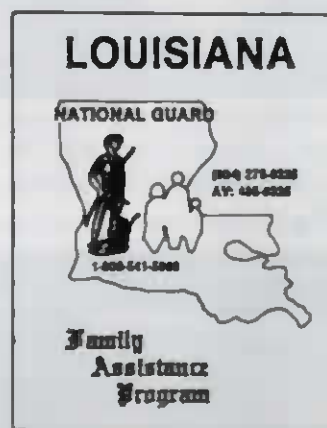
AGR

Stands for Active Guard or Reserve. Describes a Guardsman or Reservist who works full time for the military, and receives the same benefits and entitlements as active Army soldiers.

Technician

Refers to a Guardsman who is employed full time by the government as a civil service employee but is working in a position that directly supports the National Guard. Although technicians are civil service employees, some, like in Louisiana, are required to wear their uniforms to work.

Out With The Old, In With The New



You may not know anything about the Family Services Office or even know anything about what we do, but if you have been in the Louisiana National Guard for the last year or so, you probably know our folders! That's right, our folders. Our Family Assistance Folders are probably one of the most recognized handouts ever distributed to our Guardsmen and their families. You can probably place your hands on yours right now. But like many things, they are changing. On the left is the old design which was printed in gold on black on a glossy black folder. The new folders are glossy white with a green Louisiana and green writing. We decided to go with a new look to convey a

fresh and revitalized image of our State Family Program.

Many of you have said that it has been hard to maintain the interest in your programs since our soldiers have returned from the Persian Gulf. Well we understand what you are going through and this year we will initiate some new programs which might help to excite your family members again. We traditionally used these folders to enclose vital information about benefits and entitlements during Family Days and Mobilization briefings. For the most part they will be used the same way only with new and up-to-date information.

Family Programs Improved

Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP): Congress approved \$133 million, \$84 million over the FY 1992 level, for HAP. This program helps people reduce losses sometimes associated with selling homes near military installations scheduled to close. HAP will also be extended to military and civilian employees at Homestead Air Force Base, who are victims of Hurricane Andrew. Congress authorized a number of programs affecting military families, their children, their housing and their survivors:

Dependents: Full-time college students who become physically or mentally incapacitated prior to age 23, and who are dependent on the service member, will be entitled to CHAMPUS coverage to age 65.

Foster Care: The bill authorizes funds for foster care services overseas to provide an alterna-

tive living arrangement for abused children. The current limitation on the military services—which does not allow payment for military dependents' foster care services—creates problems for military families because state and local government facilities are not available overseas.

Families of Deceased Personnel: Congress imposed new standards on the services, requiring them to inform survivors of the nature of available documentary material and to actively help families obtain documents they wish to see. These new standards result from families complaining of poor treatment by the services after loved ones had been killed in Operation Desert Storm. An investigation generated even more complaints from families of members who had died as a result of accidents and other non-combat causes unrelated to Desert Storm.

527th and Operation Pride-BIG SUCCESS

Reprinted from the Ruston Daily Leader
By Melanie Stone Heyen

People, the heart of America, have started pinch-hitting in a variety of ways to help curb Uncle Sam's mounting trouble with paying the bills.

Businesses have gotten involved in education through Adopt-A-School programs. Townspeople are chipping away at crime, drugs and even potholes by adopting streets and neighborhoods.

Where there's a void created by the National Deficit cutting into federal, state and local funds, some sort of grassroots organization has probably evolved to try to pick up the tab.

Such is the mindset of the Family Support Group of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Here, at home in Lincoln Parish, the Guard's 527th Engineer Battalion's Family Support Group has not only served the guardsmen. The Family Support Group of the Guard's Headquarters Company in Ruston has propped up the entire parish and communities within the five outlying units.

The Family Support Group of the Guard's headquarters Company in Ruston has propped up the entire parish and communities within the five outlying units.

Supporters started by conducting food and clothing drives and other community/guard family support functions during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm last year. The efforts branched into the ongoing project of supplying goods to the charitable Christian Community Action agency in Ruston.

Now, the Family Support Group has adopted Ruston Developmental Center, formerly known as Ruston State School, a facility in Lincoln Parish devoted to mentally disabled clients from across the state.

"While the 527th under Lt. Col. Claude Patterson is preparing for mobilization, they're still leading and caring," said Mary Billberry, Battalion Family Support coordinator. Patterson adopted Ruston Developmental Center under the "Leading and Caring" theme, Billberry said.

The outreach of Family Support falls under a national campaign among the country's military-Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Program.

"I remain committed to ensuring that our soldiers have excellent communities. I challenge each of you, as leaders and as individuals, to redouble your efforts to keep the standards high," said Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, U.S. Army Chief of Staff. "Of all the actions we can take to keep our army ready to fight and win, supporting the ACOE program is one of the simplest, least costly, and ultimately the best return on our time and resources."

Because of the Ruston-based battalion's involvement in the ACOE program, especially during the time of the Persian Gulf conflict, it was recognized for "having an outstanding support group in the state" by the Fifth U.S. Army.

Billberry accepted the award in late June at the 5th Army Conference in San Antonio, Tex., at Fort Sam Houston.

Stroud in early May had the highest of praise for the 527th's Family Support Group when the Louisiana National Guard won first place in the 1992 ACOE national competition. "You demonstrated that our ACOE program improves the quality of life for our soldiers, their families and the communities where we live and work," Stroud wrote Billberry.

Then, in late May, Billberry and Kathy Letendre, Headquarters Support Company coordinator, and family members put their heads together with staff of Ruston Developmental Center to concoct an activity that would change the lives of 10 RDC clients.

The concoction: "Operation Pride." This excursion on June 5 took 10 young men, ages 18-23, from RDC and four RDC staff members to see the 527th at work during the annual two-week summer training camp.

"Lt. Col. Patterson and Maj. Ronnie Stuckey, executive officer, of the 527th allowed any of the families, employers and special friends of the soldiers to visit their job sites," Billberry said.

The young men from Ruston Developmental were allowed to train with soldiers in a "boot camp" setting. They mounted the heavy equipment

and practiced using firearms under the guidance of the military experts.

"All we heard from the young men and family members was 'When are we going to do this again,'" Billberry said. "This was such a new experience for them."

"They can only go to the movies or skating just so many times."

She and Letendre reported that the camp site tour included "all types of machinery that only an Engineer Group could operate." But "soldiers took

"All we heard from the young men and family members was 'When are we going to do this again,'" Billberry said. "This was such a new experience for them."

a very special interest in our visitors and family members and had shooting practice with an extreme amount of expertise and caution. Our friends from RDC are still talking about the excitement and fun."

Then, they all travelled to Camp Beauregard and toured the helicopters and other training facilities.



SFC Ernie Bruce (left) shares one of his battalion's helmets and one of his hands with his new buddy-in-training at summer camp. Clients from Ruston Developmental Center went with the Ruston-based family support group for "boot camp" during "Operation Pride." (Photo courtesy of Mary Billberry)

MAC Flight Fares Increase for First Time

The cost of travelling on a space-available basis on military aircraft overseas will increase from \$10 to \$15 October 1, according to Air Mobility Command officials.

The fare hike is the first since the \$10 fee went into effect in 1979.

The space-available fee is intended to offset costs associated with processing and moving space-available travel.

TROA Improves Assistance

To further assist sons and daughters of members of the uniformed services in obtaining a college degree, The Retired Officers Association (TROA) has increased its Educational Assistance Program to provide \$2,000 annual, no-interest loans. The loans, increased by \$500 over the last two years, are awarded for up to five years of undergraduate study to unmarried undergraduate students, under the age of 24, who are dependent children of active, reserve, and retired service personnel and their widows (ers).

This current school year, 700 students were awarded loans, totaling over one million dollars. From this group, based upon their academic records, participation in extracurricular and community activities, 142 students received special \$500 grants in addition to the loans. All those who were awarded loans were automatically considered for the grants.

The TROA Educational Assistance Program, established in 1948 for the sons and daughters of retired officers and their widow, has expanded to include the children of active duty, reserve, National Guard and retired officers, warrant officers and non-

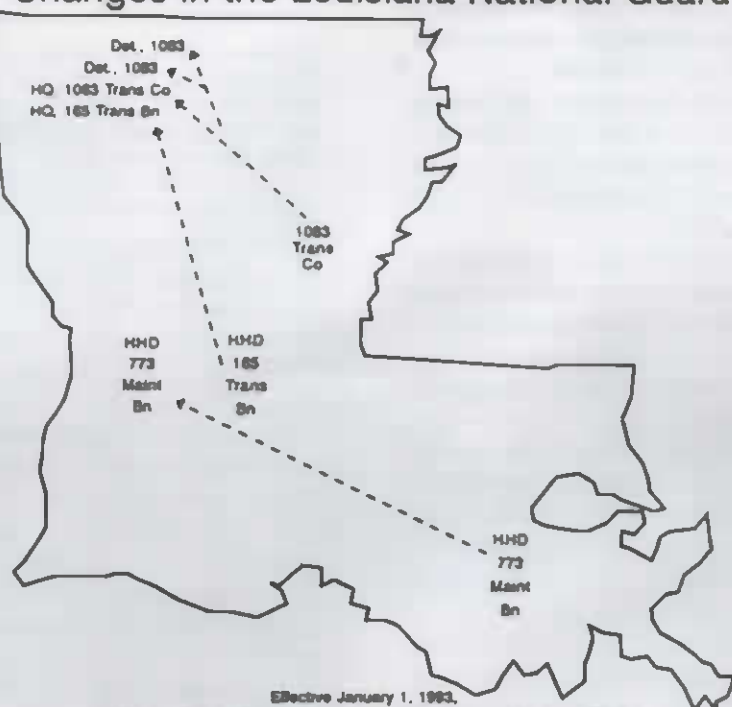
commissioned officers of the Army Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Since this program was initiated, over 3,600 students have received interest-free loans, totaling more than \$9 million.

