

VANGUARD

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March 1999



Wing prepares for annual training

Training is our most important work. Each year we are provided 15 days of annual training to ensure we maintain/upgrade our skills. Job training is the most important training we do. If you are a pilot your job is flying, if you are a bomb loader your job is loading bombs.

During our annual field training period in Savannah this year we will also accomplish a great deal of our ancillary training. The schedule is full so you will need to pay attention. Here is an outline of the ancillary training we hope to accomplish:

Weapons Qualification: (9mm or M-16). A four-hour block of training to qualify you with weapons you may be tasked to use.

Supervisor Safety Training: A two-hour block of training required of all E-6s and above. This is a one time requirement. If you have not had it you will be scheduled.

Law of Armed Conflict: A one-hour block of training reminding you what is and is not legal in war (apparently "all is fair in love and war" is not true). Everyone will be scheduled for this training.

Chemical Warfare Gear Initial/Refresher: A two-hour block focusing on use and care of the chem mask. Everyone will be scheduled.

Self Aid and Buddy Care: A valuable four-hour block for those overdue for this training.

EO (Equal Opportunity) 2000. A newly designed Air Force four hour course required for all personnel by the year 2000. Expect to be scheduled.

Col. Robert O. "Bob" Seifert

Newsletter takes on new look

Yes, the *Vanguard* is changing. And over the next couple months there will be more changes as the Public Affairs staff works to bring you a better monthly newsletter.

If you ever have an idea for a *Vanguard* story, please call or e-mail us. Describe the story idea and give us the name and phone number of the person we should talk to.

To schedule photo coverage of an event or activity, contact us as soon as possible so we can work with the Combat Visual Information staff to schedule a photographer and/or videographer. Describe the event or give us its name, date, time photographer needs to be there, and location. Also give us the name and phone number of someone we can call for more information.

If you want to submit a story: key (type) it up in Microsoft Word and send it to us as an attachment to an e-mail; or save it to a diskette and hand-carry it to us or send it through distribution. Documents may also be saved as .rtf (rich text files). You may also embed your story right into your e-mail message to us. We'll just copy & paste it into a Word file.

Type your story with single line spacing, don't use paragraph indents, but do use upper & lower case letters.

The deadline for submitting stories and photos is noon Sunday of the UTA of the month before you would like to see the item in print. (So, if you have a story you want in the April *Vanguard*, you need to have it to the PA office by noon Sunday of the March drill.)

If the item is a brief or short notice (100 words or less), you may neatly print the item on a piece of paper and carry it to us, or send it through distribution.

With any item: Please include the name and phone number of a point of contact — someone we may call if we have questions or need additional information on the story or brief.

We do retain the right to edit material. Often we must shorten articles so we can get the most information possible in each newsletter. If the *Vanguard* is full and a story doesn't have a deadline or isn't time sensitive, we may hold it and run it the following month.

We also edit all items for format and style consistency. We use civilian

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Commander's Call

Year recognizes enlisted accomplishments

When Major General Weaver took over as Director of the Air National Guard he pledged to focus each year on an issue he felt most important to the Guard. His tour is expected to last four years and he has started year number two. His focus this year is on our enlisted force. He appreciates the contribution of all enlisted members of the Air Guard and wants this year to be a year of recognition for them.

He is spearheading several initiatives to highlight this effort. These initiatives were outlined in last month's Vanguard. His chief is also on board. Promoting enlisted pride and recording enlisted heritage are the focal points of Command Chief Master Sergeant Gary Broadbent, General Weaver's senior chief (formerly known as senior enlisted advisor).

Enlisted guardsmen and women do the work of the Air Guard. They launch the jets, give the shots, maintain

the records and fix the meals. The Guard is successful only as they are successful. I want to applaud and thank all of our enlisted personnel for building the professional organization we have today.

I also want to recognize the work of our Chief's council. There is no more active group on the base. They meet at six o'clock each Saturday morning of drill to deal with an ambitious agenda. They are making a difference in our unit.

The recent initiative by SMSgt Wayne Keene to organize a "top three" council among our enlisted force has much promise. Support this effort, it can make this a better unit.

We have many success stories among our enlisted force. They deserve recognition in this, "the year of the enlisted."

Col. Robert O. "Bob" Seifert

EAFF: Officials take next step in developing expeditionary force

In a major milestone, Air Force officials have completed sourcing the combat support elements for the expeditionary aerospace force.

A recent meeting at Hurlburt Field, Fla., brought together functional area managers and war planners representing every major command and combat support element in the active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

They identified the combat support elements of the deployable Air Force's 10 aerospace expeditionary forces, two aerospace expeditionary

wings and other enabling forces. Enablers include civil engineering Red Horse construction teams and Air Mobility Command global reach people and equipment needed to run the worldwide strategic airlift bridge.

The conference detailed comprehensive force packages that can be scheduled into existing deployment requirements such as Bosnia, counterdrug deployments and Operations Northern and Southern Watch in Southwest Asia. It also includes forces available for developing crisis situations.

Functional managers faced the difficult challenge of offering up capabilities that could be scheduled to deploy under the aerospace expeditionary force's 90-day deployment every 15-month vulnerability cycle, without leaving the home base understaffed to carry out its daily workload, he said.

The next major step in the process is to schedule the units apportioned during this conference into deployment rotations. A follow-on scheduling conference will be held at Langley AFB, Va., in early March to actually schedule the AEF units. (AFPN)

VANGUARD

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AF discusses upcoming budgets

Pulling back from the depths of downsizing, the proposed Air Force budget for fiscal year 2000 moves out on a decided up tick to boost readiness and retention.

