



BUCKEYE

GUARD

Fall 1999

LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

**121st Comm Flight
deploys to Eielson AFB**

PAGES 14-15



ALASKA

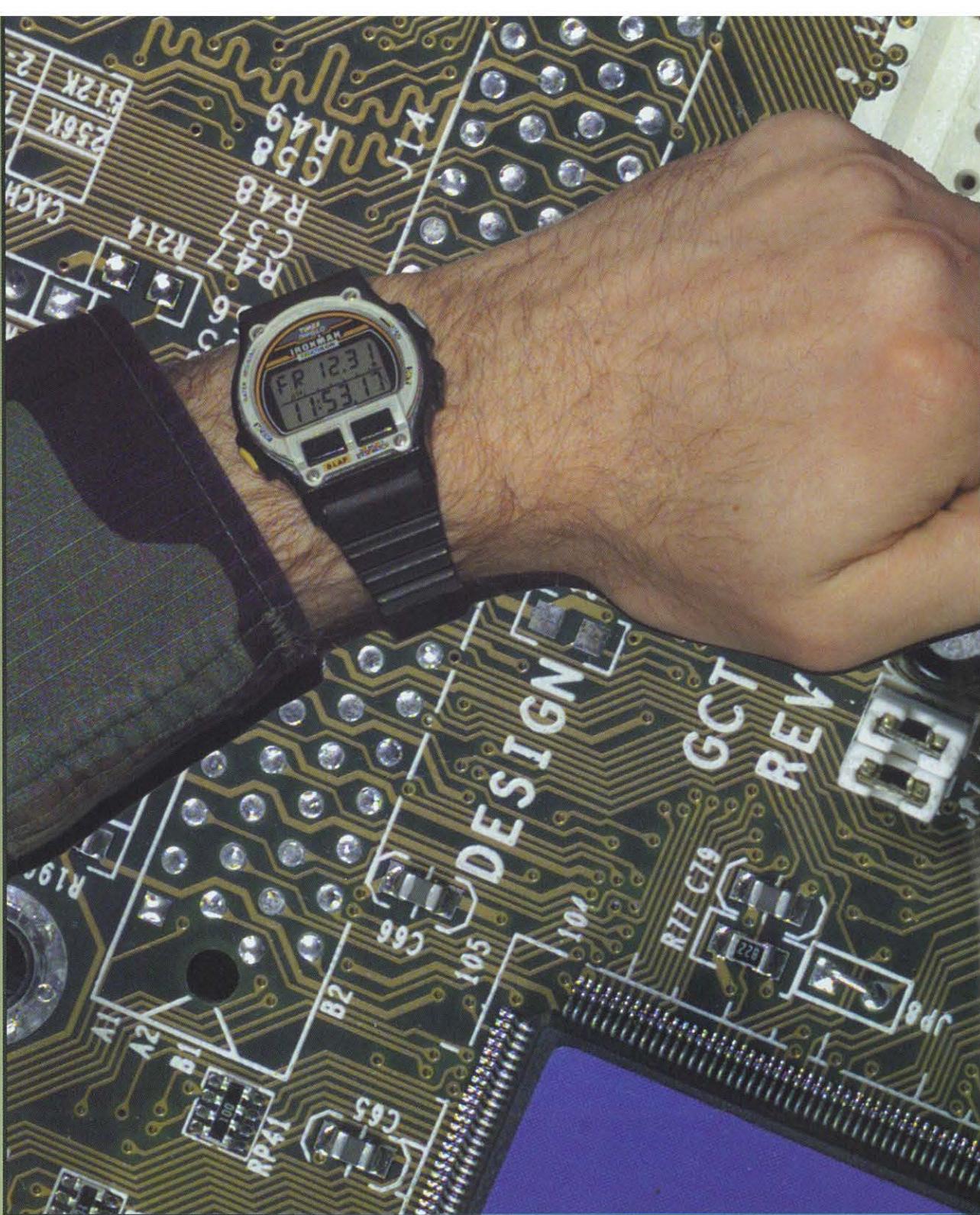


Photo illustration by Todd Cramer, Adjutant General's Department Photo Lab.

Y2K



Ohio National Guard
ready as clock counts
down to new millennium

PAGES 16-17



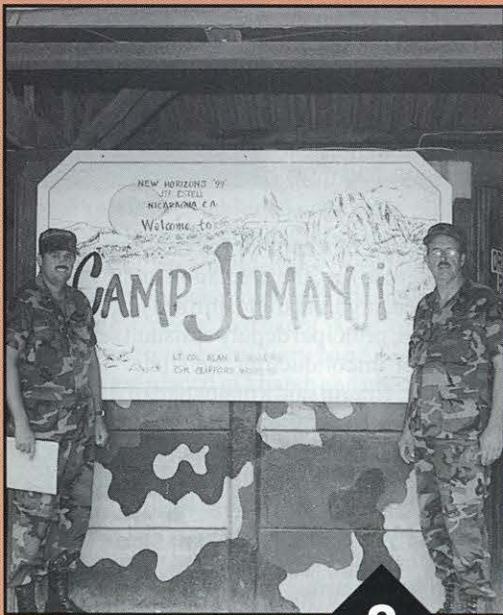
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BUCKEYE GUARD

Fall 1999, Vol. 23, No. 4

FEATURES

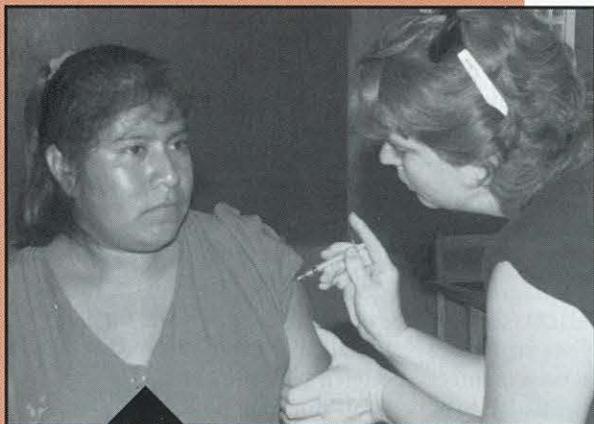
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ABOUT THE COVER: Senior Airman Adam Pivetta focuses his camera for the next shot during the 121st Air Refueling Wing Communications Flight's deployment to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. For more, see pages 14-15. *Cover design by 121st Air Refueling Wing visual information staff.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPT.

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Gov. Bob Taft

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

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

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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. Deadlines are:

Winter 1999/2000: Jan. 10, 2000
Spring 2000: March 6, 2000
Summer 2000: May 22, 2000
Fall 2000: Aug. 21, 2000

Don't compare anthrax vaccine with PB, Cohen says. The Department of Defense's ongoing anthrax vaccination program and its use of pyridostigmine bromide during the 1991 Gulf War aren't the same—and no one should equate the two, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Oct. 20. The pyridostigmine bromide situation is different. The investigational drug was not fully FDA-licensed but was the only available protection against soman, a deadly nerve agent known to be present in the Persian Gulf region before and during the war. At the time, soman was considered a greater risk than PB's possible side effects, DoD officials said, estimating 250,000 troops received packets of the drug. The Pentagon released a RAND Corp. report Oct. 19 that suggested there could be a connection between PB and Gulf War illnesses. The RAND study speculated hot, stressful conditions such as DESERT STORM might cause the brain to absorb larger-than-normal amounts of PB, which in turn might affect the brain chemical that regulates sleep, pain, mood, muscle function and thinking. (*American Forces Press Service*)

Riggs assumes command of First U.S. Army. Lt. Gen. John M. Riggs assumed command of First U.S. Army in a ceremony Aug. 26 at Fort McPherson, Ga. Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, passed the First Army flag to Riggs signifying the assumption of command. First U.S. Army, with headquarters at Fort Gillem, Ga., is responsible for the training readiness of 340,000 Army National Guard and Army Reserve troops in First Army's area of 27 states east of the Mississippi, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Riggs' last assignment was as commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Colo. (*First U.S. Army Public Affairs*)

**Riggs**

New millennium will bring changes to training of reserve forces. A yearlong Department of Defense-wide study recently released by the Pentagon may greatly improve the way reserve component forces are trained, organized and utilized into the new millennium. That's the assessment by Charles Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. He was a key player in conducting the study "Reserve Component Employment 2005," or RCE-05 for short. Cragin said a major part of the study, regarding small-scale contingencies, focused on operations tempo and rotational duration. "What we're trying to do is take a look at what is the right rotational duration as it relates to commanders' requirements and to reserve component members' responsibilities with their employers," Cragin said. "The unified commands have various rotation standards ranging from 90 to 270 days. "What we will do now is see if there's an optimum period that fits the way everyone is doing business," he said. The Air Force, for example, is looking at 90-day rotations for its new expeditionary forces. "Perhaps that's the appropriate duration for reserve deployments as well," he remarked. "We'll continue to look at that issue." (*American Forces Press Service*)

Ohio's Gubbins among new ESGR state chairperson appointees. Nine new state committee chairpersons for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), including retired Navy **Capt. Philip S. Gubbins** of Ohio, were appointed Sept. 14 by Charles L. Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. Gubbins replaces retired Air Force **Brig. Gen. Richard Browning**, who retired as chairperson. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) was chartered in 1972 to minimize conflicts between part-time military duties and full-time civilian career responsibilities. For information, call (703) 696-1381, or visit the NCESGR web site at <http://www.esgr.org>. (*Department of Defense Public Affairs*)

New law mandates funeral honors for eligible veterans. Congress has passed a new law requiring the Defense Department to provide military funeral honors for each eligible retiree or veteran, beginning Jan. 1. Upon request, the new legislation directs DoD to provide, at a minimum, a ceremonial flag-folding, flag presentation to the next of kin, and the playing of taps at military funerals. To support the ever-increasing demand for funeral honors, the active components have turned to the National Guard and Reserve for help. The lack of active, Guard and Reserve volunteers, coupled with projected increases in funeral requests, are driving a new initiative to pursue full-time manpower positions for base honor guard teams. (*Air Force Print News*)

JTF-Esteli commander lauds Guardmembers' efforts in Nicaragua

To the soldiers and airmen of Joint Task Force-Esteli:

During the period of March 15 to Oct. 30, I had the opportunity to command Joint Task Force-Esteli. The mission of this task force was to assist the Nicaraguan government in rebuilding the infrastructure destroyed by Hurricane Mitch and specifically included schools, clinics and roadwork. Our secondary mission was to provide preventive and emergency medical care to the Nicaraguan people.

More than 800 Ohio National Guardmembers from at least 20 units, both Army and Air, participated in the planning, deployment, execution, redeployment and reconstitution phases of Joint Task Force-Esteli. Many of you volunteered, but all of you responded as true professionals to this real world mission. Your military occupational specialties included engineers, military police, doctors, medics, water purification specialists, mechanics, journalists, transportation personnel and JAG (Judge Advocate General) officers. One of you even came from the military band.

You were placed in a harsh and unforgiving environment that included high temperatures, heavy rains, wind, mud, poor roads, snakes and scorpions. Despite all of these conditions you persevered and remarkably, thanks to your attention to safety, there were no serious injuries. Your individual and team efforts contributed to the successful completion of three three-room schools, three clinics, three wells, three latrines and five kilometers of rough-cut road. The medical teams treated more than 31,000 patients and the veterinary teams treated almost 30,000 animals. All of this was accomplished in less than four months.

Besides building infrastructure you also conducted international diplomacy. When you arrived in Nicaragua, there had been no substantial and sustained American military presence in more than 20 years. The work that you accomplished and the manner in which you conducted yourselves helped change long-standing negative perceptions of Americans and hopefully paved the way for improved business, diplomatic and military relationships with Nicaragua.

I know that in many cases your absence imposed a hardship on your families. I want to extend my thanks to your spouses, daugh-

ters and sons for their support of your efforts. That support was a critical part of your successful efforts. They should be equally as proud of themselves as they are of you. I commend you for your selfless service, hard work and professionalism. I am proud to have commanded such a dedicated group of soldiers and airmen. A simple thank you doesn't seem like enough but I sincerely offer it. Thank you.

Lt. Col. Alan D. Rogers
Commander, Joint Task Force-Esteli

Track vital information in case of deployment

Soldiers and airmen of the Ohio National Guard are being increasingly utilized around the globe to assist their active-duty counterparts in maintaining the OPTEMPO (operations tempo) of today's smaller military.

Ohio Guardmembers have been utilized in a wide range of operations including Operations DESERT FOX (Iraq) and JOINT FORGE (Bosnia) and Exercise New Horizons (Central America).

I was recently called to active duty through the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up to serve at Special Operations Command-Europe, in support of Operation JOINT GUARDIAN, for 270 days. My experience has been more than positive and is an example of the professionalism of Ohio Army National Guardmembers. The personnel section of 73rd Troop Command and many sections of HQ STARC (Headquarters, State Area Command) all assisted my spouse and I through the activation.

Soldiers being called to active duty need to be assured that their families and personal affairs will be taken care of while they

are away. Many of these issues are reviewed at least once a year at the company level in the Army National Guard during the annual records review. The soldier's responsibility is to ensure all his personal information is up to date. Soldiers with families especially need to ensure they have a current will and power of attorney. This can be coordinated with the JAG (Judge Advocate General) office at Beightler Armory in Columbus. The JAG staff was willing to stay late and answer all the questions my spouse had. These issues are especially important for guardmembers called to active duty as individuals (such as myself), not as part of a unit mobilization.

The service member with a family should research, in advance, information concerning TRICARE health insurance, Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI). Knowing what medical facilities, doctors and services are covered by TRICARE will ease the stress when it is time to deploy.

Relationships with your civilian employer also need to be maintained. The soldier is responsible for giving their employer as much advance notice as possible, being careful not to violate any operational security concerns. Let your supervisor know your expected departure and return dates. Try to keep in touch with your employer and let them know the service you are performing is important. Loyalty displayed toward your employer will pay off when you return back to your civilian career.

Remaining prepared for a possible deployment will ease the transition to active duty if and when the call comes.

Capt. Larry L. Henry
B Co., 2-19th Special Forces Group

We want to hear from you!

The Feedback page is the chance for our readership not only to respond to any posed questions, but also to share information or to sound off on any issue regarding the military or the Ohio National Guard.

Our policy: anonymous letters won't be published, but names can be withheld upon request.

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 346-7410 or commercial (614) 336-7410. E-mail letters to buckeye@OH-ARNG.ngb.army.mil or buckeye@tagoh.org or mail to

AGOH-PA, ATTN: *Buckeye Guard*, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.

Question of the Quarter:

What is your opinion of the increasing operations tempo (OPTEMPO) in the National Guard?



Command Focus

Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, Asst. Adjutant General for Air

Ready for all threats?

Force protection includes immunizations against anthrax, other potential biological weapons

Since the tragedies at Khobar Towers and our embassies, significant time and energy have been focused on protecting U.S. service members against terrorist attacks.

U.S. military dominance has left our adversaries few options other than indiscriminate attacks using unconventional weapons. Some U.S. military commanders have become concerned that too much focus on force protection can obscure the reason our forces are employed.

Force protection is not a mission; it's a part of performing an assigned mission.

Some operational risk is inherent in most military activity, including training. But, taking unnecessary risks with our personnel is at least irresponsible and, in the extreme, criminal. As our forces are increasingly called upon to deploy around the world, each theater has taken special steps to provide security for the troops, including geographical separation, barriers, pre-briefs on threats and vaccinations.

The likely survival of our forces against specific threats is, in itself, a deterrent to the employment of that threat. National policy has classified nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in a category that calls for severe response. Our potential adversaries, faced with the deterrence of our force protection measures, and our demonstrated ability and resolve to respond, are less likely to attack.

We are currently involved in another force protection program that calls for U.S. troops deploying to certain theaters of operations to undergo a series of anthrax

shots. Some of our members may think the risk of being vaccinated is greater than the risk posed by anthrax. I'm uncertain how anyone who researches the accurate data that is available can reach that conclusion.

But I think it's worth discussing the anthrax risk in an unclassified format.

There are many reasons a potential adversary may use anthrax as a weapon of choice: anthrax is inexpensive, relatively easy to produce, is effective and persistent, and the virus can be weaponized easily.

In fact, here in central Ohio, within the past two years, a man was able to buy anthrax from a medical company off the Internet, and had it in his possession when federal agents arrested him. There are several countries known to be "unfriendly" to the United States that have demonstrated the ability to develop anthrax. I conclude from this that anthrax is indeed a threat, and that effective protection would be a deterrent to its use. Anthrax doesn't destroy planes, tanks or ships—its lethality is to unprotected service members.

Of course, vaccinating our troops against the anthrax virus is only a part of the total force protection picture. The United States' position as the dominant military power will encourage some to find more "creative"

ways to weaken our forces. The most modern, cheapest and hardest to detect is through the skilled use and misuse of information.

We are a free society, due to sacrifices made by generations of Americans; it's what we in the Ohio National Guard are willing to fight to preserve.

We are now exposed to more information—both factual and false—in a single keystroke on a computer than we saw in a year only 20 years ago. The demand our information-based society places on our

highly educated, independent-thinking warriors, is for critical reading and listening. That demand is even greater on our leaders—officers and noncommissioned officers.

We must pursue the truth with energy and absolute integrity, and we must communicate with the troops entrusted to our care. Those re-

quirements are not new to leadership, but they are essential in today's freewheeling Internet society.

The Ohio Army and Air National Guard counts on each of us stepping up to these challenges. In the end, we count on each other to sort the real from the imagined, and understand and perform our duty. Those who choose otherwise play party to the real threat to our troops—misinformation wrought from paranoia.

Force protection is about our commitment to each other, nothing less. ■

"Some operational risk is inherent in most military activity....But, taking unnecessary risks with our personnel is at least irresponsible and, in the extreme, criminal."