Educational Assistance application for the 1993-94 school year will be available after November 1, 1992. Applications should be requested by February 15, 1993, and the completed application must be postmarked on or before March 1, 1993.

For application and more information write to:

TROA Educational Assistance Program Administrator
(09D), 201 N. Washington St.,
Alexandria, Va. 22314-2539.

Changes in the Louisiana National Guard



- Effective January 1, 1993.
- HHD, 773 Maint Bn will move from New Orleans to Camp Beauregard
 - HHD, 185 Trans Bn will move from Camp Beauregard to Bossier City
 - 1083 Trans Co will increase from 80 to 299. A detachment will form in Homer, another in Minden and the headquarters detachment will move to Bossier City

New Leaders Challenged



During a November change of command ceremony, CPT Robert Fink, holding the guidon, passed command of the 209th Personnel Services Company to CPT Paul Arbour. While Fink served as commander from October 1991, 209th was nominated for the Superior Unit Award and won second place in the state ACOE competition at the unit level. Fink will concentrate his efforts now as the state family assistance officer. Arbour comes to the 209th from HQ STARC, where he served as the assistant readiness officer. The unit is planning for an external ARTEP in July. Arbour said, "Our goal for the next six to eight months is to concentrate on common tasks as well as survival training." (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)

Desert Storm Commander Takes Experience To FORSCOM

By SPC Bernard Chaillot
256 INF BDE/PAO

Brig. Gen. Gary J. Whipple turned over the command of the 256th Infantry Brigade to Col. Frank A. Catalano during an emotional ceremony Sept. 19 in Lafayette.

After Brigade elements practiced on the parade grounds at Cajun Field all morning, the ceremony had to be moved inside USL's Bourgeois Hall because of rain. The closer quarters resulted in a more intimate and relaxed occasion.

"This is a great day to be a soldier," Whipple said. "And with this weather, it's a great day to be an infantryman."

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., the state adjutant general, took the brigade colors from Whipple and handed the symbol of command to Catalano before addressing the auditorium full of family, friends, and well-wishers.

"We have so few occasions when we are all together, so I'd like to take this opportunity to salute the Brigade for the outstanding job it has done over the past five years under Gen. Whipple's watch," Stroud said.

"You've gone through a major reorganization and distinguished yourselves at the National Training Center, in Operation Desert Storm and helping your neighbors in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew," he said. "These have been among your finest hours."

"The Brigade has been put to the test over the last five years, and passed with flying colors," Stroud said. "I'm proud of the 256th and of the job Gen. Whipple has done. I know Col. Catalano has the experience and skills to lead the Brigade well in further achievements."

Whipple stepped up to the speaker's podium and surveyed the Brigade elements lined up around the auditorium. "I attribute my success to your efforts," he told his troops.

The outgoing commander turned to face family members seated in the front row. "I would also like to thank my wife and children," he said.



"I have grown so much in this Brigade, and I'm proud to say that this is the premiere round-out brigade under the Army's Total Force Concept"

—Gen. Gary J. Whipple

"The support they have given me..." He paused as the emotion welled up in his voice and eyes.

"The times I couldn't be there because of my duties, the birthdays I missed," he said. "And my wife, Pat, who has been my toughest critic and my best friend. Thank you. I love you."

Whipple turned back to the horseshoe formation of troops, the battalion colors and streamers encircling the auditorium. "Now, it is time for me to move on. Your performance is what has made things happen in this Brigade. With the officers and NCO's we have, and the commitment they have to the soldiers under their care, I leave confident in the future of the 256th.

"Col. Catalano is able and intelligent, tactically and technically proficient," Whipple said. "I am reminded of an old WWI song that says, 'Where do we go from here, boys, where do we go from here,' and as long as you keep doing what you've been doing, you will continue to be the best."

Bourgeois To Guide 1/244th

By SGT Kristi Moon-Graves
241st PAD

The year 1992 brought with it many changes in the armed forces. With budget cuts and troop reductions commanders and other military leaders are facing challenges much different from the mission for which they train. 1992 encompassed many changes for the Louisiana National Guard, especially in the areas of command. In the months of September and October alone, five Louisiana units changed command. And these new commanders are the ones who will be faced with weathering and implementing these changes.

In October, Maj. (P) Tommy Bourgeois took command of the 1/244th Aviation from Maj. Johnny

Anderson, who held the position for the last two and a half years.

Under Anderson's direction the 1/244th achieved such accolades as the Fifth U.S. Army Training Award in 1989 and the Chief of Staff of the Army Supply Excellence Award at the state level in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

Anderson, who works as the facility commander of the Army Aviation Support Facility at Camp Beauregard is retiring.

Bourgeois, who is no stranger to the unit, has served as the S-3 training officer since the unit's inception six years ago. Unit members feel that Bourgeois' experience in the S-3 shop will serve him well as he takes over the battalion.



The incoming commander, LTC Cloyd Van Hook, Engineering Installation Squadron from MG Jackson Barracks in October. The outgoing of the background. (Photo by SPC Rebekah Lloyd-Smith)

Before leaving Brigade headquarters the morning of the ceremony, Whipple walked through the ranks of officers and NCO's, shaking each soldier's hand and pausing for a few words of farewell. At the end of his remarks at the ceremony, the troops gave their outgoing commander an extended round of applause.

Catalano opened his remarks by noting that he is no stranger to the 256th. The former deputy commander said he has served in a variety of leadership positions in the Brigade over the past two decades.

The new commander, the chief deputy of the U.S. Marshal's Office in New Orleans, told the troops that, "I have shared the good times with you, along with the trials and tribulations."

"I feel extremely proud today and am grateful for the trust that has been placed in me. I look forward to my responsibilities and to the challenges ahead."

—Col. Frank A. Catalano

Catalano said all current orders and policies would remain in effect "until further notice." He received the Meritorious Service medal from Whipple at the morning formation. Command Sgt. Maj. John Quebodeaux also received the prestigious medal, while former Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Richard Averitt, the new deputy brigade commander, received the Army Commendation Medal.

At the Change of command ceremony, Stroud pinned the Legion of Merit medal on Whipple, a psychology professor at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. Whipple lives in Houma, while Catalano makes his home in Amite.

Whipple's new assignment is special assistant to the Commander in Chief of Forces Command, Gen. Edwin Burba. He will be in charge of Boldshift initiatives.

Whipple and Catalano are promotable to major general and brigadier general, respectively.

214th Gains

By SPC Rebekah Lloyd-Smith
241st PAD

The 214th Engineering Installation Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard recently acquired a new commander. Lt. Col. Leon Simmons, Jr., relinquished the guidon to Lt. Col. Cloyd F. Van Hook at a change of command ceremony held at Jackson Barracks.

Simmons who held the position since October 1989, expressed gratitude when regarding the 200 airmen that he commanded.

"A commander is only as good as the support of his troops. I am a better person and a better leader because of this opportunity." —LTC Leon Simmons, Jr.

Under his leadership, the squadron earned an excellent rating on the Air Force Communications Command Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

To Take Care of Business



Michael A. Cushman, center, relinquished command of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron, Louisiana Air National Guard, to LTC Noel J. Ricord, right, during a change of command ceremony held in Hammond in October. (Photo by SPC Rebekah Lloyd Smith, 241st PAD)



Hook, center, accepts the guidon of the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron, Louisiana Air National Guard, from LTC Leon Simmons, Jr., during a ceremony held at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. (Photo by SPC Rebekah Lloyd Smith, 241st PAD)

New Direction

Simmons began his career in the active Air Force in 1968, and later held several positions with the Air Guard. Among these were chief of quality control, chief of quality assurance and chief of maintenance. In 1980, he transferred to the 214th where he served as chief of quality assurance, wire officer and installation officer before assuming command.

As a civilian Simmons supervises the Status, Planning and Control Section within the Materiel Department's Purchasing Group at the Martin Marietta Manned Space Facility in New Orleans.

The squadron's new commander enlisted in the Air Force in 1969 and served on active duty until 1973. He joined the Louisiana Air Guard later that same year and served as the chief of engineering branch and chief of the installation branch prior to being appointed commander.

Van Hook looks forward to his new challenge with confidence. "I'm looking forward to this opportunity to guide and improve the troops in whatever way I can."

769th Engrs—

Hilborn Leaves His Mark On Engineers

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

Lt. Col. William R. Hilborn's four years as commander of the 769th Engineer Battalion came to an end October 17, when the unit's guidon was transferred to Maj. John P. Basilica, Jr., at a ceremony held at the Folse Armory in Baton Rouge.

The 769th, under the command of Hilborn, has received many awards and recognitions. The most recent came at the 114th General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States in Salt Lake City, where the 769th received the Milton A. Reckford Trophy for the outstanding battalion in 5th Army.

The 769th also activated over 600 people in the weeks following Hurricane Andrew to assist in the cleanup of St. Mary, Iberville and other surrounding parishes.

The unit additionally received several company-level awards including the 5th Army's Outstanding Training Award, which went to Charlie Company.

Hilborn began his military career when he joined the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1967 and received his commission in 1969 after completing the Louisiana Officer Candidate School. He has had many assignments with various engineer units throughout the state, including: executive officer, S-1 and operations officer of Headquarters 225th Engineer Group; commander and S-1 of the Headquarters Company 527th Engineer Battalion; pipeline engineer of the 528th Engineer Battalion; as well as instructor and operations officer for the Louisiana Military Academy.

Hilborn is the general foreman at

MATES #71 at Fort Polk where he supervises the maintenance of mobilization and training equipment, over 400 pieces including tracked armor and mechanized equipment used by units during annual and in-active duty training.

