

# 192D TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP

# VANGUARD

## VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



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*George deployment*

## Operation Air Warrior

Six A-7 Corsair II aircraft and 75 Virginia Air National Guardsmen deployed to George Air Force Base, California, from 28 Oct to 14 Nov to participate in Operation Air Warrior.

Air Warrior is the air portion of an Army field exercise conducted at neighboring Fort Irwin, the National Military Training Center. For the Army, the exercise is the equivalent of the Air Force's "Red Flag".

"Our experience and training at Fort Irwin was some of the best we've ever had," said LtCol John R. Shurley III, Commander of the 149th Tactical Fighter Squadron. "It gave us an opportunity to do some low-level flying in mountainous terrain, something that we don't get to do in the coastal area of Virginia and North Carolina."

"I know maintenance personnel didn't like getting up at 2 and 3 in the morning to get our aircraft ready, but as usual, the support we received from them was outstanding," Shurley said.

The A-7 crews were assigned to the "Red Army," which portrayed the enemy forces. The Red Army consisted of soldiers assigned full-time to the job of simulating the tactics and battlefield maneuvers of potential opposition forces. The Virginia Air Guardsmen flew close air support missions and interdiction missions against tanks and other tracked vehicles in support of the Red Army.

Capt Bobby Bledsoe, 149th TFS project officer for the deployment, said, "There were times we took off in the dark and had to wait for the sun to come up to find and hit our targets. It was a great experience trying to hit tanks that were moving under field operations."

The Virginia Guardsmen flew 131 missions while at George. LtCol Terry Maynard, the squadron's operations officer, said some of the

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Then

## Skeeter retires

By A1C Lynne Taylor

CMSgt Robert V. "Skeeter" Glenn, one of the Virginia Air National Guard's true "institutions," retires this month after a 38-year Guard career.

He has served as first sergeant of every squadron in the 192d Tactical Fighter Group and as a flighter squadron. He has worked for five adjutants general, and he once turned down a direct commission as a captain.

He is the Virginia Air Guard's last remaining veterans of the World War II era. His snow-white hair is testimony to his age --he'll be 60 years old on 17 Jan --but it masks a memory sharper than many men far younger than he.

One of the few things Glenn can't remember is how he got the nickname Skeeter. "I can't really place that," he said in a recent interview. "They've been calling me that since I was a kid."

A Richmond native, Glenn enlisted in the Army in April 1945 at the age of 18. "In those days, all draftees



Now



and enlistees were assigned to infantry and then went to school for specialty training," he said. After infantry training, Glenn was assigned to the Army Air Corps.

Although he didn't see overseas duty while World War II was still raging, Glenn went to Japan with the occupation forces. He re-enlisted in 1946, but transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 1947 when the Army Air Corps officially became the United States Air Force.

Two years later, he transferred to the Virginia Air National Guard, which had been formed two years earlier. Glenn's brother, Tom, was a pilot in the Virginia Guard.

Glenn began work that year as a technician with the 149th Tactical Fighter Squadron. The base, he said, "was a handful of wooden building." The unit had about 250 people, the highest-ranking among them a major.

In 1951, Glenn and other Virginia Air Guardsmen were called to active duty during the Korean Conflict. He spent a year at Turner AFB, GA.

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



SEPTEMBER 18, 1947

### FIELD RATIONS

Most members of the 192d Tactical Fighter Group who deployed to Evenes, Norway in September 1985 will remember at least one meal that came in an olive-green aluminum bag.

The packet was called a "Meal/-Ready to Eat", and within nine months of the Norway deployment, the Army ordered it removed from commissary shelves.

However, after six months of extensive testing, the Army has declared that MREs are wholesome and fit for consumption.

Use of the MRE, which replaced the more well-known C-Ration, was suspended in May as a precaution after leaks were found in some pouches during a routine quality assurance inspection at an MRE assembly plant.

SMSgt Lou Pearman, 192d TFG's Food Services Chief, said the dozen varieties of MREs offer the airman in the field a wide choice of meals.

"We ate them in Norway for two days before the field kitchens were set up," Pearman said. "The engineers ate them for a week. Later, we shut the mess hall down one day and issued them when everybody went off base."

When heated, Pearman said, the MREs make "a pretty tasty meal."

## Guardsmen play Santa

Christmas time is usually a time for happiness and thoughts of presents, good food, and being surrounded by relatives. Unfortunately, everyone isn't able to enjoy the "good things" that most of us do.

On Dec 22, members of the 192d TFG worked in two shifts with Salvation Army volunteers to take toys to children who otherwise wouldn't have had many. The event began Dec 17, with members of other volunteer groups participating in the gift-giving.

"Being able to help those less fortunate than ourselves is the true spirit of Christmas," said Maj Andrew Willis, the event's coordinator. "It makes me feel good knowing that I helped to brighten someone's day."

## Skeeter...

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Upon his return to Richmond, he worked in the state Adjutant General's office, where he ran the publications section for 10 years.

It was during that period that Glenn was offered a direct commission as a captain. He declined. "Officers were not as outspoken then," he said. "If they were, they didn't last very long. I felt as though I'd be of greater benefit to the unit as an NCO."

