June 1975

#### OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL - LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Vol. 25, No. 6

## NEBRASKA GUARD SUMMONED TO AID CITY OF OMAHA AFTER TORNADO STRIKES

BY: SSG Lee Unland, 111th PI Det

Driving into Omaha about 11:30 that night, the night skyline, bright and broad, belied the wounded city we were approaching. Not until we had driven down Interstate 80 towards the 72nd Street exit that would take us to the National Guard Armory, did we get a look, or rather an indication, of destruction, and that consisted of a rather wide, dark area to the north, where we knew lighted houses should be.

It was at 72nd and Grover Streets that we saw the first official evidence of trouble — a roadblock manned by Guardsmen and Police, preventing people from entering that vast dark region to the west. More roadblocks at 72nd and Mercy. Parking lots around the Armory a jumble of hastily arriving and parked cars. Now, it was apparent the degree of trouble had to be great with all the people rushing about in various stages of getting into full uniform, reaction time must have been quick. And indeed it was!

The tornado had struck Omaha from the southwest at about 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 6th, making a reversed "L" shaped swath of devastation. From the Bay Meadows area, across the interstate to 72nd Street and up 72nd to Benson Park, a broad section of the city had been laid waste. At the time Colonel Dayle Williamson, Deputy Commander of the 67th Brigade, Nebraska Army National Guard, was at the Regency Plaza, 72nd and Dodge Streets. Along with Nebraska Governor J. James Exon, Colonel Williamson was attending a meeting in his civilian capacity as Executive Secretary of the State Natural Resources Commission. When the siren sounded, Governor Exon and Williamson took refuge in an office and started making activation calls from there. As soon as the "all clear" was given, the two men headed for the Armory. Governor Exon was sure the Guard would be needed.

As they drove south on 72nd Street, Colonel Williamson stated his immediate impression of the disaster concerned casualties. After what he saw, Williamson said he was sure

the initial mission of the Guard would be to provide medical evacuation. When Governor Exon and Colonel Williamson reached the Armory and began to organize, the first calls to come in indicated security would also be of primary concern. Somehow through good luck and quick action by people caught in the path of the storm, death and injury was kept at a minimum. In fact only three deaths were directly attributed to the tornado. However, looting concerned city officials, so, as people began to report in, they were dispatched to Traffic Control Points and security patrols along with manning ambulances. Lieutenant Colonel Harold D. Peterson, Commander 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry, 67th Bde, heard the warning at his place of employment, the Byron Reed Company, and he too headed for the Armory. In civilian clothes, he worked through that first night before he got an opportunity to get a uniform. He was on duty 42 hours straight before getting a break. As director of Task Force I (Omaha), it was his assignment to

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)



SP6 Terry Weland applies first aid to an injured foot. Weland is a surgery technician with Company B (Medical) 67th Spt Bn of Omaha. Medical teams were on site providing medical aid to guard personnel and civilians alike. (Nebr ARNG Photo)

## GUARD BUREAU CHIEF VIEWS TANK IN THE GUARD'S FUTURE

(NGAUS) — There is a new (well, almost new) main battle tank in the Army Guard's future and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, was given a peek recently, MG LaVern E. Weber inspected the M48A5 medium tank in a visit to the Army's tank rebuild plant at Anniston, Alabama.

On this trip the Chief was accompanied by Colonel John O. Keeling, Jr., who heads up the logistics division, Army National Guard.

Over the next few years plans call for the M48A5 to join the M-60 as "the other main battle tank" in the Army Guard inventory. The idea is that the M48A5 will replace the fleet of older M48A1, M48A2 and M48A3 vehicles.

The "almost new A5 is basically an M48 hull that has been stripped down and rebuilt from the inside out. It gets fitted with a diesel engine, a new ballistic system for fire control, and the same (105mm) gun system as the M60. General Weber and Colonel Keeling agreed that the availability of the M48A5 would represent a significant boost in the unit training and readiness of armor units of the ARNG.

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## PHOTO CONTEST TIME AGAIN; \$900 IN PRIZES — AND FAME!

(NGAUS) — The National Guard Bureau and National Guard Association are again joint sponsors of a nationwide photography contest with \$900 in prize money up for grabs. The contest, which is open to all Guardsmen, has a midnight August 15, 1975, deadline.

The contest rules, posters and entry forms have been furnished all States. There is no limit on how many photos an entrant may submit. There are separate Air Guard and Army Guard categories.

Winners will be announced at the 97th General Conference of the Nanational Guard Association of the United States in Seattle, Washington, during September 22-24. Winning photos will be on display at the conference site.

#### GUARD HERITAGE GALLERY WILL BE A BICENTENNIAL FEATURE HIGHLIGHT

(NGAUS) — Highlight feature of the National Guard observance of the nation's bicentennial will be the opening of the "National Guard Heritage Gallery" in 1976. The Gallery, to be located on the main floor of the National Guard Memorial at One Massachusetts Avenue Northwest is expected to attract its share of the estimated 40 million visitors to the nation's capital.

The Heritage Gallery will establish the relationship between today's National Guard and the Militia in the original colonies prior to and during the U.S. War for Independence. The origins of the National Guard historically dates back to 1636 when the trained bands were formed to defend the New England communities.

Artifacts, contemporary art work and dioramas will be displayed to illustrate this story, to include light and sound shows and audio-visual presentations. In future years, after the bicentennial period ends the Gallery will feature the aritfacts and memorabilia of other significant periods in the evolution of the Army and Air National Guard.

In support of this undertaking the Executive Council of the National Guard Association of the United States recently approved the raising of funds for the \$500,000 project and endorsement was also obtained from the Adjutant Generals' Association of the U.S. which agreed to assist in the fundraising effort. The Gallery is situated one block from the new National Capital Visitor's Center in the old Union Station. Target date for open door ceremony is June, 1976.



# SERVICE "BENEFITS" FOR GUARDSMEN APPROVED DURING THE PAST YEAR

(NGAUS) — A number of new actions have provided Guardsmen additional incentives for service in the volunteer armed forces environment.

For one thing, the Department of Defense concurred in the arguments of

NGAUS and others to decide to restore the authority to place certain new Guardsmen awaiting the start of basic training into paid drill status Under the new rules male high school graduates and seniors may now be in paid drill status while awaiting the start of basic.

Post Exchange privileges were increased to provide Guardsmen with access on the basis of one day for each day in drill status — but the PX need not be used on the day the individual is actually in drill status.

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Coverage under the Servicemen's Government Life Insurance Program (SGLI) was made available providing Guardsmen with full coverage not restricted to those occasions when the individual is in drill or annual training status.



