



## Orleans thanks Guard for help

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

New Orleans' Mayor Marc Morial's Military Advisory Committee recently recognized several service members as recipients of the 1994 Mayor's Community Service Award at a ceremony held in Jackson Square Jan. 8.

Two members of the Louisiana National Guard, Col. Mickey Evans (Army) and Staff Sgt. Jarrod H. Keiffer (Air), were honored for the exemplary community services they provided to the citizens of the City of New Orleans.

Evans, a 26-year active duty veteran and a native of Texas, has completed several projects related to Total Quality Leadership, Management, Professional Development, and Special Staff activities in his position as the special assistant to the adjutant general.



**HONOR**— New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial recognizes members of Louisiana's military forces with the 1994 Mayor's Community Service Award at a ceremony held in Jackson Square Jan. 8. Photo by SGT Lucas J. Landreneau, Jr., 241st PAD.

*"Project Quality Force provided us with a thorough and substantial understanding of the needs of the New Orleans Police Department..."* --Mayor Marc Morial.

Most recently, Evans conducted Project Quality Force, a comprehensive quality assessment of the New Orleans Police Department. The nine-month long evaluation promoted a corporate partnership between the Guard and the New Orleans Police Department to help effect necessary changes.

Evans has also addressed several local civic action groups on the importance of citizen understanding and involvement in improving the policing of the City of New Orleans.

Evans hopes that the new administration will utilize the Project Quality Force study when implementing changes concerning the New Orleans Police Department. "The Louisiana Guard has a contribution to make to the City of New Orleans and its communities," Evans said. "It is not only important for the Guard to be a good neighbor, but we must also be part of the solution."

"Project Quality Force provided us with a thorough and substantial understanding of the needs of the New Orleans Police Department. It also provided us with fresh ideas to consider when implementing management changes within the department," Morial said.

Keiffer, 27, a journeyman cable splicer with the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron at Jackson Barracks, has devoted the last two years to Hardin Elementary School in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans.

Keiffer, who has no children of his own, said he spends a lot of time maintaining the school grounds by painting, cutting the grass, and other general improvements.

"Anything I can give to the school will make me feel good about myself and the community." He added that the improvements to the school provide a better learning environment for the students at Hardin Elementary.

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# Best of the best try for top honors

By SFC Gary W. Walker  
Region VI NGB NCO Academy

What is the current status of U.S. and North Korean relations with regard to nuclear weapons?

Digging through newspapers to glean these last minute current events, sixteen soldiers anxiously waited outside the boardroom at the NGB Region VI Academy in Ball, La. in January.

"We're here to select the best of the best," said board president Command Sgt. Maj. Jewell White. "The board will select the outstanding NCO and Soldier of the Year for Louisiana in the categories of AGR and M-day."

Outside the room, concerned leaders conducted detailed inspections on their troops.

"Here, let's fix that," said 1st Sgt. Calvin Coats of the 239th Military Police Company as he adjusted the ribbon rack on Spec. Edmund Jarveaux's Class A jacket.

Slowly, one by one, the soldiers entered the room and followed the age-old

ritual: present arms, report, order arms, right face, left face, about face, be seated, relax and answer the questions to the best of their ability.

Some nominees exited the room smiling. Some quietly chuckled. More than a few shook their heads with uncertainty.

In the end, all could take pride in their efforts.

Louisiana M-Day Soldier of the Year:  
Private 1st Class Scott Reinecke  
Company D, 1st Bn, 244th Avn

Louisiana AGR Soldier of the Year:  
SPC Damon Hebert  
HHC, 256th Infantry Brigade

Louisiana M-Day NCO of the Year  
Staff Sgt. Craig Crosier  
Company E, 2nd Bn, 156th Inf

Louisiana AGR NCO of the Year:  
SGT John M. Lindsley  
HSC, 165th Trans Bn

## In Memorium

Staff Sgt. Donald Dean Zeiters, 33, died Dec. 31, 1994.

Zeiters enlisted into Company A, 199th Forward Support Battalion, Lafayette on August 25, 1984. He served in several units of the 256th Infantry Brigade during this period of service. He was federally mobilized for Operation Desert Storm on Nov. 30, 1990, and upon release from active duty he began working as a Legal Specialist with Detachment 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 256th Infantry Brigade (M), Lafayette.

His prior service included a tour of active duty with the U.S. Army during the period September 27, 1978 through June 1, 1983. Upon separation from the Army, he was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve where he remained assigned until enlistment in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

His military awards include the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Com-

ponents Achievement Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (2), Louisiana Commendation Medal, Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon, Louisiana Longevity Ribbon, Louisiana Emergency Service Ribbon, and the Louisiana Retention Ribbon.

He is survived by his wife, Darlynn M. Zeiters and daughters Celeste N. and Victoria C. Zeiters.

Private 1st Class Heath Conway Waddle, 22, died Jan. 21, 1995.

Waddle enlisted into Company E, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry, DeQuincy on July 1, 1993. His military occupational specialty was heavy anti-armor weapons infantryman.

He attended basic combat training and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Georgia from Oct. 18, 1993 through February 18, 1994.

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

## New NGB chief addresses National Guard soldiers

As your new Chief I am proud to represent the National Guard, the finest and most professional reserve military organization in the world. Together, we are going to make many significant and lasting contributions during the next four years.

Throughout the centuries, the National Guard's commitment to our communities, states and nation has set us apart from every other military organization. For over three hundred and fifty years, whenever our guardsmen and women have been summoned by the Governor or the President, you and your predecessors have answered the call and have served with pride and distinction. You have always been the first to respond and the last to leave whenever your fellow citizens have asked for your assistance at home, and you have provided invaluable support to the total force beyond our shores.

Now the National Guard is poised at the threshold of a new century. We have many new and exciting challenges ahead of us. As the defense budget continues to shrink, the National Guard will be thrust into new and demanding roles and responsibilities. We will be asked to do more for our communities, our states and our nation. Each new responsibility we shoulder will test our endurance and resolve.

I ask each of our over one half million Army National Guard soldiers and Air National Guard airmen to make a personal commitment to excellence. The challenges we face will demand an extraordinary level of dedication from each of us. If we foster a shared, common resolve to do our best in everything we undertake, there is no obstacle that can stand in the way of our vision for the future.

Together, our total force team will rise to new heights in the days and months to come and, in the process, you will be recognized for what you are -- the world's most ready and effective citizen soldiers and airmen.

Edward D. Baca  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Chief, National Guard Bureau

M16A1 Qualification Badge, Expert Tow Gunner Qualification Badge and the Expert Grenade Qualification Badge.

He is survived by his parents Charles and Joyce Waddle of DeRidder, La.

Spec. Patrick Charles Koonce, 23, died Jan. 28, 1995.

Koonce enlisted into Company C, 3/156th Infantry Battalion, Jennings, Louisiana on June 22, 1992. His Primary Military Occupational Specialty was 11M (fighting vehicle infantryman).

He attended basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga., Jan. 6 - May 14, 1993.

His military awards and badges include the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, M16A1 Rifle Marksmanship Qualification Badge and Expert Hand Grenade Qualification Badge.

He is survived by his father, Charles and mother, Janis.

Former Chaplain Kenneth J. Ryan, 51, died Dec. 28, 1994.

Ryan served more than 17 years in the Louisiana National Guard as a chaplain. Most of those years he spent in the 204th Area Support Group.

He served as the pastor of St. Jerome Catholic Church in Kenner, and as the chaplain of Kenner's Fire and Police Departments.

He is survived by two brothers, Edward Ryan and Donald Ryan, and a sister, Peggy Pope.

*Members of the Louisiana National Guard mourn the deaths of these fine soldiers and extend deepest sympathies 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 Graves), Bldg. 35, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330.

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# 13th annual race a huge success

By SGT Kristine Bacharach  
241st PAD

Thirteen was a lucky number for the over 400 people who ran the very successful 5K Road Race Dec. 4 at Jackson Barracks. Military and civilian runners began lining up at 8:30 a.m. on St. Claude Avenue for a half-mile fun run and a 5K run. Refreshments and an awards ceremony followed. Awards were given out in about 30 different categories.

A father/son team was victorious in two separate categories. The top overall finisher in the 5K was Gregory Jones, Sr. with a time of 16:33 and his son, Gregory Jones, Jr. out-sprinted everyone in the 14 to 18-year-old category with a time of 18:03.

The overall female winner was Jennifer Gloria with a finishing time of 20:31. The top National Guard finishers were Brad Errington, 18:34 and Donna Weinstein, 23:26.

Winning the half-mile race in the men's division, Patrick Shepherd came in with a time of 2:24 and Shawn Blair won in the female division with a time of 3:16.

Two platoons started the race shortly after the mass. Company C, 769th Engineers came in first, followed by a group from Officer Candidate School.

Race sponsors included Bell South Mobility, Kentwood Spring Water, 7-Up and Pepsi distributors and French Market Ice Company.

Proceeds from the race went to Children's Hospital in New Orleans.



AND THEY'RE OFF-- Over 400 military members and civilians begin the 13th annual 5K Road Race on St. Claude Avenue in front of Jackson Barracks. (Photo by SGT Kristine Bacharach, 241st PAD)



STYLE— Jordan Smith finishes the 5K Road Race in style as his father Rudy Smith pushes him to the end. (Photo by SGT Kristine Bacharach, 241st PAD)

# State OCS tops 'em all

The Louisiana Military Academy at Camp Beauregard attained the highest academic standards nationally of all of the states, territories and Washington, D.C. participating in OCS programs for 1993-94.

The U.S. Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Ga. awards a "Follow Me" and/or "Iron Mike" statue to the Army National Guard Officer Candidate program attaining the highest academic standing for the school year.