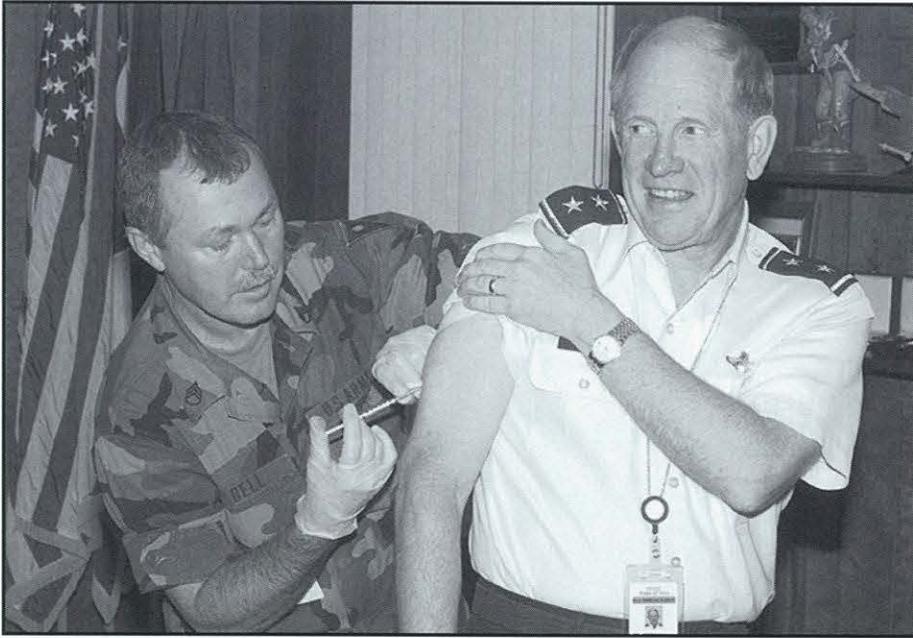


Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab.

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith (right), state adjutant general, receives one in a series of anthrax vaccination shots in October from SSG Chris Bell of Detachment 6 (Medical), Headquarters, State Area Command, Columbus.

Leadership stands firm on commitment to DoD's anthrax vaccination program

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

They offered no options—the lives of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen are not negotiable. Their message was clear: Anything less than the Defense Department's mandatory anthrax vaccinations is unacceptable.

Senior military leaders recently delivered that firm message to Congress. Late September hearings were held because of congressional concerns about the impact on military readiness of service members refusing vaccinations. Concerns were fueled by controversial reports, many of them sprouting up on Internet sites, claiming DoD's vaccine is untested and dangerous.

Deputy Defense Secretary John J. Hamre testified on the issue Sept. 30 before the Military Personnel Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. He was followed by Dr. (Lt. Gen.) Ronald Blanck, surgeon general of the Army. The Army is the immunization program's executive agent.

Hamre stressed that DoD's Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, implemented in March 1998, is a vital part of the military's force protection strategy. Over the next seven years, the department plans to immunize 2.4 million active-duty and reserve component personnel against the threat posed

by at least 10 nations suspected of having weaponized anthrax.

The Defense Department received unequivocal evidence in 1997 that Iraq had weaponized anthrax, Hamre said.

Weapons-grade anthrax is as deadly as the Ebola virus and virtually always fatal if inhaled. Anthrax normally is a livestock disease transmitted to humans by skin contact and, though dangerous, is not usually fatal if treated. The vaccine was licensed in 1970 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and since has been used in the livestock industry.

Hamre noted that the Pentagon's top leaders, including himself, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and other Pentagon officials including every service chief, service secretary and commander in chief have taken the shots.

"I am not going to ask a soldier to put something in his arm if I'm not prepared to take it first," Hamre said.

Blanck reported that the vaccination program as of Sept. 30 had immunized more than 340,000 personnel, including 27,000 guardmembers and reservists. He said 72 cases of serious side effects have been reported that required hospitalization or missed duty for more than a day. Only 55 cases could be attributed to the vaccine; all those personnel have returned to full duty. ■

Command Profile



Lt. Col. Mark Stout
269th Combat
Communications Squadron

Age: 49

Occupation: Commander, 269th CCS.

I grew up in: West Liberty, Ohio, a rural community in Logan County.

When I was little I wanted to be: a school teacher (which I became for 10 years prior to attending law school in 1982).

My favorite time of the year is: spring.

The one thing I treasure most is: my family—my wife, Marion, and daughter, Hannah.

My favorite junk food is: chocolate cake.

My biggest pet peeve is: disloyalty.

My favorite recreational activities are: going to auctions, collecting and refinishing antiques, and woodworking.

If I could travel back in time, I would: live in the New England colonies in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I would: design and build a new home, travel and invest.

The older I get, the more I: appreciate the talents, strengths and situations of the people around me.

When I retire, I want to: start a small business, travel and spend more time with my family.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: be good at what you do, plan your career and include your family in your Guard career whenever and however possible.

Sculpting success:

Guardmember's quest for fitness leads to trim physique, bodybuilding competitions

Story by Spc. Michelle Morgan
HQSTAR(-)

The importance of fitness and health are issues most people in the military and in civilian life face daily. Many try to eat healthy foods and stay in shape.

But for some, going to the gym, looking good and feeling great are more than just a thing to do.

Ohio Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Israel Garrett is one guardmember who has discovered more than one benefit to living a healthy lifestyle. Garrett works in counterdrug operations for the Guard during the week and serves as a traditional guardmember in the 437th Personnel Services Detachment, Columbus.

About a year after returning to his hometown of Toledo after seven years of service in the active Army, Garrett realized he needed to do something to stay in shape. With active duty's daily physical fitness requirements no longer looming over his shoulder, he had slacked off.

When Garrett decided to join a gym, what he found was not just a place to work out.

"I hired a trainer to learn how to work out properly," Garrett said. That trainer instantly saw potential in Garrett's 5-foot-8-inch, 195-pound physique and referred him to another trainer, one who was recently retired from the world of bodybuilding.

Within a year, Garrett not only was competing in local bodybuilding contests but was winning many of them. In 1997, his second year out, Garrett took first in a local competition and has not stopped since. He became Mr. Toledo in 1998, and from there started to win preliminary competitions that would allow him to progress from the amateur levels to competing as a professional.

Garrett, who trims down to about 175 pounds for competition, already has taken first place in one of the national qualifiers in 1998. Now he needs to win the American Natural for the National Gym Association. "Once I win an NGA, I can get my pro card and compete professionally. If I go pro, I can compete for money, not just trophies," he said. Not that he doesn't love winning trophies, but going pro can provide more opportunity.

When he is not training for a competition, Garrett lifts weights at least three times a week. However, beginning eight to 10 weeks before each competition, his schedule becomes grueling. Six nights each week, for at least one hour, Garrett lifts weights. Each night one section of his body is targeted: Monday he works to define his chest and biceps, Tuesday is leg day and other muscle groups correspond with other days of the week.

The diet that Garrett's trainer created for him would be impossible for many people to follow.

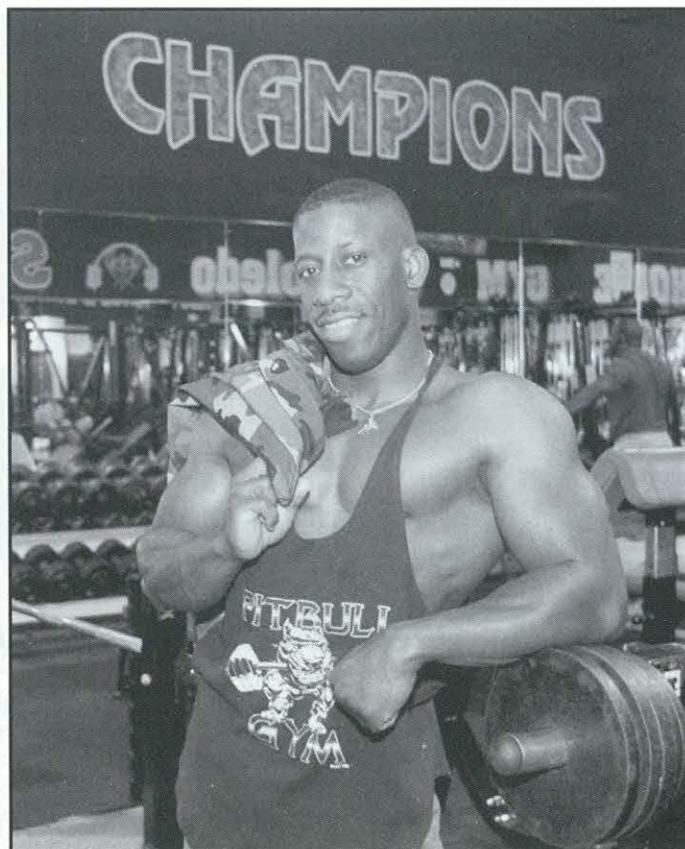


Photo by TSgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.

Ohio Army Guard SSG Israel Garrett works out several times a week at the Powerhouse Gym in his hometown of Toledo.

He tries to restrict himself to healthy foods year-round, but when he is training for an actual event, his diet is even stricter. An average breakfast consists of 10 egg whites and a protein drink mixed with water. Lunch is a plain potato, while dinner is a few green beans and a grilled turkey breast, and maybe another plain potato.

And, of course, none of the food has any type of seasoning. "If I am going to do it, I'm going to do it right," he said.

His trainer specially designed both the diet and the workout routines, and Garrett does his best to adhere to both very closely. "(However) I take a small bag full of candy and cookies and eat them all after each competition," Garrett admitted. Because his diet is so well balanced, each time he deviates from it, he said he can feel the difference in his body and its performance.

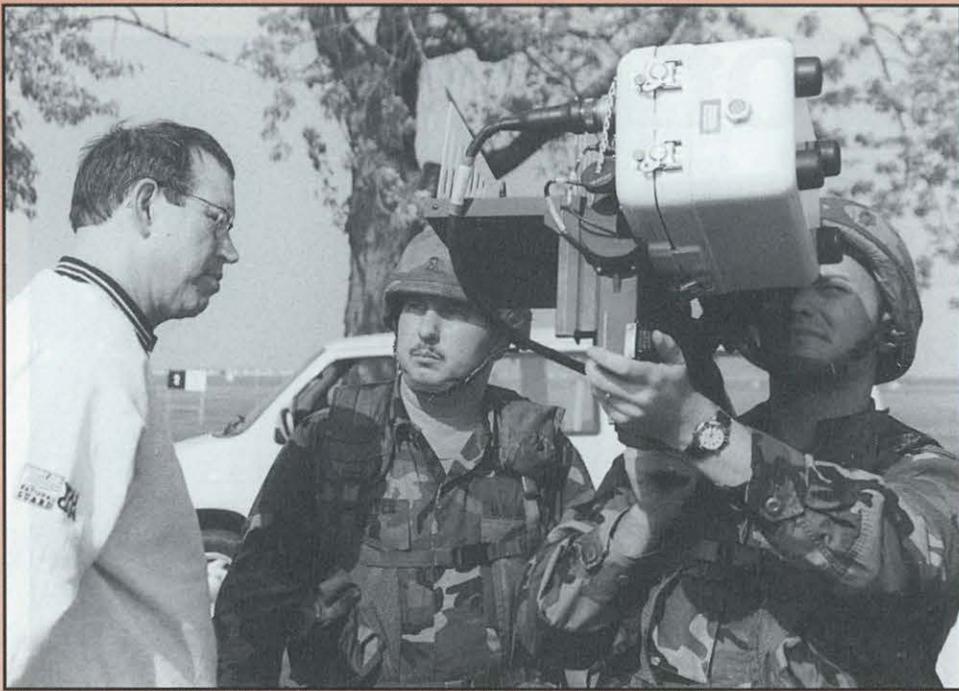
And in case you were wondering, Garrett said that while

his body is fit, he still has to train for the annual Army Physical Fitness Test, which includes a timed, two-mile run. His regular routine contains very little aerobic work and the run is not always easy for him.

"I usually don't do cardio (respiratory exercises) year-round, not until around competition time, and then just to decrease the fat in my body," Garrett said. "Since I don't do too much aerobic activity, I really have to push it on my run (during the APFT)."

Citizen Spotlight is a feature aimed at highlighting the civilian occupations and off-duty interests of Ohio guardmembers. Please e-mail story ideas to buckeye@OH-ARNG.ngb.army.mil or buckeye@tagoh.org, or mail to:

AGOH-PA
ATTN: *Citizen Spotlight*
2825 W. Dublin-Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789



Ohio Gov. Bob Taft (left) questions SPC Michael Tolliver (center) and SPC Rodney Dunfee, both of A Battery, 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (AVENGER) Battalion, McConnellsville, on the details of the Stinger missile system during his visit to Camp Perry.

Taft AND THE TROOPS

Governor spends drill weekend with Guard

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

Gov. Bob Taft started his journey in the early morning hours of Oct. 16, climbing aboard an Ohio Army National Guard C-26 propeller airplane that took off from Ohio State University's Don Scott Airport in Columbus.

By the time the plane touched down again that afternoon at the OSU airport, Taft—accompanied by state Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, members of the media and some of the governor's staff—would have traveled to Springfield, over to Indiana and up to Port Clinton before returning.

It was the governor's first official review of Ohio National Guard training since he took office last January. The occasion also marked the first time in more than a decade that a governor has visited Ohio Guardmembers dur-

ing their weekend drill.

"We are honored that Governor Taft approached us about visiting our troops while they train," Smith said. "Because the National Guard has dual missions, federal and state, it's important that our peacetime commander understands the full scope of our training requirements and responsibilities."

The governor's plane made its first stop in Springfield, where Taft received a tour and orientation of the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing. There he learned about the unit's mission to train future fighter pilots, got to peer inside the cockpit of an F-16 fighter jet and received a briefing on the "turkey shoot" that would take place later that day.

The turkey shoot pits Air Guard units in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana against each other to see which state's pilots conduct the most accurate strafing and bombing missions.

The governor also had the opportunity to try his hand as a fighter pilot when he hopped into the unit's F-16 training simulator. Guided by Maj. Barry "Jesse" James, a pilot instructor at the 178th, the governor started out with an awkward takeoff but quickly caught on and realized the sensitivity of the simulator's controls. Giving himself the grade of "low C"

for his simulator performance, Taft and company flew to Jefferson Proving Ground, near Madison, Ind., to view the turkey shoot competition firsthand. With the governor watching from an observation tower, the 178th's F-16s soared overhead, dropping ordnance on their targets during several thunderous passes past the tower.

"I was impressed with the skill and expertise necessary for this turkey shoot mission," Taft said. "This is a precision competition between three states."

"This really brings it home, what they did in DESERT STORM. It all starts here (at the 178th) where they train pilots to fly the F-16s."

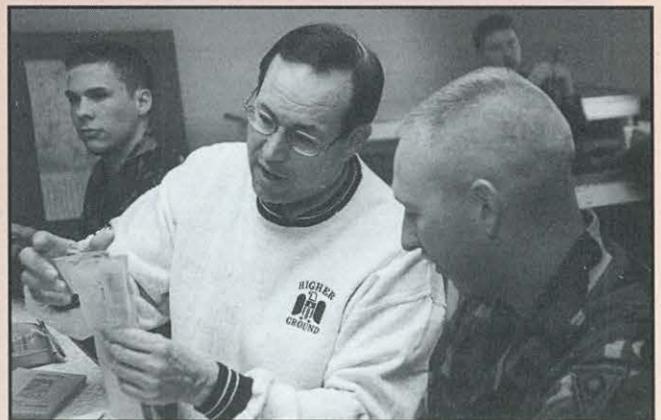
The tour then went northeast to Camp Perry in Port Clinton, where the governor ate his first MRE (Meal-Ready-to-Eat), observed a demonstration of the Army Guard's Engagement Skills Trainer (see related story on pages 12-13), and met members of the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (AVENGER) Battalion, McConnellsville. The unit was at Camp Perry that weekend to train and to conduct annual rifle marksmanship qualifications. Taft was given a hands-on briefing on the humvee-mounted Avenger missile system, and learned how shoulder-fired Stinger missiles augment the Avenger.

Some soldiers said they were surprised to see the governor. Spc. Robert Carr, a member of A Battery, 2-174th, was training on the Stinger missile system at Jefferson Proving Ground when Taft came by to meet Carr and others.

"It isn't every day you shake hands with the governor, and get to talk with him," Carr said.

Near the end of the day, Taft said he was glad to have had the opportunity to meet with a few of the approximately 15,000 soldiers and airmen he is in charge of as the Ohio Guard's peacetime commander-in-chief.

"It's probably the best thing I could do on a Saturday, really—to show the men and women in the Guard that I care about what they're doing," Taft said. "I think it helps increase their motivation, and certainly, it's been very educational for me." ■



SGT Michael Conner (right) of C Battery, 2-174th ADA, instructs the governor how to cook his Meal-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) with the water-activated chemical heater bag.

Sun sets on 'Horizons'

Exercise New Horizons, JTF-Esteli come to close

By Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins
HQ STARC (-)

Exercise New Horizons has completed its intended purpose. In response to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges, a joint military operation including all U.S. military branches and components, quickly formed a task force to provide relief to the countries of Central America.

The mission called for relief effort in many forms to include the rebuilding of schools, construction of clinics, road redevelopment and health services for people and livestock.

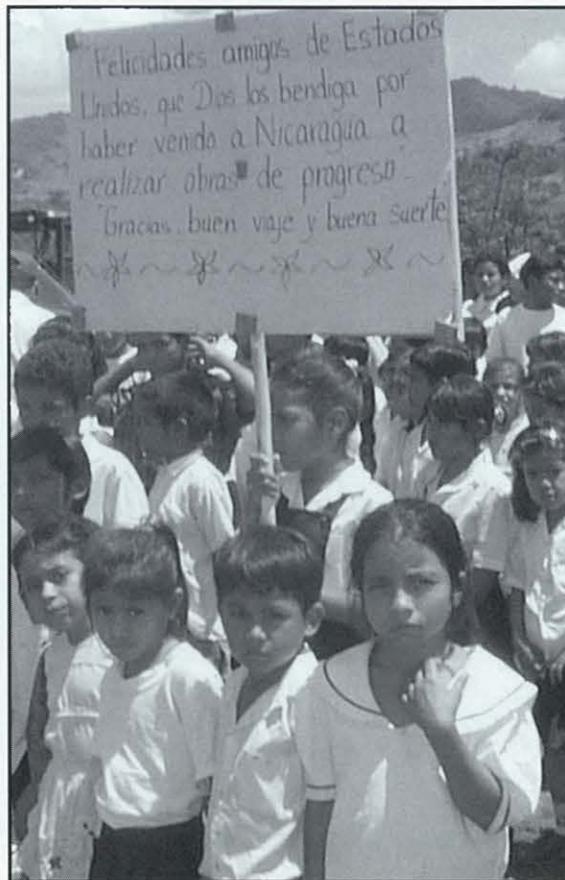
The operation that began in March, when a Forward Command Element commanded by Ohio Army Guard Brig. Gen. James Caldwell began overseeing humanitarian and engineering operations in four nations, concluded with closing ceremonies at the end of the summer celebrating the accomplishments and hard work of thousands of U.S. troops.

