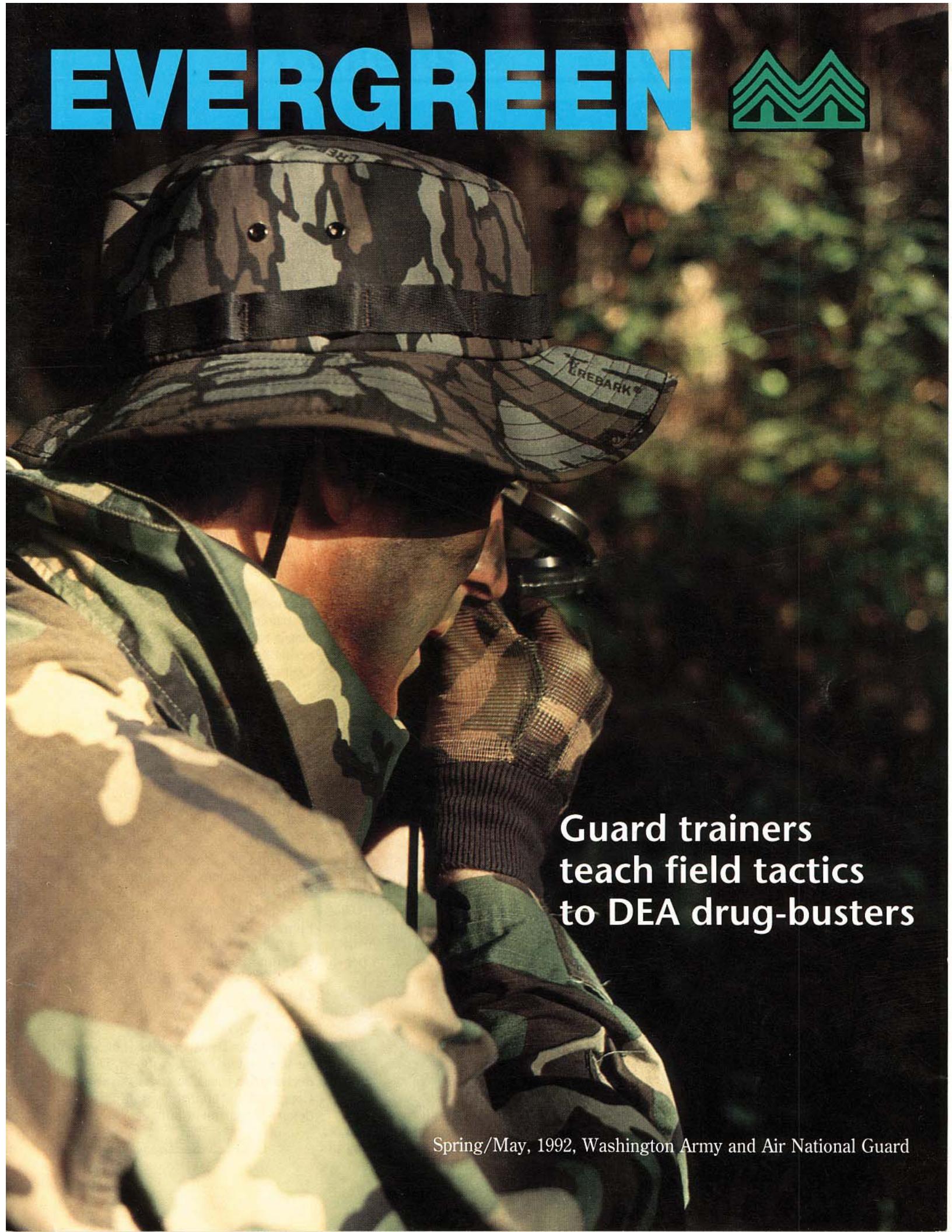


EVERGREEN



**Guard trainers
teach field tactics
to DEA drug-busters**

Spring/May, 1992, Washington Army and Air National Guard

Rethinking our military structure

By Lt. Col. Joseph S. Jimenez
State Public Affairs Officer

It was easier when it was "us" against "them." We were right and they were wrong. We had to protect ourselves because we wanted to keep our values and way of life.

The Cold War was a war of ideology, our values against theirs. It was our unquestionable *raison d'être*.

We did our job so well that we convinced our enemy that they would never win on the battlefield.

What many people didn't realize until the world saw the Soviet Union crumbling was that we also succeeded in bankrupting that country.

We didn't beat them so much on the battlefield as we beat them on the balance sheet. They simply couldn't afford to compete against us.

Military strength is costly, and with the help of other growing government programs, our national debt grew with generous deficit spending. We might have bankrupted ourselves if our credit was as lousy as the Soviets'.

So now with our Cold War nemesis gone, we have to cut government spending. The Pentagon will be making a generous contribution to regaining our economic health by reducing the force and its costs.

The Total Force — which combines Active, National Guard, and Reserve units — will be reduced. We cannot afford the cost of an all-Active force, and we cannot afford the risk of an all-reserve force. Given our national security priorities, we have to build the right mix of Active, National Guard, and Reserve forces to get the desired military strength for the best price.

The issue has become what to cut and why. Defense Department planners have identified military threats to our national security interests and developed a "Base Force" for those threats.

Most people agree that we have to maintain a credible military force, although the new crop of non-military experts (also known as NMEs) seem to question the professional judgment of our defense planners. These NMEs suggest a variety of options with one common denominator: lower cost.

It comes back to money. We still have to protect ourselves and we have to do it

with less money. That underscores the continuing struggle with our economic health.

The economic threat now from within our borders is probably greater than the foreign military threat. It's a threat to the nation that affects our industry and jobs, our health and safety. In our spending priorities, we have to decide between defense and economic health. We can't have it both ways. Or can we?

Some people have a difficult time understanding the roles of the National Guard. The Guard's combat strength, when added to the Active forces, helped give us the victory in every major conflict of our history. The Guard's strength as a state military force has provided immediate response in emergencies and disasters. The Guard also supports local community efforts to improve our quality of life. And the Guard does all of this at a fraction of the cost of comparable Active military units.

That almost seems too good to be true — but it is.

Some voices are expressing concern about placing a sizable portion of the military's combat strength in the Guard. They say it does not give the nation the

flexibility and capability of projecting sufficient military power when needed. They are concerned about the time and legislative process required to mobilize the reserves. They forgot the original intention of our founding fathers.

A small standing army backed by a large, well-trained Guard and Reserve ensures that if we have to go to war, public support goes with our military forces.

People are rushing to the defense of the National Guard in opposing the strength reductions. Many reasons are given; some rational, some emotional.

The financial benefits brought into a community by Guard units cannot be strongly defended as a reason for keeping a Guard unit. The real value of the Guard is in the job it does for the community and the nation. If that's worth keeping, then it's worth paying for.

The reality of reducing the defense size and cost is sobering when it strikes close to home. However, it must be reduced and that will include the National Guard. It's painful for us to lose Guard units, but that is today's reality. Let's now work together on the best way to reduce, and for the right reasons. 

Drawdown reduces WAARNG by 860

By Lt. Col. Joseph S. Jimenez

CAMP MURRAY, Wash. — The U.S. Department of Defense announced a proposal to inactivate units of the Washington Army National Guard in 1992 and 1993. This proposal would reduce the authorized personnel strength of the Army Guard by about 860 positions, or 11 percent during the next two years.

The list, which identified reserve units to be inactivated across the country, named units already known to state headquarters officials at Camp Murray. Personnel in state Army Guard units on the list were notified of the possibility of elimination.

The following units, with their hometown and authorized personnel strength, are proposed for inactivation.

In 1992:

- Hq. Det., 248th Transportation Battalion, Montesano, 58 authorized.

In 1993:

- 1161st Transportation Company, Ephrata, 136 authorized;
- 1st Battalion, 803rd Armor, Everett, 601 authorized;
- 541st Personnel Service Company, Camp Murray, 58 authorized;
- 1444th Transportation Detachment, Tacoma, 7 authorized.

The 248th Transportation Battalion will be inactivated by September. The final decision for the 1993 units is subject to Congressional approval with the FY 1993 defense department budget.

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Cover photo: Field navigation is a must to this backwards drug lab bust. (Photo by Sgt. Bill Gregersen-Morash)

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The British are coming! The British are here—training

Story and photos by Sgt. Rich Bartell

TACOMA, Wash. — In the crisp pre-dawn air, British troopers sporting hefty rucks with full field kit, silently boarded the Washington Army National Guard's LSV, the *Gen. Brehon B. Somervell*.

For soldiers of the 1st Gloucestershire Regiment (1st Glosters), working in concert with Washington Army National Guard, U.S. Army and Army Reserve units, it was the beginning of the end after a grueling week-long field training exercise.

Following a three-hour cruise, the 400 British formed into company elements and boarded the 144th Transportation Company LCMs (mike boats). Brit troopers flung themselves into a World War II style beachhead assault on Solo Point.

The beachhead was secured, watched over by .50-caliber machine gunners on the Guard mike boats. CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the Army Reserve's 6th Battalion, 158th Combat Aviation Regiment, scooped up the troops and moved to another training area for the remainder of the training exercise.

In an allied mission under the direction of the watchful eyes of 1st Glosters' Sgt. Maj. Tony Dixon, the Army Reserve's Chinooks delicately lifted two 105-millimeter Light Gun and two sling loads of ammunition from the deck of the *Somervell*. It was a mission that had never been attempted before — and one that was not without risk.

"This was a tough sling load with the field guns. Add the movement and the high sides of the ship, the winds, and the length of the guns together and there's not much room for error," said Sgt. 1st Class John Jensen of the Army Reserve.

Two attempts were made with one of the field guns.

The stocky 35-year-old Dixon is the operations officer for the 1st Glosters. Working with Chinooks is old hat to this Brit.

"I've worked with CH-47, CH-53s and the Anglo-French Puma helicopter," Dixon said.

Tabbing with the TAs

"Tabbing" (British trooper slang for traveling or hiking) along with the regular forces was a platoon from the Territorial Army (TA), the British equivalent of the National Guard.

These men of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, Wessex are undistinguishable

from their regular Army counterparts. They carry exactly the same equipment, wear the same uniform, and fire the same bullpup SA-80 as the regulars — all of it top quality and high tech.

According to Lt. Martin Arkell, Territorial Army units augment regular Army units on many of their overseas deployments.

Lt. Frank Moran commands the 25 TA



British troops, supported by the Guard, load aboard a LCM for their Solo Point assault.

with the Guard

infantrymen from C Company, 1st Battalion, Wessex. He said training in Washington state was rigorous.

