

# ***DEADEYE***

*U.S. Army 96th Regional Support Command Spring 2002*

## **Special Joint Task Force Log**

### **Reservists Arrive to Support Olympic Task Force**

Story and photo by  
Spc. Engels Tejada

While hundreds of military members are serving their country overseas as part of an ongoing war for justice, others are taking the chance to defend freedom in the homeland while participating in an event of a lifetime.

That is the case for more than 250 Army Reservists who arrived to Salt Lake City between January 2 and 7 to provide logistical support for nearly 5,500 service members participating in operation Joint Task Force Olympics (JTFO).

“I think that the way world affairs are going on right now, (homeland) security is very important,” said Staff Sgt. Devon Glover, 650<sup>th</sup> ASG material management non-commissioned officer in charge.



Reservists from the 96th RSC are in-processed at the Uchida Center. The soldiers will provide logistical support for JTFO.

“I think here in Salt Lake security will be crucial during the Olympics ... we are proud to serve in our own country,” said Glover.

Since the announcement of the Olympics coming to Salt Lake City, security has been a subject of much

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# Reservists Train with National Guard

STORY BY  
PFC. SARA VOGELSBURG

The relationship between the Army Reserve and National Guard could be compared to a high school or college rivalry. Jokes are made, phrases are coined and heaven help the person who dares to mistake one branch for the other. At times it can be difficult to overcome the stereotypes and prejudices just to work together.

During the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Games, all branches of the United States military were assigned together under Joint Task Force Olympics. Working closely were National Guard soldiers and the reservists of the 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command.

While the National Guard provided security at Olympic venues, 96<sup>th</sup> soldiers provided them with meals, transportation, housing, medical treatment, and other basic needs. Undoubtedly, there were guardsmen who thought the reservists had it easy or reservists who thought the guardsmen received all the glory.

However, in the West Jordan Logistical Support Area, soldiers put aside those prejudices and the results proved mutually beneficial for both groups. The reservists were able to help the guardsmen by providing soldiers to participate in training exercises. In turn, the training gave the reservists a chance to ride in a Black Hawk Helicopter, an opportunity that many reservists may not ordinarily have.

"They've integrated their need for training with our need for MWR [morale, welfare and recreation]," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brent Bosh, 395<sup>th</sup> Finance Co., non-commissioned officer in charge of the West Jordan LSA.

The West Jordan LSA housed National Guard medical evacuation crews selected for JTFO. Bosh was able to arrange for 96<sup>th</sup> soldiers to



Photo by Sgt. Annie Burrows

## **Sgt. 1st Class Brent Bosh discusses training missions with National Guard Air Ambulance Crew.**

participate in training exercises with the Black Hawk crews.

"You need to have troops that have experience," said National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Daniel Dawson, a medic with the 126<sup>th</sup> Medical Co. Air Ambulance, Mather, Ca. "By allowing reservists to work with the guardsmen, they become better soldiers because they see how everyone works together," he said.

After they are alerted of a situation, the medical evacuation team has 10 minutes to respond and get the helicopter off the ground. The crew of four flies up to 170 mph and can reach any Olympic venue in less than 15 minutes. They have to train for evacuations, mass casualties, and even night missions, said Dawson.

Instead of the sandbags the Air Ambulance crew might have used otherwise, the reservists served as the casualty victims for training exercises.

This made the training much more realistic for the guardsmen. "It's always more beneficial for the medic to have live human beings to train with," said Dawson.

For the training, soldiers playing the roles of casualty victims were dropped off at a point and the situation was called in to the 126<sup>th</sup>.

Each soldier was assigned a specific injury to make the training more realistic, said Bosh. When the Air Ambulance crew arrived, the medic had to evacuate and treat the casualties.

"It's a great experience," said Spc. Klark Cannon, a clerk with the 786<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co., at the West Jordan LSA. "I'd never have the opportunity to do it any other place."