Closing ceremonies were held Aug. 18 in the northwestern Nicaragua province of Esteli, where the Ohio Army Guard's 216th

Engineer Battalion took the lead in operations.

For the four-month Joint Task Force-Esteli operation, two base camps were established in early May. The base camp at San Ramon, also known as Camp Jumanji, became headquarters for the operation, while the small, remote village of Platanares became a permanent base camp and home for engineering and support personnel working at the site. The next few months were spent helping the Nicaraguan citizens get on the road back to self-sufficiency.

All structures were engineered to withstand many of the dangerous storms which occur in Central America. Projects included two three-room schools, a three-room clinic, a new water well and two latrines in the village of Casa Blanca; one three-room school, one



Courtesy photo.

ABOVE: Grateful schoolchildren display a sign at closing ceremonies that reads: "Regards to our friends from the United States, and God blesses you for coming to Nicaragua and realizing our needs. 'Thanks, have a safe trip home and good luck.'"

three-room clinic, a well and a latrine in the village of Platanares; one three-room clinic and a well at Santa Teresa; and five kilometers of rough cut road.

Santa Teresa Mayor Gustavo Montoya, visited the site where soldiers were putting the finishing touches on the new clinic.

"Thanks to all who made the clinic possible, for coming all the way from the United States to show your kindness and hard work," Montoya said during the closing ceremony. "You have built both trust and honor with the people of this country."

Medical specialists performed humanitarian missions of huge proportions. Temporary clinics, Medical Readiness Training Exercises (MEDRETEs), were set up in 15 different locations during the exercise. Doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists and assistants were able to attend to the needs of more than 31,000 patients. The majority of patients left with a better understanding of preventative medicine and with medication for self follow-up treatments.

Some of those in need of immediate care walked more than five hours to the

BY THE NUMBERS:



Photo by SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).

SPC Daryl Cooper of Detachment 1, 1485th Transportation Company, Steubenville, was one of the Ohio Army Guardmembers who purified water for use by service members working under Joint Task Force-Esteli in northwest Nicaragua.

JOINT TASK FORCE-ESTELI

- ◆ Almost 31,000 Nicaraguan patients were seen at 15 MEDRETE (Medical Readiness Training Exercise) locations throughout Esteli; nearly the same number of animals were treated by military veterinarians.
- ◆ It was a story of threes for building projects; U.S. troops built a total of three three-room schools, three three-room medical clinics, three wells and three latrines in three different Nicaraguan villages.
- ◆ About 30,000 gallons of raw water per day were needed to produce 16,000 gallons of purified water for service members' use including drinking, cooking and washing.
- ◆ Average number of service members during each of six rotations: 425.
- ◆ Civil engineers constructed five kilometers of rough cut roads.



Photos by SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).

TOP: Engineers work to finish a building earlier this summer. **ABOVE LEFT:** Without enough dental chairs available, an Army Guard dentist uses his knee to cradle a patient's head during an exam. **ABOVE RIGHT:** While visiting sites, LTG Russell Davis, chief, National Guard Bureau, stops to talk with two soldiers. **FARRIGHT:** LTC Alan Rogers, commander of Joint Task Force-Esteli, makes remarks during the closing ceremonies in San Ramon.

MEDRETE sites. Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief, National Guard Bureau, visited the Platanares site.

"What we have done for Nicaragua is provide them some relief from the devastation of Hurricanes Mitch and Georges," Davis said. "They now know that we as Americans are about helping people."

Veterinarian and preventative medicine personnel also staffed various MEDRETE sites. Teams worked in different areas to provide much-needed service to the Nicaraguans.

Horses are the main means of transporta-

tion, oxen are field work animals and cattle provide the fresh milk for the country's rural areas. During the operation in Nicaragua, nearly 30,000 animals were treated for various types of injuries or given preventative immunizations.

Lt. Col. Alan Rogers, commander of the 216th, also served as commander of Joint Task Force-Esteli.

"By working with you (the Nicaraguans), we have built structures, but even more importantly we have built relationships and bridges of understanding between our people and our countries," Rogers said at the close of operations in August.

Sergeant Major of the Army Robert E. Hall visited several work sites during a mid-summer tour and applauded the efforts of the duration staff.

"Thanks to those of you for the job that you have done, pulling all the joint force personnel together and making the mission a tremendous success," he said.

The Charge 'de Affairs from the U.S. Embassy in the Nicaraguan capital of Managua, Deborah McCarthy, toured con-

struction sites on several occasions.

"The efforts of America's joint military forces have provided an expression of both compassion and hope for the people of Nicaragua," McCarthy said. "The clinics and schools will always be a reminder of the generosity and dedication of the United States of America." ■



Photo by SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).



SrA. Leanne Crooks gives a baby an MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination during the 178th Fighter Wing Medical Squadron's deployment to Belize.

Blessing in Belize

Springfield medics teach, treat, prevent

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Katherine Arvai
178th Fighter Wing

A little boy cut his finger on a soda bottle and went eight days without seeing a doctor or nurse. This small cut had swelled and become infected to the point where the boy could not move the finger. One could actually see the tissue projecting through the cut.

Another boy had a broken arm. It had been days since the incident happened. Unable to get to a doctor, the boy's mother had tried to make some type of cast for the boy at home.

Both of these incidents could be easily taken care of by a quick trip to a hospital emergency room in the United States. However, for citizens in struggling Central American nations like Belize, there is no such thing as a quick trip to the doctor—the nearest medical facility usually is miles away, and the health professionals who are available are scarce and in high demand.

As could be expected, the summer deployment of the 178th Fighter Wing Medical Squadron to Belize to provide care for the indigenous people of that region was

seen as a blessing by many natives. This deployment provided the opportunity for 50 members of the Springfield unit to employ skills utilized back home during conventional unit training assemblies.

Among those deployed were five physicians, one dentist, a dental technician, a nurse and technicians from the immunizations, lab, pharmacy, public health, bioenvironmental and optometry sections.

In the two-week period in July that the squadron was in Belize, members visited nine villages and treated about 3,000 people, mostly women and children. Every day the squadron was bused to a different village.

Once there, the bus was unloaded and the clinic was set up in the local schoolhouse.

The stations consisted of a check-in area, vital signs—where temperature, blood pressure and heart rate were taken, deworming, treatment and patient care, immunizations, pharmacy and dental examinations. Doctors provided additional treatment as needed.

Patients examined

had illnesses and injuries ranging from routine to terminal. A majority of patient care was provided on site, although in some instances of serious illnesses it was not possible.

In the unfortunate case of one infant girl, a type of heart surgery commonly performed in the United States could have saved her life, unit physicians said. However, this surgery could not be performed locally and the infant was sent to a hospital, where she eventually died.

Dental care was an area where 178th health professionals excelled. On average, Dr. (Capt.) Carlos Stone and his dental technician, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Green, treated 70 people a day. This number did not include fluoride treatments for children.

At the end of each dental examination, every child was given a dental pack, which included a toothbrush. Stone said even though he did treat existing problems, such as cavities and extractions, his main emphasis was on prevention. Education of the people was as significant a part of the trip as the medical and dental care given.

"We brought the patient education up to par, and we saved three young children," said Senior Airman Donnie Diller, a medical technician. "Overall, we improved the quality of life."

Teamwork was crucial to mission success. Each member rotated throughout the different stations, performing various duties. The morale, dedication and teamwork that the squadron exhibited impressed many people with whom the medics came into contact. The medics were constantly in good spirits, despite the primitive conditions, the extremely hot and humid temperature and the language barrier.

"The teamwork that was present, along with everyone's dedication, was a key to the deployment's success," Senior Airman Kelly Mabis said. ■



Belizean children look through a microscope for the first time, as SrA. Brett Mazey lets them view a blood sample.



Rolling out the BIG RIGS

*Ohio's engineer units build
tank target range at Ravenna*

Story and photos by Sgt. J.R. Lewis
HQSTARC(-)

The relationship between tankers and engineers usually begins and ends with the engineers building bridges to keep tanks rolling toward battle. But that relationship has been redefined by the hard work of 16th Engineer Brigade soldiers.

These engineers rolled out their heavy machinery this summer and turned a large, empty field at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (RTL), near Newton Falls, into an Armor Moving Target System, or laser MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) range, to help keep the tankers proficient with the big guns.

The Cincinnati-based 1193rd Engineer Company (Panel Bridge), which performed the first two of three scheduled rotations to complete the project, served as the headquarters element for the task force. Soldiers from the 112th, 216th, 512th and 612th Engineer Battalions, as well as the 416th Engineer Group and 186th Engineer Detachment, augmented the task force.

The main thrust of the project involved the construction of two dirt berms, each nearly 1,200 feet long, with one berm situated directly in front of the other. The front berm has nearly 1,200 feet of railway track bed for the moving targets of the AMTS.

"It was a beautiful thing, how the soldiers from the various commands melded and worked together," said Capt. Lee Coyle, 1193rd commander. "Unless you actually knew, you'd never guess there were so many soldiers from so many different commands."

ABOVE: Engineers moved nearly 25,000 cubic yards of dirt to build two berms for an Armor Moving Target System at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site. **RIGHT:** SGT Charlie Strong, HHC, 416th Engineer Group, Walbridge, carries an auto leveler used to evaluate progress.

Despite the inexperience of some of the younger soldiers involved with the project, Staff Sgt. Barney Smith Jr. of Detachment 1, Company B, 612th Engineer Battalion, Fremont, platoon sergeant and heavy equipment operator, said his soldiers attacked the project without hesitation.

"This is a hell of a morale booster. These guys took right over," Smith said. "Nobody was afraid to handle the equipment."

According to Smith, the construction project was a chance to build cohesion for soldiers who normally don't get the opportunity to train for two full weeks together—and the soldiers showed their appreciation with hard work. "The only time we stopped was for lunch," Smith said.

The engineers' monstrous machinery moved nearly 25,000 cubic yards of dirt. Equipment used included bulldozers, graders and backhoes.

Smith said the soldiers' hard work kept the project's pace moving smoothly with the only setback being a minor obstacle—the dust kicked up by the machinery could have caused complaints from the RTL neighbors. Dirt had to be constantly saturated with hoses.

Echoing Smith's sentiments about the project's value, especially to younger soldiers, Spc. Robert E. Vansant Jr. of Company B, 112th Engineer Battalion, Lorain,



heavy equipment operator, called the project a success.

"It's a large job but we were on track and actually working ahead of schedule," he said. "This is a great chance for the younger soldiers to get in some good training and stick time."

The benefits of completing projects like the one at Ravenna seem to be having a positive effect on the soldiers of the 1193rd Engineer Company. The company increased from 70 percent authorized strength in January of 1998 to 104 percent during June of this year. Retention, a sign of morale and job satisfaction, could also be so high in the unit due to the pride the soldiers have felt after completing such beneficial emergency work as relief for victims of floods in Cambridge, St. Clairsville and Marietta in 1998, as well as victims of the tornado that rocked Cincinnati earlier this year. ■

EST keeps Guard ON TARGET

Story by Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQSTARC(-)

Positioned in a foxhole, adrenaline pumping through your veins, you watch as your squad leader waves you forward through an abandoned town known to be inhabited by a platoon of enemy soldiers.

Suddenly, a sniper starts firing from a second story window up ahead. The sound of gunfire and shouting overwhelms you, but your response is automatic—you fire back at will.

Silence washes over the town again.

Seconds pass that seem like an eternity, until enemy soldiers reveal themselves again—setting off a second and third volley of bullets. In the heat of the battle, the scene freezes and you hear, “Cease fire, clear your weapons, lock your bolts to the rear and put your weapon on safe.”

Your sense of reality is restored, and you remind yourself that you’re not in a war zone, rather you are training on one of the military’s most advanced training simulators, the Engagement Skills Trainer.

Camp Perry has been operating Ohio’s most

elaborate EST since August 1998. The entire system is comprised of an instructor control booth for the computer operator, a row of 12 stations—which can accommodate either foxhole, prone or standing positions—and a staging area for the on-screen scenarios to play out. Three 7 1/2-by-10-foot screens and a state-of-the-art sound system combine to position the players in the world of virtual reality.

“The EST provides marksmanship, combat, shoot-no shoot, night vision and forward observer training through interaction with targets projected on a big screen display,” said Capt. Dennis J. Nadrasik, Camp Perry’s operations and plans officer. “It allows soldiers to engage targets with a variety of weapons, including M-16 rifles, M-60 machine guns, rocket launchers, grenade launchers, 9mm pistols and M-249 squad automatic weapons.” The system also has shoot-back capabilities when implemented with Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear.

“Our system is actually made up of three individual four-lane simulators, each capable of supporting team-size elements,”



Nadrasik said. With its three interconnected simulators, however, Camp Perry’s EST can train squad-size elements. The simulator is permanently housed in Building 2009—an older structure that is currently undergoing major renovation inside and out. The state has two other four-lane systems, located at Bellefontaine and Youngstown.

Soldiers are subjected to realistic encounters and training, where computerized scoring analyzes soldiers’ judgment, accuracy and other marksmanship skills. The system is able to auto-zero each weapon, and shooters can get on-screen feedback displaying location of actual hits, line of site adjustments and breathing patterns.

“Units really should arrange EST training in conjunction with their qualification schedule,” said Col. Dean Brown, installation

ABOVE: Members of the Ohio Army National Guard undergo an urban combat scenario on Camp Perry’s Engagement Skills Trainer. **LEFT:** Camp Perry staff member SFC George L. Bergholz operates the EST from the instructor control booth.

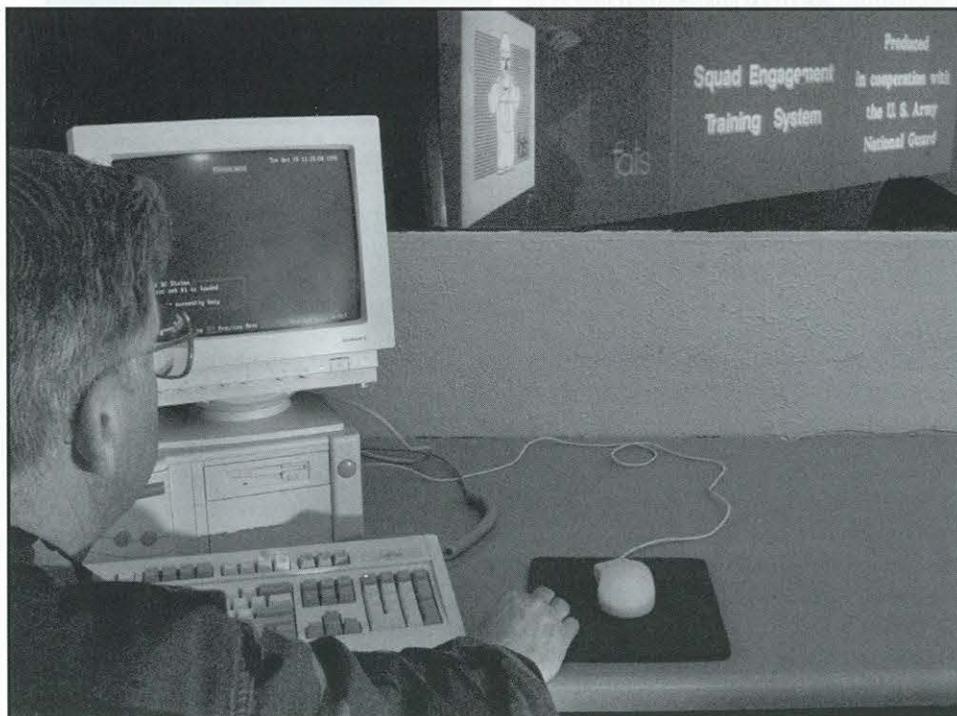


Photo by TSgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.



Photo by TSgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.

commander for Camp Perry. "Our records show that those who use the marksmanship package prior to weapons qualification achieve an 80 percent success rate or higher." Those who don't fare so well, Brown contends, usually spend their time engaging in the combat or shoot-no shoot scenarios. "Those are a lot more fun," he admitted, "but they don't necessarily support marksmanship skills."

But some units use the EST to augment ongoing training—not necessarily to prepare for record fire. "They're here all weekend for civil disturbance training," said Capt. Jason J. Reckard, referring to Ohio's military police companies. Reckard is assistant training officer for 1-73rd Troop Command, the MPs higher headquarters.

"We wanted our units to get familiar with the system," explained Reckard, who served as range officer for the EST Oct. 2-3, "but they're not qualifying on M-16s until sometime next year." The MPs did attempt three marksmanship scenarios—zeroing, record fire and moving targets.

"It's tough," said Staff Sgt. William E. Beardmore, training NCO for the 838th

MPs, Youngstown. "I usually get expert, here I scored a 12 (out of 40)."

"It gave a good measure of shot groups," said Pfc. Spencer A. Badger, 135th MP Co., Brook Park, "but I would've liked to have had more time to evaluate difficulties—breathing, whatever."

Staff Sgt. Sharon L. Whitescarver, also of the 135th, agreed. "I felt kind of rushed—like we needed to get in and get out because there were people waiting behind us," she said. "If we had more time, we would have been able to learn a lot more."

That is exactly why the Ohio Army National Guard has been encouraging the 30-day training month since it began investing in Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations (TADSS). The extended training cycle would allow soldiers to train when the equipment is most available—including weekdays, evenings and non-drill weekends.