Glenn, who has a reputation for outspokenness, likely figured that he would last longer as an NCO.

During the 1950s and early 60s the unit went through extensive reorganization. Glenn set up the base's first NCO council.

Ten years after the Korean Conflict callup, Glenn was called to active duty again in 1961 because of the Berlin Crisis. Like other Virginia Air Guardsmen, he stayed at Byrd Airport. He found that people's views of the Guard and Reserves were changing.

"Instead of being seen as 'weekend warriors', the Guard and Reserves were seen as being a viable part of the Total Force," he said.

He took an active role in promoting the welfare of the enlisted man. He served as the first vice-president of the Virginia Enlisted Association, and later was the first person to hold consecutive one-year terms as president of that statewide group. He is the only Air National Guardsman to hold the presidency of the Enlisted Association since the group's inception in 1974. During the Vietnam era, "the draft was breathing down everybody's back," Glenn said, and the Guard and Reserve had waiting lists of people who wanted to join.

Glenn attributes his longevity in the Guard to a simple formula: "Know your people and listen to them. Get involved, and have compassion."

A Guard career takes its demands on family life, but Glenn said his wife and family have been supportive of his activities in the Guard. He and the former Alice Gott have been married for 36 years. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. Their only son was killed in an industrial accident in 1977.

"Without the help of my friends and others in the unit, I don't know how I would've gotten through it," Glenn said.

Ask him which era he has enjoyed most, and Glenn skirts the question.

"All the eras have proved to be challenging. In the 1940s and

1950s, the unit was smaller, so the people were closer-knit. This unit excels in specialties and education. This era is a challenge because the equipment is much more sophisticated."

With retirement only days away, Glenn said he looks forward to hunting, fishing, and sitting.

But that doesn't mean he has severed his ties with the Virginia Air Guard. He's already president of the retirees association.



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192d Tactical Fighter Group  
Virginia Air National Guard

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# Advisor's Report

By CMS Dave Lutz

Senior Enlisted Advisor

The October graduating class of the Community College of the Air Force included three of our personnel:

- Joanne M. McKenna 192 CSS
- Joseph A. Cheatham III 192 CAMS
- Michael E. Coleman 192 CAMS

I know all of you join me in congratulating them on a job well done! Getting a degree takes a lot of hard work and perseverance, but the future payback is too great to measure! Those of you who have not checked out the CCAF program should discuss with these graduates the details of their accomplishment.

During the November UTA our Awards and Decoration program received a much-needed boost in the form of a training class in awards processing procedures for squadron representatives. Although our awards program has steadily improved over the past year, this class (others to follow, if needed) provides each squadron with personnel knowledgeable in the preparation and processing of recommendations for both Federal and State awards and decorations. MSgt Vickie Norwood, X462, and SSgt Karol Crane, X309, did a fine job in conducting this class and welcome any questions you might have as we move ahead with this program.

The following personnel are your squadron Points of Contact for award recommendation processing:

- 192 TFG TSgt P.L. Stanley
- 192 RMS Capt R.H. Pemberton
- Capt L.L. Thompson
- TSgt M.A. Hathaway
- Capt G.A. Wood
- 192 CES Maj D.C. Sanders
- Maj T.N. Whitt
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- 192 CSS 2Lt V. Tarabay
- SSgt B. Kendrick
- 149 TFS Maj E.D. Maxfield

These people are there for you - use them. As I have indicated previously, it is my opinion that any section that receives a rating above "satisfactory" in an inspection contains one or more personnel who should be awarded for doing more

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## Norwegian Secretary of Defense visits 192d TFG

Arne Karstad, Norway's Secretary of Defense, visited the 192d Tactical Fighter Group's home base at Richmond International Airport on 21 November to become acquainted with the unit's facilities, equipment, and methods of operation.

The 192d TFG was the only National Guard unit Karstad and his party visited during their week-long official stay in the United States.

Karstad was not unfamiliar with the Virginia Air Guard. More than 300 members of the 192d TFG deployed to Evenes Air Stasjon in northern Norway for two weeks in September 1985 as part of a joint exercise with the Norwegian military.

The dignitaries' three-hour stay here was highlighted by a tour of the base and a readiness briefing by LtCol John R. Shurley III, Commander of the 149th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Karstad, a career journalist who studied in the United States in 1981 as an Eisenhower Fellow, was appointed State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Defense last May. Before that, he had been foreign editor of Norsk Telegrambyra, the Norwegian News Agency.

At a lunch honoring him, Karstad received a copy of the Virginia Air National Guard's commemorative history book, and all members of his party were given unit hats, patches, and coffee mugs.

Other stops during Karstad's American tour included Norfolk Naval Air Station, Camp Lejeune, NC, Langley Air Force Base, Andrews Air Force Base, MD, the State Department in Washington, and the Pentagon.

## News Briefs

### ATTENTION MAKE UP ARTISTS

The Base Exercise Evaluation Team is seeking individuals with knowledge in the area of moulage kits and make-up for future exercises. Please contact Major Turner, X434, if interested.