While it is an enjoyable experience for reservists to fly in the Black Hawks, it is important training. "They (the crew) are very serious when they are on the bird," said Bosh.

Because anything can go wrong on the ground or in the air, the crew must stay alert at all times and prepare for any possible set-backs. Repetition is important to maintain communication and coordination between crewmembers. "It's a perishable skill," said Dawson. "If you don't fly on a regular basis you aren't as proficient in the air."

Working together the reservists and guardsmen accomplished around 10 training missions involving a variety of crews and almost 100 soldiers from the 96<sup>th</sup>. "We've had good interaction between other units from other states," Cannon said.

# 244th Provides Commo Support for FBI

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. ANNIE BURROWS

The signal support systems specialists of 244<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion from Denver are used to establishing and maintaining the Army's communication networks wherever their unit deploys. During the Olympics, however, they are responsible for the communications networks used by the FBI's SWAT teams.

The 11-man unit also includes soldiers from the 259<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Battalion, the 419<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co. and the 479<sup>th</sup> Personnel Services Battalion as well as the members of the 244<sup>th</sup>, working in support of Joint Task Force Olympics.



**Spc. Steven Clark uses the FBI's E-Team software as well as phone lines and a radio system to relay information from the Joint Operation Center to SWAT teams at different locations.**

"I think it's a great opportunity to be a part of the Joint Task Force," said Staff Sgt. Javis DeVore, the commo section chief. "I feel honored."

"I think it's pretty exciting; a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Spc. Jeff Lant, a member of the Park City team. "I've always liked the Winter Olympics and it's neat to be out here. The job we're doing is pretty interesting."

In addition to their assignment with the FBI at the SWAT teams'

forward staging area, the soldiers have worked with the Secret Service and JTFO putting up antennas and helping set up their communications systems.

"I definitely think this is a necessary mission," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Douse, a member of the Ogden team. "We are critical in what we have done supporting the Task Force."

Providing support for SWAT teams at four different locations, the commo section has personnel in Ogden, Salt Lake City, Provo and Park City. The soldiers use phone lines, cell phones, a radio network and computers that utilize a dispatching software program called

E-Team.

The E-Team software allows the soldiers to see what's happening at every venue. They take reports from the phones and radio and log them into the computer. The same computer system is used by law enforcement agencies at each of the venues.

This system is much faster than calling all of the different agencies involved and dispatching everything by phone.

For example, if an ambulance is

needed at a certain site, it is logged into the computer, and the closest hospital will send an ambulance to that location.

"Everybody that needs to know, knows immediately," said Spc. Steven Clark, who is also on the Ogden team.

For Clark one of the best things about this deployment has been the opportunity to train on the FBI's state of the art systems. "They have some sophisticated software programs that I never knew existed. Training has been excellent," he said.

Part of the soldiers' job is to relay communications between the Joint Operations Center and the SWAT teams by using the computers, phones and radio system. They can also pass information back and forth between SWAT teams that are out in different areas.

The soldiers said they have enjoyed working with the SWAT teams and working with different groups from around the country.

For the most part, the groups encountered few problems working together.

"They (FBI) work a little different than the military, and there are some barriers to overcome," said Douse. Sometimes the way the FBI explains things and the terminology they use is different than that normally used by the soldiers.

"They have their own set of acronyms and it's not always the same as ours," said Clark. "It causes a little confusion here and there. All in all it's a pretty minor thing."

For Lant, being part of JTFO has given him the opportunity to work not only with different groups of people, but with equipment he doesn't normally use.

"I've been working with the Air Force and other agencies," said Lant. "We get a lot of exposure to things that we might not get exposure to, normally."

"There hasn't been much action, but that's a good thing," Clark said.

# 419th Takes Care of JTFO Transportation Needs

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
PFC. SARA VOGELSBERG

During Joint Task Force Olympics, the 419<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., Salt Lake City, provided more than 5,500 service members from 28

different states with transportation to venues throughout the Salt Lake Valley and Wasatch Mountains.