In proposals released Feb. 1, the service gains \$2.5 billion in FY 2000 and about \$20 billion more across the future years defense program, which, an Air Force official said, "enables us to focus on the most urgent readiness issues."

The overall Department of Defense budget request is \$267.2 billion, which includes an added \$12.6 billion for retention and readiness. Altogether, defense officials say these provisions constitute the first sustained long-term increase in defense spending since the end of the Cold War. For the Air Force, that means 7.3 percent real growth from FY '99 through '05.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen said the additional \$112 billion over the next five years would "meet the most pressing requirements identified by our senior military leadership. "Although U.S. forces continue to accomplish their missions splendidly, there are warning signs of potential problems," he added. "Recruiting and retention are increasingly difficult, readiness harder to maintain and weapons modernization tougher to fund sufficiently.

FY 2000 budget requests 4.4 military pay raise

The FY 2000 and 2001 budgets include a 4.4 percent military pay increase for FY 00, a reform of pay tables and of the military retirement system, as well as recruiting and retention incentives. These, according to a senior Air Force budget official, "will help the Air Force find and keep the best people."

Funds will increase for readiness training of combat forces, including training exercises and ranges, spare parts, aircraft and missile maintenance, training facilities, equipment, and maintenance of existing force structure.

The FY 2000 budget also maintains key Air Force modernization programs such as the F-22, C-17, Airborne Laser, Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle and other programs the Air Force deems "essential to our future readiness."

According to the budget official, the increases are made possible through a combination of lower inflation rates and fuel prices, reduced military construction funding based on advance appropriation of construction projects and new funding recommended by the president.

"While there is more to be done, particularly in the infrastructure and modernization areas," he said, "this budget forcefully addresses the critical near-term requirements. As a result, we have supported both our most immediate readiness needs and our rapid transition to an expeditionary Air Force."

Budget maintains focus on long-term goals

Above all, he said, "the budget maintains focus on our long-term Global Engagement goals. Global Engagement addresses the range of Air Force activities — operations, infrastructure and personnel — to provide a comprehensive map to shape the Air Force for the 21st century."

That future Air Force will change as the nature of aerospace power changes, according to the budget official. "The force will be smaller," he said. "More uniformed personnel will be operators, and a greater percentage will be from the Air Reserve components. Non-operational support functions will increasingly be performed by Air Force civilians.

"The Air Force is also, therefore, committed to competitively sourcing or privatizing many functions now performed internally. The FY 00/01 program includes funding for competitive sourcing and privatization initiatives that will help the Air Force achieve more than \$3 billion in savings by FY 05."

These savings are essential, emphasized the senior budget official, because infrastructure funds still fall short of Air Force needs. Real property needs, according to the budget official, remain constrained in the near term.

"We have a 200- to 300-year rate recapitalization cycle for our base facilities based on our current rate," he said. "You can't get there from here. That's why we have to rely more on CS&P (competitive sourcing and privatization). This is the cost of receiving \$2.5 billion more in the president's budget instead of the \$5 billion requested by the Air Force chief of staff."

The Air Force will still channel money toward 85 new and current mission projects costing \$698 million in FY 2000. These include 45 facility replacements and upgrades, 10 dormitory and seven community support projects and 23 projects to bed down new or additional weapons systems.

JSF to replace F-16

In the broad defense budget, modernization of aviation forces includes DOD's largest acquisition program: the Joint Strike Fighter. It will replace the F-16 in the Air Force, F/A-18C in the Navy and F/A-18C/D and AV-8B for the Marines. The JSF will continue in its concept demonstration phase into FY 2001 before procurement starts in FY 2005.

The F-22 Raptor will replace the F-15C/D in the air superiority role and have substantial air-to-ground capability as well. Aircraft testing continues, and F-22 production is expected to build to 36 aircraft per year by FY 2004.

Meanwhile, the funds added to the FY 2000 budget will let the Air Force buy 30 more F-16s, one JSTARS aircraft, urgent modifications for C-17s and will buy or accelerate modifications for selected aircraft engines for C-17s, C-5s, C-130s, B-1B's, F-16s, F-15E's, RC-135R's and T-38s. (AFPN)

AF bans use of hemp oil products

In the mid-80s, standard urinalysis testing became an effective weapon in the Air Force war against drugs. Now, the program that has ensured a force of drug-free professionals may be compromised by something actually being touted as a healthy dietary supplement. It's called hemp oil.

Some health-conscious Air Force body builders and other hemp seed-oil consumers will now have to find alternatives. The Air Force has banned the use of hemp seed oil products because they contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient of the marijuana plant. In urinalysis testing, no distinction can be made between a positive test because of hemp oil ingestion and one caused by the illegal use of marijuana. Such test results pose a real potential to ruin careers.

Recent scientific studies at several private research firms and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology show the ingestion of products made

with hemp seed oil nearly always produce positive urinalysis tests.

The AFIP has also found some level of THC in all hemp seed and hemp oil products tested. This is why the Air Force has amended its alcohol and drug abuse prevention program to forbid use of such products by airmen.

Most widely available over-the-counter dietary supplements and a host of other products containing hemp seed and hemp seed oil contain some level of THC. Although tests show the level of THC found in the commercial products is not believed to be significant enough to produce a psychoactive reaction in the body, the levels are high enough to produce positive urinalysis results.

"In the interest of military readiness and good order and discipline, active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard members are now prohibited from consuming any products containing hemp seed oil," said LtCol Greg Girard of the Air

Force judge advocate general's office at the Pentagon.

Recently, a number of new "hemp" products have appeared on the shelves of many health food stores accompanied by claims they contain high concentrations of essential amino acids and fatty acids. Girard was quick to add that the Air Force, isn't challenging such claims but rather pointing out that their use by airmen "effectively interferes" with the Air Force's ability to ensure a drug-free force.

