

Guard Takes To Field To Test Training

By SP/4 Harry Abernathy
382 Public Information
Detachment

FT. BRAGG-- Two National Guard officers squatted on the ground, drawing lines in the sand with a stick. Behind them was a row of tanks, armored personnel carriers and jeeps.

Later, the tank company--Company A of the 1st Battalion 252nd Armor from Parkton--ground across the steep narrow dirt trails of this Sandhills military installation. Ahead, up the hill, several figures darted across a ridge and disappeared behind it. Moments later a jeep roared from the pines, its passengers firing their rifles at the column of approaching tanks.

That was just a glimpse at a Saturday's experiences for the Parkton unit--one of the oldest in the North Carolina Guard. It was founded in 1848, according to Brig. Gen. Robert A. Hughes, the commander of the 30th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized). General Hughes' home is Parkton. He formerly commanded the company as did his grandfather before him.

The unit's present commander is Capt. Samuel Hendrix of Raeford.

The company was taking its company-level Army Training Test. A brigade team headed by Lt. Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Newbold of Laurinburg, the brigade's operations officer, graded the company.

The early April exercise was the last major weekend field event for any of the brigade's units before annual

training--"summer camp"-- which begins May 17.

Company C from St. Pauls took its test in February and March.

The third company, Company B of Bladenboro, will be tested later in the year.

The 30th brigade was formed as a separate unit capable of independent operation upon the deactivation of the 30th Infantry division in December 1973.

Company-level testing is being performed this year for all elements of the brigade. The mechanized infantry companies are to receive their training tests at summer camp.

The tank training test on April 12-13--Operation Athens--began early Saturday at the equipment pool with a precombat inspection and ended Sunday with a withdrawal through an imaginary unit.

The end came after a day and night of "enemy" ground action, simulated artillery, chemical and aircraft attacks and almost constant movement. Evaluators watched their assigned platoons throughout the exercise.

The exercise tests the combat readiness of the company and is required every three years. A final part will be completed when the unit goes to summer camp in May.

Other elements of the brigade participated in the training exercise. The aggressors were from the battalion's Support Company, which has units in Elizabethtown and Roseboro. Most of the evaluators were from brigade headquarters in Clinton.

And the 1st Battalion commander, Maj. Clint Willis of Laurinburg, was also present. The battalion's headquarters is in Fayetteville.

The company was supported by a mechanized infantry platoon from Company C, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry from Warsaw. Company C headquarters is in Smithfield.

Other units of the brigade include 1st Battalion 119th Infantry (Mechanized) with units in Ahsokie, Tarboro, Roanoke Rapids, Wilson, Nashville, Williamston, Scotland Neck, Woodland, Elizabeth City, Edenton and Windsor.

And the 1st Battalion 120th Infantry (Mechanized) in Wilmington, Shallotte, Wallace, Jacksonville, Morehead City, Beaufort, Whiteville, Fair Bluff, Smithfield and Warsaw.

Also the 1st Battalion 113th Field Artillery in Charlotte, Monroe and Thomasville.

The 230th Support Battalion in Winston-Salem, Rocky Mount, Goldsboro, Benson and Dunn.

And Troop E, 196th Cavalry in Albemarle and Hamlet and the 881st Engineer Company in Belmont, Charlotte and Rockingham.

Team Plans Try-Outs

Sandhills American Legion Baseball tryouts will be held Saturday at Sandhills Community College baseball field beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Any player who will not be 19 before August 1, 1975 and ATTENDS or GRADUATED LAST YEAR FROM Hoke, Pinecrest, North Moore, Union Pines, or East Montgomery HIGH SCHOOLS is eligible and invited to the tryouts.

Legion coaches Jum Timmons and Kemper Fitch will supervise the tryout activities. The season opener for the Sandhills Legion team will be in early May.

The Legion uniforms have been purchased with funds donated by area businessmen with the names printed on the back of each uniform. However, additional money is needed to purchase team equipment, finance travel to away games and to pay light expenses.

Season tickets can be bought for \$10 for an individual or \$25 for an entire family. Any person or organization that would like to buy tickets or donate to this activity should contact American Legion Post 350 Commander Bill Frye



HERE'S THE PLAN - Captain Samuel Hendrix of Raeford (right) uses the ground to show Major Dan Baucom what he plans to have his National Guard company do next during a field training exercise at Fort Bragg. Hendrix is commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion 252nd Armor from Parkton. Major Baucom was one of a team checking the company's performance. (National Guard photo)



FIELD CONFERENCE - Seen in the field at Fort Bragg during weekend training April 12 are (from left) Lt. Colonel James MacGill, Clinton; Brigadier General Robert A. Hughes, Parkton; Lt. Colonel Joe Durham, Clinton; and 1st Lieutenant Skip Dickson of Raeford. General Hughes commands the National Guard's 30th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), headquartered in Clinton. (National Guard photo)

Horse, Pet Show May 3

The Heritage Junior Horse Show and Pet Show to benefit the Mid-State Lung Association has been scheduled for May 3 near Whispering Pines.