Certificates of Academic Excellence are awarded to the next three highest ranking OCS programs.

Academic averages are determined from eight tests worth 800 points. The tests are given in these subjects: tactics, communications, operations, combat service support, leadership, combat survival skills, training management and orienteering, land navigation.

The students are trained at Camp Beauregard and given the tests over 14 months.

Col. Calvin J. Washispack, superintendent of the Louisiana Military Academy, said he challenged the OCS students and

OCS staff and faculty to do a better job and increase the OCS program academic average. The Operations Section of OCS developed a program to enhance the academic averages. And the students put forward extra efforts.

The Teach, Advise and Council staff played a large role in the student's academic results. The TAC officers were responsible to ensure time spent in "Study Hall" was meaningful and ensured that students were comprehending the instruction by question/answer techniques outside the classroom. The staff ensured that training instruction was of the best quality possible. The end results - Louisiana is ranked first academically in a nation-wide Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Program.

Washispack also said he again challenged the instructors and TAC officers to continue their efforts to improve the academic average this year. He also challenged the students of OCS Class No. 35 to do everything in their power to continue their efforts on doing their best on tests.

Washispack congratulated his staff for a job well done during the school year.

Capt. Jack Rogers, Capt. Paul Ancelet and Capt. Shane Elkins are the instructors and 1st Lt. Randall Bouley and 1st Lt. Jefferson Cheney are the TAC Officers at the LA Military Academy.

Washispack also commended Maj. Randall Ridgeway, executive officer, for his efforts in overseeing both instructors and TAC staff in their working together toward achieving the highest academic averages.

# Father, son team up for sky jump

Maj. Bernard Plaia, a Jefferson Parish attorney and member of the Louisiana National Guard, participated in an unusual father-son outing in September.

Plaia's 18-year-old son, Mississippi guardsman Michael Plaia, was scheduled to make his first jump in Airborne School and his Airborne-qualified father requested to be there.

But Maj. Plaia wasn't just going to watch Private Plaia jump. Dad was going to

go out of the door first.

Maj. Plaia, a member of the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, got permission from the school to make the first jump with his son.

The jump went off flawlessly. After making four more jumps, Private Plaia became the second generation graduate of Airborne School. He is scheduled to attend the U.S. Army Special Forces School, also in the footsteps of his father.

# State athletes prepare for Special Olympic Games

By SPC Karen E. Leger  
241st PAD

Special Olympics has opened many doors to athletes from around the world by offering them a chance at greater self-esteem and achievement.

These athletes are offered the opportunity to participate in Olympic-level athletic competitions and to demonstrate to a global audience the extraordinary gifts of persons with mental disabilities.

In 1995, New Haven, Conn. will host the international Special Olympics, the largest sporting event in the world. Over 7,000 athletes from the United States and 140 other countries are expected to participate. More than 45,000 volunteers will be on hand as well as an expected 500,000 visitors. President Bill Clinton will be the honorary chairman for the 1995 World

## Games

The athletes will compete in 21 Olympic-style sporting events in 19 different locations in four cities and towns, and five universities in the New Haven area. The

*"We were in it to get a slot and to have fun... Now they're ready for competition. They want to come back with a medal."* - Soccer team coach Denise Denais.

athletes will compete in the sports of aquatics, track and field, badminton, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, roller skating, sailing, soccer, softball, table tennis, team handball, tennis, and volleyball.

This is an Olympic, and Louisiana is the third largest delegation, sending 108 athletes from communities all across the state to participate in this world-wide event.

Louisiana Special Olympics began in 1968 with only 15 athletes. Today over 12,000 athletes compete for a spot on Team Louisiana. There are over 100 area programs in which the athletes must compete to make it to the finals and eventually onto the state team.

To earn the opportunity to be chosen for the World Games, athletes competed at four state competition events held throughout 1994. Each athlete chosen for Team Louisiana has won at least one gold medal during these competitions.

Soccer team coach Denise Denais started her team only a few months ago when she was told soccer would be an event at the World Games. No one was prepared except Denais who took basketball and

softball athletes and turned them into soccer players.

"We were in it to get a slot and to have fun... Now they're ready for competition. They want to come back with a medal," Denais said.

Though a medal would be great, it is quite clear that the goal of Special Olympic athletes is not to win, but to try. And try they will in 1995 at the World Games. But it won't be easy. Louisiana Special Olympics must raise \$1,500 per athlete to train, clothe, equip and transport them to Connecticut for The Games. These funds will be raised entirely from individual donors and Louisiana businesses. For more information on contributing, please call 1-800-345-6644. If you wish to attend The Games and give your support July 1-9, 1995 in New Haven, please call 1-800-332-7829 for information on reservations.



**A WINNING SMILE** - Olympic gymnast Tara Henry proudly wears her official Olympic uniform during Special Olympics training in November. (Photo by Spec Karen Leger)

## Beau hosts special team

By SPC Karen E. Leger  
241st PAD

A special training camp was held Nov. 11-13 at Camp Beauregard in Pineville to begin preparing the Louisiana Special Olympic Team "Team Louisiana" for the 1995 Special Olympic World Games in New Haven, Conn. next July.

Athletes were involved in skill assessment and developmental sessions with their coaches during the 3-day training weekend. The coaches were able to review the skills of each of the 108 athletes chosen for Team Louisiana and were able to develop a training plan to prepare them to compete against thousands of athletes from all over the world at The World Games.

The National Guard's involvement with Special Olympics is nothing new. The relationship goes back more than 25 years when Special Olympics was based in Hammond, and members of a Hammond unit volunteered to support the Olympics with transportation.

When the Olympic organization expanded and moved to New Orleans, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., the adjutant general, offered the organization the continuing support of the National Guard.

Today, the Louisiana Guard helps

set up logistical operations, as well as needed leadership and volunteers. This year when Pat Carpenter, Director of Sports and Competitions for Louisiana Special Olympics, needed an area for training, Stroud and the National Guard came to her rescue.

Over 40 National Guard members at Camp Beauregard volunteered to set up the needed facilities for the 175 people involved in the camp sessions, including athletes, coaches, medical personnel and volunteers.

"I think the athletes benefit from being here because it's a different kind of an experience," says Carpenter.

"This is a perfect example of what ACOE is all about - being part of the community, and what the Guard is all about - volunteers," said Lt. Col. Allen Bozeman, facility manager of Camp Beauregard.

According to Bozeman, the base was the ideal place for the training session. Economically it provided needed bedding, dining and training areas which were not being used by the military on that weekend. The camp was also centrally located to other various resources needed by the Olympic athletes such as a facility for gymnastics, a bowling alley and horseback riding trails.

"This is a good program. This is letting athletes win just by participating," Bozeman said.



# Louisiana National Guard Family Assistance Program

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

## Family News In Brief

### New law strengthens Reemployment rights

A new law that takes effect this month strengthens the reemployment rights of more than 1.8 million service members.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 entitles military members to return to their civilian employment with the seniority, status and pay they would have attained had they been continuously employed.

"This law is a completely overhauled and updated version of the 1940 veterans' reemployment rights law," a U.S. Department of Labor official said. "It clarifies and improves the rights of individuals who serve in the uniformed services and want to return to their civilian jobs."

**The new law:**

++ expands the anti-discrimination protection of Reserve and Guard members in hiring, retention and advancement on the basis of their military obligation;

++ requires employers to make reasonable efforts to retrain workers or upgrade their skills to qualify them for reemployment;

++ expands health care and employee benefit pension plan coverage;

++ extends to five years the time an individual may be absent for military duty; and

++ improves protections for disabled veterans and improves enforcement mechanisms for service members who believe their reemployment rights have been violated.

Soldiers, too, have obligations under the new law. They are now required to give advance notice of their service obligation to employers, unless military necessity makes it impossible. They must notify employers of their intent to return to employment under a set of guidelines based on the length of time they are absent from the job.

Soldiers and employers with questions about the new law should contact a veterans' service representative at any state job service office or call (800) 442-2VET.

--Department of Labor PAO  
--Reprinted from Soldiers

### Spouses register for jobs

Good news is ahead for the civilian spouses of Department of Defense employees reassigned due to work force reductions or base realignments and closures.

Like their displaced sponsors, spouses can now register in the Priority Placement Program.

PPP is an automated referral system that provides hiring priority to employees displaced from their jobs due to reductions

in force, downgrading or returning from overseas assignments.

A recent change to the program allows registration of spouses of displaced civilian employees who were placed outside their commuting areas. These spouses will receive priority referral for all desired Dod activities for one year.

For more details, contact your local civilian personnel office.

--Reprinted from Soldiers

### Medal to honor volunteers

Soldiers who volunteer their time and services in support of community and humanitarian causes now qualify for the new Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

The MOVSM may be awarded to active or Reserve members of the armed forces who performed outstanding volunteer community service of a "sustained, direct and consequential" nature after Dec. 31, 1992.

Those who qualify will wear the award immediately after the Humanitarian Service Medal.

The medal features a star that symbolizes excellence and outstanding service.

Interlaced circles emphasize interaction between the military and civilian communities. The olive branch symbolizes strength, and acorns represent future growth and potential.

Recommendations for the award will be made through the soldier's chain of command and should include documents that substantiate the service provided. Letters or certificates from activity supervisors or a record of hours contributed will justify the service.

The medal sets will be available no later than June 30, 1995.

--Reprinted from Soldiers

### "Field duty" redefined

Soldiers deployed to a potential combat zone will now be placed on temporary duty orders, enabling enlisted members to retain their Basic Allowance for Subsistence.

The change is the result of an executive order signed by President Bill Clinton that redefines "field duty." It affects only soldiers deployed to potential danger zones, not those involved in field training or exercises.

