

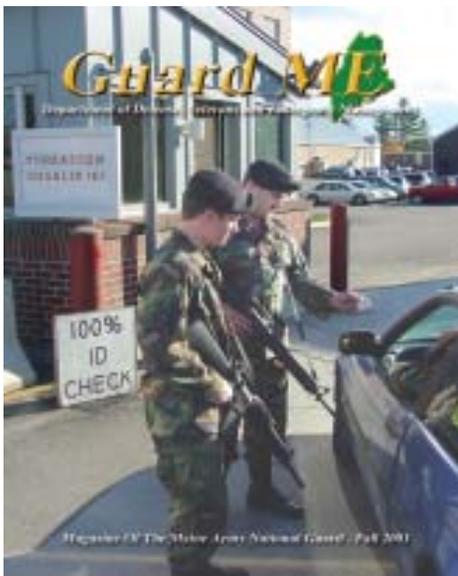
Guard MIE

Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management

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Magazine Of The Maine Army National Guard - Fall 2001



On the Cover..
PV2 Sean Lawrence (left) and SGT Steve M. Brame, from the 1-152nd Maintenance Company verify the identity of a driver wanting to gain access to Camp Keyes. (Photo by: SSG Carl Weiss, PA, MEARNG)

Guard ME

The Magazine of
 the Maine Army National Guard

Fall 2001

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From the Adjutant General

Being Prepared

On September 24, 2001 I asked you to prepare yourselves, your families, and your employers for the possibility that you may be called upon to defend our Nation against terrorism. This request was in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th. We all enjoy the freedoms of democracy and the humanitarian rights that are associated with it. Your direct involvement in protecting these freedoms and rights for yourselves and others is vital to the success of this mission. I encourage all of you to continue your preparation for the two contingencies that I believe are two possible courses of action.

“One possibility is an order to federalize the Maine National Guard to perform Homeland Defense for the State of Maine. This mission harkens back to the beginnings of our nation where our forefathers dropped their axes, plows, and fishing nets to gather around the village green to defend their homes. Although the threat of an outright attack by a foreign government against the State of Maine is remote, we must be prepared to prevent or respond to a terrorist attack in retaliation to the United States military actions. This may include assisting other Federal and State law enforcement authorities in securing our borders and coastline, or guarding key facilities across the State.

The second possibility is that the Maine National Guard units may be called to active duty for deployment away from home. We in the Guard are unique in that we have a dual mission – under command and control of the Governor in peacetime, but also serving in units subject to mobilization as a Federal force if called upon by the President. Since 1991 we have mobilized all or parts of seven units for operations in support of the active Army for Desert Storm and for contingency operations in Bosnia and Southwest Asia. Our soldiers have served proudly and have earned praise of the active duty leaders.”

As our Nation participates in Operation Enduring Freedom at home and



MG Joseph E. Tinkham, II

in Afghanistan, our guardsmen and women are participating in Operation Friendly Skies and Operation Dirigo Watch here in our State. Operation Friendly Skies includes providing security to six commercial airports from Portland to Presque Isle. A joint force comprised of Maine Air and Army National Guard airmen and soldiers are providing this security. Operation Dirigo Watch involves soldiers providing security to Camp Keyes in Augusta and the Army Aviation Support Facility in Bangor. This operation is a component of a larger operations plan that includes providing security for other key facilities within the State. Additionally, the leadership of the Maine National Guard is diligently preparing contingency plans for possible missions such as securing our borders and coastline.

I would like to thank the leadership and every soldier for the efforts you have displayed so far in our war against terrorism. The threat of terrorism continues to be real and I encourage your continued awareness and vigilance. Continue to ready yourselves, your families, and your employers in the event that you are called to serve. We must “Be Ready” for our President’s and Nation’s call.

