



192D TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP

VANGUARD

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Participants in Base Recovery After Attack Training at Eglin AFB, Fla., work with a device that smooths out

gravel surfaces during rapid runway repairs. The device is used to repair damage caused by enemy bombs.

BRAAT won't spoil you on Florida

By TSgt Ed Kelleher

If a movie director had been filming the Virginia Air National Guard's week in the boonies, he might have been tempted to call it, 'National Lampoon's Family Vacation in Florida.'

But for all of the 120 Virginia Guardsmen who participated in BRAAT -- Base Recovery After Attack Training -- it was anything but a vacation.

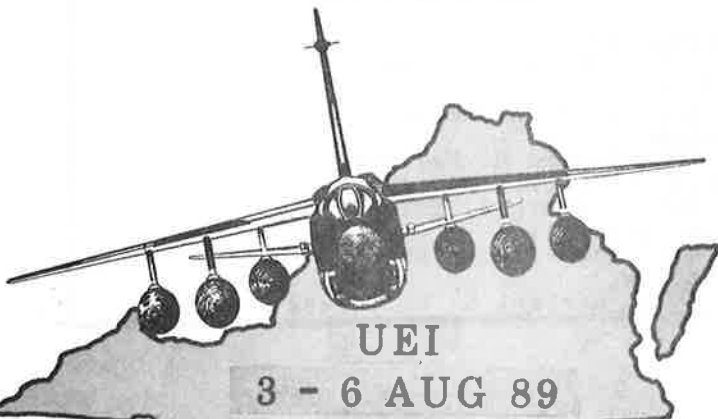
"After jump school and survival school, this was about the most challenging thing I've been through in my career," a bleary-eyed Col. John R. Shurley III said two days after returning from the exercise.

Shurley, the 192d Tactical Fighter Group's deputy commander for support, wasn't exaggerating.

In plain English, BRAAT translates to a punishing week of work in the field in a simulated chemical warfare environment.

It means wearing gas mask, gloves and hood in Florida Gulf Coast mid-July humidity, and eating MRE's (meal, ready to eat), or under optimum conditions, a hot meal from a field kitchen.

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REMINDER

Because of our deployment to Norway in September, the normal September drill has been rescheduled for Aug. 26-27. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Commander's

Call

by
LtCol Bill Rose

Commander
192TFG



Being a man of few words, I'll keep this message brief: look sharp this weekend -- even sharper than usual!

The Unit Effectiveness Inspection is already here, and the results will hinge largely on the way we normally do business.

But we can add some polish to those results by looking our best and conducting ourselves with military courtesy at all times.

It's something like adding a coat of wax to a car after you've spent days working on the engine. The car seems to run better when it looks better.

Show your pride in yourselves and in the unit. I know you will.

Corsair repair team due here next month

A team of aircraft frame specialists is expected here in September to repair hairline cracks in the wings of 14 of the 192d Tactical Fighter Group's A-7D Corsair II fighter-bombers.

The airplanes have been grounded since April 24, when the Air Force, responding to confirmed reports of wing cracks in some A-7's, ordered all A-7's in its inventory grounded until they could be inspected.

Meanwhile, LtCol Bob Seifert, the 192TFG's deputy commander for maintenance, said, "It's a credit to the group that we have managed to perform all our training requirements with only 11 airplanes."

That has taken teamwork to accomplish, Seifert said. The 149th Tactical Fighter Squadron have cut back the pilots' training schedule to what Seifert called a "bare minimum." And 192d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMS) personnel have double-teamed the airplanes during planned "phase" maintenance to quicken the turnaround.

"Basically, we try to keep the airplanes that we have flyable all the time," Seifert said.

The team of aircraft machinists from the A-7 Air Logistics Center in Sacramento, Calif., has completed work on A-7's at four or five units already and should be here sometime in September, he said.

CHAPEL SERVICES

CATHOLIC
Saturday 9:30 a.m

GENERAL PROTESTANT
Sunday 8 a.m.

Chapel services will be conducted in the chapel, O&T Building.