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# TUITION ASSISTANCE HEADS LIST OF LEGISLATION BEING SOUGHT IN HILL

(NGAUS) — In discussions with legislative leaders on Capitol Hill, the National Guard Association of the United States has been thumping the tub for a proposal to provide partial payment of tuition as an incentive for enlisting or re-enlisting in the Guard or Reserve.

"Surveys taken within the system show that, by far, the tuition assistance is the most attractive incentive to come along," says Major General Francis S. Greenlief, executive assistant of NGAUS. "As we now see it this would be offered to enlisted personnel only and would allow for instruction at post-secondary schools, civilian institutions, or at technical/trade schools. This is our No. 1 priority on the Hill and a number of Congressmen are already committed to its support."

Committees of the 94th Congress have already been informed of at least 15 areas in which the Guard is vitally interested (Department of Defense has indicated its support for seven of the 15) and NGAUS is being given ample opportunity to present its views.

One DoD-proposed legislative item which is strongly supported by NGAUS seeks a change in the law which now requires a trainee to receive four consecutive months of REP/BMT (or equivalent) training in order to be certified for future overseas duty.

The proposal before Congress is to allow basic to be split into phases which need not be conducted in consecutive months. This would ease the Army training base problem on the active side of the house and enable the Guard to pursue other possible options.

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ss ee For example, the advanced or technical training might be completed in the Guardsman's home state in an OJT situation. Or, active duty training at an active army installation might be split over two summers.

Congressmen are also being asked to take another look at last year's decision which forced the Services to wipe out overseas training of Guard/

Reserve units. Officials are hopeful that this ban will be relaxed to the extent that selected units may take part in OCONUS joint exercises or in other critical training which many special units can do best outside of the U.S.

A rundown of the busy legislative program shows that NGAUS is continuing to bring its gun to bear and the following would come under the heading of the main effort:

\*Survivor benefits. Legislation is needed in the case of the career Guardsman who has qualified for retirement but dies before reaching age 60. As things now stand the surviving mate gets \$0 if the first post-age 60 check has not been sent out prior to the husband's death.

\*Lower retirement age. Reduction of the age at which Title III (Guard and Reserve) retirement can be drawn (now age 60). This represents a potentially valuable incentive, would also encourage earlier retirements in many cases and thus provide more opportunities for upward mobility for younger Guardsmen.

\*Increased inactive duty retirement points. This calls for the removal of the 60-point restriction on retirement credits. Proposal is for no limit on the number of points that can be accrued in the accomplishment of authorized training.

The NGAUS is also pressing for improved Medical/Dental/Death Benefits for Guardsmen; for an enlistment/re-enlistment bonus; and for technician retirement credit for pre-1969 service in the program.

"I think it can truthfully be said," notes General Greenlief, "that the route from Association headquarters to the halls of Congress is a well grooved trail and we aim to keep it that way."

#### MILITIA HISTORICAL QUOTE

"The great bulk of the country is undoubtedly with the Congress, in principle and in zeal; and their measures are expected with a secrecy and dispatch that are not to be equaled. Wherever the King's forces point, militia assemble in twenty-four hours."

- General Burgoyne, 1777

#### '4X2' OPTION CONTINUED FOR RC

(ANF) — The "four plus two" enlistment option will continue for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve through March 1976. DoD recently approved the continuation.

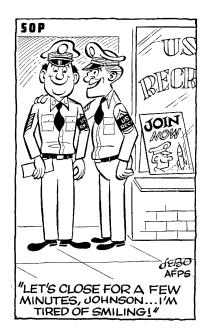
Under the option, men without prior military service may join a Guard or Reserve unit for four years and then transfer to the individual ready reserve (IRR) for the two remaining years of their obligation. Members of the IRR do not attend meetings.

The Guard may enlist up to 5,900 and the Reserve up to 3,500 non-prior service males under the program.

Continuation of a similar program, the "three by three," was turned down by DoD; that program ended on March 31, 1975.

Non-prior service personnel may still enlist for six years and complete all their military obligation through active participation in a Guard or Reserve unit.

Women normally enlist in the Army reserve components for three years active reserve duty; they have no IRR obligation. As part of the test program during FY 75, women have been permitted to enlist for two years active reserve service if they chose a non-traditional skill program.



Omaha Tornado (Continued from Page 1)

implement the emergency operations of the force. However, with so few people to work with initially, Colonel Peterson could respond only on a limited basis to individual calls for assistance. The first mission of Task Force I was to evacuate patients from Bergan-Mercy Hospital which had been damaged. Those patients requiring special attention were moved to other hospitals by Medical Company Ambulances. Peterson stated that after "Bluebird", the State Patrol Mobile Command Center, was established, all calls for aid were directed through the 911 emergency telephone exchange and then police and city officials determined which should be directed to the Guard.

Specialist 4 Eileen Baldwin checked in on Wednesday, May 7th, the day following the storm. Nothing unusual — just a little late, well, not really. SP4 Baldwin was on leave in Omaha from Fort Riley, Kansas where she is attached to the 121st Signal Battalion. She volunteered her skills to the Guard and her neighbors. She worked, almost without relief, through the week when her leave time was up (some leave!), and returned to the mundane world of the regular Army.

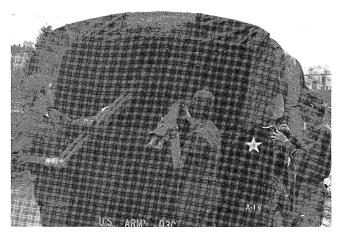
Captain Keith Duensing, Commander of HHC, 134th Infantry was at his civilian job with the Eagle Company in Lincoln when he heard the tornado warning on radio. After reports of extensive damage were assessed and the Omaha Garrison was called up, Captain Duensing got in his car and immediately headed for Omaha. His people were also involved in security and during that first 36 hour period, Duensing was constantly traveling about the devastated area checking TCP's and patrols.

While Omaha was gearing up all its resources to handle the emergency, Task Force II (Lincoln) was being activiated. Almost all units in the Lincoln Garrison were represented, and by late Tuesday night the force comprised of some 400 personnel was on its way to Camp Ashland, 25 miles outside of Omaha. With Ashland as a staging area, shifts were established moving back and forth from Omaha performing security duty. Along with the Omaha Garrison, the total of Guard personnel on state active duty numbered about 1300 by weeks end. Included were sections from the 24th Medical Company (AA) which supplied aircraft and crews; Brigade also supplied aircraft and maintenance personnel from Detachment One. Other units from Brigade included, HHC-Det 1; Troop E, 167th Cavalry from Fremont; Company C, 67th Support Battalion sent in equipment from York, and from Wahoo came CSC 1-134th. Omaha provided personnel from the 867th Engineer Company - Detachment One, Companies A and B, and HHC 1-134th Infantry, 67th Bde. Task Force (Lincoln) was composed of HHD, TAGO, 111th Public Information Detachment; HHD, 67th Spt Bn and Company D Maintenance.