The transportation support included 77 soldiers, approximately 80 percent of the 419<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the transportation

headquarters in Salt Lake City at the Uchida Army Reserve Center, drivers were also assigned to each of the Logistical Support Areas to fulfill local needs, said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Samuel Beall.

Drivers were responsible for a variety of missions, including transporting servicemembers to and from their places of duty, as well as in- and out-processing.

Providing transportation was a 24-hour operation, although the work load varied from day to day, said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Fiatagata Phillips.

The vehicles required for JTFO were primarily buses, vans, and moving trucks.

Each driver had to take a class and pass the road test in order to have their military driver's licenses modified so they could drive the required vehicles.

"We didn't drive buses in AIT," said driver Spc. Jesse Candelas.

*See Transportation page 9*



**Spc. Jesse Candelas, 419th Transportation Co. transports soldiers to and from Olympic Venues.**

## MWR Provides Activities for JTFO Soldiers

STORY BY PFC. MICHAEL TODD

Whether it's going to a special preview of "Black Hawk Down," or simply going to the barber shop, soldiers deployed for Joint Task Force Olympics owe these opportunities to the 650<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group's Morale Welfare and Recreation office at the Kenichi Uchida U.S. Army Reserve Center in Salt Lake City.

The MWR staff responsible for ensuring that these services and activities are available for more than 5,000 soldiers staying in Utah, consists of Maj. Hollis Robison, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Valley from 4226 Army Hospital in Fargo, N.D., and Spc. Ramie Sprenger from the 854<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co. in Logan.

After doing research to discover what was already available to soldiers deployed in Salt Lake City, they focused on finding new areas in which the community was willing to provide. From discounts on NBA tickets to free passes on the public transit system, the community has shown its willingness to support soldiers in the field. "99.9% opened their arms for the troops," said Valley. "They just can't thank us enough."

Valley said he feels the community is willing to reach out to the soldiers because the soldiers' presence helps to make the people feel secure, and they want to make the

soldiers happy.

Providing positive things for the soldiers to do is one element of the MWR's mission. "There is a lot to do and we want to make it available to soldiers in their off time," Valley said. "You've seen them out there and it's great to see them out enjoying it."

MWR services aren't just there to help provide access

to entertainment and activities for the soldiers, they provide everyday needs too.

"I was put into this position to make sure that the soldiers' livelihood is taken care of," Valley said.

Each Logistical Support Area that houses soldiers has its very own cafeteria, barber shop, laundry, and anything else to meet the needs of the soldier.

*See MWR page 5*



Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Sara Vogelsberg

**Spc. Ramie Sprenger updates MWR Board.**

# 395th Finance Ensures Reservists Receive Proper Pay

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
PFC. SARA VOGELSBURG

It's one thing to ask a person to work without glory and recognition; it's another thing not to pay him for it when pay is due.

As more than 300 soldiers of the 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command worked behind the scenes during Joint Task Force Olympics, finance soldiers ensured everyone was properly paid.

"If they're happy, we're happy," said Spc. Tara Vendegna, a finance specialist with Task Force Logistics.

Vendegna said that she and three other soldiers from the 395<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion had to work between Salt Lake City's Fort Douglas and the Uchida Army Reserve Center across town to take care of pay issues.

At Uchida, the finance specialists would address soldiers' pay concerns, get the necessary information, and call Fort Douglas to verify the financial status of the soldier.

"The finance profiles are in their computer," said Vendegna.

Because they did not have access to the pay information at Uchida, they worked closely with the finance section at the 96<sup>th</sup> headquarters.

"Capt. Whitney and Staff Sgt. Montgomery have been immensely helpful," said Vendegna.

Finance specialists were taught the active duty pay system in their Advanced Individual Training and for this deployment they had to deal with the reserve pay system.