"We've averaged about two to three hours sleep a night. And last night the lads only got about one hour," Moran said.

Moran said many of his men had regular Army experience.

"Upwards of 40 percent of my men have been in the regular Army. My platoon sergeant was in (the regular Army) for more than 13 years," Moran said.

Soldier's experience talks

Indeed, Staff Sgt. Bernie Homer typified a tough top sergeant. With more than 18 years combined service, Homer has seen many postings in many countries. His 13 years in the regular Army were spent with the 1st Gloucestershire Regi-

ment.

"What your average TA lacks in experience, he more than makes up for in enthusiasm," Homer said.

A 15-year veteran of the regular Army, Dixon has been an adviser to TA units.

"The TAs with our unit today are really very keen. They fit in quite nicely with our lads," Dixon said.

Grabbing shut-eye when they could, true to the infantryman code of "catch as catch can," many of the Brit troopers bedded down on the *Somervell's* deck for catnaps in their camouflage Gortex sleeping bags.

"The training we've done here can be done in the U.K. The weather in the high desert of Yakima was especially diverse and a good experience. Weatherwise, it can be as bad in the U.K., but it generally isn't. We had rain, snow, and sun so hot that we were sweating terribly.

"There was a certain novelty to being

in the high desert and near an Indian reservation," Moran said.

The United Kingdom's Territorial Army shares many similarities with the American National Guard.

Cpl. Phil Shinton, 28, veteran of the Falklands War and a TA with more than seven years regular Army experience, says he's overcome his prejudice of the Territorials.

Of stabs and no goods

"When I was with the regulars, we called them "STABS," which stands for stupid TA bastards. Since joining them, I realized they're not at all stupid. They've really got a hard job, and for the amount of training they get, they're really very good," the ruddy-cheeked Shinton said.

Unlike their U.S. counterparts, the TAs can elect to show up for weekend drills or not. They have a choice of one of two

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Pvt. Phil Bellamy of C Company, 1st Battalion, Wessex Territorial Army touches up his "make-up" for the exercise.



A pair of '1st Glosters' relax before the exercise action begins again.



The British

Continued from page 5

weekends per month.

"Not everybody turns up. On one weekend you'll have 10 of 120 men in a company turn up, then the next weekend all 120. If you show up, they pay you, if not, they don't," Shinton said.

Additionally, there are elective two-hour weeknight drills which TAs have the option of attending.

Much like the National Guard KPUP program, TAs have the ability to take tours with the active components.

"A TA can put in for overseas duty with the regulars. If you're lucky, you're picked. We routinely work in Denmark and Germany. My unit has also been in Belize," Moran said.

The 1st Gloster returned to the U.K. in the latter part of March. ■■■



Rolling with the waves aboard Guard watercraft put the stomachs of these British soldiers 'out of focus' and brought seasickness into focus for some 'lads.'

Det. 1 controls riot in mock exercise

Story and photo

by Capt. Jeffery L. Stidham

SPOKANE, Wash. — The National Guard is tasked for many missions, from the historical one of national defense, to fighting the drug wars, or supporting disaster and relief operations.

One of the oldest and more sensitive is that of civil disturbance. This year, Detachment 1,

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Infantry Brigade (M) was assigned the mission of reacting to civil disturbance incidents statewide, and dedicated a weekend of training for this mission. The detachment's military police and chemical decontamination platoons took part in the training.

The training weekend began with briefings on the legal aspects of civil disturbance

and instruction on civil disturbance tactics, with special emphasis on individual bayonet training. However, the objective was to prepare the detachment for crowd control and facilities security.

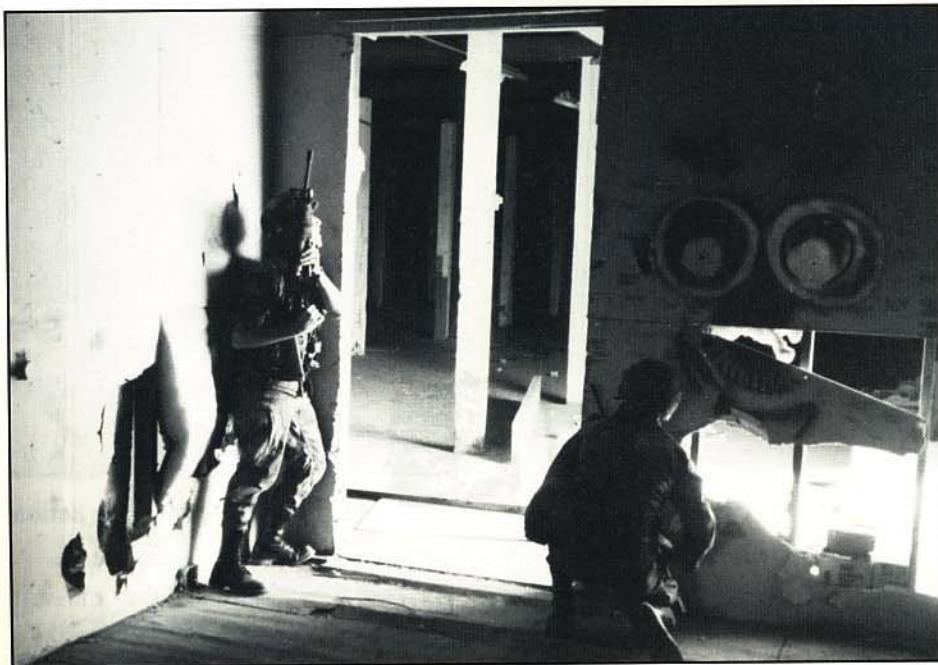
Facilities security training focused on clearing buildings of unauthorized personnel and protecting against further intrusion. Instruction on movement techniques, cover and concealment, clearance patterns, and hostile identification techniques were all part of the integrated training.

The drill weekend was brought to a close with the chance for all participants to put everything they had learned into action. A simulated riot exercise was conducted at a nearby warehouse in an isolated area, free of equipment or stored items, which made for an ideal setting.

The scenario: Detachment 1 was mobilized to the site, with the understanding that the local government had requested Guard support to secure against any physical intrusion of the warehouse by a known violent protest group.

By the time the detachment arrived, the protesters had already infiltrated the warehouse, so into action they went. The detachment of newly trained Guardsmen quickly assembled and moved swiftly to control and secure the protesters.

Sgts. 1st Class Mark Skeman and Douglas Silver were instrumental in coordinating the training; both have a vast background in law enforcement. ■■■



The soldiers of Detachment 1 clear a warehouse occupied by "protestors" during riot control training.

Cannoneers launch first-ever 'rodeo' competition

Story and photos

by Sgt. Richard J. Rabe

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — At Wild West rodeos, fans get to scream and holler for their favorite cowboy clown, bucking Brahma bull or bronco buster.

But the cheering waited until after the last challenge was met at the "Cannoneers Rodeo," a field training exercise (FTX), conducted by 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery. You see, pinpointing a 155-millimeter diameter bullet onto its target a few miles away is never simple.

As soldiers of the 2-146th found out in February, the many tasks needed to accomplish their mission can be complicated, involving thousands of computations and a communication network almost rivaling the television setup for a Super Bowl game.

As just one link in the chain of events it takes to get that 94-pound Howitzer round down range, Spc. Leroy T. Peoples worked from his mobile, computerized radar station called "Q36." (Q36 has replaced the older "Q4" system, Peoples said.) "Before the Q4 system was phased out," Peoples said, "we had to look at the



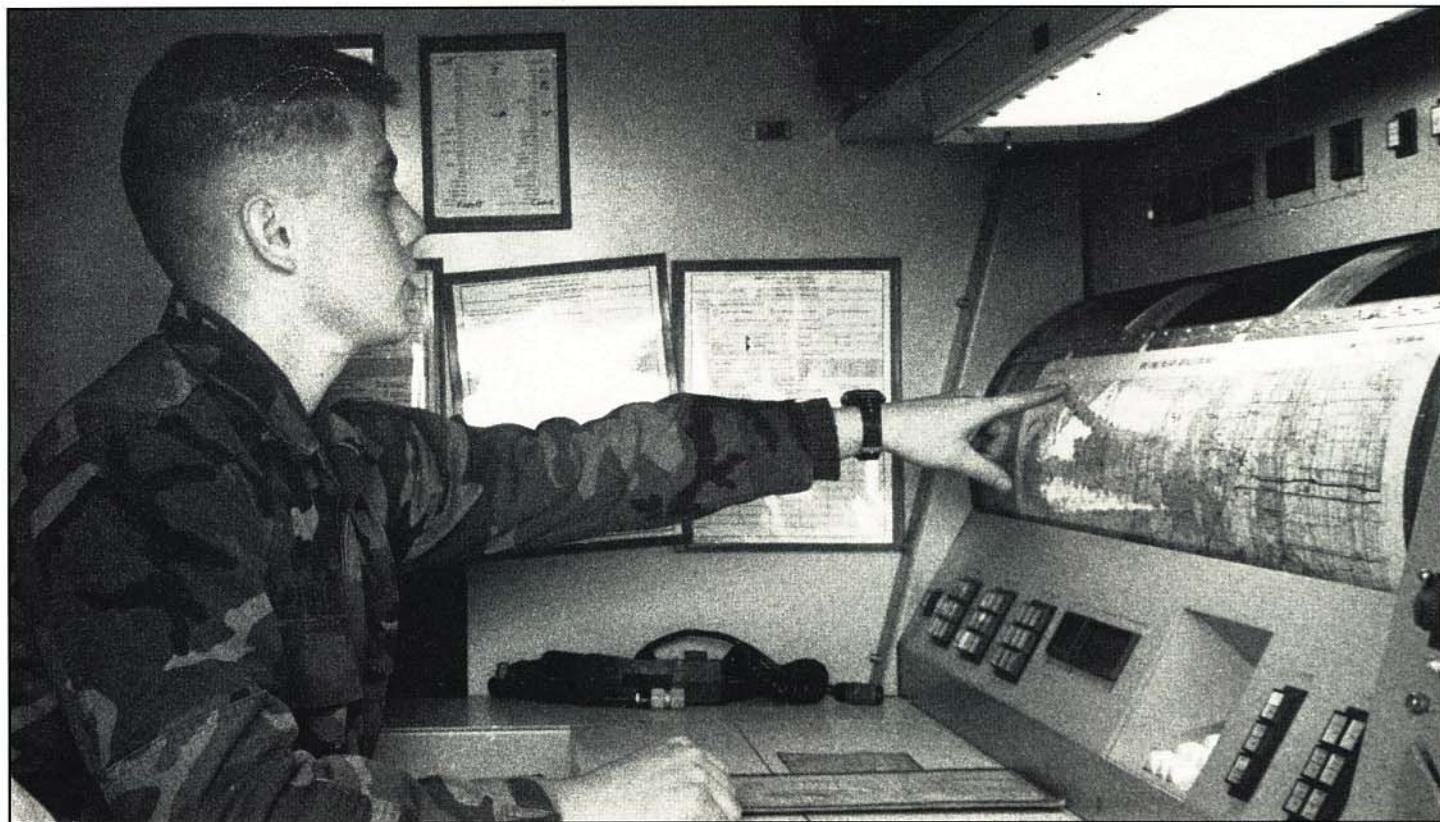
The science of moving from point A to B is sped up by the precision of the M-2 compass.

impact with a limited track coverage and plotting table. It was just much more time consuming."

