

CHECKERBOARD

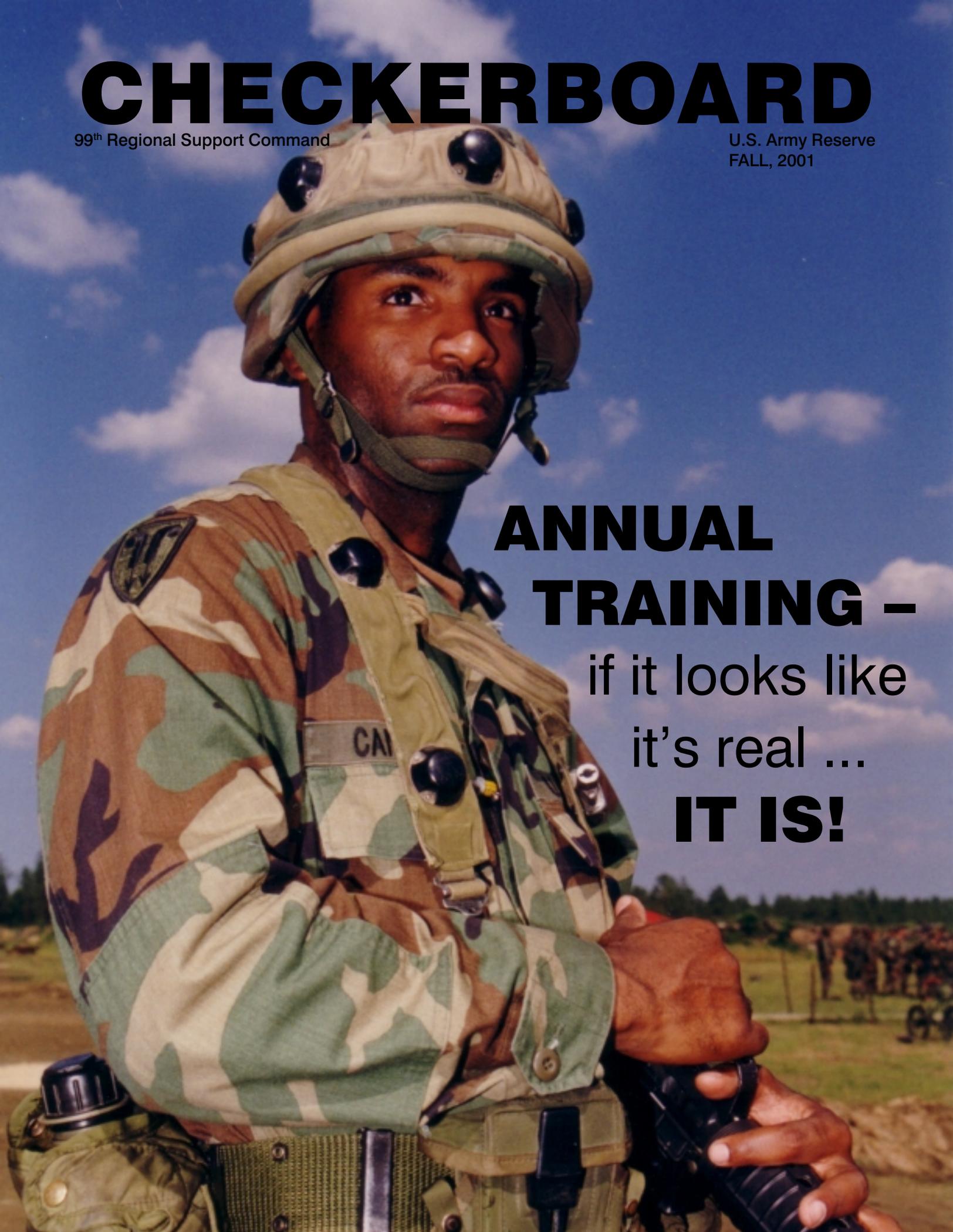
99th Regional Support Command

U.S. Army Reserve
FALL, 2001

ANNUAL TRAINING -

if it looks like
it's real ...

IT IS!



FROM THE EDITOR



After Sept. 11, our lives will never be the same. It is almost beyond belief that such attacks could ... and would ... occur in two of our largest and most populated cities. Along with the aftershock, however, the call to duty has also arrived, and Americans have once again pulled together for a common cause – that of seeking out the remaining planners and perpetrators of these acts of terror – these acts of war, and meeting an enemy with all the might we can muster.

Many of our soldiers knew the Army Reserve would be called upon, and as the first 99th units began receiving mobilization orders, it became apparent that as a nation, the United States is now engaged in an entirely new threat, and an entirely new challenge.

In this issue you'll find news of those who were caught in the eye of the storm as a wall of the Pentagon collapsed, including 99th Commander Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, who was attending a meeting of Army Reserve general officers when the airliner struck the side of the Pentagon, killing more than 100 armed forces service members and DOD civilian employees and contractors.

It's important to know that 99th units were being called to duty within 48 hours of the attacks, and that every one responded as needed ... as they were needed. We weren't ready for fully fueled jumbo jet liners to make suicide crashes into our nation's most architecturally distinctive, and militarily and financially important structures – but we were, and we are, and we will remain ... ready and willing to do whatever is necessary to both protect our people here at home, and seek out and destroy those whose mission has become "target America."

Prior to Sept. 11, our units and soldiers were dedicated to conducting the continuing and meaningful training that has kept Army Reserve soldiers ready and able to respond to crisis. They were, and they are now answering America's call once again ... in freedom's name.

You'll see how the 339th Combat Support Hospital sent two increments of soldiers to El Salvador to help Salvadoran people after a devastating earthquake rocked neighborhoods close to San Salvador, and how here at home, 99th engineers from the 300th Chemical Company assisted West Virginians hit hard by savage flooding.

Our units continued serving their communities and American nautical history when the 949th Transportation Company, Baltimore, Md., used *Keystone State* – the largest class barge-derrick in the Army's floating craft inventory, to officially launch *Sultana*, a hand-built wooden sailing ship.

If it's true that where there's smoke, there's fire, then the 464th Chemical Brigade is "red hot" in Rio Grande 2001, where soldiers from several units conducted smoke and chemical decontamination operations at Dugway Proving Grounds.

We give you a peek at the 99th's first multi-component unit in Korea, and how it's breaking new ground in modeling tomorrow's force strategies. You'll even get a glimpse of Command Sgt. Major D. Courtney Griffin wielding chopsticks in a bowl of noodles.

You'll meet Sgt. Aziz Ahang, a U.S. Army Reserve soldier here at the HQ who represents all that is good and for about America. Aziz is a practicing Muslim, and was born in Afghanistan. His story is an important one – Islam is not the enemy!

And as always, there's more than enough news to fill your rucksack, so even if you're packing your duffels for operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom, take a minute to see what your fellow soldiers have been doing with "their weekends." I have a feeling that the Army Reserve "weekend" is about to go the way of the Edsel. Be ready!

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ABOUT THE COVERS

FRONT: Spc. Michael Cannon, 343rd Medical Co. (Ambulance), Richmond, Va., takes in the training scenario in the "The Box" at the JRTC, Fort Polk, La. (Photo by Jack Gordon) **BACK:** Art work by Steve Opet and text from comments made by Sandra Flanagan as part of the departure ceremony of the 463rd MP Co., Grafton, W.Va.

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CHECKERBOARD

99th Regional Support Command

U.S. Army Reserve



Gary Goodman

(TOP) Soldiers decontaminate vehicles during training in Utah – Page 20. (RIGHT) A deckhand from the 949th TC holds a line during the launching of SULTANA – Page 24.



Chris Coleman



Jack Gordon

(TOP) Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy and Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin stand at the military demarcation line at the DMZ in Korea – Page 22. (RIGHT) Soldiers from the 300th Chemical Co. helped flood victims in West Virginia – Page 28.



Jack Gordon



Jack Gordon

JOB WELL DONE ...

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy addresses the regional government in El Salvador during a ceremony thanking the 339th CSH for humanitarian services performed in response to an earthquake – Page 44.

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AFTER ATTACKS, 99th COMMANDER URGES SOLDIERS TO REMAIN READY FOR DUTY



Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy

the United States to "Be ready!" I want to reinforce that message to you.

Every soldier serving in the 99th *must* be ready to go – and ready to go *fast!* As we begin mobilizing our units, we are receiving very short notice between the identification of the units required to support the president's homeland defense plan in support of Operation Noble Eagle, and the report date for the soldiers.

This means you must prepare now – if you haven't already – for the possibility of being mobilized and deployed from 12 to 24 months. You must notify your employer of that possibility. You must ensure your family care plan is in place. You must prepare yourself. *Be ready!*

I was in the Pentagon when it was attacked. It was horrible. Terrorism has hit our nation, and already struck two devastating blows to our freedom, and to the American way of life. I can tell you that seeing the symbol of America's military power engulfed in smoke and fire – and knowing that there were dozens killed and

hundreds more wounded – was enough for me. *I ... am ready.*

Our units' missions supporting Noble Eagle may be somewhat new, or different from those for which we have focused our training, so once again we must adapt our efforts as these new challenges present themselves. I urge you to meet these challenges with the courage and conviction we have all witnessed in those who responded immediately to the attacks. Normal, everyday Americans – fireman and policemen — became real heroes. Many of those heroes lost their lives – *sacrificed their lives* – trying to save others.

While it is true that the attacks on America exhibit a suicidal fanaticism the world has had difficulty comprehending, it renews my faith that those *American heroes* who lost their lives as the trade center towers crumbled and the pentagon filled with flames and smoke – were attempting to *save lives* – not *take* them. Soldiers throughout the history of our great nation have sacrificed for their fellow soldiers without hesitation. Our soldiers – and this nation we serve – have helped many, many others with less freedom, without reservation, when called to do so. *I ... you ...* are no different.

Even as our nation was attacked, we had soldiers serving in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, as we have from the onset of those operations that have succeeded in achieving peace to a very troubled area.

Now ... we are faced with a most

uneasy reality. The very fabric of our democracy has been threatened by these attacks. It has been threatened by covertly using the very freedoms upon which America was founded. Our nation has welcomed those of all races and religions. And now, after these unwarranted attacks ... we have been called upon to respond. *We are.*

These homeland defense security missions are designed to deny further opportunities to those who might threaten our freedom. Your service is needed *here* now. We are defending our *freedom* ... and our *families*. America has not seen warfare on her own land since the Civil War, when we were divided. We have indeed entered a new era, and we, of *all* Americans, must be prepared to respond. We must ... be ready!

As we move through the sadness and tragedy surrounding Sept. 11, I can assure you that my every effort serving the 99th will be strengthened by the spirit of the thousands of innocent Americans who were killed during the attacks, and by the tens of thousands more whose lives will forever be changed from those losses.

As America emerges from the horror and grief of this unprecedented attack, we too, must emerge — to counter and defeat this new threat. My thoughts are with you and your families during these uncertain times. Know that together – we remain strong. Let those who challenge our freedom know that we are united – that we are strong – and that we ... are ready! ■

U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS KILLED IN PENTAGON ATTACK ARE BURIED WITH MILITARY HONORS



Photos by John Valceanu





Illustration by Steve Opet and Jack Gordon

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The dust and debris that settled to the ground in New York City and in Washington, D.C., the week of Sept. 11th contained more than bricks, mortar and the material of buildings. It was a dust that settled upon our whole nation and upon our whole world. It was a dust created in hatred and blown to the four corners by a wind filled with horror and hot with judgment. We are all punished in those grieving hours in September.

What is the Word of the Lord to us in such a blighted moment as this?

The Old Testament Prophet Jeremiah spoke to his nation and his leaders in the pre-Exile times of the 7th Century B.C. His words those 2600 years ago are words from God that are now seared with new meaning into our own lives: "My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick ... The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not

saved. For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

God Almighty mourns and weeps fitfully and passionately for so horrific a tragedy: "O that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!"

O how God does weep!

God's sorrowful tears pour down upon us! They refine us with the pure justice of God's Will. God's tears strengthen us in this testing hour.

We are called to shake off the dust of wickedness and sorrow—to loosen ourselves from the debris of cruel and evil darkness. God has shown us a different way, a path that goes from this rubble of bitterness in New York City to a life of deeds lived in the light of Godliness.

The Gospel of John contains these words of Jesus: "... he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God."

We saw it happen in the dust of September. Thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, turned their lives from darkness to light—the helping hand, the ardent prayer, the giving of alms, the phone calls from distant families and friends.

The dust of buildings and brick and mortar will settle forever to the ground. But the lives and spirit of those who have perished shall not be dimmed by the darkness. In countless deeds of goodness and in the determination to seek a righteous and holy justice, the lives cruelly ended shall not drift to the ground in dust and ashes but be lifted up into the light of deeds wrought in God's true spirit. ■

Be ready to answer our nation's call!



Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin

As I compose this column just a few short days after the vicious and tragic events of September 11, 2001, it is difficult to focus clearly on what needs to be said. I don't have a crystal ball to foretell what will happen next or what course of action our great nation will take, yet the magnitude of the attack and its horrific results dictate that I tailor my comments with the events of that fateful day in mind.

Our commander in chief has said that we are at war. I consider that our "warning order" which alerts us that every soldier of the 99th Regional Support Command must now be ready to answer our nation's call, if and when it comes.

I don't want to sound like an alarmist, but as individual soldiers, each of us has to look introspectively at ourselves and ask ourselves some questions:

- ✓ Are my soldier skills sufficiently developed to fight, survive and win if I find myself in combat?
- ✓ Am I proficient and confident with my individual weapon to such a degree that I can engage and destroy my enemy while defending myself and my fellow soldiers?
- ✓ Am I proficient in my Military Occupational Specialty to the extent that I can do my part to ensure the success of my unit's mission?
- ✓ Am I physically fit and ready to withstand the rigors of warfare, which may

require physical and mental exertion for prolonged periods well in excess of what one might encounter in peacetime?

- ✓ Have I done all that I should and could do, administratively, legally, financially and emotionally, to prepare my family for my extended absence?

I would like to think that each 99th RSC soldier could answer "yes" to each of the above questions, but I know that will not be the case. Where you cannot answer in the affirmative, you must begin to immediately remedy the deficiencies you detect in your self-assessment. You need to let your leaders know where you feel you need additional training. Ask for their assistance. Each of you must reach a state of readiness, if you have not already done so, whereby you can mobilize and deploy on very short notice. Each of you is vital to the success of your unit, and each unit will be vital to any mission that our armed forces may embark upon in the weeks and months ahead. You really can be an *Army of One!*

To my fellow noncommissioned officers in the 99th RSC, I hope each of you fully comprehends the tremendous responsibility that now rests upon your shoulders, now that our nation is at war. As first line leaders, you are responsible for the training of the soldiers under your charge. If **your** soldiers are trained and ready, I commend you! If not – "Sarge, you've got some serious work to do and you may not have long in which to do it!"

As our soldiers are called to deploy, whether as individuals or as units, they must be ready for whatever challenges lie ahead. I firmly believe that there are two individuals who are primarily responsible for any soldier's readiness to deploy. First and foremost is the soldier.

"Soldier," an *Army of One* is not just advertising hype. If you are unable or unwilling to take responsibility for yourself, don't expect someone else to wave some magic wand over you and suddenly make you a soldier. It won't happen. You have got to have the intelligence, the stamina, the determination and the *sheer "guts"* to be a soldier. Your success or failure lies primarily with **you!**

Sharing equally in readiness responsibility is the NCO who is the soldier's immediate leader, notice that I said **leader**, not supervisor. As a first line leader of soldiers, you must dedicate yourself to the overall welfare of the soldiers you lead.

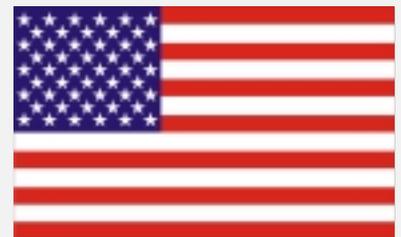
"Sergeant," you must ensure that your soldiers are well-trained, well-equipped, well-fed, well-quartered, well-lead and physically and mentally ready. But the list doesn't stop there – it goes on and on, You must know your soldiers, know their families, know their problems, know their pets and even then, if you lose one, you'll wish you had known him or her better. I hope none of us has to come to that realization, but it is sobering, as a leader of soldiers, to ponder the possibility that you might lose one or more of them.

Finally, to all who wear the 99th RSC patch on your left sleeve, never forget the importance of that glorious emblem. In World War II, men of the 99th Infantry Division wore that same Checkerboard patch as they battled their way across Europe. They fought, they suffered, and many of them died. It is their victories, their blood and their ultimate sacrifices that paid for the glory now eternally attached to the Checkerboard patch.

Fellow 99th RSC soldiers, wear the Checkerboard patch proudly, for it may well be our turn ensure its honorable tradition! ■

"I don't think the United States needs super-patriots. We need patriotism, honestly practiced by all of us, and we don't need these people that are more patriotic than you and anybody else."

– Dwight D. Eisenhower, Nov. 24, 1962





As 307th Military Police soldiers leave ... newborn babies arrive!

by Chuck Joseph

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.—Soldiers serving a military police company here are giving a new meaning to the 99th Infantry Division nickname, “Battle Babies” ... with a little help from their wives.

Forty-six soldiers from the 307th Military Police Company will soon be enroute to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge, but the unit will first complete its mobilization at Fort Dix, N.J. Sgt. Raymond Yakesh kissed his nine-day old daughter, Erin, goodbye, while two of his comrades left behind expecting wives ... *really* expecting.

Two days after the unit departed, Spc. James Zigarella was granted emergency leave to join his wife, Christina, as she gave birth to their son, Anthony James.

That left one deploying soldier, Sgt. Jeffrey Minton, hanging in suspense. Would he have a chance to welcome his expected baby into the world before a seven-month absence while he served in the Balkan peacekeeper mission? Day by Day at Fort Dix, Minton awaited the “word.”

Minton’s call finally came during the final days of the 307th’s mobilization training at Fort Dix. On Sept. 8, he welcomed the final 307th “Battle Baby” into the world, then rejoined his unit as soldiers made final

“All three new mothers have strong families,” said Laura Miller. “So, they’re getting a lot of help. We (the unit) sent flowers to the mothers and teddy bears to the babies, and they know they just



NEW “BATTLE BABY” ...
Spc. Ray Yakesh, 307th MP Co., says goodbye to his newborn baby.

Chris Coleman

“I marvel at the sacrifices of the soldiers and families ... and the families have been very supportive”

— Laura Miller

preparations to ship out.

Fortunately, the births came early and at opportune times in the mission, and the soldiers’ absence didn’t interfere with required training, according to the 307th 1st Sgt. Robert Olack. He

added that the unit is now on the ground in Bosnia.

“They’re running a lot of mission and doing great,” said Olack. He said the soldiers are working 16-hour days, six days a week – a schedule that should make the time pass very quickly for them.

The time can’t pass quickly enough for the families who were left behind, according to Laura Miller, family readiness coordinator for the 307th, and wife of 1st Lt. Fred Miller, the officer in charge of the deploying troops.

The new mothers are doing fine and passing the time with their new “Battle Babies.”

have to call if they need any help.”

The families are in constant communication with each other and the soldiers, Miller added. They are passing photos through internet mail, so the new fathers are watching the babies grow ... digitally, from afar. Miller praises the added comfort offered by modern technology as well as efforts of 307th soldiers.

“It’s funny. I’m new to the military,” Miller said. “I marvel at the sacrifice of the soldiers and the families. It takes an amazing amount of commitment,” she added as a slight quiver began to form in her voice, “and the families have been very supportive of their soldiers.”

Miller said the unit is scheduled to return in March 2002, and the families, of course, are already counting the days.

Three of those soldiers have special new additions to their families. They also will have an ample opportunity to return the support they have received from their families.

Diapers, baths and feedings will replace the heavy burden of convoy escorts, foot patrols and roadblocks. ■

372nd, 307th MP Companies enroute to mission in Bosnia

by Chris Coleman

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – Teary-eyed mothers embrace daughters, weeping children cling to fathers, and wives kiss their husbands passionately. It will be the last time many of them will see their family and friends for months. These uncontrollable expressions ensure the 46 soldiers of the 307th Military Police Co., New Kensington, Pa, know how much their yellow ribbon-clad friends and families will miss them while they are deployed in Bosnia.

After loading two buses with their duffel bags, the 307th soldiers are deploying to Fort Dix, N.J. for training before deploying to Tuzla, Bosnia. While in Bosnia, the soldiers will escort supply convoys and perform patrols as part of a continuing American presence in the rebuilding Balkan nation.

According to 1st Lt. Fred Miller, the unit is prepared for the deployment. “We’re ready to perform our mission. We’ve been preparing for this the past several

... Yakesh whispers caring, comforting words – and goodbyes – to his nine-day-old daughter, Erin, ...

months. These soldiers are trained and confident,” he said.

Despite their confidence in their mission performance the soldiers will miss their families, “and that will be difficult for everyone,” he said

For Sgt. Ray Yakesh, the deployment is especially difficult. Minutes before getting on to the bus, Yakesh whispers caring, comforting words – and goodbyes - to his nine-day-old daughter, Erin, as his wife Breanne watches.

Despite the heart-wrenching emotions leaving his newborn daughter inspires, Yakesh understood why the unit was going.

“It’s going to be hard because it is almost like she just got here and now I have to leave, but I know there is a good reason for us to be there and that helps. There were atrocities committed over there, and we’re going to help keep the peace,” he said.