The incoming commander, Maj. John P. Basilica, Jr., was previously the engineer equipment maintenance officer with the 225th Engineer Group at Camp Beauregard.

Basilica is a West Point graduate who spent 10 years on active duty and a combina-

tion of four more in the Connecticut Army National Guard and Army Reserves.

He is the chief of staff for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development when not serving in the Guard as the new commander of the 769th.

"Maj. Basilica has all the qualifications, training and motivation to do an excellent job as commander of the 769th," Hilborn said. "He has a tangible ability to excel at his new position."



LTC William R. Hilborn, right, passes the guidon belonging to the 769th Engineer Battalion to MG Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., for the last time as he relinquishes command to Maj. John P. Basilica, Jr. (Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD)

Cushman's Footsteps — A Tough Act to Follow

By SPC Rebekah Lloyd-Smith
241st PAD

The 236th Combat Communications Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard recently acquired a new commander. Lt. Col. Michael A. Cushman relinquished the guidon to Lt. Col. Noel J. Ricord at a change of command ceremony held in Hammond.

In 1987 Cushman became the unit's branch chief of operations before assuming command in March 1989. His career in the Air National Guard began in 1966 where he held several positions before joining in Louisiana. Among these were chief of maintenance and logistics staff officer with the District of Columbia's 231st Combat Communications Squadron.

His prior assignments in the Louisiana Air National Guard include operations staff officer and commander of the 159th Communications Flight in New Orleans, and operations staff officer with the Headquarters of the Louisiana Air National Guard.

As a civilian he is an assistant professor in the College of Business at Loyola University.

The squadron's new commander received his commission through Tulane Air Force ROTC in 1969 and served on active duty until May 1972. His positions included radio section officer, administration officer and budget officer of the 1830th Electronics Installation Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa Beach, Fla.

Ricord joined the Louisiana Air National Guard in 1976. He served as the electronics section officer, branch chief and commander of the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron at Jackson Barracks where he participated in various deployments to Germany, Spain and Italy prior to assuming command of the 236th.

Ricord looks forward to his new challenge with optimism and confidence. "I hope I can inspire the best in my troops and minimize their deficiencies. I'm also hoping that the command position brings out the best qualities in myself," he said.

Healthcare Benefits Expanded

Improvements in healthcare benefits for military personnel and their families were authorized by Congress. A mail-order pharmacy service will be phased-in at a minimum of two multi-state areas within 18 months. Eligible beneficiaries will include Medicare-eligible military retirees who reside in an area affected by base closures.

In addition, CHAMPUS now will cover payment for comprehensive home care services, and the dental insurance program for military families will

increase the number of covered benefits. The Air Force Association and The Military Coalition worked to have these provisions included in legislation.

Congress did not include any legislation in the DoD Authorization bill addressing abortions for military members stationed overseas. This subject will be addressed in the Senate-passed bill authorizing reproductive health services on a reimbursable basis for military members stationed overseas.

Family Care Plan Instruction Establishes DoD Policy

A recently issued Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction outlines policy on Family Care Plans and establishes responsibilities and procedures related to this important aspect of military service for DoD and emergency-essential civilian personnel.

The Instruction provides guidance for individuals who are single parents, dual military couples with dependents, other members and emergency-essential civilian personnel who bear sole responsibility for the care of children under the age of 19, and other personnel with family members who would be unable to care for themselves in the absence of the member or civilian employee.

Research conducted by the Department of Defense indicated that family care plans during Desert Shield/Storm operations in general worked well, but identified some lessons related to dependent care plans; and the new Instruction addresses those lessons. Here are some of the key changes:

- *Primary responsibility for care of family members during deployments and temporary duty rests with the service member.

- *Dual military couples with dependents and single parent service members will be counseled by the unit commander and

encouraged to attend classes or seek assistance at the nearest family center to increase their consciousness of the implications surrounding long term deployment.

- *Family care plans also are required for adult dependents and handicapped family members.

- *Newly divorced, legally separated and widowed military members with physical custody of children or dependents must complete family care plans, within a specified time frame, upon change in family status.

- *Members should consider provisions for contingencies. Contingency plans establish alternate care in the event the primary caretaker is no longer able to perform this function.

- *Family care plans are required for all Reserve Component personnel and emergency-essential civilian employees.

- *Service reciprocity is emphasized for Service-specific forms utilized by guardians to gain access to installation facilities.

For further information on Family Care Plans, refer to AR 600-20 with Interim Change #2 (102) or call The Family Services Office at (504) 278-6325 or 1-800-541-5860.

Washispacks Praised By DARE

The Louisiana National Guard instructs its members in drug and alcohol abuse and to that end supports the Rapides Parish Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (DARE).

Because of that, Pineville Police Capt. Jay Barter recently gave DARE support medals to Lt. Col. Calvin Washispack, Louisiana Military Academy Superintendent, and to his wife, Jan, for their efforts in the DARE program.

The presentation came before an Officer Candidate School class made up of soldiers from Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas National Guard units.

Barter praised the Washispacks for their

continuing support in inviting DARE officials to appear before groups at Camp Beauregard.

Pineville Mayor Fred Baden also received a certificate of appreciation for his support of the Louisiana National Guard.

The DARE Team was first included in Family Day Programs at Camp Beauregard in December 1990 and has been part of this annual effort since that time. The Louisiana Military Academy was the first to request DARE participation, according to Capt. Jay Barber, DARE Supervisor for Rapides Parish.

Reprinted from The Town Talk.

236th CCS Earns Family Recognition

By SMS Paul Lambert
236th CCS

The 5th Army hosted a Family Support Conference in San Antonio, Tex., in June. The 236th Combat Communications Squadron was represented by Mrs. Anita Gerarve of Natalbany, La., wife of Sr. Master Sgt. Frank Gerarve; and Mrs. Norma Williams of Ponchatoula, La., wife of Master Sgt. Ernest Williams. The newly formed support group of the 236th attended several workshops on a wide variety of topics dealing with family support. Among items discussed were Working with Dysfunctional Families, Parenting for Success, Our Children, Our

Families and Our Communities. Workshops on Drug Demand Reduction were also included and presented by Mr. Robert Landry and Ms. Julie Stone, Southwest Regional Center for Drug-Free Schools and Communities.

The conference concluded with an awards ceremony. The 236th representatives earned three prestigious awards. Gerarve and Williams received Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Family Support, Dynamic and Creative Performance, and Efforts for Creative Fund Raisers. The awards were presented by the Commanding General, 5th U.S. Army, Lt. Gen. Neal T. Jacob.

Field Feeding System Approved

The Army Chief of Staff has approved a new policy that allows for the distribution of one A or B ration each day to soldiers during deployment. This replaces the old system which allowed for distribution every third day.

The modified system also increases cook authorizations and provides for new and upgraded kitchens and sanitation centers. The Army's Quartermaster School developed the plan during a year-long study of the field feeding system.

A field trial of the new policy with the XVIII Airborne Corps is expected to occur in 1993 and the system is scheduled to be implemented in 1995. —ARNEWS

Recovery Vehicle Eases Towing

A new version of the M88-series recovery vehicle is being developed to make towing of disabled M1 tanks easier.

The vehicle will have a new fuel injection system and other improvements. The transmission will also be adjusted to handle the additional power and braking requirements.

Applique armor will be added to the exterior of the hull, increasing the weight from 56 to 70 tons. The weight increase achieves a one-to-one ratio between the vehicle being towed and the towing vehicle and also satisfies the 30mm armor protection requirement.

The recovery vehicle will also have larger capacity winches and an auxiliary winch to make operations less cumbersome. Previously, two crew members were needed to manually pay out the heavy cable from the main winch, but a new lighter cable will make it a one man job.

The M88A1E1 could be in use as early as 1995. —ARNEWS

Active Duty Strength Down, NATO Capped

The requested end strength level of 1,766,500 for active duty forces in fiscal year 1993 has been approved. This level is a 100,400 reduction from FY 1992 levels and 309,900 (15%) below that authorized in FY 1990, the base year for the anticipated five-year, 20% personnel reduction.

The request was moderated in the National Guard and Reserve components with an approved end strength total of 1,095,078 in FY 1993. The reduction from the FY 1992 program level for Selected Reserve end strength to 39,617 restored 200 positions to the Air National Guard and 200 to the Air Force Reserve. Full time manning support to the reserve components increased by 3,278.

The ceiling on U.S. troops stationed in Europe was lowered from 150,000 to 100,000. The deadline to reach the 150,000 was originally September 30, 1995, but was extended to September 30, 1996.

Also, by September 1996, the number of personnel stationed anywhere overseas will be reduced by about 129,000 (40%). A \$7 to \$10 billion savings is projected by these reductions and through negotiation on host nation support agreements. These calculations are based on the \$20.8 billion cost of supporting military personnel overseas in FY 1993 and the \$8 billion savings generated by the 40% reduction in troops abroad.

Postal System Revamped

The Army has numerous plans to improve postal service to deployed soldiers. Improvements to the Army postal system will include revamping procedures, structure and training; establishing a military contingency system; making greater use of U.S. Postal Service equipment; and updating existing postal doctrine.

Also, modular direct support postal platoons will be designed to provide the right personnel and equipment to support deployed soldiers. These platoons will be slightly smaller than current postal platoons, but can be tailored to fit any deployed force.

Training for reserve component postal personnel will also change. The Soldier Support Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., has changed its postal operations course to incorporate a non-resident phase followed by a two-week resident class. Reserve personnel will be able to complete their postal

training during their annual two-week commitment.

Another of the basic improvements includes preassigned APO numbers that can be activated at the onset of a contingency. This is intended to reduce confusion by letting organizations, soldiers and family members know mailing addresses before deployment.