Before the change, enlisted soldiers had to forfeit BAS payments, which averaged about \$200 per month, while deployed to operations "under orders, with troops, against an enemy."

The greatest benefit of the change will be felt by married junior enlisted members who previously would have lost as much as 13 percent of their pay when deployed to engage an enemy force.

--Reprinted from Soldiers



### New military books available

**\*\* Divorce and the Military.** is the first book to provide information and background needed by both parties to a military divorce, and their legal counsel. It also covers subjects like dependent benefits, income vs. property issues and filing and residence requirements.

**\*\* Military Almanacs** (Uniformed Services, Reserve Forces, National Guard, and Retired Military Almanacs), are comprehensive volumes that provide complete, up-to-date information on military pay and allowances, entitlements, benefits, health care, federal and state taxes, survivor benefits, insurance and veterans benefits.

Both books are now available at many military exchange stores.

# The tax man cometh

## Soldiers often confused with taxes

AFIS

Figuring out your federal taxes can be confusing, federal officials say, but it can be even more so if you are in the military.

With all of the various pays and allowances, along with moving, temporary duty, deductions and time spent in combat zones, doing your federal taxes could become a nightmare, Internal Revenue Service officials said.

Some pay received can be taxable, like re-enlistment bonuses and retirement pay, while other pay isn't - like clothing allowances and veterans' benefits.

To make filing federal taxes easier for military members and their families, IRS offers two free publications dealing strictly with military pay. For copies of *Tax Information for Military Personnel* and *Tax Information for Those Affected by Operation Desert Storm*, call 1-800-829-3676.

Or write to IRS, Forms Distribution Center, P O Box 25866, Richmond, Va., 23289.

In addition, the Persian Gulf area continues to be considered a combat zone. This affects federal taxes for service members stationed there during 1994, tax officials said. Under the tax law, enlisted members can exclude military pay from income, while officers can exclude the first \$500 of pay per month. Also, additional time is allowed to file federal taxes.

Generally, the following military pay is taxable:

- \* Active duty pay
- \* Re-enlistment bonuses
- \* Reserve training pay
- \* Service academy pay
- \* Military retirement pay based on length of service or age
- \* Lump-sum payments upon separation or release to inactive duty
- \* Special pay for hazardous or foreign duty
- \* Pay received by retired personnel who are serving as instructors in Junior ROTC programs.

IRS officials said the following items are generally not taxable.

- \* Department of Veterans Affairs benefits
- \* Basic quarters allowance
- \* Variable housing allowance
- \* Basic allowance for subsistence
- \* Certain disability retirement pensions
- \* Uniform allowance
- \* Family separation pay
- \* Benefits under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance
- \* Forfeited pay, but not fines

## IRS trying to answer military's questions

(AFIS) - The Internal Revenue Service recognizes that military members and their families face special problems when it comes to filing federal income taxes.

Trying to determine what's taxable and what isn't, what deductions can be taken and a host of other questions can make filing harder than it needs to be, said IRS officials.

To simplify matters, IRS offers two free pamphlets published strictly for the military.

[[ IRS Publication 3, *Tax Information for Military Personnel*, which covers general tax information, including a breakdown of what's taxable and what isn't, and

[[ IRS Publication 945, *Tax Information for Those Affected by Operation Desert Storm*, which includes material

on the combat zone exclusion and filing extension policies.

Several other free IRS publications may help make tax filing easier. These include IRS Publication 1, *Your Rights as a Taxpayer*, and IRS Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax*.

In addition, a number of changes have been made to the tax laws that could change the bottom line on your 1994 tax package. A free pamphlet explains these changes. For a copy of IRS Publication 553, *Highlights of 1994 Tax Changes*, or any other free IRS publication, call toll-free 1-800-829-3676, or write to:

IRS  
Forms Distribution Center  
PO Box 25866  
Richmond, VA 23289

## Unfairness concerns prompt some cuts

By SFC Stephen Barrett  
AFIS

Service members who receive Voluntary Separation Incentive and Special Separation Benefit payments now face losing them if hired by DoD after Oct. 1, 1994.

As part of the fiscal 1995 Defense Appropriations Act, members who separate with VSI or SSB forfeit those benefits if hired to DoD civilian positions within 180 days of separation. President Bill Clinton signed the act in September. The sanction applies to active duty members and full-time National Guardsmen.

Defense officials said Congress became concerned about possible unfairness. Some former service members took the special payments, separated and then returned as DoD civilians - to do the same jobs they had just left.

The law affects only those who separate and are hired after Sept. 30. Service members released from duty before Oct. 1 retain their VSI/SSB payments regardless when hired. All VSI/SSB recipients appointed to DoD civilian positions after the 180-day period passes also retain their separation bonuses.

Service members separating under VSI receive annual payments based on rank and time served. Those leaving under SSB receive a lump-sum payment, also based on rank and longevity.

Under the provision, officials said, DoD will use "established debt collection procedures" to recover VSI/SSB payments from affected new hires.

DoD officials are currently developing guidance with the services. They are asking each service to add this policy to the written agreements service members sign before separation. This is to ensure service members know about the law before accepting VSI/SSB.

In addition, DoD is asking all civilian personnel offices to verify whether potential employees are within the 180-day window. Local personnel offices will report affected applicants to their servicing finance offices. The Defense Accounting and Finance Service will advise these employees of the recoupment actions.

The services are developing procedures for handling problems. In the interim, service members studying VSI/SSB options and DoD civilian employment should check with both local transition assistance and civilian personnel offices for updates.

# State Guard pilot gets high five

By SGT Kristine Bacharach  
241st PAD

His office is more fast-paced than most. It sometimes reaches speeds over 300 mph and heights of 25,000 feet above the ground. He is Norris Babin, and his office is a C-12D aircraft.

Babin became the Louisiana National Guard's first chief warrant officer 5 Nov. 4, 1994. With 22 years service and the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course under his belt, Babin was the most eligible candidate to command Detachment 38, Operations Support Airlift Command.

Babin began his military career with draft orders to Vietnam. He qualified for the aviation program and went to flight school.

Immediately after graduation, he was sent to fly in the Vietnam War for one year. Upon his return, he took advantage of the early release program and came back to his home of Chalmette, La.

He then entered the Louisiana National Guard in 1972. He went from being a helicopter pilot on weekends to being a

train conductor during the week. One of his crew chiefs dubbed him, "Choo-choo" when he came to work for the guard full-time.

warrant officer 4. Babin is very excited about his promotion and job.

"I get a kick out of my job. I can't



**CW5 Norris Babin**

"(Choo-choo) really stuck. I think of it as a term of endearment," Babin said. And after ten years of service as a chief

believe they pay me to do this. I love it," Babin said.

He wears three hats with his job as

detachment commander. He is the chief flight instructor of ten pilots, flight instructor evaluator and unit commander.

Babin's true love is flying. "If I could, I'd sit a manikin at my desk and spend all of my time flying."

But like most commanding jobs, Babin's comes with a lot of paper and computer work.

"I do a lot more travelling with my new job, but I also do more scheduling and after actions reports," Babin said. "The airplane is easy, the computer is a little more difficult."

Babin is breaking new ground for future chief warrant officers 5. During the 2-week course in Fort Rucker, Ala., he learned the overall view of what it takes to be a commander.

And he's getting lots of experience commanding the detachment. "I have a responsibility to younger warrant officers, I'll try to guide them through their careers."

Whether he's shuttling troops to the field, instructing new pilots or commanding aviation units, Norris Babin is soaring to new heights.

## Graves makes history

For the first time in Warrant Officer Basic Course history, four distinguished graduates emerged from the same class.

In a Dec. 20 ceremony at Fort Rucker's Aviation Museum, four of the Army's newest aviators were recognized for achieving final course averages of 98.57. From Louisiana, Warrant Officer One Patrick M. Graves was named not only distinguished graduate of WOBC Class 95-9-11, but also of Initial Entry Rotary Wing Flight Training Class 94-10 OH-58 Scout Track.



**WO1 Patrick M. Graves**

Graves, a member of Alpha Company, 1/244th Avn, said, "It's taken me ten years to get where I am in my aviation career. I hope the next ten are filled with as much knowledge, training, and as many great people."

During high school in 1985, Graves enlisted under the split training option. After graduation he started in aviation by becoming an avionics repairman. Later, he added the specialty of Utility Helicopter Repairer, all the while a member of Delta Company, 1/244th Avn. In 1990, he got a full-time technician job with the Louisiana National Guard as an aircraft mechanic at Lakefront Airport. He worked there until he left for flight school in November of 1993.

Graves said that it was assignments like being Gen. Stroud's crew chief for three years that helped him prepare for his new

responsibilities: the lives of his passengers.

Many people over the last decade have influenced him and affected the changes and decisions he has made. Among those are people like CW5 Norris Babin, CW4 (ret.) Bill Moon, CW4 Jerry Harlin, and Col. Paul Alford, Jr.

As for the future of Graves' aviation career, as far as he can see, the Counterdrug Program's Reconnaissance and Interdiction Detachment could be one chance to build experience fast. "Flying marijuana eradication missions with RAID would be great experience and a lot of fun," Graves said.

"Times just aren't like they used to be," he added. "Before the big budget cuts, when new Guard aviators returned to their units after flight school, they could 'Guard bum' for a job." He explained that flying hours used to be abundant and a young pilot could almost depend on flying periods for their income. "That was great training and good money," Graves said.

For now, Graves is studying for his Airframe and Powerplant license that will enable him to work on helicopters in the civilian arena while he builds his flight time and explores the job market.

He is married to Sgt. Kristi Moon Graves, a member of the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Program and the 241st Public Affairs Detachment.

