

# The Garrison

March 2001

A publication of the  
2125th Garrison Support Unit  
1650 Corey Blvd., Decatur, Ga. 30032

**AIRBORNE**



**Supporting  
Soldier  
Readiness**



**FY 2001 drill dates:**  
March 24-25  
April 21-22  
May 19-20  
June 23-24  
July 21-22  
Aug. 18-19  
Sept. 14, 15, 16\*

**\*MUTA 6**

*To reach the Decatur  
USAR center, call toll-free  
1-877-363-1337. To call  
locally, dial 404-286-  
XXXX, with X's  
representing the extension.  
Here are the key personnel  
extensions:*

*Mr. Powell 6347#  
Mr. McMillan 6335#  
Staff Sgt. Babb 6320#  
SFC Dean 6350#  
SFC DeLaFuente 6323#  
Staff Sgt. Wade 6310#  
Sgt. Williams 6348#*

## CDR's Corner

By Capt. Kevin Cmiel

Towers High School has asked us to provide mentors for some of its students. The idea is to provide a positive role model for a young person, many of whom come from single-parent homes. More information will be coming; though, I want you to begin thinking about volunteering for this worthwhile community support and the rewarding personal experience that it brings.

Annual training is scheduled for April 22 to May 5 at Fort Bragg, unless you have received approval for alternate duty or dates. Be sure to confirm any questions you

have by calling your NCOIC as soon as possible. Waiting until March drill will be too late. During drill, sections will need to provide a list of drivers/passengers for each vehicle they have going. The remainder of the unit will travel there and back by commercial bus.

The drill pay problem from January drill has been resolved, so check to make sure your drill pay was deposited.

This break between drills was our longest of the year, so be sure to get back in military mode before coming back. See you at drill on the 24th.

## Documenting war

By Staff Sgt. Gwendolyn Coley

When Robert Lafoon went to Vietnam in 1965, he was prepared to shoot. In the 2 1/2 years he was in Southeast Asia, the Washington D.C. native drew his .45-caliber pistol only once, but he did take hundreds of shots.

Although he doesn't elaborate on the time he had to pull his pistol, he gladly talks about the other shots.

Using 35mm Leica and 120mm Rolleiflex cameras, Lafoon was charged with documenting the Vietnam War pictorially. He was a combat cameraman assigned to the Department of the Army Special Photo Office in Southeast Asia. The unit's 60 or so soldiers were based in a villa outside the Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon, with a still photographer and a motion picture photographer teaming up and traveling together to capture images and footage.

"I spent 13 months in Vietnam, two months in Japan, one month in Thailand, one month in Okinawa, and two weeks in Australia doing multiple shoots and stories," he said.

When Lafoon joined the Army in 1964, he did so to escape work on his family's



Photo by Robert Lafoon

**Soldiers from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade wade through a leach-infested rice paddy while headed for a helicopter assault in Vietnam.**

Virginia tobacco farms. While a student at Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia, he became interested in photography, and joined the Photography Club and worked on the student newspaper. His first job in the military, however, had little to do with the kind of shooting he was most interested in.

His first duty station was with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas,

**Please see Camera, Page 2**

March 2001

# ARMY



Photos by Robert Lafoon  
The "Riverines" of the 9th Infantry Division hit a beach in Vietnam. The soldiers lived in a troop ship anchored in the Saigon River and patrolled the beaches along the country's waterways.



Artillery ammunition and canned rations are dropped to the 82nd Artillery in War Zone C, about 70 miles northeast of Saigon.



General William Westmoreland pays a visit to Vietnam to observe Thai soldiers sent to help fight the war.

## Combat cameraman documents war

### *Camera, From Page 1*

driving an M113 armored personnel carrier with a mechanized infantry unit.

"I decided very quickly this was not what I wanted to do with my life," he said. "In 1965, I extended for a year so I could reclassify and go to the still photographers course at Fort Monmouth, N.J. I never really associated still photography with combat photography. What a rude awakening."

Once he finished photography school, Lafoon was in for another rude awakening. He was sent to Vietnam. Even though he knew what his assignment would be, Lafoon said he never associated Southeast Asia with Vietnam.