Yakesh could have tried to find a replacement, but didn’t. “We asked him if he wanted to have us find someone to take his place, and he said ‘no’ because that meant someone else would have to go,” said 307th 1st Sgt. Robert Olack. “Our heart just goes out to him.”

Stories like Yakesh’s are why the family support network of the 307th will remain strong said, Laura Miller, 307th Family Support Coordinator. “We are all very sad to see them leave, but we are all very proud, also. We are going to be in constant communication with each other over the internet - and that will help,” she said.

Yakesh wasn’t the only 307th soldier to sacrifice in order to serve with his fellow soldiers. Spc. Heather Cornish, is deploying despite neck surgery two weeks ago, and Sgt. Jennifer Hamilla, who broke her leg in a terrible car accident last March, pushed herself through rehabilitation to deploy with her fellow 307th soldiers.

“If we were deploying I want to be there,” Cornish said. She is.

As the buses left the Army Reserve center here, the families gathered beside the vehicles to wave one last goodbye to the 307th soldiers, who were deploying to a place far from their homes and families – but not far from their hearts. ■



PACKIN’ IT UP!

Chris Coleman

Spc. Erik Hamza, 307th MP Co., makes final adjustments on his bags as the unit prepares to depart.



DADDY’S GOODBYE KISS ...

Chris Coleman

A loving daughter gives her father a goodbye kiss before the 307th departed by convoy.



SUPPORT AT HOME ... Chris Coleman
 Spc. Heather Cornish and her mother share a moment before the deployment.



BOSNIA OR BUST ... Chris Coleman
 307th MP Co. soldiers adhere a sign to their bus, and are ready to go!



READY TO GO! Chris Coleman
 Sgt. Jennifer Hamilla muscles her duffel bags to the buses.



BOND BEYOND DISTANCE ... Chris Coleman
 A powerful image of bonding between departing soldiers and loved ones.

Editorial (Reprinted from the *Post-Gazette*, Pittsburgh)

Coverage close to home?

by John Dowling

I can't help question why the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* can support President Bush's seeming "about face" regarding U.S. support of the Balkan peacekeeping effort (Editorial, July 28, 2001), yet completely turn your back on the local patriots who are supporting this initiative.

Recently, citizen soldiers of the 307th Military Police Company in New Kensington departed for Fort Benning, Ga., in preparation for overseas deployment to Bosnia as part of the United Nations Stabilization Force in that region. No mention of these (Number of troops) self-sacrificing women, men and their families has appeared among the pages of "one of America's greatest newspapers."

How can you possibly applaud the President for his shift in policy, yet completely turn your back on members of our community who have made this mission successful since President Clinton made the decision to deploy peacekeeping troops to Europe several years ago. Previously, Army Reserve soldiers of the 23rd Postal Company from Pittsburgh and the 335th Personnel Battalion in Butler, have deployed to Germany and Bosnia in support of this effort. Very little, if any, copy space has been devoted to these service members and their plight during this time.

Recently, the *Post-Gazette* came under fire for running compelling pictures of an

out-of-town football player taking one of his final breaths and a mother from a far-off land crying over the loss of her children in an everyday act of violence in a "combat zone." If you want to see compelling photography, I challenge you to send one of your award-winning staff photographers to a mobilization send-off. The images of tearful children being torn from the arms of a devoted family member "marching off" to Europe for a six-month tour of duty are as equally compelling ... and all have local significance.

Because President Clinton's failed to define an exit strategy when he committed U.S. Forces to the Balkans, I'd be inclined to say you'll have many additional opportunities to make up for your recent gaffe in the coming years. There is no shortage of issues to examine, I can assure you.

While not a quagmire, peacekeeping in the Balkans has certainly had an effect on the entire military and Reserve deployability, which you have decided to ignore. These types of missions you wholeheartedly endorse can have a severe impact on unit morale, personnel retention, readiness for wartime contingencies, and most importantly, the sacrifice and commitment made by the soldiers and their families. Please give these valuable citizen-soldiers their due when the opportunity is presented in the future, which it will undoubtedly be. ■

LT. GEN. THOMAS PLEWES COMMENDS RESERVE SOLDIERS' ACTIONS DURING THE SEPT. 11 ATTACK ON THE PENTAGON

Statement by the Chief, Army Reserve

As I write this message to the Army Reserve, I recognize that it has been a week now since that Tuesday morning when one terrible blow after another hit our country. It has been a very busy week for all of us. The images of this week are burned into our souls and shall never be forgotten.

We gather strength from the countless acts of heroism that took place that morning in New York and here in Washington. We are saddened yet heartened by the courage of those magnificent firefighters, police officers and rescue workers in New York City. Among the hundreds of firefighters who lost their lives when the twin towers collapsed are at least five of our own — Army Reserve soldiers carrying out their civilian jobs to help their fellow citizens. We are still learning of other reservists who are missing.

The reaction of Brig Gen. Dick Colt and his soldiers in the 77th Regional Support Command was something we can look on with pride. In my visit to the 77th this week, I saw a confident, in-charge organization going about the business of disaster recovery in ways that will set the standard for the Army Reserve in the future. The key was a trained and functioning Emergency Operations Center and responsive units. Hundreds of support items were appropriated and delivered in short order. A laundry and bath unit quickly set up to support the mortuary operation. A wonderful group of Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers were literally the first on the scene, and to this day have not left their posts.

We are also filled with pride at how Army Reservists reacted when Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. Lt. Col. Vic Correa guided people out of the smoke-filled Pentagon to safety. Lt. Col. Sean Kelly helped lift a desk off a woman. Brig. Gen. John Weiss and Col. Bruce Westcott used their medical training to stabilize victims on the grass beside the Pentagon. Lt. Col. Isabelle Slifer helped a co-worker as they made their way to safety. Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Ray



Devastation at the Pentagon.

John Valceanu



Americans mourn the fallen.

John Valceanu



Flags and flowers to remember.

John Valceanu

Lackey, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mantha, Master Sgt. Jacqueline Gopie, Lt. Col. Timon Oujiri, Maj. Mike Coughlin and many other Army Reserve soldiers rushed to the west side of the Pentagon to help however they could. Chaplain (Col.) Larry Racster has been ministering to victims, rescue members and family members since the morning of the attack. These are just a few of the examples of Army Reserve soldiers performing in the highest traditions of courage and self-sacrifice.

Now we are entering the next phase of the operation. Three days after the attacks, the President ordered a partial mobilization of up to 50,000 reservists (10,000 Army). This indicates just how serious these attacks were for America. During the Gulf War, we had a Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up less than three weeks after Iraq invaded Kuwait, but a partial mobilization did not occur until five and a half months later.

The call-ups will be measured. We envision calling up a limited number of units for as short a period as possible. Some may continue or replenish Army Reserve recovery operations, because many of the 2,500 Army Reserve soldiers supporting Army missions and assisting with disaster recovery now are on a long-term mission. Other units will be augmenting force protection activities at installations and other sites. Still others may be called to prepare for and support the reaction phase.

I am heartened by the large number of volunteers and inactive Army Reserve soldiers who have stepped forward in this time of trouble. I know that all of us in the Army Reserve are ready to do what is demanded of us by the National Command Authority and by our country. We come into this period at the highest level of readiness in our history. I know that we will succeed in every task we are given.

God bless you all. ■

(Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Isabelle Slifer served as the 99th RSC Secretary of the General Staff during her last tour.)

99th RESPONDS TO ATTACK ON AMERICA

Security tightens as fear, uncertainty shadow skies

by Jack Gordon

HQ, 99th RSC, Oakdale, Pa. – Within hours after terrorists' attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Centers in New York City and Washington DC, the 99th RSC answered by initiating the responses required by the national crisis and subsequently declared Terrorist Threat Condition.

Across the geographical reach of the 99th – throughout Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. – more than 200 units tightened security by placing physical barriers to block all entry points and posting guards who are conducting 100 percent identification checks.

Currently, the 99th has not received mobilization orders for any unit. The command is aware of the President's authorization for mobilizing DOD reserve components, with reports indicating 10,000 U.S. Army Reserve, to include state national guard units. Those units are now in the process of being identified by Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command. Most units are expected to be called to augment the recovery and clean up of the attack sites, and perform military force security missions, or security missions in conjunction with civilian authorities during the crisis.

Within 48 hours of the attacks, the 324th MP Bn., Chambersburg, Pa., was notified for special security missions near Gettysburg, Pa., and here. Some 55 soldiers are conducting security guard stations and checkpoints at both sites during the heightened security at all federal facilities.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, more than 30 soldiers from the 307th MP Co. in New Kensington, Pa., traveled to Fort Dix, N.J., as part of a contingency force. As those soldiers are performing a force security mission, more than 40 other soldiers from the unit are serving as part of the peacekeeping force in Bosnia, augmenting the 372nd MP Co., from Cumberland, Md.

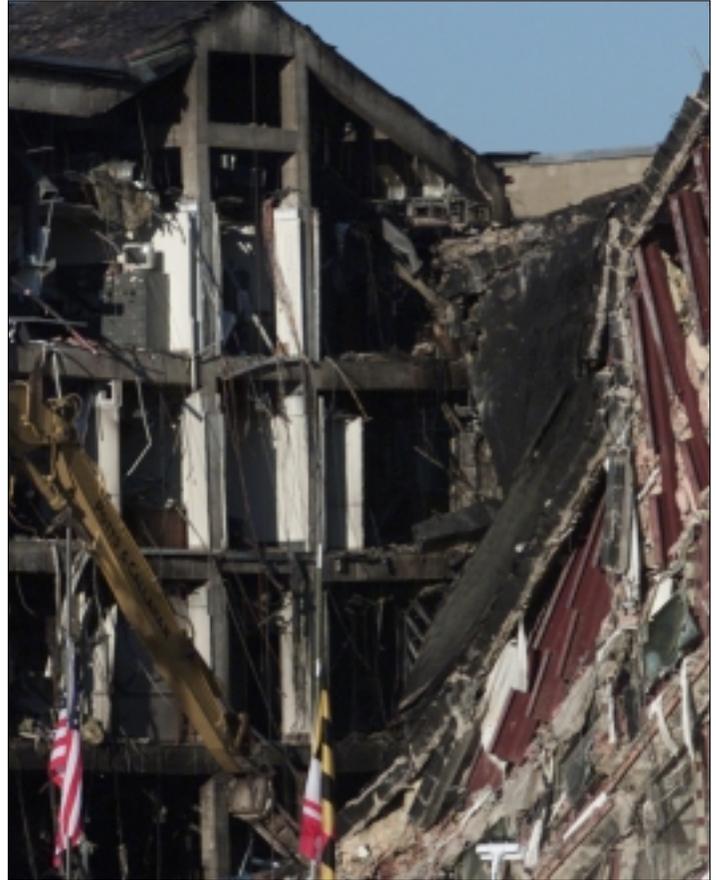
Legal support to the families of DOD casualties in the Pentagon attack are being assisted by soldiers from the 10th LSO in Crystal City, Md., and several other 99th soldiers with specialized military occupational specialties are continuing their duties at various locations.

The 99th's Commander, Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, was in a meeting in the Pentagon when the attack occurred.

"We felt a tremendous impact," Kennedy said. "It was disbelief." Kennedy said she and other general officers in the meeting room were quickly directed to safe passage routes through the world's largest office building. The meeting room was located on the outer, or "E" Ring, on Corridor 6. The hijacked airliner penetrated through corridors 4 and 5.

"Have these events energized and focused us?" Kennedy asked. "Clearly ... yes! Our soldiers are focused and confident."

As Army Reserve units await further orders regarding potential mobilization in support of Noble Eagle, many are thinking back to 1989, when Operation Desert Shield called for the first activation and overseas deployment of Army Reserve units since the Vietnam War. Lessons were learned from both conflicts – and those



DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ...
The Pentagon was crippled by the impact of the airliner.

John Valceanu



RESCUE AND RECOVERY ...
Americans watch in sorrow ... and anger ... as the search for remains continues.

John Valceanu

lessons are being applied today.

"Our job, and the one we do throughout the year, is getting our soldiers ready. Our mission is soldier readiness, unit readiness and family readiness. That's what we're staffed to do here, and that's the responsibility commanders are charged with in our units," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said the Army Reserve has the personnel, equipment and mission skills required in its combat support and combat service support units to assist in the aftermath of the attacks, if called upon to do so. An opportunity to serve ... awaited by every soldier in the command. ■

ANOTHER DAY ... OF

Remembering the day and honoring the dead at Pentagon crash site

by Nate Orme

PENTAGON, Sept. 26, 2001 — Fifteen days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, the gaping wound left in south side of the Pentagon appears cleaned and sterilized. Gone are the teams of rescue and recovery personnel wearing breathing masks and bio-suits while carrying out the grim evidence of an unspeakable crime that left 189 dead. Gone are the broken pieces of concrete, the twisted metal, the charred furniture. Gone, too, are the Army engineers who constructed dozens of wooden box cribs to shore up the busted and damaged columns that hold up the floors of the five-story edifice.

The FBI finally turned over the area to Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, Commander, U.S. Army Military District of Washington, in a special ceremony Sept. 26 in front of the point of damage. Officially, the area is no longer a working FBI crime scene. But for America, it will always be the scene of a crime — a moment that will forever survive in our national consciousness, as do other attacks that now live on in infamy. Only the perpetrators' twisted ideology will rest forgotten "in history's unmarked grave of discarded lies," as President Bush stated in his address to Congress and the American people on the attacks. Yes, we will surely remember the Pentagon and related World Trade Center attacks, just as we do the Alamo.

"The American people have been well represented here," said Jackson at the Pentagon hand-off. "Tragedy has a way of bringing out the best in Americans. With great professionalism, many people and agencies came together to do a job that has never been done before. We leave with the relationships we have established here, we just wish it were under better circumstances."

Inside the undamaged majority of the Pentagon, soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors and civilians continue serving as before the attack. One could hardly guess the calamity that had transpired here from viewing the seemingly normal operations in this massive complex. But one cannot see the knots of anger and horror felt by

so many here, spawned by this bizarre and unfathomable attack — a too-decent description were this uttered in private company.

Standing directly outside the impact area, the gap looks rather small in relation to the wide sides of the edifice. The collapsed floors have been removed, and the evidence of violence has been extricated. From a distance, it looks merely like a demolition zone. Only viewing up close begins to tell the full impact of the story now.

Are these inherently evil minds? Or were those who destroyed the spark of life and divinity in themselves, through their act, themselves victims of a twisted indoctrination by freedom's enemies?

Walking into the building using the entrance created by the Boeing 757, telltale signs of a strange occurrence become apparent. Plumbing pipes hang from the ceiling, broken and shattered like a plastic cup. Wires upon wires drape down from the ceiling haphazardly, without direction. The walls deep within the building, away from the area of direct impact, are blackened and charred, evidence of the fire that raged on, fed by the fuel-laden aircraft that earlier had lifted from nearby Dulles International Airport only to be diverted in a perversion of its peaceful mission.

Damp books, some singed around the edges, lie in a pile, gathered and placed by rescuers. Also salvaged, a two-foot-diameter cast-iron shield representing the Army Reserve is blackened by fire but hardly the worse for wear. Perhaps one day it will be placed as is, thoughtfully and appropriately, with a plaque of remembrance. For now, it leans silently against an unlit wall.

Eerily and thankfully, the destruction suddenly stops, and offices nearly untouched but for water damage adjoin

offices almost completely destroyed. A desk remains in one, and on it an intact bowl of blackened fruit.

On the inside wall of the second ring of the Pentagon, a nearly circular hole, about 12-feet wide, allows light to pour into the building from an internal service alley. An aircraft engine punched the hole out on its last flight after being broken loose from its moorings on the plane. The result became a huge vent for the subsequent explosion and fire. Signs of fire and black smoke now ring the outside of the jagged-edged hole.

The focus of the fire wrought destruction diagonally in two directions, aligned with the angle of the fuel-filled wings at impact. The left wing was tilted at such an angle it scraped on the ground on its way toward the Pentagon. The first floor was mainly damaged to the left of the missing chunk of building, while the second floor burned mainly to the right. Some personnel on the floors above the impact managed to escape, running down the hall, first one direction, only to be turned back by smoke, and then running in the other direction to safety. The hall they ran down doesn't exist now. It disappeared in the collapse of the third, fourth, and fifth floors soon after the raging fire spread through the area.

As part of the turnover ceremony, Arthur Eberhard, the special agent in charge at the Pentagon site, accepted the flag from the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry, "The Old Guard." Eberhard spoke a few words in thanks before asking permission to play a recording of a song he said had become increasingly important to him—"God Bless the USA."

Eberhard's boss, Van A. Harp, assistant director in charge of the FBI Washington Field Office, said the FBI was "overwhelmed by the support provided by the service members, firefighters, police and relief organizations that have worked with us over the last two weeks." Harp continued, "Our job would have been more difficult without the selfless service of these brave men and women."

The Pentagon is ready to be rebuilt. A new \$145 million contract has already been granted to Hensel Phelps Construction Co. of Chantilly, Va. The recovery work continued for a time in the North Parking Lot, where various agencies, such as the

INFAMY FOR AMERICA

311th Mortuary Affairs Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit called up from Puerto Rico, do the critical work of collecting personal effects and combing for evidence on the attackers. Now they, too, are gone.

There have been hundreds of truckload of material carted from the site — probably 300 to 400 hundred, amounting to approximately 10,000 tons of debris, said FBI agent John S. Adams, team leader for the evidence recovery team, part of the FBI's Washington field office.

Adams also said the Army engineers used approximately five linear miles of 6x6 lumber as shoring to prop up the floors around the impact zone. When one looks at the dozens of wooden piers, built up with horizontally laid timbers criss-crossed to rise in a rectangular cage from floor to ceiling, such a number seems reasonable.

For many, viewing the Pentagon is an attempt to bring some type of understanding, if not healing. But it still does not begin to answer the question of why. Yes, this is a military building, but the World Trade Center towers were filled with civilians, as were the aircraft commandeered to fly here and to New York to wreak a destruction the hijackers must somehow have savored. And those in the Pentagon served a democratic nation whose ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are practiced with a principled regard for the rights of other nations and peoples.

Was it insanity? Are these inherently evil minds? Or were those who destroyed the spark of life and divinity in themselves, through their act, themselves victims of a twisted indoctrination by freedom's enemies?

Now, it is only right to ignore the terrorists' ignorant rantings and pragmatically defend against them, and capture and their leaders, as has been promised.

"We are not deceived by their pretenses to piety," our president said. "We have seen their kind before. They are the heirs of all the murderous ideologies of the 20th century.

"By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions — by abandoning every value except the will to power — they follow in the path of fascism, and Nazism, and totalitarianism," Bush

declared.

Only the blind of eye *and* spirit would find moral equivalency between the life-affirming values of the United States and the homicidal goals of the terrorists. A regime that would support those who would wage war through these means would itself persecute those in the margins of its culture. This is not the path the United States will take. Why? Because our Constitution is a living document, broadly inclusive,

and ensconced in the hearts, minds and institutions formed here.

The conclusion is obvious to all except the most wanton. May the murderous worldview of terrorism be defeated and forgotten, and may our dead always, always be remembered and honored. God Bless America. ■

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Orme, an Army Reserve soldier, spent two weeks at the Pentagon crash site reporting on soldier recovery work on site.)

99TH SOLDIER SAVES ANOTHER AMID PENTAGON DEVASTATION

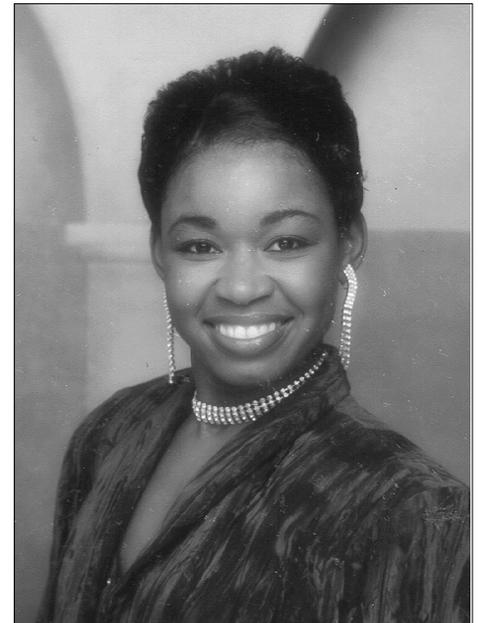
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, Washington, D.C. — After all that she had gone through, she managed to place that usual smile on her face when she saw fellow soldiers entering her hospital room.

Sgt. Janice Jackson is one of the survivors in the Pentagon attack that occurred on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. She suffered third degree burns over parts of her body, but is in good spirits. Now, she remains here, under physicians' care.

A single mother of two girls, Sherica and Jasmine, Jackson assumed that Tuesday morning would be just like any other morning. After getting to work and hearing about the planes crashing into the World Trade Center, she and her co-workers began talking about the incident. A short time later, Jackson recalls hearing a loud crash and being suddenly surrounded by debris.

"My main focus was getting out of there," said Jackson. She first began searching for an exit before she noticed a big hole in the wall, where she exited with her co-workers. Raquel Kelly, a fellow employee, got stuck coming out and yelled for Jackson to help here. She returned to help her co-worker through the hole and immediately afterward realized she was, literally ... on fire. She suffered burns to her head, neck, back and arms. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital's burn unit for treatment.