The new procedures will allow military mail to be processed down to the battalion and company level using USPS automated sorting equipment. This equipment will work in conjunction with the contingency APO system.

These changes come as a result of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm postal operations problems. Outdated procedures, inadequate training of personnel and an equipment structure that couldn't handle the volume of mail were all cited as reasons for the problems. —ARNEWS

Louisiana and ACOE Go Hand in Hand Together

The Louisiana Army National Guard has participated in the Army Communities of Excellence Program for the last three years. In 1990 we won third place and \$100,000. In 1991, we won second place and \$150,000. In 1992, we won first place and \$200,000. The funds we have received from this program are being used for soldier, family, and unit oriented projects that will enhance pride and readiness.

To accomplish what we have in the ACOE Program requires an organization that is doing things right, an organization that is not afraid to be creative and innovative. Included in our 1992 ACOE plan were many examples of the things the Louisiana National Guard has done right.

One of the most creative and innovative aspects of Louisiana's ACOE Program is the ambitious in-state competition program implemented in 1990. A key purpose of this initiative is total involvement of all Louisiana Army National Guard organizations concentrating on Mobilization readiness, customer services, and facility excellence. Louisiana was the first state to implement such a program. If imitation is the highest form of flattery, then we should feel good about our program. During 1991, Utah adopted the in-state competition program. Now the National Guard Bureau's guidance for the 1993 competition encourages all states

to implement this program.

Louisiana's ACOE in-state competition program is organized into seven separate zones consisting of 143 individual organizational entities ranging from STARC Directorate level to company level. During 1992, all 143 organizations submitted an ACOE plan following the criteria established in Louisiana Army National Guard circular 600-45. These plans were reviewed by an administrative review board. The finalists selected by this board received an on-site visit by a Louisiana National Guard general officer or our senior army advisor. The competition was intense with first, second, and third place winners often being separated by a matter of several points. We feel that regardless of which organizations receive a cash award and plaque, all participants are winners.

The 1992 Award recipients of Louisiana's ACOE in-state competition program are included in the graphic shown here. The awards are: First Place - TAG (The Adjutant General) Award consisting of a plaque and a \$500 check; Second Place - COS (The Chief of Staff) Award consisting of a plaque and a \$300 check; Third Place - CSM (The Command Sergeant Major) Award consisting of a plaque and \$200 check. In some categories, there are only TAG and COS awards presented.

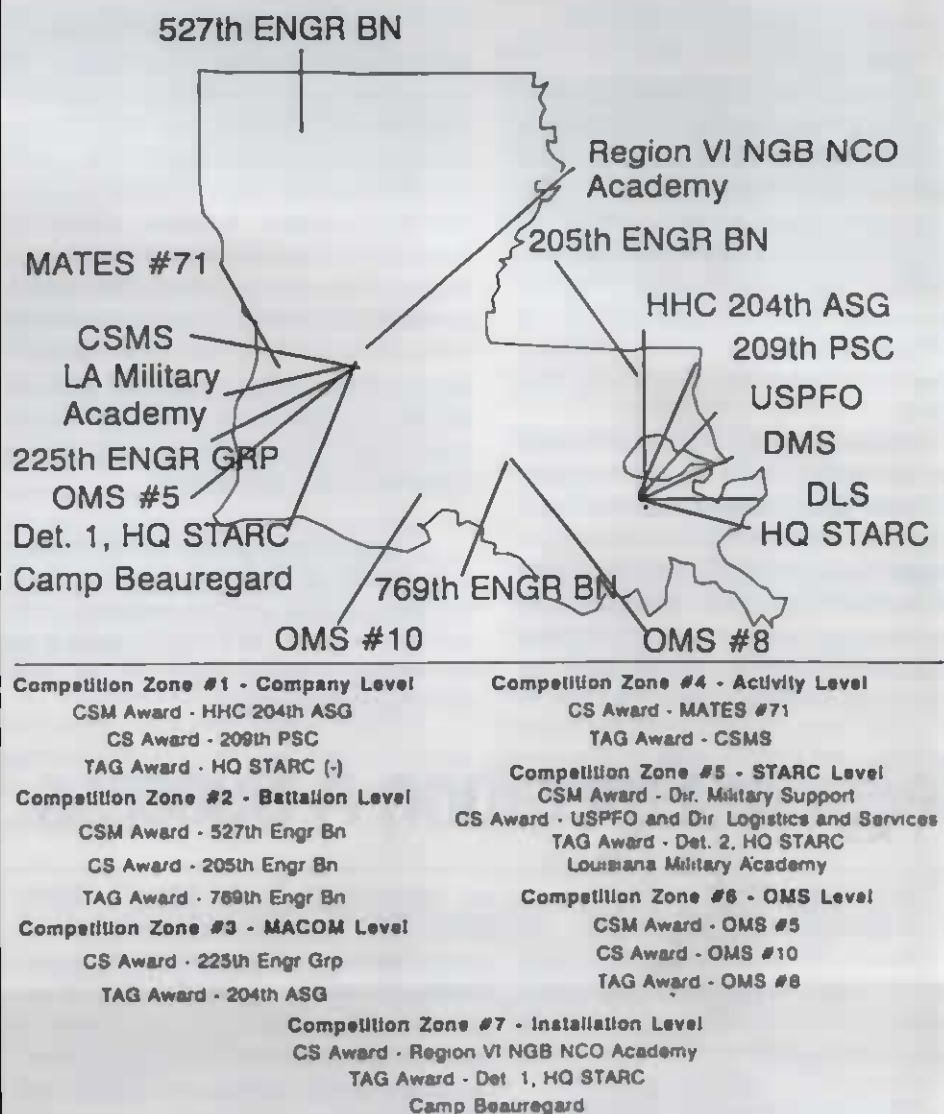


A make-shift jail served as an additional money-maker for the kick off of the Combined Federal Campaign at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. The half-day picnic, held in October to raise the awareness of the new year's campaign, also featured a dunking booth, a bake sale, a raffle, volleyball and softball games. (State PAO Photo)



Entertainment was provided by "The Beauregard Boys" at Camp Beauregard's ACOE Employee Appreciation Day. From left to right are: TSGT Jimmy Larrieu, SPC Lattie Sale, Mr. Craig Overgaard, SPC Lane Bolton, and 2LT Scott Hearne on drums in the background. (LAARNG Photo)

1992 Louisiana In-State ACOE Winners



CP B Holds ACOE Picnic

By Jan Washispack
Camp Beauregard Family Services
Coordinator

The first Annual ACOE Employee Appreciation Picnic played to a "full house" at Camp Beauregard. About 500 hungry participants kicked off the afternoon with a feast of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soft drinks at the ACOE pavilion. Activities ranged from competitive sporting events to just relaxing, visiting with friends and enjoying music by Spec. Lane Bolton and The Beauregard Boys.

Highlighting the festivities was a presentation of the City of Pineville's Proclamation officially declaring October 14 as "Camp Beauregard ACOE Employee Appreciation Day". The proclamation was presented to Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., on behalf of Mayor Fred H. Baden by Mr. Bobby Mickel, Parks and Recreation Director. The proclamation cites that Camp Beauregard, "Due to its mission, location, facilities and 'How May We Better Serve You' attitude in the community greatly enhances the image of the Louisiana National Guard, and that its 508 employees, 37 units and agencies are a positive factor in the local economy".

Lt. Col. Allen Bozeman served as Master of Ceremonies, 1st Lt. Patricia Greene, event coordinator and Jan Washispack as special assistant. Food Supervisor CW3 Paul Gilmore was assisted by CW3

Arnold Brough, Sgt. 1st Class Frank Galliano, Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Yeager and Staff Sgt. Ralph Mayeaux. Sports commissioners for the team and individual events were: Lt. Col. Calvin Washispack, softball; Capt. Bobbie Black, tug of war; 2nd Lt. Marcus Luder, volleyball; CW2 Tim Scroggs, archery; Master Sgt. Roger Corley, horseshoes and Master Sgt. Milam Perry, races.

Individual and team trophies were presented to the winners of each event by Post Commander Col. Charles Partin.

Softball	Enlisted Club Team
Volleyball	Aviation Units Team
Tug of War	Project "Z"
Archery	Richard Luneau - DAS 3
Horseshoes	Gray & Nordby - 225th
Potato Sack Race	Greg Sumbler - CSMS
3-Legged Race	Larrieu & McCoy - 122nd

Winners names are inscribed on a permanent plaque which is proudly displayed at Post Headquarters. (Rumor has it that they all plan a title defense next year.)

Area merchants donated prizes and gift certificates which were awarded by random drawing at the closing ceremonies. Special thanks to the Military Affairs Committee of the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce for their generous support. As the day wound to a close, the unanimous decision was: "It was a lot of hard work by a lot of folks, fun for everyone and definitely worth a repeat."

204th ASG Participates In Post Cold War REFORGER Exercise

By SPC Dane Kerne
204th ASG/PAO

It is often said that the Cold War was won by the "good guys" because of our military's ability to out last and unnerve our foe. This ability to maintain exceptional levels of strength and efficiency is what led our formerly communist foes to give in. The events of the recent past have proven beyond a doubt the validity of "peace through strength." The cooperation among nations in organizations such as NATO and the coordination among the military forces of separate nations allowed the Western World to prevail.

The whole of a large and successful organization like NATO is only the sum of its many parts. One of these "parts" is the Specialized Area Support Group (ASG). The 204th ASG honed its command and support skills by setting up a temporary support site in the city of Olen, Belgium. This action was part of the much larger, multi-national Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) exercise, which was held from Sept. 18 through Oct. 12, 1992.