Calculating trajectories, windages and dozens of other important pieces of data,

Peoples plots the flight of a Howitzer round to within 10 meters of an intended point on his "map."

"This new system is so fast," Peoples
See Cannoneer rodeo page 8



Spc. Leroy T. Peoples uses the Q36 computerized radar system to help pinpoint targets for artillery gunners.



Cannoneer rodeo

Continued from page 7

said in awe of the technology, "that we can track an outbound shell and plot the impact point with much greater accuracy than ever before."

"We're trying to make the training more challenging, more performance oriented," said Maj. Craig S. King, commander of the 2-146th. "We either work at reinforcing our soldiers' skills or try to identify deficiencies and then improve those areas."

Surveyors, a meteorological section, forward observers, radar experts, communications experts, and people from the fire direction center, as well as the cannoneers themselves, must all be coordinated into a cohesive team in order to put the mega-bullet on target.

King explained the importance of radar in target acquisition, making note of how operators sense rounds in flight by sending an electronic signal and "backplotting" the locations of enemy artillery, or even his own "big guns."

"We're trying to make the training more challenging, more performance oriented."

Slogging around in the khaki-tan, foot-tall grass and soggy-sandy soil of Fort Lewis, Sgt. 1st Class Michael D. Pikey of A Battery explained how advanced teaching of artillery skills became a challenge requiring imagination, creativity and planning.

"We had to make it interesting," Pikey said, "because it wouldn't do any good to keep training on tasks over and over again. There's always the problem of soldiers forgetting certain details between drills. The competition keeps things fresh and gives them a chance to excel."

With the help of Staff Sgt. Kenneth J. Miller, also of A Battery; Sgt. 1st Class Donald E. Larson, Sgt. 1st Class John L. Morgan of B Battery; and Sgt. 1st Class John E. Feller and Staff Sgt. Patrick Froslie of C Battery, Pikey designed the four-event rodeo for the 155-millimeter Howitzer cannoneers (MOS 13B), the first such rodeo of its kind.

Starting with grid coordinates, an M-2 lensatic compass and the will to succeed, nearly 600 members of the battalion were divided into teams of six or seven, beating paths from test station to test station, honing skills and refreshing memories.



Even in full anti-chemical MOPP suits, those 94-lb. Howitzer shells still have to be hoisted by hand into their 155-mm barrel.

Rotating at three-hour intervals, soldiers stopped at tents where tests were given and at practice points where various pieces of equipment awaited their arrival.

"I'm just going to move on and hope for the best at the next station."

The four tests included land navigation/situation skills; a written book drill to test ability to find citations in training manuals or regulations; a timed test of gunnery skills; and a test of Basic Issue Items/Additional Authorized Load (BII) / (AAL) identification capabilities.

BII includes axes, shovels, picks, a panoramic telescope, etc.; while AAL consists of items for special environments like sub-zero Alaska.

Pikey played tour guide while describing the land navigation situation course consisting of six half-hour blocks. Soldier's Common Task Testing (CTT) was conducted for such skills as reaction to chemical agents in MOPP suits and decontamination practice and casualty treatment and first aid.

More MOS unique tests, like assembling, testing and making gun display units (GDUs) work, stretched many soldiers to the point of frustration. "I'm just going to move on and hope for the best at the next station," said one tired gunner. [A GDU is like a receiver for digital messages, connected to the Battery Computer System (BCS)].

Should the BCS falter, a space-age, hand-held, calculator-like computer would take over the BCS's job. Called the Back Up Computer System (BUCS), this tiny dynamo is capable of handling even the most demanding missions, only slightly slower than BCS.

Of course, even getting to the outhouse or refreshment dispensing areas called for skillful land navigation techniques. In the artillery, a soldier has to EARN a coffee break.

Grading for timeliness in arriving at each station was only the beginning. Leadership; teamwork; having on hand the proper training manuals, tools and equipment; safety; completion of tasks; and knowledge of tasks were also critical elements in how teams fared.

The best section and best platoon were each recognized and commended for excellence in the competition.

From A Battery, the 2nd platoon took the best platoon award. Staff Sgt. Randle P. Jones of B Battery led his section to first place among all the gun sections. 



The Battle Computer System coordinates data from forward observers and from the radar and meteorological sections.



One gunner assists a "fallen buddy"; chemical warfare preparedness is another requirement for field artillery soldiers.

Gunnery on the high seas proves challenge to 144th

Story and photos by Sgt. Rich Bartell

PORT ANGELES, Wash. — Pitching and yawing, bobbing and weaving, up, down, and to the side, attempting to destroy an elusive, seemingly minuscule target in the Straits of Juan de Fuca—it ain't easy when you're on the water.

That's the way Ma Duece gunnery was for members of the 144th Transportation Battalion; and it's a landlubber's nightmare. The shooter is assailed by the motion of the sea, the shimmering reflection of Sol bouncing directly into unguarded eyes. For some shooters, dreaded seasickness couples with all of the above to make hitting the target all but impossible.

During .50-caliber gunnery on March 7, the LSV *Gen. Brehon G. Somervell* and several LCMs (mike boats) convoyed to a point off the coast of Vancouver Island, where the River Jordan spills into the salty strait. With almost 19,000 rounds to squeeze off, the officers and soldier-sailors of the 144th set up a seaborne firing range with more than enough ammunition to hone their .50-caliber marksmanship skills.

Chief Warrant Officer John McCoy was the officer in charge of the sparkling, waterborne range. The range opened when-

ever the sea lane traffic was not present.

The bow of the *Somervell* has mounts for two M2 Heavy Barrel Browning .50-caliber machine guns, starboard and port.

Targets were placed in the water. A flurry of activity took place at the bow gun mounts. Safety checks were performed.

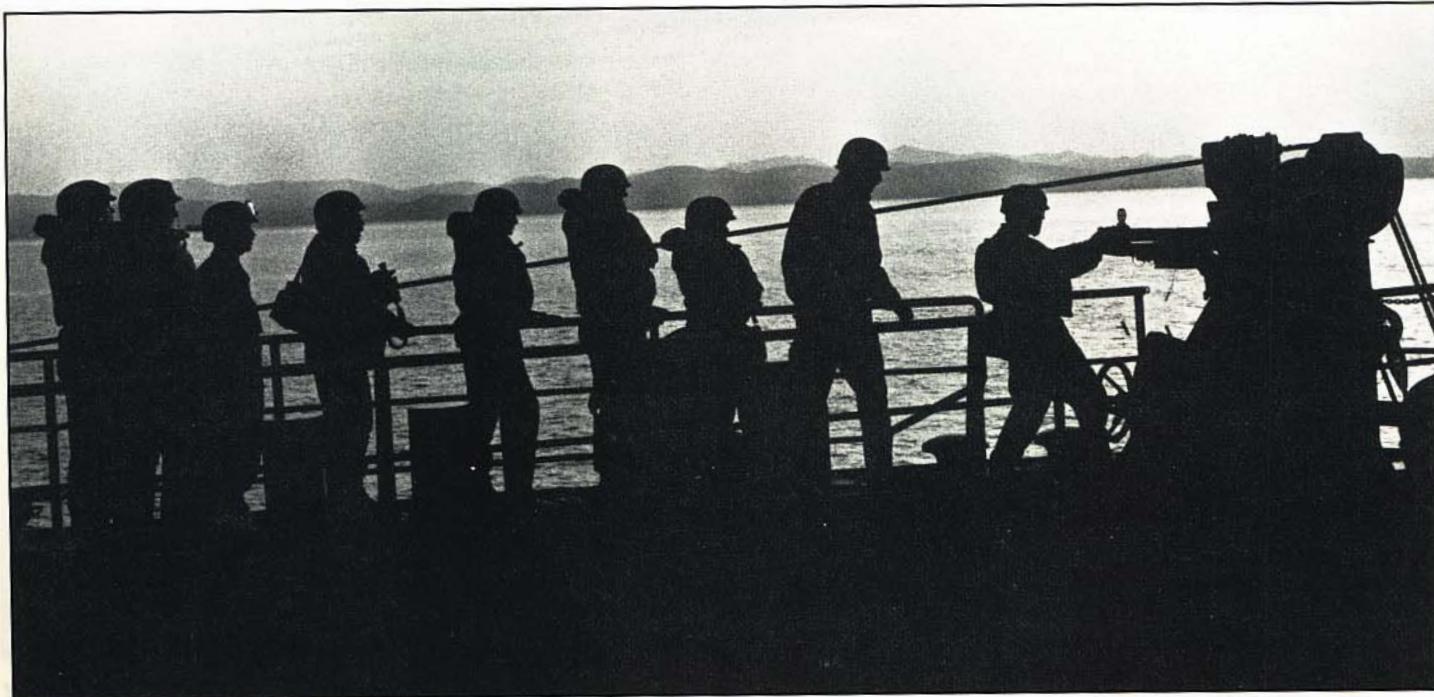
Mike boats came alongside the *Somervell* and fired when given the OK by range control.

There was a lot of waiting. Container ships, fishing boats, and log ships toiled by — all at a snail's pace. Even an attack submarine from Bangor sub base paused shortly three miles off the port side of the *Somervell* to check out the Washington Army National Guard's armada.