Wanted

Photographs and Story Ideas

Guard ME is currently accepting photographs and story ideas for future issues. Send photographs, stories, comments and questions:

**To The Editor, Guard ME, Public Affairs, Maine Army National Guard
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Guard ME

The Magazine of the Maine Army National Guard – Fall 2001

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Guard Beefs Up Homeland Defense

By: SSG Carl Weiss, PA

Twenty years ago, as a junior high student, I remember my parents discussing the assassination attempt on President Reagan with my sister and I. We had just come into the house from riding our bicycles when they asked us to sit down with them. They answered our questions and eventually the conversation swung to the tragic events of 1963, when President Kennedy was assassinated. The thing that sticks in my mind was that both of my parents vividly remembered where they were when they first heard that Kennedy was shot.

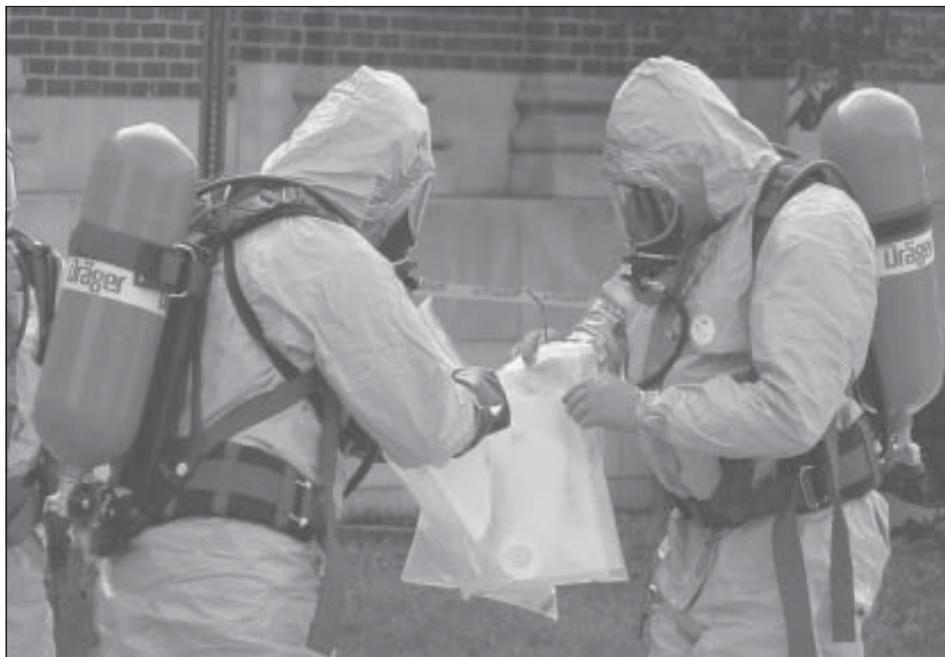
Less than two months ago, I was sitting in my computer room at home answering an email when my wife called me into the living room to see the news. The date of course was September 11th, 2001. The

events have been well documented, and now, ironically I find myself as a parent, trying to explain to my six year old just what happened.

In the time that has passed since terrorists literally rocked the world with their attack on America, much has changed, possibly forever. Airports were shut down, businesses laid off thousands, economists predicted a recession, Major League Baseball postponed America's pastime for nearly a week, attacks on Arab-Americans were reported and the country demanded action from its government.

The American government has vowed to bring those responsible for the attacks to justice and to beef up defense of our country to ensure such an attack never happens again. Part of President Bush's

See 'Homeland Defense' page 8



Members of the 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (WMD-CST), decontaminate a bag containing a letter suspected of carrying anthrax. (Photo by: SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)

Forward Observers Keep FA on Target

By: SSG Carl Weiss, PA

It's August in Maine and that means three things, the black flies are still reminding us that they control the skies, the tourist season is in full swing and the Maine Army National Guard is away performing two weeks of annual training.



SPC Allen Rood (left), and PFC Joseph G. Nott thrust a 155mm howitzer shell into the breech of a M198 howitzer with a ramrod. (Photo by: SSG Carl Weiss, PA, MEARNNG)

Following two successive years of annual training in New York and Utah, members of the 1/152nd Field Artillery Battalion found themselves on familiar ground. This year, they would be training at Canadian Forces Base Gaagetown, New Brunswick, Canada.