Because the job did involve documenting the war, Lafoon and the other combat cameramen accompanied units to the field. The team would fly or drive to a unit's public information office, check in and go to the field, staying out for up to 10 days. They would then head back to the villa, where they would write captions and stories to send to the Army Pictorial Agency at the Pentagon. A day or so later, they were headed back out to the war zone.

Combat cameramen, Lafoon said, depended heavily on the unit they traveled with for water, food and security, although they

were called upon to do guard duty if their stints with the units were for long durations.

"Because we traveled with other units, rarely did we receive recognition for what we did in the field not related to photography," said Lafoon. "We always received thanks for helping with guard duty, unloading supplies and giving the unit positive, true press. That was enough."

Two members of his unit received Bronze Stars after recommendations from the units they served with. The award came after a still photographer was severely wounded in the arm, and the motion man pulled him and another wounded man back to safety.

Movement from unit to unit, oftentimes on a medical evacuation helicopter or resupply chopper, sometimes proved treacherous. Once, the resupply chopper in which Lafoon traveled was hit with gunfire.

"Rounds came up through the floor. Grapefruit juice went all over the place. Hey, better the juice than my butt," he said.

Not every combat cameraman was as fortunate.

"While in the field, we were supposed to break up and go with different companies or platoons. This was so that in case something happened, it did not happen to both camera

FY 2001 drill dates:  
March 24-25  
April 21-22  
May 19-20  
June 23-24  
July 21-22  
Aug. 18-19  
Sept. 14, 15, 16\*

\*MUTA 6

# VA creates new center for veteran entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Veterans Affairs marked the expansion of its efforts to help veteran-owned businesses with the dedication of the Center for Veterans Enterprise by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

"VA helps veterans with health care, education, benefits. We should also help them develop businesses that will provide stable lives for their families," Principi said.

The new center will extend VA's services to veterans who own — or who want to start — their own businesses. Veterans can call or e-mail the center to receive assistance from a

national network of business specialists. Information will be available about loans, business management programs, online training for entrepreneurs and procurement opportunities with federal, state and local agencies.

There are 22 million businesses in the United States. The new center estimates that 5 million are owned by veterans. Plans are under way to register each veteran-owned business and advise owners of opportunities to do business with the federal government. Under this program, a veteran-owned business has 51 percent of the business controlled by a veteran.

The Veterans Entrepreneurship and

Small Business Development Act of 1999 expanded VA's authority to counsel veterans about self-employment and business expansions. The Center for Veterans Enterprise originated as part of the legislation. Following passage of that act, VA, the Small Business Administration and the Association of Small Business Development Centers signed an agreement to work together to assist veterans with business opportunities.

Anyone interested in the Center for Veterans Enterprise can log on to the Web site at <http://www.vetbiz.gov> or call toll free 1-866-584-2344 or (202) 565-8336.

# Have camera, will travel — to 'Nam

## Camera, From Page 2

men. Most of us ignored this and stayed together. Unfortunately, we did have two cameramen killed in action and several wounded."

Lafoon was able to dodge a bullet on at least one other occasion, and he credits an unlikely hero with saving his life.

"I was standing behind and slightly to the left of my motion man when a firefight broke out. His camera was located in front of me in the lower midsection. A bullet hit the door and ricocheted off. I would have been hit in the groin area. I am sure my two sons, Joseph and George, appreciate the camera because they were born after the fact."

Protecting himself might actually have been less of a challenge than protecting his equipment. The soldiers traveled through rice paddies, braved flying dirt kicked up by helicopter blades, dodged raindrops and battled other environmental factors.

"We went through many cameras and probably lost a lot of pictures due to contamination," he said.

Hundreds of pictures did survive the elements, but Lafoon said his favorite came at the end of an exhausting day. The 5th Mechanized Infantry had just marched back from an all-day search-and-destroy mission, and a couple of the soldiers decided to sit in a shaded APC. One of them fell asleep.