The site chosen to be the area of operation for this exercise was a vacated Belgium military base referred to as Camp C. There was an abundance of support services coordinated by the 204th. Billeting was made available to many transient units, groups that would make the camp a stop along the way to their final destination. A Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) center was established, much to the joy of the troops staying there. They watched movies, played games, read magazines, and even watched the latest Saints' games on tape. The MWR also provided the soldiers with financial and postal services. The amenities that were furnished to the troops were laundry services, a fueling point, a dining facility and a medical clinic.

The true measure by which the effectiveness of an exercise can be judged is the new found knowledge that those who have participated in the exercise have gained. Be it refueling trucks in the early morning or briefing visiting VIPs, the 204th ASG completed the mission.



The 204th Area Support Group team coordinates Sea Port Logistics during the recent Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) exercise in Olen, Belgium. (Photo by 2LT Kenneth Orgeron, 204th ASG/PAO)

Belgium Operation A Success

By SPC Deana Gilardi
204th ASG/PAO

When the 204th Area Support Group (ASG) arrived in Belgium for the Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) 1992, they were met with efficiency and hospitality.

Part of the 204th's REFORGER mission was to act as a reception station for incoming units. A large part of accomplishing their goals lies in the readiness of the host nation.

Part of the host nation's duty was to provide the 204th with an area of operations. Their services enabled the 204th to become fully operational within four hours.

According to Lt. Col. Dillard L. Shiflett, 204th, "Part of the success stemmed from their well prepared and organized approach, also from a good working relationship between the Belgium and American soldiers. Despite the language barrier, a continued effort was made to successfully communicate and provide assistance in whatever was needed. 'They went out of their way to ensure our success despite the cultural differences,' said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bell.

"The mission proved successful in another aspect," Shiflett said. "It was outstanding for the soldiers experiencing REFORGER for the first time. The smoothness of the operation set a lasting example."



MAJ Don Burgess of the 204th ASG confers with NATO officers on airfield operations during the 204th's recent participation in the Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) exercise in Belgium. (Photo by 2LT Kenneth Orgeron, 204th ASG/PAO)

Leadership Conference Nets New Goals and Objectives

By 2LT David Barham
241st PAD

Leaders in the Louisiana Army National Guard met at a conference in Alexandria Oct. 24 - 25 to discuss leadership strategy and ways to improve the state militia.

The conference, attended by commanders and ranking NCOs, allowed the Guard to talk about the financial situation in the Guard nation-wide and the roles of National Guard units and facilities here in Louisiana.

The company commanders and NCOs were given advice on how to deal with their soldiers' needs and how to train for combat.

Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., used part of the conference to explain his command philosophy to the leaders.

"It's time to start thinking about training our people on a global level," Stroud said. "The way we think about the role of the National Guard is changing."

Stroud said training overseas will not be the

only focus of the Guard - units will have to get involved in the community.

"As we look into the future, we have got to realize the American people are changing their attitudes towards military defense," Stroud said. "Change is on the horizon for you and me. We're going to have to be more responsive to our community needs."

Stroud said Hurricane Andrew was a good example of working in the community.

"There were an awful lot of small units run by sergeants and lieutenants or whoever was out there. There's not anybody who did better. Your soldiers went out and did their jobs."

Retired Lt. Gen. LaVerne Weber received the St. Andrew Award at the conference, the highest state award given for recruiting.

Weber received the award for his years of work to shape policies and organizations throughout the Guard system.

The 1993 Objectives of the National Guard were also given to the leaders at the conference. The objectives include:

National Guard Objectives for 1993

- maintaining a 75 percent retention rate, less than 1.2 percent non-ETS loss and an AWOL rate of less than one percent.
- process pay actions and complaints quickly and accurately, conduct LES reviews and increase surepay participation to 95 percent
- prevent class A, B and C accidents; have fewer overall accidents than in 1992.
- achieve the highest possible USR C-ratings in personnel, training and equipment consistent with ALO, available resources and total Army readiness priorities.
- maintain ERC reportable equipment at 92 percent FMC
- full participation by all in the Louisiana Army Communities of Excellence program.
- improve and maintain facilities and comply with environmental and energy standards
- every unit identify and complete at least one approved volunteer civic project and one drug demand reduction activity.
- promote social programs which provide equal opportunities; good health, mentally, physically and spiritually; and foster an environment free of prejudice and sexual harassment.
- establish and maintain a viable family support program in each unit, enroll all eligible family members in DEERS.

Reserve Component Training to be Standardized

By SSG Paul J. Sylvest
241st PAD

Efforts are underway to develop a Total Army School System (TASS). This concept is being implemented to ensure that the Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve and the active component are being trained to a single standard.

An Accreditation Standardization Workshop at Camp Ball, La., in October addressed the method of accrediting Reserve Component Training Institutions (RCTI) to ensure that there are uniform standards throughout the components.

The purpose of the workshop was to develop a standardized set of accreditation procedures and checklists that will allow the Directors of Evaluations and Standards to accredit RCTIs.

The workshop began with a discussion about Future Army Schools Twenty-One (FAST), TRADOC initiative for how soldiers are going to be trained in the next century.

There were between two and three evaluators from each of the twenty-one TRADOC service schools who attended the workshop. This allowed input to be gained from the evaluators who have had an association or affiliation with the Reserve Component Training Institutions.

Task Force FAST is blazing new trails because RCTI has never been accredited before. The Total Army School System which is developing under Task Force Fast is being organized because of the downsizing of the total force.

Previously, there were school systems for the respective components and each system addressed specific training needs. According to the Task Force FAST outline, the intent of regionalizing and consolidating the "old" system into the "new" is needed to ensure economy and efficiency and not to eliminate necessary operations, functions, facilities or positions.

A Task Force FAST information sheet states that the single most unique facet of the organization is the total integration of all three components of the Army into one efficient and effective force.

The Standardization Workshop had representation from the National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve and the active component. These components collaborated to make decisions on the best way to go about accreditation, with the intent being to ensure that the quality of training will not only be better, but will also be standardized.

One of the main reasons Camp Ball was chosen as the site for the workshop was because of its reputation as an excellent National Guard facility.

The state military academy provided the Directors of Evaluations and Standards an experience in a different training environment.

A goal of the workshop was to develop a checklist which outlined the standards and criteria for any military school which could be understood by everyone.

The organization of the single school system will be developed based on the input of active and reserve forces, thus forming a total Army and a sense of equal partners amongst the components.

The focus of the future is on "Composite Teams." When accreditation teams go out to accredit Reserve Component Training Institutions the members consist of U.S. Army Reservists, Army National Guardsmen and individuals from the TRADOC Group, most likely the active component. No one component or one perspective will be over represented, and all components will participate in accreditations.

One presentation of the workshop discussed the Reserve Component Training Institutions so that those involved could be sensitized to the Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve and the active component.

The Accreditation Standardization is one aspect of Task Force FAST which enables school commandants to work together and develop recommendations for the future policy of how soldiers are trained. Much concentration in the workshop focused on the quality of instructions at various training facilities.

Ultimately, the goal of Task Force FAST is to have a single school system which will fulfill the needs of active and reserve components.

Many regulations are being changed to accommodate the massive changes of the Task Force FAST initiative. Over the past six months, proposals have been accepted and direction and guidance has been given to the Chief of Staff of the Army.

The number and type of changes have been so rapid that workshops have been organized to implement many of the initiatives. Policies and regulations are being created and changed to reflect the new system.

The distribution and implementation of the new policy guidance will further the goal of the organizations involved in Task Force FAST. The victory of these initiatives will be the implementation of the Total Army School System by fiscal year 1995.



Applications for NGB Marathon Team Accepted

By CW2 Gary Blanchard
LANG-DIM

The National Guard Bureau will sponsor the Tenth Annual NGB Marathon on May 2, 1993 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Louisiana team will consist of a maximum of seven males and three females. Selections for the team will include both Army and Air Guard soldiers. Please contact your unit or the marathon coordinator for an application.

To qualify for the team each must submit verification of a certified marathon (26 miles and 385 yards) completed within 18 months prior to February 15, 1993. The maximum time requirements are as follows:

- 4:00:00 - Male soldiers under 40
- 4:15:00 - Male soldiers 40 and over
- 4:30:00 - Female soldiers

Soldiers age 40 and over also must have their over 40 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 the soldier's allowable time. The remaining qualified applicants will be listed as alternates in the event should someone withdraw. Each member selected will receive a marathon uniform to include a workup (jacket & trousers), running shorts, singlet and t-shirt. Each runner must provide their own running shoes.

Training for this event is imperative to insure a qualifying time. Please contact CW2 Gary Blanchard, Louisiana National Guard Marathon coordinator with questions or to request an application at (504) 278-6284 during work hours or (504) 271-2943 after hours. A minimum three month training schedule to an eight month training schedule is available. No additional training time will be allotted during work hours for soldiers working in an AGR or technician status.

Louisiana ESGR Heads the Nation in Effectiveness

By Bernard Baisier
LA ESGR

At the Louisiana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's (ESGR) annual awards meeting November 15, 1992, over 100 members of the committee met to complete plans for next year. Attending from the Washington D.C. headquarters were Navy Captain Scott Simonton and Army Maj. John Hawkins. Simonton serves as chief of operations and Hawkins is the state liaison officer for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (NCESGR).

According to Simonton, Louisiana now holds the lead position in the 56 existing committees. "Louisiana is Number One in its committee functions and the remainder of the committees look on

this group as the premier operation," Simonton said.

Hawkins told the crowd, "With representatives in every section of the state, Louisiana has led the way in problem solving, the number of awards presented to employers, the number of employers sponsored on bosslifts and the most effective public affairs program in the nation. Due to these accomplishments, the Louisiana committee will be allowed to conduct a major part of the annual public affairs conference in Florida next year."