Ask any member of the field artillery what makes his job fun, and he'll tell you it's firing their howitzers. The State of Maine doesn't have a range that allows the live firing of the 100 lb, 155mm howitzer shells, but Gaagetown does. Each year, the batteries in Fort Kent, Caribou, Houlton, Calais, Waterville, Presque Isle and Fort Fairfield spend their drill weekends training for combat. Then each summer they travel to Annual Training where they conduct formally evaluated "Lanes Training". Under the watchful eyes of evaluators from Fort Drum, New York, the Maine Guardsmen are tested on how well they move and shoot, how quickly and accurately they can put the rounds on target, whether they obey safety regulations, defense of perimeters and their combat-like training.

About the only thing hotter than the

smouldering barrel of a M198 howitzer following a rapid-fire barrage, was the weather. Record temperatures and ultra dry conditions heightened the risk of forest fires and threatened to shut down the live firing. However, the temperatures cooled and the 1/152nd was back on track.

To make a M198 howitzer shoot is a

relatively simple task. Very much like shooting an extremely large rifle, the crew places a 155mm shell in the breech of the howitzer. Then they add a bag of powder and a primer, shut the breech door and pull a lanyard. This causes the primer to spark, igniting the powder and producing the rapidly expanding gases which hurls the 100 lb. shell out of the barrel at up to 675 meters per second, to a distance of as far away as 30 miles.

In reality, it sounds simpler, than it actually is. Firing an accurate mission with the massive guns of the artillery is no easy task.

During actual firing exercises, the various elements of the bat-

talion are miles apart and out of sight of one another, yet they remain in contact via the radio and computer systems.

It has been said that the field artillery can be broken down into three parts; eyes, brain and brawn. The Forward Observers are the eyes, the Fire Direction Center (FDC), is the brain and the M198 Howitzers are the brawn. One can't operate without depending upon the other. Without the gun crews, missions sent from the FDC wouldn't happen. Without the FDC, the gun crews wouldn't know where to aim the howitzer. Without the forward observers and the FDC, the gun crews wouldn't know if they were on target.

The Forward Observers remain hidden from the enemy's view. They stay in contact with the FDC, calling in pre-selected targets and targets of opportunity. Once the FDC receives guidance from Battalion or Brigade that the mission is a go, the information is passed to the batteries and individual gun crews. As rounds are loaded into the howitzers and fired, the Forward Observers spot the shells coming in. If the rounds hit close enough to the target, the observers will instruct the FDC to call for a "fire for effect". This command sends a rapid message to the batteries to open up with all six howitzers firing, destroying everything in the target area.

SFC Zane A. Grant, an observer with the 1/152nd, said the skills necessary in the forward observers job include remaining hidden from enemy observation, excellent map skills and the ability to estimate great distances. "Our skills come into play in spotting targets for the battalion. Once we see a target, we need to determine

See "Forward Observers" page 10



SGT Corey J. McPhee training NCO and battery chief, rechecks a request with the Battery Operations Center, just prior to a live fire mission. (Photo by: SSG Carl Weiss, PA, MEARNNG)

Field Artillery Puts Computer to the Test

By: SSG Carl Weiss, PA

Members of the Maine Army National Guard's 1/152nd Field Artillery Battalion have unveiled a new computer system. The system is designed to make their job faster, easier and will facilitate better communication with other branches of the armed forces. The Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, AFATDS, has been incorporated into the Battalion's arsenal. It will enable the artillerymen to control and direct fire more efficiently.

In an ever-changing battlefield, the need to communicate remains at the core of winning the fight. More and more battles are fought, not just by one branch of the service, but through the combined efforts of two or more services. Additionally, U.S. forces can expect to train and deploy with soldiers and airman of allied nations.

The AFATDS computer will decrease the time needed by commanders to decide when and where the howitzers need to launch their 155mm shells.