Your chaplain, LtCol Xel Sant'Anna, is available to you and your family 24 hours a day. Do not hesitate to call him if you think he can help you in any way. His phone numbers are:

Home: 737-0635 Office: 737-1527

* * *

DINING HALL MENU

Saturday

Beef Tips with Noodles
Braised Pork Chops
Mashed Potatoes
Mexican Corn
Ice Cream

Sunday

Savory Baked Chicken
Barbecue Beef Slices
Rice Pilaf
Mixed Vegetables
Marble Cake with Icing

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VANGUARD Staff

Commander:
LtCol Wilbur E. Rose
Editor:
MSgt Patti L. Smith
Advisor:
TSgt Edward M. Kelleher
Chief of Public Affairs:
Maj. Francis J. McNally
Photographer:
MSgt Robert A. Flournoy
Staff:
SMSgt Herbert C. Childress



Helping hands

TSgt Bobby Lamb (above) and TSgt Tom Sheehy (right) assist visitors through Richmond International Airport en route to the 1989 annual convention for the American Council of the Blind. About 100 Air Guard members and spouses, Civil Air Patrol cadets and members of Sandston Baptist Church volunteered to assist the conventioners during the July 1-8 conference, which was held in Richmond.



ORI: Half the fun is getting there

An Operational Readiness Inspection is not something that can be prepared for in a matter of days. The 203d Red Horse Civil Engineering Flight has just completed an ORI at Camp Blanding, Florida, and it spent more than six months preparing for the event.

The work of moving tons of equipment to the inspection site began in earnest two weeks ago.

About a month ago, a loadmaster from the Minnesota Air Guard's 133rd Tactical Airlift Wing spent two days at Camp Pendleton instructing selected unit members on the preparation of cargo that would be transported to Florida by C-5A.

That training was put to the test when the 203d's equipment was prepared for loading. All vehicles being deployed were sent through a four-station routing.

The first station gave each vehicle a complete operational check. Discrepancies discovered here were corrected at this point.

Station 2 checked the vehicles for proper fuel quantities. Each vehicle was allowed to have its fuel tank no more than half full.

Station 3 was the wash rack. Vehicles were cleaned inside, outside and underneath

-- the last with a steam-cleaning process. Station 4 gave the vehicles a final inspection. Here, all of the work at the previous three stations was reviewed.

Now the vehicles were ready for transport to Naval Air Station Oceana for loading. The tedious work of loading them onto the C-5's was done quickly and efficiently because of the training the unit had received earlier and because of help from the 133rd's airlift control element team. On the first day, 92,700 pounds of vehicles and equipment were loaded. On the following day, 100,000 pounds were transported. Because of solid preparation, 96 1/2 tons of vehicles and equipment were on site at Camp Blanding when the 203d Red Horse arrived there for its ORI.

DAY FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

The Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association will sponsor a day of recognition for Vietnam veterans either currently serving in or retired from the Virginia National Guard. The event will be held the weekend of Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the State Military Reservation, Virginia Beach. See CMSgt Eddie Waldron for details.

A real gas

(Continued from Page 1)

And it means withstanding tear-gas attacks and spending most of the night preparing for the next day's activities.

About 120 Virginia Air National Guardsmen -- the great majority of them from the 192d Civil Engineering Squadron -- took part in BRAAT July 16-22 at Eglin AFB, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

The 192TFG was the core unit for a training exercise that included about 140 other Guardsmen, active-duty Air Force airmen and reservists.

For 1Lt. Mike Woody, 192TFG disaster preparedness officer, last month's BRAAT was his second. And he said they're not getting any easier.

"They're trying to be as realistic as possible," Woody said. "They're not simulating as much as they used to."

On two nights, personnel were up until 2 a.m. going through contamination control procedures, then up again at 4 a.m. to grab a shower and breakfast before starting the next day's activities.

BRAAT posed a scenario whereby the 192TFG and its allied forces were trying to recover an overseas airfield that was constantly under attack by a hostile nation. The scenario called for realism.

"At about 9 one evening, from the apple orchard it looked like a cloud of tear gas had settled over the 'play' area, and was slowly drifting at tree-top level," said MSgt. L.P. Dutton, a bio-environmental engineering technician with the 192d Clinic.

A team at Eglin's Air Base Combat Support Training Complex activated burst simulators, smoke bombs and tear-gas canisters to simulate an aerial attack.

"One of our guys counted 40 to 45 canisters being thrown," Dutton said. "It was something to give folks incentive to know how to wear those gas masks."