"There are some similarities,"

said Capt. Brad Whitney, 96<sup>th</sup> headquarters finance officer, "but it is a little different."

Whitney explained that Fort Douglas has the only reserve finance office for 800 miles.

They are able to access pay information to let the soldiers know "if they're going to get paid, when they're going to get paid, how much and where it's going," he said.

Although most of the pay information was at Fort Douglas, the majority of the soldiers had to go to

In order to speed up the process, the finance clerks helped their customers become more knowledgeable about their pay.

They wrote up a finance question and answer form for the soldiers to look over before calling the office with questions.

"It made it a lot easier," said Staff Sgt. Georgian Buttars, personnel non-commissioned officer in charge.

One of the questions addressed on the form concerned Basic Allowance for Housing.



**Spc. Steven Peters and Spc. Tara Vendegna listen as 96<sup>th</sup> soldier explains a personal pay issue during Joint Task Force Olympics.**

Uchida to discuss pay issues.

Because of this, customer service was very important.

"We're trying to clear up issues as quickly as possible," said Maj. Roger Anderson, 650<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group and Task Force Logistics personnel officer.

It explained how to qualify for BAH and what documents were necessary to process a pay inquiry, said Vendegna.

"They've done an excellent job working through individual soldiers' pay problems here (at Uchida) and at Fort Douglas," said Anderson.

## Morale Welfare and Recreation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Supplying access to services for thousands of soldiers occupying seven LSAs is no small task. Disseminating information to each LSA has been a key element in the success of the MWR mission.

"Every LSA has a Master Board," said Sprenger. Posted on them are lists of activities, free or discounted events, and other information to keep the soldiers informed of available entertainment and services. The Master Board is updated as new events or opportunities become available.

**Clockwise from right:  
The Olympic flame burned at Rice Eccles Stadium during the Winter Games; A soldier is examined at the Rocky Mountain Logistical Support Area TMC; Sgt. Tom Saele and Spc. Jeff Lant, 244th Engineering Battalion, provide commo support to the FBI SWAT teams through E-Team dispatching software; Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld addressed soldiers at the Great Basin LSA.**



Photo by Sgt. Annie Burrows



Photo by Pfc. Sara Vogelsberg



Photo by Spc. Ryan Poland



Photo by Sgt. Annie Burrows



Photo by Pfc. Michael Todd



Photo by Spc. Robert Bray



Photo by Sgt. Annie Burrows



Photo by Pfc. Sara Vogelsberg

**Clockwise from top: Soldiers arrive at Hill Air Force Base in support of Joint Task Force Olympics; Olympic decorations could be seen all over the Salt Lake Valley, including building wraps downtown that depicted Olympic athletes; Buses were the primary means of transporting more than 5,500 servicemembers to and from the various venues at which they worked; Spc. Douglas Pike (left) and Spc. Tyson Knudsen deliver MREs to JTFO soldiers.**

# 155th AG Co. Makes a Difference During Games

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SPC. ENGELS TEJEDA

When soldiers are away from home, a letter or a simple note makes the biggest difference in the world.

Reservists of the 155<sup>th</sup> Adjutant General Co. from Salt Lake City, understand the impact mail has on service members; and during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, the postal clerks ensured that deliveries ran as smooth as possible.

“We receive all mail for the joint task force,” said Lt. Jason McGrath, postal officer with the 155<sup>th</sup>.

“The best thing about it is being able to help soldiers,” added Staff Sgt. Joshua Echols, postal non-commissioned officer in charge.

The 155<sup>th</sup> helped hundreds of service members during the joint operation. On average, the unit delivered 500 to 600 pieces of mail daily to more than 5,500 soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coast guardsmen.

Echols said that his team of seven soldiers drove an average of 200 miles each day, and worked shifts



**Pfc. Christina Jordan, postal clerk with the 155th Adjutant General Co., sorts mail during Joint Task Force Olympics.**

that generally lasted between 12 and 13 hours. The soldiers of the 155<sup>th</sup> said their busiest time was around Valentine’s Day.