The Nebraska Air National Guard was also involved, providing support from HHD, 173rd Tactical Recon Squadron; 155th Combat Support Squadron and 155th

Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance. The liaison officer was Major Paul G. Cohen, 155th Combat Support Squadron. Altogether these units, their personnel and equipment represented the bulk of the Guard resources in Eastern Nebraska.

During those first few days, officers and enlisted alike caught what little sleep there was time for, anywhere they could. At various times during the day, people could be found napping on the drill floor, the lounge, in officer vehicles, and any available corner. Things were so hectic, that the best statement heard to describe the situation was from a troop who was asked for the time of day. He looked at his watch and said, "It's Friday!"



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Personnel of Co B (Med) 67th Spt Bn load stretchers on their ambulance shortly after the tornado hit Omaha. The vehicles were dispatched to render aid where needed by Omaha officials. (Nebr ARNG Photo)



Keeping track of vehicles and personnel was SGM John Miglini, Co A (Admin) 67th Spt Bn (Nebr ARNG Photo)

The Guard helicopters were invaluable to officials in providing an over view of the entire area. By Thursday, the 8th, President Ford had declared the area a Federal Disaster Area, and disaster teams were constantly in the air assessing damage. And by the periodic fly-over, it was possible to keep a coordinated effort going and to evaluate work accomplished as well as estimating work to be done. This

reporter took one of these flights and I was struck by the remoteness of viewing the destruction from above. One just didn't feel the enormity of it all even when realizing the great length of the devastated area. Only by driving through the wreckage did I sense the incredible force of the storm. Obviously, a tornado wreaks terrible and strange havoc. One Guardsman who had served in Vietnam said it looked as bad to him as a combat zone.

Trees not torn out of the ground were laid bare; cars literally tossed over and onto buildings, into trees, and piled rather neatly, three and four together. In some areas houses, trees and vehicles were hit; elsewhere trees were uprooted but buildings had only moderate damage.

If there was anything fortunate about the tornado, perhaps it was the time it struck. At 4:30 in the afternoon most students were at home and not in class. This was fortunate because several school buildings suffered heavy damage; Westgate school was totally destroyed. If it had occurred somewhat later it would have hit rush hour traffic; had Wentworth Apartments had more occupants at home, well, its terrible to imagine after seeing ripped out apartments in the complex. The vagaries of a tornado are truly amazing; skipping over an area touching down, destroying one building leaving the one next to it unharmed. All of this presented peculiar problems to the Guard in attempting to secure an area.

That first evening it was decided that the Wentworth area should be closed off entirely, with anyone leaving the complex not allowed re-entry. In other areas it was necessary to stop and check everyone as residents began to collect and transport their belongings. Businesses were sealed off to prevent looting, however reports indicate very little of this unsavory activity actually occurred. In fact, the Guard found residents to be very cooperative and appreciative of the Guard presence, even to the point of providing refreshments to security people.

At the end of the week two things were clearly decided. First, the damaged area was divided into zones and the National Guard was assigned five of them for clean-up. While the whole area was still being patrolled by Guardsmen, the 867th Engineer Company commanded by Captain Gerald W. Allen, along with the Air Guard, concentrated their heavy equipment in these zones and quickly got to work bulldozing debris for later burning.

The second thing decided, not too surprisingly, was that everybody needed relief. So by Saturday the 10th of May, most of the Lincoln people had been released, and, except for aircraft and crews, had returned home. Lincoln was still represented, however, as the Air Guard brought on some 200 additional personnel along with heavy equipment. To replace 1st Battalion troops, the 2nd Battalion 134th Infantry was activated from Southeast Nebraska. This force came from units in Crete, Auburn, Beatrice, Fairbury, Nebraska City, and Falls City. At 2000 hours Sunday, Task Forces Lincoln and Omaha had stood down and the staff and personnel of Task Force "Thundering Herd" was in place. The men and women going off state active duty left a

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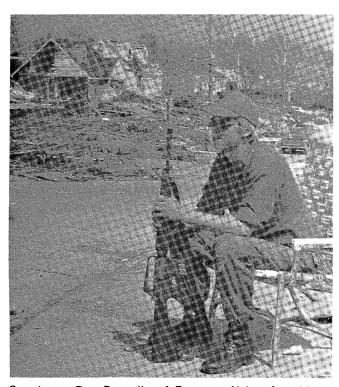
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situation that had started in chaos, but through the dedicated efforts of hundreds of individuals, most of them not performing in their specific MOS's, working together as a team, the emergency was still serious but no longer critical. As Colonel Peterson put it, "the troops have done a hell of a job," and he added that the cooperation received from the news media, city officials, and victims of the disaster, had been fantastic. Without it the job would have been impossible. It was now up to the 2nd Battalion to carry on.

LTC Delmar A. Broers, commander of the 2nd, found an established routine of foot and roving patrols that worked well. With power being restored to the area as quickly as possible, it was decided that a district would be considered secure when it had power. As a result, by Tuesday afternoon, one week following the tornado's strike, Phase II of the emergency operation was beginning to wind down. As the various zones were secured, individuals were released from duty and began to return to their home stations. At the second weeks end, 2nd Battalion's strength was down to approximately 100 men. For the weekend these people were replaced by volunteers from the Omaha Garrison, including the 867th Engineers which had continued on duty, to accomplish the final stage of the Guard's participation in the total emergency operation.

To evaluate the military contribution to the effort, one might want to consider some figures; by the most



Guardsman Ron Dannelly of Fremont, Nebr., found long hours on his feet can be tiring. Noticing a somewhat bent lawn chair that had been tossed about by the tornado, he made the best of a bad situation by standing his guard duty sitting down. (Nebr ARNG Photo)

Contined on Page 7, Col. 1)

# Adjutant General's Column

By: MG Francis L. Winner

We are not having one hundred percent success with our drills. This is true both in the Army Guard and in the Air Guard. We are doing some good in keeping our weekenders gainfully and meaningfully occupied during these sessions, but in some cases in every unit, and in a few units in all cases, the weekenders are not being challenged or stimulated during their weekend training assemblies. I have gained this impression from talking to a lot of people about it, mostly those who are on the receiving end of our instruction and scheduling, and I think it is enough of a problem to mention it here and encourage leaders at every level to work harder on its solution. The problem is not particularly hard to solve. I know that we are very busy on paper work and on logistics and on the minutiae involved in running the Guard. But in so doing, I believe we are overlooking leadership fundamentals.