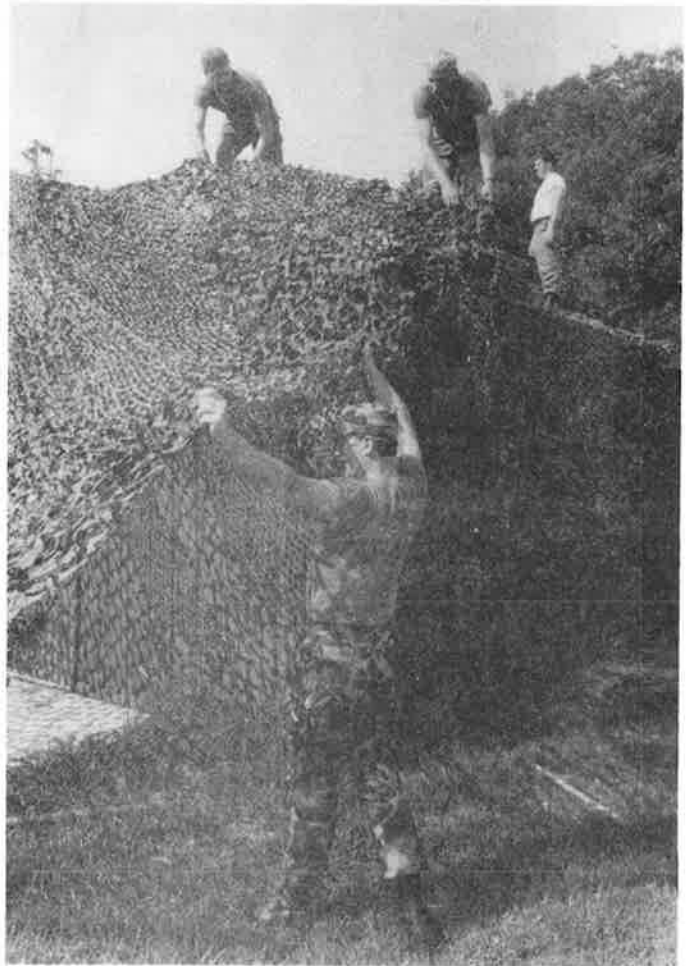
The deployed forces commanded by Shurley were responsible for making rapid runway repairs, removing unexploded bombs, assessing damage and repairing damaged structures, fighting fires, monitoring the levels of toxic chemicals and conducting mortuary affairs -- all while under continued attack or threat of attack.

Disaster preparedness teams manned both outdoor contamination control areas and underground vaults called SCPS -- something like huge drainage tubes -- that could sleep 72 people at a time and withstand the impact of a direct hit by a 500-pound bomb.

All personnel -- firefighters, cooks, electricians and base exchange operators -- did their jobs under adverse conditions, often for long periods in chemical warfare mask and clothing.

Shurley and Lt. Col. Nelson Whitt, commander of the 192d Civil Engineering Squadron, alternated 12-hour shifts in command of the survival recovery center.

The long hours, repeated attacks, harsh conditions and lack of sleep were



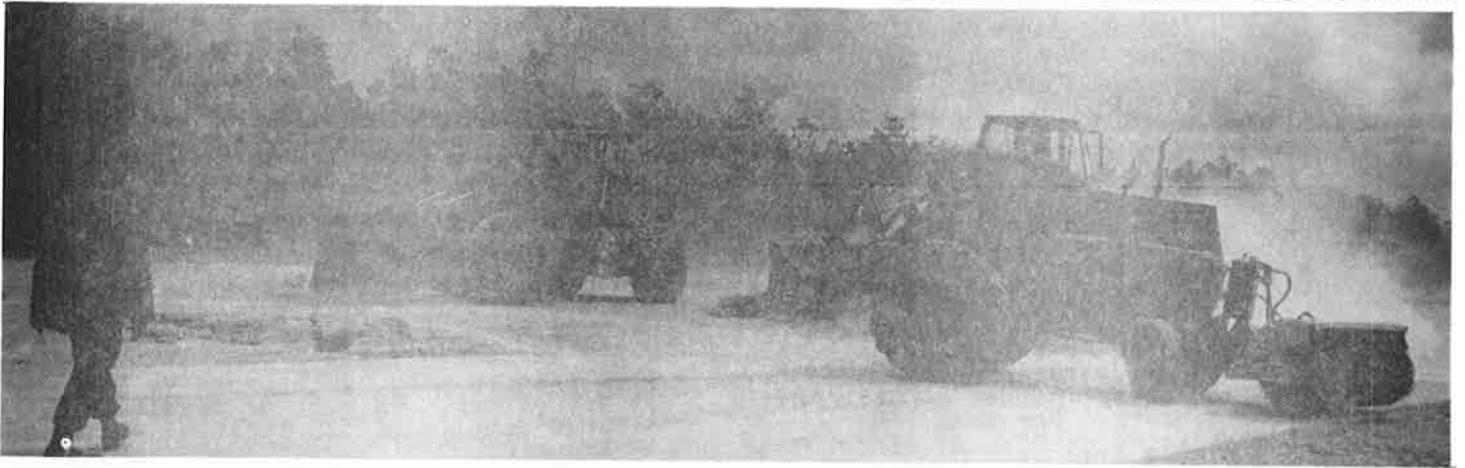
BRAAT participants camouflage jeep at Eglin AFB's Air Base Combat Support Training Complex.

designed to test the Air Guard's ability to perform as a team when nerves are raw and tempers are rapid-fire quick.

