

BUCKEYE
GUARD

Summer 2000

Roving Sands

McConnelsville Avenger unit hones warfighting skills at Fort Bliss

PAGES 7-9



Photo by TSgt. Todd Cramer, 179th Airlift Wing

Cape Crusade

MSgt. David Weidner, a loadmaster with the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, makes sure an all-terrain forklift is backed safely inside a C-130 cargo plane during War Skills 2000, at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. For more, see pages 14-15.

The *Buckeye Guard* is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2825 W. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, (614) 336-7000. The views and opinions expressed in the *Buckeye Guard* are not necessarily those of the Departments of the Army and Air Force or the Adjutant General of Ohio. The *Buckeye Guard* is distributed free to members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation is 18,000.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

State Commander-in-Chief
Gov. Bob Taft

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. John H. Smith

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young

Assistant Adjutant General, Air
Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. Michael O. Howley

Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air
Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith

PUBLICATION STAFF

Director, Public Affairs
Capt. Neal E. O'Brien

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Ms. Denise Varner

Associate Editors
Mr. Steve Toth
Staff Sgt. Diane L. Farrow

Editorial Assistant
Ms. Mimi Myers

Contributors
Army/Air National Guard Journalists
ANG Visual Information Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. E-mail us at buckeye@tagoh.org. Deadlines are:

Winter, **January 15**
Spring, **April 15**
Summer, **July 15**
Fall, **October 15**



Photo by PFC Haraz N. Ghanbari, 196th MPAD

FEATURES

7 ADA unit conducts live fire
2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion put to test, fires its missiles at Fort Bliss.

10 Easing access in Texas
Combat engineers improve response time, safety for border patrol at Eagle Pass.

23 Training troops for war
Ohio's support group assets prepare units for battle at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center.

Units at JRTC supervised the movement of more than 1,000 pieces of equipment that arrived by barge. See pages 23-25.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Command focus**
MG Smith compares year-round training to football season, two-week annual training to Super Bowl.
- 3 Feedback from the field**
- 4 National news**
- 6 Citizen spotlight**
Mansfield Air Guardmember flies where others cannot.
- 31 Guarding against drugs**
- 32 Buckeye briefs**
- 34 All about people**
- 36 Guardmember benefits**



Photo by SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-)

SPC Jeff Butler, 324th MP Company, inspects a prisoner's boot during Badger Triad. See page 29.

ABOUT THE COVER: PV2 Steven R. Taylor, C Battery, 2-174th ADA, performs a systems check on an Avenger air defense system. *Photo by PFC Haraz N. Ghanbari, 196th MPAD*

www.ohionationalguard.com

Log on to the Ohio National Guard website to learn more about the organization.

AT: 'Super Bowl' of National Guard training



BY MAJ GEN JOHN H. SMITH
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The Super Bowl. After 16 regular season games, and then the play-offs, two teams reach the pinnacle of their respective seasons and play for the title of world champions. In the end, history will show that the champion had made the right personnel moves in the off-season, conducted a rigorous training camp and, during the season, despite some losses, persevered and won the game. The players will talk for years about long touchdown runs, interceptions, passes and great individual efforts that inevitably led

to the team's victory. At the end of the season, some players will retire, some will change teams and others will continue to form the nucleus of the team for the next season.

By the time you read this, units in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard will have completed their annual training. From Southwest Asia, to Europe, Central America and, yes, even Camp Grayling, Mich., our men and women will have traveled the globe in order to reach the peak of their readiness in a training year. Some will even go into harm's way and test their Guard training against our foes.

It can be argued that the year between annual trainings can be compared to a year's worth of preparation for a professional football team. Following annual training, commanders put together their leadership teams. Those leaders then entrust the emphasis of their training, and ultimately their readiness, to our junior officers and noncommissioned officers. They, in turn, nurture our greatest assets, our junior enlisted personnel.

With the personnel in place, leaders prepare their training plan for the year that will eventually lead to annual training. That plan will play itself out over the course of the year, just as a football season does, and culminate in our "Super Bowl," annual training. As I traveled all over the world, literally, to see our soldiers and airmen at work, there was a tremendous amount of pride in the eyes, and actions, of Ohio National Guard personnel. They all pointed to annual training as the ultimate test. Some units were assessed by active-duty observer controllers. These evaluations told us what we already know: when called, we *can* respond with ready units.

For years to come, many of us will talk about our "exploits" at annual training. Friendships will be made and solidified, leaders will emerge with the experience necessary to lead our troops and the nucleus of our National Guard will be born to lead us into the future.

The future will be bright for our personnel if we continue to focus our energies on the bottom line: readiness. As you have no doubt read, perhaps in these pages, or in countless military publications and in the news, the future tends to change with top leadership changes.

Just this past year, the Army determined that our forces needed to be more mobile, light and lethal. With that came the "brigade combat team (BCT)" concept, currently being tested at Fort Lewis, Wash.

At the same time, the Army National Guard's (ARNG) Division Redesign Study began to take shape. Two divisions—the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and the 7th Infantry Division (Light)—stood up with active-duty headquarters and three ARNG maneuver brigades. Simultaneously, states sought to "re-invent" their force structure, in some cases trading combat arms units for much needed combat service and service support units.

Here in Ohio, we chose to focus on readiness, first by recruiting and retaining soldiers, and then by ensuring they received the training necessary in their military occupational specialty. We feel that this focus will posture the Ohio ARNG to become a very real part of the Army's future. As the Army looks to the Guard to shoulder more of the national defense burden, we hope that we have postured ourselves to be one of the first BCTs fielded in the ARNG.

Defining national defense today is much tougher than it was 10-15 years ago. There is no defined "enemy" as there was in the Cold War. With ARNG units deploying to Southwest Asia, Bosnia and Macedonia, we must remain ready to respond to the changing roles and missions national security has dictated. Now, more than ever, the citizen-soldier persona exemplifies the need in war-torn countries around the world that require guardmembers to work with the local populace in restoring a sense of normalcy in their lives.

The Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) has seemingly made life easier for our Air National Guard units that have typically been sent worldwide on a moment's notice. Under the AEF concept, our units will have more predictability regarding scheduled rotations

for deploying units. Although this process has not reached the degree of predictability and sequencing that is intended—especially for many of our support units—it will be refined and corrected to make life easier for our airmen, their families and their employers. Already, the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, has completed a successful AEF rotation, and this past year the 123rd Air Control Squadron deployed to Kuwait to support Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the southern Iraq no-fly zone. The 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, deployed to Turkey to support Operation Northern Watch, where training allowed them to fly numerous combat sorties,

evading Iraqi air defenses, and when necessary, engaging and destroying ground targets. Both the 179th and the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, sent aircraft and crews to support Operation Allied Force in Kosovo.

This year, as I traveled to annual training sites, I saw enthusiasm, dedication and hard work in everything our soldiers and airmen did. We must capitalize on the momentum we have gained. We have trained hard this past year. Our training has paid off in increases in readiness, the safe return of aircrews and an expectation that we are poised to respond with ready units. More people are joining the Ohio National Guard than at any other time in our history. We must continue to push the readiness envelope and increase the tempo of safe, realistic training. The very existence and survival of our units depends on it. Ultimately, we *will* respond when called, with ready units. ■

"The future will be bright...if we continue to focus our energies on the bottom line: readiness."

'UH1 dog' takes issue with Black Hawk article

This letter is in response to the article on pg. 7 of the Spring 2000 issue of the *Buckeye Guard*. The article stated that "Hueys" were no longer fielded in the active Army. I know several active-duty bases that continue to use this fine airframe.

I was discharged from active duty in March 1999 from Fort Belvoir, Va. The unit I was in at the time—the 12th Aviation Battalion—had and still has 22 UH-1 Hueys.

Some of the other active-duty bases that currently field the Huey are Fort Eustis, Va., 14; Fort Polk, La., 12; Fort Irwin, Calif. (National Training Center), six; Fort Carson, Colo., three; Stuttgart, Germany, four; Camp Humphreys, Korea, six; and Sinai, Egypt, 12.

Yes, the Huey may be old, tired and worn out, but a Huey's worst day is still better than a Hawk's good day. We also had a saying on active duty: "When the last UH-60 Black Hawk is dropped at the boneyard, the crew will fly home in a Huey.

Also, one more correction to the article. On pg. 8, I read that "...the Huey can carry only seven passengers and a crew of three." I can remember when I was stationed at Camp Stanley, Korea, and I had to fit 10 passengers, plus myself in my good old Huey. It was winter and we had only a "half a bag" of JP8 (fuel), but the Huey climbed out just like I knew she would.

SPC JEREMY D. PICKENS

CO D, 1-137TH AVIATION BATTALION

Article overlooks 'Family Support Group of Year'

Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry of Lebanon is very proud of its family support network. They have done great things for our unit in such a short amount of time. The unit's family support group was recently named "Family Support Group of the Year" at the Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Conference in April.

A lot of their work can go unnoticed which is not the desired outcome. It is important for us as leaders to recognize their exceptional effort. With this in mind, it was difficult to understand how a *Buckeye Guard* article could be published without mentioning this prestigious award. I feel this award is the highest one that could be earned in the area of family support. All

other awards are individual awards and this is truly the only group award. Any leader worth a darn would cherish this recognition over any individual honors. We feel this way. We believe our family support group's efforts earned this distinction and feel slighted.

In addition to performing the usual family support group activities such as sponsoring picnics, open houses and providing snacks to soldiers as they returned from the field, they took time other than drill dates to support their community. Our family support group sponsored a family for the holidays by providing gifts, Christmas dinner and a camera. They also took charge of a food drive for the Warren County Women's Abuse and Rape Crisis Center, which was valued at over \$6,000 by the shelter.

The active members of the unit family support group for 1999-2000 are: Kelly Armbruster, Kathy Buck, Michelle Campbell, Linda Coombe, Katie Gerstle, Emily Gilley, Rita Heard, Karen Jordan, Kerstin Roush, April Schneider, Laura Shepherd, Tracy Todd and Libby Wilson.

Congratulations to the volunteers of B Troop and thank you for all that you do to build a stronger Guard and nation.

ISG BILL BELDING

TROOP B, 2-107TH CAVALRY

ISG Belding, FSG members:

Both the Buckeye Guard staff and Family Readiness Office are sorry for the snubbing of your fine achievement. It truly was an honest mistake. Your efforts set an example for other groups throughout the state to emulate. Please keep up the good work. The success and confidence of all our Ohio National Guardmembers depend in part on strong family support groups like yours.

Simple phone call builds relationship with community

My relationship with Bravo Company, 237th Forward Support Battalion, Newton Falls, started very simply with a phone call from Staff Sgt. Herman Turner, the Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR), asking how the unit could participate in the community's local Fourth of July parade.

During the conversation, I expressed the

committee's need for a large tent to cover the entertainment stage (a flatbed trailer) and offered to rent one if the unit had one available. Staff Sgt. Turner and Spc. Tammie Turner quickly became my new best friends. Staff Sgt. Turner made some calls and got back to me not only with an offer of a GP (general purpose) large tent, but the manpower to erect it. The generous offer saved the festivities committee nearly \$1,000.

During the evening of the second and the morning of July 3, we experienced thunderstorms with lots of rain. I received a call early on July 3 informing me that some of the poles had snapped and part of the tent had collapsed due to the large amounts of water laying on the tent. I was frantic; the event was to begin in less than two hours. Luckily, I was able to contact Army Guard recruiter Staff Sgt. Walt Mihalik, who subsequently contacted 1st Sgt. Don Shiley, who drove from his home nearly 20 miles away to the festival site. When he got there, he found Staff Sgt. Rich Lance and a few volunteers repairing the tent, which was not a simple feat.

The morning of the Fourth, Bravo brought eight vehicles to the parade. I positioned them at the end for maximum effect and as an added treat for my parade volunteers. Each year the volunteers put in long hours staging the parade and then walking 1.4 miles at the end of the parade. This year they were transported in style by various Guard vehicles. These hard-working volunteers really enjoyed this special treatment.

I just don't have the words to express the gratitude I have for the special men and women of Bravo Company, 237th FSB, and also of Alpha Company, 1-107th Cavalry, Newton Falls. I look forward to working on other projects in the future with this great group of people. Our community has met some fine new "neighbors" from just a simple phone call.

ROSEMARY GREATHOUSE

NEWTON FALLS JULY 4TH PARADE

Correction

Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Hickman, 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, was identified by an incorrect first name in the "Faces in the Guard" feature on page 5 of the Spring 2000 *Buckeye Guard*. Our apologies go to Master Sgt. Hickman for the error.





Photo by Jim Garamone, Armed Forces Press Service

World War II Medal of Honor recipients attend opening ceremonies of the National D-Day Museum June 6. Behind them is a reproduction of a Higgins boat, the plywood craft that made the amphibious invasions of World War II possible.

America honors 'Greatest Generation'

In 1938, the man who would be its commander in chief, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, said the generation coming of age had "a rendezvous with destiny."

That destiny was to save the world for democracy during World War II. And the celebration of the opening of the National D-Day Museum June 6 in New Orleans was a chance for younger Americans to thank their parents and grandparents.

"We are the heirs of your sacrifices," said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen during the opening ceremony. "We are citizens of the world that you made, and we can only stand in awe of your courage, at your sense of duty and the other sacred gifts that you have offered to all people. To you belongs the honor of this day."

"I think all of us bear the marks to this day of our experiences on D-Day," said Roy Boyter, a 29th Infantry Division soldier who landed with the second wave at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. "Seeing friends die—men who we had lived with for up to three years—will affect you."

The military parade was billed as the largest in 40 years. The line ran two miles through the streets of the city and passed in front of the museum. Veterans in Army trucks waved to the thousands of people lining the route. Bands and marching units from today's military, and French and British troops also honored the veterans by their presence.

The museum is more than just a house

of artifacts. Part of its attraction is the stories of the veterans. Interspersed among the exhibits are videos of the men and women and their recollections of America, military life, life on the home front and combat. The pictures these videos show are of young men and women, but the voices are old and sometimes it is difficult to reconcile the difference.

The World War II generation grew up enduring the hardships of the Great Depression and then fought in the most destructive war in history. Newsman Tom Brokaw calls those men and women now

entering or in their 80s "The Greatest Generation" in his best-selling book. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

DoD temporarily slows anthrax vaccination effort

The Department of Defense announced July 11 that it is temporarily slowing its Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) effort. Most of the remaining vaccine will be used to help protect those most at-risk serving in the High Threat Areas of Southwest Asia and Korea. DoD will continue new starts for the highest risk personnel, while other new starts will be deferred.

Those personnel who have begun the shot series, but have since departed the High Threat Areas also will be deferred. A full resumption of the vaccination effort will occur when a sufficient supply of FDA-approved and certified safe and effective vaccine is available.

More than 455,000 servicemembers have started their vaccinations and more than 1.8 million vaccinations have been given. To be fully protected, servicemembers are vaccinated with six immunization shots over an 18-month period, plus annual boosters. AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

Florida Army Guardmember first female to get two stars

The Army National Guard promoted its first female soldier to major general May 15 in a Pentagon ceremony.

Described as an accomplished nurse who is focusing her considerable energies on caring for older soldiers, Florida Army National Guard officer Marianne Mathewson-Chapman received her second star.

A Desert Storm veteran and the Army's

deputy surgeon general, she is the 12th woman major general serving Army-wide. ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Air Force announces changes to fitness test

Beginning in July, the Air Force's annual cycle ergometry test was expanded to include muscular fitness assessments using push-ups and crunches for all Air Force members. Pass/fail standards will not be decided until January 2002, giving Air Force leadership sufficient opportunity to evaluate the expanded program's effectiveness.

Requirements for crunches are the same for men and women depending on their age. Push-up requirements are different for men and women—in number of push-ups completed only—and are also structured according to age. All members will receive a practice evaluation by June 30, 2001. AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

Active-reserve integrated division tested in NTC desert

The Army's chief of staff praised National Guard soldiers for persevering in the harsh desert and quickly learning the tough lessons of modern war when he visited a brigade of the Army's new active-reserve-integrated 24th Infantry Division July 22 at the National Training Center.

"You're to be congratulated for the improvements this brigade has made during this rotation," Gen. Eric Shinseki told Brig. Gen. Earl Brown, commander of nearly 5,000 citizen-soldiers in the 218th Brigade Combat Team, South Carolina National Guard. The 218th is one of three Army Guard enhanced maneuver brigades that make up the active Army's recently reactivated 24th Infantry Division based at Fort Riley, Kan. The two other Guard brigades are located in North Carolina and Georgia.

The 24th Infantry Division at Riley and 7th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo., both reactivated last year, are the first Army organizations that combine both active-duty and reserve-component soldiers in one military headquarters. Divisions each consist of three Army Guard enhanced brigades with an active Army headquarters.

The Guard troops took on the tough opposing home force, the Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in the shadeless 1,000 square miles of Mojave Desert, where mid-day temperatures hit 120 degrees. It is said to be the largest peacetime deployment of National Guard forces in history. ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Faces in the Guard

COLUMBUS

Command profile



Sgt. David J. Mosquera

Radio Maintenance Technician
HHB, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Columbus

Though he cites his hometown as Palm Bay, Fla., Mosquera is a switch analyst at Quest Communications and a student at Columbus State Community College. He spent four years as a Marine in an electronics/communications career field before transferring to the National Guard for its scholarship program, leadership opportunities and "brotherhood of the military." Single, Mosquera enjoys physical training and playing soccer.



Col. James H. Chisman

73rd Troop Command

Age: 51.

Occupation: Deputy Administrator, Ohio Department of Public Safety.

I grew up in: Lima, Ohio.

When I was little I wanted to be:
a police officer.

The one thing I treasure most is:
Family—I am blessed with a wonderful wife, Lynda; and two great children, Matthew, 19, and Kathleen, 17.

My biggest pet peeve is:
people who sit back waiting for things to happen when they possess the knowledge and abilities to do what's right and make things happen.

If I could travel back in time, I would: apply the lessons I have learned in life at a much earlier age.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I would: use the bulk of the money to establish a charitable foundation (of course there would be a Mercedes 500 SEL and a condo on a golf course in Arizona in there somewhere as well).

The older I get, the more I: seek to understand rather than to be understood. Steven Covey is right.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: Take advantage of all the opportunities our military and our American way of life provide. Life has a beginning and an end, but it really is a journey. The more you are prepared for every step, the more happiness and fulfillment you will receive.

Senior Airman Crystal P. Courier

Personnel Apprentice
121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus

Carrying on a family tradition of military service, Courier has been a member of the Ohio Guard for more than a year. Born in Austin, Texas, she is the first female in her family to serve in uniform. She is currently on an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) tour assisting with recruiting and personnel issues, and also is an Air Guard liaison at the Columbus MEPS recruiting station. She attends Columbus State Community College.