Spec. Robert Lafoon, right, receives a first-place certificate for his photo of a Catholic Mass service with the 101st Mass phot, which appeared in last month's Garrison.

"Sweat was pouring down the side of his face. Enough light was coming in through the open combat hatch to take the shot. I only wish I could get an enlarged color photo of this shot," said Lafoon, a Lake City resident and master sergeant with the 2125th Garrison Support Unit.

That photo earned him second place in the annual Communications-Electronics Command photo contest. The first-place picture in that contest also was one of Lafoon's: an image of soldiers from the 101st Airborne during an outdoor Mass.

In 1968, Lafoon took his last combat photo in Vietnam. This one had him mired in a leach-infested rice paddy along with soldiers from the

199th Light Infantry Brigade, which was about to launch the war's largest helicopter assault to date. Lafoon said he had no desire to go, but only he and motion man Ed Bauer were available.

"We flew UH1-D helicopters into, or should I say about 5 feet above, the landing zone. Deep water filled the rice paddies. We would stand on the landing skids and jump into the paddy. I jumped just as the Huey began to leave and got stuck in the paddy. ... The photo was taken after we left the landing zone and were en route to a hostile village."

Not long afterward, Lafoon left Vietnam and the military.

"I left the Army in March 1968 and vowed never to return. I joined the Reserve in 1985 to help finance the remainder of courses I needed for an associate's degree."

Five years later, Lafoon again faced the possibility of going to war. During Desert Shield/Storm, he was stationed in the Forces Command operations center scheduling aircraft used to deploy U.S. troops. Two months of that activation did find him back in a war zone, this time in Saudi Arabia, where he helped soldiers redeploy to the United States.

While in the desert, as he did in Vietnam, Lafoon took hundreds of shots. These, taken with his 35mm camera, were strictly for personal pleasure.

# Dietary supplement pulled from Pacific Marine exchanges

The Marine Forces Pacific commander has ordered exchanges on Marine bases in the Pacific to clear the shelves of products containing ephedrine. Stars and Stripes reports that the decision does not affect Army or Air Force bases. Ephedrine alkaloids are found in dietary supplements as well as bodybuilding and performance-enhancing drugs.

The Honolulu Star Bulletin reports that the Navy stopped the sale of the dietary supplements at Pearl Harbor and its exchanges in Japan on Feb. 1. A Navy spokesman said young Marines are attracted to ephedra, a powerful chemical stimulant found in many sports and dietary supplements, for the energy-boosting qualities manufacturers advertise. However when Marines go on long hikes, ephedra can exaggerate the heat effects. The military has documented medical cases where significant adverse effects and deaths have occurred among active-duty service members taking dietary supplements and other preparations containing ephedrine.

## Nuclear forces opens to Guard, Reserve

By STEVEN MYERS  
DefenseLINK

The Pentagon has decided to open the nation's elite strategic nuclear forces to members of the National Guard and the Reserve, reversing a prohibition that dates to the end of the Cold War, officials said today.

As a result, thousands of the nation's citizen soldiers could potentially join the scrupulously screened forces that control nuclear weapons whether in missile silos, command bunkers and depots, or aboard strategic bombers, transport planes and even submarines. The

decision is not expected to cause an immediate infusion of Reservists into some of the most secretive, sensitive jobs in the U.S. military, the officials said. But, they said, it would revise what they called an unfair and outdated policy that presumed people whose military service made up only part of their lives were unfit for such duty. It will also clear the way for the Air Force and the Navy, in particular, to consider ways to tap the Guard and the Reserve for jobs that are increasingly hard to fill because of a smaller active military and the rigorous standards set to join the nuclear forces.

## "Taps" origin revealed?

We have all heard the haunting melody of "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But do you know the rest of the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be pleased find out about its humble beginning.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Capt. Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, Va. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who was severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for aid.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward the encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy had enlisted in the Confederate

Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partly granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was denied since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted. The haunting melody, which we now know as "Taps", used at military funerals, was born:

Day is done.  
Gone the sun.  
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky.  
All is well, safely rest.  
God is nigh.  
Fading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star gems the sky, gleaning bright  
From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.  
Thanks and praise  
For our days  
Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky,  
As we go, this we know,  
God is nigh.