However, McGrath said that the long hours were not the main challenge of the mission. “We’ve had [a continuous] complaint from the [service members]. They keep saying ‘my wife sent me a letter three days ago. It was supposed to be overnight mail and I haven’t seen it yet.’ That’s been our biggest challenge, trying to explain the mail system to the soldiers.”

A challenge that only intensified as the games unfolded in Salt Lake City, where because of the Olympics and the “War Against Terror”, all mail to military personnel had to pass a screening process by the United States Postal Services. “That process could delay mail up to 72 hours,” said McGrath.

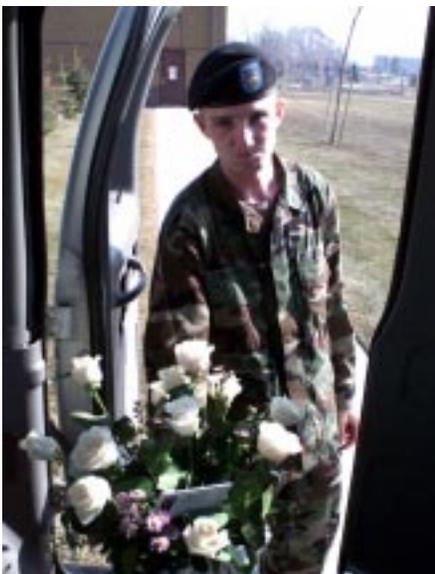
But despite the challenges, the reservists of the 155<sup>th</sup> were excited to be a part of the mission. “It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Pfc. Christina Jordan, postal clerk with the 155<sup>th</sup>. “I’m not only doing work

for my country, but for my state ... my city. It makes me proud!” said the Salt Lake resident.

Like Jordan, Echols said that the mission was a great opportunity for the unit. “It’s been great to actually be able to do what we are trained for,” said Echols.

He said that during his six years in the Army, he has only attended training exercises, and that this was the first time he and most of the members of his team had the opportunity to put all their skills to the test.

The soldiers said that they looked forward to more missions of this kind, and hope they are deployed again sometime in the near future.



**Spc. Stephen Bartholomew, postal technician with the 155th Adjutant General Co., prepares to deliver Valentine’s Day mail to servicemembers participating in JTF.**



# TMC Keeps JTFO Soldiers on Their Feet

STORY BY  
PFC. SARA VOGELSBURG

When soldiers from all over the United States arrived for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, each brought knowledge, skill, and a unique strain of “the flu.”

To counter this and other physical ailments the soldiers encountered while participating in Joint Task Force Olympics, a Troop Medical Clinic was present in each of the Logistical Support Areas. Medical personnel included doctors, nurses and the equivalent to emergency medical technicians.

The Ogden and Rocky Mountain TMCs were staffed by medics from the 328<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, 200<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment, 172<sup>nd</sup> Medical Battalion, and the 5502<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Army Field Hospital.

Some soldiers from eastern states had received their flu shot only days before leaving for Utah. To be effective, the shot should have been administered weeks before, said Capt. Jane Christensen, nurse manager Ogden TMC.

Many cases of strep throat and a few influenza incidents were treated. IV’s were given frequently to soldiers who had trouble taking medication and fluids on their own, said Sgt. Rebecca Burnett, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Ogden TMC.

“All the troops are working long hours,” said Major Donell Kelly, officer in charge of the Ogden TMC, “and night shifts are pretty cold.”

Sick call hours were from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and again from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. However, the medical staff realized that because of the shift scheduling, some of the soldiers were unable to make it during those hours. “We’re not going to turn down a sick guy,” said Christensen.

The medical staff was impressed with the soldier’s adherence to doctor’s instructions to keep soldiers on quarters when illness required. “You can have them out working and sick for six days or keep them in quarters and have them better in 24 hours,” said Kelly.