Jackson is employed as a contractor for the Department of the Army, and installs computers at the Pentagon. At the time of the incident, she had only been working



Sgt. Janice Jackson

there for nine months.

"She was in really good spirits and thankful to everyone for their prayers," said Staff Sgt. Sharon Riley, who works at the 9th Theater Support Command. "I was truly surprised to see her smiling," said Riley, who had prepared herself for the worst after learning of Jackson's fate.

Jackson is currently assigned to the 55th TSC/MMC. She works on the PT Team at the unit. "She is like a shining star in the NCO ranks and definitely what the team needs," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Warner. "She has a positive attitude and a winning personality." ■

MPs collect “coins” for duty in Bosnia

by Joe Burlas

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia (ARNEWS, Dec. 12, 2001) — A Pennsylvania-based airline stewardess and a factory worker from Connecticut have more in common than being national guardsmen currently deployed in Bosnia — they both also recently received personally delivered Army chief of staff coins.

Sgt. Jennifer Hamilla, a military police officer with the 372nd MP Co. from Pittsburgh, Pa., and Spc. Steve Doherty, an infantryman with the 1-102nd Infantry Bn. (Light) from South Windham, Conn., were among more than 200 29th Infantry Division troops to get the coins from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki during his visit to Eagle Base Dec. 7.

The 29th ID primarily consists of National Guard units in Virginia and Maryland. The division headquarters was augmented when it assumed the Stabilization Force mission in October. The 29th ID is the 10th unit to assume the mission since U.S. troops first entered Bosnia to ease ethnic tensions between Serbs,

Croats and Muslims in 1995.

“In two months, you have accomplished as much as any SFOR rotation,” Shinseki said. “We couldn’t set a higher mark for mission accomplishment than what SFOR 10 has already met.”

Hitting that mark has taken a lot of effort prior to deploying, according to Doherty. In addition to intensive training during regular monthly drill weekends, all deployed units were tested with mission rehearsal exercises at Fort Polk, La.

“Those MREs at Fort Polk got us more than ready for the mission here, Doherty said. “I don’t think there is anything that has happened here that we didn’t get trained on and were prepared for before deploying — no surprises at all.”

The chief’s visit to Eagle Base made a little more work for its security force, but it was well worth it, according Hamilla.

“Any VIP or USO visit means there are more i’s to dot and t’s to cross due to increased security and accommodation

requirements, but those visits are important for morale — doubly so during the holidays,” Hamilla said.

Those who received a coin from Shinseki were selected as representative of the entire U.S. SFOR contingent based upon chain-of-command recommendations for outstanding performance of duty while deployed in Bosnia, said a SFOR spokesman.

“I would match my kids man-for-man against their counterparts from any generation,” Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum, 29th ID commanding general, told Shinseki. “Those who say Generation X knows nothing about responsibility, service or duty don’t know any 29th Infantry Division soldiers — they are truly outstanding.”

Shinseki delivered messages of thanks and daily prayers from the American public, along with his own holiday greetings, to more than 2,500 deployed troops during a three-day whirlwind tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bosnia and Kosovo Dec. 5-7. ■



OFF TO DUTY! ...

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) The final formation of the 372nd MP Co., New Cumberland, Pa., augmented by soldiers from the 307th MP Co., New Kensington, Pa., salutes 99th Commander Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, before departing for their mobilization site at Fort Dix, N.J.; Kennedy presents a coin to a 372nd sergeant as part of the departure ceremonies; the Reserve Center was adorned with yellow ribbon by the unit’s family support group.

Photos by Steve Harmon



FIRST FEMALE CADETS IN THE SALVADORAN ARMY HOST 99TH RSC'S FIRST FEMALE COMMANDER

by Jack Gordon

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador – There are a lot of changes occurring in El Salvador, and one of them is in this Central American nation's military. In January 2000, the first female cadets were admitted to the Salvadoran Armed Forces Military Academy here. Another first is the visit by Brig. Gen. Karol A Kennedy, 99th commander, to the school to share her perspectives of the female role in military service. Kennedy's views are unique and inspiring, since her appointment as commander of the 99th Regional Support Command etched her place in Army Reserve history as the first female to serve as an RSC commander.

Speaking through a Spanish translator, Kennedy related her challenges entering into what had, for ions, been a male dominated arena.

"My father wasn't happy with me when he found out I had enlisted in the Army," Kennedy said. "That was 37 years ago ... and much has changed for us since then." Kennedy was originally assigned to the Women's Army Corps (WAC) then, as an administrative specialist.

Many of the cadets are happy to be here, since the selection process is very competitive, and it is considered a high honor in Salvadoran society to serve in the military. The rigors of daily existence here equal those of any other military academy, and it will be four years before they move to specialized assignments in the Army, Navy or Air Force.

Kennedy urged the cadets to persevere, remain strong, and ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead. She knows the path for them will be long – it was for her.

"When I started, there were only a few females around – there

was nobody to talk to, or confide in, about how we felt," said Kennedy. She told the cadets that after she was commissioned, a male, junior NCO told her that "he didn't mind" working for her. She reminded him that his thoughts didn't matter – and that she was his senior officer, regardless of gender.

Kennedy asked the Salvadoran male escorts and cadet cadre to leave the room so the cadets could speak openly to her. Although they expressed minor insecurities about life in a military where men still prevail, they are nevertheless proud to have been chosen to serve. Kennedy's advice focused on performance and ability to gain respect.

"Don't ask to be treated special because you are a woman," she said. "It has always been important to me that I could be a good soldier and not have to act like a man – you can be a woman *and* be a good soldier."

Kennedy cited Operation Desert Storm as a breakthrough for females in America's Armed Forces. Why? "We were able to prove ourselves," Kennedy said. "If you're able to professionally do your job, you will be expected ... and *respected!*"

El Salvador is no longer engaged in civil war, after factions signed the peace accords in 1992. Since 1993, those serving the Salvadoran Armed Forces are volunteers. The nation's military is now more trusted by the populace than from the days of the wars, and gaining more respect and support by responding to the devastation created by the recent earthquake.

"The incredible job your Army did after Hurricane Mitch and is now doing after the earthquake is something you should each take pride in," Kennedy told the cadets. "You should be proud to know you are a part – to embrace the good of helping. Do not give up your dream. We are proud to be here too ... helping." ■



Jack Gordon

BREAKING NEW GROUND ...
(ABOVE) A cadet listens of the 99th Commander's comments. (RIGHT) Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy conducted both formal and informal discussions with El Salvador's first female cadets.



Jack Gordon

FORT POLK PROVIDES THE HEAT IS ON!

by Carl Croushore

"It's hot. This is Africa kinda-hot. Tarzan couldn't take this kind of heat," Mathew Broderick's character bemoaned of his Army basic training in the movie adaptation of Neil Simon's play, *Biloxi Blues*.

But it isn't Biloxi, Miss. It is here at Fort Polk, La., and soldiers from three 99th RSC units training at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center, are having it "hot." Luckily for them, it's only the 90 degrees and 93 percent humidity of mid-May and not the sweltering inferno of full summer yet to come.

One unit of soldiers knew the potential of how hot it might get. Firefighters from the 369th Engineer Platoon, Norristown, Pa., are supporting the air crash rescue and firefighting missions in conjunction with the training going on "in the box."

"We don't normally do air crash rescue," explained Pfc. Mike Wiktorowicz, "but it's our main duty here."

Wiktorowicz spent 10 years as a volunteer firefighter before turning professional in Wilmington, Delaware. He also has more than two years as an Army Reserve firefighter under his belt. Many of the unit's soldiers are either professional firefighters or volunteer for their community fire department. They serve proudly as specialists in life safety both as civilians and as soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Crego expounded on the unit's mission enthusiastically. "We actually carry out a life safety mission running three shifts," he said. "What we train for normally is deployment to an area to set up a life safety and firefighting station. We're a full service

department and deployable worldwide.

While we were deployed in Bosnia, we developed all the fire safety programs." The firefighters routine involves fire safety inspections that identify and address safety violations found, actual firefighting, and fire rescues if necessary.

"I was the fire marshal in Bosnia," said Crego. "It was my job to create the fire safety regulation guidelines and ensure compliance. We aren't out to get people – we're here to maintain the safety of the

your face, yet you continue on to save a life or suppress a fire — it takes a dedicated team to keep driving on."

Keeping the mission going was essential for another of the 99th units training at JRTC. Soldiers of the 430th Replacement Co., Hiller, Pa., took advantage of a lull in preparation to explain the essentials of troop rotation and replacement within "the box."

"Our mission is filling vacancies in units that require augmentation due to soldiers wounded or missing in action," Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Hilke explained. Wary from mission prep and the heat, Hilke maintained an aura of determination that only an acting first sergeant with 31 years of service might muster.

We're a personnel and equipment holding area now. Once the exercise gets into full swing, we'll be replacing soldiers (role-players) to the needy units. The medical holding company sees to it that 'wounded' soldiers are 'treated' and rotated back through us to a unit that needs a healthy

soldier. We don't deal with KIAs directly, but we are responsible for replacing MOS and soldier numbers to units suffering combat losses."

As part of the scenario of JRTC, no soldier is kept at the holding area for longer than 24 hours. As new "wounded" arrive, they are processed and transported to another unit that needs their specific MOS to continue their mission.

Transporting all those troops to the respective locations is another logistics challenge handled ably by soldiers of the 99th's 465th Transportation Co., Bristol, Pa. Even though most of the unit consists of



FIRST FIELD EVACUATION ...
Medics from the 343rd Medical Company (Ambulance) evacuate a "patient" in "The Box" at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

Jack Gordon

troops. If there is noncompliance to the safety regulations, we use the chain of command to enforce compliance for the safety of the soldiers."

Greg Self, captain of the Fort Polk fire station training the 369th soldiers, found himself in a role reversed from one he had experienced in March. "What's unusual is that they're here training with us now, and 60 days ago I was in Buck's County (Pa.) getting training from some of these same guys myself. This isn't like a normal job. What we do is important – saving lives and pursuing fire safety. The smoke may be so thick you can't see a foot in front of

TRAINING FOR 99th UNITS

truck drivers, Staff Sgt. Kim Isaac, NCOIC for the mission, believes strongly in cross-training her troops in other useful skills.

“I was a medic before I became a driver,” Isaac said, while taking a break from the air-conditioned office before venturing out into the heat again. “I made use of that skill seven years ago when I was working at Cherry Hill Mall as a security supervisor. I used the skills I learned on a heart attack victim until help arrived to take him to the hospital for bypass surgery. Training in new skills is essential to round out a soldier, in my opinion.”

Spc. Casey White, an automotive logistics specialist, agrees. “Here, we’re basically body haulers,” he said. “We pick up the ‘dead’ and ‘wounded’ and work hand-in-hand with the 430th to get the troops rotated back to the box. My main job is getting the drivers licensed and maintaining the logs, but I try to learn as many other things about the unit and mission as I can.”

The 465th uses HUMVEEs, 5-ton trucks, M931 tractor-trailers and HEMTTs to accomplish their transport mission. Of the more than 200 soldiers in the unit, the detachment currently here is only 19 strong.

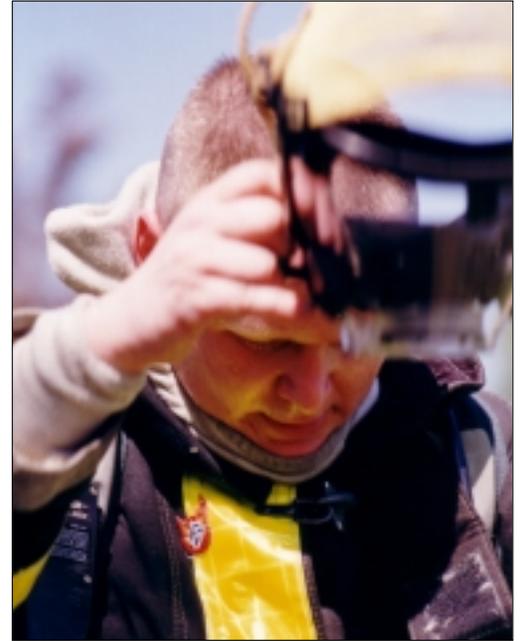
“It’s a real small detachment this time,” related Isaac. “We went through ‘the box’ during the last JRTC rotation, so we were playing the game then. Now, we’re ‘White Hats’ – non-combatants. This time, we’re strictly support.”

As two trucks pull into the holding area bearing soldier-casualties from the “war” in “the box,” most of the troops are smiling. For the soldiers waging the war designed by the JRTC, the support provided by the 99th soldiers will get them a meal, a rest and maybe even a much needed break from the heat and humidity.

For the soldiers of the 99th training in support of the JRTC, the smiles reflect the pride of a mission accomplished while “the heat is on!” ■

“What we do is important – saving lives and pursuing fire safety ... it takes a dedicated team to keep driving on.”

– Greg Self



Jack Gordon



Jack Gordon

FIREFIGHTERS IN ACTION ...

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Spc. Robert Alman, 369th Engineer Platoon (Firefighting), Norristown, Pa., is glad to shed the protective clothing that added “hot” to Fort Polk’s heat; 369th Engineer Platoon firefighter Spc. Robert Alman works with Fort Polk fireman Michael Goins on retrieving and coiling hose; Fort Polk Firemen worked with Army Reserve firefighters from the 369th Engineer Platoon on every aspect of emergency response to fires.



Jack Gordon

(CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT)
Spc. Jarrod Kuzmitsky, 465th Transportation Co., Bristol, Pa., tracks crates of MREs; Sgt. Dan Witherbee, also from the 465th, conducts vehicle maintenance on his truck; the 99th soldiers use forklifts to move palletized cargo to storage areas; Staff Sgt. Kim Isaac controls the reception and distribution of supplies at the 465th site at Fort Polk.

Photos by Jack Gordon



NIGHT PATROL!

Engineers Enforce Area Perimeter

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — “Under the cover of darkness ...” is a phrase often used to describe covert operations and that’s what soldiers from the 458th Engineer Bn. are learning – and conducting, outside the perimeter of the Special Forces encampment here.

The soldiers planned the perimeter security check around the compound, using a sand table to scout the best reconnaissance routes to establish LP/OPs (Listening Posts/Observation Posts).

After camouflaging in dark forest patterns, the squads conducted the night patrol “under the cover ... of darkness!”

Photo Essay by Jack Gordon



COVER OF DARKNESS ...

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) A lone soldier on patrol around the camp’s perimeter; a weapons check before a final inspection; the squad leader outlines the mission on a “sand table”; the patrol complete, the soldiers return to the camp.

RIO GRANDE 2001 —

by Gary Goodman

DUGWAY PROVING GROUNDS, UTAH— With the growing threat of chemical and biological warfare, the mission of the U.S. Army chemical corps becomes more important every year. Growing tensions in the Middle East, as well as the possibility of terrorist attacks on American soil, present new dangers for these soldiers to face.

That's why training exercises like Rio Grande 2001 are conducted. Held here at the nation's leading center for chemical and biological warfare, various chemical units from around the country have come to hone their skills during their annual training.

Several units from the 99th Regional Support Command are taking part in the training event, including the 485th Chemical Brigade, 130th Chemical Company, and 300th Chemical Company.

According to Staff Sgt. Robert Portalatin, chemical operations specialist and platoon sergeant for the 130th, smoke and decontamination missions are the main focus of the unit's training this year.

Smoke missions consist of several HUMVEEs equipped with M157 smoke generators running patterns over a battle position in an effort to hide it from enemy forces. The smoke blanket produced by the generators can cover more than 20 square kilometers. Several different areas can be simultaneously "smoked" as well, providing a sporadic smoke pattern over a very large area. This not only provides cover for tanks, artillery, troops and tactical operation centers, but creates decoy positions for enemy forces to fire upon, lessening the chance of striking

their target, according to Capt. Sean Sullivan, commander of the 130th Chemical Co.

Decontamination missions are employed when troops, vehicles or equipment become contaminated with nerve or blister agents. A bleach solution, called slurry, very similar to that used in swimming pool cleaners, is sprayed through a high-pressure hose at a very high temperature through the use of a senator.

The senator both heats the solution and provides the pressure for the hose system. Chemical operation specialists, in MOPP 4, spray a large portion of contaminants from the vehicles or equipment with the slurry. They then do a second rinse and check the equipment and/or vehicles with a hand-held detector to determine the amount of residual contamination. All this is done so soldiers hit by the chemical attack can continue their mission. When the mission is over, a more thorough decon will take place, according to Portalatin.

Scenarios were created to make the training missions more realistic. In one scenario, a special forces unit spotted a SCUD missile attack. They (an artillery battery) were in the immediate vicinity. They were contaminated by VX agent and pulled from the area. They then requested immediate decon," said Portalatin. His unit set up decon equipment quickly, Portalatin said, with the tracked vehicles going through the cycles of decontamination. "If we detect any contamination, we recycle the vehicle," he said.

Even though the temperatures have been in the high 80s and 90s throughout this AT, morale remains, Sullivan said.



LAYING IT THICK ...
A 130th Chemical Co. HUMVEE lays a smoke screen during training at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah.

Gary Goodman

464th Chemical Brigade conducts “chemical” exercise in Utah

“It’s been high-speed training,” said Spc. Jason Smith, a chemical operations specialist with the 130th. “Lucky for me as a squad leader, I have a great squad. They are giving me 100% all the time.”

According to Sullivan, the chemical companies will be taking on another mission as well. Thirty chemical units throughout the nation, including the 300th and 130th Chemical Companies, have been tasked with civilian casualty decontamination. The new equipment acquired by the units will allow them to decontaminate very large numbers of people in the event America’s civilian population is attacked with a weapon of mass destruction.

According to Sullivan, the Chemical Corps is the only branch of the Army that is growing, despite the Army’s downsizing. This fact, along with the mission of Chemical Corps, offers testimony to the growing threat of chemical and biological weapons. Hopefully, these soldiers will never have to carry out these missions in actual combat. But if they do, the chemical corps soldiers of the 99th will be up to the task.

(Editor’s Note: This article was written before the September 2001 attack on America. The renewed realization and fear of terrorists using chemical or biological weapons domestically is very real.) ■



Gary Goodman

CHEMICAL DECONTAMINATION JOB ...
Soldiers from the 99th chemical units received realistic training on the chemical decontamination of vehicles and equipment. This soldier sprays down an M113A3 Armored Personnel Carrier as part of the decontamination process.

Gary Goodman



MOVING THE ALLIED FORCES

99th REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND HAS UNIQUE UNIT IN A UNIQUE PLACE

by Jack Gordon

SEOUL, Korea – “The Army is attempting to get away from maintaining huge stockpiles of supplies and ammunition,” said Maj. Thomas Guarnaccia, an exercise and training controller her observing the merging of the two elements of the 55th MMC (Materiel Management Center) here – one located in Korea and the other a half-a-world away in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

“This unit will be involved in moving materiel forward – by requisition – to wherever it’s needed by the customer. That’s what drives the supply – demand. This way there’s no misdirected resources and minimal waste.”

The actual mission of the 55th here, in the event of renewed hostilities on the Korean peninsula, is performing integrated supply and maintenance management for all classes of supply (except medical and maps) to successfully sustain forward-deployed unit operations. The unit must also consider and predict future requirements to enhance logistical decisions for continuing operations.

The process is called RSOI, referring to the reception; staging, onward movement and integration of all requested or required equipment resources.

“This is the wave of the future,” said 99th Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, here to gain an overview and additional insight into the command’s first unit that has soldiers serving both here and in the United States – as well as Korean KTUSAs (Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army). These are Korean nationals performing mandatory duty in the military.

“I don’t believe we’ll have a big, standing Army in the future,” Kennedy said, “so this formula is literally making history. Our Army is already stretched pretty thin – you don’t have to read very much to know that.”

Kennedy has the distinction of having served in all three Army components, and now as deputy commander of one of the Army Reserve’s largest RSCs, she is able to see all three here working together toward a common mission.

The 99th’s senior NCO – Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin also has experience in managing various soldier assets into a solid team, and the experience is one he holds close.

“When I was in Vietnam I worked with the Montagnards,” Griffin said. “The fact I am alive today is because of them, so for me it’s an honor to work with our KTUSAs today. Griffin served as a Special Forces medic in the Vietnam War.

The soldiers here from each side are getting to know each other, and determine the systemic shortfalls in their operations, and there’s no opportunity like that being offered here ... now.

“There’s no time for us to learn our jobs after we get here (on an actual mission),” said Master Sgt. John Blair. “We have to know them before we get here. If I don’t know how to something or don’t understand how a system works, it’s up to me to find the right person now to learn what I need to know.”

Lt. Col. Nicholas Mans recognizes the proactive example Blair is setting for his soldiers, and sees the resulting actions as the link to future success.

“In all probability,” said Mans, “the Reserve soldiers will be



IN HER HONOR ...
Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy is met by Lt. Col. Deborah McNeill at equipment storage facilities in Pusan, Korea.



BIG ... AND STILL GROWING!
Pusan Harbor holds the key to the reception of troops and material in Korea. The harbor, among the world’s largest, is still growing. The 55th’s mission includes the reception of supplies at Pusan.

serving in the unit longer than the active component or AGR soldiers, who will rotate through, so we must get all the knowledge we can from them.”

Mans said that what the unit different is also what presents it with both strengths as well as challenges, and that the direct interface the troops from Fort Belvoir are experiencing now is the best training and preparation possible.

