

# National Guard Proves Readiness in Statewide Alert



Minutes after M/Sgt. Dennis M. Goodwin received notification of the alert by telephone, Guardsmen were assembled at the Camp Glenn armory to receive their orders and put mobilization operations into effect. With Sergeant Goodwin are, left to right, Sfc. John C. Noe, Pfc. Thomas C. Oglesby, Cpl. Malcolm R. Willis Jr. and Cpl Joseph T. Hall.



Even though the men had to change from "civvies" into their uniforms at the armory, it only took minutes for Battery C of the 690th Field Artillery Battalion to set up defenses in pre-designated areas in Morehead City and Beaufort. Here Pfc. Romaine Willis prepares to get into uniform.



Some of the men are briefed as to what their particular assignment will be during the alert. Battery administrator, M/Sgt. Dennis M. Goodwin, far right, does the briefing. Facing the camera, left to right, are Spe-4 Charles E. Nobles, Sfc. Kendel H. Christensen, Pfc. Thomas C. Oglesby, Cpl. George K. Willis and Pvt. Connie M. Willis. Private Willis was the first man to arrive at the armory after the alert was sounded.



"Sleep well tonight, your National Guard is awake." This statement was particularly true last Thursday night when National Guardsmen all across the state were called away from their homes and jobs to participate in "Operation Hornet's Nest." Here Cpl. Joseph T. Hall is shown at his guard post, the telephone office, in Morehead City.



The seriousness with which each man undertook his assignment during "Operation Hornet's Nest" is reflected in the faces of these men gathered in the orderly room to receive their orders. Left to right are Sgt. John B. Allen, Pfc. William G. Green, M/Sgt. Robert L. Hoggard and M/Sgt. Dennis M. Goodwin. When the picture was taken Sergeant Hoggard had just arrived at the armory and not yet gotten into uniform.

"Operation Hornet's Nest," the largest mobilization maneuver of the North Carolina National Guard since the end of World War II, was put into effect last Thursday night to test the readiness of the National Guard in the event of a national disaster.

The alert, which assumed the form of retaliatory measures against a hypothetical invasion by enemy aggressor forces, was called by adjutant general Capus Waynick. It sent into action 11,548 Army and Air National Guardsmen.

The alert was received in Morehead City at approximately 7:10 p.m. Thursday and within minutes guardsmen of Battery C, 690th Field Artillery Battalion had assembled at the Camp Glenn armory, ready to move out to their pre-designated "strategic areas."

Some of the areas guarded by the local unit included power and light installations, water facilities, the Morehead City hospital, the telephone office and the three drawbridges.

The commanding officer of the Morehead City unit,

Lt. Merrit Bridgman said after the alert that he was "very well pleased" with the unit's response to the alert. "We have an active strength of 59 men in the unit and within 45 minutes after the first alarm, 55 of them had reported to the armory," said Lieutenant Bridgman. "Our attendance strength of 91 per cent was considerably higher than the state-wide average which was somewhere around 65 per cent," he added. Weather conditions slowed down the mobilization of some units in the western part of the state.

Lieutenant Bridgman added that most of the credit for the successful operation goes to the men. "When you stop to consider that some of the men in our unit had to come from places like Salter Path, Harkers Island and Havelock and then had to change into the uniforms after arriving, receive their orders and get to their posts, it's gratifying to know that it went off so efficiently," said Lieutenant Bridgman.

Other officers in the unit are Lt. Gene Smith and Lt. Frank Fulford. The unit's administrator is M/Sgt. Dennis M. Goodwin.



During the alert, constant radio contact was kept between command headquarters and communications vehicles. Here firing battery chief, M/Sgt. Lester L. Hall Jr. transmits orders to one of the vehicles.



After the alert there's the ever-present job of cleaning the rifles before they are returned to the weapons' room. Pfc. Robert A. Hunter and Cpl. George P. Whittle are shown cleaning their field stripped weapons.



Beaufort drawbridge attendant, Herbert Lewis, shows Spec-4 Vernon L. Guthrie how the names of each ship passing through the bridge are logged in his book. Guthrie was assigned the job of guarding the bridge during the alert.



After it's all over the unit's three officers, Lt. Merrit Bridgman, Lt. Gene Smith and Lt. Frank Fulford gather in Lieutenant Bridgman's office for a welcome cup of coffee and a critique of the unit's functioning during the alert.

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