Cadet Mark Sonstein

Platoon Leader
372nd Company Maintenance Company, Cleveland

Sonstein began his military career in 1988, though in 1990 he joined the active Army, where he served as a combat engineer in Germany, Saudi Arabia (Gulf War), Fort Irwin, Calif., and Bosnia. He left active duty in October 1999, but joined the Guard to continue his Army career in the officer corps, maintain the camaraderie of belonging to the military and to take advantage of the 100 percent tuition scholarship program.

Airman Jaime S. Williams

Information Management Specialist
200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton

A 1998 graduate of St. Augustine Academy in Lakewood, Williams is working toward a bachelor's degree in accounting and management information systems at Bowling Green State University. She joined the Guard in 1999 for its educational benefits. Williams was named "Miss Brook Park" in her hometown in 1998. Her hobbies include volleyball, softball and reading.



Spc. Leon C. Bird II

Technical Engineer Specialist
HHC, 416th Engineer Group, Walbridge

Born in Marion, Bird graduated from Mohawk High School and currently manages a restaurant. He joined the Guard almost three years ago for the excitement and to help realize his dream of a college degree. Intent on using the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, Bird is scheduled to begin Tiffin University this fall. He enjoys listening to music and enhancing his car stereo.

Giving new meaning to downsizing

Longtime hobby extension of Mansfield guardsman's military job

Story by Staff Sgt. Carl Hunnell, 179th Airlift Wing

While Master Sgt. Bob Benson spends his working hours keeping C-130s in the air for the 179th Airlift Wing, his free time is reserved for keeping his own planes in the sky.

The 53-year-old Benson, a 28-year veteran of the Ohio Air National Guard, is one of the best machinists and welders in the military today. There is literally nothing on big transport planes he cannot fix.

He is also one of the best builders and pilots in the United States in the area of remote-controlled model aircraft, recently finishing 18th in the global Top Gun invitational contest earlier this year in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The Mansfield resident's love for his hobby shines through when quizzed about the sport he took up more than two decades ago. Despite today's passion, it wasn't something Benson was sure he would like at first.

"I just kinda knew a little about it and thought I would try it. Financially, at that time, I could handle it. It's not a real cheap hobby," he said.

The construction of the planes is something that comes natural to Benson. It's a scaled-down extension of his full-time military career.

"I am talented with my hands and figure things out. I can machine something down to a thousandth of an inch. I follow my drawings and put in the same kind of attention to detail that I do when working on the C-130s," he said.

"With the 179th, I usually have to figure out details on my own since there is really no other experienced machinists on base. There is nothing in any book except what I learned in school or what I taught myself along the way.

"It's more or less just up to my own ingenuity to run these machines...to try to get them out of a bind," Benson said.

That strict attention to detail is important in his model airplane contests, where judges first examine how well the pilot-builder has matched in a one-quarter scale the aircraft they are flying.

Judges look at overall design and construction, colors, markings, painting and

even how well the aircraft has been detailed, to include rivets and panel lines.

Benson currently flies contests with a T-34C U.S. Navy trainer. The aircraft, powered by a three-horsepower engine, has an 80-inch wingspan and weighs about 22 pounds.

"I fell in love with this airplane and I can't get away from it. It's the one I have done best with in contests," he said.

After the judges closely examine the planes on the ground at a contest, Benson and the other pilots take to the skies. The aerial part of the mission is a little trickier, even for Benson, who has racked up many flight hours.

"Flying (in a contest) is tougher. Your mouth becomes dry and you're very nervous," he said.

Not only must pilots do various stunts, but they must also work to make sure the plane is easily visible by the judges while those maneuvers are being performed.

Stunts include loops, military rolls and horizontal Figure 8s. "The trick is to make sure you're doing the maneuver right in front of the judges so they can see it," Benson explained.

"You have to make it look realistic to the judges. While doing that, you also have to worry about cross-winds in that area, keeping the motor turning, et cetera," he said.

In the flying portion of the contest, pilots have to do a series of maneuvers typical of the ones performed by the full-sized aircraft, some mandatory and some optional. The take-offs and landings are trickier for Benson, since his Navy trainer has retractable landing gear.

While he's been flying the radio-controlled aircraft since 1979, Benson didn't get into the scale competition until 1995. "I feel like we have done well, considering we have only been at this for six years," he said.

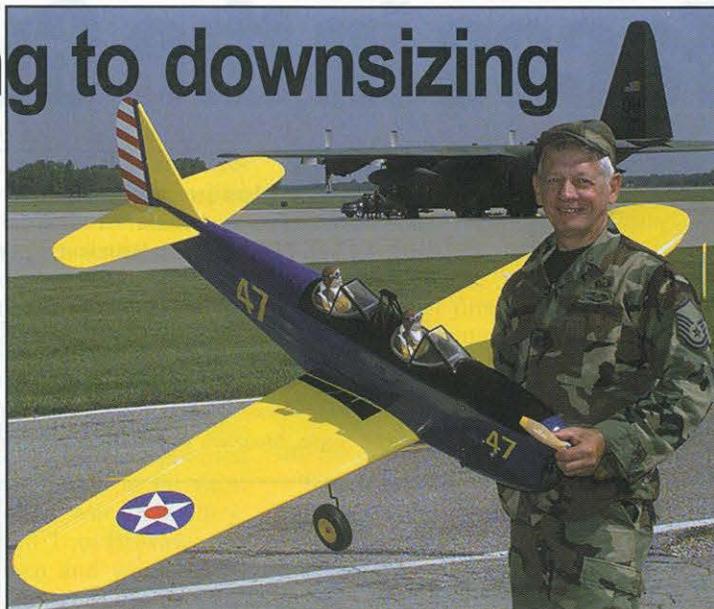


Photo by TSgt. Todd Cramer, 179th Airlift Wing

MSgt. Bob Benson, 179th Airlift Wing, displays one of the remote-controlled model airplanes that he has built and flies.

Benson flies a lot locally, but the scale competition requires a lot of travel to compete on the regional, national and even global scale. He competes in qualifiers in Kentucky, Indiana and New York, hoping to earn a spot at a national Scale Masters event, such as the one he participated in at Phoenix, Ariz., in 1999.

Benson has already qualified for the 2000 national Seniors Masters event, scheduled for October at the U.S. Air Force Museum near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton.

With that kind of travel schedule, it's a good thing this hobby is a family affair. Benson's wife of 30 years, Sharon, travels with him and works as his crew chief. His adult son, Michael, is now also a flier, having learned from his father.

Benson, who began his military career with a two-year stint with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne in Vietnam in the 1960s, is due to retire from the 179th at the end of 2002. It's a safe bet, however, he won't stop putting planes into the air.

"I'm a member of two flying clubs, one in Mansfield and one in Columbus. For the last 10 years, I have been teaching younger people how to build and fly their planes. I think it's really fascinating to work with the young people."

When doing flight lessons, Benson keeps a controller in his own hands, ready to take over if the student gets into trouble.

"I tell them not to worry...I won't let them crash their plane," he said. Keeping airplanes in the air has been his life's work. ■

Roving Sands



SGT O. Ross Miller III,
HHB, 2-174th ADA,
prepares a target to
launch during the live
fire exercise at Fort
Bliss, Texas.

McConnelsville's Avenger unit
hones warfighting skills at Fort Bliss

Roving Sands

Story by Sgt. J.R. Lewis, HQSTARC (-)
Photos by Pfc. Haraz Ghanbari, 196th MPAD

While mention of the Ohio National Guard brings state-oriented missions to mind, the climate of today's world events makes it necessary for all military organizations to be deployable and ready for service anywhere the country needs them.

With this in mind, guardsmen from the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, McConnellsville, headed to the heat and sand of Fort Bliss, Texas, June 11-25, to test their skills with Stinger and Avenger missile systems and to complete the steps necessary to gain deployability certification.

"This missile live-fire exercise is the final part of the final phase for deployability certification," said Lt. Col. Michael D. Bish, commander of the 2-174th.

The training was part of Roving Sands, the U.S. military's largest joint service air and missile defense exercise. Roving Sands began in 1989 and is held annually at Fort Bliss and a few satellite locations. While the event provides realistic training scenarios aimed at improving readiness and skills, it is held as a full-scale event only every other year.



PV2 Steven R. Taylor, C Battery, 2-174th ADA, performs a systems check on an Avenger air defense system.



"We're testing equipment in a peacetime environment so we don't have to go to war to validate our equipment," said Lt. Col. Richard M. Caldwell, director of the exercise's joint information bureau. This year's exercise was comprised of more than 18,700 service members from all branches of the U.S. military, as well as several allied nations, including Canada, Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

For the 2-174th, the live-fire exercise had the soldiers firing missiles at moving aerial targets from both the Stinger and the Avenger air defense systems at McGregor Range, nearly an hour away from the Fort Bliss main side and just over the New Mexico border. The Stinger missiles are fired from shoulder-held cylinders, while the Avenger fires the same projectile from a series of launch tubes mounted on the back of a humvee.

Avenger and Stinger crews fired at moving targets launched a few hundred yards away. The Ballistic Aerial Targeting System, or BATS, gave the soldiers a heated target with an unpredictable flight path which closely resembles an aircraft, which both missile systems are designed to destroy.

The unit fired 22 live missiles, achieving 20 tactical kills—17 of which were direct hits. Firing at both aerial and ground targets, Avenger crews also qualified on the M3P 50-caliber machine gun.

According to Bish, the exercise afforded the soldiers a unique opportunity to test themselves on the weapons outside of classrooms and simulators—an experience that had a positive effect.

“This is the first time ever this unit has gotten a chance to do a live fire (with this system),” Bish said. Though the McConnellsville unit transitioned from Hawk to Stinger missiles in 1997, the battalion is invited to the live-fire exercise at Fort Bliss just every three years. “Receiving deployability certification is significant because now, in the Army’s eyes, the unit is capable of operating this system to standard,” he said.

“One thing is for sure...they came to Texas to be soldiers.”

Spc. Charles Klose, team leader with Bravo Battery, said the exercise puts into practice what most of the soldiers have studied only in classes.

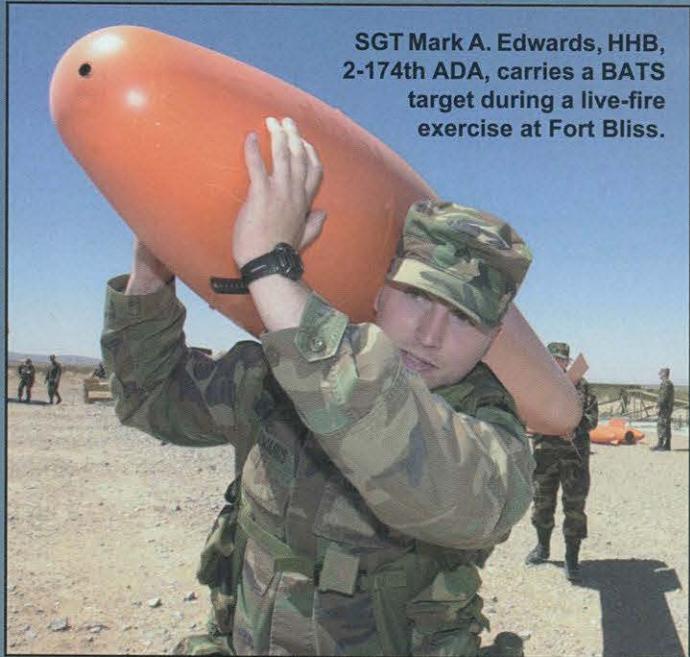
“We’ve spent a lot of time practicing for this, but a live missile acts different than anything we get in training,” he said. “The target engagement process is a lot more complex than what we can do in classrooms.”

The experience not only benefited the firing crews, but all of the support elements in the unit whose jobs make sure the gunners have working equipment and no distractions to take their minds away from hitting the targets.

“We are getting tons of hands-on experience,” said Spc. Tom Shea, Battery B maintenance crewmember. “If something breaks down, we’re getting in there and getting it up and running again.”

Although most of the soldiers in the unit have been to Fort Bliss before for their AIT (advanced individual training), the shock of the heat and its effects on safety were top priorities for the unit.

“Our biggest concern is safety. When you have a live missile packed with C-4 explosives, you cannot be too safe,” Bish said. “We’ve gone through all of the range safety procedures over and over again. We won’t quit until we’ve left here with all of the missiles fired and every soldier safe.”



SGT Mark A. Edwards, HHB, 2-174th ADA, carries a BATS target during a live-fire exercise at Fort Bliss.

“The soldiers have done a great job adapting to the transition of coming from Ohio down to the heat of Texas.”

Sgt. Michael Billups, an Alpha Battery team chief for an Avenger firing unit, said that while the climate was rough, it was also necessary for the soldiers to get a chance to perform in the unforgiving climate.

“The heat is tough, but you have to be able to work in this heat. There are lots of parts of the world where we could be deployed that are just like this...or worse.”■

Eagle Pass

Story by Sgt. J.R. Lewis, HQ STARC (-)
Photos by Pfc. Haraz Ghanbari, 196th MPAD

*Soldiers from the
16th Engineer Brigade
form Task Force Buckeye to
improve response time,
safety for BorderPatrol
agents in Eagle Pass, Texas*

The Texas-Mexico border—a vast, sprawling expanse of sandy hills, mesquite trees and emptiness. Heat rises to maddening temperatures and sunsets strike chords of beauty. In this land of glaring sun and endless skies, the drug trade and flow of illegal immigrants reach staggering proportions. Only the agents of the Border Patrol, a section of the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service, stand between the United States and the tidal wave of crime that comes with drug and immigration problems.

But when the agents at Eagle Pass, Texas, found themselves being cut off from back-up routes and high-traffic areas by the rugged terrain near the Rio Grande, they called upon a group of engineers capable of handling the heat, pressure and natural elements the area had to offer. They called on the Ohio National Guard.

Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade rotated in and out of the base camp at Maverick County International Airport, just outside of Eagle Pass, from May through June as part of Task Force Buckeye, a wide-ranging project aimed at improving the response time and on-the-job safety of Border Patrol agents in the area. The guardmembers were



Soldiers of the 612th Engineer Battalion, SPC Nate Mazur (from left) and SPC Bart Goss, Company C, and SFC Richardo Escorpiso, Company A, work on the station gap bridge near Eagle Pass.

given the assignment by Joint Task Force-6, an entity of the Department of Defense responsible for providing construction support to federal and local law enforcement agencies in the realm of counterdrug efforts.

The engineers worked on five projects in support of the Border Patrol: a patrol road upgrade; a station gap bridge; a water reservoir crossing; a bridge near a golf course

frequently used as an escape route for illegal immigrants; and an upgrade to a road near Laredo, which lies far to the south of Eagle Pass.

“This was a really good training experience for our troops,” said 1st Lt. Dan Tack, project officer for the Eagle Pass operation and full-time training officer for the 16th Engineer Brigade. Soldiers got the chance to build a non-standard (commercial)



Combat engineers try their hand at constructing a non-military bridge in Texas.

bridge, rather than the Bailey bridge they normally construct, Tack explained. "This provided the NCOs with good leadership opportunities to help overcome some situations they don't usually encounter."

The projects made driving safer for agents, who often drive at high speeds in off-road situations, and provided quicker access to previously remote areas, narrowing the opportunity for transportation of illegal drugs and immigrants along the 52-mile portion of the border covered by the Eagle Pass agents.

The benefits for the guardmembers were equally vital.



Eagle Pass Border Patrol Agent Clifton Skilbred shows a popular spot where illegal immigrants cross the Rio Grande River in hopes of reaching the United States.

Eagle Pass

“To think that my response time...will be cut to fractions by this work is something that I cannot find the words to describe.” CHRISTOPHER ROSE, BORDER PATROL

The project provided a change of pace from the traditional two weeks at Camp Grayling, Mich., and allowed the engineers to get hours of hands-on experience while proving themselves in one of the toughest climates imaginable for construction work.

“This training gets us away from the same-old, same-old,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Hay, platoon sergeant, B Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, the unit which provided the fourth rotation of fresh soldiers into the project. “We’re getting a firsthand look at how diverse our MOS is. We’re not only doing grunt-work, but learning and

practicing engineer skills, heavy equipment operating and terrain scouting. These guys are seeing how important leadership and initiative are while their knowledge is being tested.”

The importance of supporting a goal key to U.S. leadership seemed to motivate the soldiers and carry them through the tough working climate.

“This is a combat mission,” said Sgt. Todd Ryman, a squad leader from Company C, 612th Engineers. “Instead of tanks and humvees, we’ve got Border Patrol agents crossing our bridges.”

This intensity in mission accomplishment wasn’t lost on the agents whom the guardsmen supported. At

a briefing on Border Patrol activities in the area, Border Patrol Intelligence Agent Christopher Rose imparted to a group of soldiers just how important he believes their mission is.

“It really gets me right here,” he said, raising a hand to his chest. “To think that my response time in helping a fellow agent in trouble will be cut to fractions by this work is something that I cannot find the words to describe.”

“This work is appreciated,” he said.

As with all Guard missions, safety is key to mission accomplishment. In the heat of a Texas afternoon, safety becomes increasingly important. Using the wet-bulb method of indexing heat into categories, safety personnel con-

Using video monitors, Border Patrol agents point out the types of access problems Task Force Buckeye will solve to a delegation of visiting VIPs, including Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith (standing, center) and Assistant Adjutant General for Army BG Ronald G. Young (seated).



tinually kept soldiers hydrated and well-rested. The soldiers were also educated on the other dangers of the area, including some venomous wildlife. Medical support was provided by Navy corpsmen from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-1, Detachment A, a Seabee unit headquartered in Cincinnati.

"The majority of work is heat cases," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Wardlow, a hospital corpsman with the detachment. "But we haven't had any heat casualties because these guys have been on top of the mission in every way."

The heat was a concern for the guardsmen, but with the proper precautions the mission kept on rolling.

"It's miserable but we can deal with it," said Spc. Gary Gerber, combat engineer, Company C, 612th Engineer Battalion. "It's definitely worth the effort. It makes me feel good that what we are doing here can actually save lives."

Gerber's fellow soldiers echoed his commitment.

"You get hot, but you get hot anywhere you go. You deal with it. You have to be careful, drink water and watch each other's back," said Spc. Josh Weisenberger, another combat engineer from Charlie Company.

Weisenberger also touched on another unique aspect of the mission—Ohio guardsmen supporting a federal mission in Texas.