As a result, Camp Perry's staff is trying to develop the EST into a "turn-key" operation—letting units run the system so they can be creative in scheduling time on it. "The EST can be run on a 24-hour basis, without the constraints of weather or (lack of) day-

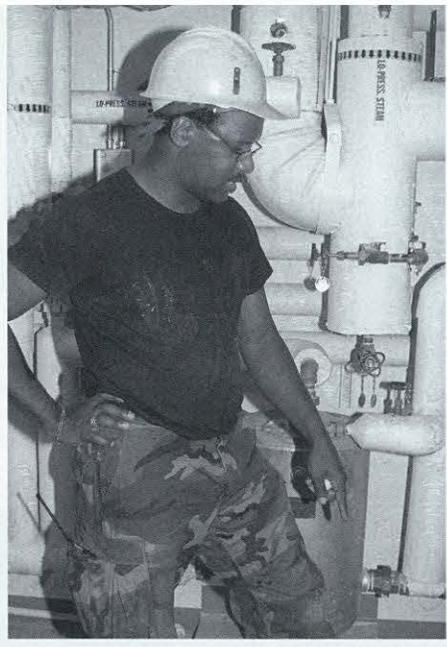
light," Brown said. "Right now we're developing a training program for field units so that can happen.

"The bottom line," Brown stressed, "is that the EST can enhance the ability for each soldier to qualify. It needs to be part of each unit's integrated PMI (Primary Marksmanship Instruction) program." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Units should also consider use of the Multipurpose Arcade Combat Simulator (MACS) in preparation for weapons qualification. It links an M-16 rifle to a computer loaded with basic marksmanship software; 20 MACS systems are at unit locations throughout the state. For more information about the EST, MACS or other TADSS systems, contact the Training Through Technology Team at (614) 336-7411 or visit the team's web page at <http://www.oh-tagnet.com/tadss>.*

A special thanks to Toledo's 180th Fighter Wing visual information and public affairs staff for coordinating photo support for this story.

Land of the Midnight Sun



ABOVE, LEFT: TSgt. Ron Corbett determines how to accomplish an underground cable pull. **ABOVE RIGHT :** SSgt. Michelle Mullins and MSgt. Tony Williamson hook up one of 15 personal computers that belong to the 168th Communications Flight. **LEFT:** CMSgt. Dick Stimson (left) and MSgt. Kim Frey (center) observe MSgt. Vicky Glover as she edits audio using the AVID system. All are members of the 121st ARW.

ALASKA'S FINEST



Welcome to Eielson Air Force Base

121st Communications Flight deploys to Alaska

Story by Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-) ♦♦♦ Photos by 121st ARW Visual Information Staff

Characterized with breathtaking scenery, untouched wilderness and unlimited outdoor adventures, Alaska is a place some people only dream of visiting. This summer, that dream came true for nearly 30 members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing from Columbus.

The unit's communications flight deployed to Eielson Air Force Base during the last two weeks of August to meet their annual training requirement. The section was hosted by the 168th Communications Flight, Alaska Air National Guard. Both flights support aerial refueling units equipped with KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft.

"This deployment was an opportunity to achieve several goals," said Maj. Robert M. Panian, communications flight commander. "Primarily, it gave our members a chance to learn new and retain existing skills they would use under wartime tasking."

All four branches of comm flight were represented during the trip: plans and programs, mission systems, information systems and visual information.

According to Master Sgt. Michael Durnbaugh, missions systems supervisor for the trip, 121st members worked on various computer, radio and telephone maintenance projects. They also had the opportunity to work with active-duty personnel who were stationed at Eielson.

Sharing information and ideas with both active-duty and Guard counterparts was very beneficial said Chief Master Sgt. Richard D. Stimson, information systems chief. "We had several meetings to talk about what worked and didn't

work in our own shops. The 'pluses' we discussed have since been implemented here, and there."

Beyond participation in experience-sharing, Stimson's staff had plenty of work to do. "The 168th had 15 new PCs waiting for us to set up," he said. "Everyone got a chance to install software, including Microsoft Windows NT Workstation, Office 97, Outlook 98 and Norton Antivirus. There were also two Windows NT Servers we had to configure and get on network."

A visual information team—comprised of photographers, videographers and a graphics technician—was tasked with its usual mission: documenting the training that took place. "That's why we're here," said Master Sgt. Kim Frey, VI specialist.

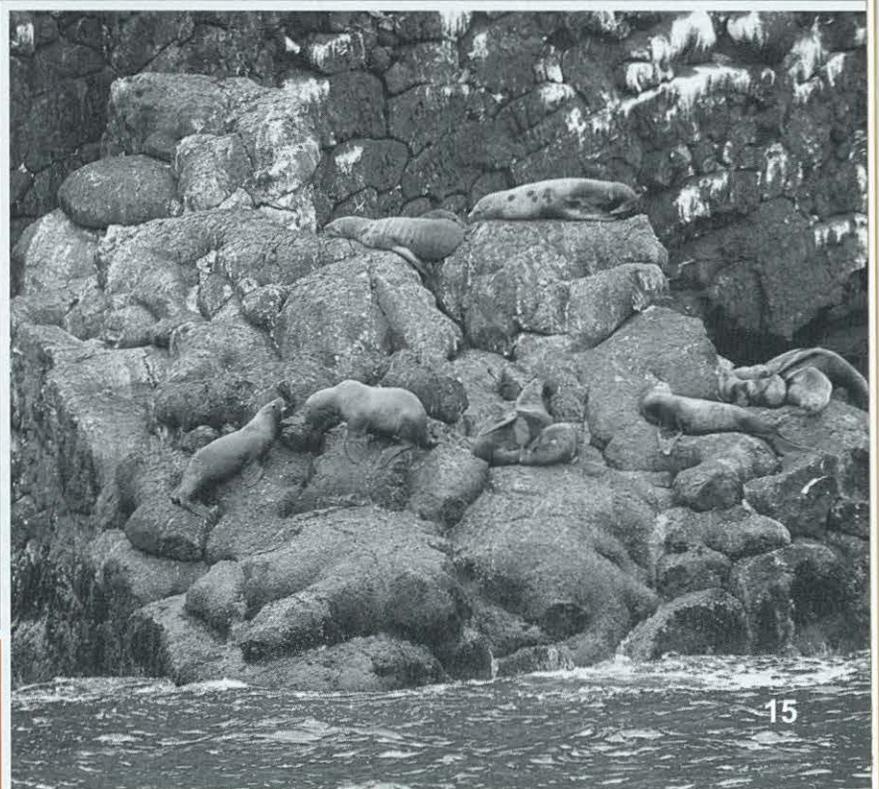
And, like Stimson, Frey appreciated the opportunity to observe other active-duty and Guard VI practitioners at Eielson, where both VI shops were completely digital. "Eventually we'll be mandated by the Air Force to become totally digitized to meet bio-environmental standards. Right now we're not equipped for that."

An added bonus for all who deployed was the chance to experience one of the most beautiful states in the nation. White-water rafting, rock climbing and a bus tour to Denali National Park were just a few adventures the guardmembers packed into their limited free time in Alaska.

"Deployments like this build esprit de corps, unit cohesion and make a real deposit in the reenlistment decision bank account," Panian said. "This experience was valuable." ■



All members of the 121st Communication Flight delighted in viewing one of the greatest treasures of Alaska—the wide variety of animals that roam its vast wilderness, such as the moose and sea lions pictured here.



Ohio Guard, DoD ready for potential challenges

If you are a member of the Ohio National Guard, you don't necessarily need to cancel those holiday plans.

All of the hype generated by the media, television and movies proclaiming disaster for the new millennium as a result of Y2K has caused panic among some people. It also has raised the question, among others, about the possibility of the National Guard being mobilized on Dec. 31.

The bottom line is that the Ohio Guard, like all other government and military agencies, has prepared itself for anything out of the ordinary that may happen as a result of the Y2K bug. There are contingency plans in place, and while a minimal amount of Ohio Guard personnel will be on duty at year's end, there is little chance of any mass mobilizations as a result of Y2K.

"We're looking at this Y2K bug as just another potential emergency," said Lt. Col. Rufus Smith, director of Military Support for the Ohio Army National Guard. "We're looking at this the way we normally do business—being prepared to respond to civil authorities, should they need our assistance, when a natural disaster or civil disturbance occurs."

The National Guard has prepared for Y2K much like any other state emergency, however, there is one distinct advantage. Usually having to be reactive to a natural disaster such as a flood, tornado or blizzard, the Guard has been able to be proactive to the Y2K bug. Prior knowledge of the problem has given the Guard more response time than it usually has to deal with such emergencies.

"It's very unequivocal, in my mind, that the Ohio National Guard is going to be prepared to respond not only to a Y2K emergency but also any weather emergency, should it occur," Smith said.

Maureen T. Lischke, chief information officer for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. and overseer of the National Guard's preparations for Y2K compliance and emergencies, echoed those sentiments. "The Guard is not mobilizing for the New Year's weekend. We're not

panicking. We're not coming in and taking over," Lischke said.

The Y2K bug refers to potential problems with electronic and computer systems because some date-sensitive devices may not be able to compute 2000 and may actually interpret it as the year 1900. It stems from the decades-old practice of using two digits to represent each year, such as 98, instead of four, such as 1998, to save space on computer memory chips and reduce the costs of producing them. By conserving just two bytes of computer memory per record, commercial businesses and organizations including the government and military have been able to realize millions of dollars in savings. Programming habits and processes put into place in the early 1970s still exist today. Thus, with the turn of the century, a potential computer problem exists if measures aren't taken to correct it.

The federal government, including the Department of Defense and its subordinate agencies, are considered among the institutions best prepared for any potential problems that Y2K may cause. All of the National Guard's mission-critical systems—from powering airplanes to preparing payrolls—have been tested and will keep on working in 2000 rather than shut down as if it were 1900.

"There is no need for undue concern," Lischke said. "Government and industry are well along in contingency planning to prevent serious problems."

For example, in fiscal 1999, which spanned from October 1998 to the end of September, the Air Force spent \$300 million of the \$1.1 billion Congress gave DoD to solve Y2K issues. Everything from the

weapons systems and Global Positioning System satellites to personnel and pay systems has been assessed, fixed, tested and certified as Y2K-compliant. Other service branches and the National Guard have taken similar measures.

"My hope and goal is that we've made this the biggest non-event in history," said Brig. Gen. Gary Ambrose, director of the Air Force Year 2000 program.

But just because the DoD and National Guard have already dealt with many of the challenges of Y2K, that does not mean that no preparations have been made in case anything else goes wrong after Dec. 31. All DoD agencies and branches of service will have extra staffers at the Pentagon around the turn of the year.

Ohio government agencies have prepared their computers and have conducted mock exercises throughout the year to make sure they are ready for anything Y2K throws their way.

"We are leaving no stone unturned in preparing for what may arise in the new year," said Gov. Bob Taft after observing a 20-agency drill in October at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in northwest Columbus. "Essential state functions and responsibilities will not be disrupted by Y2K malfunctions."

Taft said most state computers, including those used by the Adjutant General's Department, have been fixed to avoid the Y2K bug. All state computers will have been adapted or replaced with compliant units by year's end.

As a contingency, the Ohio Guard's Military Support Office has developed several courses of action, based on graduated increased levels of response to Y2K incidents. Factors including costs, capabilities and utilizing a minimum amount of

"...the Ohio National Guard is going to be prepared to respond not only to a Y2K emergency but also any weather emergency, should it occur."

—LTC Rufus Smith
director of Military Support
Ohio Army National Guard

dy for posed by **Y2K**

personnel were taken into consideration.

"The governor has been very up front that he didn't want to instill any mass panic among people. He wanted to provide the citizens of Ohio with a sense of security," Smith said. Under a best case scenario with only minor problems, there will be less than 300 Ohio Guardmembers on duty at year's end, and many of them will be released as soon as all systems are determined OK or unaffected around the Jan. 1-2 time frame. "We're well aware that (New Year's) is a big day for a lot of people," Smith said. "And the change of the millennium happens only once in our lifetimes."

The Ohio EMA has identified three potential missions in support of Y2K-related problems—security, transportation and communication.

As part of the state Y2K plan, the Ohio National Guard will ensure that all armories, air bases and other Guard facilities are fully secure and staffed with personnel around the end of the year.

The Guard's high-frequency (HF) radio network, based in Arlington, Va., is also up and running, so that National Guard Bureau leaders can talk to adjutants general and commanders in the 54 states and territories should other communications systems, including the Internet, go down.

Each of 27 Air and Army Guard units throughout Ohio that have been assigned HF radios were to have a minimum of two personnel to perform radio operating duties beginning Dec. 15, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and transition to 24-hour operations beginning at 6 a.m. Dec. 31 until mission completion.

ONG personnel will staff the Joint Emergency Operations Center at Ohio National Guard Headquarters, located at Beightler Armory in Columbus, beginning Dec. 29 with 12-hour operations from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. There, Guard personnel will be in direct contact with the Ohio EMA to coordinate plans and receive taskings. Operations will increase to 24 hours per day at 6 a.m. Dec. 31. If the intensity of Y2K problems increases, Joint Task Force 16,

led by the Ohio Army Guard's 16th Engineer Brigade, will receive missions from the JEOC.

Subordinate missions will be issued from Joint Task Force 16 to five joint regional task forces geographically dispersed at Ohio Army and Air National Guard installations throughout the state—Kettering, Akron-Canton, McConnelsville, Toledo and Columbus (Rickenbacker Airport).

Addressing the Ohio EMA's transportation requirement, the Guard will preposition military vehicles at each joint regional task force location, consisting of 10 military police humvees, 10 cargo trucks, one 144-passenger bus and one ambulance.

Five ONG liaison officer support packages equipped with Crisis Action Response Vehicles (CAR-Vs) will enable the Guard to better respond to emergencies in each region, and communicate to higher headquarters. Each CAR-V is a humvee equipped with a laptop computer, printer-fax machine, cellular phone, satellite phone, digital camera, HF radio, and hand-held radio (for communication with other state agencies).

Furthermore, each Army and Air unit in the state has an essential personnel roster comprised mainly of commanders, administrative officers, higher-level noncommissioned officers and radio operators who may be called to duty if there are increased regional needs related to Y2K problems.

Personnel have already been identified for staffing the various intensity levels. All guardmembers involved already know if they definitely or possibly (with increased levels of intensity) will be called to duty at year's end. Those who have not been contacted already will not be activated, except in a scenario that would cause the governor to mobilize the Ohio Guard.

Lischke said 16 states overall will have at least some personnel on standby in case they are needed, and the Arkansas and District of Columbia Army Guards will go one step further and conduct their monthly drills over the New Year's holiday weekend.

While no massive disruptions of critical services and utilities are anticipated in the United States, the Ohio National Guard has

taken further steps to ensure its 15,000 soldiers and airmen have their homes prepared for any challenges that Y2K may present.

"We have all heard about the potential problems that Y2K may have on businesses, government agencies and consumers worldwide," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. "But very little attention has been placed on our households. As a result, the Military Support Office has prepared (a) checklist to educate and prepare our families for the challenges associated with Y2K."

By now, every soldier and airman in the Ohio National Guard should have received a copy of the "Y2K report card," a driver's license-sized instruction sheet printed on thin cardstock that can be kept in one's wallet. It instructs guardmembers to, by Dec. 30, prepare their homes for possible heat, power and communications loss; to ensure that personal vehicles are fueled and ready for a possible call to state active duty; and to have an alternate plan to get to their unit installations if public transportation is used.

The card also spells out when it would be appropriate for guardmembers to report for state active duty, as part of a worst case scenario, during the key Y2K target dates.

ONG officials stressed that for all Ohio Guardmembers to be called to state active duty, under a worst case scenario, all four of the following outages would have to occur simultaneously after 7 a.m. Jan. 1 for a sustained period of two hours or more: residential electric power; residential gas or heat; residential telephone; and connection to mass media (television, radio and the Internet). If these conditions were to occur, then guardmembers should report to their unit location in uniform for state active duty.

For more information on Y2K, phone the Y2K toll-free line at 1-888-USA-4Y2K or log on-line at www.y2k.gov. For more information on Y2K and the missions of the Ohio National Guard, contact the Military Support Office at (614)336-7371. ■

—Compiled from reports by the Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs, Air Force Print News and Columbus Dispatch.

Enemy from the States

147th soldiers play opposing forces in 'Box' at Hohenfels

By Spc. Donna Miller
HQ 37th Armor Brigade

Nineteen members of the Cincinnati-based 1-147th Armor Battalion made history this summer when they flew overseas to become the "men in black." The soldiers represented the first National Guard armor unit to train as opposing forces (OPFOR) in the "Box" at Hohenfels, Germany.

Approximately 16-square-kilometers of hilly terrain, the Box is a training battlefield where Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, trains throughout the year. Playing the role of black-clad OPFOR soldiers, they battle against the blue forces (BLUEFOR) which typically consist of an active Army unit in Europe that is preparing for a deployment in the near future.

The Box provides the last, most realistic and most intense battlefield training the soon-to-be-deployed unit will receive prior to arriving in a potential combat zone.

According to 1st Lt. David Wilson, officer in charge of the



ABOVE: Members of the 1-147th trained on M60 tanks while in the Box at Hohenfels, Germany. **BELOW:** The 1-147th sent 19 soldiers to serve as OPFOR in Germany.

mission, the role Ohio troops would play in this elite training ground wasn't exactly clear until after they landed in Hohenfels, where they learned they would operate as tank crews.

"We ran a three-tank reserve for Delta Company, which freed up three of their crews for much needed down-time. They had been running missions since February," said Wilson, who is assigned to Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry, Lebanon.

Training started with a week-long situational training exercise (STX) which taught the drivers how to safely maneuver the tanks through different areas of the Box. After successfully conducting various missions—such as defend against

a breach, conduct a defense against a deliberate attack and movement to contact—the Ohio soldiers were certified to go down range without active duty personnel on board the tanks.

The time had come for Ohio to battle BLUEFOR. But the 147th soldiers weren't totally left to their own devices. Delta Company provided senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) to act as guides for each Ohio tank crew to assist them if the need arose.

All the soldiers and vehicles were fitted with MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) 2 gear, which simulates battles with blank ammunition. Using satellites, this system allows the headquarters element to monitor and record the battle—including all near misses, direct hits and maneuvering. The M60 tanks used by OPFOR were also outfitted with SINGARS (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio).

"It was an excellent opportunity to train on the MILES and to experience simulated and direct fire," Wilson said. "With the MILES 2 System, when an enemy calls fire on you...you must react or die in place.