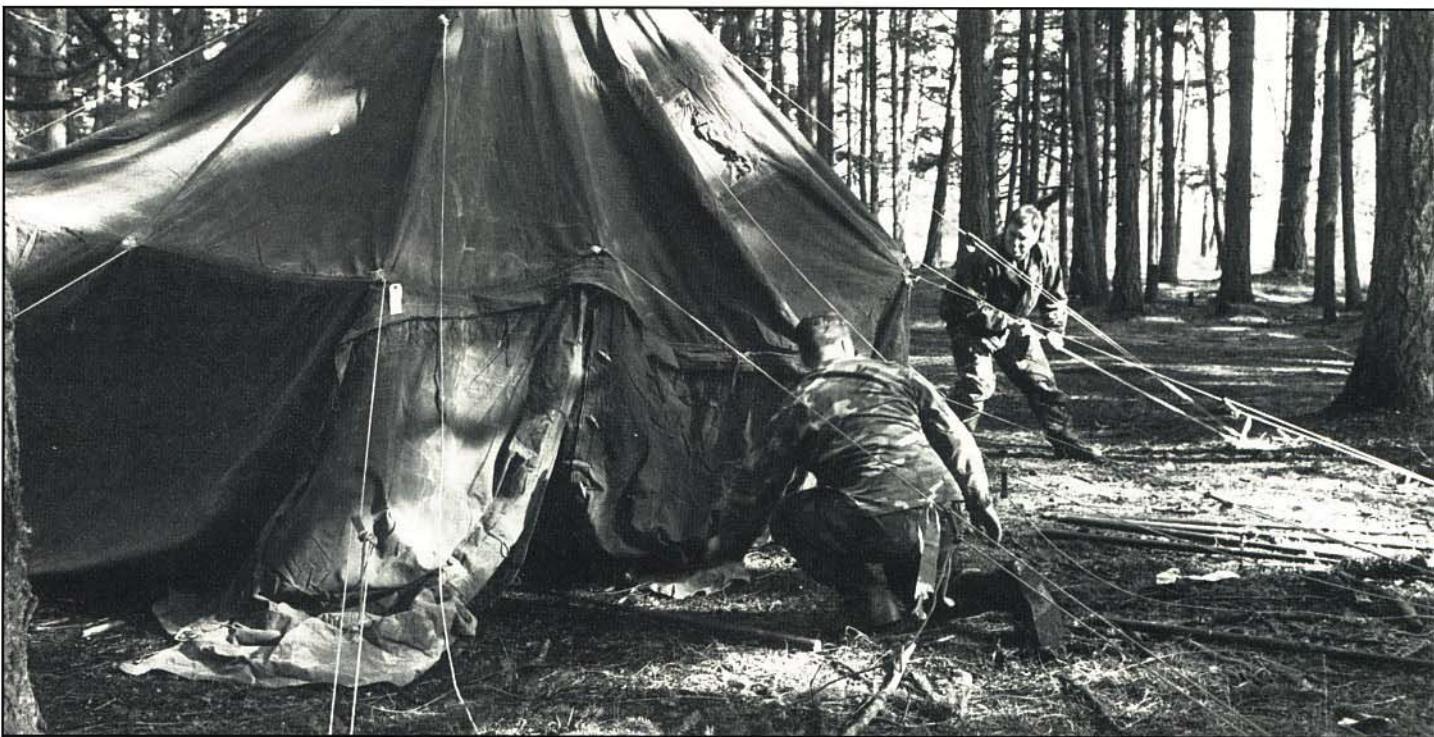
The shooting schedule was ambitious, but the sea lane traffic caused many delays; yet all aboard had an opportunity to put some rounds down range. 



With supervisors providing instruction, a 144th soldier takes aim with the .50-caliber machine gun at bobbing targets.



Onlookers observe the destruction of the floating targets while awaiting their turn at the gun.



Members of the 116th Support Center set up not only tents, but a defensive perimeter, fields of fire, booby traps and early warning devices, listening and observation posts to secure their rear area operations at Fort Lewis. (Photo by Spc. Cheryl A. Brauner)

Desert Storm lessons practiced in 116th's current field training at home station

By Sgt. Michael Kirchmann

CAMP MURRAY, Wash. — A year has passed since the United States and its allies blitzkrieged Baghdad's bad guys, forcing them out of Kuwait. Saddam's actions since then call into question the tyrant's ability to learn harsh lessons. Not so with soldiers of the 116th Support Center (Rear Area Operations). For them, the lessons of Desert Shield and Desert Storm have brought lasting, positive effects.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Brocious, the 116th's senior NCO during the Persian Gulf War, spoke openly of the effect of combat on his unit.

"Along came Desert Storm," Brocious declared, "and all of those years of training meant something more than a weekend drill check. Things really came together."

"We weren't in Saudi more than 10 hours before the area was hit with a SCUD missile attack," Brocious explained. "With that first attack there was a realization that this was no training exercise."

Realities of the combat environment began creating a mutually-supportive atti-

tude in the unit. Everybody needed everybody, Brocious noted.

Now victorious, and safely in the States, the 116th enjoys outstanding camaraderie and esprit de corps, according to Brocious. And despite a greater emphasis on field duty than in years past, the 116th attends to training with a serious attitude these days. Their field training exercise was held in March.

The purpose of the exercise, familiarization in setting up a base defense, was a common enough objective. But the dedicated effort, attention to detail and cooperative atmosphere indicated an uncommon degree of organizational maturity.

Programmed to be led by junior officers and NCOs, the exercise was a lesson in coordinated training. Each portion of the program was rehearsed, from the "walk through" on convoy reactions to air, ground, or chemical attack, to the deployment of troops to pre-selected sectors of the perimeter. Senior members of the Center observed and offered constructive feedback.

Under the direction of Staff Sgts. Rick

Coombs and Bob Bacon, recent graduates of the Basic NCO Course, fighting positions were evaluated, as were range cards for fields of fire. Booby traps and early warning devices were strung out, and observation and listening posts set up.

Aggressor activity was brought into play in the afternoon and into the night with probes against the perimeter.

Finally, while breaking camp the following day, the 116th was hit with a chemical attack forcing them to don masks and chemical suits prior to a quick retreat from the contaminated site.

The convoy ran a short distance before dismounting for a hasty defense and an equally hasty decontamination prior to returning to Camp Murray.

By-the-book training, attention to detail, flexibility and a professional attitude were hallmarks of the Center's field training according to Brocious. They were lessons learned in the sands of Saudi Arabia and practiced in the forests of Washington. 



DEA agents learn helicopter operations.

Guard counterdrug team

Story and photos
by Sgt. Bill Gregersen-Morash

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Deep in the woods of Fort Lewis, two agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration crouched down in the forest debris. Sweating and breathing heavily, they cursed the heat, the thick undergrowth, and the thought of never finding the compass marker they had set out to find.

Quickly scanning the terrain, one DEA agent took a compass reading. The other reluctantly pushed on through the mass of tangled bushes.

"This ain't the Boy Scouts," he muttered, wiping sweat from his face. "This is a pig." Plowing on, the agents zigzagged through the forest, unsure if they were heading in the right direction.

Scattered throughout the woods, other teams of DEA agents faced similar rough

terrain. Some fared better than others, finding their marks with relative ease. Others pressed forward and continued their search.

The lesson in land navigation through dense forest was one of many lessons learned during the two-day course conducted at Fort Lewis recently by the Washington National Guard's Counterdrug Mobile Response Team (MRT).

DEA agents came to study military skills such as helicopter operations, camouflage, silent movement in forest areas, land navigation, and survival.

This was the first time the MRT had offered such a course to a civilian agency. The highly trained, close-knit unit drew upon the skills of each of its members and put together a course tailor-made to the needs of an agency like the DEA.

Starting with the raw basics of map



DEA agents and MRT members use combat field tactics as they move in on a simulated drug lab.

teaches DEA off-road drug busting

reading and compass use, the program progressed through all the skills needed to complete the final task of taking down a drug lab set up by MRT instructors in a Fort Lewis training area.

Eight DEA agents from the Seattle area took part in the instruction. Some agents were specialists in busting marijuana growers and drug labs. Others worked mostly in fighting cocaine and heroine dealers. All were eager to gain as much as possible from the course.

"We need this kind of support from the military," said one agent. "This training will really help expand our operations into areas we sometimes find difficult to work in."

"The DEA does offer similar training," said an agent, "but our budget won't allow more than a few agents to attend at a time. Training as a group makes us a more effective team."

DEA agents said they are finding themselves more in need of skills in stealth, and land navigation.

"We went on an operation in Okanogan County a few months ago," said an agent. "We landed by helicopter, and then had to find the lab. It would have been easier if we were sharper on these skills."

The MRT tried to pull out all stops in designing the course. "We wanted to offer a program that truly tested the skills taught in the classroom," said an MRT instructor.



The lensatic compass was the primary navigation tool.

The final task on the second day put DEA agents to the test. Agents were assigned to conduct a raid on a suspected drug lab manned by MRT instructors.

Given only map coordinates on the lab's location, agents in helicopters hit a landing zone a few kilometers from the lab. Closely watched by MRT instructors, DEA agents used land navigation and silent movement techniques to close in on the lab.

MRT instructors posing as drug-makers littered the area around the lab with trip wires hooked to pyrotechnics.



A member of the MRT works with a DEA agent during a land navigation exercise.

"We're not here to make this an easy, successful raid," said an MRT instructor at the lab. "We want it as tough as possible on the agents."

Short of an actual gun battle, the raid had all the look and feel of the real thing. With screams of "Police, Police," agents pounced on the lab and quickly subdued the suspects. It was obvious the agents came to the course with a high level of skill and professionalism.

Still there was room for improvement, and the after-action critique brought out those areas of weakness. DEA agents agreed the daylight test put much greater pressure on them to use the skills taught in the course.

"Training federal and local law enforcement officers in military skills will likely increase as word gets around about what

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Stalking his prey, a drug enforcement agent cautiously moves in on the drug lab perimeter.