Aside from illness, the most common injuries were exercise-related. Daily physical training combined with the altitude and winter cold resulted in minor injuries, said Christensen.

In case of mass casualties, the medical staff also worked closely with the local community to establish potential triage places in the school district building and a nearby mortuary, said Burnett.

Within the LSAs they trained litter teams, put together a triage box, and located a few of the soldiers who were trained as combat life-savers, said Christensen.

“I feel really comfortable about what we’ve done,” said Christensen.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Poland

**An IV is administered to a soldier at the Rocky Mountain TMC. IVs were given to soldiers who had trouble taking medication and fluids on their own.**

## Transportation helping soldiers get around at the Olympics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Each time a driver was assigned a mission, he was issued two forms of communication, a radio and a cell phone. The radio was the primary source of communication, used to call-in departures and arrivals to the Tactical Operations Center. The cell phone was used for communication between the driver and the group that was to be picked up, in case a pick-up place or time needed to be modified, said Candelas.

Usually, requests made for transportation were accurate, but sometimes the number of people

changed. Drivers were careful to follow their schedule, but they also had to remain flexible. Fortunately, most of the mistakes over-estimated the amount of transportation that would be required, said Beall.

“Sometimes a request would say 17 people, and there would only be eight people,” said Candelas. “So a van would have worked instead of bringing a bus.”

NCOs met daily to plan the itinerary for the following day. Drivers, and in some cases co-drivers, were assigned to each

mission. Additional drivers would also stand-by in case last minute changes were made to the plan.

Soldiers were generally on 12-hour shifts, during which they had scheduled assignments they were responsible for; however, some days they were required to work 15 to 16 hours. “During in-processing everyone was working all the time,” said Candelas.

Every soldier performing a task at the Winter Olympic Games required transportation. The 419<sup>th</sup> transportation support made it possible.

# Reservists Play Key Role in Force Protection

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ENGELS TEJEDA

Soldiers with the 650<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group coordinated the force protection mission of Joint Task Force Olympics.

The reservists were part of Task Force Logistics during the Winter Olympic Games. They ensured that all servicemembers participating in the joint operation had a safe experience.

“Our mission is to provide for the safety and the security of the force under our command,” said Lt. Col. Craig Odekirk, task force deputy commander and force protection officer. “We are here to ensure that they can fulfill their mission [safely].”

Because of restrictions by federal law, federal soldiers such as active duty servicemembers from all components and reservists, with the exception of military police, are not

allowed to carry weapons or use firearms on U.S. soil. Only the MPs and National Guardsmen are allowed to carry and use weapons if necessary.

As a result of these restrictions, the soldiers of the 650<sup>th</sup> ASG provided force protection in a “logistical way.” The reservists planned the force protection operations and supported the security force, while the MPs and National Guardsmen carried out the mission.

In addition to planning force protection missions, the reservists were also responsible for accountability of both personnel and equipment throughout the Olympic games.

Odekirk said that he was highly impressed with the dedication and the professional attitude of all his soldiers, and that he was very specifically impressed with the job the Alabama National Guard did.

He said that there were no major force protection incidents; and that his team “exceeded the expectations” of the command.



Sgt. Stuart Griffin (right), Operations Non-commissioned Officer with 872nd Maintenance Company, inspects Spc. Eric Greenberg's weapon.

# Maintenance Section Keeps Task Force Moving

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC. SARA VOGELSBURG

With 60 buses and military vehicles being used to transport soldiers and their equipment all around northern Utah for Joint Task Force Olympics, a full-time maintenance section is necessary to keep the transportation operations running smoothly.