"We don't want people testing positive and jeopardizing their careers because they swallowed something they may have thought was healthy and good for them," said LtCol Peter Durand of the Air Force Surgeon General's office.

As program manager for the Air Force drug abuse prevention and treatment program, Durand added that without the ban on hemp products, drug users could hide their crime simply by claiming they ingested a hemp-based dietary supplement. (AFPN)

Vital to safety of U.S. forces

DOD insists anthrax vaccines are safe

Pentagon officials insist the mandatory anthrax vaccine has proven to be safe. "It's safe and reliable," Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said. "It works and has no side effects." Reporters queried Bacon about the vaccine Jan. 21 during a Pentagon briefing after eight pilots from Connecticut's Air National Guard 103d Fighter Wing said they planned to resign rather than take the six-shot series. The unit, which flies A-10 Thunderbolts, is scheduled to de-plot to the Persian Gulf later this year.

The anthrax vaccine is mandatory for all service members, active duty and Reserve, but priority is being given to people going to Southwest Asia and Korea, Bacon explained. "After that, people who are likely to deploy to these or other hot spots are in line to get the shots," he said.

Bacon reported that during exit interviews, six of the eight Connecticut pilots said anthrax was only one of many factors that entered into their decision to resign.

As of Jan. 12, Bacon said, 166,233 service members have received 463,226 shots. This includes the Defense Department's top civilian and military leaders, he said. "All of these people are fine."

Anthrax shots are "a very safe and very important force protection measure" aimed at protecting people from the risks they could face on the battlefield, Bacon said. "Biological warfare is one of the emerging threats we face."

The vaccine was certified by the Food and Drug Administration in 1970. Since then, veterinarians, laboratory workers and livestock

handlers have used the vaccine, Bacon said. Every vaccine poses some risks, however, Bacon noted. "There have been some reactions to the vaccine. The reactions tend to be extremely minor — a little redness on the arm, for instance. A serious reaction is one that might involve a slightly elevated fever.

"This has generally been an extremely successful program," Bacon said. "I think soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines understand this is for their own protection. We have found that almost all willingly take these shots."

For more information on the anthrax immunization program, go to the DOD web site "Countering the Anthrax Threat" at www.defenselink.mil/specials/Anthrax/.

(American Forces Press Service)

Safety advice for annual training

It seems that we just left Savannah. At least this time it's not for an Air Force Inspection. Even-though we will not be in the inspection mode, we must keep our minds on why we are going. Training to do our jobs is the purpose of this deployment. Take the time to pass along your knowledge and experience to those who will be experiencing the wonders of Savannah for the first time. Tell them the do's and don'ts. Most of us know these without thinking twice. Here are a few tips to help your trip be more enjoyable:

1. If you are driving, complete a vehicle pre-check (oil, water, tires, tune-up, exhaust system) before hitting the road.

2. Let someone know of your travel plans and schedule. Give them a phone number for emergencies.

3. Be prepared for the weather. This time of year it should be hot and humid in Savannah. It is best to be prepared for different types of weather (pack a lightweight jacket, long slacks,

long sleeve shirt, shorts, etc.)

4. Get plenty of rest the night before leaving, don't overeat and don't drink alcohol.

5. Travel with a buddy; caravan with other vehicles. This can be very helpful if you have vehicle problems. Carry a major credit card to cover emergency repairs, if needed.

6. Make a rest stop at least every two hours — get out of your vehicle, walk around, and relax your body and your mind for at least 10-15 minutes.

7. Before you leave home make sure you have the following information items:

— Vehicle insurance coverage card. Georgia's law requires the vehicle operator to have this available at all times.

— Notification of next of kin (for emergency)

— Driver's license

— Vehicle Registration Card

— Copy of your active duty orders

Safety At Savannah

Safety rules are implemented for

reasons. They are there to protect your health and well being. First we must remember that the CRTC is another installation. In addition to different state laws and regular Air Force requirements, they have rules we must comply with. It is each person's responsibility to comply with these rules. If you find something unsafe report it to your supervisor, or to the 192d safety personnel. If it's not reported, it can't be fixed.

Rules that Always Work

1. If it isn't safe, "don't do it."

2. "**Think**" about what you are going to do, "**before you do it**".

3. If you see something "**unsafe**," let your supervisor know "**so it can be corrected.**"

4. "**Use Common Sense.**" Common sense can be used at all times, on base and off base. Using common sense should make your deployment a safe and enjoyable one.

If you have ANY questions, contact the 192d Safety office, ext. 6420, before leaving for Savannah.

Scams: Hoaxes snare gov't VISA card holders

Air Force people with Nations Bank VISA government travel cards need to guard against scam artists attempting to defraud them or the government.

An individual posing as a representative from a credit card security company called an Air Force service woman in January offering a monthly service to cardholders. The woman became suspicious and contacted NationsBank to learn an unauthorized charge was made to her account.

In January, another person received an unsolicited e-mail from a travel agent to use his government travel card for purchasing airline tickets and obtaining "triple frequent-flier miles."

Officials advise all cardholders not to give their government or personal credit card numbers to any unknown source. If they are solicited by an unknown source about their government travel card, cardholders should contact the NationsBank security desk at 1-800-472-1424.

Travelers cannot use their cards to purchase anything solicited. It is unauthorized.

When arranging official travel, people must use a government-contracted commercial transportation office, an in-house travel office or a General Services Administration Travel Management Center. Otherwise, travelers must have their orders officially authorize reimbursement for

transportation obtained directly from a common carrier or a commercial transportation office not under government contract due to unusual circumstances.