"Just because we're from Ohio doesn't mean we shouldn't help out our fellow states. We're the National Guard. If someone needs our help, we don't rely on someone else to do it." ■

Task Force Buckeye lasted from April 29-July 1; all five projects were successfully completed. Task Force-6 has asked for continued support from the Ohio Guard—another project is currently being planned for next summer in California.



Task Force Buckeye extends hand to Eagle Pass youth

Story and photos by Pfc Haraz N. Ghanbari
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Despite the hot weather and rigorous working conditions experienced by soldiers deployed under Task Force Buckeye, a small group of engineers spent a portion of their free time meeting with local youngsters at a youth camp being held at Fort Duncan, an old Army fort located in Eagle Pass.

"When we first walked in, they were like 'Wow! Soldiers!,'" said Spc. Tracie N. Ford, a soldier from 16th Engineer Brigade, Columbus. "We wanted to get involved in the community; we wanted to intermingle with the kids here at Eagle Pass."

A Border Patrol agent, a group of explorers from the Eagle Pass Border Patrol's Explorer Post and two active-duty soldiers accompanied Ohio's contingency of engineers. Together, they greeted about 150 youngsters and talked to them about setting and achieving goals for life.

"We coordinated a time where all the kids would be there so we could give a presentation about military careers and educational opportunities," said 2nd Lt. Thomas M. Collins, from Cincinnati's 512th Engineer Battalion. "Because of the amount of drug smuggling and violence (along the U.S. and Mexico border), we are



TOP: SGT James T. Wilks, Jr., HHD, 512th Engineer Battalion, plays chess with an Eagle Pass youngster. ABOVE: SPC Tracie Ford, HHC, 16th Engineer Brigade, gives youth camp participants a taste of military Meals Ready-to-Eat.

trying to recruit them into a better life, trying to put a positive influence in their lives."

After watching a short video featuring airborne soldiers, tank maneuvers and other Army operations, the engineers took time to arm wrestle, play chess, offer samples of Meals-Ready-to-Eat, and, of course, take pictures.

"This was an eye-opening and learning experience (for them), just to be around a variety of different people," said Spc. Julian A. Fussnecker, from the 512th Engineer Battalion. "They were making us necklaces and bracelets. They wanted our autographs and didn't want us to leave."

According to Sgt. James T. Wilks, also from the 512th, the "Buckeye Outreach" mission was executed successfully. "It was an attempt to reach the youth to show them the pluses of the military, Border Patrol and other government agencies." ■

Cape Crusade

"Scorpion! Look, there it goes," exclaimed an airman as a small scorpion ran under a piece of luggage on the flight line at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

This was the welcoming committee for 16 members of the 179th Airlift Wing who had just arrived May 10 from Mansfield to initiate the set up of a field training site to be used for annual training the following week. This advance party was comprised of airmen from the unit's aerial port, food services, motor pool, supply, clinic and civil engineering sections.

A second C-130 brought in an all-terrain forklift to load and offload the many pallets of equipment that were destined for Cape Canaveral's Area 31, the site for "War Skills 2000," which would ultimately support 75 men and women from the 179th.

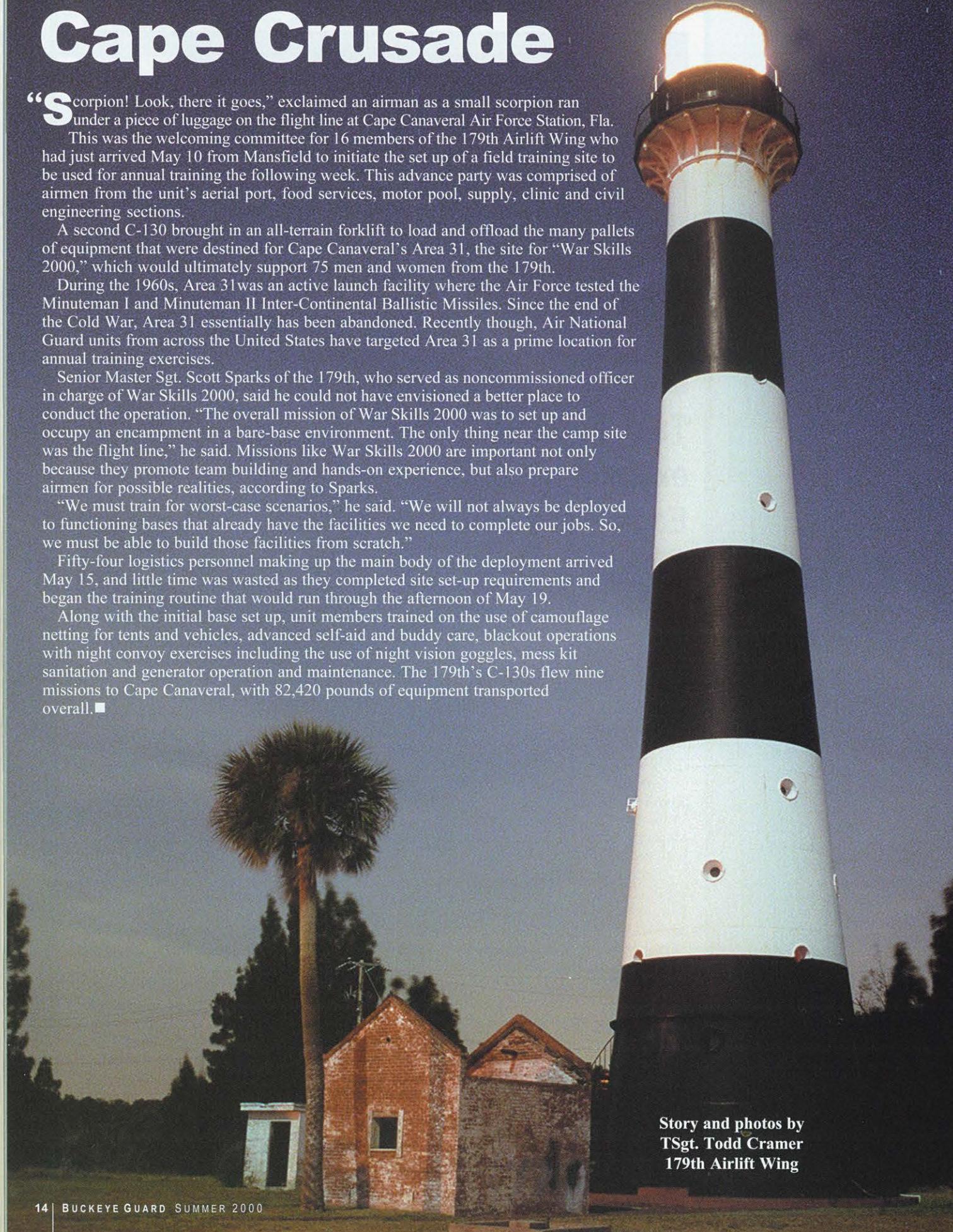
During the 1960s, Area 31 was an active launch facility where the Air Force tested the Minuteman I and Minuteman II Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles. Since the end of the Cold War, Area 31 essentially has been abandoned. Recently though, Air National Guard units from across the United States have targeted Area 31 as a prime location for annual training exercises.

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Sparks of the 179th, who served as noncommissioned officer in charge of War Skills 2000, said he could not have envisioned a better place to conduct the operation. "The overall mission of War Skills 2000 was to set up and occupy an encampment in a bare-base environment. The only thing near the camp site was the flight line," he said. Missions like War Skills 2000 are important not only because they promote team building and hands-on experience, but also prepare airmen for possible realities, according to Sparks.

"We must train for worst-case scenarios," he said. "We will not always be deployed to functioning bases that already have the facilities we need to complete our jobs. So, we must be able to build those facilities from scratch."

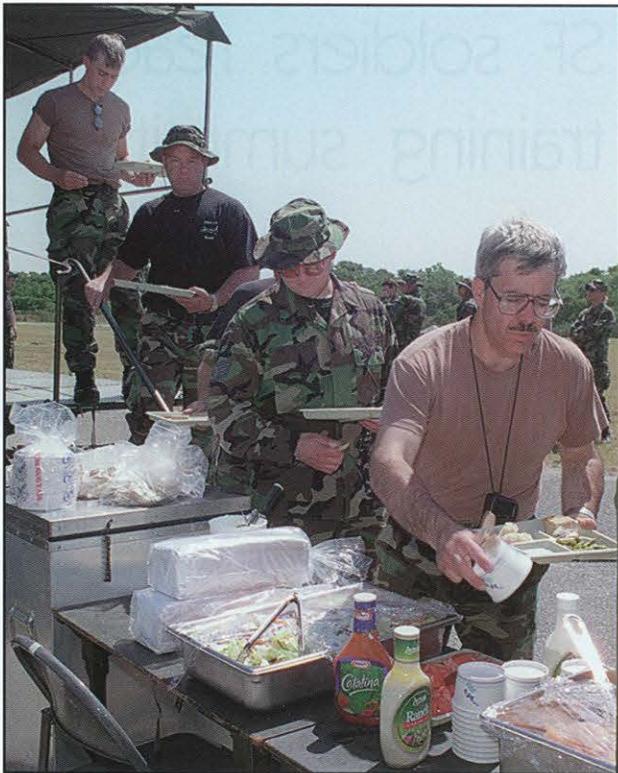
Fifty-four logistics personnel making up the main body of the deployment arrived May 15, and little time was wasted as they completed site set-up requirements and began the training routine that would run through the afternoon of May 19.

Along with the initial base set up, unit members trained on the use of camouflage netting for tents and vehicles, advanced self-aid and buddy care, blackout operations with night convoy exercises including the use of night vision goggles, mess kit sanitation and generator operation and maintenance. The 179th's C-130s flew nine missions to Cape Canaveral, with 82,420 pounds of equipment transported overall. ■



Story and photos by
TSgt. Todd Cramer
179th Airlift Wing

Mansfield airmen set up, occupy encampment in bare base environment for War Skills 2000



OPPOSITE PAGE: Cape Canaveral's lighthouse guides incoming aircraft. FAR LEFT: Members of the 179th head through the chow line. LEFT: A forklift driver is guided out of a C-130 aircraft by TSgt. Jeffrey Rumel, a 179th loadmaster. BELOW: Unit members TSgt. Daniel Benner (from left), TSgt. John Racco and SSGT. Samuel Thomas help set up a general purpose tent.



AUSTRIA: SF soldiers reach training summit

Story by Staff Sgt. Martin S. Graff
B Company, 2-19th Special Forces Group

The peak of Groosglockner is nearly 12,000 feet above sea-level, and protects its solitude in a number of ways, including extreme and unpredictable weather, vast expanses of glacier wastelands, and steep walls of rock and ice.

That's what made it all the more rewarding when Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 955 from Bravo Company, 2-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), headquartered in Columbus, reached the wind-swept summit. The grueling climb of Austria's highest mountain was the culmination of two weeks of intense mountain training with some of the Austrian army's toughest and most professional soldiers at the country's Mountain Infantry School.

The Joint Combined Exercise for Training (JCET) between the Austrian army and the Ohio Army National Guard SF unit May 14 to June 4 was especially beneficial for the members of ODA 955 as it allowed them to train in Alpine conditions with some of the finest mountain climbing instructors in the world.

"This training was invaluable to the team and without a doubt will benefit the unit by honing the skills we need to execute our wartime mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Neil G. Perera, special forces medical sergeant. "The knowledge and experience we've gained in such a short amount of time truly is remarkable, not to mention the relationships we've built with the soldiers of our host nation."

Building relationships with soldiers from around the world is one of the main objectives of a special forces JCET mission.

"This type of training is what makes the special

forces and the missions we're assigned so unique," said Chief Warrant Officer John R. Lewis, B Company's operations officer. "The opportunities that are presented to our soldiers to build rapport and train with their counterparts from around the world is one of the many reasons that a soldier joins Bravo Company in the first place. Whether they are earning foreign jump wings with the British airborne, learning and perfecting desert mobility techniques in Jordan, or, in this case, climbing in the Austrian Alps, our soldiers are afforded every opportunity to excel and that's what makes the difference to the men of this unit."

During the two weeks leading up to the Groosglockner climb the training was fast and furious with the emphasis being on technical climbing skills and techniques particular to the alpine environment. One of the most unusual and rewarding experiences for the soldiers was the chance to experience firsthand the challenges of working on a glacier.

"It's quite a thrill for us to be able to practice our glacier skills on an actual glacier," said Staff Sgt. Craig L. Johnson, senior communications sergeant for the team and also a Level 1

Army mountain climber. "We get a lot of climbing done back in the states, but most of it is technical rock climbing. Here we've been able to get used to working with crampons, moving as a rope team, and we've gained a better understanding of the difficulties of executing a successful crevasse rescue."

The crampons Johnson referred to are the inch-long spikes that attach to a pair of boots making travel across a frozen plain of ice possible. Crevasses are the deadly, hidden chasms that develop in glaciers that can swallow the inexperienced traveler without warning. For this reason a team moving across a glacier must be tied together and must be prepared to react in the event



Photo by SSG Robert Callaway, Co. B, 2-19th SF Group



Photo by SSG Robert Callaway, Co. B, 2-19th SF Group

LEFT: Even through a raging snowstorm, SSG Brian Hargis (left) and MSG Joe Pickering battle their way to the peak of Groosglockner. **ABOVE:** SFC Dan Weinzehr uses a rope-lowering system to transport a simulated casualty down the side of the mountain during a training exercise. **RIGHT:** Prior to the soldiers' ascent up Groosglockner, SFC Neal Perera practices his climbing skills on a natural rock training wall, in a warmer climate.

of such an occurrence, or, even deadlier, an avalanche.

"One of the main missions of the Austrian mountain troops is coping with avalanches. They are the subject matter experts when it comes to the detection of, prevention and actions taken after an avalanche," Johnson said. "Their search and rescue techniques are unparalleled and the amount of experience that they have performing real rescue operations shows during their training. A person caught in an avalanche has about 30 minutes to live; with the Austrians' instruction, we feel confident we can find someone in about five to seven minutes."

All in all, the mission was judged successful by most people involved. Many soldiers from both nations said they went away from the training with an improved understanding of one another, and ODA 955 gained valuable experience in conducting its challenging mission.

For more information on Bravo Company, 2-19th SF Group (Alpha), contact Lewis at (614) 336-6477. ■

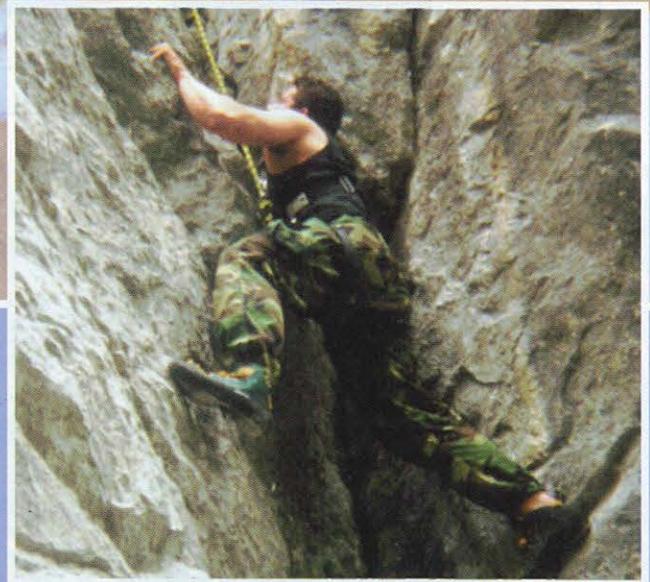
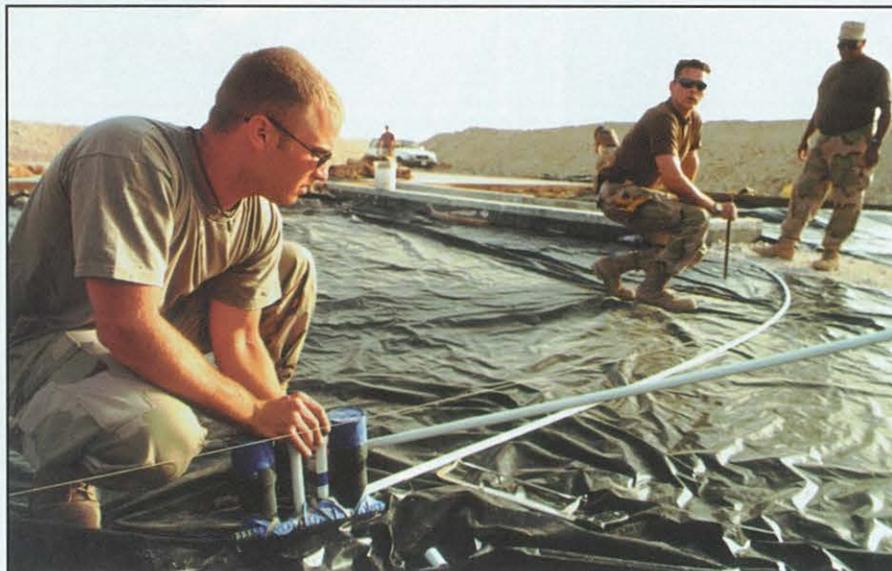
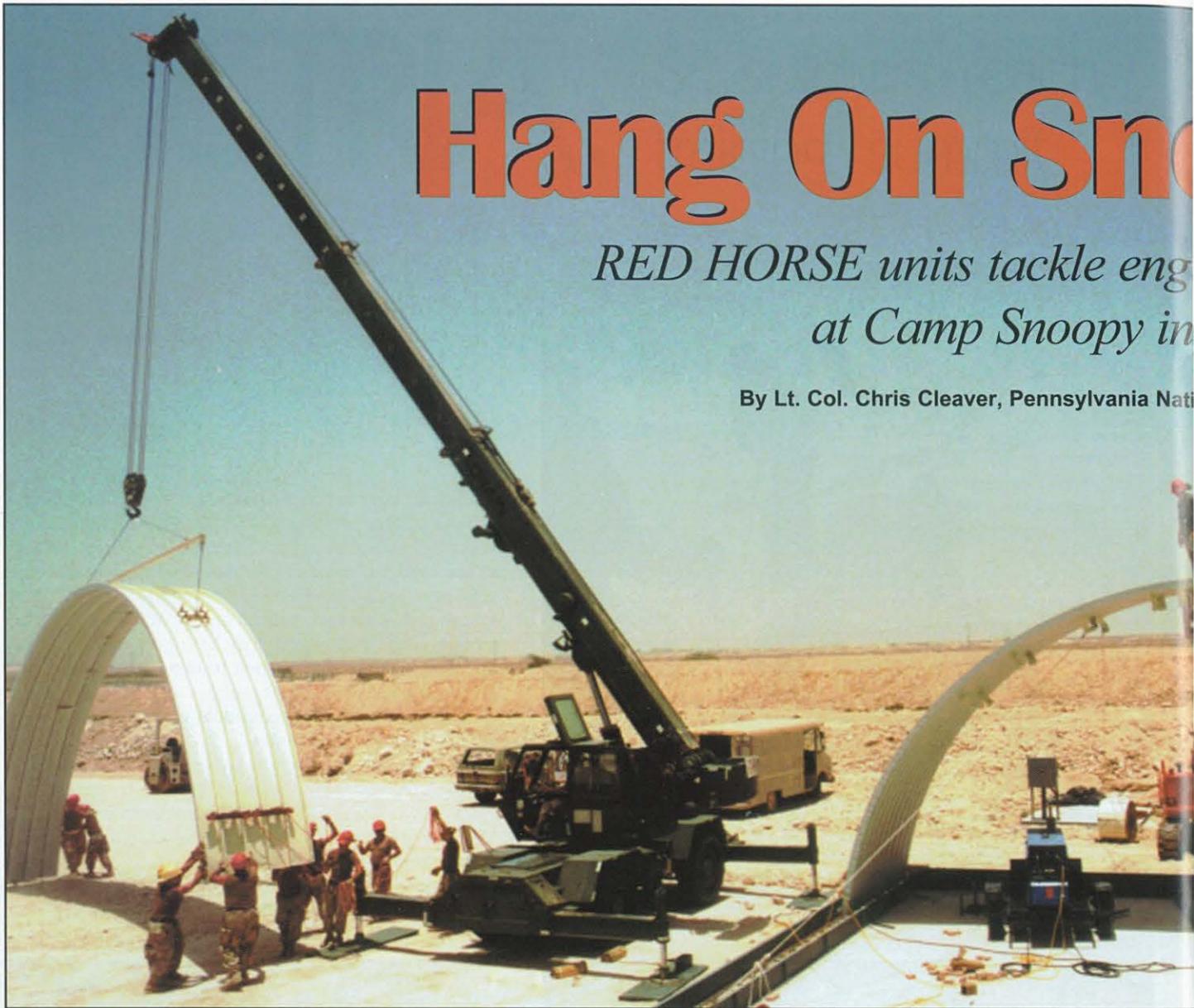


Photo by SSG Martin S. Graff, Co. B, 2-19th SF Group

Hang On Snoopy

RED HORSE units tackle engineering projects at Camp Snoopy in

By Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver, Pennsylvania National Guard



The late cartoonist Charles M. Schulz would be puzzled over how this barren, arid military installation was named after his humorous cartoon pet. However, Camp Snoopy offered little comic relief as some 60 Air Guard engineers tackled more than a dozen construction projects in fierce heat and periodic high winds.