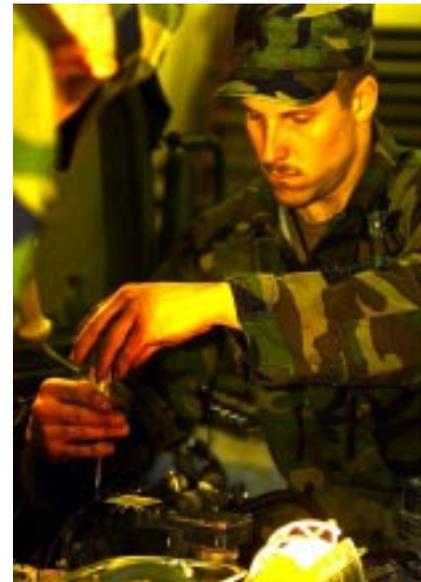
The 12 mechanics who make up the maintenance section come from the 872<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Co., the 299<sup>th</sup>

Quartermaster Co., the 419<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., and the 786<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co. The Rocky Mountain Logistical Support Area houses most of the maintenance staff.

“My kids think it’s neat that their dad is working for the Olympics,” said mechanic Sgt. John Daniels.

It hasn’t been easy to see the National Guard rotate soldiers out after two or three weeks knowing that the motor pool will be open until the end of March. However, the mechanics realize the importance of their job, said Staff Sgt. Phillip Bird, platoon sergeant for the maintenance section. “We need the knowledge here all the time,” he said.

While serving as part of JTFO, the maintenance section is responsible for approximately 25 buses, 30 HMMWVs, six 5-ton trucks, three 915 5-bit trailers, and any GSA vehicles brought to them. The buses and civilian vehicles still fall under warranty, however, if the job is



Spc. Trent Gibson repairs an engine.

relatively basic, they’ll take care of it, said Daniels.

When a vehicle breaks down on the road, it’s also the responsibility of  
*See Maintenance page 11*



The 872nd Maintenance Co. repaired many vehicles for JTFO.

# Park City LSA Provides Excellent Accommodations

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SPC. ENGELS TEJEDA



**Spc. Joe Taylor, Military Police Officer, 214th MP Company, plays pool at the Park City LSA.**

When Spc. Cynthia Lively was given orders to report for duty during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, she thought she would be doing what she was trained to do: she thought she would drive 5-ton trucks in the Beehive State. Much to her surprise, she would be part of a team of soldiers who like her, had no idea, they would be turning an old factory building into a nearly \$1.1 million Olympic military facility.

Lively, a member of the 419<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., was further surprised to find that most of her

hours at the Park City Logistical Support Area would be spent doing practical hotel management.

“I was told that I was going on deployment around December 15, but I didn’t find out what I was doing until I got here January 7,” said Lively. “I am taking care of the people living here, making sure they are housed correctly, making sure they get rest, that they eat.”

Like Lively, ten other soldiers were also surprised to find that they would be doing a logistical job as opposed to the mechanical duties they were trained to do. Nonetheless the soldiers said that they enjoyed being a part of the Olympic games; they said they were specifically excited to serve at the Park City LSA because of the history of the center.

In mid December the Joint Task Force Olympics contracted an old warehouse where aluminum diffusers for airbags were made five years ago. Between mid December and January 2, Maj. David Barrett, 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command, commander of the Park City LSA, and two other reservists sketched the plans for a facility to house a minimum of 850 beds.

On January 2, a civilian contractor began the transformation of the 119,000 square-foot factory into a fully operational LSA. Eight days later, the center was ready to open. It contained a dining facility; a laundry area with 12 washers and dryers; a “state of the art” sewage system and several showers. It also contained a

recreation area equipped with several televisions, two pool tables and a foosball table. The facility also had a Troop Medical Clinic.

Spc. Joe Taylor, Military Police with the 214th MP Co., Alexandria, Ala., said the commodities set up by the 96th RSC were “more than enough for me!” The location of the LSA—just minutes away from Park City and three major Olympic venues—made it an attractive center for all service members attending the games.

As for Lively, about the closest she got to driving a 5-ton, was driving the transportation bus around Park City. She said, however, “It [was] a great experience. I met so many different people; it was great!”