Guard counterdrug

Continued from page 13

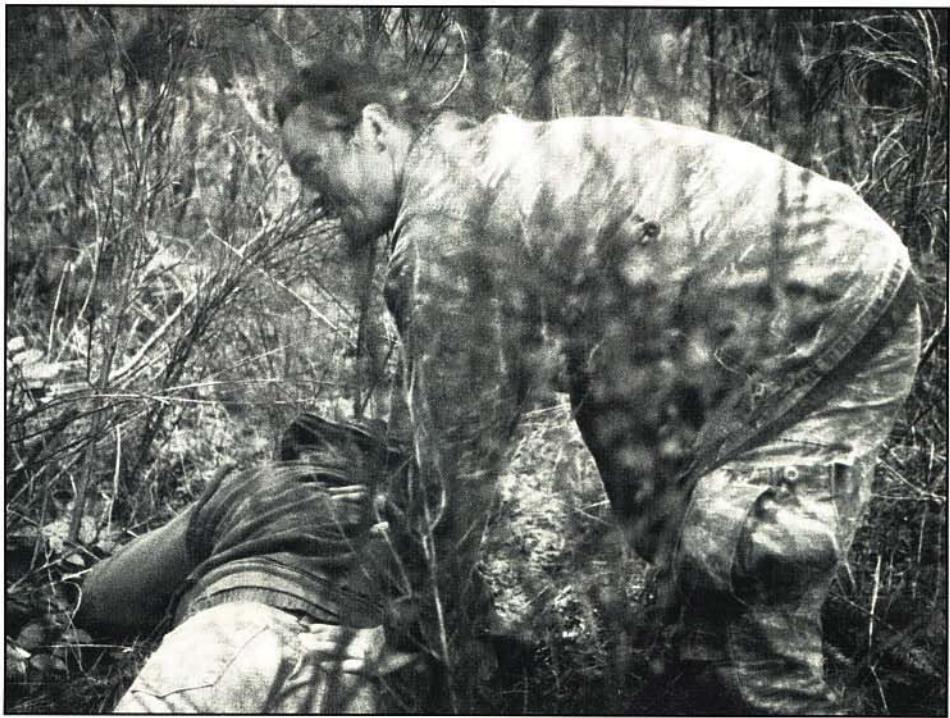
we have to offer," said an MRT instructor. "Sure we have some bugs to work out, but each time we run this course we'll improve. I think we learned as much from these DEA people as they did from us."

In addition to its training mission, the MRT continues to be directly involved in the fight against illegal drugs. Recently in Thurston County's Capital Forest, Guardsmen in camouflage waited in the woods for four days, maintaining close surveillance of a hidden marijuana field, waiting for the growers to show up.

"When they did, we radioed sheriff's deputies, who came in and made the arrest," said an MRT member. "We're making a dent out there."

The DEA agents readily agreed.

"We need the support of the military. They have the resources to really make a difference," said an agent. "Can you imagine what it would be like out there if nothing was done to fight these dealers?" 



Just one more little victory for the cause.



A drug enforcement agent hotly pursues a trafficker above the Nisqually Basin in a situational training exercise. The WAARNG Counterdrug Support Program's Mobile Response Team ended the training scenario with a realistic backwoods drug bust.



With gazes fixed on imagined enemies, Tacoma kids felt the controls of a UH-1H Huey helicopter.

Drug Demand Reduction

Guard seeks safety for kids

Story and photos

by Master Sgt. Doris Nelson

TACOMA, Wash. — At Tacoma's Downing Elementary School last month, kids were swarming all over a National Guard helicopter that had landed on their playground.

"Hey! What's going on here?"

The Washington National Guard's Demand Reduction Program was supporting the North End Council of Neighbors and Safe Streets Campaign by providing a UH-1H helicopter for the Pierce County Children's Safety Fair.

As kids became pilots and co-pilots and explored the helicopter, parents had the opportunity to visit and ask questions of Maj. Richard K. Watts, demand reduction officer, and Chief Warrant Officers, Karol Sowinski and John Utecht, aviators.

"The purpose of the fair was to raise the awareness in our youth of various public service organizations throughout the county that care about youth growing up in a healthy, safe and drug-free environment," said Watts.

"The Washington National Guard supports the 'War Against Drugs' on two fronts," Watts said.

The first is supporting law enforcement

agencies. The second is supporting community activities whose mission is drug prevention and demand reduction programs in the state.

"As a force-multiplier in providing assets, helping to coordinate activities and providing role models, we help in reducing the demand for drugs," said Watts.

As role models, National Guard members come from and are a part of every community in Washington.

Other organizations that supported the Children's Safety Fair were the Tacoma Police Department, the Tacoma Fire Department, Tacoma's D.A.R.E. program, Pierce County Search and Rescue, the Health Department of Pierce County, Mary Bridge Hospital Poison Control, Scouts and other community service organizations.

Information and demonstrations were presented in a fun, safe and healthy manner by trained professionals and volunteers.

Moe Wear, Safe Streets Campaign; and Leah Brown, North End Council of Neighbors, were instrumental in organizing the Children's Safety Fair.

They wanted to educate children and others about personal safety and expose



Firemen demonstrate a zip-line rescue to a heart-in-throat Tacoma youngster.

children to opportunities to become involved in healthy, drug-free alternatives to dangerous lifestyles such as gang affiliation and/or drug abuse.

"We wanted to emphasize that a healthy lifestyle can be fun," said Wear.

The Safety Fair was sponsored by a partnership of the North End Council of Neighbors, the Safe Streets Campaign, the Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma Council PTA, Metropolitan Park District, Tacoma Police Department and Gonyea Boys & Girls Club.

Children were eating free hot dogs, apples and other food donated by local organizations and finding out that a healthy lifestyle is not just smart, but fun too. 

164th MASH erects field hospital at Camp Shelby

By Lt. Col. Nancy A. Niles

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. — The 164th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH)

became the newest member to the Washington Army National Guard on Dec. 1, 1991.



Medics start temper tents setup at the beginning of the exercise.



Halfway through, the temper tents start to take shape.



The tents are up and ready to operate! (Army photos)

Initially designated as an Evacuation Hospital in 1989, the 164th was reconfigured as a MASH unit in 1990. With activation, the 164th was officially authorized as a 203-member surgical hospital.

The 164th's activation took place during their annual training at Camp Shelby, Miss. The unit was at Camp Shelby, one of five training sites that teach medical units how to assemble and use the Army's Deployable Medical System (DEPMEDS) equipment.

On the battlefield a MASH unit is located in the rear of a Division area. Except for battalion aid stations and medical clearing companies, the MASH hospital is the most forward health service provider in the combat zone.

While at the MASH hospital, patients are given primary emergency and surgical care and then evacuated to a Combat Support Hospital or Evacuation Hospital. By doctrine, a patient can be held only 72 hours while at the MASH.

During annual training, the unit was instructed in the use of DEPMEDS. DEPMEDS is the military's state of the art medical equipment which consists of rigid-walled tactical shelters called ISO units and temper tents.

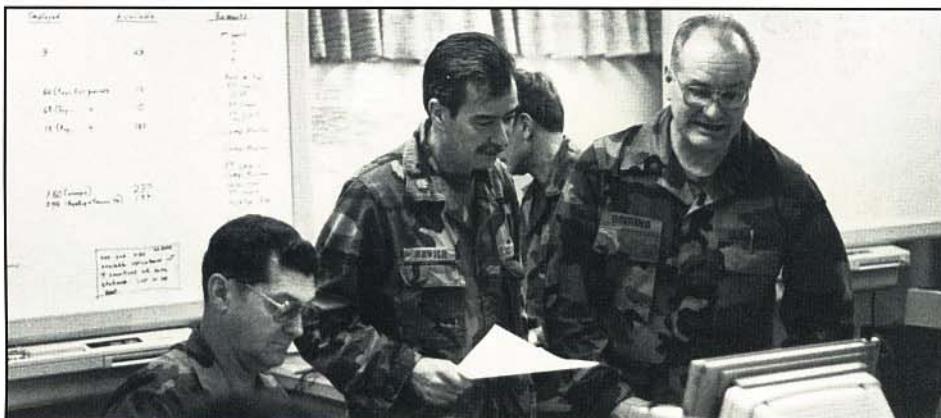
When erected, the ISO units make up the operating room, pharmacy, clinical laboratory, radiology, and central material services.

The emergency room, patient wards and intensive care units are housed in the temper tents. The ISO and temper tents are connected by vestibules, which allow for a controlled internal environment.

DEPMEDS is currently being used by all four service branches, since it allows for different hospital configurations depending on site location and terrain.

During the first week of annual training, the members of the 164th received instruction regarding transportation, setup and operation of the equipment. The 164th was then tasked to demonstrate the use of the DEPMEDS equipment to their instructors.

Additionally, the 164th participated in a mock-patient casualty exercise, which evaluated patient flow within the hospital. Like most annual training exercises, this one proved to be an effective way to tie all the field experiences together. 



The Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray swings into action against a mock major earthquake.

EOC: State nerve center during disasters

Story and photo
by Capt. Michael A. Nichols

CAMP MURRAY, Tacoma — A major earthquake hits Washington state. Communication systems go down, road networks are destroyed, electricity and water systems shut down. To meet the emergency the Washington National Guard is called into action.

These events did not really happen, but on Feb. 20, 1992, this was the scenario facing the members of the Washington Army National Guard's Emergency Op-

erations Center (EOC) during an exercise named Starcex 92-1.

Hidden in the basement of Building 1 at Camp Murray is a room filled with a vast selection of communications equipment, enough equipment to make the members of the Starship Enterprise green with envy.

Fully operational, the EOC is in constant communication with the Washington State Patrol, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Region 10), Weather Bu-

reau, National Guard Bureau, and 6th U.S. Army through the National Defense Warning System.

During a national or state emergency the EOC becomes the nerve center for National Guard activity within the state. Notification of the imminent use of the National Guard is received from the Emergency Management Division, state of Washington. After notification, the chief of staff, Washington Army National Guard calls the EOC into action.

Representatives of all the major STARC directorates—personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, and civil affairs—make up the EOC. Fully activated, the EOC has the ability to operate on a 24-hour basis during the emergency to direct the efforts of the National Guard.

A total of 39 service members participated in Starcex 92-1, including members of the Washington State Guard, Washington Air National Guard, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Army Reserve. During the five-day exercise, EOC members were given seven weeks' worth of problems to deal with. In addition to the earthquake, the EOC dealt with matters of civil unrest and acts of terrorism in its simulated play.

"As of March, we are still assessing the results of the exercise, and initial results are very positive," according to Col. Dale E. Newell, director of civil military operations. ■■■

State program seeks emergency managers

By Lt. Col. Joseph S. Jimenez

CAMP MURRAY, Wash. — A new statewide program will assign reservists to improve the emergency response and disaster recovery capabilities of Washington state communities.

The reservists are assigned to communities from the U.S. defense department's individual mobilization augmentee program, known as IMA, by the state military department. They would support the crises management capability of the state and local governments. The IMA program, assigns military reservists to augment the emergency management staff of local governments.

The state military department, which administers and controls Washington Army and Air National Guard units, is responsible for managing Washington's IMA program. IMA reservists in the program are

not members of the National Guard.

"Local communities need the military skills and experience these people can bring to the emergency planners and managers," said John Vollmer, civil support manager for the military department.

Vollmer said reservists in the senior ranks sometimes have difficulty finding vacant positions in reserve units, especially in communities without a nearby unit.

Vollmer added, "For the reservists, this gives them the opportunity to continue in their military career and make a valuable contribution to their community's emergency preparedness."