Cardholders should review and verify charges appearing on their monthly NationsBank billing statements. If there are any unauthorized or erroneous charges, they must take them up with NationsBank and should inform their travel card agency program coordinator about these incidents as soon as possible. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Eastwood paints recovery vehicle

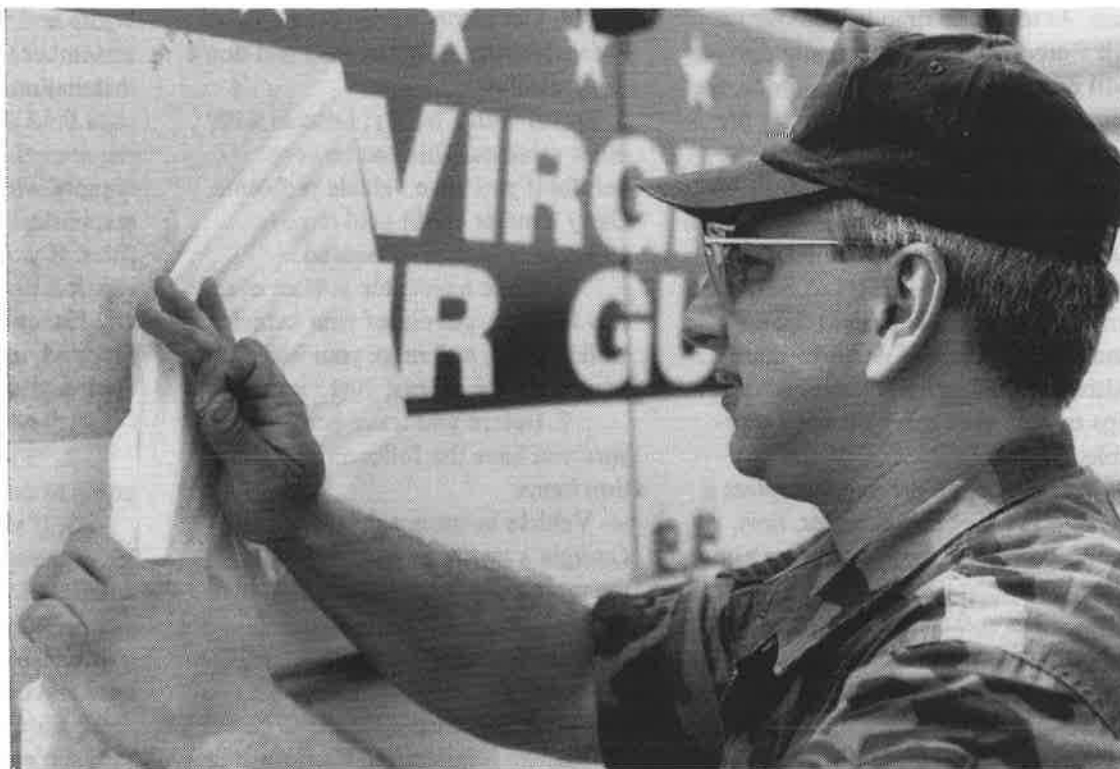
Not many people bring their civilian jobs with them on drill weekends, but that wasn't the case recently for SSgt Robert Eastwood of the hydraulics shop. The sergeant, who owns Eastwood Signs in Wytheville, Va., donated several hours of his time and hundreds-of-dollars-worth of materials to create a logo for the 192d Fighter Wing crash recovery vehicle.

The staff sergeant painted an F-16 design on both the front and back of the vehicle, which houses all the equipment and supplies necessary to aid the unit in the event of an aircraft mishap. The job took Eastwood approximately five hours to complete.

According to TSgt Ken Fischer, Repair and Reclamation team chief, the job was extremely well done. "I chose SSgt Eastwood for the project because he is very good with graphics, and he agreed to do it," Fischer said. "It would have cost us a lot of money if he hadn't agreed to donate his time and materials.

"The finished project is a fine example of our unit pride," Fischer added. "It helps our team identify what their job is and take pride in it."

According to Capt Mike Lovell, Component Repair Flight OIC, SSgt. Eastwood went above and beyond what is expected of him in sharing his personal talents with the 192d FW. "The sergeant is a real patriot to share his civilian talents with our



SSgt Robert Eastwood, of the hydraulics shop, uncovers the completed design he created

for the Wing's crash recovery vehicle. Photo by SMSgt Bob Walton.

unit," Lovell said. "He took it upon himself to do the job – an example of a true airman."

Eastwood, who has been a member of the 192d since May 1997, considers his actions "all in a day's work." "I've been in the graphics business since 1986," he said. "It all started when I was in the Marine Corps and got involved with screen printing hats. I thought it was fun."

A second job in Rural Retreat, Va., with friend Jerry Staley set the stage for a successful business in lighted signs, billboards, hats and shirts (to name a few of the jobs he does). And graphics isn't the sergeant's only occupation. He works full-time at Volvo White in Dublin, Va., and does Eastwood Signs after hours.

Besides his jobs, Eastwood also volunteers his spare time as a fireman at the Wytheville Fire Dept. His civic pride doesn't end there as he's proven with his commitment to the Virginia Air National Guard.

"The military has always been a big part of my life," the sergeant explained. Before joining the 192d, he spent nine years with the 459th Air Force Reserve at Andrews AFB. The 4 years before that were spent as an active duty Marine. Now, Eastwood is leaving his mark on the 192d.

*by SrA Ann Martin
192d Public Affairs*

*Pedrotty assists with elections***Legal officer helps out in Bosnia**

Lt. Col. Frank Pedrotty winces with a kind of inner pain when he talks about the Mostar bridge.

The arched white-stone bridge – the Stari Most – was built in 1566 over the Neretva River in what eventually became Yugoslavia. In modern days, the bridge connected the Croat-populated west sector of Mostar with the Muslim-populated east side. It had long been regarded a symbol of multi-ethnic unity.