As part of a three-month deployment, Red Horse units from Pennsylvania and Ohio teamed to construct 15 force protection projects through some of the toughest weather the

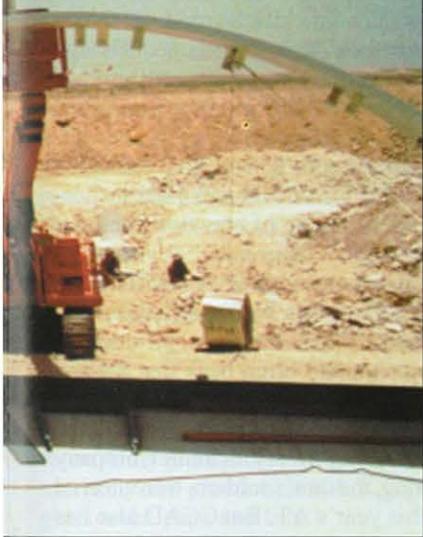
SSgt. Tyson Root (left), 200th RHS, does a final check on fittings and pipes before pouring concrete for a K-Span building.

Snoopy

Engineer projects

Doha, Qatar

National Guard Public Affairs



bunkers, place five towers, build 180 feet of blast wall, construct a mile of road, and dig a mile of trenching,” said Maj. John Buffington, a senior project officer with the 201st RED HORSE of Pennsylvania.

“It is a very good project. Good training. Lots of stick time to run equipment,” said Master Sgt. Jeff Rider, airfield project supervisor, 200th RED HORSE, Ohio. “In addition, it’s very complex and challenging, learning how to work around situations.”

The common theme throughout the deployment was heat. Doors had to remain closed or temperatures could rise high enough to trigger fire suppression sprinklers; pools had to be chilled before entering. “At times, it’s like a blast furnace,” said Capt. Mike Hrynciw, 200th RED HORSE project officer. As temperatures soared through the 100s each day, guardmembers devised ways to work through the desert menace.

“Our workday begins around 4 a.m. so we can finish by early afternoon and beat some of the heat,” Buffington said. In the spirit of Yankee ingenuity, air conditioned shelters were at each job site, providing an oasis of cool air and shelter. “One hundred degrees at home is hot—over here 100 is more like 200, and then the humidity sets in,” added Brazeau.

The combined heat, wind and sand at times wreaked havoc on equipment. “The vehicles are new, but still in rough shape,” said Master Sgt. Jerome O’leary, 201st deployed chief of maintenance. “This excavator (a six-wheeled hybrid backhoe) has 190 hours of use and was built in ’95. Normally, it would have 4,000-5,000 hours, but it still had rusted hydraulic cylinders and today it’s in here for a cracked hose.” While maintenance challenges were ever-present, few of the 50 pieces of equipment were down for any length of time. “The maintenance folks get an A-plus,” Brazeau said. “They

have been a vital part of our success.”

With the equipment running smoothly, operators could focus on the more challenging tasks of constructing four K-span buildings—large, hangar-like, arching structures made of rolled steel—and the most labor-intensive work of opening trenches through the layers of rock.

“I am glad we don’t have to deal with this every deployment,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Newcomer, as he operated a 10-foot-high jackhammer with limited success, pounding through the endless bedrock.

In addition to the digging, the challenges of juggling construction projects, meshing an ever-rotating work force, adapting to strict security and host nation requirements, plus working in nearly unbelievable weather, it would be easy to say this alchemy would never gel. Yet, almost halfway into the deployment, the results spoke for themselves: on schedule.

While RED HORSE engineers are building a future for military forces at Camp Snoopy, the United States and Qatar have a promising and expanding relationship. “We have a strong future here, not only in

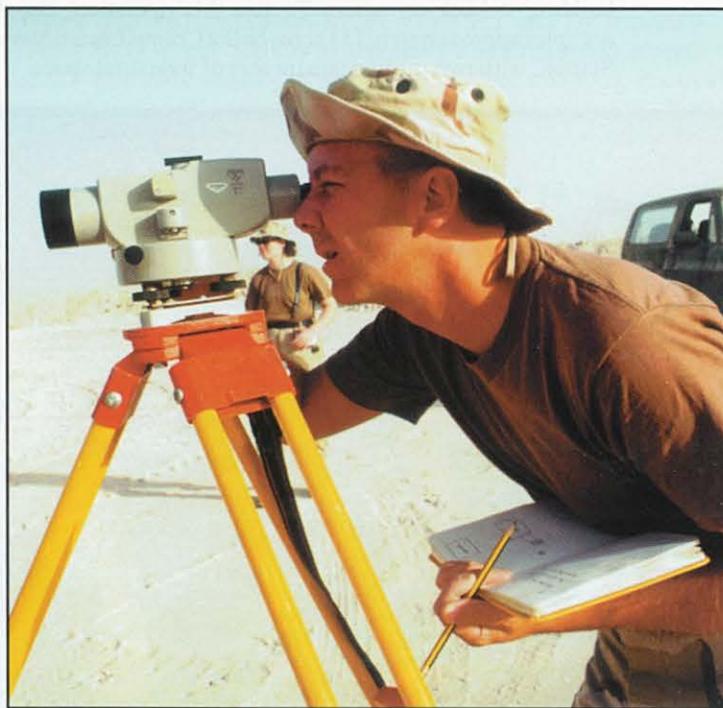
the military, but in education, research and finance,” said Aleta Wenger, public affairs officer, U.S. Embassy, Qatar.

“This has been an ideal deployment for a number of reasons,” Brazeau said. “The construction projects at Camp Snoopy gave us a chance to test our mettle at what we do best—building a base from the ground up (or in this case, from the rock up). Culturally we have had the somewhat rare opportunity, at least for military people, to experience this culture. We have enjoyed it.”

While the Buckeye and Keystone Guard engineers still had five weeks to go in early June, their progress was impressive. Even locals appear to appreciate some of the latest additions to the desert landscape. In places, the flat terrain has been transformed into huge, 15-foot-high berms stretching thousands of yards. In the future, the walls will ensure that unwanted visitors are kept out.

But, for the wild dogs around Camp Snoopy, the walls serve as a great observation point to keep an eye on their new American friends. ■

MSgt. Ray Cousino surveys a force protection berm as SrA. Brianne Guers looks on.



small Persian Gulf nation of Qatar could dish out. RED HORSE is an acronym for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineering.

From high security entrance points to kennels, Guard engineers chiseled, chopped and cut the concrete-like bedrock, preparing sites for new facilities.

“We usually have one or two large projects for our annual training; this is unique in that we have so many projects at one time,” said Lt. Col. Richard Brazeau, commander of Ohio’s 200th RED HORSE Squadron.

“During this deployment we will pour 650 cubic yards of concrete, move 10,000 cubic yards of dirt, erect 50,000 pounds of steel, build 32 Scud

MAINTENANCE

AVIATION

Two weeks on the Gulf coast may bring thoughts of great seafood and lazy days on the beach, but for members of Company D, 137th AVIM, it meant 14 days of grimy hands and sweat-soaked BDUs, courtesy of Corpus Christi Army Depot. By SSG Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-)

Members of Company D, 137th Aviation Intermediate Maintenance (AVIM), were able to take their maintenance skills up a notch for annual training this year.

About 70 members of the unit left Ohio June 10 to spend two weeks working at the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) in Texas. Run by the U.S. Army, CCAD's 4,000 civilian employees overhaul, repair, modify, retrofit, test and modernize helicopters, engines and associated components.

"This is the best training they can get," 1st Sgt. Joe Riedlinger said. "This is the only place in the country that offers depot-level maintenance on Army helicopters." The remainder of the 249-person unit, with its headquarters in Columbus and a detachment in North Canton, spent AT either attending schools or supporting the 502nd Aviation Regiment in Mannheim, Germany, earlier this year.

Riedlinger explained that while unit-level maintenance companies (AVUMs) can remove, repair and reinstall various helicopter parts, AVIMs have the technical training required to work on many of the components that comprise the aircraft. Intermediate maintenance units are staffed with machinists, electricians, radio repairers, power train and hydraulic specialists, and engine mechanics that can handle more extensive repairs.

But the last level of maintenance falls on CCAD, which has the technicians and equipment capable of breaking down a helicopter all the way to its frame, remedying almost any deficiency and building it back up again. To run this operation, the depot occupies approximately 154 acres on the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, with two million square feet of industrial space.

Most of the guardmembers worked at one or more of the 50-plus sub-systems shops located at Building No. 8, the largest complex at CCAD. There, they were trained and supervised by shop managers like Henry Garza, who had Sgt. Tom Wilson break down, clean and reassemble hydraulic modules for UH-60 "Black Hawk" utility helicopters.

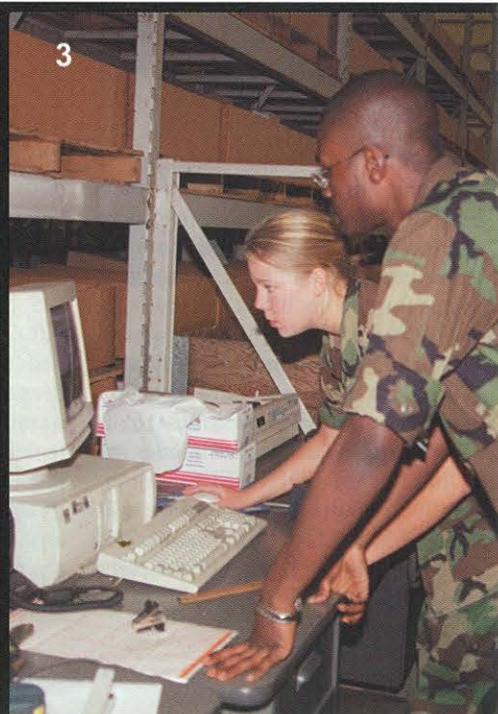
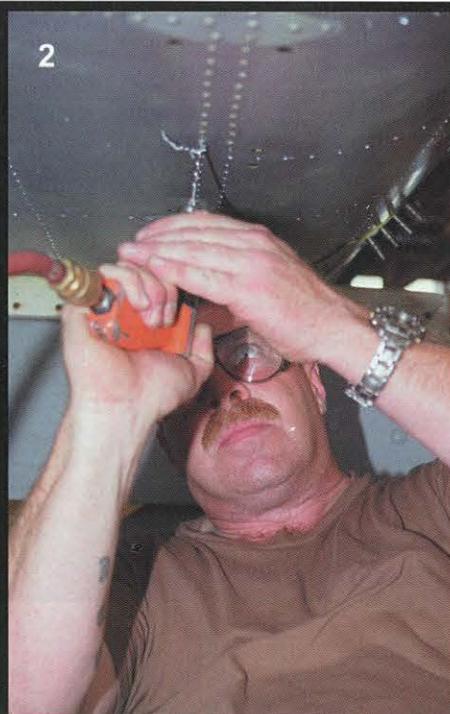
Garza said Wilson "...was really helpful because he caught on so quick," though he laughed about the sergeant "kind of freaking out" when he was taught how to use a rubber mallet to disassemble the modules.

"The internal parts pop up when you hit (the module) with a hammer....I've never seen that before," Wilson explained. Though hydraulic systems basically operate the same way on all aircraft, the Ohio guardsman admitted this was the first time he worked on one from a Black Hawk.

Garza also took him to the test cell, where the overhauled component parts were evaluated by CCAD technical inspectors. "Now I have a better understanding of how this (module) is put together and how it works," Wilson said.

This is one of the main reasons to expose AVIM units to depot-level maintenance, according to Sgt. 1st Class Fred Davern, sub-systems platoon sergeant. "When they can go into the component, learn the component, and bring back that knowledge when they're trouble-shooting, they'll have a better view of what's wrong with it."

Because Black Hawks are now the primary airframe Company D is responsible for maintaining, the unit's soldiers were steered toward related jobs during this year's AT. But CCAD also has





given Company D soldiers the opportunity to work on aircraft that they would otherwise never have a chance to touch. Last year, a crew of six completely stripped down a CH-47 “Chinook” cargo helicopter. “I asked them if they wanted to work, and they said, ‘Yeah, we want to get dirty,’” recalled Dale Martin, the CCAD supervisor for that project.

“It took them less than two weeks to finish the job,” he said, noting that CCAD employees usually take about three weeks to complete the same tear-down. “With the help of the Ohio Guard, we were a week ahead of schedule.” The unit awarded the entire team Army Achievement Medals for their efforts.

While this AT offered many unit members refresher and sustainment training on Black Hawks, it also allowed some of the troops to work on their military occupational specialty (MOS) skills for the first time.

Sgt. Shane Ball joined Company D to become a machinist last fall, after leaving active duty as an infantryman. “There isn’t much use for an Army grunt in the civilian world,” said Ball, who works in final assembly and production at A.R.E., Inc., a manufacturer of fiberglass truck caps and lids.

Once he completes Advanced Individual Training (AIT), Ball hopes to move into a machinist position in the civilian sector. “The National Guard will give me a marketable skill—at least more so than the infantry.” Despite having received no formal training, Ball was able to familiarize himself with machine shop operations and equipment, such as lathes and milling machines.

“Though this (training) will not award him the

1. SPC Jared Baxter (left) and SPC Matt Check disassemble part of a Black Hawk hydraulic system. 2. SPC Allen Robey removes rivets to unfasten a sheet metal panel. 3. PV2 Ben Armsted Jr. and PV2 Koryn Knepshild process manifests at the Defense Logistics Agency. 4. SGT Tom Wilson removes a UH-60 hydraulic module from a vice. 5. Engine class members (from left to right) SPC Andrew Sroufe, SPC Donald Keslar, SGT Jason Lawrence and SGT John Pataki disassemble a UH-60 engine. 6. SPC Todd Burchett practices soldering a terminal in a CCAD class.

RECRUITING AND RETENTION

Delta Hawks take Navy’s Super Stallion for ride

As an added benefit to attending annual training at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas, 26 soldiers from Company D, 137th Aviation were fortunate enough to get some flight time.

“Each platoon was asked to come up with a list of soldiers who never flew in a military helicopter before,” said 1st Sgt. Joe Riedlinger, who explained that the chosen few were mostly the unit’s younger enlisted troops. “We wanted to make them the priority.” Delta Hawk soldiers were invited to strap in and hold on, while pilots from NAS had a chance to show their stuff.

One of the first to fly, Spc. Margaret Pettini described the flight as hot and smelling of fuel. “But it was fun, and since it was my first (military helicopter) flight, it was kind of neat that it was in a Navy aircraft instead of Army.” Indeed, the aircraft that the Delta Hawk soldiers flew was much different than the UH-1s and UH-60s with which they are familiar.

The CH-53 Super Stallion is the Navy’s multipurpose support lift aircraft. Primarily used in mine countermeasure missions, it can also transport personnel, retrieve downed aircraft and even tow disabled ships to harbor. In fact, it is the only rotary wing aircraft in the world that is capable of lifting its own weight.

The Company D soldiers were flown in groups of three for anywhere from 30 minutes to two and a half hours. After an introductory safety briefing, the soldiers were outfitted with a helmet, life vest, waist belt and

a strobe light. After loading the aircraft “hot,” or with the rotors turning overhead, the soldiers were strapped in and told to hold on. “The pilots kept asking if we had out sick bags,” remarked Pettini. But, aside from a little “hot-dogging,” she said the ride was pleasant. “Corpus is really beautiful, and when we flew out over the ocean and along the beach, I could see fish jumping.” SPC Rick Lamb, Co. D, 137th AVIM.



First to fly were PV2 Neal Meyers (left), SPC Margaret Pittini and PV2 Jason Wise.

MAINTENANCE

AVIATION

MOS, he will be light years ahead of his peers when he goes to his MOS-producing school,” Riedlinger said.

Spc. Margaret Pettini, flight operations specialist with Detachment 1, also said CCAD gave her the first real opportunity to work in her MOS since returning from AIT last December. Though she’s spent most of her Guard weekends writing a Standard Operating Procedure and organizing technical manuals for the unit library, Pettini stepped into the NAS flight operations office like a seasoned professional.