Another benefit of AFATDS is improved safety. The new system uses a digital system, greatly reducing the amount of information needed to be sent via traditional radios. This encrypted and coded information is harder for enemy forces to decode and adds an element of



"St. Barbara's Way", a M198 howitzer billows smoke moments after launching a 155mm High Explosive, HE, round downrange. (Photo by: SSG Carl Weiss, PA, MEARNG)

safety for members of the artillery. The enemy can't disrupt and destroy what they don't know.

Lastly, the system will be put into use throughout the US Armed Forces and among American allies.

"We are among the first Army units to receive this updated software", said

MAJ Charles I. McFarland, the training officer for Battery B, Caribou. "It indicates how high a priority the 1/152nd FA's mission is in the total Army policy. The system is a significant improvement in command and control."

According to SGT Nathan D. Beaver, an operations specialist assigned to HHS, 1/152nd FA in Caribou, a lot of training was required to learn the new system.

"Approximately 200 soldiers assigned to the Brigade, (The 1/152nd FA battalion is part of the 197th FA Brigade, along with two other New Hampshire FA battalions.) attended three weeks of training at the old Loring AFB in Limestone, Maine to learn this new system. Additionally, some of our soldiers went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to get trained up."

Recently, the Battalion received ten new computer systems, as well as nine new HUMVEEs specifically designed to carry AFATDS. Nine new 5KW tactical quiet generators were also supplied with the computers and HUMVEEs to provide the necessary power to ensure AFATDS is running smoothly.

The AFATDS system has also eliminated the need for two separate Military Occupation Specialties.

The jobs of the 13C's and 13E's have been combined into a new MOS, 13D, Fire Control Specialist.

The merging of MOS's will also improve career progression opportunities for members of the Field Artillery who are currently within these career fields.



SFC Alen H. Willett, an operations specialist, enters gun battery positions into the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, AFATDS, (Photo by: SSG Carl Weiss, PA, MEARNG)

It Just Takes One Family Program for

By: SFC Angela Blevins, PA

During the week of August 12-19th, 2001, Bog Brook training area was Kids Camp 2001, a product of Maine's National Guard Family Program. This event brought a group of 82, nine to twelve year old kids together, living daily as in a military role and being a kid. Filing into formations, marching and learning what it is their relatives do on a guard weekend, annual training or after an activation.

The motivation for this program is educating and preparing the family. SFC Barbara Claudel, family program director for the National Guard said, "We have something for our kids, because they deserve it... We want to educate the family, what we do and why, creating a healthy-ready family."

The military way of life was seen throughout the camp, starting with their arrival. There were stations to visit for the checking in process. One stop was fingerprinting, which was provided to the parent when camp was completed. Instead of a duffle bag, these kids received a smaller bag. This contained items like pen, paper, a pair of BDU (Battle Dress Uniform) pants, post cards, two t-shirts that would identify their group, and a water bottle.



Bobby Cummings supervises his company while marching (Photo by: SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)

Another check in station was medical, appraising their readiness.

The family program receives money that partially covers the costs, through donations. The cost per child, only \$20. The units have a family program representative that may coordinate fund raising projects, like raffling a kayak or selling baked items. There were also donations, the BDU pants were donated by the Caribou Veteran's Center. For a small yearly fee, water bottles and crafting items were received from a business in Auburn.

"There are water bottles that a company may have not liked because of a small error. Instead of throwing it away, the Share Center company recycles it. The kids don't care what the mistake was. It was a great water bottle," explained SFC Claudel.

Another donation was food. A potato farmer who is also a member of the 112th Medical Unit, SFC Thomas Devoe, donated potatoes along with his time as a cook, for the week.

This was a productive SPC Dana Bagley, MEARNG and MAJ Frank Roy, Jr. MEARNG, encourage Robert Palmer, III, through the low crawl. (Photo by: SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)



Christian Carrier swings across at Prouty's Landing (Photo by: SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)



SPC Dana Bagley, MEARNG and MAJ Frank Roy, Jr. MEARNG, encourage Robert Palmer, III, through the low crawl. (Photo by: SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)

Maine's Army & Air National Guard

ceived tasks to do like how to lead a group in an event. And how to develop team building within the companies. They assisted the counselors in activities, leading and teaching. Daily, a CIT via a radio would coordinate assistance and guidance to the kids and counselors. This process developed a tight band of National Guard teens with a desire to assist other kids by becoming counselors. Also provided sounding boards for the support staff.