Events will begin at 9 A.M. at the Heritage, located off the Vass-Carriage Road. Mrs. Joseph Marley, show chairman, announced. Proceeds will support the education and research programs of the Lung Association.

The list of classes for the Horse Show are set as Hunt Seat Division: Model Hunter Ponies, Model Hunter Horses, Pleasure Pony Class, Pleasure Horse Ponies, (12 and Under) Walk-Trot (Riders in this class are not eligible for any other classes), Beginners Equitation (12 and under), Walk - Trot - Canter (Riders in this class may enter the Novice Jumping Class but no other jumping classes), Equitation (13 and under), Equitation (14 - 18), Novice Jumping (open to those who have never won a blue in a jumping class), Pony Hunters Under Saddle (Two fences),

Hunters Under Saddle (Two fences), Working Hunter Ponies (outside course), Working Hunters (outside course), Handy Hunter Ponies, Handy Hunters, Bareback Riding and Gambler's Choice.

In the Cross Country Event a course of approximately one mile over 20 fences and/or obstacles will be run. This event will follow the last class of the morning performance.

The Western Division will have Model Western Ponies, Model Western Horses, Western Pleasure Pony, Western Pleasure Horse, Western Horsemanship (13 and under), Western Horsemanship (14 - 18), Western Go - As - You - Please, Bareback Riding - Western, Barrel Race, Youth Showmanship Class, Egg and Spoon, and Relay Pick-up.

A championship and reserve trophy will be awarded at the end of the show in both the Hunt Seat and Western Division. Trophies and ribbons will be awarded in each class.

The Pet Show will be held at 1 P.M.

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Insight to a Billion

One billion seconds ago the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

One billion minutes ago was a world forty years after the death of Christ.

One billion dollars ago was yesterday.

The budget of the United States for fiscal year 1976 recently sent to Congress by the President calls for spending of \$349.4 billion during the twelve months beginning July 1, 1975 -- nearly \$1 billion per day, seven days a week. But the budget provides that the federal government will only collect

enough money from taxpayers to spend at that rate for six days. So instead of resting on the seventh day, we'll borrow \$1 billion.

And those figures are only budget figures; it is likely that spending will run higher than budget estimates.

Because Uncle Sam has been running his business like this all too often over the past thirty years, the total federal debt outstanding will pass \$600 billion in 1976. To pay the interest on that debt, it will take nearly \$100 million each day next year -- 10 percent of total spending. The next \$450 million to be spent each day will cover welfare, social security, health care, and veterans benefits, and another \$300 million will go each day for defense, foreign aid, and space programs. The remaining \$150 million to be spent daily will be stretched to cover all agricultural, transportation, housing, educational, law enforcement, and sewer and water programs, including revenue sharing.

If you're an average American, you probably think you're paying too much tax. As an average American, however, your tax contribution in 1976 will pay the interest on the debt for about three seconds. Unfortunately, big government makes for little people.



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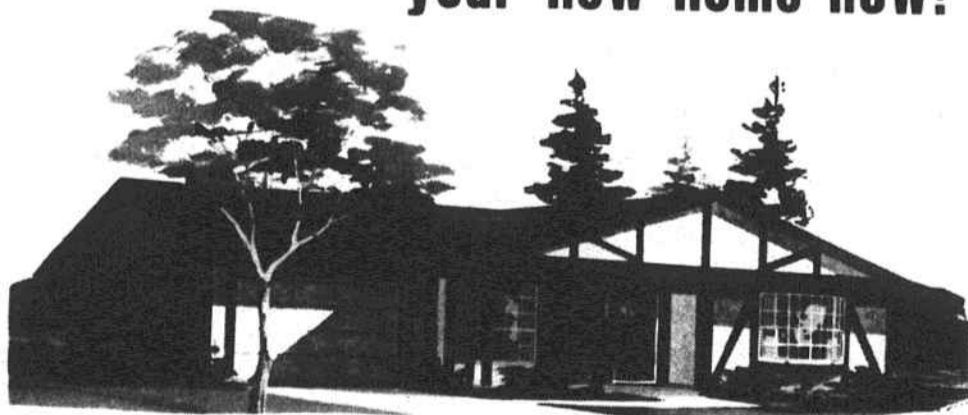
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