"And none of us have ever had trained on M60 tanks," he added, "so this proved to be quite a learning experience."

The soldiers spent 10-18 hours a day in the Box. They accomplished nearly a dozen missions in their three-week deployment. They conducted a company level defense, a motorized rifle regiment attack, a regimental size movement to contact and other exercises.

"We got to take tanks through terrain we never see at home," said Sgt. 1st Class Steve Jessie, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1-147th, who served as the platoon sergeant for the Ohio Guardmembers. The Box sustains constant heavy rains that result in deep tank tracks and ruts marking the entire area. When the rain stopped and the sun came out, it became so dusty that soldiers found it difficult to maneuver without goggles or scarves to help protect the eyes and throat.



"All the vehicles on the battlefield at one time was a learning experience in shooting, moving and communicating," Jessie said.

There can be up to 150 vehicles involved in the battle at any given time.

The soldiers also received urban combat and night fire training, experienced air attacks and

maneuvered as a combined arms team.

"We got more training in maneuvering in three weeks than most National Guard armor soldiers will get in their entire career," Jessie said.

There was almost constant maintenance on the tanks and many hours spent in the reserve waiting to be called into battle.

The soldiers ate Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and slept on their vehicles on several occasions.

"Eating and sleeping on a tank, day in and day out, is just what a tanker is supposed to do," said Sgt. Dennis Bailey, Delta Company, 1-147th, Cincinnati. The platoon sergeant agreed. "I got to see what tanking is supposed to be about,"

Jessie said.

When the training ended on July 26, Wilson said he was very pleased with the drivers' safety record. No one was hurt during training, which always is a very high priority.

"They were given a very difficult task, a short time to learn it and they executed it 100 percent," he said. ■

RTI students hone scouting skills at Grayling

By Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-)

Both novice and veteran cavalry scouts experienced extensive training for two weeks at Camp Grayling, Mich., July 10-24. The 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, conducted Phase II 19D training for soldiers seeking military occupational specialty qualification (MOSQ) and leadership training through Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC).

"This BNCOC class was the first 19D Phase II for the 145th," said Master Sgt. Stephen J. Mitcham, operations NCO and chief instructor for the RTI, located at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. "Before, scouts had to go to another region to attend the course." The 145th is designed to support soldiers from Region E—comprised of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota.

While the 26 BNCOC students worked on troop leading procedures, 24 MOSQ students practiced the more basic tasks of being a cavalry scout, whose mission is to recon identified areas, detect the enemy and report back to higher headquarters. Scouts need to be proficient on several weapons including the MK-19 grenade machine gun and M-203 grenade launcher, and the M-2 and M-60 machine guns. "Students also trained on humvees or M113s, depending on their unit," Mitcham added, explaining that M113 armored personnel carriers are assigned to division cavalry units and humvees to armor battalions.

"The MOS course was geared toward individual skills such as weapons qualification and common core tasks," Mitcham explained, "and BNCOC focused on teaching soldiers how to run a squad, section and platoon."

"We were all experienced with things like route recons, but we had to learn as a leader to start planning them," said Staff Sgt. Ronald White, the only BNCOC student



Photo by COL Thomas P. Luczynski, HQ STARC.

Soldiers earning the scout MOS spent much of the first week of AT on weapons qualification.

from the Buckeye State.

"Considering this was the (school's) first time out, it went pretty well," said White, who should know—he usually spends his drill weekends teaching BNCOC Phase I at the RTI. "There were good instructors and good information being put out."

Both classes underwent intensive field exercises, two days for MOSQ and five days for BNCOC. "This included day and night operations, and battles with OPFOR (opposing forces)," Mitcham said.

"The first day was really rough. Everyone wanted to jump right into the 'run' stage," said White. "At the end of the first day, we sat down and talked about what went right and wrong, and we all agreed that we needed to slow down so we could learn how to work together."

"We had a bunch of soldiers thrown in together from different units...some trained one way, others trained another..." White explained. "Once we slowed down, and started learning how each other think, we were able to relax and have fun. In the field is where we all wanted to be."

For the MOS students, the FTX proved to be an opportunity to practice what they learned in Phase I, which was conducted over five drill weekends at the RTI. It included tasks such as map reading, bridge

classification and route reconnaissance.

"We spent a lot of time on infantry tactics and training on weapons (at Grayling)," said Spc. Jerimiah J. Corbin, member of HHC, 1-107th Armor Battalion, Stow. He spent three years in an active-duty artillery unit as a 13M (multiple launch rocket system crewmember) at Fort Sill, Okla., before joining the Guard in December 1998.

Explaining that artillery and infantry are "totally different" fields, Corbin said he had to spend a lot more time on map reading and land navigation in his new MOS. "In both mounted and dismounted recon missions, you have to know where you're at all times. In the M270 launcher system, I was used to the GPS (global positioning system) doing that for me."

But it was firing the MK-19s that Corbin liked best. "We each got 48 HE (high explosive) rounds to fire at tanks downrange," he said. "It was awesome."

Lt. Col. Edward Alexsonshk, commander of the RTI's armor battalion, considered the entire Grayling operation quite a success. "The RTI had to borrow 875 pieces of equipment from 18 units across the state, with every piece having to be transported and inspected for serviceability," he said. "It was a monumental effort."

The 2-107th Division Cavalry supported both operations with about 90 service and support personnel who provided range support, instructors and OPFOR. "They deserve a lot of credit," Mitcham asserted. "They were the muscle behind the work."

Most importantly, Alexsonshk reported, is that every student achieved course standards. "The instructors from the RTI, Fort Knox and the 2-107th really pulled together as a team, successfully mentoring all the soldiers."

"The continued total team effort accomplished at Grayling will ensure quality training for the cavalry scouts in the Ohio Army National Guard and for all of Region E," Alexsonshk concluded. ■

Racking up 'stick time' in Michigan

Story by Rae A. Higgins
U.S. Army TACOMPA Office

Sports fans have long known about the infamous Michigan-Ohio State football rivalry, but that battle took a summer hiatus—at least for members of the 216th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy).

For the second straight year, Ohio soldiers reported for two weeks of annual training at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base beginning in late July. Selfridge hosts active-duty, Guard and Reserve units from all five services and is located about 10 miles northeast of Detroit on Lake St. Clair.

AT99 was built upon the engineers' 1998 project in support of U.S. Army Garrison-Selfridge, a business element of the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM). The Army garrison is charged with infrastructure maintenance including housing, morale, welfare and recreation activities.

Last year, the soldiers' effort centered chiefly on building five picnic pavilions along one of Selfridge's shoreline areas. This summer, the engineers returned to the same spot to install water lines and build a road for a recreational vehicle campsite.

Lt. Col. Ralph Sahagun, TACOM's National Guard advisor, said hosting the unit's annual training is a major mutual endeavor. "The base gains new facilities at a minimal cost and the Ohio Army National Guard gains valuable training benefits," he said.

"The purpose of this exercise was to increase the overall readiness of the battalion by giving our soldiers the chance to hone their military occupational specialty skills," said Capt. Dave Rhoads, the Ohio Army Guard's project officer. "I have to say our soldiers received outstanding training."



Photo by Margaret Compton, TACOM PAO.

SSG John Philpot reviews the day's workload with troops.

The heavy equipment operators received "tons of stick time," Rhoads said. "The troops not only pulled vehicle maintenance, but also cross-trained and increased the skill proficiency of our junior enlisted.

"They really worked their tails off," he said.

Pvt. Isaac Ackels, battalion headquarters support detachment, Hamilton, said he used his loader to fill five-ton haulers with dirt the dozer operators had dug, moved or cleared. "This is good training," he said. "It's good whenever you can get on your equipment."

Staff Sgt. John Philpot, the site noncommissioned officer in charge, agreed. The 16-year Guard veteran had just returned from Nicaragua where the 216th was supporting hurricane relief efforts. He said AT rotations provide opportunities for soldiers to gain crucial experience.

"This is how we train our troops," the staff sergeant said. "We can also train brand-new troops like Private Ackels on equipment, too. That's been key."

Sgt. First Class Edward Mundy, the NCO in charge of the plumbing teams, explained that cross-training is an essen-

tial element of the battalion's ability to meet mission requirements. This became especially important because the AT team was "piecemealed" together due to the Nicaragua mission.

His plumbing teams, he said, consisted of about 20 carpenters who had to cross-train as plumbers.

"They learned a lot," Mundy asserted. "We brought up a whole bunch of carpenters, tried to turn them into plumbers, and they deserve a big pat on the back."

While the soldiers spent most of their time on "vertical" work like carpentry last year, Keith Makowske of the Garrison's Department of Public Works said the battalion's project was markedly more complex this year.

"They had to do a lot of underground work and had to clear lots of debris like concrete that's been there about 20 years," Makowske explained. Other

"horizontal" work they did included excavating dirt for the nearly 1,500 feet of pipe they laid.

"For what our job on the battlefield would be, this is very realistic," Rhoads said.

According to Lt. Col. Peter Roberts, Army Garrison-Selfridge commander, the garrison provided the battalion with \$37,000 worth of materials and received \$110,000 worth of construction work this year. The 64-soldier deployment accomplished several projects, to include: installing a six-inch water main to deliver water to 30 sites; emplacing two fire hydrants to meet fire codes; placing base-course materials in the main road to serve the sites as well as a vehicle turn-around; and grading the campsite.

When completed, the camp will be open to active-duty service members, retirees, Guard and Reserve members, Department of Defense civilians and

eligible family members, said Ron Wesley, Army Garrison-Selfridge DPW director. "Anybody who's authorized to get on base will be able to use it," he said.

So, will the 216th be heading up north in 2000 for yet another AT at Selfridge? Rhoads said that remains to be seen. "Both sides want to do it—it's just a mat-

ter of putting it together."

"It's a win-win situation any way you look at it," Roberts said. "It's great training for the Ohio troops, it's great savings for the government, and it gives our folks great facilities to enjoy."

Michigan's fabled former grid-iron skipper, Bo Schembechler, and legendary ex-Ohio State football Coach Woody Hayes couldn't argue with that. ■

"It's a win-win situation any way you look at it. It's great training for the Ohio troops ... and it gives our folks great facilities to enjoy."

—LTC Peter Roberts
commander
Army Garrison-Selfridge

Public affairs unit trains in Korea

By Capt. Nicole Gabriel and Staff Sgt. Jerry Wolfe
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

After never gaining full public support for its actions in Vietnam, the military began to recognize that information is a combat multiplier that can win or lose a war. It directly affects a nation's will to support a conflict, and without this national will, even the strongest military forces will fail.

Since then, the Department of Defense has increased emphasis on nurturing relationships with the civilian public and media. As a result, the military journalist of the past has become the public affairs specialist of today—a professional in the field of community and media relations.

Ohio's 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, stationed at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus, is one such group of professionals. It's a Guard unit that's honed these skills in some very real-world environments during the last few years. The MPAD returned a little more than a year ago from a nine-month deployment in Bosnia. More recently, 10 soldiers of the 196th deployed to Seoul, Korea, Aug. 12-28 to take part in Ulchi Focus Lens—the Combined Forces Command's (CFC) annual command post exercise for the defense of the Republic of Korea.

"After our deployment to Bosnia, I thought it was important to find a mission that completed our training," former MPAD Commander Maj. Robert Johnson said. "We developed news stories in Bosnia, but we didn't deal much with civilian media. This opportunity in Korea challenged our media relations skills."

After a three-day journey, which crossed several time zones and included numerous stops, the MPAD hit the ground running at Yongsan Army Base in Seoul.

"The first day we established a fully staffed Combined/Joint Information Bureau (C/JIB)," said Master Sgt. Robert Jennings, the unit's first sergeant. "Our mission was to operate the C/JIB under wartime conditions during the 12-day exercise." The UFL C/JIB was modeled after real-world information bureaus operated in theaters such as the Persian Gulf, Bosnia and Kosovo.

In a truly combined and joint environment, the 196th worked with Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine personnel from both the United States and Korea. The full spectrum of wartime public affairs missions range from accrediting media to answering media queries to conducting nightly general officer media briefings.

In addition to working at the C/JIB, some of the MPAD soldiers trained at CP Tango, one of many command posts located outside of Seoul. Soldiers there kept abreast of the current operational situation, prepared for daily briefings to the CFC Commander in Chief (CINC), proposed potential questions and answers for the nightly briefings at the C/JIB, and developed and issued public affairs guidance as necessary.

"The most important role for the soldiers at CP Tango was to gather accurate and timely information about the current state of the 'war' from the CFC Tactical Operations Center," said Johnson, explaining that these soldiers were C/JIB's link to the war. "Then they had to provide that information to us as quickly as possible so we could develop it into media releases, press advisories and fact sheets."

Trained role players and scriptwriters portrayed the news media for the exercise. The questions and queries presented by them were very realistic, often addressing situations unknown to the C/JIB—just like during an actual crisis.

"News reporters have access to satellites and other high tech

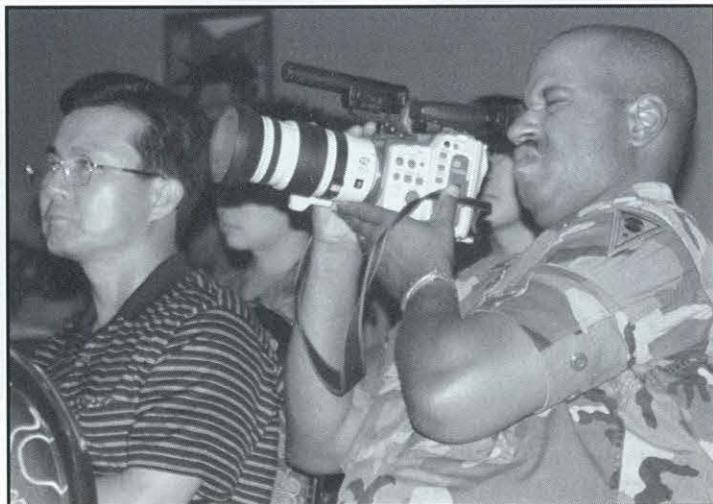


Photo by SPC Nancy McMillan, HQ STARC (-).

SGT Steve Johnson videotapes one of the media briefings during the Ulchi Focus Lens exercise in Seoul, Korea.

communications systems that can update them quickly on breaking news," explained Jennings. "Often, they learn about offensive and defensive operations as they occur. Too many times, we can't answer their questions regarding the operations because we're waiting to find out the answers ourselves.

"It's a very time-consuming process to go through the appropriate channels, but necessary to ensure the accuracy of the information we put out," he said. "The mock media got quite hostile and working in the C/JIB became very tense."

For this particular exercise, UFL C/JIB personnel faced the additional challenge of producing all its information products in both Korean and English. "With the U.S. military's involvement in missions around the world, and with increasing multinational operations, this type of challenge must be overcome if allied missions are to succeed," Jennings said.

The culmination of the day's activities at the C/JIB was the nightly general officer briefings. Each night, senior U.S. and ROK officers, as well as U.S. Embassy personnel conducted briefings for the media role players. Briefings consisted of an opening statement and about 20 minutes of aggressive and probing questions about the day's exercise scenario. They provided good training not only for senior officers, but all MPAD soldiers.

"I think the unit got a good idea of how the C/JIB should operate," Johnson said. "And I think they got a wonderful sense of what it's like to work in a combined and joint environment."

This was the first deployment in the National Guard for Spc. Wade Yuellig, one of the unit's broadcast journalists. He said the trip enhanced his Guard experience by enabling him to participate in more than just drill weekends. "I benefited by learning how operations are conducted at both the C/JIB and within the unit," Yuellig said. "And I really liked working with ROK forces."

Though the training was intense and the days long, the MPAD soldiers were able to enhance their deployment by experiencing Korean food, shopping and culture. The deployment's most memorable experience for many unit members was a tour of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at Panmunjom, where their mission in Korea became a stark reality.

"The DMZ is a grim reminder of the Cold War," Jennings said. "It illustrates the need for peacekeeping missions around the world." ■



CPL Kelly Schofield, Company C, 237th Forward Support Battalion, Columbus, weighs a young participant at GuardCare, held in August in McConnellsville.

GuardCare again provides free, vital health services

Story and photo by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. PA Office

Ohio's citizens once again had the opportunity to get free health services, while Ohio Army National Guard medical personnel received training and professional development, with GuardCare.

The Morgan County Health Department and the Ohio Adjutant General's Department, along with the Ohio Department of Health, teamed up to run the event this year on two weekends—July 31-Aug. 1 and Aug. 28-29—at the armory in McConnellsville, home to the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery

communities. GuardCare has been conducted as a Civil-Military Innovative Readiness Training (C-MIRT) exercise for the National Guard. Use of ONG medical assets is designed to support and assist local health care providers, and to provide health services to those citizens who can't af-

(AVENGER) Battalion.

Free health services provided this year included immunizations, cholesterol and blood sugar screenings, heart function (EKG) checks, complete blood counts, glaucoma testing, and vision, dental, hearing and physical examinations.

The Ohio National Guard initiated the GuardCare program in 1992 when Congress authorized the use of National Guard health care personnel in medically underserved

ford it.

All GuardCare health services are provided free of charge, regardless of income.

Many people took advantage of the free health care opportunities provided by GuardCare this year, as a record number attended.

"The first weekend, we saw over 300 people. We already had 100 people signed in by Saturday morning of the second weekend," said Col. Stephen Ulrich, commander of Detachment 6, State Area Command (STARC), Columbus.

Det. 6 accounts for the majority of health care personnel and assets for the Ohio Army Guard.

For both weekends, a total of 622 citizens were treated by Det. 6., making it the most successful GuardCare exercise to date, in terms of people served.

"Rural health is a real concern with a population scattered over a large area, like in Morgan County," Ulrich said. "We're committed to keeping everyone healthy, and it's a good training experience for our soldiers." ■

A different twist: School adopts Guard unit

By 1st Lt. Philip Brown
179th Airlift Wing

For 8-year-old David Brent, the school year at John Sherman Elementary in Mansfield started like any other, with the normal first day routine.

The third-grader was awakened by his mother, dressed, fed and sent off to school on the bus with his new school clothes and backpack, complete with all supplies. When he arrived at school 20 minutes later, he was escorted to the school's gymnasium for an opening ceremony, only to be greeted by uniformed men and women. That was when the shock hit him.