## SGLI increases max coverage to \$250,000

The Servicemember's Group Life Insurance maximum coverage rate has increased by \$50,000 to \$250,000.

Next month, all members will be automatically converted to the new coverage amount, with a corresponding increase in the premium payment. In the event any

member elects reduced coverage, or declines coverage, that member must make that election/declination between April 1 and April 30, to ensure any premium collected on the April LES is refundable. If a member elects reduced coverage, or declines coverage, any over-collection of the premium will be refunded.

# From the Chaplain:

## Since we're not perfect, we're allowed to ask for a mulligan

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brandon Travis

The other day my 13-year-old son, Samuel, and I were playing basketball. We were playing "around the world." You know the game. You start in the corner and "go around the world" until you miss. Well, he told me "Let's make a new rule." I said "OK, what is the new rule?"

"Dad" he said, "I, get 2 tries, and you get one."

After I stopped laughing, I agreed.

How much like you and I in life. "Mr. 2 is always better than Mr. 1," isn't he? For instance, in my favorite game, golf. We have Mr. 2, "Mr. Redo," and his name is "mulligan." It just amazing me how the 2nd shot is always better! Last week I was out playing golf with a buddy of mine, and on the first hole my drive went about 265 yards (which is pretty good for

me) straight down the middle. WOW! It was a par 5, and I have about another 225 to the hole, so I pulled out my 5 iron to hit it another 165-170, leaving me with 100 yards of the green. I envisioned the shot, reared back and hit the ball. I dubbed it, and it went only about 125 yards ... a really nasty shot! So, I said to my partner, "I am going to hit it again, and it 'does not count.'" Wouldn't you know it went perfect, right where I planned it! Mr. 2 is always better!

I have heard from time to time people say, "I want to redo my life!" Sometimes I think we forget that God allows us to "redo" our life! He gives us that second opportunity we so badly need. All we have to do is ask! He made our opportunity possible by His love.

My hope for all of us is that we will "discover" that second opportunity, that "redo", "Mr. 2", "mulligan" in life through God's love!



# Use government Visa properly

By MAJ Ural Glanville  
2125th SJA Section

As pointed out during the recent legal briefing, the following is a list of points that one should consider as a Visa government cardholder:

The government Visa card is for use by soldiers and government civilians to pay for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred for official travel.

Official travel: Official travel is defined as travel away from the permanent duty station and backed by orders. It does not include daily travel between one's residence and duty station, nor does it include travel related to permissive TDY.

Expenses: Expenses are those expenditures necessary and reasonable to support the official travel. Included are charges for lodging

at hotels, Bachelor Officer Quarters, and Bachelor Enlisted Quarters, as well as payment for meals, rental cars and gas. Expenses do not include gifts or personal purchases.

Cardholder Responsibilities: A soldier must pay the bill in full upon receipt. The 81st Regional Support Group gets a monthly report from Visa detailing the balance due status of every cardholder, and the expenditures made are reviewed. All your expenditures must be for official travel and must withstand scrutiny.

Personal responsibility: Being a soldier is a privilege and an honor. Do not ruin your credit, reputation and future as a soldier by improperly using the Visa card. As discussed, misuse of the government Visa card could subject one to various adverse administrative actions, such as counseling, corrective training, withdrawal of privileges, bars to reenlistment, written reprimands and separation actions, and punitive actions such as an Article 15 or a court-martial. The disposition regarding any Visa card matter can be considered by a soldier's commander based upon the individual circumstances of each case.

**FY 2001 drill dates:**  
March 24-25  
April 21-22  
May 19-20  
June 23-24  
July 21-22  
Aug. 18-19  
Sept. 14, 15, 16\*

**\*MUTA 6**

## This and That!

Do your soldiers require a security clearance to perform their annual training duties? Do you know what the security status of your soldiers are?

Do you want to wait until April 16 to learn that your uncleared soldier will have to pick up cigarette butts for 14 days straight?