## Air Guard adopts kids for holiday

By SFC David B. Smith  
241st PAD

The Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Group sponsored an Adopt-A-Child Christmas program.

They were joined by their family and friends, employees of the National Finance Center and the Taxi Cab Bureau to provide gifts for needy children from the New Orleans area.

Over 225 guardsmen participated by donating gifts that ranged from coloring books to new bicycles and wagons. The children made a list of what items they'd like and their "adoptive parents" tried to provide them. More than two dozen people from the group's headquarters and volunteers from the Brother Martin High School Glee Club prepared the Dryades YMCA for the festive party while was held on Dec. 10. Orleans Parish Civil Sheriff Paul Valteau's officers greeted everyone as they arrived.

Cpt. Lorraine M. Patin, public affairs officer for the group, said, "The party wouldn't have been a success without the contributions of the individuals and businesses involved."

The Dryades YMCA provided their entire facility for the party. Angel orna-

ments were created by A&O Creations and placed by children on a Christmas tree provided by The Home Depot. Industrial Welding Supply provided helium for the balloons and McDonald's on St. Charles Avenue donated biscuits for the children. Mother's Restaurant made elf nametags, necklaces for everyone and National Linen Supply furnished the liners. Mitchell's music donated a piano and Sac's Fifth Avenue provided shopping bags for the children to carry home all their goods.

The highlight for parents was a complimentary performance by Charmaine Neville accompanied by Amasa Miller. Tech Sgt. Leon Carey joined Neville and led those in attendance in a number of Christmas carols and seasonal songs. The children enjoyed singing and dancing.

Fred Parker delighted everyone with his Santa Claus imitation. The children squealed with delight as they shared their Christmas wishes with the man in red.

Tech Sgt. Jeannine Welch, an adoptive parent, waited anxiously for her "child" to open his present. His face lit up when he saw the wagon he asked for.

"This makes Christmas very special for me," Welch said. "This is what Christmas is all about."

**"This makes Christmas very special for me. This is what Christmas is all about."**

**--TSGT Jeannine Welch**

# Old soldiers may fade away, but

By CPT Maria L. LoVasco  
State PAO

When Command Sgt. Maj. Harold B. Cook first joined the Louisiana Army National Guard there were few black soldiers or females in its rank, but there were many of both in the ranks of those who were present to honor him at his retirement ceremony in December 1994. Some weren't even born yet when H.B. Cook first put on a pair of brown boots in 1953.

"It's true I didn't want to have this function," he said before a group of 465 soldiers, airmen and spouses gathered at the Ramada Inn Convention Center in Alexandria. "But I got the adjutant general to agree that this function would be held in honor of all NCOs in the Louisiana National Guard, so that's why you're really here tonight."

This attitude was characteristic of what made Cook a soldier's soldier. He embodied the philosophy of taking care of soldiers, and many in the audience were in his debt.

During the ceremony the adjutant general presented him with the Distinguished Service Medal, and the accolades just kept coming.

Many senior level NCOs from commands throughout the Army came to pay him homage.

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry D. Pence, Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, said, "His influence and

emphasis on training, leading and taking care of the soldier has advanced the professionalism of the Army National Guard, not only in the state of Louisiana, but throughout the U.S."

Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Weiss, command sergeant major for 5th U.S. Army, said, "H.B. Cook is one of the greatest NCOs in the history of our Army and one of the finest men I have ever known. I have never witnessed a leader that is more respected by his subordinates, peers and superiors."

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Cayton, command sergeant major, Forces Command, said, "H.B. Cook has touched hundreds of thousands of people. He has had a great impact on our force."

Cayton solidified Cook's legendary status by convincing his commander that an exception to policy be made to induct Cook into the Sergeant Audie Murphy program, an honor not given to NCOs of his rank.

"Yours is the first command sergeant major ever to be given the Sergeant Audie Murphy award in FORSCOM, and that's 900,000 strong," Cayton said to a cheering crowd.

But it wasn't just those who came from afar that were given a chance to honor Cook. The Louisiana National Guard, to include the Air Guard, presented him with mementoes of their esteem.

"Your leadership made us one of the

best enhanced brigades in the Army National Guard," said Command Sgt. Maj. Don Hemphill, 256th Infantry Brigade command sergeant major. "You have mentored and have been an inspiration to us all."

The engineer group made special mention of his early years when he served as the command sergeant major of the 527th Engineer Battalion.

"You've had many accomplishments in the Louisiana Army National Guard," said Col. Bennett Landreneau, 225th Engineer Group Commander, "but nowhere have your footsteps and your legacy been more prominent than in the history of the 225th Engineer Group."

The man for whom Cook has served as the state command sergeant major for more than 14 years also had an opportunity to speak, but Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud admitted it was difficult for him to be there that day.

"My life and my service has been so closely tied to his for well over 30 years," he said. "There have been few days in the last 14 years when we did not talk to each other face to face or on the phone."

"Wherever he served, no one was too small or unimportant to him. In fact, I would not have made it to general without the support and assistance of H.B. Cook. I would have retired a long time ago."

Stroud cited as among Cook's legacy the Region VI NCO Academy, the NGB Academy and the Louisiana Military Academy.

"(These institutions) will serve as a great living memorial to you long after you and I and those of us here are gone," he said.

"I'm sure glad Sandra could be here to hear all of this," Cook said of his wife when he stood to speak. "Cause if I had gone home and told her all of what was said, she wouldn't have believed me."

"Many times I've heard the adjutant general say that everyone in the state wanted his job because he had the best job there was," Cook began, "but I would just listen and not say anything because in my mind I had the best job, but I damn sure wasn't going to tell him."

"The mark of a true professional," he said, "is giving more than you get. Continue to do that. Take care of soldiers. Support my successor Command Sgt. Maj. Morrow, and support your leadership, because that's where it all happens."

And with these remarks he thanked the crowd and sat back down beside his family.

It may take a while before Maj. Gen. Stroud stops dialing the command sergeant major's extension at Jackson Barracks expecting to hear H.B. Cook's voice.

And it will be decades before the first soldier turns to another and asks, "so who was this H.B. Cook?"

Because while it may be true that old soldiers never die—they just fade away, the great ones become legends.



Command Sgt. M

**"Even a blind hog finds  
an acorn once in a while."  
- CSM H.B. Cook**



**MMM. GOOD EATIN—** CSM Harold Cook and his wife Sandra enjoy some barbecue during the Leadership Conference in October 1993. (Photo by CPT Maria L. LoVasco State PAO)

## Laurels

- Distinguished Service Medal
- Army Meritorious Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Good Conduct Medal with 2 bronze clas
- National Defense Service Medal
- Humanitarian Service Medal
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 3 ho
- Armed Forces Reserve Component Achie
- clusters
- NCO Professional Development Ribbon
- Army Service Ribbon
- Louisiana Distinguished Service Medal
- Louisiana Army Commendation Medal
- Louisiana Retention Ribbon
- Louisiana General Excellence Medal wi
- de lis
- Louisiana Emergency Service Medal wi
- Louisiana Longevity Ribbon with 1 silv
- Louisiana Longevity Medal (40 years)
- Expert Marksmanship Badge



# great ones become legends

## Cook's Climb

May 1953 - May 1956, Private to Sergeant  
Unit Clerk  
HHC, 2nd Battalion, 199th Infantry

June 1956 - June 1960, Staff Sergeant  
Infantry Squad Leader/Unit Supply Sergeant  
Co E, 2nd Battalion, 199th Infantry

July 1960 - May 1972, First Sergeant  
Company A, 3rd Battle Group, 156th Infantry  
Company B, 4th Battalion, 156th Infantry  
Company B, 1st Battalion, 156th Infantry

May 1972 - November 1972, Master Sergeant  
Battalion Operations Sergeant  
HHC, 1st Battalion, 156th Infantry

November 1972 - August 1973, Sergeant Major  
Battalion Command Sergeant Major  
1st Battalion, 156th Infantry

August 1973 - December 1980, Command Sergeant Major  
527th Engineer Battalion

December 1980 - December 1994  
State Command Sergeant Major  
Headquarters, State Area Command

Note: During the period 1964 until 1973, he also served as an assistant instructor for the Louisiana Military Academy (OCS program).



**TAKING CARE OF SOLDIERS**-- CSM Cook presents the CSM award to a winning unit in the ACOF competition during the Commanders Staff Conference in the fall of 1994 (Phot by CPT Maria I. LoVasco, State PAO)



**CHILLIN'**--CSM Cook and his boss, MG Stroud relax during the 1994 ACOF Employee Appreciation Picnic held at Jackson Barracks. (State PAO Photo)



aj. Harold B. Cook

## Technician Assignments

June 1956 - May 1973  
Administrative Supply Technician  
Infantry Rifle Company

June 1972 - August 1973  
Operations, Training and Readiness Specialist  
1st Battalion, 156th Infantry

August 1973 - December 1980  
Command Administrative Specialist  
527th Engineer Battalion

December 1980 - December 1994  
State Command Sergeant Major  
Louisiana Army National Guard

**"The one-eyed amongst the blind will excel."  
- CSM H.B. Cook**

arglass devices  
vement Medal with 1 silver and 4 oak leaf  
with numeral 4  
1 silver fleur de lis and 4 bronze fleur  
1 silver fleur de-lis  
r fleur de-lis and 2 bronze fleur-de-lis

# Haiti sees help from state Guard

By CPT Maria L. LoVasco  
State PAO

Louisiana Guardsmen loaded seven truck loads of school supplies bound for Haiti in December, a Christmas gift much needed in light of the recent conflict.