"There were uniforms all over the place. I didn't know what they were doing here," Smith said.

The men and women in uniform were members of the 179th Airlift Wing. Becky Ferrell, school principal, explained the purpose of the guardmembers at the school.

"The 179th helps develop respect and creates a belief you can do anything you set your mind to," she said.

This was the second year the 179th Airlift Wing has been involved with John Sherman Elementary School. When the principal asked for the unit's help two years ago, the public affairs office said the unit already was teamed with Shelby's elementary schools and could not handle another under the Adopt-A-School program.

But the school suggested that it instead would "adopt" the unit, which it did. The partnership program, titled Flying Right, is in its second year.

Ferrell explained the students wanted to know if the program was going to be continued this year. She said the Guard represents the values, culture and discipline the school wants in its children.

The guardmembers involved in this unique venture spend time in the classrooms explaining to the students where they have traveled, why they wear the uniform, and why respect and discipline are important. Master Sgt. John Bessick is a second-year volunteer.

"Kids need role models to know people really care for them," Bessick said. "It is important to be involved in the process; encouragement is the primary key."

The program has given many children positive role models with whom to interact. Ferrell said as long as the positive relationship with the unit continues, the students' attitudes, behavior and grades will improve.

Added Bessick: "They don't forget us, because we care." ■



180th Fighter Wing helps children learn to 'say no to drugs'

Often children need to be taught how to survive in today's society. What can be done as a community? How can children be made responsible for their own actions? How can the use and sale of drugs be eradicated? The answers to these questions can be difficult. Recently, the 180th Fighter Wing became a part of the drug solution with its first "Say No To Drugs Day" at the Fredrick Douglas Community Center in Toledo.

The 180th had an organized day in late July, passing out "Say No To Drugs" red ribbons, with many activities and displays to attract both children and adults. The day included free gifts, food, drinks and health evaluations. Several local businesses and organizations participated.

Toledo Mayor Carlton S. Finkbeiner was the guest speaker. He opened by thanking the 180th Fighter Wing for organizing an anti-drug campaign. He described a young man's unsuccessful struggle with drugs. "I was at an 18-year-old's funeral yesterday, a recovering heroin addict who did not make it," he said. "Being an addict is a very

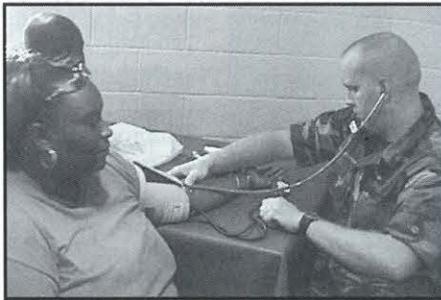


Photo by MSgt. Ealnor Grey, HQ OHANG.

SrA. Daniel Bundas (right) takes Lashawn May's blood pressure during the "Say No To Drugs Day" hosted this summer by the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo.

serious illness.

"Parents must be involved with their children daily, by supervising the choices they make in friends and activities," Finkbeiner said. "Children cannot rear themselves."

The mayor inferred that the efforts of the Ohio Air National Guard, elected officials, community leaders and police officers were not enough to fight against the "dope pushers" prevalent in large cities.

He pleaded with the parents to get involved with their children, by saying, "parents need to help as well."

He encouraged the parents to talk with their children about avoiding people who

are bad influences. "As a parent I will follow my son everywhere. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to save my son," Finkbeiner said.

He told the children to take responsibility for their actions. He asked them directly: "Do you know what day this is? Why are you here?" The children shouted loud and clear, "Say No To Drugs."

Several children were intently watching as a woman was having her blood pressure read. Lashawn May, who had heard a radio announcement about the event, brought her children and a couple of their friends to "Say No To Drugs Day." While taking advantage of the free blood pressure screening offered by the

180th, she talked about her children.

"I have three boys and one daughter. My oldest son is 16 years old," May said.

Being a concerned parent, she brought her children so they could learn together about the day's event. "I have always been involved with everything that concerns my children," she said, adding that she did not want her children using or selling drugs.

May visited the military and civilian exhibits, spoke with a Civil Air Patrol representative and Tech. Sgt. Mary Ann Jankowski, a 180th FW recruiter.

The event included representatives from Toledo Police DARE Program and an autograph signing by Senior Airman Tracy Turner, who works at local radio station WJUC for his civilian occupation.

The "Say No To Drugs" event, which is intended to become a yearly function, will rotate to different communities, according to Tech. Sgt. Ronald Goodall, a recruiter with the 180th FW. "Drugs are not limited to one particular community, they are all over," he said. Next year, the Adelante Community Center, located in a predominantly Hispanic-populated community, will host the event. *Submitted by Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey, HQ OHANG.*

New resources ready

There are two new video-based informational programs available for interested Guard units or personnel: **Safe Passage** and **Lessons Learned About Drugs**. Both programs are products of The Passage Group, a national marketer of drug and violence prevention programs for parents.

Safe Passage is a four-session video program designed to be implemented over the course of two evenings and focuses on the issue of reducing violence by young people. The program is composed of four video sessions—*Violence: Origin and Opportunity*; *Violence: A Matter of Perspective*; *Modeling, Mentoring & Motivating to Prevent Violence*; and *Creating a Motivational Climate*.

Lessons Learned About Drugs is a two-session workshop that focuses on the issue of preventing drug use by kids. It is for parents who want to help their children avoid the "drug culture" and the negative aspects associated with it.

Facilitator manuals are included with both programs.

For more information or to request the videos, call the Drug Demand Reduction Office at (614) 336-7002. *Submitted by 2nd Lt. Devin Braun, DDR Office.*

TEAM-ing up to make a point

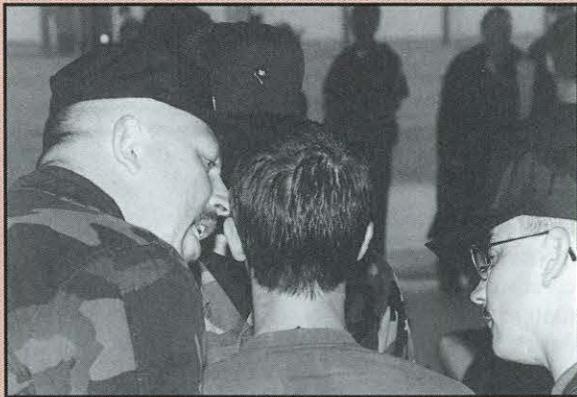


Photo by 2LT Devin Braun, Drug Demand Reduction Office.

Three members of the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, McConnellsville, including SPC Shane Williams (left) and SGT Troy Coen (right) gain the undivided attention of a participant in the Teen Education and Motivation (TEAM) camp, sponsored by the Ohio Guard and the Perry County Juvenile Court. In August, more than 40 high-schoolers with low academic achievement and high truancy rates went through a week of military-style training and classes to raise self-esteem and promote teamwork.



Photo by TSgt. Scott Ridge, 180th Fighter Wing.

Team Rahal auto racing driver Max Papis (right) and pilot Capt. Chris Belli of the 180th Fighter Wing discuss flight plans before taking off for Papis' ride in one of the unit's F-16 jets.

Toledo unit deploys for NORTHERN WATCH

For the third consecutive year, the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, participated in Operation NORTHERN WATCH, from Sept. 6 through Oct. 7. More than 200 members deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

The role of the 180th was to enforce the no-fly zone in northern Iraq. The 180th was involved in a joint deployment that included two other fighter wings.

Operation NORTHERN WATCH Commander Brig. Gen. David Deptula credited the great teamwork among all those serving the coalition for its consistent and continued success.

"More than 50 percent of units involved in NORTHERN WATCH come from the reserve components, making the operation a prime example of the 'total force' concept in action," Deptula said. *Submitted by 180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.*

180th Fighter Wing hosts Team Rahal

Members of Ohio's Team Rahal, an auto racing team affiliated with CART (Championship Auto Racing, Inc.), paid a visit to the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, on Aug. 11.

The 180th became acquainted with Ohio's Team Rahal while performing flyovers for the opening of the Cleveland Grand Prix in June and the Detroit Grand Prix in August. Drivers Max Papis and Bryan Herta were given rides in an F-16 fighter jet while Team Rahal displayed one of its Indy cars for

members of the 180th Fighter Wing and the media.

Capt. Mike Timbrook initiated the request to take the drivers for an F-16 orientation flight and personally flew Herta.

"What a thrill," Herta said upon landing. "I experience G-forces every week in the (racing) car but nothing like what I just encountered. The entire flight was an awesome experience. It was odd

because I found the experience to be very tranquil, yet I was in one of the most powerful machines ever built."

Capt. Chris Belli, a long-time racing fan, was the pilot for Papis' flight. "That was fantastic," Papis said. "The sheer power and speed that the F-16 possesses is unbelievable. During our flight we flew over the track at Michigan Speedway and over Belle Isle. I never thought I would be able to say I went faster at Michigan and Belle Isle than I did in my car, but our F-16 more than doubled my speed at the U.S. 500. What a rush." *Submitted by Lt. Col. Carole Allan, 180th Fighter Wing.*

Ohio Guard supports Youngstown-area fair

The Ohio Army National Guard has a strong presence in Mahoning County. Guardmembers never hesitate to help the community in a variety of different ways.

Very few may be aware that several guardmembers also have worked behind the scenes helping area veterans.

This year, veterans who went to the Canfield Fair in Mahoning County were offered more than just entertainment. The Canfield Fair is not only the largest community fair in Ohio, but also one of the few that have space dedicated specifically to the military. Within this space, tents were provided and set up by Company B, 237th Forward Support Battalion, Newton Falls; Company C(-), 216th Engineer Battalion; and the 838th Military Police Company, Austintown. Tents were set up for displays

by various veterans organizations and the National Guard, which also brought in military vehicles for viewing.

A 200-year-old log cabin was relocated to the dedicated space five years ago and is now the Mahoning Veterans Memorial. Since the cabin was relocated, many of the local Ohio Army Guard units have dedicated training days to help with restoration. It was in this cabin that the VA moved a temporary clinic into during the week of the fair. Not only did veterans receive standard blood pressure and cholesterol level screenings, they were also able to see both a dentist and podiatrist.

Because the Canfield Fairgrounds allocated the space to the military, control of it was turned over to Army veteran J.P. Brown, a local radio talk show host, who also is a veterans advocate.

He worked with Ohio Army Guard recruiter Staff Sgt. Mike Mihalik to ensure all the necessary equipment and aid was available.

"Without all of the help of the units, we wouldn't have been able to provide the assistance," Mihalik said. "One of the soldiers from Newton Falls, Staff Sergeant (Thomas) Gerner, spent the entire week at the fairgrounds to ensure the security of the vehicles."

Often, the tasks completed by the ONG are not easy but they don't go unappreciated. For the past 15 years, local resident Joanne Jeswald has donated her time by helping with various tasks, such as passing out fliers and running errands.



Photo by SPC Michelle Morgan, HQ STARC (-).

Canfield-area resident Joanne Jeswald (left) and recruiter SSG Mike Mihalik helped with the veterans displays at the Canfield Fair this year.

Jeswald's reasons for helping are quite simple: "These guys give everything to our country and state, and I have to be able to give something back," Jeswald said. *Submitted by Spc. Michelle Morgan, HQ STARC (-).*

Wing makes sure to recognize enlisted

The 180th enlisted corps was officially recognized Aug. 8 with a dedication ceremony sponsored by the Enlisted Force Advisory Council (EFAC).

About 80 unit members and retirees witnessed the unveiling of a Year of Enlisted Force Memorial plaque permanently placed in front of the F-100 aircraft near the main gate. The F-100 was the second type of jet aircraft flown by 180th pilots.

In a speech interrupted by a roaring F-16 takeoff, 180th Commander Col. A.J. Feucht encouraged enlisted members to be involved in the Enlisted Force Advisory Council.

"Thank you for being here every single day, every time you come to drill. What you do here on weekends and in the community is extremely important. You belong to a great organization," he told the crowd.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Victor VanVorce, senior enlisted advisor, credited the EFAC with taking the suggestion of an enlisted memorial and making it reality.

"I also want to thank the retirees," VanVorce said. "It's their leadership that got us here today. It was nice to have them come back and see a dedication that recognizes the accomplishments of the enlisted corps." *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.*

Beightler boasts blood givers among best

Employees at Beightler Armory, headquarters for the Ohio National Guard located in Columbus, were recognized by the American Red Cross for topping the list of blood donors in the state government division for 1998-99.

A total of 195 units of blood were collected for Central Ohio hospitals during seven blood drives at the armory throughout the year.

Staff Sgt. Cheryl Leopold and Sgt. Fran Ulrich, Beightler blood drive coordinators, accepted the award at a Sept. 10 luncheon. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

ANG hosts symposium

This year, the Ohio Air National Guard hosted the first Humanitarian Law Symposium, a first of its kind event, Sept. 17-19 at Capital University Law School in Columbus. The conference, organized by Col. Frank Titus of Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard, focused on initiating and implementing non-violent conflict resolutions.

Air National Guard judge advocates from all over the country lectured civilian and military lawyers, and paralegals on topics that ranged from "Legal support to Civil Police in Peacekeeping," to "Women, Children, Gender and Cultural Issues during Peacekeeping." In addition to several faculty members from Capital University Law School, Alex Morrison, president of the Lester Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Center, discussed different aspects of



Titus

peacekeeping. "It used to be ad hoc, now it is becoming organized. The rules and regulations have changed," he said. "The peacekeepers have to move to a higher plane which includes training." *Submitted by Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey, HQ OHANG.*

1-134th AT hits its mark

Most would agree that good training motivates soldiers to work hard and is a factor in their retention with a unit. With that in mind, the leaders of 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, headquartered in Columbus, worked to plan a challenging, battle-focused annual training July 10-24 at Camp Grayling, Mich., that would allow soldiers to do the jobs for which they were trained.



Courtesy photo.

Members of A Company, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, stop for a picture with BG Ronald G. Young (kneeling, front row right), assistant adjutant general for Army, during Young's review of Ohio Guard annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Highlights included conducting Field Artillery Table Lanes training to standard and participating in a battalion situational training exercise (STX) that incorporated the use of MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) gear, pyrotechnics and OPFOR (opposing forces) to create more realistic combat conditions.

"The training we conducted during AT99 is something our soldiers have waited for quite some time," said Maj. Homer Rogers, battalion executive officer. "The utilization of MILES gear enhanced our ability to provide exciting and challenging training."

Rogers said the battalion shifted more of its focus into providing exciting and challenging training to its support personnel as well. "The recovery of disabled tracked vehicles became a tactical event when a maintenance team encountered OPFOR (opposing forces) while trying to recover an M109A5 howitzer (cannon)," Rogers said.

Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, was at Camp Grayling during the battalion's AT period to review all Ohio Guard operations. He visited soldiers and conducted promotions for two battalion members. With the help of howitzer crewmen, he experienced the thrill of firing actual rounds from the cannon.

"I think our soldier retention was enhanced by the presence of General Young," said Lt. Col. Philip Lootens, battalion commander of the 1-134th. "He spoke to troops on the importance of each soldier to the future of the Army Guard." *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*



Courtesy photo.

CW2 Anita Larig, state food service advisor, addresses students at the Director of Logistics Food Service School held in August at Rickenbacker Airport.

Cooks attend DOL Food Service School

Ohio Army National Guard food service specialists converged on Rickenbacker Airport Aug. 28-29 for the annual Director of Logistics Food Service School. The 85 students attended classes on topics ranging from nutrition to the latest field equipment. They were briefed on recent revisions by the Department of Defense and Department of the Army to food services and the changes to be implemented with the new fiscal year that began in October.

One of the workshops helped prepare the cooks to make their unit's kitchen the Best Field Kitchen in Ohio. The Best Field Kitchen in Ohio winner is sent to compete regionally against other states, then ultimately on to the national Connelly Competition.

The cooks attended a menu board meeting where all menu revisions are made, some of which come directly from the soldiers in the field. This year, the students were able to participate in the process by contributing ideas and suggestions to the board regarding future meals.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Anita Larig, state food service advisor, one of the greatest aspects of this year's school was the enthusiasm of the participants. They said they were glad to train with others in their career field.

"It is important to be around people who are aware of the importance we have on the morale and welfare of the troops," Larig said. It was also good for the morale of the cooks to train with others who understand that "there is more to cooking than breaking eggs and cooking them." Training is often put on the back burner on drill weekends to

ensure meals are served on time, she said, so effective time management ideas were shared during the weekend.

Larig is already working on the itinerary for next year's school. She said she wants Ohio Army National Guard cooks to enjoy themselves, and she plans more hands-on training for them to hone their skills and interesting workshops to learn enhancing techniques such as garnishing.

Also next year, Larig said she would like to have chefs from the civilian sector speak

about how food service skills learned in the Ohio Army National Guard can be applied to a comparable civilian career. *Submitted by Spc. Michelle Morgan, HQ STARC (-).*

1485th open house provides for fun day

The 1485th Transportation Company, Dover, held its annual open house Oct. 16, and the event turned out to be an interactive day for all.

Children were able to do things such as get their faces painted with camouflage make-up and also were greeted by Sgt. Buckeye, a seven-foot tall inflatable costume worn by one of the unit's soldiers. Inside the armory there were several historical exhibits on display. *Submitted by Spcs. Larry Oney Jr. and Michael Huggins, 1485th Transportation Company.*



Photo by SGT Nancy Perez, 1485th Transportation Co.

SPC Erik Ripley of the 1485th Trans. Co., Dover, poses with two attendees at the unit's community open house in October.

Conference looks to past for inspiration

More than 200 airmen, soldiers and their families met for the State Family Readiness Conference Sept. 24-26 at the Holiday Inn-North in Columbus.

The special theme of the conference this year acknowledged volunteers and family members who made a positive impact in military history. "Portrayals of Courage" consisted of the Ohio Army National Guard State Family Readiness Council and Family Readiness Office staff dressed in period costumes to portray characters including Betsy Ross, Eleanor Roosevelt, the Andrews Sisters, Clara Barton, Molly Pitcher, Sally Thompkins, Loretta Velazquez, Sojourner Truth and Florence Nightengale.