“One of the things that impressed me was the very first thing she did was ask where all the appropriate publications were, brought them out and showed me ‘This is what I learned in school,’” said Mo Herrera, NAS flight operations supervisor. He said she assisted with several programs, including checking that pilots’ records were up-to-date. “She’s doing a fantastic job—basically taking over.” The specialist was also instrumental in getting seats for Company D on U.S. Navy “Sea Stallion” helicopters during training missions (see related story).

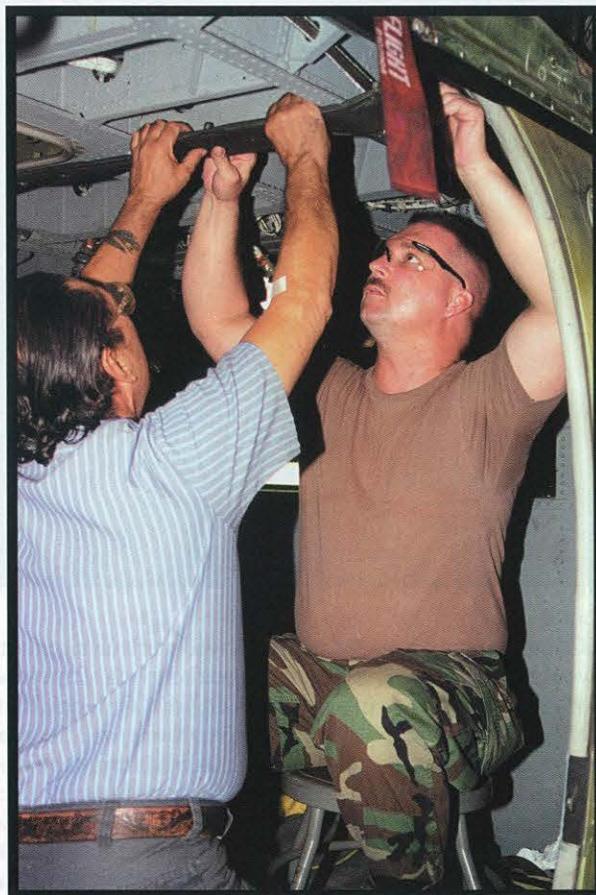
In recognition of a job well done, 73rd Troop Command Commander Col. James Chisman and Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Huffman presented Pettini with a Troop Command coin in front of a unit formation. The senior leaders made a two-day trip to visit with the troops during the unit’s first week of AT.

“I’ll do everything I can to ensure you continue to train in places like here and the 502nd in Manheim,” said Chisman, who commanded Company D from 1987 to 1989. He expressed enthusiasm toward the training opportunities at Corpus Christi, which included not only hands-on training in the shops, but also various technical training courses offered at the depot. This year, four soldiers attended a 40-hour “In-Depth Disassembly and Assembly” class on the GE T700-701C Black Hawk engine, and 10 others spent the entire two weeks getting certified in “Soldering Technology, Level II.”

“*(Attending the depot’s technical training courses) builds confidence and improves skills that (guardmembers) can bring home to the unit; it can get them certified in areas that can cross over into their civilian jobs; and it can result in course credits at some colleges or technical schools.*” **MAJ Tom Beckman, commander**

“This does three things for the soldiers,” said Maj. Tom Beckman, company commander since April 1999. “It builds confidence and improves skills that they can bring home to the unit; it can get them certified in areas that can cross over into their civilian jobs; and it can result in course credits at some colleges or technical schools.”

While Company D’s mechanics, sub-systems specialists and technical inspectors were working diligently at CCAD, the



SGT Pat McNamara installs soundproofing with the assistance of his CCAD supervisor, Paniagua Jose.

unit’s supply personnel were supporting the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), which is also located at the Naval Air Station. DLA handles the receipt, storage and issue supply functions for helicopters, components and most repair parts for the depot.

“We’ve got people checking incoming and outgoing parts, processing manifests and assisting with computer entry,” said Sgt. Brian McGinniss, supply NCOIC.

Spc. Craig Weber, automated supply specialist, helped DLA process a backlog of daily transaction receipts. Because of a computer glitch late last year, the agency had five months of receipts to input; approximately 250 receipts are generated every day. “They were really happy to get (Weber) up there,” McGinniss said.

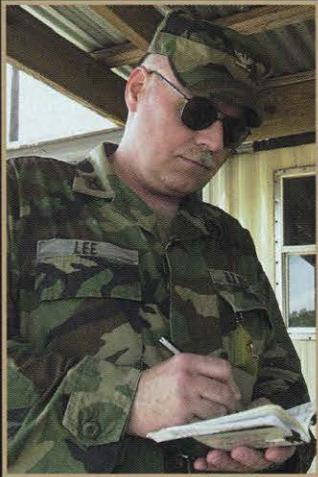
David Garcia, who supervises the receiving department, was just as glad to have the help of Spc. Christopher Marchand, another automated supply specialist. “Chris was quick to learn how to work on the line, and has shown me he can go on to the next step (in terms of computer verification).” Since Garcia runs a one-man operation, he appreciates any support by the reserve components. “When their two weeks are up, I look around and ask, ‘Where’s the next reservist?’” the DLA employee grinned.

“We’re here to provide (reserve components) with hands-on sustainment training,” said Paul Boardingham, CCAD’s chief military personnel officer. As a result, he said, “We’re accomplishing a ‘total Army’ approach to aviation maintenance.” ■

JRTC

training for war

Story and photos by
Pfc. Haraz N. Ghanbari
196th MPAD



ABOVE: COL Jack E. Lee prepares notes during his last annual training as commander for the 371st Support Group. RIGHT: A convoy of military vehicles prepares to leave the intermediate staging base at North Fort Polk, La.

Soldiers from 14 different states participated in a peacetime exercise simulating a combat environment at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), the U.S. Army's premier training center for light infantry and special operations.

Every year, JRTC conducts 10 training exercises, each lasting approximately two weeks. The seventh rotation, coined Task Force Hoosier, was comprised of National Guard and Reserve components. Spearheaded by the Indiana National Guard, the exercise was supported by Guard units from Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as Army Reserve units from California, Kansas and Washington.

Ohio's 371st Corps Support Group spent nearly six weeks—April 23 to June 3—conducting combat service support for the entire operation which centered on a wartime scenario played out by Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade in JRTC's maneuver box.

"We had to go in ahead of the brigade, draw the equipment, set up the staging area, support

the operation, take them out of the box and help them get back to their home states," explained Maj. Rand Ponting, support operations officer. This included accounting for all personnel, equipment and supplies during the rotation, conducting ground resupply to forward deployed forces and assisting in clean-up once the exercise was complete. Ohio units that supported the exercise included the 237th Personnel Support Battalion, 337th and 437th Personnel Support Detachments, and 1484th and 1485th Transportation Companies.

Under the direction of Task Force Hoosier, soldiers from the 237th Personnel Support Battalion in-processed all soldiers—whether they arrived by civilian or military aircraft or other forms of transportation. The 237th was tasked with inputting information into computer databases to assist in the accountability operation.

"Our main mission here is accountability of boots on the ground," said Capt. Allison Whatley, officer-in-charge of the Ohio personnel service detachments at JRTC. "(We



Ohio Army Guard support group, assets prepare Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade for battle at elite training center

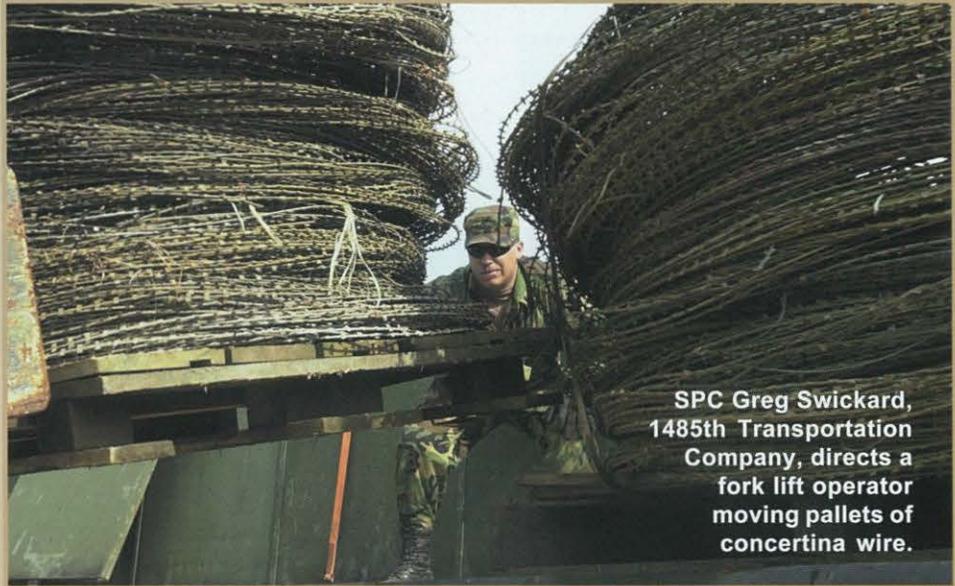
need) to be able to report to brigade and the higher headquarters on how many people are here by task force.”

According to Whatley, the 237th in-processed nearly 6,000 soldiers arriving by civilian chartered airplanes and military aircraft over the course of the rotation. Of the 6,000 soldiers, roughly 4,000 arrived within a 24-hour time frame.

Though the PSB did not enter the “box,” where war games were executed, Ohio forces were critical to the outcome of the total operation.

“(Accountability) is vital to the success of being able to track people and account for the number of bodies on the ground and (identify) where they are in case of an emergency,” 237th PSB 1st Sgt. Reginald Wagstaff said. “(A training ground like JRTC) is the brainchild of General (George C.) Marshall who thought it was necessary to train the way we could possibly fight.” Marshall was Army Chief of Staff during World War II and later served as U.S. Secretary of Defense.

Once there was 100 percent accountability of soldiers, the combat troops deployed to the intermediate staging base (ISB), where they received briefings, meals and rest time before their deployment into the maneuver box. The

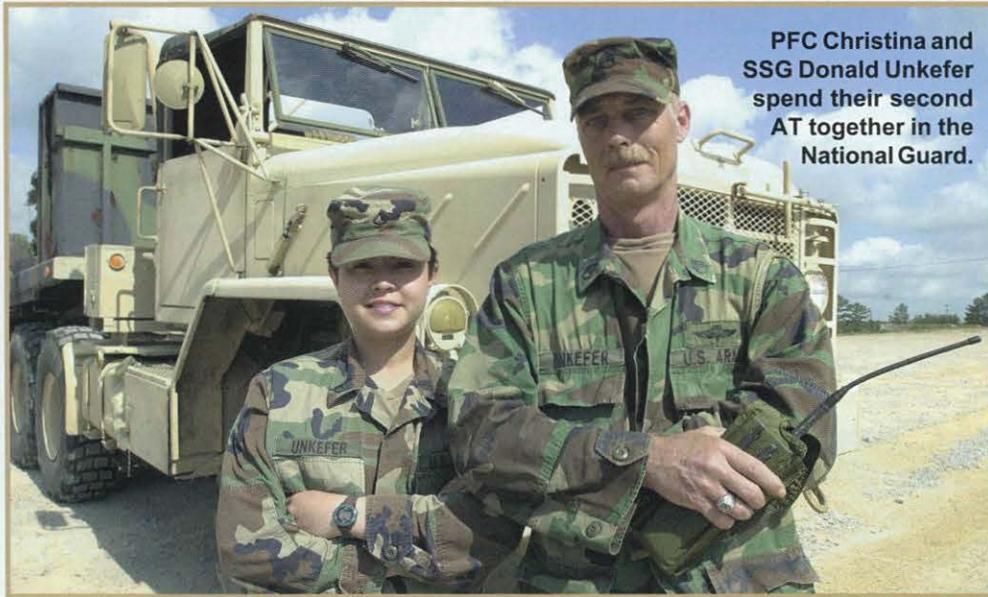


SPC Greg Swickard, 1485th Transportation Company, directs a fork lift operator moving pallets of concertina wire.

mission of the 371st, however, was to receive, stage and prepare supplies and equipment for movement of the infantry brigade into its tactical assembly area.

Units under the command of the support group supervised barge, railway and convoy operations, drew basic load supplies, performed

technical inspections of JTRC’s Prepo (prepositioned) fleet, and positioned supplies and equipment while performing other tasks as required. In all, units drew 514 pieces of Prepo equipment and supported the movement of 1,057 pieces that arrived by barge and 507 pieces shipped



PFC Christina and SSG Donald Unkefer spend their second AT together in the National Guard.

Photo by PFC Haraz N. Ghanbari, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Father, daughter team up at JRTC

Story by Capt. Nicole Gabriel
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The sun beats down on the soldiers of Detachment 1, 1485th Transportation Company, as they carefully load pallets full of concertina wire onto trailers at North Fort Polk’s supply yards. Staff Sgt. Donald Unkefer supervises the soldiers who are loading barrier material and replicated ammunition onto these trucks which are headed for the intermediate staging base (ISB) at Alexandria International Air-

port, about 50 miles away.

Unkefer watches carefully as another sergeant scrutinizes the position of a pallet being transported from the tines of a forklift to the flatbed trailer of a five-ton truck. He watches as the sergeant directs the soldier in the driver’s seat to pull forward slightly. The private first class eases the truck forward and stops. Another soldier guides the forklift driver to lower the pallet onto the trailer. The pallet slides into place. A perfect fit.

Unless you looked closely at the nametags on their uniforms, you might not even realize that Unkefer and the petite soldier behind the wheel of the powerful tractor-trailer were family. But they are.

And this particular annual training was just another this father and daughter team has shared since Pfc. Christina Unkefer joined the Ohio Army National Guard almost two years ago. This year, the two Unkefers and the other soldiers of their Steubenville unit went to Fort Polk to participate in a Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation, which trained soldiers in a realistic wartime scenario.

While this staff sergeant and private first class might be father and daughter at home, when they don Army green, it’s strictly professional.

“He doesn’t treat me any different,” Pfc.

Units supervised by the 371st Support Group managed the movement of more than 1,000 pieces of equipment that arrived by barge.



Unkefer said. "I call him 'Staff Sergeant' and he calls me 'Pfc.'" Christina's dad is the truckmaster of the detachment, responsible for the operational readiness of 58 vehicles. He has to ensure they are fully mission-capable and ready to roll when needed.

At JRTC, the detachment served as the transportation asset for the 1225th Corps Support Battalion from Michigan, which fell under the 371st Corps Support Group out of Kettering. The detachment supplied drivers and vehicles, and hauled all classes of supply including barrier material, ammunition, rations—and even trash.

"If you've got stuff you need moved and don't have the assets," the senior Unkefer said, "we go and get it and haul it."

As truckmaster of the JRTC rotation, he coordinated all the transportation missions, which included loading trucks which brought basic load supplies from North Fort Polk to the ISB—where infantry troops received all of their supplies and equipment in preparation to "fight the war."

"It's a circus and I'm the ringmaster," Unkefer said of his job.

He may be the ringmaster, but he is also 'Dad.' Though he treats Pfc. Unkefer the same as any of his other soldiers, fatherly pride oozes from this crusty staff sergeant when he speaks of his daughter. He still gets a little choked up remembering when he sent his little girl off to basic

training. "When she went to boot camp she was a scared little girl. When she came back, she was a soldier."

While she serves one weekend a month and two weeks of the year as a heavy vehicle driver for the 1485th, Pfc. Unkefer's full-time job is being "Mom" to her 5-year-old son, Blake. She said she joined the Army Guard and decided on trucking mainly because of her father.

"Whatever my dad does, I end up doing (too)," she said. So when her dad suggested she join the military, she decided to go for it.

"I gave her a little bit of direction," the staff sergeant admitted. "I said, 'Hey, (you'll get) college money—a chance to go to school—with the Guard. This way you get to do something to test your internal self and see what you are made of.'"

According to Christina, she joined for other reasons, too.

She explained that because she comes from a small town, belonging to the Guard gives her the sense that she's doing something important with her life and that she'll always have something to fall back on.

And, she pointed out, it gives her a lot of satisfaction to be able to say, "I'm a U.S. soldier." ■

by railroad cars from the various states participating in the exercise.

"We had hundreds of people on the ground," Ponting said. "Digging through trash, driving people into and out of the field....it was quite a formidable operation to build a task force at brigade level."

According to 371st Commander Col. Jack Lee, the support group offered an experienced work force that made his job easy.

"I would put this staff against any active-duty unit," Lee said. "They have been training together for four years. You're not going to find an active-duty staff like that."

"While their (the 371st) job is not as visible or as high profile as some of the other support elements, their job has proven invaluable to the success of the rotation," said Col. Jerry M. Gill, Indiana National Guard personnel officer.

Though training at JRTC helps prepare National Guard units for war and the ever-increasing contingency operations in foreign countries, guardmembers can also apply the lessons learned during domestic missions in the United States.

"This mission we're performing here would tie in very well with our mission for a state emergency where we could come in and be the command and control headquarters for the soldiers who would be supporting civil authorities," Lee said. ■



GENE COLLINS WAS A MEMBER of the 37th Infantry Division during all three of its major campaigns during World War II—New Georgia, Bougainville and Luzon. This is the last of three articles highlighting his experiences. Collins, now 80, lives in Columbus and is an active member of the 37th Division Veterans Association.

HISTORY

Spearheading the 37th Infantry

'Buckeye Division' veteran shares wartime experiences

BY SGT ANTHONY C. MELDAHL, CO. C, 118TH AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL BATTALION

THE LUZON CAMPAIGN

After the defeat of the Japanese offensive on Bougainville, the next mission given to the Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry Division was to participate in the invasion of the main Philippine island of Luzon. Unlike the islands of New Georgia and Bougainville, the island of Luzon was laced with roads, villages and cities. For the first time, Gene Collins and his cavalry reconnaissance troop would be operating as a mechanized force. In the fall of 1944, the recon troop was equipped with four M5 Stuart light tanks. The platoons would operate as scout columns consisting of several jeeps with machine guns, followed by a half-track and a light tank.

Gene Collins was assigned as commander of a Stuart tank. "The Stuart tank had a four-man crew.

Two of us rode up in the turret: the tank commander and the gunner. The tank commander was also the loader for the 37 mm main gun, and operated the .30 caliber coaxial machine gun and radio," Collins said. "Down in the hull on the front right was the .30 cal. machine gunner and on the left was the driver. Everyone wore a leather helmet with headphones and a mike so we could talk to each other. Visibility from



Photo by SGT Anthony C. Meldahl, Co. C, 118th ASMB

inside the tank was poor using the periscopes, so we usually drove with the hatches open and our heads out.