It is essential to a successful weekend training assembly that it be planned. This involves the Commander directly involving himself in the planning of that assembly. He may delegate the authority for the detailed planning and implementation to others, but the ultimate command responsibility in seeing that the weekend is a successful one as his. I believe every training assembly should start with a leaders' call. In this leaders' call the commander explains exactly what he expects to get accomplished during that assembly. This will enable the leaders to later meet with their own people on the next lower echelon and explain to them exactly what they expect to be accomplished during that weekend assembly.

At the close of the assembly, the commander and the other leaders in the unit can ascertain whether those objectives were met and discuss any necessary remaining plans for the next weekend training assembly, or any other unit activity that is going to occur in between.

There is plenty of solid and significant work that can be done by our Guardsmen. The accomplishments that are expected of us are pretty much outlined by the United States government speaking through the National Guard Bureau. "What" we are expected to do in accomplishing our Federal mission is given to us, but the "How" to accomplish it is pretty much left up to us. This is why the involvement, imagination and leadership of the unit commanders has become so critical in determining whether or not a drill is a good one or bad one.

The commander must generate the enthusiasm and willingness in his trainers and planners to see that they do accomplish a good block of training for that assembly. The Nebraska Army National Guard is planning a series of "road show" seminars on officer responsibility. I plan to

attend these seminars and have asked key state headquarters and brigade personnel to participate in them. We need a review of some important qualities of the Commander which I hope will result in some improvement in our weekend training assemblies. We overlook many things we learned in leadership training when bogged down in other guard activities. Some of the more common place examples that come to mind are staying out of the chow line until we are certain all our troops are fed before we feed ourselves, seeing that our troops are as comfortable as possible in a bivouac area and in general paying that amount of attention to our soldiers that will demonstrate that we are interested in them. If that interest in the soldiers is shown by the leaders, a reciprocal level of enthusiasm will appear, and the mission will be accomplished willingly and smoothly.

There is about a direct proportion between interest shown in the weekend training assembly by the Commander and his key people and the units recruiting and retention rates. We use unit recruiting teams or garrison recruiting teams in filling our ranks. The fact remains, however, that the best recruiter is a satisfied Guardsman. We do not have satisfied Guardsman if he has spent that weekend, away from his family or his job or some pleasant activities, wasting his time. It is cheating him, it is cheating the military establishment, and it is cheating the citizens of the United States who are paying taxes to support our military efforts. If the Guardsman is not satisfied with the challenge and stimulation he experiences on a training assembly, then he is not going to sell the Guard to his brother, his friend or to anybody else. The same is true in retention. Money and benefits are surely important to the Guardsman but I don't believe that any amount of money over the long pull is going to induce the people to come and waste their time at training assemblies.

This is essentially a leadership problem. If the leaders will spend time and effort to ascertain that a good substantial hard working weekend drill with measurable and visible results is accomplished, then I think it inevitable that after a period of time his recruiting rate and his retention rate will improve.

Even though the sessions on officer responsibility which are planned are concerned only with the Army Guard, I think that the thoughts expressed here apply to the Air Guard as well. I do get periodic impressions from certain segments of the Air Guard that for some the weekend drill is not a particularly meaningful one. In some sections there are no attempts made to ascertain that the weekender is challenged or usefully employed during the weekend. Time may be spent playing cards or reading novels or magazines, and at the close of the drill everybody goes home after having done nothing but show up and waste their time. This is particularly true of State Headquarters personnel.

I ask the leaders to approach these seminars with a positive attitude and reaffirm our dedication to our military mission.

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Nebraska Officer Candidate Bill Emanuel (foreground) and SSG Bruce Trautwine, both of Headquarters Det, 67th Spt Bn, from Lincoln, assist Omaha police in traffic control at a busy intersection of southwest Omaha. (Nebr ARNG Photo)



SFC Stanley Boldt (left) and SP4 John Carlson, both with Company A, 2–134 Infantry from Nebraska City, wait while their jeep is being refueled before going out on security patrol in Omaha. (Nebr ARNG Photo)

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From his vantage point on top of the truck box, SP5 Doug Johnson guides the front loader operated by SP4 John Page as more debris is loaded on a dump truck. Both men are with the 867th Engineer Company in Omaha. Airman Larry Gont of Offutt AFB assisted the men in the cleanup operation. (Nebr ARNG Photo)

#### Omaha Tornado (Continued from Page 5)

conservative dollar estimates of damage, say \$500 million, it was the worst tornado in the nation's history; 108 business firms damaged or destroyed; 287 homes destroyed. And this does not include heavily damaged homes, schools, apartment buildings and vehicles as well as the damage to Bergan-Mercy Hospital. In all, up to 1600 National Guard personnel were called to active duty at a cost to the state of more than \$300,000.

To accomplish the mission meant a lot of things (jobs and families, e.g.) had to be neglected. Was it all worth the price? Well, all you have to do is ask any of the thousands of people who came in direct contact with the Guard seeking help in protecting their belongings, receiving first aid or emergency transportation. Or, ask the Public Works Department about the help they received in clean-up work. Police authorities I talked to were high in their praise of Guardsmen they worked with on patrol. Edward Zorinsky, Mayor of Omaha, had just one word for the National Guard, "Outstanding." State Adjutant General Francis L. Winner and Chief of Staff John J. Siefkes could not have been happier with the way the Guard performed. In fact, in almost two weeks of constant duty in Omaha, the Guard had the best reaction from everyone involved I had ever encountered.

We should mention other military organizations and personnel who volunteered their help. There was the 407th Civil Affairs Detachment, USAR, from Minneapolis already in Omaha performing AT with Douglas County Authorities. They volunteered as a unit to aid in the disaster. There were Marines, Offutt AFB personnel and Fort Omaha sailors, as well as a number of other regular service people on leave in the Omaha area who volunteered. The military uniform was truly a sparkling presence during the emergency. Now this is not to say everybody smiled during it all. Soldiers wouldn't be normal if they didn't grumble about chow, no sleep, or orders, but I heard no one complain about being on active duty. No matter what difficulties they encounter; no matter what was being left undone at home, they knew they were really needed and this sustained them. They realized that people in abject need were counting on them and they came through. It sort of made up for those drill weekends with not enough to do; those summer camps away from home. It is great to be needed and wanted! And although there will still be those drills and summer camps, I suspect it will be awhile before the complaining reaches its normal level again, because it only takes one important mission now and then to make serving feel good; to make it all worthwhile. The National Guard can walk proud - from Omaha a greatly deserved "Well Done" and a salute from everyone you serve.