Training classes during the conference covered topics including the levels of family support groups, the mobilization process, family care plans, legal issues, retirement benefits, family awards program, volunteer reimbursements and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). A representative from the United States Automobile Association (USAA) taught a financial management class to attendees.

After the classes, Army and Air family readiness councils hosted a mixer that allowed attendees to exchange ideas, as well as lend experience and advice. *Submitted by Chief Warrant Officer Carmen Coventry, Family Readiness Office.*

121st ARW gets award for watching 'waste'

The 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, was one of the organizations picked this year to receive a Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention. Ohio Gov. Bob Taft presented the award to members of the 121st Oct. 28 at the 13th annual awards ceremony.

The 121st was recognized for eliminating its ozone-depleting chemicals purchases, minimizing the use of toxic chemicals and minimizing the generation of hazardous and solid wastes, in relation to unit activities and missions.

Unit members reduced the amount of hazardous waste generated from 108,603 pounds to 10,064 pounds in 1998. In addition, the amount of material being recycled has increased by more than 320,000 pounds since 1993. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

54th RAOC/ROTC reunion in works

Former members of the 54th Support Detachment (Rear Area Operations Center/Rear Tactical Operations Center) should contact Edwin E. Hall if interested in a unit reunion.

Hall may be reached by mail at 3656 Patty Lane, Hilliard, Ohio, 43026; by phone at (614) 876-1802; or by e-mail at edhall5@juno.com.

Blue Streak cash bonus receives boost

The Blue Streak program recently increased its cash incentive to those who provide a lead resulting in an enlistment into the Ohio Army National Guard.

The payment of \$50 and \$75 per qualified enlistment has been raised to \$100. Anyone who refers an individual that enlists in a unit identified as marginal in personnel strength

will receive a check for \$250.

Blue Streak payments are available to all current members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard and employees of the Adjutant General's Department (Active Guard and Reserve, federal technician and state civilian). It was established in 1996 to increase the overall strength of the Ohio Army Guard and has become an essential tool for the recruiting force. More than 30 percent of enlistments come from referrals.

"I see this as a great opportunity for our soldiers to receive extra spending money while increasing the strength of our units," said Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army.

The payment plan is expected to run until June 30, 2000.

Referrals resulting in enlistments to the following units will earn a \$250 Blue Streak payment:

HHB, 2-174th ADA Battalion
 Battery A, 2-174th ADA Battalion
 Battery B, 2-174th ADA Battalion
 Battery C, 2-174th ADA Battalion

HHC, 1-147th Armor Battalion
 HHC, Det. 1, 1-147th Armor Battalion
 Co. A, 1-147th Armor Battalion
 Co. B, 1-147th Armor Battalion
 Co. C, 1-147th Armor Battalion
 Co. D, 1-147th Armor Battalion

Co. B, 2nd-19th Special Forces Group

HHT, 2-107th Division Cavalry
 Troop A, 2-107th Division Cavalry
 Troop B, 2-107th Division Cavalry
 Troop C, 2-107th Division Cavalry
 Troop D, 2-107th Division Cavalry
 Troop E, 2-107th Division Cavalry
 Troop F, 2-107th Division Cavalry

211th Maintenance Company
 212th Maintenance Company
 372nd Maintenance Company

Comm Flight helps fight against cancer

The 121st Air Refueling Wing Communications Flight, Columbus, participated in the Hilliard Relay for Life June



Photo by 121st Air Refueling Wing Visual Information.

Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, participate in the Hilliard Relay for Life this summer.

25-26. It is a 24-hour event featuring cancer education, and is a national signature event of the American Cancer Society. The 121st's "Team Comm" consisted of 28 members of the communications flight, a few friends, family members and other wing members. Team members took turns walking or running around the track at Hilliard Davidson High School in 30-minute increments for the entire 24 hours.

Team Comm raised \$2,538, exceeding its goal of \$2,500. This included donations from wing members and unit fund-raising activities. Team Comm officially rounded the track 385 times in the 24-hour period, totaling 96.25 miles. The team counted only one person at a time on the track, although most of the time more than one person was participating—the unofficial total was easily more than 150 miles.

The event raised \$170,000 overall, and the three sites in Franklin County totaled \$300,000. In addition to walking the track, team members assisted with registration, hauled trash, carried and filled water jugs, hung signs, built tents and performed clean-up afterward.

The wing also contributed to the effort by paying the team's entrance fee for the event and allowing team members to take credit for one UTA period if they attended, participated and stayed at the event the minimum required time.

This type of team spirit and community support has always been a hallmark of the Air National Guard. The people of Hilliard as well as the American Cancer Society of Franklin County noticed and appreciated the wing's involvement. The event could not have been quite the success that it was without folks like those who participated. Submitted by Master Sgt. Kevin Gadd, 121st Air Refueling Wing.

Video vocation

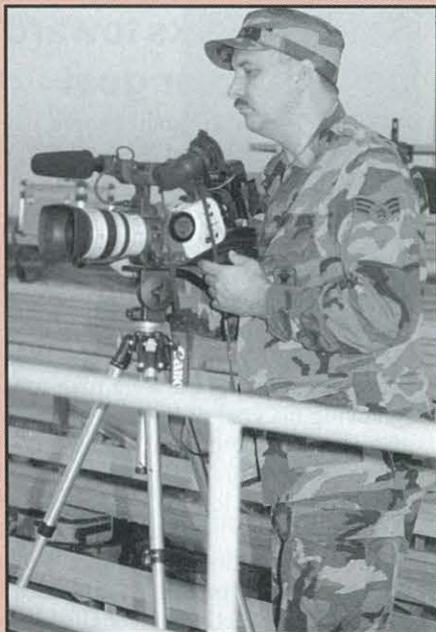


Photo by TSgt. Todd Cramer, 179th Airlift Wing.

SrA. Stephen Dupuy of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, videotapes a C-130 air gunship during training exercises. For the second year in a row, communications flights of the 178th, 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, and 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, deployed to Hurlburt Field, Fla. for annual training.



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

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith (left), state adjutant general, and Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, state assistant adjutant general for Air, pin rank on new Brig. Gen. Myron Ashcraft, Ohio Air Guard chief of staff. Sullivan also was promoted from brigadier general to his current rank.

Top OHANG leaders see stars in November

With several family members and military co-workers present, Ohio's Assistant Adjutant General for Air Paul J. Sullivan was promoted to and federally recognized as major general on Nov. 6. Ohio Air National Guard Chief of Staff Myron Ashcraft was promoted to and federally recognized as brigadier general at the same ceremony.

Sullivan, who was appointed to his position earlier this year, had his extra stars pinned on by his wife, Kathy, and Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. Ashcraft had O-7 shoulder boards placed on his shirt epaulets by his wife, Pam, and mother, Naomi. Smith and Sullivan pinned the new rank on Ashcraft's blue dress coat. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

Reyes uses Spanish skills in Nicaragua

Senior Airman Sylvia L. Reyes wanted to work outside of the United States on her summer break from college this year.

Her hopes were met, and then some.

Reyes, a member of the 200th REDHORSE Squadron in Port Clinton, used her international experience and bilingual skills to represent the Ohio Air National Guard in Central America this past summer. A volunteer in support of Exercise New Horizons, Reyes served as a Spanish translator from June 25 to Aug. 21. She performed medical support for two weeks at San Ramon base camp and numerous Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE) rotating sites in 11 dif-

ferent villages. Her language skills were extremely useful in communications between Nicaraguan and U.S. military service members; speaking with civilians; purchasing construction equipment; helping to host the closing ceremony for Joint Task Force-Esteli and speaking with the Nicaraguan media. "I was one of six bilingual hosts at the closing ceremony, where the defense minister of Nicaragua was present," she said.

Reyes is a medical technician in her military career with the 200th RHS and a full-time student at Ohio State University, majoring in international studies, with a concentration in East Asian studies. "We spoke Spanish in my grandmother's home growing up," said Reyes, who currently is studying Chinese in school.

In 1998, Reyes was an international student at the Universidad de Sevilla, in Seville, Spain, for four months. There she studied the literature, poetry, language and history of Spain.

Earlier, Reyes collaborated with a team of students to create a cultural mural painting project on the outdoor amphitheater of an underdeveloped elementary school in Celestun, Mexico, in 1997.

Reyes said both experiences improved her skills in preparation for the Exercise New Horizons mission. *Submitted by Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey, HQ OHANG.*



Reyes

Shooters on target at State Combat Matches

This summer's Ohio National Guard State Combat Matches at Camp Perry again showcased the state's best marksmen.

"The goal of the competition is to provide individuals with the opportunity to learn additional marksmanship skills and allow them to complete the course of fire under competitive conditions," said Col. Matt

Kambic, director of plans, operations, training and military support for the Ohio Army National Guard.

In individual competition, Spc. Wade Danforth of the 213th Maintenance Company, Port Clinton, won the rifle match; Sgt. Brett Gould of Delta Company, 1-147th Armor Battalion, Cincinnati, took top honors in both the pistol match and individual pistol; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Crawford of Bravo Company, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Napoleon, won the sniper match; and Spc. Chad Bowman of Service Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Medina, was the winner in light machine gun.

In team competition, the Bravo Company, 1-148th duo of Crawford and Sgt. Robert Heckman claimed first in the sniper match; the 213th Maintenance Company group of Danforth, Staff Sgt. Melvin Clark, Sgt. Stephen Mikes and Pvt. Craig Willford won the rifle team match; and the 213th came back to win the pistol match with a foursome of Clark, Sgt. John Ouelleette and Chief Warrant Officers Craig Smith and Dana Osborne. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

Soldier works toward police career goal

Determination. For some people, it only lasts through the end of the workday, one last cup of coffee or until distracted by something else. Accomplishing goals or chasing a dream can take weeks, months or even years. It takes stamina and courage to chase a dream. And it also takes belief in yourself and pride in your work.

Ohio Army National Guard Cpl. Peter F. Wickham is taking the long road toward achieving his goal of becoming a policeman in his hometown of Columbus. His desire to serve his country and state has caused delays in joining the police force, however he never has lost sight of his goal.

Upon graduating from high school, Wickham worked part-time as a landscaper, contractor and valet in between Guard tours. He was waiting to meet the age requirement for applying to the police academy. When he turned 20 and applied, he found that holding several intermittent part-time jobs hindered his chances for immediate acceptance. "Finally, I'm old enough to apply for the police academy, and I find out that because of the part-time jobs I held between Guard tours, I won't be eligible until I remain at one position for five years,"

Wickham said.

Disappointed, but far from discouraged, Wickham obtained a position at Meijer, a national retail and grocery store chain, as a loss prevention specialist. His work includes electronic surveillance, physical security and detention of suspected criminals. Wickham has been with Meijer for more than three years and said he will stay with them until he meets the eligibility requirements for joining the police force.

"I'm fortunate to have an employer who knows that I could be accepted to the police academy yet, they still support my Guard missions 100 percent," Wickham said. "My work keeps me focused on my objectives, and the Guard offers training and assignment opportunities that can't be beat."

Wickham spent time away from his job and hometown this past spring and summer supporting Exercise New Horizons in Honduras. He was handpicked for his assignment by Brig. Gen. James E. Caldwell, who led the Forward Command Element which oversaw New Horizons operations in three countries this summer. Wickham served as the general's enlisted aide and provided security for him on a daily basis.

"I sought him out to be my aide, driver, bodyguard and trusted companion," Caldwell said. "He's a great asset to my personal staff."

Wickham had served as a team leader in C Company, 112th Engineer Battalion, Columbus. Caldwell's former assignment as director of facilities engineering for the Ohio Adjutant General's Department allowed him to be in close contact with the 112th, where he said he learned of Wickham's reputation for professionalism and diligence.

Presently, Wickham is assigned to the 134th Field Artillery Battalion in Columbus, working as a forward observer and recruiter's aide. Wickham has completed a number of Active Duty Special Work (ADSW) tours with the Ohio Guard, including working with the Drug Eradication Task Force throughout Ohio and with the Department of Customs drug detection task force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. *Submitted by Spc. Terry Mann, Exercise New Horizons Public Affairs.*



Wickham

Lifesaving skills help avert AT disaster

Bravo Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, Tiffin, and one of its young soldiers suffered an unfortunate training accident at this past summer's annual training in Grayling, Mich. However, the actions taken by well-trained and disciplined unit members were crucial in minimizing a crisis that could have been potentially worse.

At about 8:30 p.m. July 16, after a day on an M-60 machine gun qualification range, Pvt. 1st Class Jeffrey Yeager was returning his weapon to the company armorer, who was standing on the tailgate of a M35A2 truck. As Yeager handed the weapon up to him, he began to tell the armorer about a malfunction with the weapon earlier that day on the range. The armorer lifted the feed tray to investigate why the weapon may have malfunctioned, and as he did this, the weapon discharged. The round traveled through the two-inch thick tailgate, striking Yeager in the fleshy portion of the left knee, exiting the knee and continued traveling, hitting his left small toe. In addition to this, a piece of shrapnel from the truck tailgate entered Yeager's neck.

Sgt. Michael Jenkins, a certified combat lifesaver (CLS), was near the accident scene and saw a spark fly and Yeager hopping away from the back of the truck. Then, Cpl. Chris Michael, another CLS, rushed over to see what had happened. Upon arriving, Michael called for the medic, Spc. Frank Zimmerman, and three other CLSs, Staff Sgt. Michael Hay, Sgt. Michael Longanbach and Spc. Chris Trusdle, came running to the scene to assist as well. At that point, Michael ran for his CLS bag, while Jenkins and Hay assisted Zimmerman in cutting off Yeager's left trouser leg and left boot. When Michael returned with his bag, Jenkins prepped an IV for Longanbach, who injected it into Yeager.

Soldiers not treating Yeager also flew into action. First Sgt. Bradley Biller radioed for a medevac (helicopter medical evacuation), while Sgt. 1st Class John Harrigan began constructing a litter by using four camouflage net poles and two ponchos. He was assisted by Sgt. Garland Paynter, Spc. Matthew Molinski, Sgt. 1st Class John Haney, and 1st Lt. José Saniel-Bannrey. Haney then drove in a humvee to the scene to transport Yeager to a landing zone (LZ).

Battlin' Bob

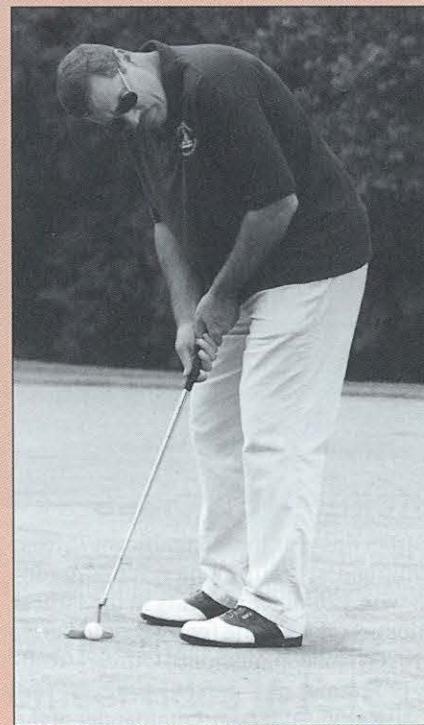


Photo by SPC Michelle Morgan, HQ STARC (-).

Retired Col. Bob Labadie, currently the Ohio Adjutant General's Department director of armory maintenance, putts during the 17th Adjutant General's Golf Tournament Aug. 23 at Indian Springs Golf Club in Mechanicsburg.

Upon arrival to a range which would serve as the helicopter pick-up site, Molinski, an Air Assault-trained soldier well versed in setting up LZs, began constructing one so the helicopter had a good area in which to land. When the helicopter landed, Yeager was loaded on.

The quick, skilled actions of B Company soldiers let only 30 minutes pass from the time of the incident to the time Yeager was put on the helicopter for transport.

An interesting fact is that on the same day this incident occurred, all the combat lifesavers had just concluded a recertification course, during which their CLS bags were restocked.

To complete this amazing story, Yeager returned to duty Oct. 2 to perform an Active Duty Special Work (ADSW) assignment at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, assisting in the recovery of the equipment used for Exercise New Horizons in Nicaragua. *Submitted by Capt. Edward L. Mikula, HQ, 612th Engineer Battalion.*



Courtesy photo.

Seven members of Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing were part of the largest graduating class of the five-year-old Satellite NCO Academy earlier this year.

178th FW graduates satellite NCO class

Earlier this year the "Magnificent 7" from Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing graduated with 126 other students in the largest graduating class of the five-year-old Satellite NCO (Noncommissioned Officer) Academy program.

Col. Ralph Anderson, commander of the 178th, plus supervisors, family and instructors were on hand for the May 7 graduation ceremony.

This year's Eastern time zone class started at 14 sites in late January. The class ran 6-10 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday through April. After completing that phase, students went to McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., from April 26 to May 7, to complete the course.

The class is a mixture of satellite instruction from the Air Education and Training Center at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, home station instructor-guided discussion, and student hands-on participation. Students earn nine semester hours of college credit from the Community College of the Air Force. Graduates also receive their in-residence Professional Military Education ribbon.

The only thing that students don't get that current in-residence students receive at any Air Force NCO Academy are 19 hours of physical fitness training.

This course is demanding and challenging. Students must read more than 1,300 pages of material, complete homework assignments, take comprehensive phase tests, and complete speeches and writing exercises. They were exposed to many hours of supervision training, communication skills training and the normal Profession of Arms hours. The NCO Academy focuses on an

NCO becoming an effective supervisor and team player in today's Air Force.

The 178th's seven-member class was nicknamed the "Magnificent 7," and when they arrived at McGhee-Tyson, they took charge, literally. Tech. Sgts. Cristi Pittman and Michael Johnson were selected to be flight leaders. Johnson was subsequently promoted to class leader, the top student leadership position. Back in Springfield, Tech. Sgt. Ron Reynolds was the home station flight leader.

Class members also worked details, headed the class gift project—a sizable donation to Ronald McDonald House—served on class honor guard and ran mail.

Two of Springfield's own took home distinguished graduate awards. These awards are given to the top 10 percent of the students in each class. Criteria is based on academics, as well as peer and instructor voting. Pittman and Reynolds were selected along with 11 other students.