Don't do it to your soldier! Make sure you take care of your soldier before we get on the bus ... on the plane ... or in a POV.

Pfc. Brian Meeler, one of our finance soldiers, recently lost his grandfather John Henry McEalwreath as a result of a recent stroke. Please include him and his family in your prayers and thoughts.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
2125th Garrison Support Unit (Fort Bragg)  
1650 Corey Blvd.  
Decatur, GA 30032

**The Garrison** newsletter is published by the Public Affairs Section in the interest of 2125th Garrison Support Unit personnel.

Editorial views and opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 2125th.

Send newsletter submissions to Staff Sgt. Gwendolyn Coley by e-mail at [jeeznews@aol.com](mailto:jeeznews@aol.com), in text format, or deliver it to the 2125th PAO on floppy disk.

To contact public affairs call (404) 286-6346.

---

Col. Charles Mercier  
Commander

Capt. Jan Northstar  
Public Affairs Officer

**Drill Schedule for March 2001**

**Supply Open: 0830 - 1100  
1300 - 1530**

	WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	TRAINER	REMARKS/UNIFORM
<b>Staff Sgt. Gwendolyn Coley Editor</b>	SAT 24 MAR 01					
	0645-0715	SEL PERS	NCO MEETING	CONF ROOM	1SG	BDUs W/ BERET
	0700-0715	ALL	SIGN-IN/ACCOUNTABILITY	DRILL HALL	FINANCE	
	0730-0745	ALL	FORMATION	REAR PARKING LOT	1SG /CO	
	0800-1130	ALL	General radiation awareness Heat Injury Prevention Sexual Harassment	DRILL HALL	DPWE ADACG IG	
		SEL PERS	INPROCESS/LOCAL AREA TRAINING BRIEF	CONF ROOM	HHC ADMIN	NEW PERSONNEL
	1130-1230	ALL	LUNCH	DRILL HALL	SUPPLY SGT	
	1230-1600	SEL PERS	INPROCESSING	CONF ROOM	HHC ADMIN	
	1230-1500	ALL	SECTION DUTIES	SECTION AREAS	SEC. NCOICs	BDUs W/BERET
	1500-1600	ALL	PT	REAR PARKING LOT	PSA	WINTER APFU
	1615-1700	ALL	FINAL FORMATION/SIGN OUT	REAR PARKING LOT	1SG /CO	BDUs W/ BERET
<i>To reach the Decatur USAR center, call toll-free 1-877-363-1337. To call locally, dial 404-286-XXXX, with X's representing the extension. Here are the key personnel extensions:</i>	SUN 25 MAR 01					
<i>Mr. Powell 6347# Mr. McMillan 6335# Staff Sgt. Babb 6320# SFC Dean 6350# SFC DeLaFuente 6323# Staff Sgt. Weds 6310# Sgt. Williams 6348# FAX: 404 289-7572</i>	0645-0715	SEL PERS	NCO MEETING	DRILL HALL	1SG	BDUs
	0700-0715	ALL	SIGN IN/ACCOUNTABILITY	DRILL HALL	1SG	BDUs
	0730-0745	ALL	FORMATION	REAR PARKING LOT	1SG /CO	
	0745-1600	SEL PERS	INPROCESSING	CONF ROOM	HHC ADMIN	
	0745-0815	SEL PERS	CHAPEL SERVICE	DRILL HALL	CHAPLAIN	
	0815-1130	ALL	SECTION DUTIES	SECTION AREAS	SEC. NCOICs	
	1130-1230	ALL	LUNCH	DRILL HALL	SUPPLY SGT	
	1200-1300	STAFF	STAFF MEETING	CONF TABLE	XO	
	1230-1615	ALL	SECTION DUTIES	SECTION AREAS	SECT. NCOICs	BDUs W/BERET
	1500-1600	SEL PERS	PT (REMEDIAL) SGT'S TIME	REAR PARKING LOT SECTION AREA	HHC TRNG SECT. NCOICs	WINTER APFU
	1600-1700	ALL	FINAL FORMATION/SIGN OUT POV accident prev. brief	DECATUR USARC	1SG /CO	