“We’re going to ‘just-in-time’ logistics, and these are the soldiers who will be doing it,” said Guarnaccia. “I don’t care if they’re store clerks or school teachers at home – when they’re here – they’re soldiers. They’re the pulse.”

It may be an Army of one now ... but it’s *still* one Army. ■

FORWARD IN KOREA



ON THE GROUND ...
Lt. Col. Daisy Pleasant (left) and a civilian employee are silhouetted against the Pier 8 area of Pusan where the 55th MMC would receive supplies at Korea's largest port.

Jack Gordon



YOU ARE HERE ...
(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Col. Charles Addison outlines facility storage areas in Camp Carroll for Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy (left); Master Sgt. John Blair (left) and Lt. Col. Nicholas Mans, 55th MMC, Fort Belvoir, exchange ideas enroute from Seoul to Pusan aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter; Command Sergeants Major Archie Ballinger (left, 55th MMC) and D. Courtney Griffin (99th RSC) take a look at a display of individual soldier equipment and clothing stored in a warehouse in Pusan.

Jack Gordon



IN THE NEWS ...
Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy examines a copy of the latest newspaper at Camp Henry, Korea.

Jack Gordon



Jack Gordon



Jack Gordon

SULTANA ... 949th TC

by Chris Coleman

CHESTERTOWN, Md. – As the rigging tightens around *Sultana*'s white and caramel-colored hull, she slowly begins her ascent into the sky.

The crane atop the 949th Transportation Co.'s Barge Derrick *Keystone State* lifts the 130,000-pound vessel, and 9000 spectators silently watch soldiers guiding the ropes that balance the airborne ship - ensuring it remains motionless.

The 18-and-a-half-foot tall craft hovers 20feet above the ground as the derrick's massive crane methodically rotates during the 15-minute turn to the left. As the ship is slowly lowered into the brown, brackish Chester River water, canons fire and the crowd erupts as *Sultana*'s first voyage – from the earth, through the air, and into the water - is completed.

On Mar. 24, soldiers from the 949th TC, Co., Baltimore, hoisted *Sultana* from High St. downtown here and placed the ship in the Chester River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Then *Keystone State*'s crane lifted again, 949th soldiers helped install *Sultana*'s masts and bowsprit.

The launching was a daylong event capping off four years of diligent work by schooner *Sultana* Project's volunteers. More than 50,000 volunteer hours helped build the exact replica of the first *Sultana* – a 1700s ship that patrolled the Chesapeake Bay as a tax regulator for the British Royal Navy.

The 1768 *Sultana* was commissioned into the Royal Navy to intimidate smugglers and tax-evaders, but the 2001 *Sultana* was built to educate children on the historical, cultural and environmental topics pertinent to the Chesapeake Bay.

Maj. Gen. Rodney Ruddock, commander of the 99th RSC, visiting his "seaborne soldiers" in the 949th, said he was pleased the unit could be a part of a community project dedicated to education. "*Keystone State* is the *only* Barge Derrick of it's kind in the entire Army, and I'm proud our soldiers are able to participate in a project that will teach future generations of children," he said.

Drew McMullen, Schooner *Sultana* Project coordinator, said the Army Reserve

saved the non-profit organization more than \$40,000, and he credited the "enormous amount of work by the Army" as one of the reasons the launching was a success. "God Bless 'em. I can't begin to say how much we appreciate it," he said.

While 949th soldiers will probably never have to lift an 17th century schooner during war, they said *Sultana*'s future students and Chestertown's citizens weren't the only ones to benefit from the launching.



Chris Coleman

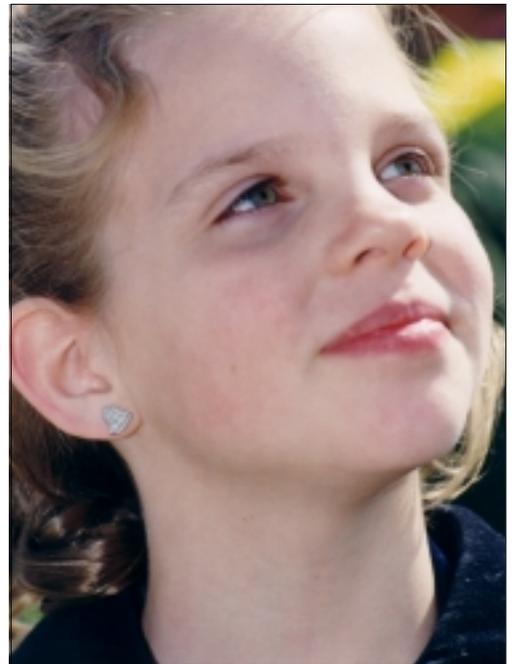


Chris Coleman

"We've never lifted any historic ships before – so this is a first, but we don't get to do heavy lifts on a normal basis. This gives the crane operator valuable experience doing heavy lifts," said 2nd Lt. Tim Ryan, 949th.

According to Chief Warrant Officer George Koch, 949th crane master, the mission was a success. "It couldn't have gone any better. From the crane operator to the deckhands handling the tack lines - this was a smooth operation," he said.

Aly Conran, a fourth-grader who has spent at least two weekends a month sanding, painting, cutting planks and rigging the boat for the last three years, was chosen to christen the ship before *Sultana* begins her maiden voyage.



Jack Gordon

Conran, whose grandmother, Lorraine Whitehair, would often drive four hours to bring Aly from her hometown of Westminster, Md., to Chestertown to volunteer, said she saw "flashbacks of all the good times she had working on *Sultana*" before she sent the ceremonial champagne bottle crashing into the hull of

launches classic wooden ship



Chris Coleman



Chris Coleman



Chris Coleman



Chris Coleman



Chris Coleman

(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) U.S. flag ashore frames *Keystone State*, the Army's largest barge-derrick; two 949th TC deckhands refit lines from the tug to the barge-derrick; Aly Conran was selected to officially christen the vessel; CW2 Tony Kreidler works lines around a timberhead; Spc. Alfredo Hinal and CW4 Don German, 949th TC, monitor the docking of *Keystone State*, which attracted the entire town of Chestertown, Md.; *Sultana* is gently raised by *Keystone State*; *Sultana*'s bow figurehead is decorated with garlands and a wreath for the ceremony; *Sultana* is floating in the Chester River – mission accomplished!

the boat.

Afterward, Ruddock presented Conran a 99th commanding general's coin, honoring her diligent work on the vessel, which she graciously accepted.

"I was really proud. It was really, really cool," she said. ■

OVERSEAS MULTI-COMPO UNIT IS 99th RSC'S FIRST – RIGHT UP FRONT

by Jack Gordon

SEOUL, Korea — An AGR (Active Guard-Reserve) soldier is assigned to an Army Reserve unit to provide the commander and leadership with a direct thread for preparing the individual soldiers – and the unit collectively – to effectively mobilize for deployment in crisis situations.

The AGR's job ... is keeping the unit trained to standard, and able and ready to respond if called. It's a concept that has already proven the test of time ... and is now fostering further new territory in the 55th MMC (Materiel Management Center) – the 99th's first multi-component unit. The multi-component unit features both active duty soldiers, AGRs and assigned Army Reserve troops.

This new arena where the experience and expertise brought to bear by the full-time troops directly affects the higher-level training and mission capability of the TPU (Troop Program Unit) soldiers is a testing ground.

"The system is not without flaws," said Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, 99th RSC deputy commander. "It is nevertheless now providing us with the model that may mirror the Army's future."

The multi-component unit is also designed to be further augmented with special MOS-qualified soldiers when called to duty, if necessary.

"It's not a 'we' or 'their' thing," said Sgt. Maj. John Swain, operations sergeant major for the 55th's forward element located here; "it's a 'we' *proper* relationship." ■

KOREAN MISSION ALLOWS SOLDIERS TO GET A "TASTE" OF ORIENTAL CULTURE

by Jack Gordon

Whether it's the national Korean dish of Kimchee – fermented cabbage and onions with hot pepper, or a steaming bowl of equally as spicy, slippery noodles, it usually takes a little practice using the chopsticks to successfully move the food from the plate on the table to one's lips.

Reserve soldiers from the 99th's 55th MMC (Materiel Management Center) visiting their active duty counterparts are enjoying the cultural exposure to Korean food as they examine the unit's mission requirements and explore their designated areas of operations.

Even with all the work ... there's always time to eat ... and enjoy the Korean cuisine experience! ■

Photos by Jack Gordon



NOT TOO HARD ... Staff Sgt. Cory Walton, 55th MMC, Korea, is getting used to chopsticks at lunch, but his technique amuses Cpl. Ahn Kyoo, a KTUSA (Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army) assigned to the 55th here. (Note the 99th patch on Kyoo's uniform.)



(ABOVE) Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin assumes the "squat" position he used during his tour in Vietnam. (BELOW) Soldiers from the 55th MMC had a special table set for Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy at Camp Carroll, Korea.

LEADERSHIP – soldiers

from 363rd Military Police Co. build it

by Donald Dodson and Gary Goodman

FORT DIX, N.J. – As the role of the U.S. Army changes with current military needs, the mission of the military police changes with it. Reserve deployments increase every year, including the need for peacekeepers as well as “warfighters.” This requires more intense, specialized leadership training – especially for the military police who maintain the security of soldiers, materiel and installations during those deployments.

Last year, soldiers of the 363rd Military Police Co., Grafton, W.Va., got a taste of reality during 30-day rotations in Guatemala and El Salvador. This year the unit is using

lanes training, weapons familiarization and qualification, the leadership reaction course, night infiltration course and urban assault training to evaluate the soldiers’ state of readiness and increase the squad level training tempo.

A large portion of training was spent qualifying and familiarizing on the unit’s impressive arsenal of weapons, including the M249 SAW, the MK19 40mm automatic grenade launcher, M9 pistols and of course, M16A2s. And they have a lot of them.

“We’ve got more weapons than we have personnel to fire them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Zinn, smiling.

The unit also spent an evening at “Omaha Beach,” Fort Dix’s night infiltration course. The course is designed to teach soldiers how to negotiate obstacles, high and low crawl under fire, react to flares and other skills needed to survive on a battlefield at night.

“When we come to a post during our annual training, we try to take advantage of everything the post has to offer,” said Major Patrick Manning, Executive Officer for 336th MP Bn.

The Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) was very popular, because at each station, every soldier had a

chance to use his or her leadership skills. “This course allows everyone to participate and give input and find out what your weaknesses and strengths are,” said Spc. Charles Algire, an MP with the 363rd. Military policeman Spc. Shawn Majors added, “The LRC really brought our teamwork together. You don’t have to be a team leader to depend on other people. I enjoy that.”

The other half of the unit’s AT was spent conducting lanes training, which was geared specifically to improving the leadership skills of the squad leaders and assistants. The unit’s platoon sergeants “sat out” on the exercises, which brought the

responsibilities down to the squad level.

Since many of the missions the MPs perform, such as manning critical road junctions, guard posts and patrols, involve three or four soldier teams, strong squad level leadership is essential. “We put more trust in our E5s than many other units,” said Manning.

This wasn’t the first time many of these soldiers have trained in these tasks, since they are common tasks for MPs, and the unit conducts training during drills.

“We’re using lanes training to see how well we’ve been training at drill,” said 1st Sgt. Cindy Siegman. Tasks included base-to-base cluster defense, operational security and securing and defending a unit position. “The soldiers have really pulled together, and morale is high,” Siegman said. She attributes this high morale to the type of action-oriented training the soldiers are getting.

Lanes training is a way to assess a unit’s strengths and weak-

nesses as well as serve as a way to train soldiers in leadership skills. “It will bring out your weaknesses so quickly – the ones you know are there, so you cannot deny them. It will show your strengths the same way,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Barsic, 2nd platoon, 1st squad leader for the 363rd.

“One of my weaknesses when I got here was commo, but after 15 minutes of running commo back and forth, sending three SALUTE reports in five minutes, my commo is up and running and I’m squared away,” said Spc. Eric Collins, an MP with the 363rd.

“I have more respect for what the squad leaders have to do and how much time and effort it takes to actually plan before we get our warning order, safety briefings and things of that nature,” said Spc. Tommy Fuscaldo, another 363rd MP.

Each of the soldiers serving the 363rd will be taking something different with them from the training. For some it may have been the thrill and experience of night infiltration, for others the challenge of leadership, but for all it will also be the common pride of doing a job well, knowing the training is worthwhile, and that one day it might make a difference on the battlefield. ■

Leadership Reaction Course

The Leadership Reaction Course was developed by the German Army of World War II. When liberating Allied units were occupying German military installations, they discovered what appeared to be playgrounds. Actually it was the brightly painted obstacles of the LRC.

The LRC is a series of timed obstacles replicating combat situations negotiated by squads. The Squad Leader is briefed on the problem and associated constraints. After a brief period authorized for the development of a plan, the Squad Leader issues the appropriate orders to the squad and supervises the negotiation of the obstacle.

The grading criteria for the exercise involves the quality of the plan and its communication, good supervision and successful execution within the time limit. The LRC is valuable for developing leadership skills and is a lot of fun for the team.

FLOOD RELIEF!

300th Chemical Company assists families in need after floods cause destruction in West Virginia

by Jack Gordon

SUMMERSVILLE, W.Va. – Residents here have been hard hit by three floods this early summer, leaving thousands without shelter or sustenance, but Army Reserve soldiers from the 308th Chemical Company, Morgantown, W. Va., are happy to be helping their fellow statesmen in a time of need.

“It’s great to be able to help these people,” said Staff Sgt. Marshal Thompson. “We usually don’t get to be part of a relief effort. The people really appreciate it, and it makes me feel good.”

The Reserve center served as a collection point in Morgantown for citizens and businesses to bring staple food supplies and other goods to help the flood victims, according to Glenn Blosser, unit administrator for the 300th.

Now, three “deuce-and-a-half” trucks have arrived here to pass the goods on to the state agencies assisting in the actual distribution to displaced families. Sgt. First Class James Koch is leading the delivery effort.

“Doing a mission like this is important,” said Koch. “We’re trying to help our neighbors – in fact, my sister’s house was washed away.” Koch’s sister visited him and the other 300th soldiers as they unloaded the trucks.

Under crisis or emergency conditions like southern West Virginia is now experiencing, the governor first mobilizes the National Guard, which was called to duty after the first flood, and continued providing support throughout the ongoing, heavy rains. In this case, however, Reserve soldiers are more than happy to be integrated into the response.

“We’ve had a lot of volunteers in our unit helping all the way through,” Koch said. After the unit first began collecting supplies, the effort quickly spread to community residents and local businesses in both Morgantown and Grafton. The donations focused on the immediate needs of food and cleaning supplies, but extended to other considerations as well.

“There’s a little bit of everything,” Thompson said. “There’s all kinds of non-perishable food, bleaches and cleaning supplies to help with the mud, personal hygiene items, clothing, toys for the kids, and pet food.”

Lee Gray, comptroller for West Virginia Emergency Services, oversaw the reception of the three truckloads of supplies, and expressed his gratitude for the support of the Army Reserve.

“We’re very happy to have them make the delivery,” Gray said. “We have limited transportation assets, so the military support with logistics has been a big benefit in distributing these supplies to families.” The feeling of helping is mutual.

“We don’t like to see these situations,” Koch said, “but when things like this happen – we’re happy to help, and work with the National Guard.” ■



Jack Gordon

HELPING HIS FAMILY ...

Sgt. 1st Class James Koch was visited by his nephew when the unit delivered emergency relief supplies to communities in southern West Virginia that were ravaged by repeated summer floods.



Jack Gordon

LOTS OF HELP ...

Sgt. First Class James Koch (in truck) and Staff Sgt. Marshall Thompson unload donated staple supplies for residents who lost their homes to floodwaters.

5115th GSU conducts awards ceremony for Korean War Veterans

by Sarah Bell

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – A single tear lands softly on the table. A mixture of pride, happiness and hurt contort the lined face of a Korean War veteran as his introduction and presentation of award is made. Beside the soldier sits his colleagues of war, rigid and proud.

The 5115th Garrison Support Unit (GSU) honored Korean War veterans on May 23.

Col. Michael Masnik, commander of the 5115th GSU, awarded several veterans a certificate of commendation, a commemorative lapel pin and a commemorative campaign button.

“This nation cannot repay you for your sacrifice,” said Masnik, “but we can honor you and thank you for your service. Equally important, we can make sure that we soldiers, and the public, never forget what you did and what you went through.”

“I like being recognized as a Korean War Veteran,” said Robert Flores. “A lot of people don’t know much about the Korean War or what we went through.”

“I stayed in Korea for three years,” Flores shared. “I should have been there only one year, but my replacements were always rerouted to other parts in Korea. I hated the weather in Korea. It was so cold. We had to move constantly to keep from getting frostbite. We didn’t have enough warm weather gear.”

“The supply was the worst thing in the world,” said Raymond Moran, Korean War veteran. “They wouldn’t send enough warm weather gear and when the Chinese attacked, we had to burn everything we couldn’t carry.”

We burned truckloads of food and clothes, Flores recalled.

Though the war had its distressing moments, the soldiers found ways to entertain themselves to get their minds off the turmoil for a while.

“I can still remember how our fighters and the Korean fighters would have dog fights every night,” said Flores. “One of their planes would fly close to the line and our planes would shoot up to meet them. We would sit and watch them do battle. They would do this every night.”

Boris Spiroff is glad he is being recognized as a Korean War Veteran and proud of his service.

“It was the least I could do,” Spiroff said. “We did what we were supposed to do. I thought I wasn’t going to be in any other war since I was in World War II, but then I get a letter from Truman saying I was needed in Korea.”

Spiroff wrote a book *Korea: Frozen Hell on Earth*, to share his war experience. The book is a compilation of letters he wrote to his wife during his duty in Korea.

He found the letters while cleaning his attic. He was advised to write a book to educate people on the Korean War, which is referred to as the “forgotten war.”

“If we don’t say anything, it won’t be said,” Spiroff mentioned.

“We’ve never left the Army,” said Carlo Deporto. “We might have retired but we never left it.”

Deporto was also recognized for his selfless service as a volunteer for the 5115th GSU. For months, Deporto helped register the unit’s vehicles with the Provost Marshal here.

“Military is my life,” said Deporto. “Everything I do is military related.”

As the old soldiers thanked Masnik for the presentation, Masnik replied, “It meant a lot to us to recognize you. It meant a lot to the soldiers of the 5115th.”

When asked how it feels to be recognized as a hero to many, Spiroff simply stated, “We’re not the heroes — we’re the survivors. The heroes never came back.”

Dave Jankowski, supervisory staff administrator of the 5115th GSU, said the 5115th is the only Army Reserve unit that is part of the Commemoration Partner Program, which reaches out to veterans across America. ■



DUTY AND HONOR ...

Jack Gordon

Col. (Ret.) Michael T. Masnik presents a certificate to Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Raymond Moran, commonly known to 5115th soldiers as “Old Soldier.”



REMEMBERING THEIR SERVICE ...

Jack Gordon

Col. (Ret.) Michael T. Masnik, commander, 5115th GSU, reads a Certificate of Appreciation to Korean War Veterans who were honored at the ceremony.

DMZ – THE LINE IS STILL DRAWN, DIVIDING NORTH AND SOUTH

by Jack Gordon

PANMUNJEOM, Korea – With the socio-politico-economic world evolving almost faster than geography books – or web sites – can keep track of it; one thing hasn't changed here ... for more than four decades. It's the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) here. The DMZ was established after three years of fighting between the North and South, when an Armistice was signed – it is, in fact still in effect.

Running 151 miles across the Korean peninsula from the Han River estuary in the west to a point just below the 39th parallel on the east coast, the DMZ is both a “no-man's land” where any human presence will probably be met by a bullet from either side, and a peaceful nature reserve where no development or hunting has occurred since the Armistice.

A visit here offers a glimpse across the divide, and the ability to stand on the line that yet divides Korea into north and south – communist and democracy. The soldiers here – both U.S. and ROK (Republic of Korea) are highly trained, tough and ready to answer aggression at any threat level. Duty here is a delicate balance between a people divided by political idealism.

Full of enough tension, underground tunnels and intrigue to interest anyone, the DMZ – while heavily guarded and

patrolled by both sides, is also a tourist attraction in Korea. Within easy sight is Propaganda Village – an entire, small North Korean city ... without inhabitants, only illuminated at night and featuring public broadcasts from the North. And there's Freedom Bridge – the solitary bridge connecting North and South Korea

For Brig. Karol A. Kennedy and 99th Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin, the visit here renewed their commitment to military service ... and to the soldiers of the command's 55th MMC serving in Korea.

Both remained silent as they gazed across the expanse. Soldiers from the North used binoculars to get a better look at the visiting female general ... who did the same! ■



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) ROK (Republic of Korea) soldiers assigned to duty at the DMZ must meet many criteria to be selected for duty, including standing six-foot tall and at least as a black belt in martial arts. The soldiers stand motionless for hours during their watch; Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy looks across the Military Demarcation Line that bisects the Joint Security Area in Panmunjeom, Korea; Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy uses binoculars to watch the North Koreans “watching her” at the Joint Security Area in Panmunjeom, Korea; a host soldier from the JSA explains how the Joint Security separating North and South Korea was established and continues to operate, maintaining the longest Armistice in modern military history.

Photos by Jack Gordon

BRINGING THE KIDS TO WORK DOESN'T MEAN WORK ...

IT MEANS FUN!