In 1992, after Bosnia declared independence from Yugoslavia, Mostar's Muslims and Croats joined hands to turn back attacks by Yugoslavian Serbs. Once that was done, they turned against each other.

In November 1993, Croatian soldiers pummeled the bridge repeatedly with 100-millimeter tank rounds. After two days of barrages, the span finally collapsed into the river. Seeing its ruins left Pedrotty exasperated. "That bridge had no military value," he said. "You couldn't even drive a truck over [it]. It was a bridge built for people, and it represented [unity] to all the Bosnian people, the Croats as well."

"The majority of Croats were embarrassed to death that that thing was blown up," he added.

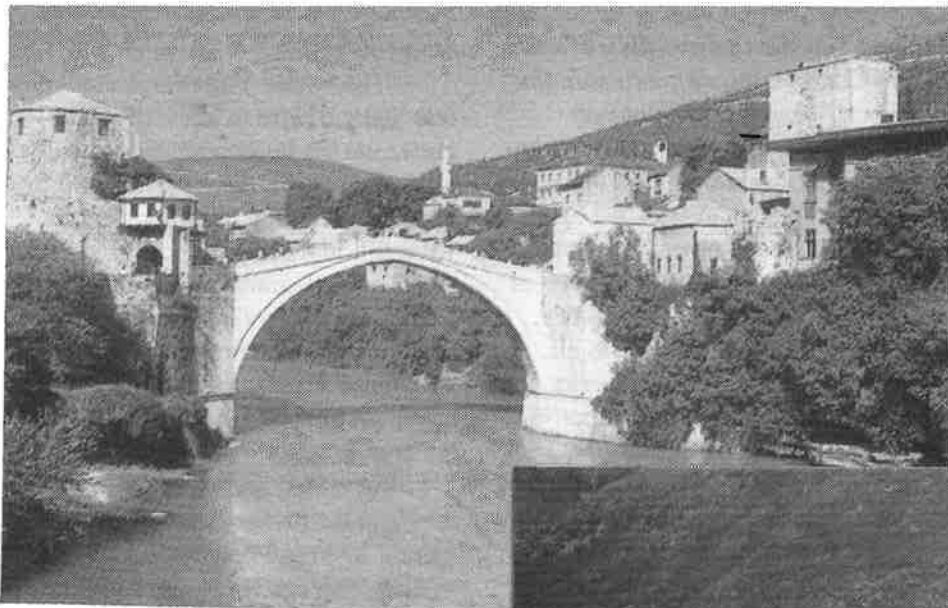
Pedrotty, senior legal affairs officer for the 192nd Fighter Wing, recently returned after 5½ months in war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina on

special assignment from the Air National Guard. He served there from early August 1998 to mid-January overseeing elections.

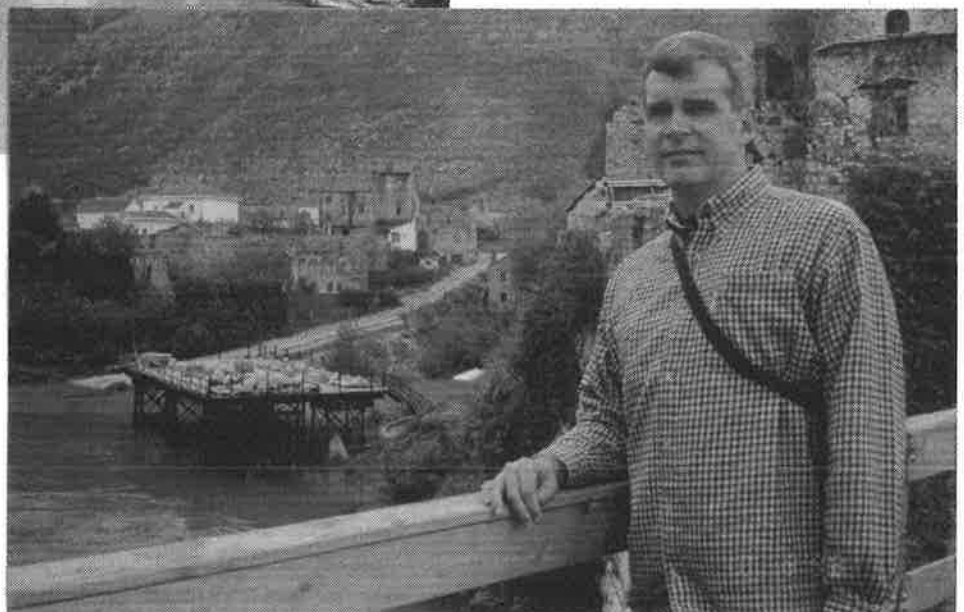
In civilian life Pedrotty is an assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He took a leave of absence to work as legal counsel for a group overseeing Bosnia-Herzegovina's fourth round of elections since the Dayton Peace Accords were signed in November 1995. He was assigned to work with some of the alphabet-soup bodies produced by the peace agreement – the Combined Joint Civil Military Task Force (CJCMTF), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Provisional Election Commission (PEC), and a subcommission of the PEC, the Election Appeals Sub-Commission (EASC.)

Much of the peace agreement is aimed at restoring the country, as much as possible, to its prewar state. "What Dayton is trying to do is allow people to go back to where they were," Pedrotty said. Fairly run elections are part of that process. The appeals subcommission that Pedrotty worked

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LtCol Frank Pedrotty (at right) stands in front of bridge reclamation efforts currently underway. Above, a postcard of the Stari Most bridge before it fell at the hands of Croatian soldiers.