U.S. service members began dispensing supplies to Haiti after a brainstorming session was held in October. The meeting was held at the School and Home Office Products Association's (SHOPA) newly formed Foundation for Educational Excellence.

"Every year we donate the items used for display by merchants of SHOPA at the trade show in New Orleans," explained Dale Mercer, Executive Director of the Foundation for Educational Excellence.

"In the past, the items have gone to school systems within the U.S., but this year, with the situation in Haiti, one of the foundation's task force members came up with the idea of sending the supplies to Haiti."

Mercer originally proposed that U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, Colin Powell and former president Jimmy Carter present the supplies to the school children for distribution by U.S. troops.

"Our military went over there with weapons to restore democracy, so my idea was to have these three men go as a peace team. The supplies could complete the 'circle of peace'," Mercer said.

While Nunn liked the proposal, he was unable to get involved. He suggested SHOPA work through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Thus began Mercer's involvement with Frank Clarke, an individual familiar with the military and how to get things done.

Clarke is the driving force behind the Ohio based Educate the Children Foundation, an organization he chartered three years ago to help improve the school systems in Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi.

"Every year we received a donation from the School and Home Office Products Association," Clarke said. "Last year, the trade show donation went to schools in Mississippi, Southeast Arkansas, and Northeast Louisiana. This year

Mercer contacted me about sending the supplies to Haiti."

Clarke used his contacts within the Department of the Army to get the military involved. From there, things began to happen. Approval came under the auspices of the Department of Defense's Humanitarian Assistance Program.

The Very Reverend John P. Lipscomb, former chaplain of the Louisiana National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry assisted in the effort to get the National Guard involved. No longer a member of the Guard, he is now a minister with the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Charles.

"Frank Clarke had worked with the Bishop J. Hargrove through the Educate the Children Foundation to provide supplies to schools in Lake Providence," Lipscomb said. "Clarke mentioned the

supplies, but also agreed to transport them to Florida," Lipscomb said.

"This isn't the first time we've called on the National Guard to help us," Clark said. "The Arkansas National Guard flew 20,000 books to the Virgin Islands the first part of June."

By the time the request for Louisiana National Guard assistance was processed and finally approved, the 2226th Transportation Terminal Service Company of New Orleans and the 1086th Transportation Company of Jena received only four days' notice of the mission.

"We were originally told to have two trucks on stand-by," said Sgt. 1st Class Carl L. McAlister, Assistant Operations Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 165th Transportation Battalion, Bossier City, LA.

"Then it became five trucks and

unloading ships, the packing, banding and staging are all part of our mission."

Several organizations came together to donate the material and manpower to stage the items for the haul to Jacksonville, Fla. The Guard provided the packing material. Fort Polk provided the boxes, tape came from the exhibitors, and the convention center provided the fork-lift and fork-lift operator.

By the time the 2226th soldiers were done, 104 pallets were loaded. On Monday morning, a convoy of nine trucks moved out from New Orleans for the two day trip to Crowley Terminal at the Jacksonville Port.

"These soldiers (1086th) are all truckers," McAlister said. "They love these kinds of missions."

"Yeah, it's what I like to do best," said Staff Sgt. James D. Robertson, 1086th Transportation Company. "I'm an old cross country truck driver. It's my cup of tea."

Robertson drove trucks for 17 years in civilian life, and for nine months in the Persian Gulf when his unit was mobilized for Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Both he and his son, Staff Sgt. James W. Robertson served together in the Gulf War, and when the call came for volunteers for the transport mission to Florida they signed up together.

"We had a break down on the way in Bonifay, Florida," Robertson said. "But we received real good cooperation from the Florida National Guard. They came out and picked up the two trucks that went down, while we continued our mission. We picked them up on the way back."

Robertson said when they arrived in Jacksonville the Florida Guard was there to help. With their assistance all seven trucks were unloaded in 30 to 45 minutes.

On Dec. 23, 1994, a ship carrying 13 sea-going containers filled with 1.5 million dollars in school supplies departed for the four to five day trip to Haiti, and with it went some Christmas spirit.

Thus an idea born in October, involving the U.S. Army, the Louisiana National Guard, the Florida National Guard, the School and Home Office Products Association, Educate the Children Foundation, the Humanitarian Assistance Program, the State Department, a bishop, an episcopal minister and a persistent Frank Clarke brought to school children in Haiti a spectacular Christmas gift, and to Dale Mercer, a completion of his circle of peace.

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***"Our military went over there with weapons to restore democracy, so my idea was to have these three men go as a peace team. The supplies could complete the circle of peace." - Dale Mercer, executive director of the Foundation for Educational Excellence.***

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trouble they were having getting this year's SHOPA donation to Haiti, and Bishop Hargrove thought of my church's involvement with Haiti."

Lipscomb's church had an affiliation with a church in Haiti due to the French language and similarity in culture. Hargrove hoped that Lipscomb could exploit this connection to make something happen.

"I thought of the National Guard," Lipscomb said. "Initially I just hoped we could get the Guard's help to pack up the supplies in New Orleans."

He contacted Brig. Gen. Arthur Abercrombie, assistant adjutant general, Army Guard, whom he knew since his days as a minister with the St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, the church that Abercrombie attends.

From there Gen. Abercrombie brought the request to Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., the adjutant general.

"I was delighted when the Guard not only took on the mission to pack the

ten men. We made a few phone calls and had volunteers lined up for the weekend."

While the 2226th Transportation Terminal Service Company may have provided only three trucks, they also provided the packing muscle. Capt. Keith Kingston, commander, also had only four days to round up more than 70 workers.

"As soon as the mission came down, we began making phone calls. Of the 73 guardsmen who worked, only two were full-time," Kingston said.

These guardsmen reported to the Earnest Morial Convention Center in New Orleans on Saturday morning, Dec. 10, to begin packing supplies and merchandise donated by more than 100 exhibitors. They worked from morning until 10 p.m. Saturday and continued on Sunday until completion.

"We were packing tablets, pads, pencils, notebooks, calculators. It was great training for us," Kingston said. "Although in war-time we'd be loading and

***"Freedom - no word was ever spoken that has held out greater hope, demanded greater sacrifice, needed more to be nurtured, blessed more the giver, damned more its destroyer or come close to being God's will on earth. And I think that's worth fighting for, if necessary."***

**Gen. Omar N. Bradley**



## Quality of life to increase

Quality of life is going to get better for members of the armed forces and their families over the six years beginning in 1996. The Defense Department plans to add \$2.7 billion in initiatives to make the military a better place to work, live and play.

This money will be used to improve compensation, living accommodations for single and married soldiers and community and family support.

In the area of compensation, the plan calls for new cost-of-living allowances to aid military members living in communities identified as high-cost areas - those over 109 percent of the national cost-of-living average.

The increases, which could boost some military paychecks by as much as \$167 per month in the highest-cost areas, will average about \$40.

The plan also calls for an increase in the Basic Allowance for Quarters to defray the costs of off-post housing. According to Defense Department officials, Congress has traditionally intended for soldiers living on the local economy to absorb up to 15 percent of their housing costs with the remainder offset by BAQ and Variable Housing Allowances. In reality, however, soldiers have

had to defray an average of 20 percent of those costs.

By incrementally increasing BAQ payments up to \$120 per month over the next six years, DoD hopes to bring the soldier's share of housing costs back in line. A total of \$60 million of fiscal 1996 funds will be reallocated to cover these initiatives.

DoD's plan also calls for better living accommodations, beginning with upgrades in 10,000 homes currently threatened with closure for lack of maintenance funds. In addition, improvements in privacy and other amenities are planned for 5,000 barracks spaces.

Additionally, DoD will allocate \$296 million for partnerships with the private sector to increase home building and lease-back options. Another \$94 million will be channeled into community and family support, including an initiative to increase child care for eligible families.

The money will also be used to improve recreation centers, reduce surcharges on the use of recreational goods and services, and strengthen programs aimed at preventing family violence.

--Army New Service

--Reprinted from Soldiers

## AAFES inaugurates radio service

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is taking a note from giant retailers. It's piping in music, advertisements and product information to make shopping a pleasant experience.

The AAFES Satellite Radio Network premiered in July in 40 exchanges throughout the country. When network hook-ups are complete, AAFES radio will be heard in 258 stores in the United States. Twenty-eight European stores are scheduled to have AAFES radio by February. Twelve Pacific exchanges are slated for the network in late spring, according to Bob Carreras, chief of the exchange services visual production branch.

AAFES is using a custom music mix with professional announcements and advertisements to entertain shoppers and provide updated product and service information. Network operating cost is offset by vendor-paid advertising, Carreras said.

## Mileage rate now 30 cents

Uncle Sam now pays government employees 30 cents a mile when they drive their own cars on official business. The jump from 25 cents went into effect Jan. 1.

General Services Administrator Roger Johnson approved increases for use of personal cars, motorcycles and airplanes on official business. Reimbursements for using a motorcycle have increased from 20 cents a mile to 24.5 cents. Reimbursements for flying an airplane have nearly doubled, from 45 cents a mile to 88.5 cents.

The reimbursement rate for cars had been 25 cents a mile since 1991. Congress passed legislation allowing the increase, and President Bill Clinton signed it in October. General Service Administration had suggested such legislation in 1992, but Congress failed to pass it at the time.

The Internal Revenue Service changed its rules in 1994 to allow businesses to reimburse employees at 29 cents a mile. The government reimbursement rate cannot exceed the standard mileage rate IRS allows private businesses, also 30 cents per mile in 1995.

## Career boost for retirees

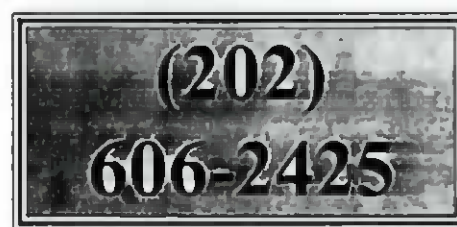
Civilian career options recently opened up for military officers who recently retired or will soon do so.