*Part of today's
Army Reserve
strength is the family
at home. The 99th
makes family mem-
bers feel welcome in
the Army Family.*

Photos by Rich Gribenas



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LOOKS TOWARD TOMORROW

by Chris Coleman

OAKDALE, Pa. – As the spotlight illuminates her youthful face, seventh-grader Mackenzie Trunzo stands proudly on stage before the audience. “I can be – and *will* be – anything I choose to be. I have to thank the women who came before me for that possibility. My future can be whatever I choose,” she said. The smiles on the faces in the audience illustrate how her affirmation resonates with those who have watched the Breaking the Mold Players act as the courageous and visionary women who fought to create the social mobility Trunzo – representing tomorrow’s women – can expect.

In celebration of March’s Women’s History Month and women’s proud social and military accomplishments despite years of social inequality, the Oakdale Federal Women’s Program is holding its annual Women’s History Luncheon here. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, the featured speaker and Women in Military Service For America Memorial Foundation president, discussed the prejudicial obstacles women have had to conquer to serve their country.

She reminded the audience about the service of military women. “At the memorial there is a skyline, and etched on that skyline is a quote from an Army nurse who served in the China-India-Burma theater. ‘Let the generations know that women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom – that our resolve was just as great as the brave men who stood among us’,” she said. “That is what the

memorial is about, what Women’s History Month is about – and, what I’m about.”

Vaught highlighted the military women’s trailblazers to social equality for women. She told the tale of Dr. Mary Walker, the first and only woman to earn the Medal of Honor, and other female military pioneers who fought for their country decades before they were allowed to vote.

During the luncheon, the Breaking the Mold Players illustrated how the contributions of Eleanor Roosevelt, millions of World War II working women, housewives, and Gloria Steinem provided the opportunities tomorrow’s women will enjoy.

“Without a doubt, none of these women expected to be singled-out and celebrated as a woman of courage and vision, yet each has demonstrated the courage to pave new paths, and to push past what was considered safe or appropriate. In doing so, they have created an expanded vision of what is considered possible for all of us to achieve,” said Peggy O’Leary, Charles E. Kelley Support Facility recreation specialist.

Many attendants said the luncheon gave them perspective on the struggles of women in the military, and was a refreshing reminder of how far greater civil rights have progressed in the last 100 years. “It just says a lot that you can be what you want – because we have the freedom to choose. We are very fortunate to live in America,” said Karen Nichols, transportation specialist, Charles E. Kelley Support Facility. ■



IN THE SPOTLIGHT ...

A skit using period costumes portrayed women’s contributions to America.



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S SERVICE ...
(ABOVE) The program featured a discussion on the Women’s Memorial in Washington, D.C.; (LEFT) Authentic costumes lent both credibility and theater to the women’s history skit.

ACROSS THE WATERS ... TO ALASKAN ROAD

by Steven Harmon

ANNETTE ISLAND, ALASKA — Regis Philbin thinks a lifeline is something used by contestants on his “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” game show, but the 99th RSC boat crew members of the 464th Transportation Company, Fort Belvoir, Va., know that they are truly the essential lifeline for the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines here. The 464th and its Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM-8 ... Mike Boats) vessels provide all of the transportation support for supplies, cargo, and personnel needing to get to the island from the nearest city, Ketchikan, Alaska in support of Operation Alaskan Road. The Joint Task Force (JTF) Alaskan Road personnel are solely dependent upon the 464th and Navy “Mike Boat” crews for the majority of their life support requirements. The JTF operates from base camp “Wy Wuh” ... which in the native language means “let’s go” and is located on the island here.

Alaskan Road is an Innovative Readiness Training exercise sponsored by Alaska Command (ALCOM), a joint headquarters located at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The origins of this mission date back to WW II when the road was promised to the local Tsimshian Indians living on the island. In order to fulfill this original promise, a joint task force of approximately 300 service members are building a road from the Metlakatla Indian village to a proposed ferry site near the vicinity of Camp Wy Wuh. To

accomplish this task, ALCOM task organized a Joint Forces Engineering Component Command (JFECC) to carry out the mission. The JFECC consists of service members from all of the services and from both the active and reserve components. Alaskan Road uses active component units in approximately 30-day rotation cycles and the reserve units for 14-day cycles. Due to severe weather constraints, Alaskan Road is only operational between the March – September timeframe. According to the JFECC commander, Lt. Col. Jerry West, Mo. National Guard, “Operation Alaskan Road provides outstanding joint planning and training opportunities for all of the services involved in this project. This is a very challenging engineering and logistical mission considering the remote island location, the austere

conditions, and the extremely rugged terrain.” Approximately 6240 service members have supported Alaskan Road since initial base camp construction and road work was initiated back in FY 97. Anticipated completion of the IRT phase is scheduled for FY 04. West further added that, “it’s great to be working on a valuable IRT project that offers excellent training benefits for the support-

ing military organizations and ultimately provides a much-needed road for the Indian community.”

Conducting tough, realistic, hands-on, performance-oriented training is the benchmark for current Army doctrine and Alaskan Road provides abundant opportunities to achieve this standard.

“This exercise is the best training opportunity I’ve ever seen and it’s for all of our MOS’ including our mechanics, welders, boatmen, and leaders,” said Sgt. Thomas Heald, coxswain for the 464th. It’s rare that we get a chance to deal with “real world” missions like this where we have to transport the JTF’s food, equipment, and personnel in a demanding environment where all of our crew members are constantly challenged by the weather, environment, and mission requirements.”

One of the significant challenges for the crews is the actual operational environment. Alaska’s Inner Passage is a place of beauty as well as danger. The

waters around Annette Island have tidal fluctuations of up to 20 feet, swift currents, various hidden obstructions, as well as sudden, severe storms, which include high winds. In addition to the dangerous water and weather conditions, the 464th mariners must contend with some of the tourist attractions and activities surrounding Ketchikan. There are numerous fishing and pleasure boats, seaplanes, and kayaks vying for space in the waters where the “Mike Boats” must operate. In light of these surrounding risk factors, the 464th and JFECC leaders stress safety as a top priority during all land and maritime operations. All maritime crews attend a safety briefing and area orientation at the Ketchikan Coast Guard station, which provides them with nautical charts outlining,



CUTTING A SWATH ...
The road through this remote wilderness is training Army Reserve engineers on heavy, earthmoving equipment.

Steve Harmon

(continued on Page 34)



ACROSS THE WATER ...

Steve Harmon

The 464th Transportation Co., Fort Belvoir, Va., and its LCM-8 "Mike" boats are the lifeline for the joint forces exercise in Alaska. The soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are ferried to and from remote mission sites on the "Mikes."

cruse ship channels, kayaking routes, and seaplane landing areas. Additionally, the 464th boat crews conduct various emergency "battle drills" between actual missions, these drills include reaction to collisions, on-board fire drills, rescuing a person overboard and other critical crew tasks. It takes detailed planning and overall professionalism between the boat crews and the military harbormaster in Camp Wy Wuh to ensure that all of the missions are conducted in a timely and safe manner to properly support the exercise.

The 464th will cycle three rotations of soldiers through the Alaskan Road project this year and are scheduled to support this mission again next year. This is the second year that the 464th has worked on this project and the unit members and leadership is excited about this mission because of the invaluable training opportunities and the chance to see the rugged beauty that the Alaskan Inner Passage offers. According to Sgt. Delray Wallace, 464th boat mechanic, "this is probably the closest thing to real live training that we can get as a crew compared to our homestation and it's in a neat area to boot."

Alaskan Road also provides an excellent opportunity to train with the other services and reserve component personnel. Joint operations such as this enabled the 464th soldiers to work hand-in-hand with the other services, and for some, it was a first time experience. For example, there were Navy maritime welders teaching new welding techniques and procedures to a young 464th female welder Spc. Susan Wood, who was on her first annual training with the unit. "I've learned a lot about my job during this

AT. I don't normally get the chance to actually do this stuff anywhere else and all of the other mechanics here have been tremendous."

Sgt. Heald further commented, "I've dealt with Navy boat personnel before and we realize that we conduct our boat operations a little differently in the Army, but we also know we can work together on this exercise or anything else that puts us in a joint exercise. The Navy may tie their knots a little differently, which they're welcome to do, but we're all on the same team here on the island."

The boat crews know that they are the lifeline between Ketchikan and the JTF personnel at Camp Wy Wuh. With a sense of earnestness, the 464th boat crews know that "if the boats don't sail, the camp doesn't eat." The 464th and Navy crewmen also provide watercraft transport for all contractors and JTF personnel working at the Camp via scheduled personnel transport missions. The "Mike Boats" are also required to ferry all heavy equipment and cargo between the island and Ketchikan.

As the horizontal engineer units blast and pave the road across Annette Island, the "Mike" boat operators and support personnel continue to provide the invaluable lifeline for the JTF to successfully accomplish this extensive IRT project. Alaskan Road is a tough, challenging, and realistic operation for all the services involved in this project. While the JFECC may be well ahead of projected construction goals for this FY, there's still several years worth of work to be completed in the next few out-years between the Alaskan Road JTF and the state highway department. The



ultimate goal of this project is to improve the quality of life for the Metlakatlan Indian community by providing a safe, convenient, and efficient transportation link between Metlakatla and the Ketchikan road systems.

“It feels good knowing that we’re getting better training here than on any other exercise we’ve been on and we’re also providing a valuable service to the local Indian community,” said Sgt. Heald. “This is a very challenging environment and it doesn’t get much better than this.”

Instead of phoning a friend for a lifeline, the Alaskan Road JTF knows they have their lifeline available when they use the 464th transportation company’s “Mike” boats. ■



(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT)
A 464th soldier braves the rough waters; “Mike” boat crews check reference guides; an Alaskan-sized fire; Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy awards the leadership of the 300th Transportation Company for their efforts in Alaskan Roads!

Photos by Steve Harmon

STAND DOWN – Today's soldiers helping yesterday's vets

by Gary Goodman

PHILADELPHIA – For the past 9 years the city of Philadelphia has been host to the Stand Down, a program created to lend a helping hand to the homeless veterans of the area. With the help and donations from various service organizations, veterans affairs, airmen, Marines, sailors and soldiers from the National Guard and 99th Regional Support Command, many veterans will be given the help they need to get them back on their feet and into the community.

“It’s basically veterans helping veterans. We’re helping homeless veterans, trying to get them back into the system,” said Jerry Jonas, media coordinator and public affairs chairperson for this year’s Stand Down, which was held Friday, Sep. 7 through Saturday, Sep. 9.

According to Jonas, each veteran will be in-processed, and then have the opportunity to receive various services, all of which are free of cost to the vets. Each veteran has the chance to speak with representatives from the VA, and register with VA if needed. Health services and medical screenings are provided as well. Doctors of medicine and dentistry are on hand as well as podiatrists and psychologists to provide medical, dental and mental health screenings to all the veterans.

“Basically we’re servicing the homeless veterans, doing dental screenings for them. We’re looking to see which teeth are restorable, and which are not. If we find teeth that are not restorable, we refer them to the VA for appointments, and they do the extractions for them,” said Lt. Col. Chantal Newsome, a dentist with the 858th Medical Co., based in Chester, Pa.

Veterans Affairs set each veteran up with an appointment at the VA hospital on the recommendation of the physicians for further medical treatment.

“I think it’s important that we are seeing these people. A lot of these people are homeless and don’t have a chance to see a doctor or dentist,” said Sgt. Desta Fryer, a dental assistant with the 317th Medical Co., in Scranton, Pa.

The vets also had the opportunity to speak with lawyers and get free legal assistance. It gave them the opportunity to



Gary Goodman

BACK TO BIVOUAC ...

Homeless veterans at Stand Down are provided food, shelter and counseling in a “base camp” setting. Soldiers from several medical units supporting the annual event.

get benefits that are owed to them, correct problems with the VA, and in some cases correct an unfavorable discharge, according to Jonas.

Throughout the three-day weekend the veterans slept on cots in a military-style tent city, according to Jonas. “We are trying to give them a military setting here since they are veterans,” he said.

Each vet was provided with shower facilities, toiletries, blankets, boots and clothing. They were also provided with three meals per day: breakfast, lunch and dinner, with snacks in between. The food was donated and prepared by a group of Vietnam Vets called Rolling Thunder.

Many vets brought their families along for the weekend, although the women and children were provided separate shelters for the purposes of security.

Many soldiers of the 99th RSC saw this as an opportunity to help those who served before them.

“Officially, I was on orders for 3 days to help set up the field for the Stand Down. After just talking to the individuals, I couldn’t just go back to my unit and not be here. I had to come back and bring the unit with me,” said Sgt. Julie L. Dotson, the

property book NCO for the 817th Replacement Battalion.

“I think it’s great, I would like to come back and do it again,” said Sgt. Fryer.

In wartime or peacetime, there is no greater citizen than one who has served his/her country. We must never forget the sacrifices made by servicemembers for our country. Sgt. Desta Fryer summed it up by saying, “They served in wars for our country, and I think this is a little bit to help repay them back for that duty,” she added. ■



SOLDIER SINGS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT CAMDEN YARDS

by Robert Chamberlain

BALTIMORE – 2nd Lt. Barbara S. Leonard has been singing since 1970, when she joined her High School choir. However, on July 23, she had her largest audience yet as she sang the Star Spangled Banner before a crowd of 40,880 to open the Baltimore Orioles game against the California Angels.

In addition to a talent for singing that drew a deluge of compliments following the anthem, the ebullient 47-year-old has also had a long and varied military career. Following her graduation from East Tennessee University with degrees in Vocal Music and Health Education, Leonard enlisted in the Navy. There she served on active duty as a dental technician for seven years. She then transferred to the reserve component, where she went to work for the Oral Health Services of the State of Tennessee. After five years in the Navy Reserve, Leonard decided that it was time for a change.

“I wanted to get my Master’s, but the Navy didn’t have an MOS for what I wanted to do,” Leonard said.

So, with 12 years in the Navy and a college degree, Leonard received a direct commission into the Medical Service Corps and joined the 99th Regional Support Command. During training, Lt. Leonard sustained an injury that required her to call on the services of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a DoD agency. Leonard had such a positive experience with ESGR that she is currently undergoing the training necessary to become an ESGR Training Officer.

“I saw that I could really help some people,” Leonard said.

While the Orioles game (which they lost 9-4) was her first opportunity to sing the National Anthem before a sporting event, it will not be her last. She has also received offers from the Indianapolis Colts, the Tennessee Titans, the New York Yankees, the Atlanta Braves, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the Bristol Motor Speedway. ■



STAR SPANGLED BANNER ... Robert Chamberlain
2nd Lt. Barbara S. Leonard, 99th RSC, sings the National Anthem before a crowd of more than 40,000 fans.

GOT BLOOD? GIVE IT!



After Sept. 11, hundreds of thousands of Americans willingly donated blood. Because of the high percentage of fatalities among the casualties, much of the blood was not used.

Now, blood is needed again. Blood – is life and *has* life. When the Red Cross Bloodmobile visits your Army Reserve Center – *give* – the gift of life!

SEE WASTE? SEE FRAUD? CALL THIS HOTLINE NUMBER!

The U.S. Army loses millions of U.S. Taxpayers dollars each year due to Fraud, Waste and Abuse. The money comes from each and every taxpaying American. It is the responsibility of everyone, soldiers



and civilians alike, to report Fraud Waste and Abuse. The Carlisle Barracks CID office has specially trained Agents to assist you in combating Fraud. If you suspect fraudulent activity is occurring, or have questions about Fraud, Waste and Abuse, contact the Carlisle Barracks Fraud HOTLINE at **717-245-3076**. All calls are strictly confidential. If you wish, you may speak directly to a Special Agent by calling the Carlisle Barracks CID office at **717-245-3059**. Fraud Waste and Abuse is everyone’s concern, we need your support. ■

CELEBRATING THE ARMY'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY

by Chris Coleman

OAKDALE, Pa.— Early 2000 census data shows the U.S. Hispanic population grew by more than 60 percent during the last decade. From the Latin music “explosion” to referenda concerning bilingual education, the population surge dramatically increased the number of Hispanic threads in the U.S. cultural tapestry.

In order to address the social and cultural affects the Hispanic population surge will have on the federal workforce, the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board Hispanic Employee Program Committee held the Issues for Hispanics in the Federal Workplace training conference on Mar. 27 at the Charles E. Kelly Support Facility here.

While many people might think the Hispanic population increase was concentrated only in California, Florida, Texas or New York, states like Iowa, North Carolina and Oregon had the most dramatic Hispanic population increases, according to the census.

According to Leon Rodriguez, Federal Executive Board Hispanic Employment Program Committee chairman, Pittsburgh has a highly-educated and fast-growing Hispanic population needing representation. “Today we are germinating the seed of tomorrow’s opportunity,” he said.

The featured speaker was Maria Mercedes Olivieri, Office of Personnel Management, assistant director for diversity. She said Hispanics are underrepresented in the federal workforce – and, despite an increase in Hispanic representation from 1998 to 1999 – there is still evidence of a “glass ceiling or sticky floor.”

“Hispanics represent 12 percent of the civilian labor force but only six percent of the total federal workforce, and Hispanics are underrepresented in 16 of 22 federal agencies,” she said.

She said some highly-educated Hispanics leave the federal workforce because of cultural differences. “Among many Latinos sustaining eye-contact is disrespectful. I knew a Latino captain



Chris Coleman

CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY ... Maria Mercedes Olivieri, assistant director for diversity with the Office of Personnel Management, addresses participants in the training conference regarding issues for Hispanics at the Charles E. Kelly Support Facility.

whose major told him he didn’t trust him because he wouldn’t look him in the eye. It was a cultural difference – and he didn’t learn about it until years later – but he wasn’t comfortable and he left the army,” she said.

Olivieri said the most important part of attracting and retaining Hispanics – like any segment of the population — is making people feel appreciated and

valued. “Numbers are only part of the story. People need to feel comfortable.” She said.

Making Hispanics comfortable is “more than having a Hispanic heritage month party,” she said.

Sharing with the audience her experience of hearing Salsa music on British Airways, Olivieri pointed out that the “latinization” of American culture is a positive step toward successful Hispanic federal work force integration. However, she said, “The Federal government needs to keep pace or be ahead of the pack.”

“Hispanics represent 12 percent of the civilian labor force but only six percent of the federal workforce ...”

– Maria Mercedes Olivieri

Mike Minda, military resource technician, Human Resources Division, 99th RSC, said the conference was informative. “She gave you tools for action,” he said.

William Staub, 99th RSC command executive officer, pointed to the “wonderful Hispanic contribution to Army culture” as a reason the 99th RSC – as well as the rest of the federal workforce – need to be aware of the issues Olivieri addressed during the luncheon. ■

Hispanics in the Federal Workforce

Did you know?

■ Hispanics represent 8.3 percent of U.S. Army active component soldiers and 9.5 percent of the U.S. Army Reserve force.

■ Hispanics represent 12 percent of the overall civilian labor force and six percent of the Federal workforce.

■ The U.S. Hispanic population grew by more than 60 percent since the last census.

SOLDIER SPINS TALES OF PAST ... ROMANCE ... IN HER SPARE TIME

by Kelly Luster

When you think of a soldier serving in a Military Police Brigade, what comes to mind? Perhaps you visualize soldiers standing watch at the gates of our nation's military posts or the silent and vigilant sentinel walking a post on an embassy in far off lands. Here's a new image to add to those – *romance novelist*.

Romance novels and MPs might seem like mixing water and oil to most, but in the case of Sgt. 1st Class Sandy Ceballos, an NCO in the personnel section, 220th MP Brigade, Gaithersburg, Md., it's as natural as placing ink on paper and making a sentence.

Ceballos started her military career more than 28 years ago. In that time she has held several positions including general's secretary, finance NCO, two tours as a recruiter, personnel NCO, and clerk. Now she adds to her impressive resume that of romance novelist. Ceballos said she has always had an interest in romance novels.

"I've been reading romance novels for as long as I can remember," Ceballos said, although her love for this style of books has never become lost, she noticed a redundancy. "Every romance novel seemed to have the same basic theme being repeated over and over again." She said there is usually the larger than life hero and the damsel in distress who had to be rescued from savages. The same old cliché being repeated is what prompted her to write her own version of a romance novel.

In Ceballos' version, there is no damsel in need of help, but rather a bad girl named Angela who is searching for escape from her life as a prostitute. And rather than a muscular soldier traveling across the plains, it is Thunder, a Comanche chief who is on a quest. Together, the pair finds love in "Comanche Fire."

A perfect example of the modern citizen-soldier, Ceballos is a wife, mother and grandmother, as well as a soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve. She drew on her extensive travels throughout the western states during her time in the military as a basis for her story. "I love the plains of the U.S. and used some of what I saw while visiting Indian reservations as inspiration for my writing."