"It was a real challenge," Woody said. "We were constantly under attack. They don't give you much time to think...The scenario tests everybody. Nobody is laid back or relaxed."

Credit OK at Class VI

Customers at military installation Class VI stores may now charge their purchases on MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards at all stores, according to the Air National Guard Support Center. Previously, not all Class VI stores accepted MasterCard or Visa, and none accepted Discover. Also, the stock assortment in Class VI stores will be expanded to include snacks and party supplies.



Fun, fun and more fun

Base Recovery After Attack Training at Eglin AFB, Fla., offered endless entertainment to the 120 Virginia Air National Guardsmen who spent a week in July there. Examples are luxury vehicles (above), deluxe accommodations (right), fascinating pastimes (center), and the latest in summer fashions (bottom).



Planning can stem family anxieties

By Maj. Andrew Willis
Social Actions Officer

Most of us have been around the Virginia National Guard long enough to have experienced military-induced separations from family members. For some, the military separation -- TDY, AT, Short Tour -- has caused problems that generate severe hostilities among family members, especially between the military member and the spouse left behind during the separation.

While separations cause a lot of problems, the return home after the separation appears to cause more serious problems. I have included a short checklist about what the military member and family can do to minimize the effects of family separations.

A second article, in next month's Vanguard, will include a checklist on making adjustments upon return home from a military separation.

National Guard members experience separations by having to participate in deployments throughout the year. Most deployments will cause the member to be away from the family long enough for normal family patterns to need adjustment. Preparation for leaving the family must be clearly planned.

The following things can be done -- along with many others -- to remove the fear, uncertainty, and unfamiliarity faced by Air Guard families as they approach military-induced separation. Assuming that proper pre-separation actions are taken, the pain and frustration of these military separations can be minimized.

Pre-Separation Checklist

1. Plan a method to communicate the upcoming separation with other family members. The military member and spouse should discuss how other members of the family will be told of the pending separation. Timing is important to ease tensions about the separation.

2. Ensure that important documents are in order and their location is known to family members. To ease the transitions to single control of the household by the waiting spouse, all important documents should be updated and properly filed. Others in the household should also know the location of those documents. Ease of access to documents could prove to be useful in emergency situations.

3. Establish a family budget for the military member and the family left behind. Since there will be two living accommodations to support during the separation, a budget for both should be established. Reality planning is crucial to the development of workable budgets.

4. Tell children about the absence early and discuss many of the details about where the military duty will take you. Children need to know of the upcoming separation as early as possible after receipt of orders. They need to make adjustments to the loss of one parent. As much as possible, discuss details of the location of the tour -- the historical significance, cultural facts, etc. Any method to ease apprehension is useful.

5. Prepare to experience irritation about the separation along with loneliness and anxiety. The military members and the family must realize these feelings will probably occur. Each should plan things to do what will make the separation less painful. Keep busy but make the activity meaningful.

6. Prepare for the responsibilities of being single and making decisions alone. Separations thrust military members and their spouses into a "single" lifestyle. Decisions will be made without full discussions with each other. These "single" lives must be entered with an understanding that each individual will change during the separation and that each will have responsibilities to keep positive communications with the other.

Kings Dominion weekend

Kings Dominion theme park off Interstate 95 in Hanover County will sponsor a "Virginia National Guard Weekend" Sept. 2-4.

National Guard personnel and employees of the Department of Military Affairs and their families may buy one-day tickets for \$11, a savings of \$7.95 per person.

No uniforms are required. Kings Dominion will display a banner from the Eiffel Tower recognizing the Virginia National Guard.

For ticket information, see TSgt. Odom at Ext. 436. In addition to the Sept. 2-4 weekend, National Guard members may buy discounted tickets valued at \$4.20 off the regular price for admission to either Kings Dominion and Busch Gardens, The Old Country.

New phone book coming

The 192d Mission Support Flight is in the process of publishing a new phone directory. Please check your name in the current directory, and if your phone number is incorrect, please submit a correction to your orderly room.