As military personnel, we know there are always meanel duties that must be done, sweeping, swabbing and taking the trash out. Each day, time for those duties was allowed. When those were done, the fun would begin. At night, everyone was given sheets with choice of what event they would like to participate in. They would turn them in the following morning. After breakfast they would attend their choice of class.

There was a lot to be learned at this summer camp, like marching, learning that as an individual you have ideas, and that

building a team provides someone to lean on. At the end of the camp, a scrap book of photos, names and addresses was produced and sent to all the campers

This provided a support system, which allowed continuing communication with someone, who has a military member in his or her family. This summer camp successfully created a guard family web. In the absence of a soldier, the spouses and family members have found another guard family



SSG Cindy Pantalone, a counselor, spots for Katie Merritt as she swings across at Prouty's Landing. (Photo by: SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)

who understands what they are experiencing. It is a step in keeping our families readiness healthy.

In recent months, the Family Program has been called to assist in another important Guard role, President Bush's security at our nations airports. The State of Maine activated 81 Army and Air National Guard members to serve in that role.

Volunteers have stepped forward to assist in giving briefings on benefits that the soldiers and family members will be receiving. These briefings are conducted because while on duty the families in Maine may not be aware of all the benefits available to them.

Not only are there medical and insurance benefits, there is also a web of family support people. These people, spouses, and relatives who have the knowledge, can share their experiences and help provide support.

October Drill weekend was the first weekend where Tri-Care experts Deborah O'Brien, in Augusta, and Lori Theriault, in Caribou, conducted a presentation to provide information and answers to dependants and service members.

With the support of the family program, together we are developing a well-informed family, that is committed to the National Guard and supportive of the National Guard member.



Salina Palmer walks beside Dawn Hardwick seated on horse. (Photo by: SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)

Guard Beefs Up Homeland Defense

'Homeland Defense'

Continued from page 3

response was to name former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to a new cabinet position. The newly created Homeland Defense position is designed to focus American efforts on securing the safety of its citizens within American borders.

The Adjutant General of Maine, MG Joseph E. Tinkham II directed the headquarters staff to draw up contingency plans for the State of Maine, should the order for federalization come from the President. The plan, known as Dirigo Watch, was developed to ensure the interests of Maine and its citizens would be protected. According to COL Robert G. Carmichael, the Director of Operations, this is a different war than we've fought in the past. "We are facing a different enemy now. This isn't a one country versus another country war. The nature of the threat facing America has changed."

Additionally, members of both the Maine Army and Air National Guard have been assisting the Federal Aviation Administration with airport security. "Operation Friendly Skies" has 80 Guardsmen on orders to provide an additional "show of force" at six of Maine's public airports.

They have been assisting security personnel at the x-ray machines as passengers check their carry on bags. "Our objective is to get the flying public back in the airplanes," said COL Carmichael. "After the attacks there was a precipitous drop off in the number of Americans flying. In the last few weeks, that number seems to be climbing, and hopefully shall begin to approach the pre-attack numbers shortly." The public reaction to the troops at the airports has been well received. CPT Bill Riley, the officer in charge of Operation Friendly Skies, said "Although our soldiers and airmen aren't to interact conversationally with the public to the point of losing focus on their mission, they have been receiving many positive comments from passengers. Some of them simply stop or pause to say 'thank you' or 'keep up the good work'." "It's a good feeling and it definitely helps us realize just how important this mission is to the American people."

The Maine Army National Guard has also been working with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the State Police assessing our ability to respond should a threat show itself in Maine. Three areas the Guard has been looking at are Force Protection, Risk and



Members of the 11th WMD-CST mask and prepare for entry into a potentially contaminated area. (Photo by SFC Angela Blevins, PA, MEARNG)

Resource Availability.