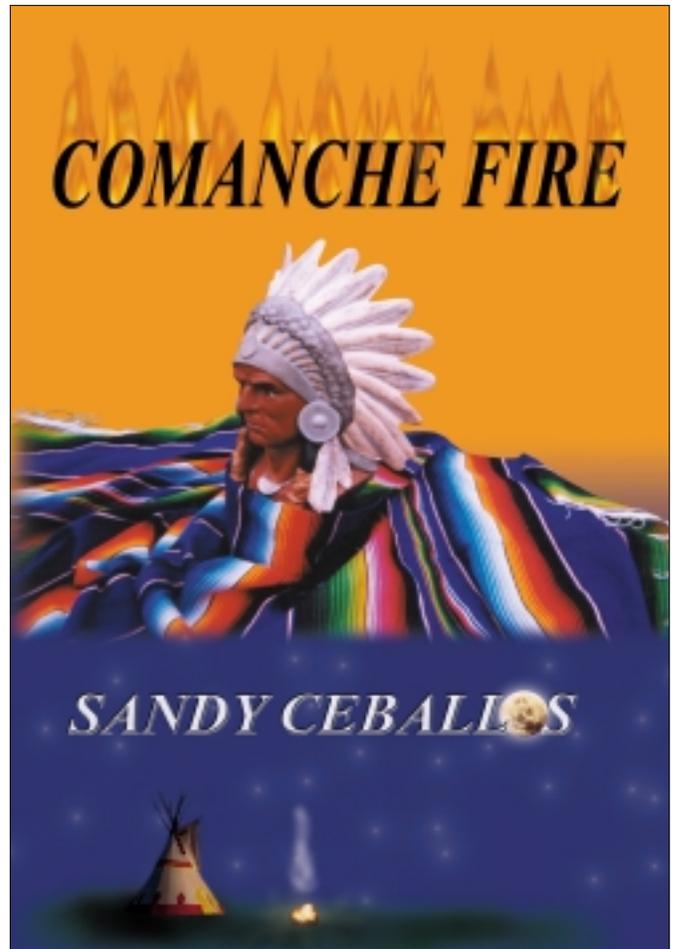
According to Ceballos, the story – like her career as a writer – didn't happen overnight. "It took ten years to write, 301 pages, and three different drafts before I finally finished it." Once complete, she began searching for a publisher.

The publisher Ceballos found is Infinity Publishing.com, an internet publishing company. Millions of people access the Internet each day and statistics show that a large portion of web-based commerce that takes place is book sales. Unlike traditional books that printed in large quantities before even being marketed, Infinity prints and ships books ordered from the internet within 24 to 48 hours. It's the wave of the future that eliminates overprinting and warehousing. The writer gains the greatest benefit. The books will no longer go out of print, writers are paid royalties monthly on books sold, and writer will retain exclusive rights to their work.

As "Comanche Fire" rides the wave of the future, what next for the citizen-soldier and author? Currently, Ceballos is hard at work on another novel and plans to continue her military career. She is confident her book will do well. Ultimately she feels a great deal of satisfaction in the completion of *her* quest, much the way her fictional characters Thunder and Angela complete *their* quests in "Comanche Fire." ■



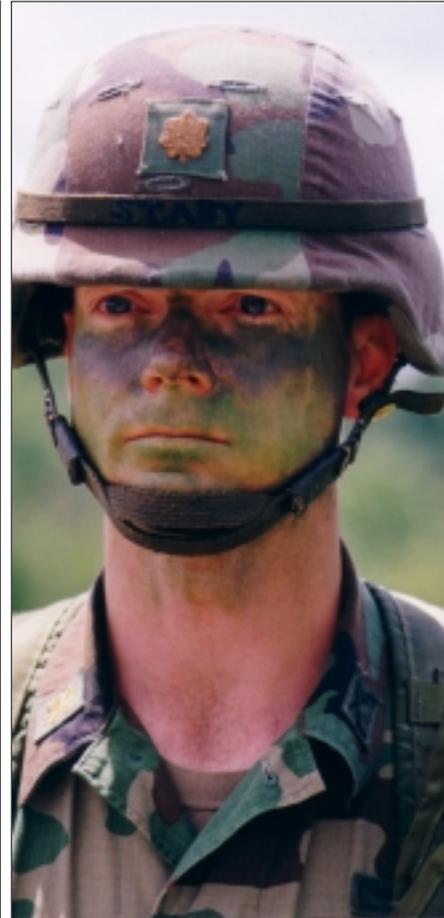
SPINNER OF TALES ... Photo courtesy of Sandy Ceballos
Sgt. 1st Class Sandy Ceballos, 220th MP Brigade, holds a copy of the romantic novel she wrote.



CALLED TO DUTY!

99th UNITS RESPOND TO U.S. OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE AND ENDURING FREEDOM

Unit	Home Station	MOB Date	MOB Site	Soldiers on Duty
323 rd MI Bn., Det. 2	Fort Meade, Md.	Feb. 11, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	6
323 rd MI Bn., Det. 3	Fort Meade, Md.	Feb. 11, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	6
323 rd MI Bn., I/E Det. Det. 2, TCAE	Fort Meade, Md.	Feb. 11, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	15
424 th Medical Bn., Det. 3	Fort Meade, Md.	Feb. 11, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	14
424 th Medical Bn., Det. 4	Newtown Square, Pa.	Jan. 18, 2002	Fort Dix, N.J.	19
2174 th Garrison Spt. Unit, Det. 2	Newtown Square, Pa.	Jan. 18, 2002	Fort Dix, N.J.	16
424 th Medical Bn., Det. 1	Fort Eustis, Va.	Jan. 6, 2002	Fort Dix, N.J.	6
363 rd MP Co., Det. 3	Newtown Square, Pa.	Jan. 4, 2002	Fort Dix, N.J.	16
363 rd MP Co., Det. 2	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Jan. 7, 2002	Fort Dix, N.J.	10
1215 th Garrison Spt. Unit, Det. 5	Grafton, W.Va.	Jan. 7, 2002	Fort Dix, N.J.	30
1215 th Garrison Spt. Unit, Det. 4	Willow Grove, Pa.	Nov. 30, 2001	Fort Drum, N.Y.	7
363 rd Military Police Co., Det. 1	Willow Grove, Pa.	Nov. 30, 2001	Fort Drum, N.Y.	20
88 th Military Police Co., Det. 2	Grafton, W.Va.	Nov. 26, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	70
542 nd Quartermaster Co.	Fort Eustis, Va.	Nov. 26, 2001	Fort Eustis, Va.	35
3403 rd Military Intelligence Det.	Erie, Pa.	Nov. 13, 2001	Fort Bragg, N.C.	36
3407 th Military Intelligence Det.	Gaithersburg, Md.	Nov. 10, 2001	Aberdeen PG, Md.	14
3425 th Military Intelligence Det.	Gaithersburg, Md.	Nov. 10, 2001	Aberdeen PG, Md.	9
1215 th Garrison Spt. Unit, Det. 2	Gaithersburg, Md.	Nov. 10, 2001	Fort Lee, Va.	13
1215 th Garrison Spt. Unit, Det. 3	Willow Grove, Pa.	Oct. 29, 2001	Fort Drum, N.Y.	31
323 rd MI Bn., Det. 3	Willow Grove, Pa.	Oct. 29, 2001	Fort Drum, N.Y.	18
400 th Military Police Bn., HHC	Fort Meade, Md.	Oct. 29, 2001	Aberdeen PG, Md.	8
352 nd Military Police Co.	Fort Meade, Md.	Oct. 25, 2001	Aberdeen PG, Md.	94
324 th Military Police Bn.	Rockville, Md.	Oct. 19, 2001	Aberdeen PG, Md.	14
88 th Military Police Co., Det. 1 Det. 1 TCAE	Gettysburg, Pa.	Oct. 18, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	44
Contingency Response Unit	Fort Eustis, Va.	Nov. 26, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	42
323 rd MI Bn., Co. A, Det. 1	Fort Meade, Md.	Oct. 11, 2001	Fort Meade, Md.	21
443 rd Military Police Co.	Alexandria, Va.	Oct. 9, 2001	Fort Eustis, Va.	37
LIWEC	Fort Meade, Md.	Oct. 6, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	8
3431 st Military Intelligence Det.	Owings Mills, Md.	Oct. 6, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	117
352 nd Military Police Co.	Fort Belvoir, Va.	Oct. 6, 2001	Fort Belvoir, Va.	38
305 th Military Police Co.	Gaithersburg, Md.	Oct. 6, 2001	Fort Lee, Va.	23
367 th Military Police Co.	Rockville, Md.	Oct. 1, 2001	Fort Jackson, S.C.	36
465 th Transportation Co.	Wheeling, W.Va.	Oct. 1, 2001	Fort Gordon, Ga.	36
2174 th Garrison Spt. Unit	Horsham, Pa.	Oct. 1, 2001	Fort Eustis, Va.	99
307 th Military Police Co.	Bristol, Pa.	Oct. 1, 2001	Fort Bragg, N.C.	145
5115 th Garrison Spt. Unit	Fort Eustis, Va.	Oct. 1, 2002	Fort Eustis, Va.	37
	New Kensington, Pa.	Sept. 30, 2001	Fort Dix, N.J.	90
	Fort Meade, Md.	Sept. 28, 2001	Fort Meade, Md.	12



NOTE: Listed are units that have five or more soldiers on duty. Several additional units have individual soldiers or teams of soldiers less than five that have been mobilized.



COMMAND TOP NCO PUSHES SENIOR ENLISTED FORWARD

Inspired by the 99th's top NCO – the 99th graduated several senior NCOs in the past two years

by Jack Gordon

FORT BLISS, Texas – He travels here each year ... at graduation time, to greet and congratulate all the 99th RSC's new sergeants major and command sergeants major. They are the cream of the command's noncommissioned officer corps, and it is they who will lead the rest of the command's NCOs to mission success.

"Of all the phrases the Army has ever used to recruit and retain soldiers, I think "Be all you can be" is the best – it's the key," said 99th Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin. "Every individual should strive to be all that he or she can be in achieving whatever their professional may be. Just remember though, as you move up through the ranks – never ... ever ... forget where you came from, and what it was like to a young private or new soldier," Griffin said.

The graduates of the Sergeants Major Academy here have each spent a great deal of extra time completing the non-residency, correspondence portions of the course, to attend the two-week residency phase, which when successfully completed, culminates in graduation. It's a challenge, but senior 99th NCOs have been responding.

"Our large number of graduates indicates there is a real need for NCOs to achieve this high level of leadership, and to be an example for other NCOs," said 5115th Garrison Support Unit Command Sgt. Maj.

Paul Sinclair, who attended the ceremony with unit graduate Sgt. Maj. Bernadette Chase. "As sergeants major or command sergeants major, we are always 'recruiting' for soldiers to keep going all the way to the top. It's beneficial to the 99th and for the Army Reserve," Sinclair said.

"The academy is the top level of training for NCOs," said Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Paylor, who is graduating here. "Once you've completed this, any general or commander anywhere knows they'll be getting a highly-trained NCO. I had good mentorship all the way through my career, so I've been motivated

and inspired to live up to their expectations and then turn around and bring the younger ones through."

The eight graduates for this cycle speaks well of the 99th, since all three of the Army's components' soldiers must complete the same course work to graduate, and Griffin hopes the achievement will be inspirational to other NCOs throughout the command.

"There's only one acceptable form of leadership," Griffin said, "and that's to lead by example – if you aren't willing to step out front – if you're not willing to set the example – to me, you aren't worthy of a leadership position." Griffin also reminded the

graduates that they must now continue to motivate, inspire and mentor others.

It's taken 30 years of service for Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Donahue to get his "sheepskin" from the academy, but for him, the journey has been worth it.

"It's something I always thought about, even as a private. I've always had my eye on it, and I sometimes didn't think I'd make it, but today I've met a goal from a challenge I took on two years ago. It feels good." Donahue served in Vietnam for two years in 1970-71, and said he has always been more comfortable as

being what he calls "an executer." He said he continually works throughout the 247th Quartermaster Battalion's NCO chain to get his NCOs to keep reaching upward.

"It's taken a lot of time away from my family and from my leisure time," Donahue said. "I had to get on a schedule to study and complete the course work, as all the graduates here have. I don't think of it as tough ... but more as a personal challenge."

"It's a high point," said Command Sgt. Maj. Don Riggs, 339th Combat Support Hospital. "NCOs form, as you've heard, the backbone of the Army – officers command, but we lead. We also train our replacement, and that's important." Riggs cited Griffin as having been a tremendous on his NCO career. He feels that the push to select and mentor mid and high-level NCOs must be strengthened within the command if the 99th is to continue its success in educating senior NCOs to this highest level.

"We're going to develop a study plan and have study groups so the next candidates won't have to struggle and work through the same roadblocks we did," Riggs said.

Griffin, justifiably proud that the 99th RSC had more graduates than any other Army element for this cycle, is pleased with these top-level NCOs, but he won't allow even the congratulations on their achievement serve as an end, asking each who the next potential sergeant major ... might be. ■



THE BIG MOMENT ...
Sgt. Maj. Lula M. Chase receives her diploma after completing the resident phase of the Sergeant Major's Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Jack Gordon

"There is only one acceptable form of leadership ... and that's to lead by example."

– CSM D. Courtney Griffin

SOLDIER BORN IN AFGHANISTAN TEACHES 99th TROOPS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISLAM ... AND THE TALIBAN

by Kelly Luster

HEADQUARTERS, 99TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, CORAOPOLIS, Pa — Throughout the generations of our country there are events that, due to their catastrophic infamy, will always live in the memories of those who were alive to experience them.

Most people can tell you what they were doing when Pearl Harbor was bombed or the war ended in the 1940s. Those who lived through the 1950s can replay newsreels from the Korean War. Anyone around during the 1960s knows exactly where he or she was and what he or she was doing when they heard JFK was assassinated. For those people of the 1970s, the fall of Saigon and end of Vietnam is still a vivid memory. The 1980s and 90s brought the destruction of Space Shuttle Challenger and Desert Storm. Now, as the new century begins, a new generation is given its first indelible scar — September 11, 2001.

While every American, as well as people of nations around the globe try to make sense of that day, soldiers — active, Reserve, and National Guard, are preparing for the inevitable — mobilization for war. Sadly, as many citizens are yet grasping to understand the events of that day, there are soldiers struggling to make sense of this new enemy and new challenge of “battlefield.”

For us, this new enemy has no face. The new war has no frontlines. There are no clearly defined targets. For them, nothing is sacred — everything and every person, no matter what God they look to for guidance, is a target.

For many Americans, both civilians and soldiers alike, the enemy is someone who lives half way around the world. It is someone who dresses differently. This master of terror kneels several times each day and faces Mecca to pray. Many have stereotyped Muslims around the world for the actions of a few. According to Aziz Ahang, “Nothing is further from the truth.” So ... who is Aziz Ahang?

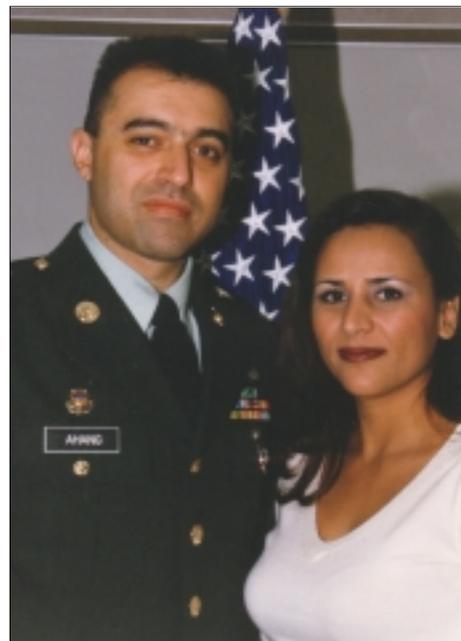
What makes this soldier an expert about this subject? Ahang was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, lived there until he

was 15-years-old, and remains a practicing Muslim. Both he and his wife have family still living in Afghanistan and Pakistan — family with whom they speak regularly.

Ahang was born in 1967 when things were still peaceful in Afghanistan. His childhood was like that of many other Afghani children. He went to school and studied the Holy Quran. Even when his cousin, Mohammad Dawood during a coup d’etat in 1973, overthrew King Mohammad Zahir Shah the biggest change that occurred was the new republic government. For Ahang and his friends, life went on as usual. “We knew it happened, but nothing really changed. We didn’t even miss a day of school.”

It wasn’t until 1978 that the situation in Afghanistan started to get bad. President Dawood collected most civilian members of the communist party of Afghanistan and had them thrown in jail. “I can still remember my father saying, ‘This is very bad,’” Ahang said. “The names of all those arrested were then published in all the newspapers.” Three days later, the military members of the communist party staged a coup d’etat resulting in the death of President Dawood, his brother and their families. One of the first actions of the communist regime was jailing of most prominent Afghan religious families to include men, women and children. This action caused rise-ups around the country by the followers of these families, marking the beginning of the Holy War (Jihad). As the situation of the communist regime in Afghanistan got worse, the Soviets had to intervene in order to put down the uprisings.

So in 1978, the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Afghani Freedom Fighters organized to defend against the much larger and better-equipped Soviet Army. If the Soviets were able to take Afghanistan, the Soviet Union might have a controlling interest in oil flow around the world. The Central Intelligence Agency couldn’t let that happen. So the agency went to Afghanistan to establish training areas for the Freedom Fighters. Most Americans now equate the name Al-Qaeda with the terrorist network reeking havoc around the



THE HAPPY COUPLE ...
Sgt. Aziz Ahang and his wife Fahima after the wedding ceremony.

Jack Gordon

world and against the United States. Actually, Al-Qaeda is the original name for the training camps organized by the CIA to train the Freedom Fighters.

While the U.S. assisted Afghanistan, the Soviets were reinforcing their own Army. In the frontlines though, the Soviets weren’t using Russian soldiers; they were forcing teenage Afghani boys to fight against their own people. It was that action by the Soviets and the advice of his associates that prompted Ahang’s father to leave the country. If not, he felt, he would surely be arrested, and Aziz would be forced to fight for the Russians.

While the fighting raged in his homeland, Aziz lived with his aunt in Pakistan. His father arrived later and prepared to immigrate to the United States. Within 18 months, Ahang and his family relocated to Chicago where another aunt sponsored them. Once here, he attended high school and graduated in 1987.

After graduation, Ahang joined the U.S. Army. Much of his early career was spent as a personnel records specialist. After about five years, he left the Army to pursue an education. After two years of

work toward his degree, Ahang decided to go back to the Army, but this time he would have a different job.

Living in a county where many languages are prevalent, Ahang learned to speak Persian, Urdu, French and English. This made him a valuable asset to the Army. Ahang decided again to leave the Army after his enlistment was complete. Once back in the civilian world, he used his education for employment in his specified field and intended to complete his degree. Unfortunately, layoffs forced him to again return to the Army, only now as an Active Guard and Reserve soldier.

Ahang now works as a personnel records specialist at the headquarters here and his new position has given him the unique opportunity to educate others about the truth of Afghanistan, especially those who would have everyone believe the action being taken by the United State after September 11 is a war against Islam.

For many Americans, the only source of information about this subject comes from an often-flawed source. During a Consideration for Others seminar, Ahang told soldiers about his past and answered questions from soldiers about Osama bin Laden, the Taliban, and Afghanistan.

According to Ahang, the Muslims called the Taliban (the Seekers) are not who we think. After 10 years of fighting in Afghanistan, the Soviets were finally forced to leave. With the Soviet Union crumbling and the Cold War all but finished, America had no more interest either. This left no government. So the civil wars started. Different tribes began fighting each other for control of power. The Taliban didn't come into power until



CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER ...
Dave Dzielielewski (right) congratulates the bride as Bill Staub, 99th RSC command executive officer, celebrates with the couple.

Jack Gordon

1996. The Taliban are of ethnic Pushton background, which comprises forty percent of Afghan population. They were put in place and backed by Pakistan until September 11 attacks. But once in place, they ruled with an iron fist like no government had before.

"The Taliban ruled by instilling fear into everyone," said Ahang. Thieves routinely have limbs amputated; women were forbidden to work; music and dancing were outlawed. It was so extreme that even flying a kite or laughing in public was forbidden.

As for Osama bin Laden, from the time the Soviets were removed and the time the Taliban came to power, bin Laden was

elsewhere training more soldiers. Osama returned to Afghanistan when it was good for him. The main source of money in Afghanistan is from Opium. Bin Laden cut deals with the Taliban to secure routes for exporting the drug to other countries around the world.

"Neither Osama bin Laden nor the Taliban are Muslims. Islam is a religion of peace. They hide behind the veil of a religion in order to increase political and financial gains," said Ahang. "So many people in my homeland support the United States bombing. They hope Osama and the Taliban are removed. They just want to go back to when their nation was peaceful."

"I think it is important for soldiers to understand that Muslims are not to blame for what happened September 11th. As a Muslim, I feel it's my responsibility to teach my fellow soldiers," Ahang said. According to Ahang, there are more than 4,000 declared Muslims throughout the armed services of the United States.

Just as Muslims should understand the United States is not waging war against Islam — citizens and soldiers of the United States must also realize that the cowardly acts of September 11th, perpetrated on an innocent American public — was not done ... with Islam in mind. Among the thousands who lost their lives were black, white, Hispanic, Asian, and middle eastern to name a fraction. They were not Christians or capitalists either. There were Muslims who also paid the ultimate price that day. ■



THE WEDDING VOWS ...
Chaplain (Maj.) Elizabeth Mayforth presides over the wedding ceremony.

Jack Gordon

339th Combat Support Hospital serves Salvadoran people in humanitarian mission

by Jack Gordon

SAN VICENTE, El Salvador –

According to U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Rose Linkins, as many as 18,000 Salvadorans are being housed in ramshackle, temporary shelters during the nation's rebuilding effort after an earthquake and massive mudslide ripped through the heart of the San Salvador region, leaving thousands dead and injured ... and more homeless and without basic survival needs.