ESGR was created to be the vital link to the employers of our National Guard and Reserve forces. As conflict can and does take place with the employers of Guardsmen/Reservists, the committee takes an active part in reconciling employee/employer problems and promoting the value of our volunteer forces.



Louisiana Guardsmen took on another task recently as they became mentors for black inner city youths from the New Orleans area. Standing from left to right are: SPC Ray Marion, 1/141st FA; SGT Laverne Cook, 205th Engr Bn; LT Florie Gonzales, 1/141st FA; LT Ruffin Brown, 222nd Med Co; and CPT Frank Hijuelos, HQ STARC. Kneeling are: SPC Chad Guillory, 209th PSC and SGT Marc Allen, Det. 3, HQ STARC.

141st Field Artillery Holds 154th Annual Review



Cannoneers (foreground) stand watch as the 156th Army Band leads the way for the 141st (Washington) Field Artillery during its 154th Annual Review held in October at Jackson Barracks. (Photo by SSG Paul J. Sylvest, 241st PAD)



The 141st FA boasts a proud tradition for 154 years of service to the United States. It was organized in 1838 and has battle streamers dating back to the Civil War. Every Year, cannoneers dress in period uniform for the annual review. (Photo by SSG Paul J. Sylvest, 241st PAD)

256th and 2nd AD Maintain Lasting Relationship

By MSG John Sullivan
241st PAD

The Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade and the U.S. Army's 5th Infantry Division have a unique relationship. It's a relationship forged in peacetime and tempered when the 256th, also known as the Louisiana Brigade, was called to active service during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

And even though the 5th Infantry Division is leaving its home at Fort Polk for a new location at Fort Hood, Texas, the division's new commanding general said it's a relationship that will stay the same.

Maj. Gen. Jared L. Bates, who recently took command of the 5th Infantry Division said, "The 256th is our third brigade, and that's not going to change. The 256th is also a Louisiana National Guard brigade, and that's not going to change."

"They're going to continue to train primarily in Louisiana, using Fort Polk and at their own facilities. After our move to Fort Hood, we'll be coming back here to train with the brigade," Bates said.

It's going to make it a little tougher on the other two brigades because of travel time. But other than that, there'll be no change with our relationship," he added.

The Louisiana Brigade, headquartered in Lafayette, is considered a round-out unit for the 5th Infantry Division, which means that during war-time, the National Guardsmen become the final element of the 5th that would prepare them for war.

The 4,000 or so members of the 256th are in two mechanized infantry battalions from throughout Acadiana, an artillery battalion from New Orleans, an armor battalion in Shreveport and a support battalion from Alexandria.

Bates said he sees the roundout concept of Guard units being that final piece of the pie for

regular Army forces as remaining a viable plan.

"First of all, in the larger context, is what's the relationship between the active component and the reserve component, specifically the National Guard, now that the army is getting smaller," Bates said. "If you look at the overall army level - much more reliance on reserve components." He added that some reserve forces could be deployed overseas before some regular military forces.

"If you look at the way we intend to deploy forces, there are forces out of the reserve components that will deploy as early or as quickly as any of the active forces," Bates said.

The total force of today's military can count on about 25 percent of its combat support elements coming from reserve forces, he said.

"Total army level, reliance is going up on the reserve component and National Guard," Bates said. "Is the roundout concept still viable? I think the answer is certainly yes."

During Desert Shield, the Louisiana Brigade was mobilized and its guardsmen became regular members of the military, first reporting to Fort Polk for extensive training with some units later traveling to Fort Hood.

The Guardsmen, who had recently received the M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle before their mobilization, had to begin extensive training on the complicated vehicles that carry troops but pack the punch needed to defeat an enemy tank.

Much of the 256th's training at Fort Polk during their recent two weeks of annual training was to sharpen these skills.

"I think we learned a lot about training, pre-mobilization and post-mobilizations training as a result of Desert Shield/Storm," Bates said. "Speaking specifically for this division, I think we know more now about how to focus our pre-mobilization training and be prepared to deploy."

Area Retention Seminars & Workshops

2/156th Inf

- Held September 12, 1992 at the Holiday Inn in New Iberia, La.
- Classes included: family assistance and support groups, statistics and projections, interview programs, recruiting and retention missions and goals and sponsorship programs.
- Training certificates presented to LTC Broussard and CSM Hebert.

3/156th Inf

- Held its 5th Annual Retention Seminar
- Classes included: goals, family assistance, motivational techniques, interview programs, positive recognition and correcting behavior without demotivating.
- Total number in attendance, 41.

2223rd Engr Bn

- Held September 12, 1992 at Sicily's Pizza in Baker, La.
- Classes included: taking care of soldiers, statistics, projections and retention goals, positive recognition and retention overview of the battalion, sponsorship and interview programs, safety briefing and critique.
- Training Certificates presented by MAJ Gouzy and MSG Thomas.

World War II Proved to be Crucible for Women

By Evelyn D. Harris
Armed Forces Information Service

World War II was the crucible in which women proved their worth to the military.

During most of the war, women in the sea services weren't allowed to go overseas or give orders to men. In spite of restrictions, Navy WAVES, Coast Guard SPARS and Women Marines became so important to the war effort, commanders asked the services to send women to help them. The women filled a wide variety of important jobs.

WAVES is an acronym meaning Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service. SPARS came from the Coast Guard motto "Semper Paratus," Latin for "always ready."

Irene Wolensky's commander decided she had what it took to become the first women to attend sonar school. The school's director said he would be delighted to have her. There was just one problem, he said. "There's no women's head." Wolensky solved it by running two blocks to the Officers Club to use the ladies' room. This didn't stop the former English major from graduating near the top of her class.

Wolensky, who retired as a captain in 1978 said, "WAVES weren't allowed to go to sea, so I thought the captain was joking when his voice boomed over the loudspeaker saying 'WAVES prepare to go to sea.' Wolensky and two others boarded a 110-foot patrol craft."

"The other WAVES got sick, but I knew I wouldn't," said the veteran. Of course, I lost it, too. A young sailor told me I'd better eat if I didn't want to have the dry heaves. The lunch that day was pork chops, and I couldn't bear to think of those, so I said, 'No thanks.' I was having the dry heaves when the sailor returned and suggested I eat an apple. I asked him why. He hesitated and then said, 'Ma'am, at least it will taste as good coming up as it did going down.'"

"I had several jobs during the war," Wolensky said. "After San Diego, I wrote orders and arranged transportation for engineers. The ban on women giving orders didn't prevent me from doing my job. Toward the end of the war, I worked as an expediter for electronic systems equipment."

Retired Navy Commander Ruth Erno recalls that when she attended "A" school as a seaman in Norman, Okla., in early 1943, the school's director greeted the arriving students with these words, "Seamen are seamen whether they wear skirts or trousers, and they will be treated as such."

Erno enlisted because she was under 21 and too young to be an officer. She attended boot camp and shares a one-bedroom apartment with 15 others women.

"Of course we had to get up extra early with that many people sharing a bathroom," she recalled. In Norman, she was trained to be an aviation metalsmith.

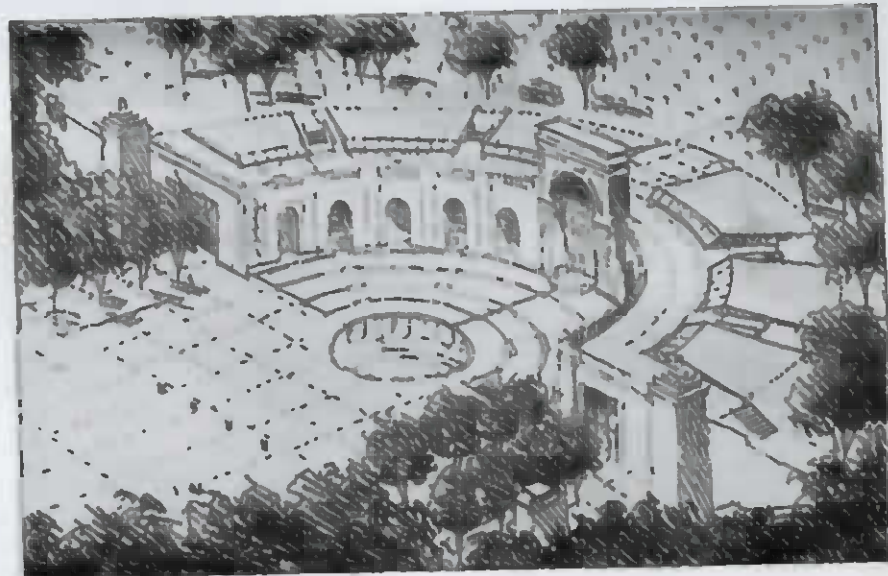
"However, they sent me to a First Naval District headquarters outside Boston and assigned me to do communications. My supervisor said I wasn't trained for it, but I said it was OK because I was only on temporary duty," said Erno. "I ended up staying a year and learning on the job."

After officers' training, she returned to supervise the men who had trained her. "It didn't really create a problem. We worked as a team."

The acronym WAVES was dropped in 1944, and Erno continued to serve as a member of the Women's Reserve.

Looking back, some women veterans say there was discrimination: Women came in a lower ranks than men with equivalent education and experience and were promoted more slowly. But at the time they didn't think about it. "We just wanted to win the war," said Erno. "The feeling of teamwork was incredible."

"Most of the time, we worked seven days a week," recalled Ethyl Wilcox, who entered the Marine Corps as a private in May 1943 and retired as a sergeant major in 1973. Wilcox, a Wisconsin native, joked about not being able to see the world



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
for
THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

when she was assigned to a recruiting office in Milwaukee, where she remained for much of her career.