COL Mark Gilbert, the MEARNG's Chief of Staff, said, "The Maine Army National Guard has made a seamless transition into the airport security role, in part, due to the planning accomplished by Dirigo Watch. The Maine Army National Guard responded immediately and after direction from the National Guard Bureau, we were in the airports in just a couple of days. Our mission is going well and the conduct and appearance of all our troops has been outstanding. In fact, the efforts of the entire Guard staff has been absolutely top notch." Although the terrorist hijackings of our airliners and the subsequent suicidal flights into the World Trade Center and Pentagon horrified and stunned both the Nation and World, recent developments with the anthrax virus on the loose within our borders threaten to disrupt everyday life even further.

Just a few short months ago the thought of a biological or chemical attack on the civilian populace of the United States might have seemed unlikely to the average citizen. However, for the members

of the recently formed 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team unit in Waterville, Maine, this is precisely what they train for.

Soldiers of this unique unit are tasked to assess a suspected nuclear, biological or chemical event, advise civilian responders on the appropriate action and facilitate requests for assistance to expedite the arrival of additional state or federal assets to help save lives, prevent suffering and mitigate great property damage.

Designed to provide support to local, county and state authorities, they are among the first respondents to an unknown threat involving suspected biological or chemical weapons.

Since September 11th, members of the unit have traveled to various towns within the state to perform their duties in response to suspected biological events. Fortunately, none of the events has proven to be legitimate. Nevertheless, the unique equipment and capabilities of the 11th WMD-CST make it a highly respected and frequently sought weapon against terrorism.

Legislative Process

By: BG John Libby, DAG

A little understood, and less appreciated, function of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management (DVEM) is the creation of new laws. The process begins with an idea, or problem, and to be successful, the resulting bill must be approved by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor.

The "life cycle" of the Maine Military Authority (MMA) legislation provides an excellent understanding of the process.

While the history of the beginning and growth of the Maine Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Center (Loring Re-Build) is well known, what is not well known is that the Center did not have the authority to work for entities other than the National Guard Bureau. The legislation creating the MMA would allow them to enter into contracts with other government entities and foreign governments. This would allow expansion of the workforce, development of new production lines and a diversification of work necessary to sustain the site.

Introducing the Bill. Only legislators, public interest groups, the Governor, study groups, joint select and standing committees and state agencies may request that bills be drafted and only legislators may introduce bills for formal consideration. After drafting by a team that included representation of staff and command, MG Tinkham sought out legislators who would be willing to sponsor, or formally introduce, the MMA bill.

The Committee Process. The Senate Secretary and House Clerk jointly recommend a committee to which the bill will be assigned. The suggested committee usually is the one that seems most appropriate based on the bill's subject matter. In this case, the bill was assigned to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veteran's Affairs.

Public Hearings. Bills have a public hearing before the committee of jurisdiction where citizens, state officials and other legislators and lobbyists can inform committee members on their views. As a rule, the most persuasive testimony is brief, to the point, easy to understand and supported by evidence. Several members of the Department offered testimony in support of the legislation and answered

questions by the committee.

Work Session. At subsequent work sessions, committee members discuss the bill and vote on final recommendations. While open to the public, work sessions do not accept additional public testimony.

Committee Report. A committee's final verdict on a bill is expressed by its report, which is often the most important influence on its passage or defeat. Several types of unanimous and divided reports are possible. In the case of the Maine Military Authority legislation, the committee report was a unanimous "Ought to Pass".

Senate and House Action. To be passed, a bill must go through at least four steps on the floors of both the House and Senate that result in debate, votes, engrossment, or printing, and enactment, or final passage. Bills that require state funding (the MMA bill did not) go through one final step of consideration by the Appropriations Committee to ensure that the budget is balanced.

The Governor's Role. After a bill has been enacted by the Legislature, it is sent to the Governor who has ten days to take one of three actions:

- Sign the bill which becomes law

ninety days after adjournment of the legislature or at an earlier date if it is emergency legislation (The MMA bill was emergency legislation and became effective with the Governor's signature)

- Veto the bill which can only be overridden by a 2/3 vote of both the House and Senate

- Not sign the bill, which allows it to become law after ten days. This action is taken if the Governor does not support a bill but does not wish to veto it.