The new Acquisition Streamlining Act increases the marketability of military retirees. It suspends, until Dec. 21, 1996, a statute that prohibited retired officers from selling anything to the service from which they retired during their first two years of

retirement. It also repeals the Harbord Amendment, which prohibited retired officers from selling tangible goods to the Defense Department and the uniformed services.

Officers with questions about the new law are advised to contact their organization's ethics counselor or staff judge advocate.

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## Call hotline for buyout news

Federal employees interested in hearing the latest news about buyouts can now call a 24-hour hotline at (202) 606-2425.

The Office of Personnel Management sponsors the hotline, which provides the latest information about agency buyout programs. It names the most recent agencies to announce buyout programs and gives general buyout eligibility and early-retirement information.

It also provides information on such topics as how accepting a buyout can affect an employee's tax status.

More than 30,000 DoD workers have accepted buyouts since defense agencies began offering them in 1993.

A buyout is equal to \$25,000 or the employee's earned severance payment, whichever is less. The government deducts taxes, so employees offered buyouts are advised to consult agency retirement experts to calculate the buyouts' real worth before deciding. --AFIS

## Women's care improved

Recent DoD initiatives mean military women can get longer-term prescriptions while in remote locations, as well as faster test results.

The new initiatives, promoted by the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, promise military women a complete physical every five years and annual Pap smears and pelvic and breast exams. Women over 50 will receive annual mammograms.

DoD also promises routine Pap smear results within two weeks and abnormal results within five days.

Research on women's health issues is also on the rise. During fiscal 1994, DoD devoted \$210 million to breast cancer research grants and contracts.

--AFIS

## European CHAMPUS changes

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Most family members will continue to receive health care from U.S. military facilities. But the European Command Demonstration Program will apply to all 125,000 active-duty family members in the command.

Waiving fees is a short-term solution for facilities whose access to care has been limited by the continuing drawdown in Europe. For the long term, the Department of Defense is negotiating care agreements with host country medical providers. --AFIS



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**EGR** **Ad Council** A Public Service of The Publication

**DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE**

# MASH has new management

By SFC Chris DePascual  
159th MASH

The 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital conducted a change of command ceremony in December at their Jackson Barracks armory.

During the ceremony, Col. R. Philip Marler relinquished command to Lt. Col. Dennis A. Laravia.

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# Youth Challenge graduates 154

CPT Maria L. LoVasco  
State PAO

The largest class yet of Youth Challenge cadets graduated from the five-month residential high school drop-out program in January.

Young men and women - 154 in all - walked across the stage of the Tioga High School auditorium to claim their hard-earned course diplomas. Of that number, 102 also earned their G.E.D.s.

Class 95-1 was the first to employ the two-week boot camp prior to the actual start of the residential phase. This hardcore pre-camp was designed to weed out those teens who did not have the fortitude to endure the entire course. Drop out rates for the previous two classes averaged 38 percent, and each position vacated along the way represented wasted time, money and effort.

"We wanted to stabilize the number, early on, at or near the number of students who would remain for the duration," explained Dr. Doulgas Peterson, YCP director. "And we accomplished that with this third class."

With each rotation the staff and faculty of YCP also improved.

"We're ironing out the kinks with these first classes," said Peterson. "We're getting better and better."

## Kent takes command of 415th Bn

Lt. Col. H. Glen Kent, Jr. took command of the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion in a change of command ceremony on Nov. 5 in Baton Rouge.

Kent has been a member of the Louisiana National Guard since 1989. He joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1978. In Louisiana Army National Guard, he has served as inspector general of the 256th Infantry Brigade, executive officer of the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, commander of the 223rd Engineer Battalion, executive officer of the 256th Infantry Battalion (and chief of staff).

In his civilian career, he has been the assistant attorney general for the state of Louisiana and is currently the administrator of State Lands for Louisiana. He is a graduate of Clinton High School and LSU Law School.

Kent is the son of Hollis G. Kent, Sr. and Rosa DeLee Kent. He is married to the former Debbie Branch. They have five children and a grandson.

One aspect of the program that's improving is the mentor phase. This year-long phase pairs a graduate with an adult who provides him or her with guidance, counseling and positive leadership. These mentors also provide the YCP with long term tracking data. The ultimate success of the program will be realized years from now.

The fourth class received its rite of awakening on Feb. 4. Approximately 245

young men and women have been conditionally accepted into the next rotation. As some drop out of the boot camp phase, their positions will be filled by teens who did not make the first cut.

This latest class marks the beginning of the second year of this 2-year pilot program. By all accounts the Youth Challenge Program has been a success. The statistics, the mentorship program, and the ongoing success of past cadets are clear

examples.

Moreover, the rowdy, proud graduates of class 95-1 are the clearest example of the program's success. There is hope again where there was resignation. There is pride where there was once despair. Lost causes have become infinite possibilities. Overall, 154 young men and women took their places among society in January. The future now belongs to them.

## Soldiers show off skills at Barracks shooting match

By SPC Karen Leger  
241st PAO

The new year kicked off the second annual Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tournament held at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans in the 204th indoor range Jan. 6 and 7.

The competition consisted of two four-man teams from HQ STARC in New Orleans, and HSC 527th Engineer Battalion in Ruston.

Units wishing to send a team to compete usually hold a shoot-off to select the best four. If time is a problem they can randomly select the four-man team.

The teams then train for at least three months before competing.

The teams compete in three phases before a winner is chosen. The first two phases take place in New Orleans. The final phase is held in Little Rock, Ark. The winning team from Louisiana competes against teams from all across the United States for a trophy.

## 39th MPs train for disturbance

On Jan. 8, 1995, members of the 39th Military Police Company conducted a civil disturbance exercise at Pontchartrain Beach with members of the New Orleans Police Department Special Operations Group.

The Special Operations Group, well versed in riot control, acted as demonstrators to provide the MP's with realistic training through several scenarios, ranging from a simple on-street demonstration to total chaos, with weapons fire from buildings. Each scenario was followed by an after action review.

Several of the Special Operations Group members commented on the professional conduct and excellent display of force shown by the MP's during the exercise.

This competition offers soldiers a chance to excel in something different from their usual jobs.

"Since this was my first time involved I enjoyed the competition," said Spec David Nesbit of HSC 527th. "It was a challenge to fire a pistol...a change from the M-16."

The competition also offers the chance for soldiers to meet and show-off their abilities.

Spec. Shawn Brasher of the 527th team, said he liked "meeting new guard members and having no pressure" at the competition.

That was the feeling of the rest of the 527th team, it seemed, because their 119 score beat HQ STARC's 111.

The 527th will complete phase II when go on to compete in phase III nationally in Little Rock.

## Lightning strikes for 122nd Air Control

The 122 Air Control Party Flight at Camp Beauregard recently took top honors among the Four Air National Guard teams at "Lightning Challenge '94".

The three man team consisted of Tech. Sgt. Justin Vickers, Staff Sgt. Corey Johnson and Senior Airman John Shelton. The team also finished ahead of many active duty units in individual events.

Each year since 1983 (with the exception of 1990 and Operation Desert Storm) Detachment 1, 335 Training Squadron has hosted the Annual USAF Worldwide Competition at Hurlburt Field, Fla. The week-long event is normally held during the latter part of October or early November and culminates in an awards banquet on the final evening.

The purpose of the competition is to enhance mission readiness by providing tangible feedback to commanders and individual concerning unit training effectiveness while promoting the "warrior spirit". Success is evidenced by the marked improvement in competitor performance since 1983, and combat effectiveness of the Army in Operations Just Cause and Desert Storm.

Although larger in past years, fiscal realities have pared down the field. Approximately 24, two-man teams representing ACC, PACAF, USAFE, and the ANG

are invited. The 8 events included, job knowledge test, CAS mission planning test, an obstacle course, the 10K combat run, communications event, the 20K combat

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**"Lightning" is symbolic of electronic power... "Challenge" represents competition in career and readiness.**

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ruck march, foot navigation, and field skills.

The term "Lightning" is symbolic of the electronic means by which the Tactical Air Command and Control Craftsman provide the C2 function for close air support and the air-to-ground nature of the mission. The term "Challenge" represents the competitive nature of both the career field and the annual measurement of their combat skills and readiness at Hurlburt Field.

The 122 ACPF is already preparing for next years competition. ♦

# Pilot recognized for rescue

By SSG Suzanne Chaillot  
159th FG Public Affairs

A Louisiana Air Guard pilot was awarded the Air Medal during a December ceremony held at the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chase.

Maj Michael D. Gregory distinguished himself by his expert aviation skills, attention to detail and extreme professionalism that prevented the loss of life of a Louisiana Air National Guard pilot.

On June 12, 1993, Gregory was flying a routine training mission when his wingman, Capt Ken Duke, requested assistance due to a flight control problem. Duke's aircraft deteriorated to an out-of-control situation forcing an ejection.

Gregory assumed his duties as the on-

scene rescue commander, marking the position of the parachute, calling back the situation to the Louisiana Air Guard Supervisor of Flying and the controlling agency.

From overhead, Gregory determined that Duke was not executing post ejection procedures, possibly due to injuries.

With a sense of urgency, he located and coordinated the rescue of Duke with an already airborne HH-1 helicopter that saved his wingman.

Gregory is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Unilo Gregory of Dalton, Mass. He is a 1973 graduate of Wahconah High School and a 1977 graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

He currently lives in New Orleans with his wife, Lynn, and his two children, Ashley and John.