Michigan NG members may be due money

Enlisted personnel who served in the Michigan Army or Air National Guard between Feb. 12, 1988, and Sept. 30, 1997, may be entitled to \$2 per day for annual training served during this time period.

Complete text of the Notice of Class Action is available at www.voyager.net/goguard/index.html or by calling LtCol Art Bachman at (804)298-6143. For Claim Form information contact: Gregory J. Stempien, Attorney for Plaintiff class, at 1-800-726-1822 or e-mail at stempienpc@hotmail.com.

The Michigan Court of Claims entered a judgment in favor of enlisted personnel who served in the Michigan

Army or Air National Guard and participated in encampments, maneuvers, or other outdoor exercises.

Litigants sought and won payment of the \$2 per day for each day an enlisted person participated in annual training for which they were not paid. If you believe you are a member of this class, you may do one of the following:

—To receive any money to which you may be entitled, simply fill out and turn in a Claim Form postmarked no later than June 30, 1999. Failure to return the Claim Form by this date will preclude you from recovering any amount due under this lawsuit; or

—You have the right to select

your own attorney, at your own expense, and intervene in this lawsuit.

The Law Office representing the class, Gregory J. Stempien, P.C., has shown to the Court that the attorneys and their staff are entitled to fair and reasonable pay in the amount of 30% of each claim as attorney fees.

If you submit a claim, you will be asked to verify information on the Claim Form regarding the number of days of annual training for which you may be entitled to payment. If the number of days of annual training reported on the Claim Form are not disputed, a check will be issued to you for the amount due, less attorney fees.

Legal officer helps out in Bosnia...

Continued from page 7

subcommission that Pedrotty worked with had the authority to investigate allegations of election fraud or abuse, and to go so far as ruling a candidate ineligible or ruling an election result void if serious abuses were found.

He arrived in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, on Aug. 6, 1998. The elections were held in mid-September. He worked on a team of two Air Guard attorneys, two State Department attorneys, two to three investigators, eight translators and five or six local judges. In charge was the chief justice of the Norwegian Supreme Court.

"It was a system where if you had a complaint, we dealt with it; we were the investigators, the lawyers, and the judges — and the Supreme Court judges. But we were all working together, instead of independent of each other," he said.

Pedrotty, who in his state job provides legal advice to the Virginia State Police, also helped draw up a training program for Bosnia-Herzegovina police on policies governing such things as search and seizure, Miranda-type warnings and the limits to permitted police activities.

Another job he inherited while in

Sarajevo was the chairmanship of the Claims Commission of the Arbitration Tribunal. This was a three-person judicial panel that decided the appeals of claims by Bosnians against the Stabilization Force (SFOR), the local alliance of U.S. and other U.N. forces tasked with keeping the peace. Most of the claims involved road accidents involving SFOR vehicles. All in all, the 49-year-old Philadelphia native said, "I've never had a work experience that's been as professionally rewarding as this."

While in Sarajevo, Pedrotty lived in the old Parliament building and worked about a mile and a half away, in the law school at the University of Sarajevo. For the most part, he wore a civilian suit, except in periods of "high alert," when he wore his battle-dress uniform.

For Pedrotty, the Mostar bridge became a symbol of the senselessness of the war in Bosnia and of the populace's undaunted sense of hope. He said he was appalled at "the number of civilians that were attacked, the civilian churches, museums, and government buildings attacked for no military reason whatsoever, other than just to wipe these people out, to wipe

their culture out."

"The whole Yugoslavia mentality was that we learn to ethnically integrate, and we build bridges to each other. Of course, the war shattered that impression. And a lot of the people were still in disbelief."

"And of course, in blowing up the bridge, the symbolic statement being made [was], 'We don't want to live with those people. We don't want to reach out to them.' And that's a pretty harsh statement."

But efforts are underway to resurrect the bridge — and its symbolic value — at an estimated cost of \$14 million. Salvage teams were pulling pieces of the shattered bridge out of the river while Pedrotty was there.

"It was such a work of art that they wanted to rebuild it exactly the way it was built, because it has its artistic value as well," he said.

That was part of the lure that drew Pedrotty to take the Bosnian assignment. "What we were there doing was, in essence, building bridges," he said. "We were trying to bring people back together again."

*by TSgt Ed Kelleher
192d FW Historian*

Leader reviews family readiness issues

Military readiness depends on the support of families, and in recent years that support increasingly has come from families of reservists, according to Charles L. Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

"The stresses and strains of military service place special burdens on families," he said. "I know this from long personal experience. During my more than 36 years on active duty and as a Naval reservist, I missed anniversaries, birthdays and graduations."

He made his comments during a speech to representatives at the first nationwide Interservice Family Assistance Committee meeting recently. About 180 conferees from active-duty and reserve components of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard gathered to exchange ideas. The goal was for states and regions that have established committees to share their lessons learned with those attempting to establish committees.

Cragin said families are an essential factor in the overall readiness and well being of the armed forces, and families of reservists face unique challenges.

"While they are community-based, dependents of many reservists often don't have regular interaction with other military families or with our military community," Cragin said. "Reserve families may not know where to turn when a spouse or relative is mobilized."

The Dept. of Defense's top civilian in charge of reserve matters said reserve families are developing closer ties to the military because they are increasingly becoming part of the total force. "During the Gulf War, the biggest involuntary call-up of our National Guard and Reserve since Korea, more than a quarter of a million men and women from our reserve components answered the call," he said. "They served with absolute professionalism and a dedicated sense

of mission. And every single one of them left behind someone ... who wasn't really ready to deal with all those stresses and strains on their own."