Other members of the Magnificent 7: Tech. Sgt. Debra Borders, Tech Sgt. Kenneth Howard, Tech. Sgt Jeffrey Kniceley and Tech. Sgt Richard "Chip" Markley.

This brings the total number of graduates from the 178th to 42, over four classes dating back to 1995.

The home-station volunteer instructor staff, from units throughout the state, put in its normal "overtime" to make this year's class a reality. Staff consisted of Chief Master Sgts. Robert Morrison and Jerry Sanford, chief instructor and organizer Senior Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, Master Sgts. Kathy Cyphert and Nate Setters, and Tech. Sgts. Monique Muncy and Anthony Haley. Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, 251st Combat Communications Group.

Caldwell seizes New Horizons opportunity

James Caldwell was an Army National Guard brigadier general anxious for a new adventure when the telephone rang at his Worthington home last Feb. 18.

He had retired as a full-time Guard technician. He had settled into the Midwest winter helping his wife, Gail, run her business communications consulting firm and traveling to as many bridge tournaments as he could.

But the robust general with 33 years of military service missed soldiering. He said "yes" the next day.

He left the Columbus suburb to go to Honduras. He took overall command of four Exercise New Horizons '99 task forces being organized to help people in three other Central American countries recover from last fall's devastating hurricanes.

Seven months later, Caldwell, 57, made his mark as a high-profile, hands-on commander for thousands of National Guard and Army Reserve troops who have helped give new schools, new clinics, new wells, new roads and new hope to hurricane and earthquake victims in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador.

"I was thrilled at the idea. I was ready for a new challenge," said the Oklahoma-born Caldwell this summer from his headquarters at Soto Cano Air Base in central Honduras.

He was in charge of the U.S. Southern Command's Forward Command Element until mid-September when all construction operations shut down.

This Army Guard general has learned as much about international diplomacy and about being a general as he already knew about military engineering. Caldwell commanded a New Horizons task force in Honduras in 1989 as a colonel. He encountered many challenges this year as a general.

He has overseen the first major U.S. military operation in Nicaragua since relations between the two countries were stretched to the breaking point in 1983. It was a National Guard-led operation. He has flown



Caldwell

countless miles over an area the size of New England while overseeing the construction projects and medical relief missions that have involved more than 1,200 citizen-soldiers at a time.

Nicaragua was considered the most sensitive of this year's New Horizons projects because relations with the United States have been strained since the early 1980s when the U.S. supported anti-Sandinista Contras while the Nicaraguan government was aiding guerrillas in El Salvador.

Could a National Guard humanitarian task force bent on helping Nicaraguans recover from Hurricane Mitch heal those old wounds? Caldwell maintains it has.

"They've been as pleasant to work with as any country in the region," he said. "We couldn't ask for better support than we're getting from the Nicaraguan army.

"They see us rotating troops every two weeks, so there's obviously no intention of a long-term presence. This kind of exercise can do nothing but foster good relations between the United States and Nicaragua." *Submitted by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau.*

Engineers honor trio

In a world that seemingly revolves around self-gratification, it is refreshing to find outstanding individuals who, although not members of their local National Guard unit, support that unit.

Three such people have contributed countless hours of public information, Guard awareness and financial means in support of Alpha Company, 112th Engi-



Photo by Neal Powers.

Wooster Daily Record City Editor Rich Gray receives a plaque for his support of the Guard from CPT Perry Carper, commander of Alpha Company, 112th Engineer Battalion, Wooster.



Photo by 178th Fighter Wing Visual Information.

Seated in an F-16 jet, Hungarian air force Lt. Col. Gabor Nemeth is briefed before his orientation sortie flight by Lt. Col. Craig Wallace, 162nd Fighter Squadron commander.

neer Battalion, Wooster.

Val Barner was recognized for her tireless contributions to the morale, esprit de corps and Guard awareness efforts in helping Sgt. Neal Powers, formerly of Alpha Company, produce the unit newsletter, "Tracks," later called "Makin Tracks." She also produced banners, graphics and other ideas for open houses, recruiting drives and armory bulletin boards.

Rich Gray is city editor for the Wooster Daily Record newspaper. Gray edited and published news submissions from the unit on a monthly basis. During 1996-1999, Gray was instrumental in raising the local community's awareness of what the Guard was doing, through articles on state activations and recruiting drives.

Joseph Retzler, a local hardware store owner in Wooster, also was a Guard supporter. On several occasions, Retzler opened his store after hours to provide unit members with screws, bolts, nails and hinges for building projects, many times at cost or free of charge.

Earlier this year, Capt. Perry Carper, Alpha Company commander, presented plaques to Gray and Retzler as small tokens of the unit's gratitude. Barner was not at the ceremony, but received her plaque at a later date. *Submitted by Neal Powers, A Company, 112th Engineer Battalion (retired).*

Hungarian air force officer rides in F-16

As part of the continuing Joint Contact Team Program in which states visit and exchange information with their designated NATO partner country, Ohio's 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, was privileged to host Hungarian air force Lt. Col. Gabor "Papa" Nemeth July 12-17.

Nemeth's visit was coordinated through the squadron commanders shadow program, which familiarizes a state's NATO-member partner air force personnel with operations in a U.S. Air Force fighter squadron.

The Joint Contact Team Program was developed in 1992 to aid former Warsaw Pact-member countries achieve NATO membership. The State Partnership Program was also developed at approximately the same time to link up former Eastern bloc countries with host states. Ohio was linked as a partner state with Hungary due to the large number of ethnic Hungarians living in Ohio.

Nemeth was hosted for the first two days by Springfield's 162nd Fighter Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Craig Wallace. This included an orientation sortie mission July 14 at Jefferson Proving Ground, Ind.

Nemeth received a comprehensive tour of the maintenance operation and facilities at the 178th, and also witnessed in-flight refueling and tanker operations at the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus. *Submitted by Col. Darryl Marshall, HQ OHANG.*

GUARDMEMBER BENEFITS

Pay raises highlight 2000 defense bill

President Clinton signed the fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act Oct. 5, clearing the way for the most comprehensive compensation package ever put together for members of the armed forces.

The act authorizes a 4.8 percent across-the-board pay raise for military and civilian workers on Jan. 1. It is the largest pay hike since 1981. The legislation goes further and institutes pay table reform. About 75 percent of service members will receive a further raise on July 1. (*American Forces Press Service and Air Force Print News*)

Organization offers grants for college

The Retired Officers Association (TROA) will award 200 grants of \$1,000 each for college, for the 2000-2001 school year.

An applicant must be the dependent child of an active-duty service member or drilling Reserve or National Guard member, officer or enlisted, of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

An applicant must be a high school senior or college student working on his or her first undergraduate degree, and be younger than 24.

The uniformed-service sponsor of the applicant does not have to be a member of TROA.

Applications will only be taken on-line (there are no paper applications).

Go to TROA's website: <http://www.troa.org> then go to "Member Services" and find "Scholarship and Educational Assistance." Click there, and then the introduction page gives all the information an applicant will need to proceed further.

The application deadline for the 2000-2001 school year is March 1.

For questions not answered at the website, applicants may email: grant200@troa.org. (*The Retired Officers Association*)

Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods

Unofficial Copy (Effective Jan. 1, 2000)

YEARS OF SERVICE

Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-10	1095.32	1133.84	1133.84	1133.84	1133.84	1177.36	1177.36	1242.60	1242.60	1331.52	1331.52	1420.68	1420.68	1420.68	1509.12
O-9	970.76	996.20	1017.40	1017.40	1017.40	1043.28	1043.28	1086.68	1086.68	1177.36	1177.36	1242.60	1242.60	1242.60	1331.52
O-8	879.24	905.64	927.08	927.08	927.08	996.20	996.20	1043.28	1043.28	1086.68	1133.84	1177.36	1206.40	1206.40	1206.40
O-7	730.60	780.24	780.24	780.24	815.28	815.28	862.52	862.52	905.64	996.20	1064.72	1064.72	1064.72	1064.72	1064.72
O-6	541.48	594.88	633.92	633.92	633.92	633.92	633.92	633.92	655.48	759.08	797.84	815.28	862.52	891.64	935.40
O-5	433.12	508.52	543.72	543.72	543.72	543.72	560.04	590.28	629.84	677.00	715.76	737.48	763.28	763.28	763.28
O-4	365.04	444.52	474.16	474.16	482.96	504.24	538.72	569.00	594.88	621.08	638.12	638.12	638.12	638.12	638.12
O-3	339.20	379.24	405.48	448.64	470.12	486.96	513.36	538.72	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88
O-2	295.84	323.08	388.12	401.20	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48
O-1	256.84	267.32	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	448.64	470.12	486.96	513.36	538.72	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	401.20	409.48	422.48	444.52	461.52	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.08	345.12	357.84	370.84	383.68	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	589.84	612.16	629.88	656.44
W-4	345.60	370.84	370.84	379.24	396.56	414.00	431.40	461.52	482.96	499.92	513.36	529.88	547.60	564.68	590.28
W-3	314.12	340.72	340.72	345.12	349.16	374.72	396.56	409.48	422.48	435.12	448.64	466.12	482.96	482.96	499.92
W-2	275.12	297.68	297.68	306.32	323.08	340.72	353.68	366.64	379.24	392.60	405.48	418.24	435.12	435.12	435.12
W-1	229.20	262.80	262.80	284.76	297.68	310.40	323.08	336.36	349.16	362.16	374.72	388.12	388.12	388.12	388.12
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	402.04	411.12	420.36	430.08	439.76	448.20	471.72	490.08	517.68
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	337.12	346.88	355.96	365.20	374.88	383.40	392.84	415.92	434.40	462.28
E-7	235.44	254.16	263.48	272.76	282.08	291.04	300.36	309.76	323.72	332.92	342.16	346.60	369.90	388.32	415.92
E-6	202.52	220.76	229.92	239.68	248.72	257.68	267.12	280.88	289.72	299.04	303.60	303.60	303.60	303.60	303.60
E-5	177.68	193.40	202.80	211.64	225.56	234.80	244.00	253.08	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68
E-4	165.72	175.04	185.36	199.64	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56
E-3	156.20	164.76	171.28	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12
E-2	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32
E-1>4	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08
E-1<4	124.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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YEARS OF SERVICE

Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1420.68	1427.68	1457.36	1509.12
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1242.60	1260.48	1286.36	1331.52
O-8	879.24	908.04	927.08	932.44	956.24	996.20	1005.44	1043.28	1054.16	1086.68	1133.84	1177.36	1206.40	1206.40	1206.40
O-7	730.60	780.24	780.24	785.92	815.28	837.60	863.44	889.20	915.08	996.20	1064.72	1064.72	1064.72	1070.08	1070.08
O-6	541.48	594.88	633.92	633.92	636.32	663.56	667.20	667.20	689.24	772.16	811.48	850.84	873.20	895.88	939.88
O-5	433.12	508.52	543.72	550.36	572.24	572.24	589.44	621.24	662.94	704.80	724.80	744.48	766.92	766.92	766.92
O-4	365.04	444.52	474.16	480.80	508.32	530.72	567.00	595.20	614.80	634.52	641.16	641.16	641.16	641.16	641.16
O-3	339.20	384.56	415.04	448.64	470.12	493.68	513.36	538.72	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88
O-2	295.84	336.96	388.12	401.20	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48
O-1	256.84	267.32	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.28	323.28	323.28	323.28	323.28	323.28	323.28	323.28
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	448.64	470.12	493.68	513.36	538.72	560.04	572.24	588.92	588.92	588.92	588.92	588.92
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	401.20	409.48	422.48	444.52	461.52	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.08	345.12	357.84	370.84	383.68	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	596.68	617.16	637.72	658.32
W-4	345.60	371.80	382.48	393.00	411.12	428.96	447.04	464.68	482.96	500.48	518.40	535.92	554.08	571.96	590.28
W-3	314.12	340.72	340.72	345.12	359.24	375.32	396.56	409.48	423.60	439.76	455.80	471.88	487.92	504.00	520.12
W-2	275.12	297.68	297.68	307.44	323.08	340.72	353.68	366.64	379.24	393.20	407.52	421.84	436.12	450.44	450.44
W-1	229.20	262.80	262.80	284.76	297.68	311.04	324.44	337.76	351.20	364.64	378.00	388.12	388.12	388.12	388.12
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	402.04	411.12	422.64	436.20	449.76	463.12	481.24	499.20	522.12
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	337.12	346.88	355.96	366.88	378.68	391.00	403.48	421.48	439.40	464.40
E-7	235.44	257.04	266.80	276.40	286.36	296.12	305.88	315.64	325.24	335.20	345.08	354.72	371.68	390.16	417.92
E-6	202.52	223.76	233.68	243.24	253.24	263.08	272.96	282.48	292.20	299.28	304.44	304.44	304.76	304.76	304.76
E-5	177.68	199.20	208.80	218.72	228.60	238.60	248.20	258.16	258.16	258.16	258.16	258.16	258.16	258.16	258.16
E-4	165.72	183.08	192.96	202.68	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52	212.52
E-3	156.20	168.08	177.88	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12
E-2	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32
E-1>4	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08
E-1<4	124.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Tank crews conduct live fire at Fort Knox

By Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-)

Annual training for tank crews of the 37th Armored Brigade meant a new challenge this year—it was the first time soldiers attempted live-fire qualification on Yano Range, the new Tank Table VIII at Fort Knox, Ky.

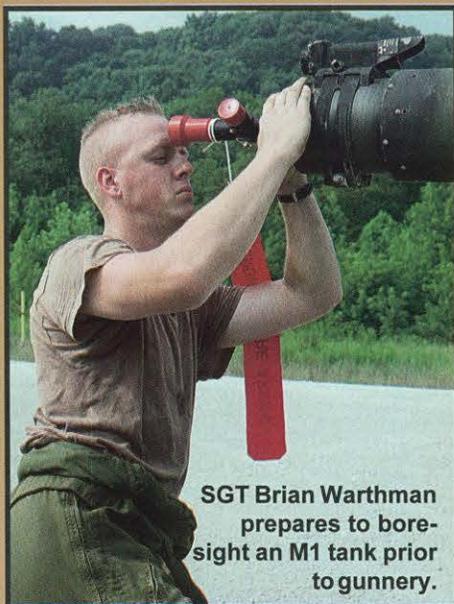
While soldiers used to qualify on ranges designed for the M1 Abrams tank, the new course was developed based on the M1A2, which is highly computerized to allow for faster target acquisition. The National Guard is equipped with M1s and only active-duty units have M1A2s.

With the modernized tanks in mind, the new range distinguishes itself in several ways. “On the old ranges only one or two targets would appear at once—now there’s up to four,” said Sgt. Maj. Jeff Horne, brigade operations sergeant major. “There’s more range to the targetry, and targets are laterally positioned farther apart.”

Horne explained that though the target presentations are the same for all three types of Abrams tanks (M1, M1A1, M1A2), there’s a separate scoring standard for each. “But,” he said, “the level of tank gunnery has increased in difficulty across the board.”

“These new standards are much more difficult by design,” said Col. Matt Kambic, 37th Armored Brigade commander, “to make us the best tank crews in the world.” Kambic took over command of the brigade on Sept. 1, replacing Col. Tod J. Carmony.

Units of the 1-107th Armor Battalion were the first to head to Fort Knox July 10-24, with the 1-147th Armor Battalion and the 2-107th Division Cavalry Squadron following July 14-31 and July 24 through Aug. 7, respectively.



SGT Brian Warthman prepares to bore-sight an M1 tank prior to gunnery.

Photo by 1SG Bill Belding, Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry.



Members of Troop B, 2-107th move out to fire on Yano Range.

Photo by 1SG Bill Belding, Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry.

Working in the heat of the summer, Ohio soldiers found that higher standards weren’t the only challenge they faced. Temperatures reached more than 100 degrees on a regular basis and working inside the tanks was even hotter.

“It was unbelievable,” said 1st Lt. Richard E. Davis, tank platoon leader for A Troop, 2-107th. “You could cook an egg on the tank, and I’m not kidding.” Crews stayed in the tanks for an hour or more to complete each scenario. But Davis said high spirits enabled his platoon to survive the heat and to do well on the qualification course.

“Great morale is what made us so successful,” he said. “And by success I mean we did about the same as active duty, even though we only have one weekend a month to train and no tanks to train on regularly.” This summer was also the first time the active Army attempted qualification on the Yano Range.

Preparation for tank crew qualification was extensive—an eight-month process according to Sgt. 1st Class Michael R. Buck, readiness NCO for Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry. “Our soldiers met the requirements needed to get on Tank Table VIII at home station, including six to eight hours on the M-COFT (Mobile Conduct of Fire Trainer) and passing the Tank Crew Gunnery Skills Test.”

The M-COFT is a self-contained trainer that develops and sustains commander and gunner proficiency skills through hundreds of computer-controlled training exercises. Three of these systems are available in Ohio—one each as-

signed to the 1-107th, 2-107th and 1-147th. The M-COFTs are rotated between armories within each organization.

Though only two tank crews within the brigade met the tougher standards, the training was considered significant.

“The results were less than what we hoped

for, but it gave us a benchmark for our current capabilities,” Kambic said. “This allows us to determine our strengths and weaknesses so that we can attain greater results in the future.”

The expectation is that scores will improve next year, after units

spend time on the Abrams Full-Crew Interactive Simulator Trainer (AFIST), a relatively new piece of training equipment for the Ohio Guard. Working inside a modified tank, crews respond to computer-simulated enemy engagement and terrain variations—including desert, digitized and day-night scenarios.

“With AFIST,” Buck said, “the full tank crew is integrated in the training, compared to the M-COFT which only involves the tank commander and gunner—leaving the driver and loader out.”

The armor brigade is narrowing its focus during all upcoming annual training periods. While tank crews used to alternate training from gunnery to maneuver each year, Kambic said he wants to keep the emphasis on qualification every year.

“Gunnery allows us to maneuver in the tanks, and acquire and destroy targets—the fundamental skills we want to continue to stress in our tank platoons,” Kambic said.

“We will improve,” he said. “I promise that.” ■

“These new standards are much more difficult by design, to make us the best tank crews in the world.”

COL Matt Kambic
37th Armored Brigade

TAF T AND THE TROOPS

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Photo by Steve Toth, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office.

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