MAJ Michael D. Gregory

# Airman receives honors

By SSG Suzanne Chaillot  
159th FG Public Affairs

Her surprise at winning the Louisiana Air Guard award for outstanding senior supply technician was outweighed by her astonishment at winning the national title in the same month.

Tech Sgt. Michelle M. Hall, 159th Fighter Group supply technician, discovered she had won the award when her supply officer called her at home.

"(She) was so excited she couldn't wait to tell me," Hall said with a grin on her face.

"I'd like to see Sgt. Hall receive the recognition she deserves," said the supply officer, Capt Tena Moore. "You can't beat getting a nationwide pat on the back."

The award, signed by Maj Gen Donald W. Sheppard, director of the Air National Guard, recognized Hall for her outstanding accomplishments and dedicated service that directly affected the missions of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and the

defense of America.

Hall was instrumental in implementing a computer based training software with the Materiel Storage Flight to fill the gap left when technical schools closed.

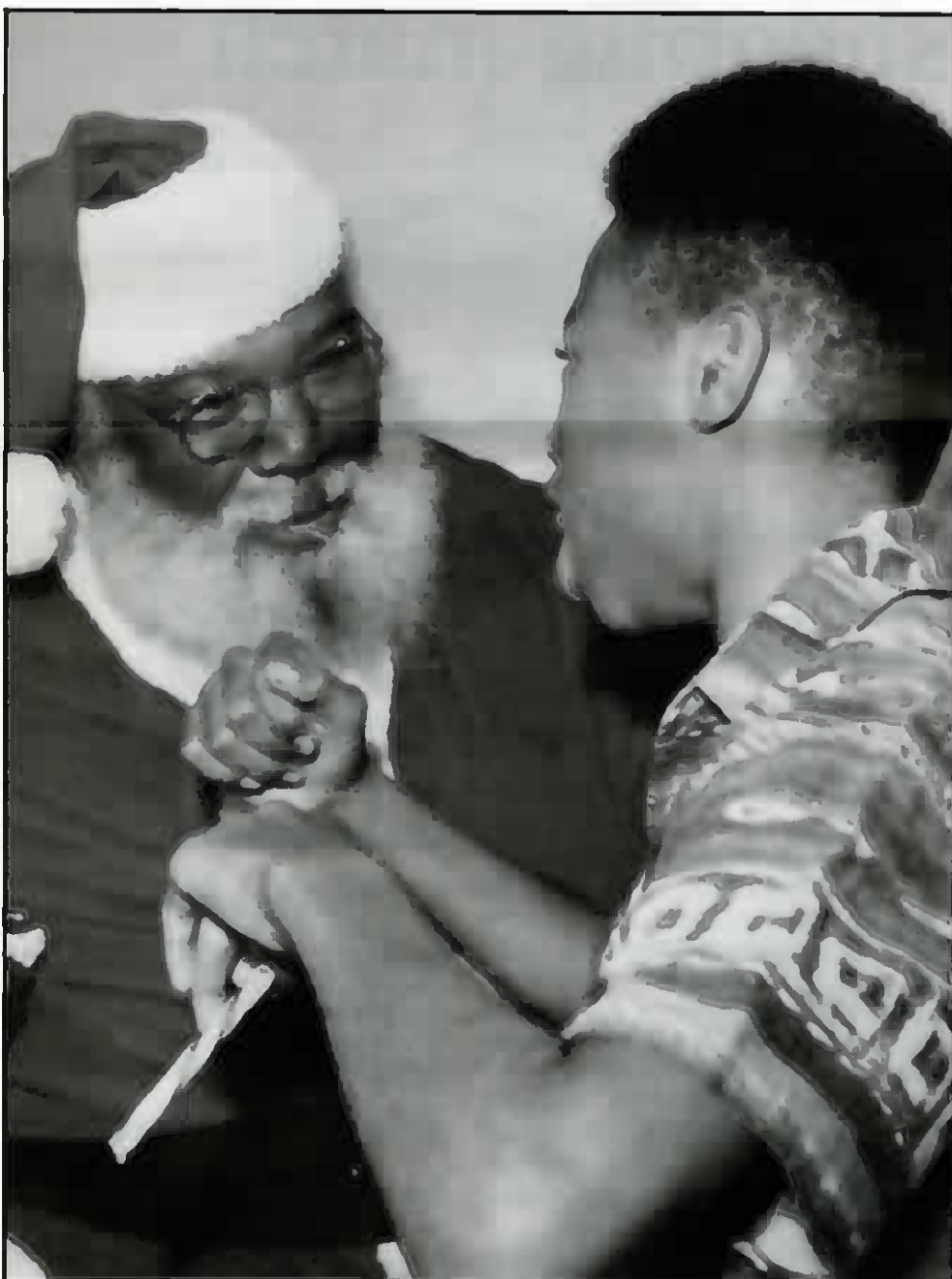
She also introduced computer pretesting for those trainees enrolled in career development courses resulting in a drastic reduction in course failures.

Her reconstitution of the Materiel Storage Flight's publication forms and file plans plus adding a quick reference guide assisted warehousemen in locating input formats and correct procedures expediting orders.

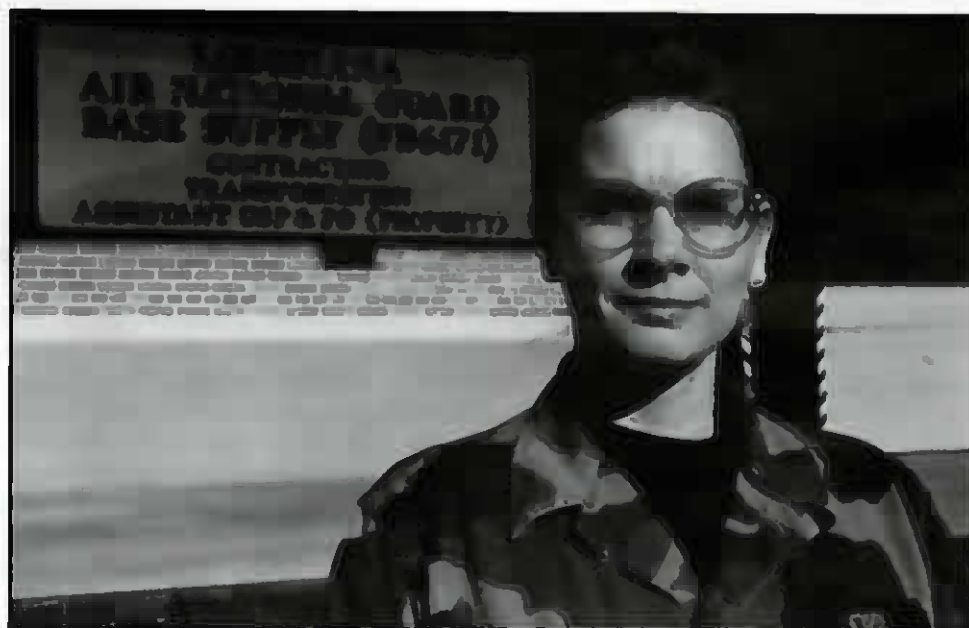
Hall also created a complete training package for the flight, including a recurring schedule and wall charts for proficiency training for traditional guardsmen.

"She worked hard to improve supply operations in every area," Moore said.

Hall is a native of New Orleans and is currently a student at Charity/Delgado School of Nursing. She has been a member of the Air National Guard since 1986.



**HELLO SANTA** - Ray Moore tells Santa his Christmas wish during the Adopt-a-Child Christmas Party sponsored by the 159th Fighter Group, the National Finance Center employees and the Taxicab Bureau of New Orleans in December. Almost 100 children shared gifts, candy and the spirit of Christmas. (LA ANG photo)



TSGT Michelle Hall

# African American women served Coast Guard early, with honor

By Rudi Williams  
AFIS

Thousands of white women clamored to enlist when the Coast Guard opened its doors to women in November 1942. But an invisible "whites only" shingle hung over the door to ward off African-Americans.

Military officials finally bowed to pressure from civil rights organizations, prominent African-Americans and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and beckoned black women to enlist in October 1944. It took another five months before the first one donned a Coast Guard uniform.

Of the more than 10,000 women who served in the Coast Guard during World War II, only five were African-American. They were Yvonne Cumberbatch, Daisy Winifred Byrd Beldon, Julia Mosley, Olivia J. Hooker and Aileen Cooke-Moore.

Hooker was a young school teacher from Columbus, Ohio. After being refused by the Navy three times, she was encouraged to join the Coast Guard by her friend Alex Haley, at the time a cook aboard the cutter Mendota. (Haley would go on to become a Coast Guard journalist and book writer and would be propelled into the international spotlight decades later by the movie based on his book *Roots*.)

Hooker, now 80, reported to Coast Guard Women's Reserve boot camp at Manhattan Beach, N.Y., on March 9, 1945. The next day Aileen Cooke-Moore arrived from Pasadena, CA, becoming the second black enlistee. The two women met secretly while cleaning barracks.

"The officers introduced us to each other about a month later," Hooker said with a laugh.

All five women held college degrees, but none was allowed to become a commissioned officer.

Members of the Coast Guard Women's Reserve were known as SPARs, for that service's motto—Semper Paratus. Always Ready. SPARs served as coxswains, radio operators, chaplains assistants, parachute makers, air traffic controllers, boatswain's mates, vehicle drivers, pharmacist's mates and more.

But those skills were closed to African-American women. Hooker and Cooke-Moore were sent to clerk school, while the other three went to cooks and bakers courses. After boot camp and specialty training, the women were assigned to the Boston suburb of Brookline, where they stayed until discharged in June 1946, Hooker said.