Cragin said DOD was not prepared to get Guard and Reserve families ready to deal with the Gulf War deployments, and the problem didn't go away when the war ended. "Reservists were nice to have around during the Cold War, as insurance," he said. "Today, they're not just nice, they're necessary. We simply can't accomplish the total work of the total force without them. In recent years, hundreds of thousands of reservists have served with outstanding distinction overseas. There are 1.5 million of them, and they represent half the force, and it is a half that is growing in

importance."

More mobilizations, activations and operational use of reserve forces are likely, according to Cragin, citing the use of reservists in Panama, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and the Middle East. "As a result, we have had to focus intensely on the implications of increased use for families of reservists," he admitted. "As we go to our reservists more and more, we have got to remember that their families have unique situations."

"In today's world, joint-service family support makes good sense," Cragin said. "After all, we all have families. They all face similar problems if we deploy. With a joint approach, we can craft joint solutions. (AFRC News Service)

VaANG gives family support contacts

Last August, Patti Horrocks, Family Support Group coordinator for the 203d Red Horse Flight and Diane Jones, volunteer for the Virginia ANG State Family Support Program, attended the National Guard Bureau Family Support Program workshop in New Orleans. Virginia National Guard state coordinator Capt Greg Simpson (Virginia Army National Guard) and members of the VA Army National Guard program also attended the workshop.

"Mission First, Families Always," was the theme of the event. "Are you and your families ready if called up for deployment? Do you know what resources are available at your base and surrounding community to meet your families' needs?" These questions and others should be asked and answered by commanders and unit members before every deployment.

Spouses and other family members should know where to find help, if needed, and where to turn for answers. We are all part of the ANG family — helping each other and our community, Mrs. Jones pointed out.

In the Va. Air Guard, MSgt Bob Roza is the point of contact for the Family Support Program. He can be reached at (804)236-6710 or 1-800-643-7458, ext. 6710. During deployments, a recorded message provides families with deployment departure schedules, goings-on during the deployment when received from deployed personnel, as well as redeployment schedules. The message phone number is (804) 236-6001 or 1-800-643-7458, ext. 6001.

MSgt Mike Duke, the state recruiting and retention superintendent, ext. 6514 can also provide assistance and referrals to family members. The state's National Guard Family Support Program coordinator Capt Greg Simpson may be reached at (804) 775-9290.

News you can use...

Women's council meets

The Women's Advisory Council will meet at 1:30 p.m. Sat., March. 6 in the Ops building, pilots' lounge. All council members are asked to attend or send their alternate.

Officers reminded of dues

All Virginia Air Guard officers are reminded that state and National Guard association membership fees are due. Also due at this time is the state association conference hospitality room fee. Please see Maj Michael Woody, Finance, no later than the end of the February drill to pay your dues and the hospitality fee.

Top III holds elections

The TOP III Council is planning officer elections during the March drill. More information on the meeting time/election is available through SMSgt Wayne Keene, ext. 6420.

Chiefs plan special club event for May UTA

The Chief's Council is sponsoring Chiefs Night at the Club, Saturday, May 1.

The evening will feature dinner, special drawings & give-aways, and a yard sale. The dinner menu includes: deep fried fish or grilled chicken, cole slaw and potato salad. The chiefs are currently accepting donations for the yard sale. Start cleaning out your attic, garage, basement and closets today!

For more information call CMSgt Frank Stanley, ext. 6725.

CE held 1stSgt interviews

The Civil Engineer Squadron had several applicants turn in resumes by the original January deadline.

The applicants were interviewed during the February drill, and LtCol Thomas P. Herbert, CE commander, plans to announce the squadron's new first sergeant during the March drill.

Summer tuition assistance application deadline nears

"Applications for 1999 summer-semester college tuition assistance are now available from MSgt Bob Roza in the Retention Office within the Military Personnel Flight (Wing Headquarters building).

The Va. National Guard program pays 50% of your tuition, up to \$500 per semester, and a maximum of \$1,000 per academic year. Completed applications are due back to MSgt Roza no later than the end of the April '99 UTA. To qualify for the program, you must have two years of retainability on your military contract from the end of the reimbursed semester. This program is open to officers and enlisted and supports bachelor, master, and post graduate course work. Contact Roza at ext. 6710 for further information."

Finance reminds members about leave sell-back maximums

The maximum amount of leave a person may sell back throughout their entire military career is 60 days!

Each time you go on TDY orders for more than 30 days, you earn 2 1/2 days leave per month. If you are on orders where you can take your leave, we suggest you do so. Otherwise you may sell back the earned leave at the completion of your tour.

However, once you sell back 60 days, you can not sell anymore leave. You will then go into a USE or LOSE Leave status each time you go on orders.

Please use leave whenever possible to avoid reaching your maximum 60 Day cut off.

If you have questions about the leave policy, call Finance. We can

look up your leave paid balance if you don't know what it is, said Pay Technician SSgt Lori Wall, ext. 6314.

The First Sergeant's Council is looking for volunteers to be on the Year of the Enlisted banquet committee. The event is scheduled for later this year. If you have a particular expertise you would like to share, or if you would like to help with the event in any way, please see a First Sergeant. Plan to attend the 1stSgt meeting in the Wing Headquarters building conference room at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

Vanguard changes format...

Continued from page 1

dates and times in the newsletter, because we encourage civilian family members to read the *Vanguard*. We abbreviate military rank and we use military abbreviations when appropriate.

Include the first name, last name, rank and duty section of all people mentioned in your story.

If you want to publicize an upcoming event, get the information to PA as early as possible. Include the name of the event, date, time, location, cost, and the name and phone number of a person the readers may contact for more information.

Supervisors: The newsletter is a great way to recognize the achievements of your troops. Let the rest of the base know about individual and group/team recognition, awards, special accomplishments, volunteer efforts, civilian or personal achievements, and unique hobbies.