"Someone had to stay in the office until midnight every night," added Wilcox. "Potential recruits would show up at all hours. If someone came in a 11 at night, we'd give them the forms to fill out and tell them to come back the next day to be processed."

"The written test for women was more difficult, and women had to have high school diplomas, which men didn't," she added.

Betty Splaine was one of the first Coast Guard SPARS in 1943. A native of Somerville, Mass., she entered the SPARS as a seaman recruit, although she was just a few credits short of receiving her bachelor's degree in personnel and industrial relations.

She attended boot camp with WAVES. Men with the same experience were entering at higher ratings. "However, that did not bother me at the time

because I was happy to be part of the war effort," she said. "I was pleased when I finally made chief petty officer toward the end of the war."

"Just about the time we knew our left foot from our right, we began duty," said Splaine. She did personnel work in Washington, D.C., six and a half days a week and performed in a drum and bugle corps "to keep myself out of trouble" in what little free time remained.

"Military women have come a long way," said Splaine. "When I came in, all you had to do was miss a period and you were out. Even married women got less-than-honorable discharges for getting pregnant. I still can't get used to seeing a pregnant woman wearing a uniform."

She said SPARS loved to sing—in the shower or wherever. "One of the songs we sang was, 'If you're nervous in the service...have a baby.'"

"But we were very enthusiastic and still are," said Splaine. "I tell the commandant he should call on us whenever he needs willing volunteers."

National Enlisted Association Conference in VA.

By SSG Suzanne Chaillot
159 FG/PAO

Roanoke, Virginia, was host at the 21st Annual Conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard and its auxiliary.

The conference, held in August of this year, brought citizen soldiers from 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, St. Croix and the District of Columbia together.

After arrival and registration, the Louisiana Guardsmen, both Army and Air, were treated to a welcome party at the Roanoke National Guard Armory and city stadium.

"The best part of the national convention is meeting people," said First Sgt. Bobby Jones, Delta Company, 1/244th Aviation. "The chance to compare jobs and learn about the different areas of the guard is a good experience."

The conference consisted of committee meetings, business sessions and board meetings. The overall purpose was to discuss and examine

the state of the National Guard and its role in today's total force.

"We need to lead the fight against domestic threats and add value to the community," said Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, Chief, National Guard bureau, on his address to the guardsmen. "Our overall mission is the preservation of community tranquility."

The convention organizers encouraged the participants to venture out into the surrounding mountains by offering an excursion on a vintage steam locomotive.

One evening, close to 900 passengers boarded a 50 year-old Norfolk and Western steam locomotive. The 14 passenger coaches chugged their way 50 miles up the Blue Ridge Parkway to the banks of the New River.

Once there, the convention-goers were treated to a well planned picnic complete with local entertainment. The unique and seldom-seen train had spectators lining the tracks for a rare glimpse.

"I hadn't ridden a train since I was a kid," remarked Sr. Master Sgt. Bobby Guillory, of the Air Guard and first vice president of the Louisiana Chapter. "It brings back great memories for me."

The four day convention offered many diverse activities such as breakaway sessions. This allowed the Army and Air guard to discuss issues pertaining to their branch of service.

Air Guard members were treated to a glimpse of the new dress uniform worn by Chief Master Sgt. Richard Moon, senior enlisted advisor of the Air National Guard. Moon discussed the changes to the uniform, both dress and battle dress, and the reorganization of the Air Guard.

"I feel positive about the change and about the future of the Air Guard," Moon said. "Whereas the active forces are declining, the Air Guard is growing."

Maj. Gen. Philip G. Killey, director of the Air National Guard reiterated this trend with his to guardsmen. "The Air Guard will continue to follow the Air Force lead but will highlight the uniqueness

of the guard," stressed Killey. "We will continue a leadership philosophy that creates a working environment which promotes trust, teamwork and the quest for continuous improvement."

Killey went on to say that the changes in the guard will be better changes and that there will be no foreseeable loss of flags.

The 21st Annual Conference concluded its business with a formal banquet. Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss) was the guest speaker for the evening event.

Montgomery spoke about the changes of benefits for the guard. There is a bill in the House awaiting approval of the VA home loan to any guardsmen that has served six years or more. The Montgomery G.I. Bill is named after Montgomery.

The Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association has over 3,000 members to date. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact their unit LANGEA representative.

Environmental Corner

By
CPT Gregg Putnam
Environmental Branch



HAZARDOUS WASTE MINIMIZATION

Environmental Awareness is the single most important factor to assure Louisiana Army National Guardsmen's actions do not adversely affect our environment. Simply put Environmental Awareness is education and good habits. The education to enable you to identify potential environmental problems at an early stage and the habit of doing something about it.

We as members of the LAARNG have come a long way since the days of spraying diesel fuel along fence lines to control weeds. Education has shown us that such a common practice a few years ago is really bad for our environment. Yes, we have come a long way but we still have further to go.

Too frequently spills of hazardous materials go unreported and therefore, never cleaned up. Small drips from vehicles are one of the biggest problems we face in the Guard. A truck leaking a 1/32 cubic inch drop of oil every ten seconds does not sound significant, but every little bit hurts. In one year, this "insignificant" drip accounts for more than 426 gallons of oil released to the environment from just one vehicle. Using a drip pan would prevent this "spill."

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the National Guard Bureau require that any oil spilled into a water body (river, lake, stream, swamp, ditch, etc.) or any spill greater than 25 gallons of oil must be reported. Since our example was a drip over a long period of time, it is not considered reportable unless it makes a sheen on nearby water. However, we now know it is important and should be prevented. Refer to your unit's Installation Spill Contingency Plan (ISCP) for specific spill prevention and cleanup guidance.

To encourage Environmental Awareness the Louisiana National Guard's Environmental Office is sponsoring this series of articles called the Environmental corner as a regular part of the Louisiana Guardsman Newspaper. If you have questions or need help solving an environmental problem please call the Environmental Office, a division of Facilities Engineering, at Jackson Barracks, (504) 278-6266.

Hazardous Waste Minimization

Hazardous Waste Minimization (HAZMIN) is a fairly new concept which aims at reducing the amount of Hazardous Waste

(HW) we produce. HAZMIN saves money and will help stop many problems before they become problems. Money saved by reducing the amount of HW can be returned to direct support of your unit's mission. HAZMIN is a simple change in your way of doing business that can pay big dividends in the long run.

How big of a problem is HW disposal? In 1985, the Department of Defense produced over 2,000,000,000 pounds of HW which we had to pay to dispose of properly. DoD has directed that each facility reduce the amount of hazardous waste produced by half your 1985 volume. Has your facility met this requirement? Proper HAZMIN procedures are generally easy and can really help you. HAZMIN procedures can be categorized into nine general groups: design incorporation, HM control, delisting, material substitution, process change, recycle/reuse/ resale, treatment, destruction and disposition. Examples of some of these groups are described below.

HAZMIN Control
—Procurement Control: Allow only authorized facilities and knowledgeable personnel to order HM and then only when they are actually needed to conduct a mission. Check the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for information on a specific product.

—Inventory Control: Order only the HM needed to do your job and in the size container you can use. Do not order a 55 gallon drum when a pint will do. We usually have to throw the excess material away. Never have more than a three month supply of HM on hand.

—Rotate Stock: Rotation will prevent materials from being disposed because of expired shelf life or their containers have deteriorated.

—Properly Label and Do Not Mix Wastes: If a small amount of a HW is added to a nonhazardous waste, then the mixture must be considered a HW. For example used oil is a special waste in Louisiana and is therefore not counted in a facility's HW total. If a facility produces 2,000 gallons of used oil in a month, many private vendors will pay 2 to 10 cents per gallon to dispose of the oil and it will not count as any HW produced for the facility. Now add one gallon of thinner to the same oil. You have 2,000 gallons of a HW which can cost eight dollars or more per gallon to dispose of.

—Material Substitution: Choose the least hazardous product when you have a choice even if it is a little more expensive. Frequently the added cost of disposal of hazardous wastes can offset the price difference.

—Recycle/Reuse/Resale: Filtration is one type of RRR method which the Guard is investigating in parts washer applications. Filtration has the potential to significantly extend life of solvents, antifreeze, fuels, etc., by continuously filtering out particular contamination and reusing them. Filters have been used successfully in numerous applications in private industry and the military.

Definitions of the Month

Hazardous material (HM): A material which has been determined by the Department of Transportation and Development to present an unreasonable risk to safety, health and property during transportation. HM are listed in the DOT Hazardous Materials Table in 49CFR172.101 or materials which meet the definition of any DOT "hazard class".

Hazardous substance (HS): A chemical harmful to aquatic life or the environment and regulated if spilled or otherwise released. HS are listed in the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and CERCLA. A HM in transport might become a HS if spilled.

Hazardous Waste (HW): A discarded product or chemical designated in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of the Environmental Protection Agency in 40CFR261.20-33. RCRA sets specific HW handling, storage, labeling and disposal requirements for the Louisiana Guard. A HM and HS may become a HW when it has no further use and is ready for disposal.

Air Guard F-15s Participate in Sentry Rebel

By SSG Suzanne Chailot
159 FG/PAO

Inside the darkened room a dozen spectators watched the screen as departing aircraft appeared one by one as digitized images. At first it seemed like an oversized video game with multi-colored jets darting around, but on closer observation the players were too serious for it to be a game.

Five Air National Guard flying units were in Gulfport to participate in the Mississippi Air Guard Sentry Rebel exercise this past September.

The exercise utilizes the computerized Aircraft Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation System (ACMI).

Popularized in the movie "Top Gun", the system tracks and monitors aircraft engagements, threats and targets on a high resolution graphic screen.

So, while the actual war exercise is taking place high in the sky, observers can witness the skill and strategy of the fighter pilots as it happens.