"Two of us have gone on to final reward—Aileen Cooke-Moore and Yvonne Cumberbatch," said Hooker, who was teaching third grade when she decided to become a SPAR. Beldon said Mosley-Shields lives in Richmond, Va.

"We enlisted because we thought there was a job to be done. I was received by the recruiter with open arms," Hooker recalled. "But after I passed the SPAR test, they sent

a high official from St. Louis to discourage me from enlisting. She told me one of the tasks the girls had to do at Manhattan Beach was pick up arms, legs, toes, and other body parts of the boys who were blown up in a ship in the harbor.

"Somehow that didn't sound right to me," Hooker said. "I told her if other women can do it, I guess I can, too. Of course, I wouldn't choose that for a profession."

Hooker had experience dealing with people who tried to discourage African-Americans from accomplishing anything. "My father's clothing store was blown up and burned by the Ku Klux Klan during the 1921 riots in Topeka, Kan.," she said. "I was about 6 years old. My family moved to Columbus because my father wanted to live in a college town." She and two of her siblings graduated from Ohio State College.

"You'll never do anything but scrub pots and pans and clean the galley," the officer said, as she continued trying to discourage Hooker.

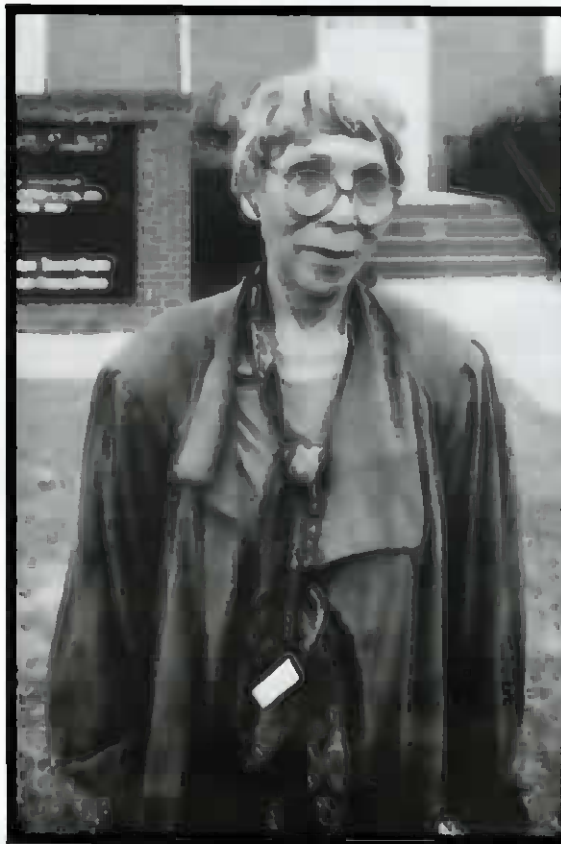
"Well, I do that at home, you know," Hooker responded.

"You already have a profession, you're a teacher," the official said. "So you're helping the war effort. I don't know why you would want to leave your home and go to a place where you'll be isolated."

"She went on and on," Hooker said. "I said to myself, 'I'd better let this lady get back to St. Louis, and then come back and sign up.' After she left, telling me to take my time to think about enlisting, I ran back to the recruiter and enlisted. I never regretted doing it."

After being discharged in 1946, Hooker used the GI Bill to earn a master's degree in psychology from Columbia University in New York. She also earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Rochester, N.Y., in 1962. She's retired from the Kennedy Child Study Center and Fordham University, New York.

Today Hooker serves on the boards of the White Plains NAACP, White Plains Child Day Care Association, Westchester Visiting Nurse Service and several others.



Daisy Beldon

She also serves as a consultant on minority issues at Fordham University and is a certified lay speaker in the United Methodist Church.

Hooker thinks military service is a good place for young women to find their niches in life. "I've tried to encourage young ladies who wanted higher education and who were competent and had a reasonable amount of ability to join the service," she noted. "But

they believed the stereotypes you see in the tabloids. They'd say, 'I wouldn't do a thing like that' as if it's something distasteful."

"We women have a job to let the girls know the military is an avenue where they can make progress if they want to," she said. "We had difficulties as SPARs, of course. Coast Guard men, as a whole were very encouraging. They were more friendly than the women, who like being in an all-white service."

Beldon, 72, is the seventh of nine children born to Henry and Daisy Byrd in King and Queen County, Va. "I was born in a little town called Dragonsville—near nothing," Beldon said. "The closest town is West Point near the Mattaponi Indian Reservation. That's where the Indian side of my heritage comes from."

There were no schools for blacks or Indians in King and Queen County. The all-white Baptist church founded a school for black children across the street from the all-black Second Mount Olive Baptist Church, which was built by freed slaves. After completing the seventh grade in the two-room classroom, black children went to the Rappahannock Academy, where their parents had to pay tuition for their children to attend high school.

Beldon went on to major in home economics and minor in science at Virginia State College in Petersburg, Va. She taught high school in South Boston, Va., near the North Carolina border before enlisting in the Coast Guard in April 1945.

"My brother was in the Pacific, and I wanted to go there as a medic, but the Coast Guard wouldn't train me," Beldon said. "They sent me to cooks and bakers school.

"I'd just graduated from college and begun my first teaching position," Beldon explained. "Julia (Mosley) was the school librarian, and we decided to enlist together. We decided to go into a branch of service where there were no black women. But to our surprise Olivia Hooker and Aileen Cooke had enlisted two months ahead of us."

"After Pearl Harbor we all felt committed—as a country we'd been attacked," said Beldon. "We wanted to do something to help."

Beldon worked in the kitchen for about a year before the Coast Guard started discharging SPARs. "Making a career of the Coast Guard wasn't an option for us," said Beldon. "They were getting rid of the women, and we were the first to go."

The black women were treated relatively well, Beldon said. "Since there was just five of us, it wouldn't have been expedient for them to treat us badly."

Her fondest memories were meeting her four black counterparts and becoming life-long friends with them. "There were a few white SPARs we kept in contact with," she added.

After the war, Beldon used the GI Bill to earn a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. She taught high school biology and home economics in the Montgomery County, MD, school system for nearly 30 years before retiring in 1976 as a master teacher. Beldon was the first African-American to head a school department.

Beldon maintains a home in Washington as well as her retirement home in Little Plymouth, Va., where she lives with her older brother, Henry.

For more than five years Beldon has been chairperson of the Residents Involved in Saving the Environment, Inc., a more than 200-member-strong group of county residents. The group is fighting to prevent King and Queen County officials from building a 420-acre landfill in a predominantly black community, in back of a historical significant black church and abutting an African-American burial ground.

They lost the battle, but are now fighting to force the county to relocate the site.

"There's no question in my mind, if we're going to become a significant part of mainstream America, we have to participate at all levels in the affairs of this country," Beldon said.

"Therefore, young African-American women ought not hesitate in joining the armed services because we need to be involved in everything in this country that promotes our form of government," Beldon said. "They may have been in the hold, but blacks came over early in Colonial history. This is our country, too!"

"Don't sit back and complain—get up and do something," Beldon said. "It's not for everybody, but the armed forces is a good place to start."

# Louisiana's top positions filled

Story and Photos By  
CPT Maria L. LoVasco  
State PAO

When the adjutant general pondered who was to fill the big shoes of State Command Sergeant Major Harold B. Cook he looked to the heart of Louisiana.

And found Command Sgt. Maj. John R. Morrow.

Morrow had been serving as the commandant for the National Guard Bureau Region VI Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy since 1988. Under his direction, the academy developed into one of the premiere NCO academies in the nation.

When Morrow was tapped to occupy the position of the highest-ranking enlisted soldier in the Louisiana Army National Guard, the care and welfare of the Region VI Academy's faculty and students was turned over to Command Sgt. Maj. Jewell White, the former command sergeant major of the 205th Engineer Battalion.

Both men have had long, decorated careers in the service of the Louisiana militia.

Morrow began his military career in September 1965 with Company A, 1st Battalion, 156th Infantry in Jonesboro. Before his assignment to the Academy in 1984, he also served with the 527th Engineer Battalion and the Headquarters Detachment. Within the NCO Academy, he held the positions of operations sergeant, first sergeant and assistant commandant.



His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal with three knots, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one hourglass device, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four, the National Defense Service Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Morrow's Louisiana medals include the Louisiana General Excellence Medal with four fleur-de-lis, the Louisiana Lon-

gevity Medal with four fleur-de-lis, the Louisiana Emergency Service Medal and the Louisiana Retention Ribbon.

He is a member of the National Guard Enlisted Association, the NCO Association, the NCO Museum Association and the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association. Within the Louisiana Enlisted Association he has served as treasurer, parliamentarian, president-elect and president.

Morrow's family resides in Tioga, La. He and his wife, the former Mary Jo Stillwell, have four children and one grandchild.

White, who took over the Academy in December, began his career with Company A, 205th Engineer Battalion in 1971. He

was reassigned to Headquarters Company and served in the positions of chief construction surveyor, operations sergeant, first sergeant and in 1988, command sergeant major.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Good Conduct Medal with four knots, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one hourglass device, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four, the Army Service Ribbon and the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon.

His Louisiana awards include the Louisiana Cross of Merit, the Louisiana Commendation Medal with two fleur-de-lis, the Louisiana Retention Ribbon, the Louisiana Emergency Service Medal with one silver fleur-de-lis, the Louisiana General Excellence Medal with one silver fleur-de-lis, the Louisiana Longevity Medal with one silver fleur-de-lis, and the Army Superior Unit Award.

White is a member of the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association, the NCO Association, and the NCO Museum Association.

He now resides in Ball, La., with his wife, the former Denise Dicks and their daughter.



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