While the legislative process begins in the early Fall with submission of proposed bills, it doesn't end until up to nine months later with the Governor's signature or veto.

But without the idea or problem identified, as noted in my introductory paragraph, new or amended laws do not occur.

It is your right and responsibility as a citizen, and in a narrower context, as a member of the Maine National Guard, to ensure that those ideas and problems are brought to the attention of the individuals and groups who can introduce legislation.

This is how the Maine Military Authority came to be and precisely how the National Guard Educational Assistance Program began.

You can make a difference!



History of Army National Guard Aviation

Army Guard Aviation undergoes numerous 'face-lifts' over the years

By: **BG Albert J. White, Jr. (Ret)**

Army Aviation with a motto of "ABOVE THE BEST" started in the Maine Army National Guard in the early 1950's. Headquarters Battery, 152d Field Artillery located in Caribou and the 103d Regimental Combat Team located in South Portland both had "Air Sections". Each section had two L 19A's, a two place fixed wing observation aircraft called the "Birddog".

When received, they were brand new from the Cessna factory. Later, the combat team received a Bell H 13 observation helicopter, called the Sioux.

The State Headquarters, located in Augusta, had one L 17 Navion four place fixed wing aircraft to transport the Adjutant General and staff. All sections had at least one mechanic who served as a jack of all trades. An interesting fact, LTC (ret.) Lee Doody, a former 152d Field Artillery Battalion Commander had his start in the Battalion as an airplane mechanic.

In May of 1959, all three sections were consolidated at the Augusta State airport. Aviation assets consisted of three L 19A'S one H 13G, and one L 20A "Beaver", these were supported by four full time mechanics.

CPT John Kelley became the first full time Army Aviator to work for the MEARNG as a maintenance officer and State Aviation Officer. He was followed by 1LT Albert White, MAJ James Tinkham, MAJ Robert Carmichael and today LTC David Smith.

The largest aviation unit in the MEARNG is the 112th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), located in Bangor. The lineage for all practical purposes is as follows:

- Aviation Company 103rd Armored Cavalry Regiment organized in 1959.
- Redesignated 112th Aviation Company (Fixed Wing) (Light) Transport June 1961
- Redesignated 112th Aviation com-

pany (Corps Artillery) February 1963
 - Redesignated Battery F (Aviation Corps Artillery) 152 FA December 1964
 - Redesignated 112th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) December 1967 to present. It is interesting to note, that during the times shown above, the unit has had fourteen Company Commanders and thirteen 1st Sergeants.

During the late 1960's, Aviation Sec-

units have changed frequently since 1959. The following fixed wing aircraft have been assigned to the units in the MEARNG; L 5 Sentinel, L 16 Champ, L 17 Navion, L 20 Beaver, U 1A Otter, U 3, U 8 Seminole, C 12 Huron.

The following rotary wing aircraft have been assigned: H 13 Sioux, H 23 Raven, CH34 Choctaw, Oh 58 Kiowa, UH 1 Iroquois and the UH60 Blackhawk.



A UH1 Iroquois (Huey) in flight along the Maine coastline. (Photo from MEARNG archives)

tions were part of HHC, 240th Engineer Group, and HHC, 262d Engineer Bn. Aviation assets included The UH 1 Iroquois (Huey) and the OH 58 Kiowa. The units were manned predominately by Vietnam veterans.

When the aviation sections were phased out of the two engineer units, C company (1st 192) was organized later to become C Company (1st 137). These units were equipped with the UH 1 helicopters.

As the reader may see, Army aviation

Full time support personnel have grown from four in 1959 to forty who now work out of the Army Aviation Support Facility, located at the Bangor International Airport.

The Maine Army National Guard can be extremely proud of its Aviation units past and present which have been manned by highly professional and competent personnel.

'Forward Observers'

Continued from Page 4

what grid on the map they are in. The better we are at this, the faster that first round can be on its way. We then spot that initial round coming in and if we do our job right, the call for "fire for effect" can go out."