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### E-8/E-9 MEETING SCHEDULED

There will be an E-8/E-9 meeting in the State Headquarters conference room at 1330 on Sunday, 11 January. All squadron First Sergeants are also asked to attend.

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### DEERS NUMBERS

Active Duty and Retired beneficiaries may now call one of the following toll-free numbers from 0500 - 1800. Calling from CONUS (except CA) dial (800) 538-9552. This service is available Monday thru Friday for any questions you may have about the DEERS program or any assistance concerning DEERS.

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For those personnel who ordered the A7 models, delivery is expected around March 87. The cost is \$45.00 and should be paid as soon as possible. Make checks payable to 149th Pilots Fund. POC is Maj Tony Haynes, X410.

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### VaANG RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

There will be a meeting of the Virginia Air National Guard Retiree's Association on Wednesday, 21 January 1987 at 1900 in the State Headquarters conference room located adjacent to the club.



## Advisor...

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than "just getting the job done". Each of you know who in your section contributes the most towards its success. Any of you can submit a recommendation for an award. If you know of someone whom you feel has not been properly recognized for a job extremely well done, talk to your squadron POC about an award recommendation.

This is the last year of my military career, but it is the first year of the remainder of your career! Where do you go from here? What are your career goals? Where do you want to be a year from now? - 5 years? - 10 years? What are your options? See your career counselor and training personnel. 1987 is the year to put your career on track!!

## Cigarettes Kill!

## deployment...

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missions were in support of the exercise and others were training missions using live 500 and 2,000-pound bombs.

"Flying on the East Coast, we are restricted from carrying live ordnance most of the time," Maynard said. "At George, we had the opportunity to practice with live ordnance. We dropped both low and high-drag Mark 82s (500-pound bombs) and Mark 84s (2,000-pound bombs). This training was not part of the Army exercise but was done at the Chocolate Mountain Bombing Range in Arizona."

KC-135 Stratotankers were used to refuel the A-7s on the deployment and redeployment. Maintenance and support personnel flew aboard an Air Reserve C-141 transport.

According to Col Hartwell F. "Tee" Coke, Commander of the 192d Tactical Fighter Group, "This deployment was just another example of the Air Guard fulfilling its mission as part of the Total Force. We not only get excellent training but provide realistic support for Army active and reserve units. In addition to the live ordnance, we were able to drop chaff and flares, something we don't routinely do. Congratulations to everyone who supported this deployment for a job well done."

## Sure Pay - the only way

Have you ever been on vacation on a payday? How about traveling on business, or maybe sick and not able to work? Have you ever seen snow so deep the Post Office stopped delivering, and the banks were all closed? (Well, maybe not in Virginia but it could happen!) How much time have you spent in line at the bank or credit union waiting to deposit a paycheck? Since they're only open during your working hours, how much total time did you lose from your job to get the check deposited? If you bank by mail, how many days after payday did it actually take for the money to be posted to your account?

These questions highlight potential pay problems that Sure Pay, also known as direct deposit or electronic funds transfer (EFT), could solve. With direct deposit, you can be sure that your money is in the bank and waiting for you on payday. No fuss, no hassle, no lines, no delay.

That benefit is fairly obvious, but some people just are not comfortable with "electronic money". They don't feel like they got paid unless they can hold onto a check, or even put cold cash into a wallet. There's no good answer to this complaint with Sure Pay. However, if you feel this way, you may still convince yourself that the advantages outweigh this one disadvantage.

It is a fact of life that checks get lost. Sometimes the Post Office loses it. Home mail boxes get robbed and thieves know what a standard U.S. Government check looks like in a window envelope. Some of us have misplaced checks with other mail around the house. When a Sure Pay payment is missed, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center can verify that fact and reissue a paycheck immediately. However, when you report that you never received a paycheck, but the pay office has records showing that it was paid, you could wait for a reissue six months to receive a reissue.

We, in the Guard, have two more reasons to use Sure Pay: Mobilization and deployment. If we are called to active duty, Sure Pay continues automatically, giving you one less worry as you and your family adjust to the changes of being full time military. Also, if you get picked for a short notice deployment, Sure Pay takes the worry out of getting paycheck money to the family while you are off in who knows where.

One additional thought. Some

banks offer special services, like free checking with no minimum balance to depositors who use direct deposit for pay. Ask your bank about this, or shop around. Sure Pay might save you from \$24 to \$60 per year in monthly checking fees.

No matter what your status, whether you're a Traditional Guardsman, Air Technician or AGR, Sure Pay is the only way.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## System 11 users group being formed

Because OPRs are now taking a more active role in monitoring and requesting data processing resources, the Information Systems facilities within the VaANG have evolved into a state-of-the-art batch and online system. Our facilities now incorporate a growing line of micro-computer systems with ever-more complicated unique applications.

In order to solicit user involvement, the 192d ISF is forming an Information Systems User's Group. The users group will provide a forum where OPRs and users can share experiences and ideas to enhance overall productivity.

An organizational meeting will be held during the January 10 (SAT) UTA in the dining hall from 0930 to 1020. Unit commanders are requested to send representatives who can address the Information Systems needs and concerns of each unit. 192d ISF will welcome all interested individuals.