According to Vollmer, the military department has 19 of the 27 positions currently vacant. Members of the Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, who are in the senior officer and

enlisted ranks are encouraged to apply for these positions.

Current members of the National Guard, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve, retired and active-duty military personnel are not eligible for the positions.

The assigned IMAs will perform their monthly and annual training periods by working directly for the local emergency managers.

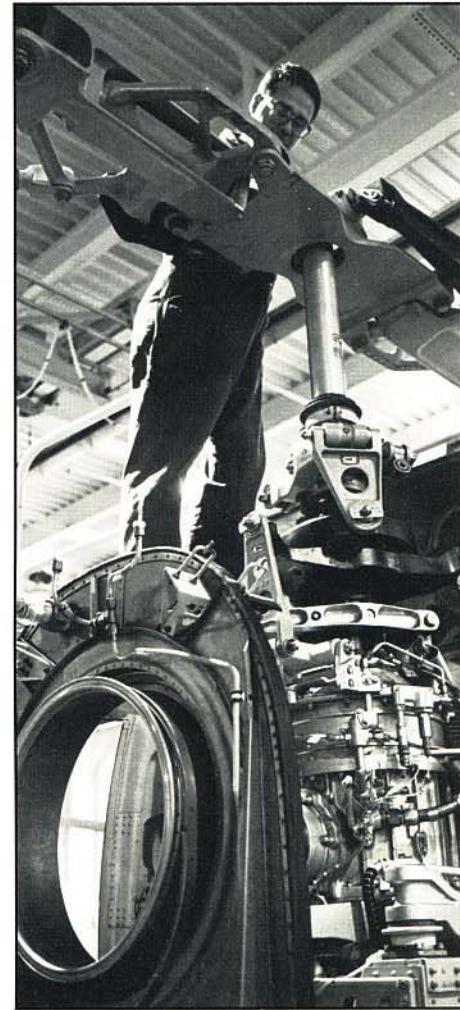
In the event of a full national mobilization, the military assignment of the IMA would remain with the community and would not be subject for assignment to a military unit.

IMA salaries are paid by the U.S. departments of defense and transportation.

People interested in the program and vacant positions should contact John Vollmer, Washington state military department, at (206) 581-8976. ■■■



Inspecting the engine is Staff Sgt. John Simpers' job both as an aircraft maintenance supervisor and as a Cobra crew chief.



Readyng for flight

Story and photos

by Staff Sgt. Raylund Lee Pryor

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — "There's no place to pull over in the sky," says Staff Sgt. John Simpers. "So you want to check everything before takeoff."

Simpers wears two hats for the Washington National Guard. As a full-time technician, he is an aircraft mechanic supervisor. During drills and annual training, he serves as a crew chief.

"Crew chiefs and the maintenance folks are extremely important in the whole of flying," Simpers said. "But their jobs are very different."

Crew chiefs usually have some maintenance experience and are responsible for inspections on a daily basis.

"The crew chief makes sure the aircraft is ready for flight," said Simpers, who works primarily on the Cobra (AH-1 attack helicopter). "We look at the engine, the transmission, check fluid levels,

and look for loose hardware. We check for loose bearings and make sure all the safety devices are secure."

Maintenance crews are responsible for intermediate level maintenance, explained Simpers. "In the maintenance shop, we do just about everything which can be done to the aircraft, except a full tear down and rebuild — that's depot level maintenance."

Besides turning wrenches, and getting greasy, Simpers says there is a lot of pa-



Sgt. 1st Class Craig Bonnell performs maintenance on the AH-1 fuel system.

Staff Sgt. John Simpers works on the rotor of an AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter.

perwork involved, as a crew chief or as a maintenance supervisor.

"Probably close to half, if not more, of what we do is paper work," said Simpers. "Everything we do has to be documented. Safety is extremely important."

"Everything we do has to be done by the book," said Simpers. "Just like when the pilot does his pre-flight with a checklist in front of him, we have checklists for all of our procedures."

The Washington Army National Guard's 66th Aviation Brigade presently has UH-1 Hueys, OH-58 Kiowas and the AH-1 Cobras.

Each flying company averages about 20 crew chiefs and 25 maintenance people, according to Simpers.

"Each unit has its own crew chiefs and maintenance section," said Simpers. "Our duties are similar, except Cobra crew chiefs don't get to fly much."

66th orients itself to future in Japan

By Sgt. Michael Kirchmann

HOKKAIDO, Japan — East is east and west is west, and never the twain shall meet? Not necessarily. For one National Guard unit meetings with the East have become a productive yearly event.

As a key player in Japan's oldest and largest bilateral military training exercise, "Yama Sakura" (Japanese for "Mountain Cherry Blossom"), the Washington Army National Guard's 66th Aviation Brigade has met with Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force since 1988.

The result has been enhanced interoperability for the defense of Japan, and a growing respect for the 66th, the U.S. Army's only Reserve Component aviation brigade.

One of three U.S. Army maneuver brigades during this year's war-gaming, the battle-simulation command post exercise was conducted with Japan's Northern Army at Hokkaido, Japan from Jan. 20 to Feb. 2, 1992.

The North Fort Lewis-based 66th, commanding subordinate elements in Washington, Utah and Mississippi, pulled in 101 Guardsmen for the exercise. Brigade elements in Utah and Mississippi called up the majority of the participants, from subordinate units in 10 separate states. Geographic dispersion aside, the exercise was a total brigade effort.

Maj. Jim Wright, the brigade's operations officer, explained the unit's history of increased participation in Yama Sakura. "The 66th's been involved since 1989, and prior to that, in '88, was represented by one of our subordinate units," he said.

"The 9th Corps (U.S. Army) in Japan, basically has to draw from the I Corps force structure for their contingency plans," Wright said. The Fort Lewis-based Headquarters, I Corps, in turn, tasks the 66th, which is an I Corps Reserve Component asset.

At that, U.S. military activity is of short duration when compared to the involvement of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF).

"The Japanese were running the exercise two or three months before we got there," said Staff Sgt. Rhonda Rainwater, training NCO for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 66th Aviation Brigade. "They continued after we left," she added. "For the Japanese it's pretty much a six-month exercise."



Chief Warrant Officer Terry Davidson, a forward controller during Yama Sakura, moves forces as opposing force players look on. (Photo by Capt. Greg Waters, Idaho Army National Guard)

Rainwater, recalling her first attendance at Yama Sakura, served as the Army's air space command and control section sergeant.

"It was my job to coordinate air space for missions, to ensure there was no conflict with friendly forces," Rainwater noted.

Coordination with Japanese forces is a primary focus of the exercise, Wright explained.

"The Japanese are very receptive to exchanging doctrinal ideas with the U.S. Army and promoting a joint understanding of each other's organization," he said. "They are keenly interested in how our attack helicopters integrate with other combat arms."

Effective use of our attack helicopters is naturally of interest to the Japanese forces. They fly American-made Cobra gunships.

The primary exercise for developing the defense of Japan, Yama Sakura is a matter of serious concern to the GSDF, Rainwater related.

"They take the training seriously, and we've learned from them," Rainwater stated. "They are very task-oriented. The Japanese soldiers sit at their work stations and wait patiently for the next activity. No one has to go and find someone who's slipped out for a cup of coffee or off walking around," she said.

Rainwater noted that the focused behavior of GSDF soldiers so impressed 66th staffers that the Brigade has since adopted the procedures as standard policy.

According to Wright, development of each year's exercise is planned far in ad-

vance of the event. Next year's scenario will be developed during a conference in May of this year, he said.

Working out the details and logistics for a trans-world, multi-force and multi-national exercise demands careful advance planning. But in a world of swiftly-changing politics, threat realities develop or disintegrate with a suddenness difficult to foresee.

The breakdown of the Soviet bloc, historically Japan's primary threat, had no effect on the pre-planned scenario this year. It may next year, Wright surmised.

Desert Storm, in '91, impacted the exercise in an unpredictable manner, too. The 66th's four advance party representatives, already in Japan, found themselves conducting the brigade's entire play after deployment was halted just two days prior to scheduled departure. Since continuity is a basic element to Yama Sakura, the 66th's credibility soared.

Every year the "battle" picks up where it left off the year before. Through the years, participants have "walked through" various steps in the exercise from early defense to counter-offense, Wright related.

Additionally, the location of the exercise is switched every two years. For two years Yama Sakura is run with Japan's Northern Army at Hokkaido, and the next two with the North Eastern Army on the main island. All aspects of inter-operability are shared and adapted to Japan's total defense program.

Washington Guard units supporting
Continued on page 20



Japan

Continued from page 19

this year's exercise included the 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation (Attack); C Company, 1st Battalion 106th Aviation; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 540th Aviation Group (Attack); and the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion.

"The 341st people, two Japanese linguists, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Connors and Spc. Jason Cunningham, were invaluable," Wright insisted. "Our interaction with the Japanese was enormously enhanced due to their participation," he said.

Wright noted that the value of an interpreter was a lesson learned from the attendance of the 341st's Capt. Darrel Smart in the 1990 exercise. "This year the brigade gave up two slots to make room for interpreters," he said.

Of the 28 citizen-soldiers from Washington state, roughly 90 percent attended the exercise in other than annual training

status. Brigade staffers consider this an exemplary display of civilian employer support for National Guard activities.

Guard members engaged in Yama Sakura were given several opportunities to enjoy their off-duty time while in Japan. A cross-country skiing event was scheduled with Japanese military counterparts, as well as special tours. Another highlight offered was home visits to the residences of Japanese in the local military and civilian community.

A "mess hall exchange" was also encouraged wherein Japanese and American soldiers could sample one another's daily fare. Boiled eel, fried squid, and similar Japanese staples were available for exploratory American palates. And one can only wonder what the Japanese thought of the U.S. Army's "S.O.S."

Such cultural interaction, as much as the studied trade-off during military activities, exemplified the bilateral commitment of Yama Sakura, and the ongoing development of the 66th Aviation Brigade.

AH-64
Apache



Brigade's growth assured

By Sgt. Michael Kirchmann

NORTH FORT LEWIS, Wash. — With a nationwide force of 4,000 soldiers and a mix of 435 attack, lift, and utility helicopters, the 66th Aviation Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. H.G. "Bud" Stocking, boasts significant combat potential.

"I've heard it said," noted Maj. Jim Wright, the brigade's operations officer, "that we're the largest aviation brigade in the Army."

The 66th is certainly representative of the Total Force policy. "The brigade is primarily composed of National Guard units," Wright explained. "But we also have one U.S. Army Reserve assault battalion and Chinook company, and two active component Chinook companies."