Forward observer SSG Roderick J.

Plourde added, "Plotting targets is very important in our job. We also have to be able to draw very detailed sketches of the battlefield. Time is crucial in our job, and we really need to be able to call in accurate strikes within one or two rounds."

Being a forward observer can be a lonely, dangerous job. While the forward observer is out among the enemy looking

for the ideal spot to observe, the enemy is trying to wipe them out. The success of the battalion and the mission rests in the the forward observers hands and eyes. A poorly judged distance can result in a target slipping away, a poorly picked spot to observe can result in their discovery, capture or elimination. Forward observer, the ultimate game of cat and mouse.

From the State Command Sergeant Major

Continue High Motivation and Moral

During the past month, I have had the opportunity to visit soldiers in a wide variety of environments these range from a live fire exercise at CFB Gagetown, Canada to National Guard soldiers providing an armed military presence at our airports to the formal setting of the Maine Army National Guard Military Ball. In every environment, I observed professional, highly motivated soldiers accomplishing the mission to standard.

The tragic events of September 11th have resulted in a heightened awareness of the military and the military uniform among the general public. When I visit our airports, I find that our soldiers are standing tall, looking sharp, being vigilant and conduct-

ing themselves in a professional manner. Never in my career can I remember seeing so many of our soldiers standing in positions where so many people see them. We must take advantage of this increased awareness and exposure to build confidence, trust, admiration and respect for all who wear the uniform. The biggest recruiting advertisement in the State of Maine stands guarding our airports.

This increased visibility and awareness of the military does not only apply to our soldiers on duty at our airports. It applies to each and every one of you each time you step out in public in your uniform. The public supports our soldiers and takes the time to thank them for what they are doing. On several occasions since September 11th, com-

plete strangers walked up to me and said "thank you for what you are doing". What they were doing was thanking all who wear the uniform, not thanking me personally.

The war on terrorism could last for a long time. With the passage of time, there is the danger of becoming nonchalant. One incident of un-professionalism, not performing our duties within established standards, of not presenting ourselves in a soldierly manner can destroy all the good things that we are doing. The challenge to all of us is to continue this high state of motivation and morale



CSM Mark J. Collins

while performing our duties. Be vigilant and keep up the good work.

Looking to the Maine Army National Guard Soldier

If you were the First Sergeant for the day what one change would you make?



SSG Diane Robinson
Admin NCO, HHD, STARC

I wouldn't do anything differently than our current ISG does.



SGT Jason R. White
Assistant Supply Sergeant, RTI

I wouldn't change a thing.



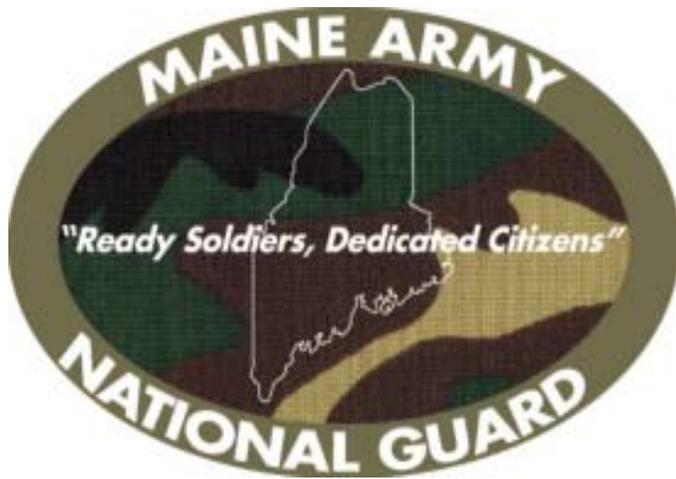
PV2 Kirsty A. Myers
Combat Medic, HHD, STARC

I would work with the other units ISG's to ensure all their soldiers show up for their SRP's and physicals.



SGT Francis Simmler
Computer Specialist, DOIM

I would organize a group fun run for all members of STARC.



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