"I like working with the ACMI," Capt Bob Becklund of North Dakota said. "Being trained as an engineer, the analysis aspect of angles and ranges is fascinating."

It was also fascinating for the maintenance crews who accompany the range of aircraft that participated in the exercise.

"We work on F-15s, so seeing the work that goes into an F-16 or an A-7 is really interesting," Staff Sgt. John Mollere of the 159th AGE said.

Lt. Col. Tom Donaldson, of the 159th FG, spoke of the importance of composite force training exercises such as Sentry Rebel. "There are different aircraft with different missions," Donaldson said. "We work together to get the necessary training essential for keeping us in top form."

The participating units were the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th FG, (F-15s); Alabama Air National Guard's 187th, (F-16s); Oklahoma Air National Guard's 138th (A-7s); Nebraska's 155th, (F-4s); and North Dakota's 119th, (F-16s).

With the ACMI being the most advanced and realistic instrumentation scheme ever developed, Air National Guard units can be assured that they will receive the best training for their aircrews in maintaining efficiency in air warfare.

Stroud Receives Award on behalf of NGALA

The Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., was awarded the Legion de Lafayette Medal by the Historical Society of the Militia and the National Guard. The award was presented during the 114th General Conference recently held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Legion de Lafayette designates major

contributors to the Historical Society of the Militia and National Guard - the non-profit affiliate of the National Guard Association of the United States. Since its inception in 1988, the Legion de Lafayette has been awarded to individuals, corporations and National Guard organizations for either extraordinary service to the Historical Society or a minimum financial contribution of \$10,000. Funds contrib-

uted to the Historical Society will be used towards development of a major public museum in Washington, D.C., to be known as the Museum of the National Guard.

The contribution to the Historical Society was made in Gen. Stroud's honor by the Louisiana National Guard Association.

Fuel for the Force



Save Army Energy

Adding Value to Louisiana:

Air Guard Treats At-Risk Kids to Air Station Tour

By SSG Suzanne Chailot
159 FG/PAO

Joe Watson steadied himself as the last snap was secured on his fighter pilot flight suit. He beamed with pride and giggled as the rest of his group broke out in laughter at the sight.

The eleven-year-old was part of 27 youngsters from various New Orleans housing developments on tour of the 159th Air National Guard base and Customs air station at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse.

The group was brought together under the guidance of Capt. Lorraine Patin, Safety Officer for the 159th, and the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO).

"We wanted to take these children out of their everyday environment and show them another side of life," said Patin. "We are trying to make a difference for these kids."

Col. Mike Sember, commander of the 159th,

greeted the children and presented them with a detailed description of the Air Guard. He explained that it takes hard work and dedication to succeed in life and that the opportunity is there for everyone. He went on to describe the workings behind an active flying unit.

"The real purpose is to acquaint them with the military and to show them what can be accomplished by working together as a group," Sember said. "This allows them to see what can be attained with willingness and hard work."

Activities included visits to the jet engine shop, the gun and missile shops, the life support section and close up looks at an F-15 eagle jet and a Black Hawk helicopter.

"My favorite part was the Black Hawk," said eleven-year-old Keith Taylor. "I even got to wear the pilot's helmet and pretend to fly."

Ernest Price's favorite part was getting personalized dog tags and MREs. "I have never seen food like this before," he said.



MSGT Tom Pellegrin shows off different kinds of ammunition to New Orleans youth. (LA Air Guard Photo)

Tips For Dealing With The Media

Dealing With Media

By COL (Ret.) Don Kirchoffner
Former Chief, Media Relations Division,
OCPA

Col. Don Kirchoffner's media relations experience includes establishing and running 10 joint information bureaus in the last four years. His most recent experiences were with the first Defense Department national media pool deployed to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield, the JIB in Incirlik, Turkey, during the air campaign of Operation Desert Storm, the combined information bureau for Operation Provide Comfort following the war, and the JIB in Los Angeles during the riots in May.

When the Defense Department released its new principles for battlefield coverage of the U.S. military in combat in May, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan added his endorsement. His statement of support, reads, in part: "The Army must do its part to help the media tell the story and this means an honest, cooperative and practical approach to media relations. We must overcome what some suggest is a tendency to treat the media as a nuisance or a hindrance and recognize that correspondents on and off the battlefield play a vital role in maintaining public support for our soldiers and America's Army."

I added the emphasis to on and off the battlefield. The principles are more than just for war. Know them. They are our marching orders. Or ask this question: Why would we be more restrictive in peace time than we are in war? The American people are our stockholders. We provide them with important information on our policies and practices - through the media.

If I had to sum up media relations, I'd say it was three knows: Know the reporter, know the media outlet and know the issue.

Here are some practical applications to the three knows.

Check credentials. Ask for identification and call the media outlet to verify them if you don't know the reporter. A professional reporter will not be offended.

Understand the publication. Learn its message, how it communicates, and who reads it. Do you read it regularly?

If it's your issue, take it. Don't pass on a reporter to a higher level of command, or ignore the inquiry, because the issue may be tough. Help your commander understand that media relations is not a "zero defects" operation.

Stay in your lane. If it's not your issue, don't attempt to answer it. Refer the reporter to who can best answer the question.

Understand the reporter's deadline. Inform the reporter if you can't make the deadline. On a related note, don't purposely drag your feet so the reporter misses the deadline. Chances are, the story will run anyway and will not be balanced.

Ask questions: What is the background? Whom else have you talked to? What information do you have? Where are you headed with the story? How do you intend to use the information we've given you? Your bottom line in asking these questions, which is okay to share with the reporter, is that nobody likes surprises: if this is going to be bad news, tell me now. Don't make bad news a reason not to be timely in your response. And the first question you should always ask is, Why not? Why should I not assist/facilitate providing information to the media. An inappropriate answer is that this is bad news.

Everything you say has the potential to appear on the record, that is, quoting you by name. Specify with the reporter when you want to talk "on background, attributable to an Army official, or off the record" which is not attributable. Understand, though, that despite clarifying this, you may find the reporter used this information on the record. However, this is a rare occurrence.

Don't shoot from the hip. Even if you think you know the answer, run it by the experts. The answer you know may have changed.

The media don't want our press releases, they want our news. Sound advice from the Ketchum Public Relations' A Guide to Effective Media Relations. Know the difference.

Swing the bat. You can't get a hit, that is, communicate the Army's copy points to the external audience, without taking a swing. At the new Baltimore Orioles stadium, the scoreboard shows the following information on each batter: Last at Bat-Struck Out Swinging, or Last at Bat-Struck Out Watching. Decide which you'd rather have broadcast about your performance with the media.

**DRUG USE
IS
LIFE ABUSE**



New Orleans Saints Kicker Morten Andersen receives a framed copy of the anti-drug poster from MG Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., that the Louisiana National Guard printed for distribution to 30,000 school children. The poster, which also features Master Sgt. Julius White of the 205th Engineer Battalion was part of a drug demand reduction initiative. Andersen, a long-time friend and supporter of the Louisiana Guard volunteered his time and the New Orleans Saints contributed the services of its art department to the effort. (State PAO Photo)



SSG Paul J. Sylvest, 241st PAD, croons favorites of the 1940s era for the dancing pleasure of all attendants. The 156th Army Band also provided an Andrew Sisters Trio. Throughout the evening, other would-be Sinatras, like Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee, took to the stage.



Late in the evening the guests were treated to a typical GI Breakfast of chipped beef on biscuit, scrambled eggs, fruit and coffee.

World War II USO Dance Fundraiser Boosts Spirits

A World War II USO Dance was held in the New Orleans Lakefront Army National Guard hangar in October to raise money for the Jackson Barracks Military Museum. The attendees were encouraged to dress in 1940 costume, and the 156th Army Band provided the big band music. Authentic WWII artifacts decorated the hangar, and off in a corner a silent auction of donated services and goods took place.

The music and impromptu singers added to the nostalgia and gaiety of the evening. As the night progressed hundreds of red, white and blue balloons were showered upon the jitterbugging couples. The evening was capped by a typical "GI Breakfast" as was served to soldiers long ago. (All Photos by SGT Kristi Moon Graves, 241st PAD)



A corner of the hangar was reserved for a photo spot so the costumed revelers could have a memento of themselves in WWII garb.

Young Donates Talent and Time To Play With The Band

By 2LT David Barham
241st PAD

First Sgt. Charles Young retired from the National Guard in March, but he's not yet ready to quit.

"At this stage in my life, there aren't any material things I would need," Young said. "I like peace of mind, and I like to be around people who have a similar mind."

Those similar minds make up the 156th Army Band out of Shreveport. Young, 60, plays the piano and the baritone for the band - sometimes as much as four or five times a month.

The band travels throughout the state playing at functions, retirement ceremonies and other special occasions. Young joined the Guard in the late sixties, and his friendship with unit members keeps him in even after his own retirement.

"Being around music just keeps me going," he said.

Young doesn't seem to be able to quit anything. He retired from the Lincoln Parish school system in 1986, but because of a shortage of music teachers in the Grambling area, he keeps teaching the young students how to play their music.

But the busy season is just around the corner for Young and the 156th. During the holidays, the band will be moving across the state playing for nursing homes and other places.

"Anything to promote goodwill for the National Guard," Young said.

Young said travel benefits go along with being a member of the 156th. He has gone around the country representing the state through his music. He said places like Virginia and Atlanta may have gone unseen without the Guard.

"This is my life," he said. "I don't fish. I don't hunt. I feel comfortable around music. As long as I can be of some use, I'll keep going to drill."



1SG Charles Young (Ret) continues to donate his time and talent to performing with the 156th Army Band after retiring in March. (Photo by 2LT David Barham, 241st PAD)