The 339th Combat Support Hospital is deploying two increments of medical teams here to assist in the aftermath. The training is serving both the training needs of the soldiers, as well as providing American humanitarian assistance to a nation in need. Col. Jay Griffin, commander of the 339th, said the mission is the type of real-world training opportunities his soldiers desire, where the mission has meaning, and learning embraces both the medical practice and cultural awareness experience.

"For Reserve soldiers whose civilian skills are not in the medical arena, this is great!" said 99th Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin. "Being able to work with and treat people instead of a simulated exercise cannot be matched, and these people are in need – and they appreciate the assistance."

Ambassador Linkins told 99th Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy that the Salvadoran government was responding with all the assets they could muster, but the intervention of the 339th's teams to remote sites was warmly welcomed.

Like many human reactions after natural disasters, these soldiers, and the people from national and international civilian agencies, are responding with their best efforts. The soldiers from the 339th are happy to be here, despite the austere living conditions and oppressively hot and humid climate ... because they are helping.

"We understand this is a dynamic training opportunity, and we want to challenge your soldier with this mission," said Col. John Goetchius, commander, U.S. Military Group, El Salvador. "It's also a time to get in touch with another people and culture, and for them to witness some of the poverty and disaster relief El



Jack Gordon

A HUMANITARIAN APPROACH ...

Spc. Jennifer Trayer comforts a small child brought to the makeshift clinic by her mother. The children in the remote areas of El Salvador suffered from a wide array of illnesses.

Salvador needs. They're contact here with the people of the nation will change the lives of both your soldiers, and the people of El Salvador," Goetchius told Kennedy.

It's the look on their faces as we're helping them that effects me the most," said Spec. Jennifer Trayer, a medical specialist with the 339th's HUS (Hospital Unit, Surgical) in Erie, Pa. Trayer is a Licensed Practical Nurse in her civilian occupation. This training mission marks her first experience out of the U.S.

"An elderly man told us yesterday that with the glasses we've given him, it will be the first time in two years he'll be able to see well enough to read his Bible," said Trayer. The glasses were collected by the unit before deploying to Central America by the Lion's Club in the U.S. Trayer said the Salvadorans weren't fashion conscious about the eyewear, and that finding a match was largely "hit or miss" but successful.



Jack Gordon

A FRIENDLY GREETING ...

Staff Sgt. Rodney Glass receives a hug from one of the many children who passed through the MEDRETE conducted by the 339th Combat Support Hospital.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD!

Jack Gordon

Sgt. First Class Michael Stoudmire listens to the heartbeat and respiratory system of a man who was 100 years old, the oldest of the many people inhabiting a remote region in El Salvador.

The MEDRETEs (Medical Readiness Training Exercise) being conducted by the unit examine, evaluate and treat everything from stomach aches, headaches, intestinal parasites that distort the bellies of children – to dental and eye care limited to the field environment and available resources – to removing a cockroach from the middle ear of a youth.

“I finally feel that I’m doing something for somebody,” Trayer said. “It’s not working on a mannequin. It’s not just a game anymore. No matter how much or little we’re able to help; the people are so appreciative. They thank us – they hug us – they bring us what little food they have. It’s so gratifying, but humbling at the same time. If I can do this kind of work in the Army – I’ll stay in as long as I can.”

One of the highlights of the operation was a man who was 100 years old – almost unheard of in El Salvador, where life expectancy ranges through the 40s to 50s.

Sgt. First Class Michael Stoudmire serves in the 339th as both a qualified X-ray technician and combat medic. He was recently accepted in medical school and is gaining invaluable experience here.

“The docs are working with me to actually see patients as a physician,” said Stoudmire. “The volume is much more than I’d ever expected to see as a first-year medical student back home. This has been tremendously enlightening and rewarding experience for me.”

Capt. Joseph Goodwin, a podiatrist with the unit, is seeing a lot of conditions affecting the feet. A lot of these poverty struck Salvadorans either wear poorly fitting footwear ... or none. Also, the level of parasites, fungal infections is much greater due to the climate and prevailing lack of readily available health care.

Maj. William Diefembach is a neurosurgeon – both in the Army



Jack Gordon

DISPENSING COMMON MEDICATIONS ...

Spc. Jennifer Trayer examines some of the myriad medications the 339th CSH dispensed during the MEDRETEs in El Salvador.

Reserve and in his civilian occupation. Here however, he is running the glasses clinic. He said he likes it because of the immediate sense of gratification as he watches someone regain vision from a chance prescription in a pair of glasses.

“There’s a big smile that breaks across their face, and they’re so happy to be able to see better,” said Diefembach. The unit brought 12,000 pair of glasses, and the unit had to first categorize various levels of the lens strengths to better address patient needs.

Aside from the Peace Corps volunteers who are assisting with language translation between the 339th’s caregivers and the patients, 1st Lt. Deborah Ulloa is a Godsend – she speaks fluent Spanish.

“We take so much for granted at home, like running water and health care, but here things like that are not common. It’s great to be able to serve in a humanitarian mission like this where everyone benefits.” Ulloa is conducting classes with the Salvadorans about preventive health care and sanitation measures required to avoid opportunistic illnesses and disease.

Staff Sgt. Rodney Glass is a nurse with the unit – here he “directs traffic” in the patient reception triage area.

“This is different from anything I’ve ever done,” Glass said. “It’s been great!” adding as a final note, quite appropriately, “I’d do it again in a heartbeat!” ■

(Top Right) 2nd Lt. Amy E. Noah assists Capt. Joseph Goodwin in a procedure where a woman’s toenail had to be removed. Goodwin is a podiatrist with the 339th CSH. (Below) Lt. Col. Donna Hershey, Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, and Command Sgt. Maj. D. Courtney Griffin share the spotlight with the 2,000 patient to pass through the doors of the unit’s MEDRETE.



Jack Gordon



Jack Gordon

MUDSLIDE FROM EARTHQUAKE WAS A KILLER

by Jack Gordon

LOS COLINAS, El Salvador – In the 10 seconds following a killer, 7.6 earthquake that struck nearby San Salvador, an entire mountainside collapsed – covering this entire neighborhood with a massive mudslide that buried 308 houses ... killing 467 Salvadorans and leaving another 280 yet unaccounted for. Responding to the aftermath of the disaster in a humanitarian support mission, the 339th Combat Support Hospital deployed two increments of soldiers on medical missions in the region.

The MEDRETE (Medical Readiness Training Exercise) teams comprised unit health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, veterinarians, medics and a full array of support personnel. Working with host nation agencies and volunteers from the Peace Corps, the unit treated more than 29,000 patients, according to 339th Commander Col. Jay Griffin.

U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, explained that the people of El Salvador must exploit space that in other nations would be less conducive to habitation.

“They will build homes and huts dug into the steep

grades of the mountain slopes,” said Ambassador Rose Linkins, “and that’s why this disaster was of epic proportions. We’ve never seen anything like it. There have been more than 10,000 aftershocks already – the slide is too unstable to attempt recovery operations.

Small markers dot the broad path of death and destruction here, the mud now hardened from the hot sun, forming a burial blanket for all those left beneath. ■



Photos by Jack Gordon

(Above Left) A simple remembrance for those lost. (Right) A view of homes in the area of the mudslide.

PLATINUM SWORD

MILITARY POLICE TRAIN AT FORT DIX IN HANDLING OF ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR

MPs from the 99th RSC realize that the training they conduct each year may one day be put to the actual test, and dealing with enemy EPWs is serious business ... so is their training!



PRISONERS OF WAR ... Military police soldiers from several units assigned to the 220th MP Brigade conducted intensive training in the management of enemy prisoners of war (EPW) at Fort Dix, N.J. The scenarios included initial processing and indoctrination, as well as an NBC segment where both the MPs and EPWs were forced to don protective masks for an airborne chemical threat.

Photo Essay by Jack Gordon

UNIT TRAINING CONTINUES AFTER TERRORIST ATTACKS

by Michael Schuler and Amber Greenlee

PRESTON COUNTY, W.Va.— On Briary Mountain here a pastoral scene is masking the movements of the world's greatest Army as soldiers from the 99th Regional Support Command crawl through mud and fallen leaves during a field training exercise.

Soldiers from the 646th Quartermaster Co. from Kingwood, W.Va.; the 309th Petroleum Transportation Company, Greencastle, Pa, the 247th Quartermaster Battalion, Punxsutawney, Pa.; the 828th Patrol and Supply Co. from Wilkes Barre, Pa.; and the 1004th General Supply Co., Greensburg, Pa., are training in anti-terrorist tactics in a manner that now has an added sense of realism for possible deployment due to the rapidly changing world.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 have brought a heightened awareness and an increased level of patriotism for these Reserve soldiers. These soldiers now know that deployment can occur anytime. The Army Reserve may no longer be just a weekend a month proposition.

"The younger soldiers of today's Army join to get college money, but an event like this puts it all in prospective for them," said Sgt. Jason Frankhouser, petroleum supply specialist with the 646th.

Because of the battalion's valuable mission, the 247th and its companies are good candidates for deployment.

"We don't have a lot of personnel, but we are a very vital unit," said Maj. Dennis Murphy, executive officer, 247th. "If activated we could be in an area close to combat with the Taliban."

According to Maj. George Shields, intelligence officer, 247th, petroleum supply is a critical aspect to this war and a likely enemy target. These soldiers need to be prepared in case of an attack.

The scenarios being used in this exercise can very well be what the soldiers may experience if deployed to Afghanistan, Shields said.

"The two weeks of annual training doesn't train us efficiently for combat situations," Murphy said. "This FTX (Field Training Exercise) helps us work on tactics we need to survive in combat."

The Air Force is the major "customer" of petroleum products, and according to Murphy, that fact makes this battalion even more important given the projected need for air strikes in the remote and mountainous terrain of Afghanistan.

In many ways the attacks of Sept. 11 have led to a new sense of resolve and commitment for Army Reserve soldiers. Murphy his soldiers are more vigilant with a higher level of motivation and

increased attendance.

"They are handling the (tactical) situations in a much more realistic manner than I've ever seen before," he said. "It hit home for them, they have been careful to pay attention to detail - as

there's a real sense of urgency and importance."

This is evident as these Reserve soldiers battle cold weather, poor sleeping conditions, less than tasty MRE's and endure mock attacks. The soldiers are doing what they are trained to do, getting down in the mud, donning MOPP (Mission-Oriented Protective Posture) gear at the first shouts of "GAS!, GAS!, GAS!," as the crackle of a distant firefight can be heard.

These soldiers are ready and say this mission is going well. Pfc.

Robert Conde, a petroleum supply specialist with the 646th said the training will benefit him and the rest of his unit - keeping them ready for an active deployment. A student at Fairmont State College, Conde said he never thought an attack on the United States would happen, but he is ready to face whatever challenges his country may ask of him.

Murphy said that since the attacks, the people of the United States of America are much more

serious and proactive, but for a country which has never before experienced such acts of terrorism and hasn't felt such emotions for more than a generation, these soldiers are prepared to defend what others have tried to destroy. ■



Mike Schuler

IN THE WOODS ...

Pfc. Robert Conde dons his chemical protective mask and hood during training.



Amber Greenlee

GAS ATTACK WARNING ...

Sgt 1st Class David Conner calls in a warning of a possible gas attack.

ARMY RESERVE MP – PENTAGON POLICEMAN AIDS ATTACK VICTIMS

by Michele Hammonds

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Officer Arthur Rosati was in a meeting at the Pentagon near the metro entrance when he heard a blurb from his hand-held police radio.

Unable to hear the details, Rosati went out into the hallway with George Clodfelter, his partner, so they could listen more clearly the morning the Pentagon was attacked on Sept. 11.

“The hair on the back of my neck stood up, and suddenly I had a bad feeling,” said Rosati, a Defense Protective Service policeman.

There had been an explosion on the mall side, according to the special report. The two raced back to the meeting and ordered everyone there to evacuate the building immediately.

“I ran to the mall side to find out what had happened, and I tried to evacuate people on foot,” said Rosati as his eyes filled with tears.

He paused and lowered his head as he recalled what happened next.

“I ran out to the impact area and I saw my partner had a streak of blood across his shirt,” he said. After checking to make sure his partner was all right, Rosati continued to evacuate people.

Rosati, who was recently promoted to master patrol officer with the Defense Protective Service at the Pentagon — wears two hats. Besides holding down a full-time job as a Pentagon police officer, he is a staff sergeant in the Army Reserve with 20 years of military service.

The day of the Pentagon attack, he said he relied on both his military and civilian law enforcement training. However, he said it was his training in anti- terrorism force protection that had caused him to predict a terrorist attack would occur on that Monday between 8 and 10 a.m.

At the time of the explosion, Rosati didn't realize his prediction had come true. While he couldn't see the cause of the explosion, Wanda Ramey, a DPS master patrol officer, had a bird's eye view. Ramey stood at the mall plaza booth when she saw a plane flying real low.

Accustomed to planes flying in and around the Pentagon, Ramey had no way of knowing disaster was about to strike.

“I saw the wing of the plane clip the light post and it made the plane slant. Then the engine revved up and crashed into the west side of the building,” she said. “It happened so fast. One second I saw the plane and next it was gone.”

Recalling those moments again, Ramey said it appeared the building sucked the plane up inside.

“A few seconds later, I heard a loud boom and I saw a huge fireball and lots of smoke,” she said.

Added another DPS officer who asked not to be identified, “I was on the other side – I heard a boom and a large fireball came over the roof of the building.”

Ramey and another officer ran to the scene.

“People started flooding out of the building and some people looked like they were cut and bleeding,” Ramey said. “Rosati was one of the officers over there pulling people out of the building.”

Some fire and rescue crews were already on the scene, according to military officials.

The subsequent scene was “absolute pandemonium – people were running and screaming,” Rosati said. “One lady was screaming hysterically and I ordered someone to help her out of the building.”

His evacuation attempts were hampered because he didn't have a gas mask and other equipment to protect him from the heavy smoke and heat that had engulfed the mall area inside the Pentagon.

“I tried to walk up further inside because of the heat and smoke I backed out,” said Rosati, who urged others to get down low to help them breathe as they left the building.

Again Rosati reentered the building, desperate to evacuate others that he knew were still inside the building. He grabbed the fire extinguisher from a Pentagon DPS



John Valceanu

DEALING WITH DEVASTATION ...

Workers clean up debris after the attack on the Pentagon.

sergeant. Against the wishes of the sergeant, Roati went up to the 2nd floor, corridor five.

“My sergeant yelled at me that I couldn't go in and I tried to run down there,” he said. “I got hit with that smoke and heat and I had to get out of there – I couldn't handle it.”

Rosati said he felt helpless that he couldn't rescue anyone else from the Pentagon that now burned out of control on the mall side.

Standing outside the mall plaza side, Rosati said “They hit my building, and now I am pissed. I felt helpless because I couldn't retrieve anyone else from the Pentagon building.

Rosati, along with the rest of the DPS officers, worked through the day and into the next day before going home to rest. Since the attack, they have worked 12- to 16-hour shifts without a day off.

Ramey has sought counseling to help her deal with the tragedy.

“I am trying to block out what happened here when I am at work,” she said.

Rosati has declined counseling and has preferred to deal with the Pentagon attack, which claimed 189 lives, in his own private way.

(Editor's Note: Arthur Rosati and Wanda Ramey spoke on behalf of Defense Protective Service Pentagon Police/ Washington DC Lodge and the Fraternal Order of Police. Rosati is an Army reservist and assigned to the 9th Theater Support Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.) ■

RIOT!

WHEN CROWD CALL MILITARY

by Jack Gordon

BLUEFIELD, W. Va. — Anyone who's ever been in the midst of the chaos and panic that always occurs in crowd control situations knows that every action ... or the lack of action, might dramatically affect the event's outcome, and the safety of innocents. The 99th's many military police units are aware of what can happen during demonstrations and the movement and confinement of enemy prisoners of war. During Operation Desert Storm, the 99th (Army Reserve Command) mobilized and deployed six military police units to Europe and Saudi Arabia, including the 304th here. During the operation, the MPs controlled thousands of Iraqi EPWs. Now, the unit is training on crowd control techniques and strategies.

"For all of the units deploying to Bosnia and Kosovo — this is the core of the training," said 304th Commander Capt. Douglas Smith. "For all of the military police mobilizations — this is the primary training."

Smith has staged the training with Master Sgt. Geoffrey Green, operations NCO for the unit, to closely simulate a peaceful demonstration that goes awry, and leads to violence. In such cases, the

MPs must not only defend themselves and their lines, but subdue "targeted" demonstrator as well, to properly and effectively diffuse the situation.

Noting the inherent strength of the civilian-acquired skills many MPs bring to the Army Reserve, Smith counted state troopers, ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) agents, community policemen, and both public and private sector security agency employees among his soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Diane Caserta recently returned from an MP BNOC (Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course) where she learned several methods of crowd control. She's assigned to the unit's detachment in Lewisburg, W. Va., but is here today leading the soldiers through the "crawl, walk, run" phases of the training.

One of the challenges Caserta said all moving, protection forces has in crowd control is having soldiers of all heights adjust to the stutter-step movement of a force as a group. The MPs also "grunt" as they conduct group movements.

"The shouting is psychological," said Caserta, "and a show of force verbally. It also helps unify our purpose and coordinates movement."

Spec. Larry Davis served in Kuwait with the First Cavalry Division in 1996-97, and said he joined the Army Reserve after his active service "for the action."

"You've got to be prepared for these situations," Davis said. "We tend to think the unexpected will always happen to someone else, but it can ... happen to you. You have to be ready."

Being "ready" is what today's training ... and today's Army Reserve ... is all about.

Pvt. Brad Waggoner has only been with the 304th for a few months since returning from AIT (Advanced Individual Training). He's "up" for this type of active, reality training.

"I love this! It's great!" Waggoner said. "This is the only way to learn how to do this, by doing it!" Waggoner said he is enjoying the training, financial and educational benefits of enlisting, but there was another reason.

"I wanted to serve the nation," Waggoner said. "The benefits are great, but that's not why I joined." ■



KEEP IT TIGHTER!

Staff Sgt. Diane Caserta tells the advancing wedge to hold their intervals as they move forward.



"YANKEE PIGS"
Part of the rea
the MPs guard

OR ENEMY PRISONER OF WAR UPRISINGS POLICE TO ACTION – IT’S FAST AND FURIOUS!



"DIE!"
Realistic training included angry demonstrators' taunting
and blocking a gate at a military installation.



IT'S THIS WAY ...
Staff Sgt. Diane Caserta explains how the formation must be
shaped for forward movement to a 304th soldier.



IN THE MELEE ...
As the demonstrators move closer to physical confrontation, the
soldiers move to ready, defensive positions.



PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION IGNITES!
After hurling water balloons at the soldiers, the demonstrators
attempt to break through the defensive line of the MPs.

Above and Beyond



ARMY TEN MILER ...

Courtesy of 318th Maint. Co.

An Army Reserve team from Central Pennsylvania participated in the Army Ten Miler last year. Called the "Lugnuts," the group of seven runners is largely comprised of soldiers from the 318th Maintenance Co., State College, Pa. Established in 1998, the team was organized by Warrant Officer 1 Allen Methany and the team captain, Sgt. Carolyn Sauder. First Time runners this year included 1st Lt. Susan Clark, Spc. George McCormick and Pfc. Marie Pantella. Other participants included Capt. William Flynn, commander of the 318th, and Josh Leone, son of Staff Sgt. Mike Leone, a food service NCO with the 318th.

99th Soldier and his father share combat experience

Master Sgt. DeWight Scott, Operations NCO with Headquarters, 99th Regional Support Command, earned a Combat Infantryman's Badge with the Americal Division in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. His father, Harvey L.F. Scott, also experienced combat, from 1943 to 1945 with the 559th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, HQ Battery. Harvey's duties involved communications wire installation and later transportation/ammo distribution.

The 559th was a part of the 9th Army, which served under Field Marshal Montgomery during the Battle of the Bulge. According to Harvey, the 559th and part of another unit held the 9th's front during the battle. If the Germans would have broken through "the Bulge," the 9th Army would have been next in line to stop them. The 559th was credited with shooting down the first German jet fighter aircraft.

Master Sgt. DeWight Scott served in Vietnam in the same battalion with Gen. (Ret.) Colin Powell, then a Battalion Executive Officer. Scott is now putting his experience and training to use in the Operations Section of the 99th RSC Headquarters.



ROAD TO GLORY ...

Kelly Luster

The 99th Infantry Division Memorial Highway was dedicated recently. The highway is adjacent to the 99th's new headquarters facility in Moon Township, Pa. The dedication was attended by political representatives from the U.S. Congress, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, as well as by more than a dozen 99th Infantry Division World War II Veterans. Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, 99th commander, hosted the official ceremony.

MAJ. GEN. RODNEY D. RUDDUCK'S RETIREMENT DINNER

99th BIDS FAREWELL TO COMMANDER

After commanding the 99th for four years, Maj. Gen. Rodney D. Ruddock received a grand sendoff at a hallmark event that included the change of command ceremony where Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy became the new 99th Commander – and the first female RSC Commander in the U.S. Army Reserve

Ruddock was presented the Legion of Merit by USARC Commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes at the event, and treated to an array of gifts as he finished his service to America's Army, including more than a few "surprises." A video presentation depicting Ruddock's military career was also shown to 300 attendees.

So long sir! And many happy trails in the future! ■



A GREAT TIME ...

Maj. Gen. Rodney D. Ruddock and his wife Ellen laugh at one of the many entertaining presentations of the evening.