"A tank crew operates as a pretty tight knit team. I still have regular contact with my tank's driver, Richard Small, who lives in South Dakota.

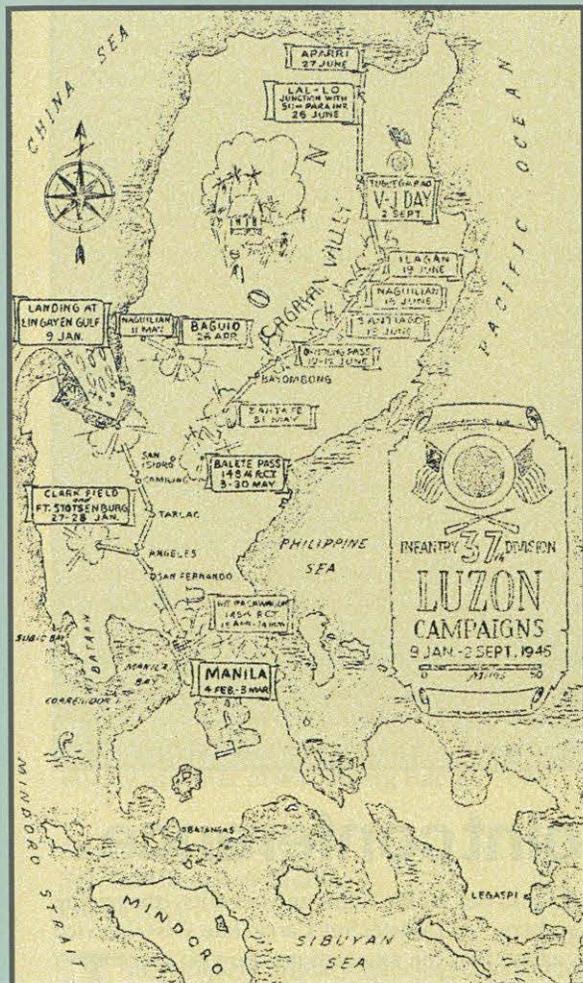
"On the right front of my tank I painted *Buffalo Belle*," said Collins, noting that he named it after a popular movie at the time, *Memphis Belle*, about a B-17 bomber plane, and a girl he knew from Buffalo, N.Y. "I met her when I was in Canada on vacation with my folks. She wrote me every week for the entire war. That was an important morale boost to me."

Drive Down the Central Luzon Plain (Jan. 9-Feb. 3, 1945)

On Jan. 9, 1945, Gene Collins was with the 37th Infantry Division when it landed at Lingayen Gulf on the northwest coast of Luzon. The Japanese had decided to fight a delaying action in the Central Luzon Plains, which led south to the capital of Manila. The cavalry reconnaissance troop's three platoons would spearhead the division drive by preceding the infantry assault regiments down the road nets in their assigned sectors. The recon troop's platoons were to find the enemy and to report on blown bridges and other obstacles. If the enemy force was small, the scout platoon could engage it. Larger enemy forces were to be avoided and left for the infantry to destroy.

The 37th Cav Recon Troop first went into action on Jan. 10 when jeep patrol sections were ferried across a river on amphibious tractors and went out ahead to scout for the enemy. On Jan. 13 the

FORT KNOX, KY. 2000—Collins (seated) and his tank driver, Dick Small, pose in front of an M5 Stuart tank, like the one they operated during the Luzon Campaign in the Philippines.



Map courtesy of Dick Small, 37th Cavalry Recon Troop

1945-This map highlights the 37th Infantry Division's campaign to capture the island of Luzon from the Japanese.

there was an explosion to our rear. We had come under fire and were hit by a shell in the rear of the tank," he said. "The shell penetrated the armor and knocked out one of my tank's two Cadillac engines. It could still run on one engine, but wouldn't go in reverse. I told my driver, Dick Small, to get us out of there. He wheeled the tank around in a wide arc as fast as we could go.

"A fuel line had ruptured. Dick told me he was standing in an inch of gasoline and prayed that another round wouldn't hit and blow us to bits. We drove the *Belle* back to the maintenance area. It had been a close call."

Two of the 37th Division's Infantry Regiments, reinforced with a platoon of tanks and tank destroyers, fought for five days to destroy the enemy force, whose forward elements had engaged the recon troop on Jan. 26. The recon troop continued to press forward ahead of the lead elements and on Feb. 3, the cavalry troop arrived in the northern suburbs of Manila.

The Battle of Manila (Feb. 4-March 4, 1945)

The Japanese had withdrawn from the northern suburbs of Manila across the Pasig River. The enemy had a force of over 15,000 troops firmly entrenched in defen-

"The shell penetrated the armor....A fuel line had ruptured. Dick (Small) told me he was standing in an inch of gasoline and prayed that another round wouldn't hit and blow us to bits."

sive positions just south of the river. The 37th Infantry Division had the daunting task of defeating this dug-in enemy force, determined to fight to the last man.

Shortly after the Buckeye Division's infantry established a bridgehead on the southern bank of the Pasig River, Collins saw action. On Feb. 9, three recon troop tanks including Collins' were detached to support the 148th Infantry Regiment, which had crossed the Pasig in assault boats during the two previous days.

The *Buffalo Belle* and two other recon troop tanks crossed the river on a damaged bridge. They drove to the Paco Train Station in the southeastern side of the city. It was here that Company B of the 148th Infantry was engaged in a heated battle with the enemy.

"We were not in a favorable position to support the infantry. My tank went up to a building and that's where we could see the Japs in a little wooded area across the tracks. They were firing at our pinned-down troops with 20 mm and small arms," Collins said. "I wanted to take the tank around and fire on that wooded area and the train station, but I couldn't get permission. The Japanese had a machine gun. We could have taken that 37 mm with HE (high explosive) shell and knocked the hell out of the wooded area. That's when those two infantry privates, Cleto Rodriguez and John Reese did something amazing."

The recon troop's tanks were unable to advance to good firing positions because the streets had been heavily mined. Collins could only wait there and observe the action. B Company, 148th Infantry had just made a frontal attack on the wooded area and the train station at Paco. The unit became pinned down 100 yards from the objective. Two privates first class, Rodriguez and Reese, on their own initiative, moved forward through intense machine gun and rifle fire. They covered each other and fought for more than an hour, taking turns engaging the enemy with rifle fire

and hand grenades. The two men killed over 80 enemy soldiers, destroying the 20 mm gun and a machine gun which had pinned down their company. Low on

--continued on page 28

troop suffered its first casualty. Pvt. 1st Class Robert Haley was killed while his platoon was assisting Philippine guerrillas flushing out four Japanese soldiers from a bamboo grove.

The first major engagement fought by the recon troop occurred near the city of Angeles. On Jan. 24 the troop's first platoon encountered a company-sized Japanese delaying force.

The enemy force withdrew to the south. It would be here in this area that a battalion-sized Japanese force augmented by tanks would stand and fight to the death. It would be up to the 37th Cav Recon Troop to make contact.

On Jan. 26 Collins was in the *Buffalo Belle*. "We were near Fort Stotzenburg at Clark Airfield. All of a sudden I felt the tank shudder and

Collins *continued from page 28*

ammunition, the two privates withdrew, providing covering fire for each other. During the withdrawal, Reese was killed. Both men later were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Between Feb. 18-27, the recon troop fought a series of skirmishes with infiltrators until the Battle of Manilla ended March 4, with a total of 136 enemy killed at a cost of 14 recon troopers wounded.

Baguio Campaign and Balete Pass (April 11-May 8, 1945)

The 37th Infantry Division remained on police duty in Manila until orders came to capture the Philippine summer capital of Baguio.

The offensive was characterized by a series of skirmishes in the winding mountain roads leading north to Baguio. The 37th Recon Troop led the drive up the highway to Baguio. The city fell April 26.

Late in April, the troop was equipped with 14 M8 Greyhound armored cars. These were six-wheeled vehicles with all-wheel drive and armed with a 37 mm cannon and machine guns. The Buckeye Division's next objective was farther east at Balete Pass. The attack route was over narrow mountain roads, impassable for

tanks and self-propelled artillery which had been used in the drive to Baguio.

Collins had a fever and was away from the action for a month in the hospital. He rejoined the troop and they accompanied the infantry with the M8 Greyhounds and the scout jeeps, providing indirect fire support. The Baguio campaign ended May 8 after Balete Pass was captured.

By this time Collins had acquired enough combat service points to finish his tour of duty and ship back to the United States. He was discharged at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and returned to his parents' home in Buckeye Lake for some well-earned rest.

The recon troop went on to fight one last battle, the Cagayan Valley Campaign (May 29-June 30, 1945) after Collins left.

But this would not be the last he would see of his buddies in the recon troop.

"You know, when you go into action it hits you like the side of a wall. It's just overwhelming," Collins said. "But after you overcome that initial fright and are forced into doing something, you realize that you can get the job done.

"Then you start building confidence. You think...well, by God, I think I can get this done and not get myself killed. About then, after the baptism under fire, the unit starts

to develop esprit de corps. That takes time to develop. It just doesn't happen overnight. By the time we hit Luzon, after all the combat we saw on Bougainville, we were a pretty tough bunch of guys."

Collins now is quite active helping organize reunions with his fellow veterans in the 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop.

"Veterans of the recon troop are a very close-knit group, even within the 37th Division Association," he said. "After 55 years, when we meet, it's as if time has stood still. Our bond to each other is as strong as back in the days of combat. Many of us owe our lives to others in the troop, both living and dead.

"Our wives remark at the reunions when we are reunited with a troop member we haven't seen in 20 years: 'You guys haven't seen each other in 20 years and yet you talk like you just saw each other yesterday.' It's because us men of the troop shared so much between 1940 and 1945. We tried to keep each other alive and that runs pretty deep. We have about 45 members of our troop association. Of course now we are losing them regularly. (But) it was a very important part of our lives" ■

ONGA/ONGEA hold unique joint conference

By Spc. Michelle Morgan
HQSTARC (-)

The Ohio National Guard Association and the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association joined forces in May at Camp Perry for their first joint annual conference in 12 years, to celebrate recent accomplishments and set goals for the future.

The ONGA and ONGEA both petition the state legislature for funding and benefits for Ohio Guardmembers.

Last year's passage of the bill that created the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program (ONGSP)—which pays up to 100 percent of a guardmember's college tuition—was a topic at the conference, also highlighted by the attendance of Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, Army National Guard director.

Both associations worked to help establish the ONGSP.

"The ONGEA looks out for the rights and benefits, 'the people issues,' of its members," said Master Sgt. Larry Hale, ONGEA vice president. Hale added that the associations are also working to procure health benefits and immediate retirement benefits, granting eligibility after 20 years instead of having to wait until age 60.

The ONGA and ONGEA join with their national organizations—

the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, United States (EANGUS), respectively—to secure federal benefits from Congress like enlistment bonuses and Veterans Affairs home loans.

Lt. Col. David Pifer, ONGA president, said his association is "an organization that perpetuates our (Guard's) existence and provides lobbying power in Congress."

For information on joining either association, call (614) 486-4186. ■

Officer association honors its best

ONGA Distinguished Service Award:

Col. Edward "E.J." Thomas, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus. As an elected state representative (1984-1999), Thomas was instrumental in increasing the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program to pay 100 percent of a guardmember's tuition at any state-supported college or university.

Outstanding Second Lieutenants of the Year:

Ohio Air National Guard—Kimberly L. Norman, 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield

Ohio Army National Guard—Stephen R. Gibbs, Bravo Company, 1-107th Armor Battalion, Barberton

ONGA Scholarship Recipients:

Jacob Ort, son of LTC Mark Ort, 37th Armor Brigade, North Canton

Tara Pifer, daughter of Lt. Col. David Pifer, 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo

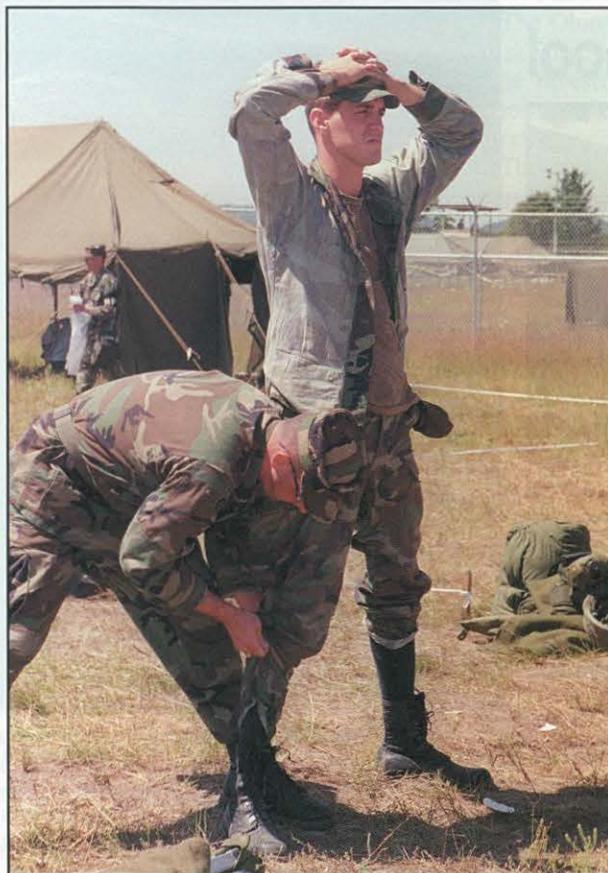
Alison Morrow, daughter of CPT Douglas Morrow, 1-147th Armor Battalion, Cincinnati

Lauren Decker, daughter of retired Lt. Col. Robert Decker, 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo

Karen Mowrer, daughter of retired Lt. Col. Sherwyn Mowrer, 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo

Sarah Kuhn, daughter of LTC Elmer Kuhn, 416th Engineer Group, Walbridge

MPs rehearse new enemy prisoner of war mission



SGT Jason Hodge conducts an individual search of an enemy prisoner of war during Badger Triad.

**Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins
HQSTARC(-)**

The rumble of military vehicles filled the air as they emerged from the dense forest into a grassy clearing. The drivers headed to the dismount point, where military escorts would off-load and sign over enemy prisoners of war (EPWs) to the military police who would process them for entry into the internment camp—approximately 15 acres of the clearing enclosed with a dual set of fences.

As the exchanges took place, a loud-speaker barked orders in an effort to avoid confusion. Posted at intermittent guard towers along the fence line, other MPs monitored movements both inside and outside the compound.

Prisoners stood with both hands locked behind their heads, watching as their personal possessions were searched and inventoried. Individual searches also took place as EPWs were moved through the various stages of initial processing. Armed guards stood at the ready, poised to re-

spond at the first sign of trouble.

Once the external process was completed the internal process began. The traffic gate was opened and small groups of internees were ushered inside—divided by rank, gender, physical condition and whether they were civilian or military personnel. Several stations were yet to be completed including being seen by medical personnel, showers, rations, issue of bedding and assignment to quarters.

Soldiers from the 324th Military Police Company, Middletown, participated in this lifelike scenario during annual training which was conducted June 3-17 at Fort McCoy, Wisc. The exercise, Badger Triad, involved more than 8,000 soldiers from throughout the United States and was hosted by the Wisconsin National Guard. The U.S. Army Reserve 783rd MP Battalion, Mich., was the higher headquarters for the unit.

“Badger Triad provided a great opportunity for this unit to train with other units, which, in reality, we may serve with in wartime,” said Capt. Eugene Dragonette, commander of the 324th.

Formerly a combat support asset, the 324th was designated an EPW unit in October 1999, and its authorized assignment of personnel and equipment (MTO&E) was revised last January. The change reflected the new mission: to establish and operate a prison camp to detain EPWs for the duration of a war.

“This will no doubt be a difficult challenge for us,” Staff Sgt. William Wiggins said of the new mission. “We have learned much at Fort McCoy. Considering that our MTO&E changed such a short time ago, I’m impressed with what the unit has done up to this point.”

During Badger Triad, the unit primarily was evaluated on three collective tasks: providing perimeter security, conducting

holding area operations and supporting compound/facility operations.

In an effort to prepare for this year’s AT, the unit underwent an IDT (inactive duty) lanes evaluation during May drill at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton. Lanes training allows evaluators to observe how a unit goes about completing an assigned mission; various tasks need to take place for successful mission accomplishment.

“Our evaluations in May and our training up proved to us here that we can do the job as good or better than expected,” Spc. Sean Dishun said. “This is a great unit.”

The unit’s first sergeant agreed.

“May’s evaluation rolled in perfectly to what we were doing for AT,” said 1st Sgt. Ed Swaney. “Everything was still fresh in our minds.” According to Swaney, the unit is also required to go through a lanes evaluation during annual training, but it was waived because the mission was so new to the unit. However, the MPs did undergo a Training Assessment Module (TAM) evaluation, which looks at unit readiness, training documentation and areas such as food service and supply in addition to the unit’s performance of mission essential tasks.

Badger Triad also provided an opportunity for the 324th to train as a company for the first time in quite a while. Over the last six years, personnel from the unit have conducted law and order operations at the canal zone in Panama and security support missions for Guard engineers in Honduras and Nicaragua. Though the first sergeant said those types of missions are still viable for the unit, future ATs will be planned to complement the EPW mission.

“Right now we’re trying to arrange for our people to support the U.S. Army prison in Mannheim, Germany,” Swaney said. “We’d like to start sending platoon-size cells to train there every year.” ■



After initial processing, prisoners are led inside the compound to additional processing stations.

Day for Independence: Soldiers help students 'Spruce Up' school

It wasn't the Fourth of July, yet it was still a day for Independence—High School, that is.

About 40 Ohio Army National Guard volunteers from the Columbus area proved that a little elbow grease goes a long way toward forging relationships in the community as they helped the local high school May 12 as part of Columbus Public Schools "Spruce Up a School Day."

"Perspiring together creates camaraderie," said Rodney Roscoe, principal of Independence High School.

There, students, teachers and people who live nearby joined guardmembers to plant shrubs and flowers, weed and mulch flowerbeds, paint lines for curbs and pick up litter.

Columbus school officials said they want to make the day an annual event. They originally sent letters asking for assistance to local businesses and organizations—including the Adjutant General's Department—many of which already provide reading tutors to students.

Several Ohio Guard units statewide already are partnered up with schools as part of the Guard's Adopt-A-School program.

Overall, about 400 volunteers from various organizations showed up at 16 Columbus Public Schools to help. The district also was looking to build goodwill, spokeswoman Judith Rogers said.