The increased importance of the

brigade's annual action in Yama Sakura may well be reaping benefits for the unit's future. In an era of down-sizing and budget cuts, the 66th is scheduled for continued development.

"Between now and 1995 four of the brigade's battalions will be fielding the new AH-64 Apache (attack helicopter)," Wright said. "The 1-168th starts fielding the Apache in 1993."

"In Washington we'll eventually have 18 Apaches requiring 44 pilot positions. That's going to require 12 weeks of qualification training for the pilots," Wright continued.

The brigade's Chinook pilots are, likewise, upgrading. Their C-Model Chinooks are being converted to the D-Model, with greater lift capability.

LUCE: The saga

By Staff Sgt. Robert Rosenburgh

CAMP MURRAY, Wash. — It was a long journey for 1st Lt. Richard L. Luce, from a track and basketball star at Seattle's Queen Anne High School to a lonely grave in Northern Italy. Along the way, he became one of the 12 million Americans who battled for freedom in World War II.

His story began when he enlisted in the Washington Army National Guard on Sept. 13, 1938. Still a high-school student, Luce was assigned to A Battery, 146th Field Artillery. Within a month of graduation in August 1940, he was promoted to corporal.

Luce volunteered for flight school the next year, but to do so, he needed to apply for active duty. Ironically, he became a member of the regular Army on Nov. 7, 1941, exactly one month before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The odd result was that Luce's deployment to combat was delayed for over a year while his old unit, the 146th FA, shipped out of San Francisco on April 25, 1942.

Luce, now a staff sergeant, went to Williams Field, Ariz., and began the Airplane Pilots School at the United States Army Air Corps Training Center. Richard did well. He graduated with honors and was the first in his class to solo.

Before his next school, Luce went home to Seattle on Christmas furlough, where he met and married Elizabeth Gillespie. He and his new bride then moved to Colorado Springs, where Richard would attend Aerial Photo Reconnaissance training.

By March 5, 1943, he had again gradu-



1st Lt. Richard L. Luce and Elizabeth Gillespie married shortly before his call to arms.

of an unsung Washington hero of WWII

ated and wore the bars and wings of a first lieutenant flight officer. The war had caught up to him and his new unit, the 23rd Photo Recon Squadron, when they arrived in La Marsa, Tunis in July 1943.

Luce and the 15 pilots in his squadron went to work immediately, supplying valuable photo intelligence to allied units fighting the Germans in Europe. The aircraft they used was the Lockheed F-5, a hotrod version of the P-38 Lightning fighter.

The F-5 had a nose full of cameras instead of machine guns, resulting in lighter weight and higher speed that was vital, since his unarmed plane flew alone into enemy skies, snapping photos at 425 miles per hour.

He'd hug the ground to avoid detection and flak, then pop up to about 250 feet above the target area, cameras rolling. The F-5 carried from three to five cameras, based on the mission needs, including a shutterless continuous-strip camera for the low altitude missions.

The 23rd Photo leap-frogged across Europe as they followed the battles, finding targets for bombers and armies, then following up with damage assessment flights.

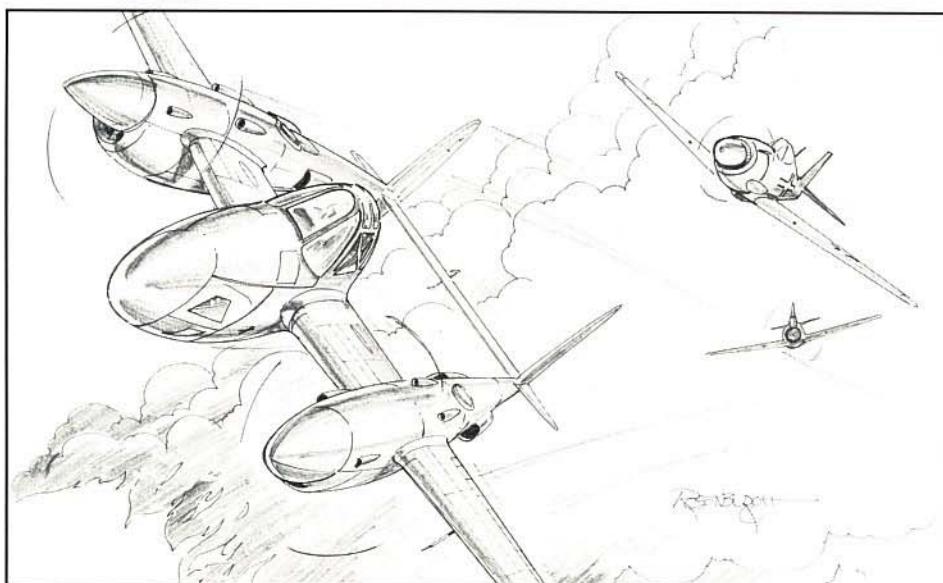
On one such flight, after a bombing raid on German oil refineries, Luce was jumped by a pair of Nazi fighter planes. Caught unaware and near the ground, he was at a disadvantage as the enemy pressed in on his aircraft.

In a burst of inspiration, he whipped into the huge clouds of smoke rising from the ground, then executed a tight "U"-turn inside the dark billows. The enemy dove straight in after him, but never saw him turn. Luce escaped in the opposite direction.

By July 1944, Luce and the 23rd had seen action in Africa, France, Germany and Italy. The squadron had earned a Distinguished Unit Citation and the French Croix-de-Guerre with Silver Star.

Luce had won four awards of the Air Medal. He had completed 54 missions by then, but his luck would not last. So hazardous was their duty that all but three of the original 15 were killed by war's end. Including, 1st Lt. Richard L. Luce.

He never returned from his 55th mission. Luce took off from San Severo, Italy on July 15, 1944 to make a low-altitude photo sweep of the eastern coast from Mimini to Serva. When his aircraft was 45 minutes overdue, a radio search for infor-



The enemy dove straight into the smoke bank after him, but never saw him make his U-turn. (Artwork by Staff Sgt. Robert Rosenburgh)



Lt. Luce posed against a prop of his F-5 Lightning in 1944. Later that year he was shot down while on a mission in the same aircraft.

mation began, followed by an air search from his squadron. After no results, Luce was listed as missing in action.

It was four months later that his family, grieving at his loss, received a telegram that said he was a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft III Prison Camp. What they couldn't know then was the fact that he already died of combat injuries, nearly a month after his capture.

Elizabeth Luce didn't know until April

1945, when a telegram from Washington, D.C., told her that the Red Cross had confirmed his death.

Richard Luce is at rest today in Senigallia Cemetery in Bari, Italy. His memory is still alive with Elizabeth, who lives in Palm Desert, California. 



Jeff Baltzell captured the Gold in the 10-km race. (Minnesota Army National Guard photo)

West Pointer

By Capt. Michael A. Nichols

WEST POINT, New York — Cadet Jacob A. Walker, a first-year student at the United States Military Academy, has ties to the Washington Army National Guard.

His mother is Maj. Colleen Kirkland, director of nursing education and training for the 164th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, and his stepfather is Maj. Dennis Kirkland, executive officer for the 164th.

Walker, a 1991 graduate of Rainier High School, Rainier, Washington, is continuing in a long family military tradition. His grandfather, retired Col. Ralph R. Moulton, served for 34 years, including a tour in Vietnam with the United States Air Force.

Walker was nominated for the military academy by Rep. Jolene Unsoeld from Washington state. While in high school, Walker not only excelled in academics, but was selected as student body president. He also was active in football, bas-

Biathletes earn Silver, Bronze team medals in Vermont

By Staff Sgt. Raylund Lee Pryor

JERICHO, Vt. — Five members of the Washington National Guard Biathlon Team earned Silver and Bronze medals at the 17th Annual National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships.

In their best year since the team was formed eight years ago, they captured a Silver medal in the overall combined team category and the Bronze in the Military Patrol race.

Chuck Bagley, Jeff Baltzell, Scott Jonas and Kevin Davis finished the 7.5 kilometer Military Patrol race in 59 minutes, 23.1 seconds, just under 20 seconds behind the second-place finisher and seven minutes behind the first-place team.

Individually, Baltzell captured the Gold in the 10-km men's race in 33:22. He placed fifth in the 20-km men's race with a finishing time of 1:12:39. Baltzell was also named to the All-Guard Biathlon Team for 1992-93 as the number-two biathlete.

Davis placed 21st overall as he finished both the 10- and 20-km races in 25th place. He turned in times of 42:06 and 1:24:56 respectively.

Jonas took 17th place overall by fin-

ishing 28th in the 10-km race and 18th in the 20-km race. His times were 42:23 and 1:19:06.

Bagley captured the Gold in the overall Combined Novice Men category with times of 44:11 and 1:27:21 for 35th in the 10-km and 33rd in the 20-km.

Kelly Carlu finished 34th overall with a 41st-place finish in the 10-km in 45:16 and a 42nd-place finish in the 20-km in 1:33:49.

Donna Roundy captured fourth place in the overall Combined Novice Women category as she finished 14th in the women's 7.5 km-race in 1:12:45 and 13th in the Women's 15 km race in 2:02:26.

Team coaches, Jerry Baltzell and Derrell Hilgers also earned honors as they were elected by their peers to serve on a race jury.

At the Biathlon Congress held the same week, Jerry Baltzell was elected by coaches representing the six-state Western Region to serve as their chairman and represent them on the National Guard Bureau Advisory Council for the next two years.

product of Guard family

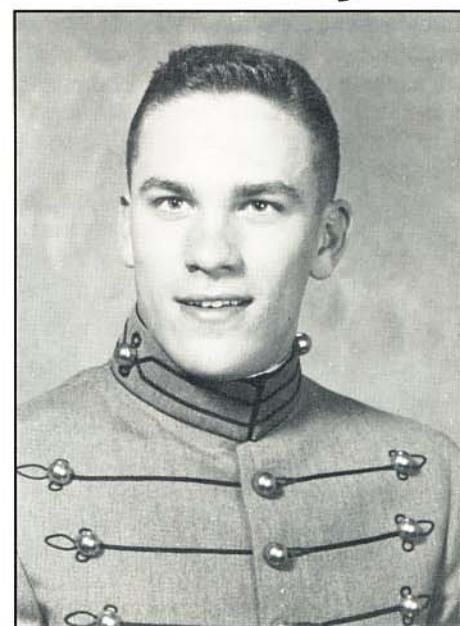
ketball and track.

During his first semester at West Point, Walker placed in the top 10 percent of his class. He was selected as the Best Fourth-Class Cadet during his first quarter.