Kelly Luster



THE BATTLE BABY ...

Kelly Luster

Among other meaningful moments, 99th Infantry Division Division and World War II Veteran Harry McCracken resented Ruddock with a large drawing of "The Battle Baby" by illustrator Steve Opet.



"FINS UP ROD!"

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy presents Ruddock with a signed photograph of his favorite singer – none other than Jimmy Buffet!

Kelly Luster



99th ARCOM, RSC PAST COMMANDERS GATHER AT DINNER



Four previous 99th commanders attended the dinner honoring Maj. Gen. Rodney D. Ruddock. From left to right are Maj. Gen. Joseph Lojek, Maj. Gen. George Bauer, Maj. Gen. James Baylor and Maj. Gen. Leonard Hoch. Lojek, Bauer and Baylor commanded the 99th ARCOM. Hoch commanded both the 99th ARCOM and the 99th RSC, and was the commanding general when the 99th went through its challenging transition in 1995. Also attending the dinner was Mrs. Suzanne Frantz, wife of former ARCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Frantz. ■

Bullets and Briefs

Mrs. Bush's Holiday Greeting for Reserve Component soldiers

I am delighted to wish you a happy Thanksgiving. This year the holiday season holds special meaning for Americans, and we are particularly grateful for members of our National Guard and for members of our Armed Forces Reserves.

As we continue to heal from the tragedies that began on Sept. 11, your role becomes more important – and more appreciated – than ever. Our nation depends on the premiere, community-based force of the National Guard and Reserves. You are America at its best.

For many of you, this will be a season of separation from friends and loved ones. The President and I appreciate your sacrifices and commend your willingness to serve and defend our country, from

ensuring that our airports and ports of travel are safe, to protecting our nation's borders. Your presence across our homeland and abroad is a source of pride and reassurance for all Americans.

This holiday season, Americans are reflecting on what is most important to us: our faith, our family and friends, and our freedom, which you defend with honor and dignity. Thank you again, and may God bless you and your families as you continue your service to America. ■



STARS AND STRIPES

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, commander, 99th RSC, addressed local officials and townspeople at the completion of the 339th Combat Support Hospital's humanitarian assistance mission in El Salvador in 2001.

The soldiers conducted medical assistance exercises in remote areas of the nation that was still suffering from the infrastructure aftershocks of a devastating earthquake. ■



KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE

by Jack Gordon

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Even though the Korean War was once known as the war “America forgot,” you couldn’t convince the soldiers who served there that their duty was — and is — anything less than honorable.

Each year, Korean War Veterans gather here at the city’s monument to honor the spirit and sacrifice of those who served in Korea from 1950-1953, and each year — they recall — and remember that freedom ... is not free. ■



Rich Gribenas



Rich Gribenas

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ... (ABOVE) A Korean song was part of the service honoring Korean War Veterans. (BELOW) Burt Cerminera, Pittsburgh Korean War Veteran, hosted the memorial service for veterans and Korean-American citizens.



Rich Gribenas

I'VE BEEN GOOD ... HONEST!
 There's nothing like a visit from Santa Claus to get the "real deal" from children of soldiers serving the 99th's Headquarters Company, and having the opportunity to tell the jolly old gent wishes for a Merry Christmas!

STOP LOSS POLICY EFFECTS ACTIVE ARMY SOLDIERS

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) has approved limited suspension of voluntary separation from the active Army (the active Army does not include AGR personnel). Specifically this includes voluntary separation due to expiration of service obligation and retirement. The intent is to ensure the retention of trained and experienced officers and enlisted soldiers of the active Army holding certain specialties in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

The effective date of the suspension is Jan. 15, 2002. Soldiers with an established date of separation on or after Jan. 15 and who are in the categories listed below will be retained in the active Army until further notice:

1. **Commissioned officers with specialty 18**
2. **Warrant officers with specialty 180A**
3. **Aviation warrant officers with specialties 152C, 153D, 153E, 154C and 154E**
4. **All warrant officers with additional skill identifier F4, K or K6**
5. **Enlisted soldiers in career management field 18**

Stop loss, in most cases, does not pertain to soldiers being processed for involuntary administrative separation for cause pending action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, subject to mandatory retirement, being processed for discharge/retirement for physical disability, or pending separation for the convenience of the government. This program may be expanded to include Reserve Component soldiers as operational needs dictate.

The point of contact for more information is Lt. Col. Robert Ortiz-Abreu, HQDA ODCSPER, (703) 325-8806. ■



Jack Gordon

DOWN THE AVENUE!
 The 99th RSC Color Guard leads the contingent of 99th soldiers marching in the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade. The command's 307th Army Band, Norristown, Pa., played patriotic songs throughout the two-mile march.



Jack Gordon

"TOP SHELF" COOKING ...
 Spc. Wynette Pinkney, of the 949th Transportation Co., Baltimore, Md., is a favorite of the boat crews where she serves as a cook. Pinkney captured the 99th's Best Cook Award in 1999.

Quartermaster unit provides our troops with laundry, bath services

by Amber Greenlee

The sun is blazing down overhead as the workday progresses. The heat combined with the blowing sand makes breathing difficult. Under the shelter of the black tent are tables lined with laundered uniforms that have little gold tags attached to each piece. Laundry carts filled with dirty cloths are sitting in front of the oversized washing machines.

The soldiers from the 442nd Quartermaster Co. are hard at work making sure all the soldiers here have clean uniforms daily.

“Our main mission here is to provide laundry and bath operations for the soldiers,” said Sgt. Joseph Lonjin, laundry/renovation specialist with the 442nd. “However, we also provide self-defense for

our area and work with the other companies to see that it remains secure.”

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, 99th RSC Commander, said laundry and bath units are key to ensuring soldiers are ready for the fight.

“I believe the laundry and bath units are a great asset to the Army,” she said. “When a soldier has on a clean uniform it helps to build his moral and motivation levels, which is very important in battlefield conditions.”

The 442nd carries out its mission by using M85-100 laundry units, which contain a washer, extractor and a dryer. The units are mounted and moved with 5-ton cargo trucks.

“We can handle up to 300 bundles of

clothing per day, but right now we are only receiving an average of 45-50 bundles per day,” said Lonjin. “This only a fourth of the laundry we could be receiving.”

The laundry is received in bundles. They are sent to the processing clerk, who checks for quantity. From there they are pinned with a number, which has a letter associated with it, and are separated into the different types of laundry.

The clothes are then put into the washer followed by the extractor where the excess water is removed. The last step is drying them.

Washing the soldiers’ laundry and providing them with bath and shower services is not the only thing the 442nd is

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Military Police soldiers live in the gym

by Kate Neuman

For 35 members of the 88th Military Police Company, living at the gym brings on a whole new meaning to living on post. These soldiers deployed in November to Radford, Va. to provide force protection and installation defense.

Capt. Edward L. McKnight, Company commander of the 88th, said he knew the deployment was coming, due to the incidents on Sept. 11.

Lt. Col. Brian A. Butler, commander of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant said he’s proud of the work they are doing every day to help keep the plant and community safe and secure.

What was once a gym has been transformed into barracks for the soldiers to live in during the mission. The renovation is good for the plant in that there will be something to show for the money that was spent to accommodate them during the mission and now barracks are available for future use, said McKnight.

The transition went pretty smoothly due to the fact that the mobilization site was the unit’s headquarters, at Fort Eustis, Va, said McKnight.

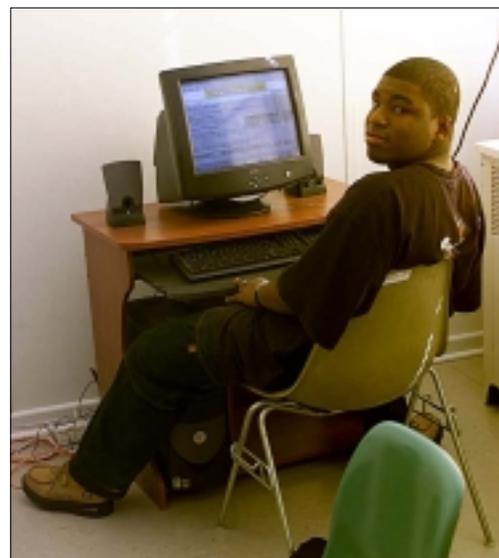
One of the biggest obstacles McKnight said they had to overcome was not being deployed with a support staff so some of the soldiers had to double their duty as military police and other jobs as well.

The average day for the soldiers begins with a wake-up at 5:00 am, then ablutions, breakfast, drawing weapons and finally, be at their post before 7:00 am. They finish their shift and go to physical training at 5:00 pm. The shifts are divided up into two-month shifts; working two months of day shift and then doing two months of night shift. The soldiers usually work seven days on and then three days off, said Spc Marcuis S. Warren, supply specialist and alternate MP.

One of the most difficult things for the soldiers is that they need a pass to leave the plant and there is nothing close-by for the soldiers to do, said Warren. Fortunately, home is only about five hours away so it’s possible to go home to visit, said McKnight.

Cpl. Nathan Necolettos, MP for the 88th for four years said that a few of the things that most people take for granted are often the most difficult. For example, getting in touch with Judge Advocate General, using the commissary, Post Exchange and going to the movies or mall. Necolettos has had to leave school for the second year in a row, previously for a deployment to Germany that ended 8 months prior to this deployment. He said that the school was very supportive of the deployment and is willing to work with him to finish up his missed work.

Staff Sgt. Michael P. Mitchell, assistant



TEMPORARILY MAKING DUE ...
Cpl. Nathan Necolettos, military police soldier with the 88th, works on a computer system.

platoon sergeant, volunteered for this assignment. He wanted to be transferred to the 88th so he could be deployed. Mitchell said, “I wanted to do my part for my country.”

The soldiers said that the staff working at the plant have been really friendly and supportive of them. McKnight said Butler has helped them out a lot and has been very supportive of the soldiers.

McKnight said that Butler said, “I am very proud of the sacrifices the soldiers of the 88th are making for our Army.” ■

ISLAM ... IS NOT THE ENEMY IGNORANCE ... IS

by Jack Gordon

After the attacks on America were related to peoples and lands where Islam is practiced, Americans – and many others around the world – may mistakenly assume that the religion calls for death, doom and destruction. Not so.

Without retracing the roots of the entire central Asian religious evolution, it's safe to say that most people who practice Islam are not unlike you or me. It's that small faction of unbending, literal, fundamentalist fanatics who we have to face.

After the Soviet Union gave up its effort to occupy Afghanistan more than 20 years ago, the early organization of "government" was formed. It was called the Taliban (seekers) and embraced the most basic interpretations of Islam, and began enforcing adaptations of those interpretations on a population beaten by internal strife, civil war and the Soviet invasion and occupation.

Islam, as directed by The Taliban does not permit women to do much other than family-related activities. They must be covered head-to-foot at all times in public and behave in a completely subservient manner toward men. No music, dancing, television or other forms of modern entertainment or communication are permitted for the public, yet the Taliban is known to use modern communication

devices and channels such as the internet to organize its operational cells at remote locations. Laughing is not permitted, nor – oddly enough – is flying a kite.

The Taliban created a "Department for Promoting Virtue and Preventing Vice," which sounds OK by definition, but in actuality, directs imprisonment for those

"Between September 11 and 21, 2001, more than 250 attacks were reported against Muslims in America."

who fail to meet the five prayers for Allah per day quota; imprisonment for accepting or directing a female passenger in a motor vehicle; possessing any photo or artwork deemed to promote idolatry; and imprisonment or worse for any woman engaged in any professional work other than that within the health sector.

Under The Taliban, a man may be imprisoned if he shaves his beard, and a woman if she is caught attempting to read, write or otherwise gain an education.

The Taliban considers all of the infractions mentioned here to be directly in opposition with Islamic law in the manner in which they interpret Islam. The majority of the Islamic world, however, views the Taliban and its extremist, fundamentalist factions as renegades who have adopted a

more primitive than civilized practice of the religion.

There are more than one billion Muslims today who do not practice extremist, fundamentalist Islam as interpreted by The Taliban. The majority of Muslims live peacefully, and seek peace. Since there is no worldwide Muslim leadership, the religion has become somewhat fragmented, being influenced by political, linguistic and cultural influences and considerations.

When extremist, fundamentalist Muslim factions like The Taliban call for "Jihad" – a Holy War, the lion's share of practicing Muslims quickly see that the calls to action have private agendas for a select group, and will in no manner benefit Islam or the Muslim world as an entity.

In 1992, more than five million American citizens were declared Muslims – and in a 1999 survey, about 4000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces are practicing Muslims.

Between September 11 and 21, 2001, more than 250 attacks were reported against Muslims in America.

While we must learn the lessons taught by our nation's vulnerability to the 9-11 attacks, but we must not group all those who practice Islam into the group known as "the enemy." The United States was founded upon and formed around the freedoms that permit and foster diversity in ethnicity, culture, and particularly religion.

Islam is not the enemy ... ignorance is. ■

Laundry and bath services

(Continued from Page 56)

doing at annual training this year, said Capt. Gary F. Bonanno.

The soldiers also are challenged with four different scenarios where civilian forces tried to penetrate their perimeter.

"The soldiers had to be semi-tactical throughout the scenarios, which helped them to learn what they would have to do if that type of situation would occur," said Lonjin.

This is a learning experience for most of

the soldiers. It is the first annual training for some of them, and there are people cross-training with the fabric repairs department.

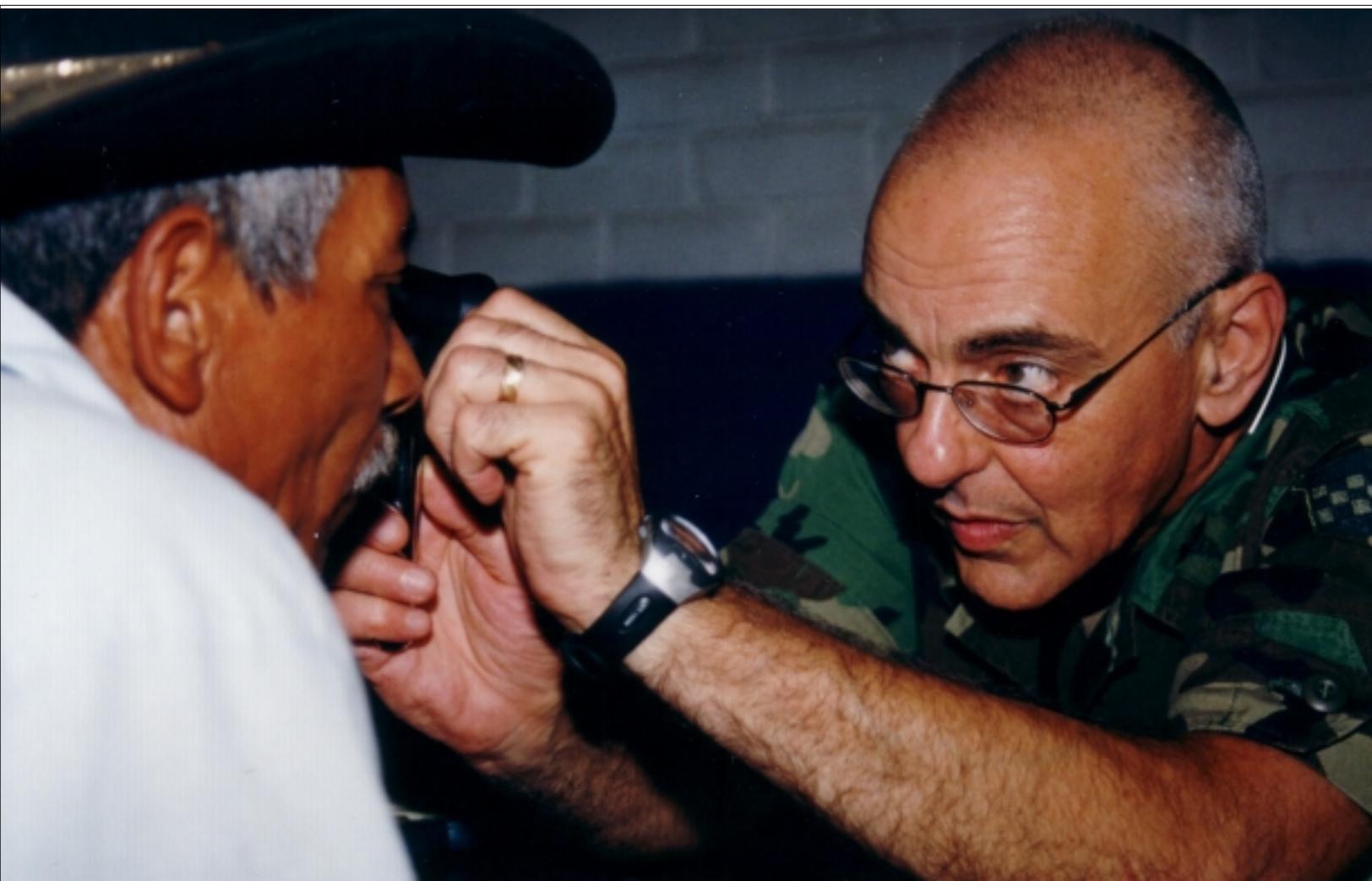
Another challenge has been the heat. "Because we're from Pennsylvania, we're not used to the high temperatures of the desert, so our primary key is to keep the troops protected from the high temperatures to avoid any heat casualties," Lonjin said.

The heat will make the soldiers move a

little slower, but since the laundry and shower load is so low it really hasn't hindered the mission.

"Overall it's been a good AT," said Lonjin. "Other than the high temperatures and a few minor mechanical problems, I feel the mission has been very successful."

As the sun begins to set, the final load of laundry is taken out of the rumbling dryer. The soldiers quickly fold the clothes and put them into neat piles on the tables wrapping up yet another long, hot workday. ■



Jack Gordon

WATCH CLOSELY NOW ...

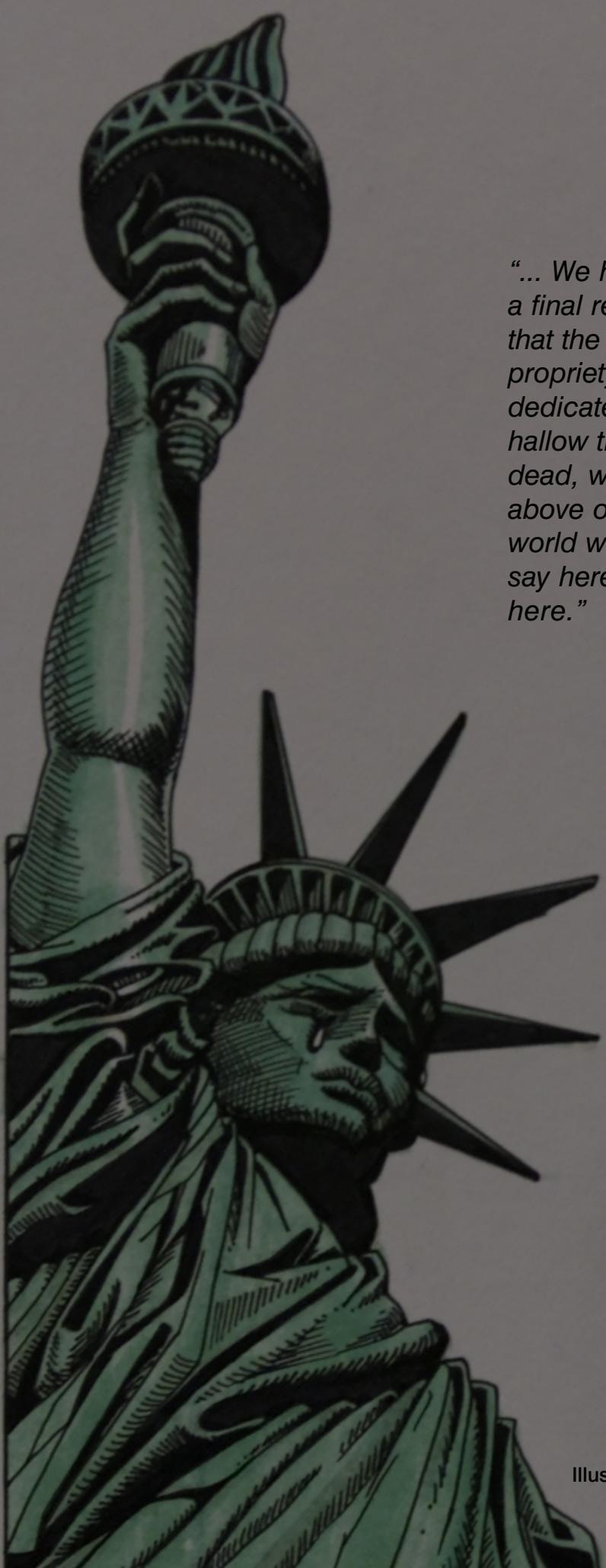
(Clockwise from Top) Maj. Robert Kelly, a surgeon with the 339th, performs an examination on a Salvadoran patient at the MEDRETE. The basic exams and medical care were the first the villagers had experienced as part of the U.S. humanitarian assistance mission; Staff Sgt. Brandon Johnson administers an oral dose of intestinal worm medication to a small child. Many children's systems become infected with parasites due to substandard health conditions and untreated water; A Salvadoran girl carries a pan of food atop her head to the soldiers at the MEDRETE.



Jack Gordon



Jack Gordon



“... We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.”

– Abraham Lincoln

From the Gettysburg Address

Illustration by Steve Opet