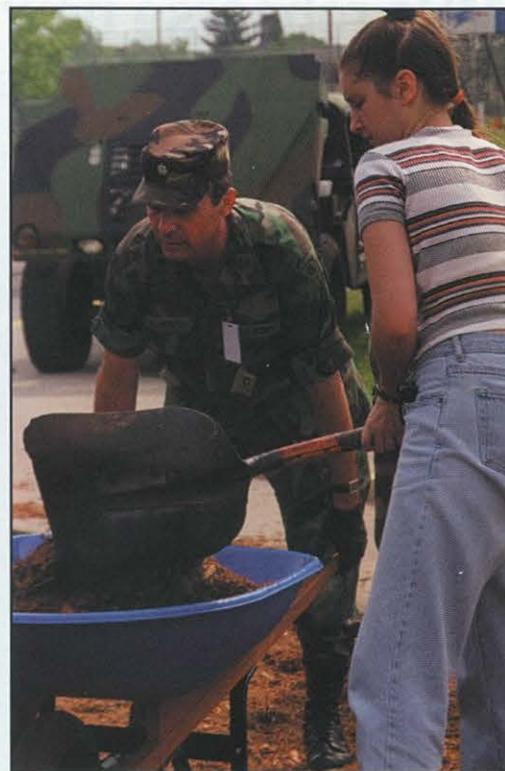
Dr. Rosa Smith, Columbus Public Schools superintendent, visited and thanked guardmembers for their efforts.

"While our custodians do wonderful work in maintaining our buildings, many of them could use extra pairs of hands to get done



Photos by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

ABOVE: MAJ Richard Simmons and WO1 Richard Cosgray add a fresh coat of paint to the curb in front of Independence High School. RIGHT: LTC Mike McHenry and an Independence student load mulch to be used in a school flowerbed.



those jobs that never get pulled out of the 'job jar'—painting a fence, planting shrubs and mulching the flower beds," Smith said. "Having enthusiastic partners with whom to get the work done is a huge and welcome bonus. And ultimately, it better ensures that our schools are safe and inviting places where students can learn, teachers can teach and families feel welcome to participate in their children's schooling.

In addition, the Guard provided a helicopter and military vehicle display at the school, and many students were afforded the opportunity to climb in the vehicles and ask questions of guardmembers. THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH/ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

121st ARW guardmembers join to build school playground

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Greg Rudl
121st Air Refueling Wing

Wood, tires, nuts, bolts and a devoted community all came together to form a special playground, and members of Columbus' 121st Air Refueling Wing were there.

Members of the 121st helped build a playground May 4-6 at Wellington School in Columbus. It's named in honor of Caroline Pryce Walker, daughter of state Rep. Deborah Pryce and Randy Walker. Caroline was a third-grader at Wellington who died last September at the age of nine following a yearlong battle with cancer.

"They provide the know-how and we provide the muscle," Rep. Pryce said, describing guardmembers' involvement



121st ARW SrA. Charles Phillips (security police) screws stair treads in place to form a staircase for playground equipment.

and the many volunteers who turned out. "To see everybody working hard on such a sunny day is fantastic and just fills our

hearts with joy."

This cutting-edge playground features 38 play stations, which are designed to promote physical and cognitive development, as well as imaginative and cooperative play. The play stations include a rocking caboose, castles, kiosks, towers and even a jaguar made completely out of tires.

There were actually two playgrounds being constructed, one for younger children and another for older ones. The Ohio Guard worked hand-in-hand with volunteers which included parents of Wellington students. "It brings pride of ownership and sense of community to those who work on it," said Capt. Brian Eichenlaub of the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron. ■

Now is time to make orders for Red Ribbon Campaign

The Ohio National Guard Counterdrug/Drug Demand Reduction Office has stocked about 100,000 red ribbons for units to distribute in October as part of the national Red Ribbon Campaign to promote drug-free lifestyles among the nation's youth populations. According to campaign organizers, one unit in the state will get the distinction of passing out the one millionth red ribbon in the campaign's history during this year's celebration.

For more information or to place an order for red ribbons, contact 1st Lt. Phil McGonagill at (614) 336-6432 or e-mail mcgonagillp@oh-arng.ngb.army.mil.
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION OFFICE

Guard's 'War on Drugs' gets nod from Congress

After more than two decades of National Guard counterdrug activities throughout the nation and abroad, congressional leaders said the "drug war" is still raging and urged citizen-soldiers to vigorously continue the struggle against illicit drugs.

"I don't think we have faced a greater threat to our nation than from illicit drugs," said U.S. Rep. John Mica, (R-Fla.), during opening remarks at the National Guard counterdrug exhibit in Washington, D.C.

Mica, the exhibit's sponsor, said the Guard's continuing effort to aid law enforcement while educating children on the dangers of drug abuse is still serious business, citing 52,000 deaths last year from the direct or indirect result of drug use. Mica equated last year's estimated drug-use death toll to that of a casualty list from an ongoing war that continues to undermine the entire nation's security.

"I've never seen anything like what we're facing here," Mica added. "There is not a family in America that hasn't been affected."

Since 1977, the National Guard has been supporting federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in their counterdrug efforts while also evolving aggressive drug-demand reduction efforts in recent years. In 1989, Congress enacted legislation expanding the Guard's role with the National Defense Authorization Act. Besides helping with local drug enforcement and demand reduction activities, the National Guard also supports agencies like the Drug Enforcement Agency,

FBI, Customs Service and Border Patrol.

The Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force has among its personnel 17 full-time investigative case support analysts who support 13 different drug law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio.

This summer, Ohio National Guard personnel have assisted several agencies, including the U.S. Customs Service, Cleveland; the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Parcel Task Force, all in Columbus; the Drug Enforcement Administration, Youngstown; and METRICH, the Metro Richland County nine-county counterdrug task force.

These activities resulted in the confiscation of approximately 800 pounds of marijuana, 35 grams of heroin and 11 kilograms of cocaine, as well as \$140,000 in cash. This support also led to six arrests for possession of those drugs.

Ohio Counterdrug Task Force Drug Demand Reduction personnel recently conducted two Higher Ground workshops, one at Otterbein College in Westerville and another at the Ohio State University-Mansfield campus. Higher Ground is a character-based, instructional program, which includes team-building exercises targeted at middle and high school students.

Congressional leaders like House Rep. Floyd Spence, (R-S.C.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said they take the National Guard's drug-fighting duties so seriously that the citizen-soldiers should expect to see continued support from the nation's policy makers.

"The Guard has been called on many times over the years to do many things, and this is just one of those," Spence said. "This is really a war. It's really a battleground. I can't stress how important this is."

Along with dozens of Army and Air National Guard citizen-soldiers and airmen from across the United States erecting displays at the nation's capitol, Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, offered his words of encouragement to the men and women who make up the National Guard's total counterdrug program.

Davis particularly noted that because the National Guard is extremely community oriented with more than 450,000 soldiers and airmen, and more than 3,200 armories and bases spread out across the nation, each state is uniquely qualified to tailor its respective counterdrug program to its own area's needs.

"One size does not fit all because we are so diverse and different in this great country," Davis said. "We look at this counterdrug program as part of our homeland defense. Drugs degrade our democracy," he added.

Working with state, county and local law enforcement, more than 3,300 full-time National Guard men and women are involved with ongoing counterdrug missions nationwide. National Guard troops attending the Capitol Hill event said they were bolstered by the words of encouragement from their nation's lawmakers.

"The National Guard is a force multiplier to the various agencies, and the National Guard brings unique training, knowledge and experience to the mission," said 1st Lt. Sergio Villarreal of Eagle Pass, Texas, a public affairs officer for the Texas National Guard's Counterdrug Support Program in Austin.

Besides supporting law enforcement, many states have moved toward growing sizeable drug demand reduction efforts in which Guard bases and armories are opened up to children with citizen-soldiers and airmen acting as mentors and teachers.

Meanwhile, congressional supporters of all the National Guard counterdrug efforts lauded their ongoing programs while saying the National Guard will continue to receive Capitol Hill's financial support.

"We're very engaged in the war on drugs," said Rep. Asa Hutchinson, (R-Ark.). "And I can assure you, you will continue to get support from Congress."

Other federal officials urged lawmakers to consider that they could not mount an effective battle against illicit drugs if the National Guard was left on the sidelines.

"With National Guard support, we know we are not out there alone. We could not do our jobs without you," said Donnie Marshall, soon-to-be-named chief of the Drug Enforcement Agency headquartered in Washington, D.C. "I sincerely hope that this program never, ever goes away."

Col. John Mosbey, director of the National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Directorate overseeing all the states' and territories' various programs, said he was heartened by the accolades coming from such leaders. "People have done a lot to support us on the Hill," Mosbey said. "We're not trying to grow our program... but we're looking for consistency (in federal funding). The big thing for us is stability."
ARMY NEWS SERVICE/ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE





Photo by 251st Combat Communications Group Public Affairs

A team comprised of members of the 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash, took the championship in the 2000 Ohio National Guard state softball tournament.

123rd ACS wins ONG softball championship

After one second-place finish and two third-place finishes in past Ohio National Guard state softball tournaments, the 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash, finally finished on top.

The unit bested a team representing the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, to clinch the 2000 championship trophy. Led by team manager Master Sgt. Paul Woodson, the team that spent the winter in Kuwait went undefeated to take the one-day tournament held in June at Fairfield Park in Fairborn.

A total of seven Army and Air Guard teams participated in the tournament hosted by Springfield's 251st Combat Communications Group, 178th Fighter Wing and 269th Combat Communications Squadron.

Team members from the 123rd were: Ron Taylor, Rusty Estep, James O'Connor, Richard Tracy, John Chestnut, Scott Cranfill, John Bowles, Christopher Spurrier, Paul Woodson, Michael Hudson, Gene Hughes, Gordon Kunz, Hugh Beardsworth, Craig Conner and assistant coach Rick Larbus. 251ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Tuscon guardmembers assist 178th in conversion

Feedback from a recent staff assistance visit will allow 178th Fighter Wing commanders and supervisors to make and implement better decisions throughout the remainder of the Springfield unit's conversion to an F-16 flying training unit (FTU) and into the future.

Twenty-five members of the 162nd

Fighter Wing, Tuscon, Ariz., visited the unit June 8-12 to perform an informal evaluation of the status of the conversion program. Col. Tom Pape, 178th vice commander, requested the visit.

"This visit was integral because we are new to the (Air Education Training Center). It helped us gain a clear understanding of what to expect," Pape said. "This type of assistance provides a framework and defines expectations." TSGT. MIKE MYERS, 178TH FIGHTER WING

Columbus to host national ANG bowling tournament

The 2000 Northeast Regional Air National Guard Bowling Tournament, hosted by the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, will be held Oct. 6-9 at Rainbow Lanes and Holiday Lanes. It is open to all current Air National Guard members, retirees and their family members.

Host hotels are: Sheraton East, 2124 S. Hamilton Road, Columbus, (614) 861-7220 or (800) 797-9865, at a group rate of \$60 plus tax; and Best Western, 2100 Brice Road, Reynoldsburg, (614) 864-1280, at a group rate of \$55 plus tax.

There will be a banquet and awards presentation the evening of Oct. 8, followed by a dance. Bowlers and guests are invited. Cost per individual is \$22. This year's tournament also features a "Top Gun" competition.

Send registrations to Northeast Regional ANG Bowling Tournament, P.O. Box 329, Pataskala, Ohio 43062.

For more details or questions about the tournament, contact Keith Coe, tournament director, at DSN 869-7771, or Tech. Sgt. John A. Jackson, at (419) 868-4092 or DSN 580-4092. KEITH COE, DFAS-COLUMBUS

Tankers deploy to Germany

What country gives awards for the number of M2 Bradleys and M1 Abrahms tanks killed? Russia? Iraq? Iran? Believe it or not, it is the United States, but the tanks are "killed" only with MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) II gear.

From May 27 to June 17, soldiers of Company B, 1-107th Armor Battalion, Barberton, assisted active-duty troops stationed in Hohenfels, Germany, by serving as OPFOR (opposing forces), attempting to "kill" active-duty armor units that were training at the Combat Maneuver Training Center there.

The CMTC is where the Army trains its troops that are preparing to deploy to various locations in Europe.

The soldiers from Bravo Company spent the first week in Germany attending the OPFOR academy, where they were taught enemy tactics. To add a sense of realism to the training, the OPFOR use M60 tanks and M113 armored personnel carriers.

After the familiarization, the soldiers were sent on their first mission. This was a day mission where they were to seek a defensive position and await contact from the enemy.

"It was a long mission, but once we made contact, my tank crew managed to 'destroy' six vehicles," said Staff Sgt. Bernie Dietrich, an OPFOR tank commander.

The next mission the soldiers went on was a movement to contact, an operation comprised of more than 200 vehicles.

"One of the most attractive features of the CMTC is the lack of restrictions as to speed

Guardmembers give gift to Gov



Courtesy photo

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft received a visit from members of Toledo's 180th Fighter Wing June 20 at his downtown Columbus office. Col. Harry "A.J." Feucht (third from left), 180th commander, and Maj. Gen. John H. Smith (fifth from left), state adjutant general, present an American flag to the governor (center) as other 180th members look on. The flag was flown in the cockpit of an F-16 fighter jet during one of the 180th's sorties enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq in support of Operation Northern Watch earlier this year.

and maneuver," said Spc. Randy Probert. "We were allowed to go pretty much anywhere we wanted."

During the final mission, the soldiers from Bravo Company were on the "tip of the spear." They were in the forward echelon, which meant they were sure to make contact with the enemy. Members of Bravo Company along with assets from the regular Army component made contact with a large force of M1 tanks.

"With that many vehicles on the battlefield, it is very important that you have a tank crew that works well as a team," Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Roland said. **SPC JAY WELLS, B COMPANY, 1-107TH ARMOR BATTALION**

High school JROTC students see stars during chief's visit

Junior ROTC students from various Columbus high schools got the opportunity to meet Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief, National Guard Bureau, when he visited Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base late last April.

Davis, the highest ranking officer in the 450,000-member U.S. National Guard, met and spoke with about 60 students about growing opportunities in the National Guard.



Davis

He was accompanied by several other general officers, including Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Lance Meyer, commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, based at Rickenbacker. **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

Hungarian doctors visit Columbus-area Red Cross

The American Red Cross Blood Services Central Ohio Region honored World Red Cross Day May 8 by hosting five Hungarian doctors as part of an initiative to improve blood banking worldwide.

The visiting doctors toured a donation site in Columbus, Red Cross labs and facilities, and met with senior officials regarding blood collection policies, practices and donor recruitment.

The tour was arranged through the Ohio-Hungary State Partnership Program, organized by the Ohio National Guard to assist in development of Hungary's democratic infrastructure. **AMERICAN RED CROSS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

MP unit joins long tradition

The U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., is one of the country's oldest and most prestigious military academies.

The 323rd Military Police Company, Toledo, recently took part in that long-standing tradition by participating in the academy's 2000 graduation ceremonies May 27. Unit members were responsible for traffic control, stadium security and parking during the ceremony, at which Vice President Al Gore was the guest speaker.

Also during the unit's May 14-28 annual training, soldiers went through an intensive weeklong law enforcement refresher program, implemented by the U.S.M.A. MP company stationed at West Point.

Course topics included everything from basic handcuffing and ticket writing skills to processing a drunk driver and the proper folding of a U.S. flag.

"I learned a lot in the refresher classes that I didn't learn in AIT (Advanced Individual Training), and it was great to put that training into a real mission," said Pvt. Crystal Patton, attending her first annual training with the 323rd. **SGT JOHN M. CRYE, 323RD MILITARY POLICE COMPANY**

Paintball action provides realistic training for medics

For years the Army has used the MILES II system to train troops for combat. The MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) II uses an infrared beam of light, which is activated by firing a blank from an M-16 rifle or other weapon. A hit is scored when the beam of light strikes one of many sensors worn on a soldier's equipment.

Over many years of training with the equipment, soldiers may become complacent and don't really consider that the lasers are intended to represent where a live round would hit them. Charlie Company, 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, Westerville, has devised a way to overcome this obstacle.

Members of the unit recently visited Marysville Paintball for a weekend of training, which consisted of different scenarios



Photo by SPC Shawn M. Ryan, Co. C, 118th ASMB

SPC Karl Schmidt focuses on his target during paintball training conducted recently by soldiers from Company C, 118th Area Medical Support Battalion, Westerville.

in which paintball weapons were used instead of the MILES II gear. With the paintballs traveling at a speed of 295 feet per second, soldiers had good reason not to act like John Wayne and rush their enemies.

One of the scenarios placed a group of four soldiers waiting for an airdrop of supplies in an open field. After waiting for a few minutes they were attacked by OPFOR (opposing forces). The soldiers quickly learned that just hiding on the ground would not work. One after another, the OPFOR eliminated the four-man teams waiting for the supplies. After that mission, soldiers realized the importance of finding good cover and keeping their heads down.

The weekend also consisted of night vision goggle (NVG) training, provided by soldiers from Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group, Columbus. **SPC SHAWN M. RYAN, COMPANY C, 118TH AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL BATTALION**

Armor unit receives state maintenance award

In a ceremony June 4 at the North Canton Armory, the State Maintenance Excellence Award (Light Category) was accepted by Capt. Jeffery Leslie of Headquarters Company, 37th Armor Brigade.

Unit personnel maintained a high readiness rating for an 18-month rating period, and exceeded more than 30 percent of scheduled services, as well as 100 percent readiness during their 1999 annual training at Fort Knox, Ky. **SSG MICHAEL SEACHRIST, HHC, 37TH ARMOR BRIGADE**



Photo by MSgt. Teresa Kinter-Buford, 269th CCG

The 178th Fighter Wing's MSgt. Gardner Watkins (left) and Mary Adduccio accept mementos as winners of the unit's 'Aircraft Generation Squadron Maintainer of the Year Award' for 2000.

Maintainer award bridges past heroes with present

In keeping with its rich tradition of excellence and remembering those who paved the way for its members, the 178th Fighter Wing's Aircraft Generation Squadron has created the "AGS Maintainer of the Year Award."

Officially established in May 1999, the purpose of the award is to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of current members while honoring the contributions of past ones. According to Lt. Col. Walt Ball, AGS commander, "the award can be likened to the annual Memorial Golf Tournament in Columbus, which not only recognizes the winner of the tournament but also distinguishes the contributions of a former golf great who influenced the sport."

The first recipient of the AGS Maintainer of the Year Award was Master Sgt. Gardner Watkins, a weapons technician, and a full-time school teacher in Dublin. Watkins, a 27-year veteran who also is the unit career advisor, was recognized during a recent ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base attended by about 125 unit members.