### AIR GUARD CALLED UP TO ASSIST IN AFTERMATH OF OMAHA TORNADO

By: ANG Info Office

Friday, May 9, will probably be a day many Nebraska Air National Guardsmen will never forget. That was the day approximately 260 of them, primarily from the 155th Civil Engineering Flight, 155th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMRON) and 155th Weapons Systems Security Flight, were placed on state active duty to help the tornado cleanup operations in Omaha.

It's understandable few of the men will forget the day. Not only were they being called to help with the most destructive tornado ever experienced in the U.S. from the standpoint of money lost, they were also participating in the largest activation of the Nebraska Air National Guard NEANG for a state emergency since its formation in July 1946.

"This is the first time I can remember this many people being called from the air guard — primarily because of the size of the destruction and the length of the cleanup," said Col Lloyd Johnson, Chief of Staff, Air Nebraska National Guard. "It's quite unusual there is a requirement for so many air guardsmen."

According to Colonel Johnson, the reason the air guardsmen were activated was to provide both a relief and booster force for the Army guardsmen, law enforcement personnel, etc., who had been working in the area since the Tuesday night the tornado. hit. With the expected influx of sight-seers over the weekend, reinforcements were needed to man the traffic control points, and with the length of the cleanup, relief help was needed to give weary personnel a rest.

"These guys, Army guardsmen, law enforcement personnel, etc., are all volunteers — supposedly," he said. "They only figured to help on a day or a day and a night, though, and here it is the weekend."

The bulk of the men called to active duty were from CAMRON. The reason, according to Colonel Johnson, is bacause CAMRON has the greatest number of personnel in a single unit at the NEANG base.

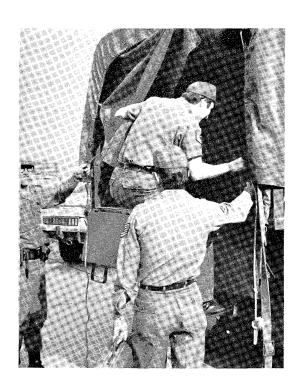
"The governor wanted 200 men, and there were that many men in the unit," he said. "So, we contacted a few of the commanders, and they have a regular chain of command for calling their men."

As might be expected, most of the air guardsmen called to active duty were not anticipating the call. Many of them had weekend plans that had to be shifted or dropped entirely.

One such person was Sgt Jim Fedde, who is assigned to the instrument shop in CAMRON. He and his wife had hired a babysitter, and were looking forward to a dinner out Friday evening. He was also planning to buy his wife a Mother's Day gift Friday afternoon.

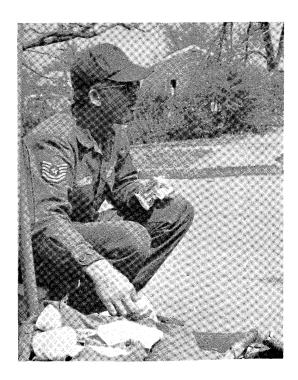
"But that's the way it is," he shrugged.

"I don't really mind going up to Omaha, though," he said, "I grew up on a farm in Bennington, and I have a lot of relatives in Omaha. I have some cousins living in the area and my parents have some friends there."



Air Guardsmen climb into an Army Guard truck at the Lincoln ANG Base prior to departing for Camp Ashland. The camp served as their base of operation during the weekend. (ANG Photo)





T/Sgt Bill Criswell takes time out to eat lunch while on duty at one of the traffic control points. (ANG Photo)

Another man was SSgt Frank Udell, who works in CAMRON's munitions egress section. He had bought about \$11 worth of pastry for the people in his section it the Lincoln Goodyear plant to celebrate his last day of work there, and was looking forward to the party they were planning for him.

Still another man was Sgt Steve Witmer, a jet mechanic in CAMRON. Sergeant Witmer was planning to spend his weekend making up two days of drill so he wouldn't have to attend the drill the following weekend.

He received the call to active duty about 5 p.m., just as a barber was putting the sheet around his neck.

"The intent was there," he smiled, patting the hair on the nape of his neck.

The willingness by the men to give up their weekend plans didn't go unnoticed by Colonel Johnson, or by Maj Paul Cohen, commander of the NEANG task force in Omaha.

"I think it has gone very, very well," Major Cohen said Saturday afternoon. "We've had a few logistics problems, but the morale of the troops has been good. We've heard some praise from the law enforcement people and the Army guard, too."

"It (the response) was excellent despite the inopportune time," Colonel Johnson said. "But emergencies usually aren't too discriminating; they come on weekends, at night, whatever.

"Most guardsmen accept their responsibilities pretty well," he added. "They know they are responsible to he governor in times of state emergencies. Rather than being resentful, they were willing to help."



1st Lt Thomas Kaspar gives a motorist directions at the corner of 72nd and Maple in Omaha. (ANG Photo)

Remember:

there are babes in the woods.

## NEBRASKA AIR GUARD RECEIVES DOD COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

By: LT Tom Henderson, ANG Info Office

Nebraska's 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group was one of ten armed forces reserve units in the nation to be selected to receive the Department of Defense Community Service Award.

Representatives of the Lincoln-based Air Guard unit accepted the award on May 29 in ceremonies in the Pentagon at Washington, D. C.

The awards are presented annually to Guard and Reserve units for "domestic action" in their communities, according to Col Lloyd Johnson, Nebraska Air National Guard chief of staff.

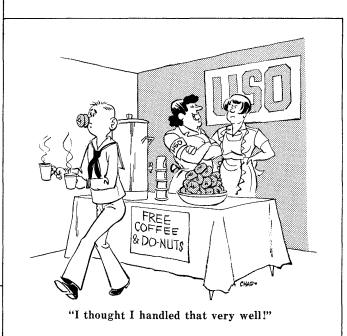
The Nebraska unit was cited for a variety of services, including work with children at Lincoln's Cedars Home for Children where they not only took youngsters on outings but did repair work and decorating.

The Guardsmen also co-sponsored a boys basketball league, raised funds for the YMCA and Salvation Army, collected a thousand pounds of clothing for the Good Neighbor Community Service Center and the children's home, took youngsters on Lincoln Air Base tours, assisted in a Lincoln clean-up drive, and participated in a "Learning Exchange Program" for high school students desiring to work at the base.