**Spc. Cynthia Lively, a 5-ton driver with the 419th Transportation Co., records information at the Park City LSA during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Utah.**

## Maintenance keeps the Olympics running

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

the maintenance section to bring it back to the motorpool at the Uchida Center.

“It’s busy,” said Spc. Collin Bradbury, mechanic.

Bradbury works in a motor pool that operates 24 hours a day, and most of the maintenance is done on tactical vehicles.

At times the repairs require the skills of a specific MOS, however, when extra hands are needed, the soldiers

are willing to help.

“It’s a learning experience,” said Spc. Roy Petersen, mechanic.

The mechanics generally work 12-hour shifts, but are willing to do whatever it takes to complete the mission.

When missions will require the soldiers to stay longer, but, so far, there hasn’t been a complaint.

“They’re all working together like they’re just one unit,” said Daniels.

# 650th ASG Soldiers Keep JTFO Running

STORY BY  
SPC. ROBERT BRAY

Spc. Sarah Alder stands in a long line filled with U.S. Army Reservists from several western states who are all waiting to be in-processed for Task Force Logistics.

Once these soldiers are in-processed, they will be the task force that provides logistical support for Joint Task Force Olympics, a branch of the Homeland Security mobilized to provide support for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Salt Lake City.

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**“I’ve got the best soldiers in the Army Reserve serving in this mission.”**

***Col. Grant White***

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More than 300 soldiers from the 650<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group, including Alder from the 478<sup>th</sup> Personnel Services Battalion, make up Task Force Logistics.

“It’s nice to know that I have a role to play,” said Alder, who feels a sense of pride for her role as an

administrator. “Even if it’s way in the back.”

TF Log will occupy roughly eight different locations throughout the Salt Lake Valley and Wasatch Mountains. These locations are where members of JTFO will be stationed for the duration of their deployment.

The task force will transport the members of JTFO to and from Olympic venues, handle incoming and outgoing mail, finances, vehicle maintenance, meals, and even morale support.

“I am just totally amazed at how well these soldiers have pulled it together into a task force that is so tightly knit that no one can pick on them without all of the soldiers sticking up for each other,” said Col. Grant White, Commander of the 650<sup>th</sup> ASG. “I’ve got the best soldiers in the Army Reserve serving in this mission.”

Spc. Douglas Pike, 872<sup>nd</sup> Direct Support Maintenance Co., and Spc. Tyson Knudsen, 854<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co., feel that the logistical side of the military’s involvement is just as important as the security efforts.

“We’re taking care of the soldiers,” said Knudsen. “It wouldn’t happen if it were not for the logistical support.”

Though there is always plenty of work and long days, these soldiers are able to find time to relax and socialize with each other.

“When we are in this building, we are on call 24-7,” said Knudsen.

## Reservists Help Keep The Fire Within Burning Bright

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concern. Security concerns intensified when terrorist attacks claimed thousands of lives in New York and Washington D.C. in September 2001.

But the soldiers say that citizens and visitors to Utah should not feel afraid, assuring that they will each do their part to provide a safe environment during the games.

The reservists will be responsible for a range of tasks including providing task force personnel with transportation, lodging, medical support, and morale and welfare activities.

The soldiers said that more than an opportunity to serve their nation; the mission is giving them “a chance of a lifetime.”

“This mission is a great opportunity to serve my country and to (participate) in a once in a lifetime

event,” said Sgt. 1st Class Traci Veibell, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Arrival-Departure Control Group for the task force.

Veibell said that before she was called to active duty, she had volunteered to work during the Olympics as a civilian.

The logistical task force of JTFO will include more than 300 Army reservists from the 96th RSC.

The reservists who have arrived said that they look forward to a “safe and fun” experience, and to return home when it is all over.

JTFO is expected to draw support from Utah and 28 other states.

The troops will include servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines.

This task force will include some active duty servicemembers, reservists and national guardsmen.

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358TH MPAD

SLC Utah

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