"I was surprised (about receiving the award), but it's nice to see that the people I care so much about also care about me," Watkins said, adding that he was honored to be associated with this year's honorary recipient, deceased Master Sgt. Patsy Adduccio.

Receiving the award on Adduccio's behalf was his widow, Mary Adduccio. "It was very well-deserved because Patsy loved the people he worked with and he loved airplanes," Mrs. Adduccio said. "Patsy often talked about the people he met and the experiences along the way. I just wish he could've been here to receive it." CAPT. PAUL HARRISON, 178TH FIGHTER WING

Hickman tops in community service

While planning for her high school graduation and future last spring, Airman 1st Class Janelle Hickman, a member of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, was notified of her selection as the first Ohio teen-ager to receive the national "Ruriteen of the Year Award."

Adopted from the Ruritan organization, the Ruri-teens are members of a community assistance-driven program for 14-to-18-year-olds. Hickman was cited for her participation in 16 service projects, as well as the nearly 200 hours she devoted to volunteerism in her community.

She was presented with a plaque and a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Last year Hickman joined the 220th as a ground radio specialist, the same unit her father, Jeff, a chief master sergeant, has been a member of for the past 22 years.

Like many other families throughout Ohio, the Hickmans are making the Guard a family affair, from one generation to the next. MAJ. SHEREE GILMORE, 220TH ENGINEERING INSTALLATION SQUADRON



Hickman

Airlifter editor directs worldwide news at JCLASS

Staff Sgt. Carl Hunnell is a man of many words—not necessarily the spoken word, but rather the written word. But in April, he became the man of the electronic word.

Hunnell—of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, and editor of the wing's monthly

newsletter, *The Buckeye Airlifter*—participated in the Joint Land, Aerospace and Sea Simulation (JLASS) war game in April at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

JLASS is the final exercise for all of the senior-level military colleges. The overall goal of the war game is to enhance joint professional military education by examining potential U.S. military responses to regional crises. As students prepare measures and countermeasures in a two-sided interactive war game, they are also forced to deal with the media through interviews, news conferences and a daily broadcast.

Hunnell originally volunteered to work in the media cell, but found himself running the 18-person cell once the gaming officials discovered he had a journalism degree. Hunnell earned his degree in journalism before coming to the Guard and has worked full time for civilian newspapers for the past 20 years.

"I really didn't expect to be made the news director," he said. "My background is in print journalism, not broadcast."

At JLASS, he added another line to his resume by scripting, editing and producing five, 20-minute news broadcasts in the style of CNN. Some days, Hunnell was leaving the studio as the war game students were watching the first broadcast at 7 a.m.

"There were some really long days," Hunnell said. "But it was a good experience to watch it all come together."

For having no previous broadcast experience, Hunnell made a notable impression on war gaming officials.

"As the TV news director, Staff Sergeant Hunnell did a superb job," said Maj. Gary Pounder, JLASS media cell member. "Thanks largely to his expertise, this news-cast offered more depth, context and perspective." 2ND LT. SHANNON SCHERER, 179TH AIRLIFT WING

New state command chief vows to put enlisted first

Richard Smith has the ears of a general. Although he does not possess them physically, he does theoretically. Smith is the new state command chief master sergeant for the Ohio Air National Guard.

Smith, a 29-year veteran from Mansfield, became the top enlisted Air Guard member in the state in after state Command Chief Master Sgt. Earl Lutz retired June 30. Smith was the top enlisted person at the 179th Airlift Wing before accepting the post at Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard, in Columbus. He now reports directly to Maj.

Gen. Paul Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air. For the next three years, Smith will be the voice of the state's 4,800 enlisted Air Guardmembers, working as a liaison between Sullivan and the enlisted ranks.

"The general has my ear and I have his," Smith said.

Smith will visit the state's 11 Air Guard units and represent Ohio at state and national conferences and seminars.

"I will be looking closely at the quality of life and the morale of the enlisted force in our state," he said. "I will work to keep General Sullivan aware of enlisted issues and concerns around Ohio and also to keep the enlisted informed of the general's policies and procedures."

The 48-year-old Smith spent his entire career working in the 179th Medical Squadron before becoming the unit's top enlisted member one year ago. He resides in Lexington with his wife and two children. Recently, his son accepted an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Smith believes improved communication



Smith

and recognition of enlisted members is a key to future success.

"I believe most problems occur due to lack of communication. Either the word isn't disseminated enough or we don't get the word out at all. I am here to ensure we do a better job of communicating and get the word to everyone." SSGT. CARL HUNNELL, 179TH AIRLIFT WING

Powers recognized for lifetime efforts

A long-time soldier who first enlisted under President Lyndon Johnson's administration was honored for his lifetime of contributions to the U.S. military by the last unit he served.

Sgt. Neal Powers retired from the Ohio Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 112th Engineer Battalion, Wooster, last year after more than 20 years of service on active duty and in the National Guard. Powers served in a variety of positions during his Guard tenure, including combat engineer, retention noncommissioned officer, unit recruiter and unit public affairs representative (UPAR)—and has authored 12 articles for the *Buckeye Guard*.

He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal during a retirement ceremony. ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Soldier writes direct commission prescription

It wasn't a typical commissioning ceremony as Spc. Jeremy Helphenstine recently joined the officers' corps.

He received a direct commission in a ceremony July 19, with the oath administered by Brig. Gen. Ken Robinson, commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade.

Formerly a construction equipment repairer with Detachment 1, Headquarters Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, Felicity, Helphenstine graduated in June from Rio Grande University.

Through the Health Professional Scholarship Program, Helphenstine will attend Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, with his tuition and fees paid for by the Army.

In return, he will have a four-



Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab

BG Ken Robinson, 16th Engineer Brigade commander, congratulates one of his soldiers, SPC Jeremy Helphenstine, after he received a direct commission into the active Army.

year active-component commitment when he completes medical school.

"A lot of my family has served in the military, but I'm the first officer," Helphenstine said. "It's kind of melodramatic. The worst part is that I'll be leaving the Guard, but I hope to come back and serve in the Ohio Guard someday." ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Guardmember balances college, athletics, military

Mary Anderson is a dedicated and successful student athlete. For four years, she found time to balance her studies, participate in college sports and serve in the Ohio Army National Guard.

She is a specialist in the 1484th Transportation Company, Akron, and recently graduated from Walsh University, where she was a star in basketball and track.

At a track meet last spring, Anderson broke school records in the discus and hammer throw. Her discus toss of 138 feet, 11 inches qualified her for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Track Meet May 25-27 in British Columbia. However, she could not attend the national meet because she was already committed to serving two weeks of annual training with her unit at Fort Polk, La.

"In the final meet of my senior year, I not only broke my college record and qualified for nationals, but I gained more confidence in myself which will help drive me to setting goals for myself and being successful in everything that I venture into," she said. "What a way to finish my college athletic career." SPC SCOTT KOMOROWSKI, 1484TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Retiring in style



Courtesy photo

Recently retired SGM Larry R. Gregg (center) receives the Sergeants Major of Ohio award from state CSM Mike Howley (right) as BG Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, looks on. Gregg celebrated 43 years of service in the Ohio Army National Guard in May at a dinner at Miller's Amish Restaurant in Newark. Other attendees included Gregg's wife, Nancy; his brother, SGM Mike Gregg; and Mike Gregg's son, new OHARNG enlistee, Chad.

Most active, reserve service members saw July pay hikes

Most service members probably noticed their pay increase in July as a result of the final leg of the compensation triad passed by Congress last year.

Pay table reform went into effect in July with about 75 percent of service members receiving raises of one-half percent to 5.5 percent, said Navy Capt. Elliott Bloxom, director of Department of Defense compensation. The other two legs of the triad DoD pushed last year were the overall 4.8 percent raise in January and retirement reform.

The increase in July is in addition to the January raise. "This is a permanent adjustment or correction to the pay table to reward performance over longevity," Bloxom said. "This restores some of the balance the pay table has lost over the last 50 years." He said the reform has two other effects: every promotion will be worth more in terms of absolute dollars, and the table still provides meaningful longevity raises.

The percentage hike that people saw in July varied depending on where and how much the pay table was out of adjustment, Bloxom said. Members saw changes if the table was out of whack or none if the table was about right.

Bloxom said the 9th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation is under way and the panel is looking at the enlisted pay table. He said Congress is also looking at pinpointed raises for mid-level NCOs. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Reservist, retiree dental plans go through changes

◆ New TRICARE dental plan expands services, includes reservists

The Defense Department's new TRICARE Dental Program will feature lower premiums, expanded services and cost ceilings, and will allow reservists and their families to enroll.

DoD awarded a \$1.8 billion, five-year contract in April to United Concordia Companies Inc. of Camp Hill, Pa., the current TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan administrator. Changes take effect Feb. 1, 2001. "One of the most significant changes is that reserve component members and their families will be eligible to enroll," said Navy Capt. Lawrence D. McKinley, the TRICARE

Management Activity's senior consultant for dentistry.

During the first two years of the contract, premiums for active-duty family members will drop from the current levels. The \$8.53 single and \$21.33 family rates will drop to \$7.63 and \$19.08 respectively during the first year, and remain below current levels even during the second year. Premiums for reservists on extended active duty and their families will mirror those of active-duty members, however premiums for families of reservists not on active duty will be somewhat higher.

Other improvements include:

- ✓ The enrollment "lock-in" period falls from 24 months to 12. That is, active-duty members must have 12 months left on their current term of service to enroll. Reservists must "express intent" to remain in the military for at least 12 consecutive months.

- ✓ The annual maximum for general dentistry increases from \$1,000 to \$1,200, and the lifetime maximum for orthodontic care goes from \$1,200 to \$1,500.

- ✓ General anesthesia and intravenous sedation will be covered.

- ✓ Coverage of diagnostic and preventive services expands.

The new plan, McKinley said, "easily matches most insurance programs of Fortune 500 companies and is better than many."

◆ Retiree dental program: different federal legislation, different rules

With the fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Department has the authority, unavailable a year ago, to explore options for enhancing the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP).

TRICARE Management Activity officials are evaluating alternatives for obtaining additional dental services, such as crowns and dentures, that can be offered while maintaining enrollees' premiums at an affordable level.

Uniformed service retirees and their families are offered dental benefits through voluntary enrollment in the TRDP. They will not have dental benefits under the TRICARE Dental Program, to be implemented Feb. 1, 2001, that is for active-duty family members and eligible reserve component personnel.

Established Feb. 1, 1998, the TRDP provides dental care for uniformed service retirees, unmarried surviving spouses and certain other family members. More than 500,000 retirees and their family members are enrolled. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

New education program to create techno-savvy soldiers

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera announced a \$600 million distance-learning initiative in July to help soldiers complete college "anytime, anywhere they can take their laptop."

Caldera called on colleges and universities, Internet companies, hardware and software companies and others to prepare and submit bids to the Army, offering technology and extensive curriculum for soldiers.

The resulting program—Army University Access Online (AUAO)—is expected to help soldiers to obtain college degrees or technical certifications through Internet-based courses while they serve, using laptop computers and vastly expanded learning opportunities. "The Army's greatest competition in recruiting and retaining soldiers is not the hot economy, but the desire for and availability of higher education to today's young people," Caldera said.

The Army has budgeted nearly \$50 million for AUAO and its website, *eARMYU.com*, in Fiscal Year 2001, with another \$550 million over the next five years. Caldera's goal is to see the program implemented Army-wide. The program will be available to all active-duty, Reserve and National Guard personnel. Soldiers will be provided with such resources as tuition assistance, textbooks, laptops, printers, Internet access, academic counseling, help desk, course offering and a command climate that creates a true lifelong learning community. Expansion of the program could make it available to family members as well.

This latest "learn-while-you-serve" option is the third such initiative brought online by the Army in the last year. Last fall, "GED Plus" was introduced to help soldiers who did not finish high school get their GED while on active duty. Earlier this year, the Army introduced "College First," which enlists high school graduates to active duty, but lets them attend college for a certain time period before serving.

Caldera expects an increase in retention. "By improving in-service education opportunities, soldiers can better achieve their personal educational goals and do not have to leave the Army to get an education or use their GI Bill." Additionally, the program will assist in producing a better educated, Information Age-savvy soldier who will be better prepared for the challenges of tomorrow's military. **ARMY NEWS SERVICE**





Courtesy photo

Ohio National Guardmembers and family members wash cars at a Central Ohio Wal-Mart location to benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation.

Guardmembers' scrubbing helps MAKE-A-WISH

Story by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

Add together some soap, water and several able-bodied Ohio Guardmembers and you end up with a winning equation—and a lot of clean cars and trucks.

Many Army and Air Guardmembers, as well as their family and friends, volunteered their time and services May 20 to support the first "Make-A-Wish Wash," a statewide car wash fund-raiser that benefited the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Guard had car wash sites at 13 Wal-Marts throughout the state, and at a McConnelsville furniture store.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a nonprofit organization which grants requests by children, ages 2 1/2 to 18, who have life-threatening illnesses. The intent is to provide the child with such a great time that they forget about their sickness, at least for one day, according to information provided by the foundation.

Wish requests vary greatly, although many children ask for such things as: meeting professional athletes and celebrities; taking a trip to Disney World; or getting a new computer or bicycle. The foundation funds requests with donations from individuals, businesses and organizations.

"Without the hard work, initiative and quick thinking of many soldiers, airmen and other civilian

volunteers that represented our organization, this event would not have been a success," said Sgt. 1st Class Tim O'Neal, marketing noncommissioned officer for the Ohio Army National Guard and event coordinator. "Thanks to your efforts, the Ohio National Guard is now linked with an Ohio charity whose sole purpose is to make wishes come true for children with life-threatening illnesses."

At a formal presentation June 15, Susan F. McConnell, Central Ohio regional director for the Make-A-Wish foundation, received a check for \$4,000 from O'Neal and Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general.

"I want to thank General Smith and Tim O'Neal for getting the whole ball rolling," McConnell said. "When I think of Make-A-Wish kids, I see strength, hope and courage. That's also what I see when I think about the National Guard. Your organization has many of the same qualities that those children do."

McConnell said that it costs an average of about \$4,000 to fund each child's wish. Although the

money raised by the car wash actually will be distributed to different Make-A-Wish regional offices throughout the state, in theory, Ohio Guardmembers raised enough money to fund one child's entire wish with this year's car wash proceeds. For information about next year's Make-A-Wish Wash or to volunteer, contact O'Neal at (614) 336-7432. ■



Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab

Susan F. McConnell (center), Central Ohio regional director for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, accepts a check for \$4,000 from SFC Tim O'Neal (left), car wash coordinator, and Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general.

Paving byways on Texas border

PAGES 10-13

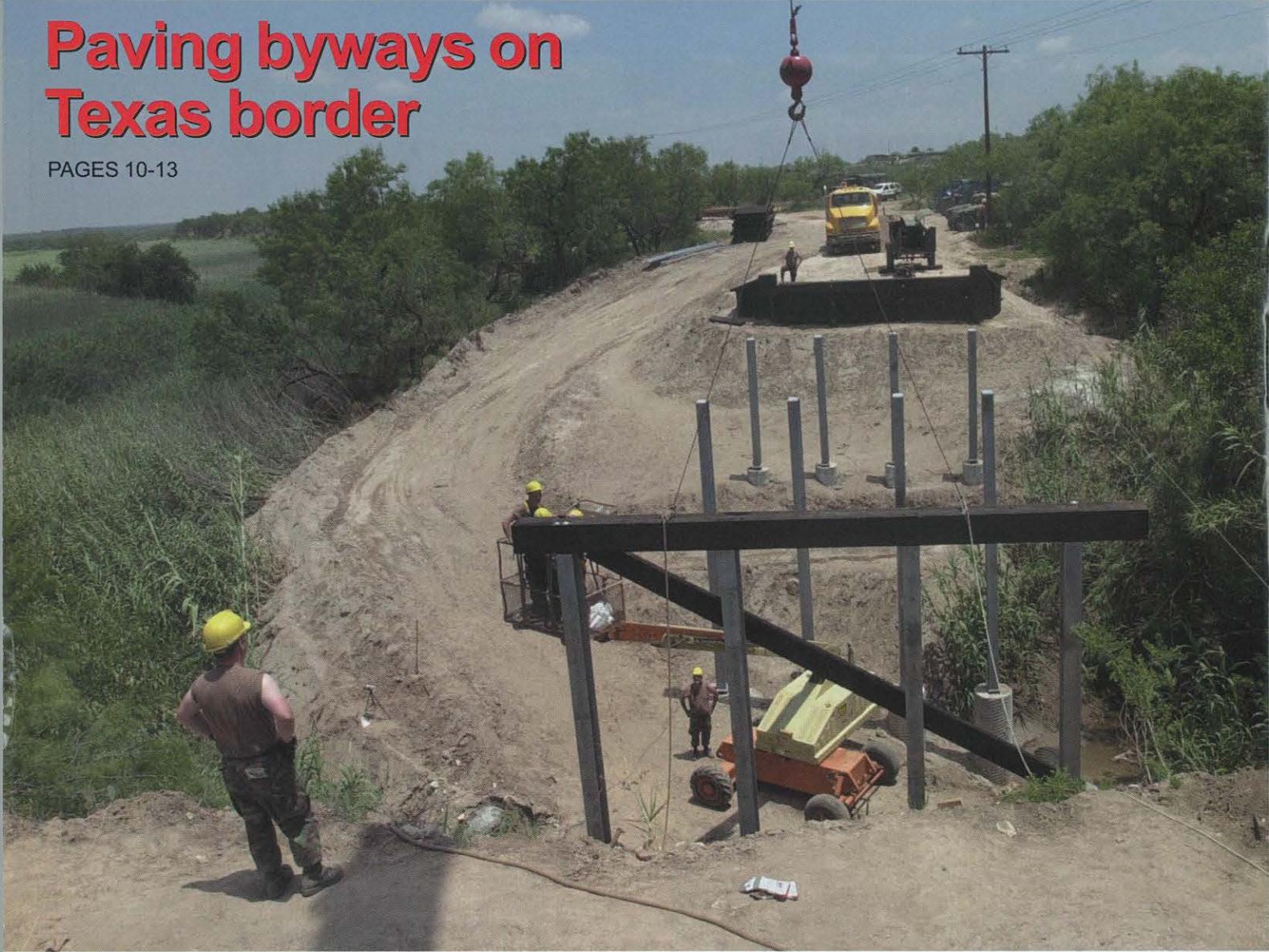


Photo by PFC Haraz N. Ghanbari, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BUCKEYE GUARD

The Ohio National Guard
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BULKRATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit #3754