"Everybody's quite proud of the accomplishments," said Col Johnson in announcing the unit's selection for the award.

The unit's projects were directed by a group called "Concerned Guardsmen." Maj Hal Gustafson is chairman of the group.

One of the Guardsmen summed up reasons why he and other airmen donate their time and labor to the program by saying, "It feels good to do something for someone."



#### NEBRASKA AIR GUARDSMAN SAVE \$\$\$ FOR SAC

By: Sgt Jeff Butcher, ANG Info Office

Inflation may be taking its toll, but the Nebraska Air National Guard (NEANG) has given the Strategic Air Command (SAC) a new solution to meet mounting military construction costs.

The Nebraska Guardsmen recently saved SAC's 93rd Bombardment Wing about \$38,000 through re-modeling two buildings at Castle AFB, Calif., according to Capt. Kenneth G. King, 155th civil engineer.

This was the first time in the National Guard Bureau's history that one of its civil engineering squadrons did work for a SAC wing, Capt King said.

The pilot project between SAC and NEANG had a \$12,000 price tag.

"If we had gone to an outside contractor we would have had to expend between \$40,000 to \$50,000," Col Charles T. Winter, 93rd Base Civil Engineer stated.

A 24-man Prime Beef Team, 155th Civil Engineering Squadron, Lincoln, Nebr., completed the entire project in two weeks, Capt King explained.

He added, "It entailed altering the former Staff Judge Advocate's (SJA) claims office to a new court room facility fully equipped with jury deliberation room, judge's chamber, defense council office, witness waiting room and toilet facilities."

The final product also yielded a judge's stand and witness stand plus increasing the useable floor space.

The old court room was made into a staff judge advocate's office, an office for his assistant, and clerical files area.

This effort climaxed nearly four months of extensive negotiations between Headquarters SAC and the 155th team leader, Capt Fredric F. Francisco.

"Previously, the SAC Civil Engineering Staff had not tapped construction resources other than Red Horse units or civilian contractors for specific work assignment," according to Capt Francisco.

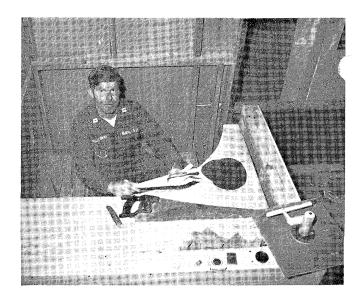
Red Horse Squadrons are basically heavy construction outfits. They involve a prolonged tour of duty or a complete re-assignment to another Air Force base.

Capt King said, "Thus, lower priority projects are either tagged as too costly or non-mission essential to warrant construction approval. He pointed out, "Now SAC has the potential for a new civil engineering support avenue."

"Prime Beef Units must deploy and support an USAF base mission once every three years for a 15-day period. The 155th is only one of 92 ANG teams of 60 men each."

"During the three year cycle each unit must also pull a stretch at its home base. And an annual training session of refreshed field mobility training in a simulated combat situation at Wright—Patterson AFB, Ohio," the base civil engineer said.

"At first, there was doubts that the team could complete the desired work in the 15-day time span," according to TSgt William H. Riggi, II, 93rd SJA office. "Our doubts



Capt Fredric F. Francisco, 155th Civil Engineering ANG Prime Beef Team leader reviews courtroom plans at Castle AFB, Calif. The 24—man Nebraska unit was the first Air National Guard Civil Engineer unit to perform work for a Strategic Air Command wing. (Nebr ANG Photo)



Sgt Kenneth S. Banks, 155th ANG Prime Beef Team member finishes carpentry work on jury box at Castle AFB (SAC), Calif. The remodeling assignment includes a new fully equipped courtroom facility. (Nebr ANG Photo)

were put aside rather quickly following the advance team's initial prepatory work."

The three man advance team hit the ground running. In a matter of hours, they had torn out all the sheet rock in the two buildings, taken down the existing ceilings, obtained the necessary equipment and confirmed billeting quarters, Capt Francisco remarked.

Thus, a critical path had been cleared; the team's main body walked on base, set down tool boxes and went to work.

A senior noncommissioned officer proudly informed the project leader, "We didn't break ground, sir we plowed it."

"The work being done is fantastic," Col Winter stated in his appraisal of his first encounter with an ANG Prime Beef Team.

"These ANG individuals impressed our people a lot because they were still working after 1700 hours to get the job done," the 93rd base civil engineer pointed out.

Col Winter also mentioned that the team members demonstrated a high degree of sophistication and dedication. He placed them on equal footing with the heavy construction oriented Red Horse Squadrons. He attributed this to their professional status in civilian related positions as engineers, carpenters, plumbers and electricians.

"We moved the offices around, enlarged the scope from one to two buildings and terrifically cut the actual costs. Yet, we set up our time table and met it," Capt Francisco said.

"We have to give SAC a good deal of credit for being flexible enough to roll with our time table and suggested modification, he added.

"The SAC people designed, purchased materials and procured the entire project in less than three months. From a civil engineers view point that is way about standard operating procedures on building alterations." according to Capt Francisco.



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#### THE MEANING OF JULY 4

Every nation on the face of the globe has its birthday. What, then, is so unusual, so markedly different about July 4 that it should merit such uncommon demonstrations of distinction?

The explanation lies in the fact that the day not only marks the birth of a nation but also commemorates the birth of a concept — the concept that all men are created equal, that a people have the right to be free and to install a government of their own choosing, and that each individual has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This blueprint for democracy that the Founding Fathers drew up is a legacy to a grateful world, not to Americans alone.

But it is not enough to attain liberty. It must be protected vigilantly, nourished lovingly, maintained unblemished and without compromise, if it is to be kept alive for posterity. This basic truth has been the cornerstone of American policy from the very beginning of the Republic. It is because of this fundamental belief that Americans have shouldered arms in defense of freedom over the past two centuries.



The inescapable truth is that, 200 years later, freedom still demands a willingness of individuals to make sacrifices for it. Men who value their freedom must be prepared to resist any threat to it, whatever form the threat takes, and whenever it occurs. Certainly, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are as overwhelmingly precious now as in 1776.

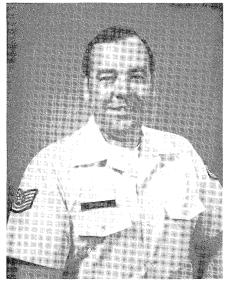
Democracy maintains that the state is the servant of man and that man's liberty is of paramount importance, that the state cannot demean the individual without by that very act degrading itself. Democracy restrains individual freedom only when it would infringe on the rights of others, impair the common welfare, or endanger national security.