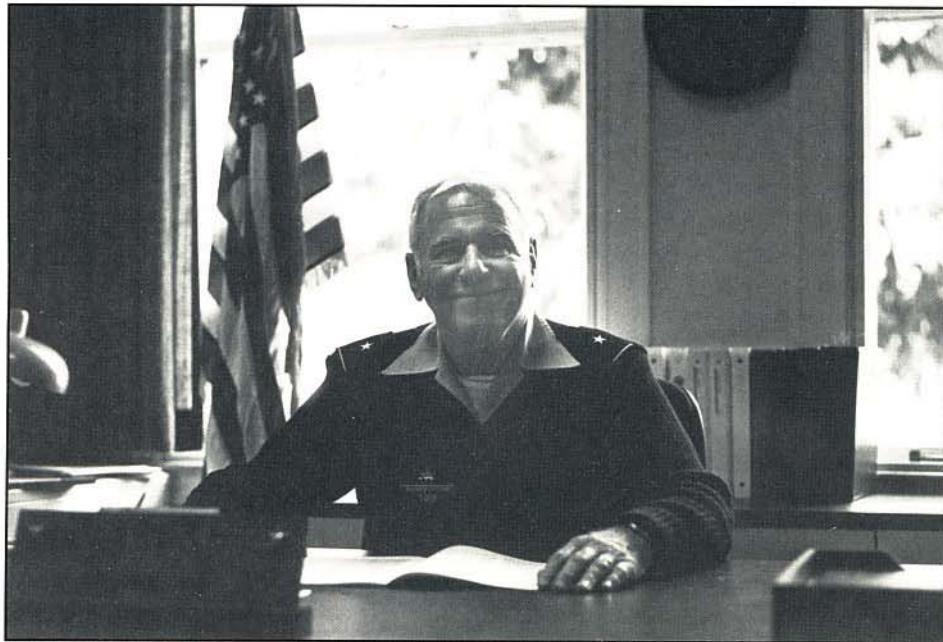
In addition to his studies, Walker participates in intramural football and basketball. On Sunday, Walker teaches Sunday school for children of West Point resident families at the Protestant chapel.

During March 17 - 22, 1992, Walker was selected as battalion commander for Plebe/Parent Week. As a battalion commander, Walker showed that he could handle leadership responsibilities. He also says that he looks forward to future leadership challenges.

When pressed for his plans for future leadership roles, Walker did not commit. "That's too far in the future," he said. "Like everybody else, I'm just taking it one day at a time."



West Point Cadet Jacob A. Walker



Brig. Gen. John A. York, Washington State Guard commander.

'Red tag special': Washington State Guard on standby

Story and photo

by Capt. Michael A. Nichols

CAMP MURRAY, Tacoma — If you have wandered down the halls of Building 1 at Camp Murray on a drill weekend, you may have seen them. Like many other soldier in the Army, they are dressed in class B uniform, complete with black military sweaters, olive drab pants, shined black shoes and red name tags. RED NAME TAGS?????

They are the Washington State Guard, made up of volunteers from around Washington state.

Authorized as the State Militia under Title 38, of the Revised Code of Washington, the State Guard is ready to fill in for the Washington Army National Guard whenever they are activated.

Members of the State Guard receive no pay, unless activated for State Active Duty by the governor. They must, however, meet the same standards set for all military members. This includes height and weight standards and military education. The State Guard offers its members educational opportunities through a pre-commissioning course, Warrant Officer Candidate Course, and an Infantry Officer Basic Course.

The Washington State Guard consists of eight units. These include the State Headquarters at Camp Murray; Brigade Headquarters in Seattle and Spokane; Battalion

Headquarters in Everett, Olympia, and Colville; and a Support Battalion Headquarters and Civil Affairs Headquarters at Camp Murray.

Currently they are only authorized to fill 105 of the 3,450 positions in the state. This allows for a small, elite cadre which will help train members during an activation phase.

Drawdown

Continued from page 2

"We understand the need to trim the defense spending and want to do our part," said Gov. Booth Gardner. "As we begin this process, however, I'll be watching closely to be sure that cuts don't hamper the Washington National Guard's ability to fulfill its duties."

The defense department selected Army Guard units for elimination based on the federal wartime mission of the units. The state mission of the Guard was not considered a factor in the selection of Guard units. However, within Washington and all other states, Guard units respond when called by the governor during local emergencies and disasters.

Guard units also support law enforce-

"It's not only patriotism," states Brig. Gen. John A. York, commander, Washington State Guard, "but a sense of belonging and contributing to the community, that motivates members to join the State Guard. We are actively looking for prior service members who want to set an example of civil responsibility through a total quality leadership program."

This year, a new role for the State Guard is Camp Minuteman. During the summer, members of the State Guard will hold a one-week camp, at Camp Murray, for 10-year-old and 11-year-old dependents of Washington National Guard members.

The camp will stress teamwork, citizenship, and provide positive role models from the community for the children. Campers will participate in various activities, games, crafts, swimming and field trips. The campers will be given a Camp Minuteman T-shirt, which will be worn throughout the session.

The cost of Camp Minuteman will be \$75.00. Held from July 26 through Aug. 1, the camp will be limited to 50 campers. Application forms are available through your unit.

During the recent call up of Army and Air National Guard troops for Desert Storm, the State Guard was there to offer family assistance to the dependents left behind. Family support is another one of the many roles the State Guard takes on.

In the true meaning of "Minutemen," members of the Washington State Guard strive to meet the example set by our forefathers when they laid down their plows to volunteer their services to their country.

ment agencies in the war on drugs. The Guard is currently supporting about 40 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in more than 50 locations in Washington.

At this time, the proposed reductions are not expected to have a significant impact on state emergency and counter-drug missions.

The Guard plans to retain as many soldiers as possible from units proposed for inactivation. However, Army Guard units in Washington currently have soldiers assigned in 91 percent of the authorized positions, or about 6,900 of 7,600 positions, and some soldiers may have to continue their military careers in other reserve components.

Washington Air National Guard units are not affected by the reserve component unit reductions.

Miss Understanding turns me off!

By Sgt. Richard J. Rabe

Words are important. Understanding them — perhaps more so.

What? Is that in doubt? Whoa there! Whoooo, varmint! Whooooooooa, I says.

What if we simply took everything literally. Suppose before we strode into a chow hall one blustery morning, we found a sign behind the kitchen reading "Edible garbage only"? We could end up packing home some highly disappointing victuals for 'ol Yeller. Or worse, for Granny.

And how would we get through the day if we didn't understand colloquialisms (sorry, this is an important word; so LOOK IT UP), clichés and metaphors? For instance, one wouldn't want to spend the rest of the afternoon searching the sidewalk for his or her "grey matter," just because someone else asked, "Are you out of your head?"

By the same failure in understanding, we might feel no pity for some fellow hospitalized in "critical" condition, imagining the patient full of malice and negativity toward his nurse or doctor.

Or, upon hearing the wisdom of a sage elder, some extraordinarily thirsty Pfc. might walk many miles in search of the proverbial "water under the bridge."

And hard-drinking 'ol Yeller would have a hard time explaining how three-(dog)-years-old is, technically, 21 legal dog-years for ID card purposes at the local tavern. (I have it on good authority that as "man's best friend," many a faithful pooch is recruited into being "man's best drinking buddy." Otherwise, where do those "A dog walks into a bar" jokes come from?)

Perhaps they quit calling it the "regular Army" because it sounded as if they were confused about the retention issue.

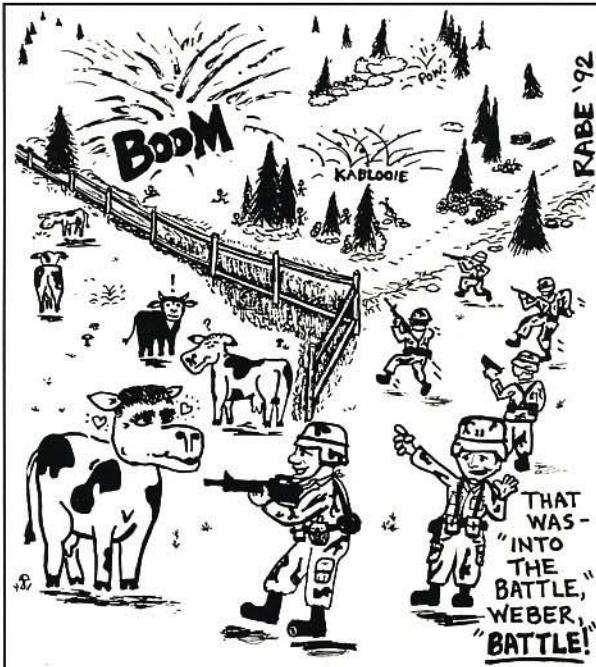
Why do they call the MRE a meal-ready-to-eat? Has anyone ever been truly **ready** to devour one of those belly bundles?

The 1991 Federal Income Tax Guide stated on page 81: "Illegal income, such as stolen or embezzled funds, must be included (really) in your gross income on line 22, Form 1040, or on Schedule C (Form 1040)." Right.

Of course we all encourage honesty among taxpayers, but who do they think is going to report stolen money?

Perhaps after writing the 272-page book, the stir-crazy folks at IRS Publications couldn't resist slipping one zinger in there, just for yuks.

Those wacky revenuers.



Standup killers

On the other hand, a little bit of literal interpretation could go a long way toward accomplishing our military mission.

Now, suppose we did everything in life just like we follow the directions on a box of instant pudding.

What if, for example, the field manual for using the M17A1 protective (gas) mask told us to howl like a banshee or to cluck like a chicken instead of yelling, "Gas! Gas! Gas!" What's the difference anyway? A signal by any other name... right?

It only makes sense. Chicken noises would blend in with a platoon of gasping guys and/or gals, flapping their arms as if unable to achieve flight far more naturally than a round of "Simon says." Indeed, the image might even cause a few casualties in enemy trenches.

Let's split their ribs. Comedy could be the perfect weapon. No rounds to expend, no cleaning the rifle barrel or firing pin. And no problems with rounds jammed in the chamber — unless somebody accidentally chokes on the proverbial rubber chicken.

Rendering medical treatment could really put the kibosh on enemy morale. Their corpsmen would have to start screaming, "Stop laughing you idiot! You'll never get better until you wipe that grin off your face! If you don't quit giggling, bub, I'm gonna have to show you some old videotapes of 'Three's Company'." Now that'd make anybody stop laughing.

Maybe we should re-instate the draft just to get Jerry Seinfeld, Rita Rudner, Jay Leno or Bill Cosby in uniform to "knock 'em dead." 

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