Public Affairs has extra copies of each month's newsletter available in the office.

SRNCOA schedule out, application requirements given

The USAF Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (SRNCOA) is the highest level of Air Force enlisted professional military education (PME). The mission of the academy is to conduct a program of PME to prepare selected Senior NCOs to better fulfill their leadership and management responsibilities.

Commanders are requested to nominate their most professional Senior NCOs. Senior NCOs from all MAJCOMS (major commands), the Air National Guard (ANG), and the Air Force Reserve are selected to attend the Academy. Applicants should apply for the SRNCOA as soon as possible to ensure a slot in the FY00 schedule. Class dates are as follows:

- 00A Nov. 1– Dec. 15, 1999
- 00B Jan. 19 – March 1, 2000
- 00C March 16 –April 26, 2000
- 00D May 10 – June 21, 2000
- 00E July 13 –Aug. 23, 2000
- 00F Sept. 6 – Oct. 18, 2000

To be eligible to attend the SRNCOA, the following criteria must be met.

1. Be in the grade of E-7 or E-8. E-7s must have at least 24 months time-in-grade (TIG); applicant clearly demonstrates a potential for increased leadership and management responsibility and has completed an in-residence NCO Academy or Leadership School (this is an important selection factor).

2. Have at least one-year retainability from graduation date.

3. Hold a Secret or Top Secret security clearance.

4. Be within body fat limits outlined in AFI 40-502.

5. Be recommended by the immediate supervisor, with the concurrence of the applicant's commander.

6. Not be under investigation or charged with an offense punishable under the UCMJ.

7. Wait at least 2 years between completion of in-residence NCO Academy and the start of a USAF SRNCOA class.

8. Have taken the Air Force Reading Achievement Test (a grade of 9.0 or higher is desirable).

All interested applicants should contact SMSgt Mike Gates, MPF Training officer, ext. 6590, to apply. Applications must arrive at ANG/MPTEE not later than June 7, 1999, with all appropriate levels of endorsements to include State Headquarters. Be sure to allow enough time for mailing and delivery.

VaANG Calendar of Events

March

6–7: UTA (Should pay NLT March 19)

6: VaANG Black History Month Banquet at the Richmond Omni. Tickets \$30/person, formal attire. Call MSgt Al Harrison, ext. 6356 for tickets.

7: Black History Month Worship Service in the great room at the Club.

13: Air Force Association banquet and meeting, hosted by Richmond Chapter 243. MajGen Link (ret) will speak on the Importance of Airpower. Call Maj Carl Bess, ext. 6776, for information.

20–April 2: Annual Field Training at the Combat Readiness Training Center, Garden City, Ga.

26–28: Virginia National Guard Enlisted Association state conference at Virginia Beach

April

17–18: UTA (Should pay NLT April 30)

23–25: Virginia National Guard Officer Association conference at Virginia Beach

May

1–2: UTA (Should pay NLT May 14)

2–22: DACT at Holloman AFB, N.M.

June

12–13: UTA (Should pay NLT June 25)

July

10–11: UTA (Should pay NLT July 23)

10–23: Cope Thunder Exercise in Alaska

August

14–15: UTA (Should pay NLT Aug. 27)

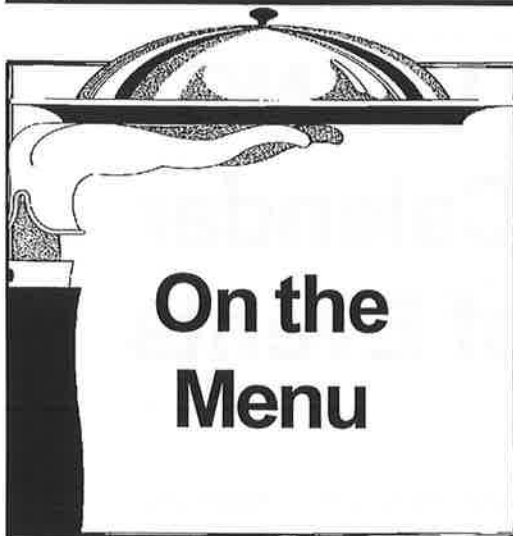
21–25: Enlisted Association (EANGUS) national conference at Des Moines, Iowa

September

18–19: UTA (Should pay NLT Oct. 1)

3–6: National Guard Association 120th General Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

If you have an item or event you would like to have added to the calendar, call Public Affairs at ext. 6388, or visit the PA office during drill weekends (Wing Headquarters building, room 30 -- across from the Recruiters' office).



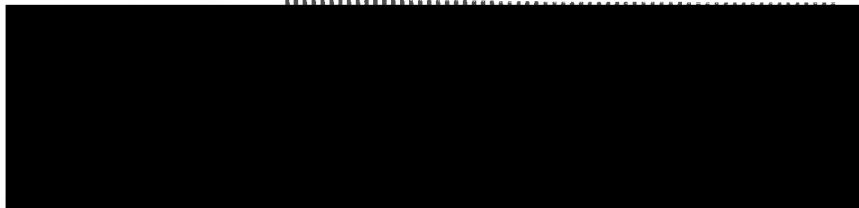
**Saturday
March 6**
 Braised Pork Chops
 Lemon Baked Fish
 Scalloped Potatoes
 Steamed Rice
 Succotash
 Salad Bar w/Assorted Dressings
 Breads & Butter
 Beverages
 Ice Cream
 Yellow Cake w/icing

**Sunday
March 7**
 Pepper Steak
 Buttered Noodles
 Oven Brownd Potatoes
 Salad Bar w/Assorted Dressings
 Breads & Butter
 Beverages
 Ice Cream
 Rice Pudding

What's Inside the March VANGUARD...

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