The final words of the Declaration of Independence are a testament for all Americans. "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

Today, we can do no less than uphold that pledge with fixed purpose for, were we to do any less, our lives would be meaningless, our fortunes valueless, and our honor stained.

## McCLAIN WINS ORGANIZATIONAL RECRUITER AWARD

T/Sgt Kenneth L. McClain, Jr., was the only Nebraska Guard member to qualify for the Organizational Recruiter Award in the recent state recruiting contest. During the contest period, which was February 1st through April 30th, McClain was credited with 7 non-prior and 3 prior service enlistees for the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Tactical Recon Group. He is a member of the ANG's 155th Combat Support Squadron.





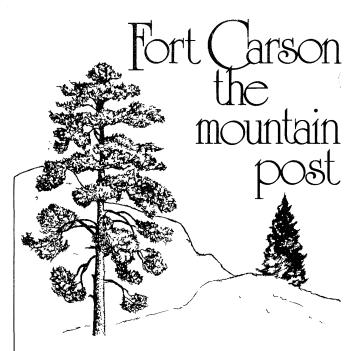
T/Sgt Kenneth McClain, Jr.

Others who met the minimum qualifications for Unit Recruiter Awards were: M/Sgt Wally Gant, HQ, Air National Guard; SGT Donald D. Martin, Co A, 2–134 Inf; and SFC George L. Svoboda, HHC (–Det 1) 1–195 Armor.

Based on their recruiting efforts, cash awards were authorized for each of the winners which will be paid out of the Adjutant General's Recruiting Fund.



SFC Svoboda is presented a \$100 check for his first two non-prior enlistees. Presenting the check is MAJ Marlin A. Fritz, XO for the Armor Battalion. Svoboda is the Mess Sergeant for HHC and is donating the money back to the company to improve their messing facilities. (Photo by: SP5 Walter Wachter)



Nebraskan's will again stir the red dust of Fort Carson this summer. The 1st Battalion, 195th Armor will be the first element there this year with their training dates of 19 July through 2 August. Immediately following the "tankers" will be the men of 2nd Battalion (Mech), 134th Infantry. Their training dates are 2 August through 19 August.



Tanks of the 1-195 (above) and APC's of the 2-134 Infantry will again roam the vast expanses of Fort Carson this summer.



Fort Carson officials have been busy ever since last years summer camp with work on improving the downrange living conditions. From all reports they have succeeded. A Battalion sized base-camp area has been established just to the north of the "Ranch House". Cement floors have been poured so that nearly all tents will set up off the ground. Kitchen tent areas have been set up so that it sets on a cement slab as well as having a cement serving area. Eating of meals will be in nearby large tents, with a cement floor, tables and chairs. Permanent sump pits have been built for each kitchen to facilitate disposal of liquid wastes.

Shower facilities also will show much improvement with cement floors, and rock paths leading to the company area's. The company area's also have been rocked to keep dust to a minimum. So it looks like living conditions will be much improved over those experienced in years past.

Each of the battalions training there will participate in validating the test edition of their respective ARTEP (Army Training and Evaluation Program). The 67th Brigade, along with one other brigade in the U.S., have been tasked by FORSCOM to validate Brigade level ARTEPS. The actual exercise should last about 3 days.

ARTEP's are slated to replace the present Army Training Tests.

Fort Carson's 4th Infantry Division will provide the personnel to administer and evaluate the progress of the ARTEP's. Since this is the first time out on this new concept; in training, it will actually be a test of a test. FORSCOM and TRADOC officials will be anxiously waiting the results of these exercises.

Despite the vigorous training planned, Nebraska Guardsmen will have time to look around at their surroundings. particularly on the middle weekend when there is no training scheduled.

Geographically, Fort Carson is a finger of the Rockies pointing into a broad plains area. In the southern corner of the reservation this finger gradually flattens into the beginning of the Old Southwest. With this change in altitude there is a complete change in the predominant types of trees, grasses and rain clouds. Varieties here are not found on any other part of the reservation.

The eastern portion of the reservation is relatively flat, as the foothills melt into the Great Plains. Antelope, buffalo and Plains Indians once roamed here in great numbers. Herds of antelope can still be found in this corner of the reservation.

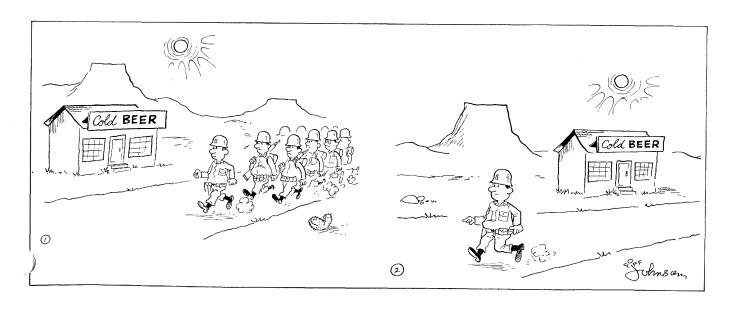
To the north and west the foothills become steeper and lead eventually into the Rockies, with their ponderosa pine, blue spruce and mountain flowers. For centuries this was the Ute Indians, Colorado's chief mountain tribe.

Today, wildlife on the reservation includes deer, antelope, fox, bobcat, jackrabbit, coyote and an occasional mountain lion or ferret. More common are prairie dogs and the everpresent magpie. Hunting and fishing are both allowed on the reservation when season and training permit.

From a temporary training camp built early in World War II, Fort Carson has grown into a proud and important member of the United States Army's family of military installations. The home of eight divisions in its nearly 30 year span of history, Fort Carson is now home of the 4th Infantry Division (Mech).

Each summer Fort Carson is home for one or two weeks for Guardsmen, Reservists, Service Academy Cadets, Senior and Junior ROTC Cadets who come for annual field training on Carson's ranges. Each summer, too, Fort Carson sends men and units to other camps to assist in training missions for civilian components.

Once a 55,000 acre working ranch, the Carson reservation was expanded to 140,000 acres in 1965 to meet the training needs of a mechanized infantry division. Climate and geography both have been important factors in the decision to build a wartime encampment here and retain it through the years.



#### ENLISTED ASSOCIATION HELD IN COLUMBUS

By: Ron Engel, 111th PI Det

The Enlisted Association of the Nebraska National Guard's state convention at Columbus, May 10–11, was just one more casualty of the May 6 tornado which ripped through Omaha. The mobilization of National Guard troops prevented many from attending the fifth annual gathering which convention officials decided could not be postponed.

MG Francis L. Winner, the Nebraska Adjutant General was the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet and spoke on legislation affecting Guard personnel. He urged the association to take an active role in seeking legislation benefiting the Nebraska Guard and complimented them on their work in the past.

Members of the association in attendance approved several resolutions at the convention which directly affect Nebraska Guard personnel and their dependents. Among resolutions passed were:

(1) State income tax exemption for National Guard pay; (2) state retirement benefits for Guardspersons, noncontributory and state funded; (3) free tuition for dependents of Guardspersons killed while in state active duty, drill or annual training status; and a death benefit while on state active duty.

The convention delegates also adopted a resolution calling for the enlisted/reenlistment law to be amended to payment of a cash bonus of \$100 per year of completed service to be paid at the end of the enlistment period up to ten years service. The group also drafted a resolution to be forwarded to the National EANGUS -Resolutions Committee stating that the EANNG goes on record in support of the current law which prohibits entitlement to retirement pay to anyone who refuses to participate in a federal mobilization or activation of reserve units.

In other business, the association members formed a publications committee to publish a quarterly bulletin for the organization. Mrs. Margaret Holt was hired as editor of the publication and will also assist with pamphlets, letters and other advertising.

Maj Hal Gustafson, representing the Nebraska National Guard Officers Association, outlined the priority goals for that organization. They included: (1) tuition assistance at the Federal level; (2) Survivor benefits; (3) lifting the 60-point limit for inactive duty retirement points earned; (4) early retirement prior to age 60; and (5) 100 percent technician retirement credit.

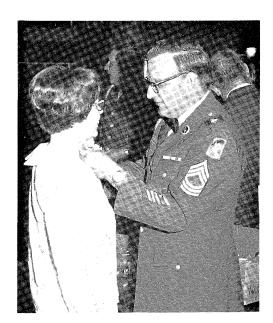
Five units were presented with certificates as having obtained the highest membership percentage within five different strength groups. They were: Hqs, 155th TAC Gp; Battery A, 1/168 Arty; Battery B, 1/168 Arty; HHD, 67th Spt Bn; and the 155th Consol Acft Maint Sq. The 155th TAC Recon Gp and the two 1/168th units also received certificates for having over 50 percent of eligible members enrolled in the EANNG.

The Villager Inn at Lincoln was selected to host the 1976 EANNG Convention and Kearney was named to host

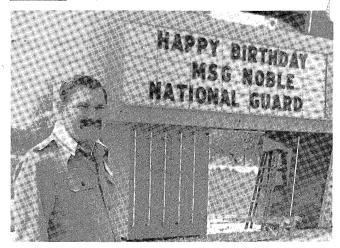
the 1977 meeting.

EANNG officers are: SMSgt Donald W. Burbach, president; MSG Thurlow P. Noble, Jr., vice president; 1SG Dale Hoover, past president; MSG Harold L. Bingham, Jr. treasurer; and MSG Ernest B. Born, secretary.





MSG Don Lintz of Beatrice pins a corsage on Mrs. Lintz prior to the evenings formal festivities. (Photo by: SP5 Ron Engel, 111th PI Det)



Everyone who attended the Enlisted Association of the Nebraska National Guard's annual state convention, May 10—11 in Columbus, knew MSG Thurlow Noble Jr. of Valparaiso was celebrating a birthday. It was printed on the marguee.

Actually MSG Noble's birthday was May 9 but he was unable to observe it on that day as he was in Omaha with activated troops following the destructive tornado which ripped through that city. MSG Noble, who is also the postmaster at Valparaiso and vice president of the Enliste Association, was presented a cake at the Saturday evening banquet. (Photo by: SP5 Ron Engel)

## NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATES 11 NEW OFFICERS

In recent ceremonies at Camp Ashland, Nebraska, the ebraska National Guard Military Academy graduated 11 new second lieutenants from Officer Candidate Class Number 18.

The course of instruction, spanning 12 weekends and 4 weeks of active duty training at Camp Ashland, covers some 296 hours of formal military instruction. Subjects covered include leadership principles, land navigation, weapons training, small unit tactics and others.

Graduating with honors was Don R. Davison, a member of Battery A (—Detachment 1), 1st Battalion, 168th Artillery, Ogallala, Nebraska. Davison was presented the Governor's Trophy as the outstanding candidate in the class, excelling both academically and in his leadership abilities. The award was presented by Major General Francis L. Winner, Adjutant General of Nebraska. Also presented to Davison was the Erickson Trophy, an award made each year by the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. The award, which is for outstanding ability in leadership and academic excellence, was also presented by General Winner.

Several other candidates were presented awards for their achievements. Receiving the Leadership Award was Garryll L. Wubbels of Lincoln. It was presented for exhibiting "outstanding leadership ability" by Brigadier General George H. Fairfield, Commander of Nebraska's \$7th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), Army National Guard. The Nebraska National Guard Officers Association award for Academic Excellence went to Roger K. Wilson of

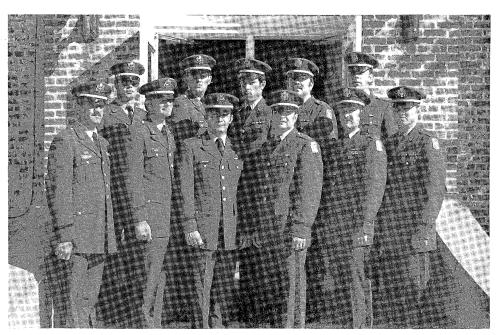
Scottsbluff. The award was presented by Colonel Kenneth Dermann on behalf of the Officers Association.

Cited as the "Most Improved Cadet" during the course of instruction was Michael R. Gross of Omaha, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 134th Infantry (Mech). The award, made by the Staff and Faculty of the Military Academy, was presented by it's Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Darrell McKee:

Other graduates of the class were: Paul J. Reuland of Lincoln; Max D. Peters of Fremont; James E. Shonka, Lincoln; Jonathan D. Yost, Norfolk; Richard B. Henderson, Lincoln; David L. Walker, Glenville; and Ralph L. Elston, Lincoln.



Don R. Davison of Ogallala, named as top cadet in the class, gets some assistance in putting the gold bars on.



OC-18 Graduates are (back row, 1. to r.) Max D. Peters; Michael R. Gross; Davis L. Walker; Garryll L. Wubbels; and Jonathan D. Yost. (front row) Richard B. Henderson; James E. Shonka; Don R. Davison; Roger K. Wilson; Paul J. Reuland and Ralph L. Elston. (Photo by: SP5 Bruce Nickeson, 111th Pl Det)

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