



On-final



An Air Force Reserve Newspaper

Tinker AFB, Ok

September 1985

PATRIOT BLAZER DEEMED SUCCESS

"Are we having fun yet?" That was the 507th battle cry for Patriot Blazer, the 1985 summer deployment to Gulfport, Miss. The more than 500 members of the 507th TFG who participated in the deployment all seemed to heed that cry.

According to TSgt. Robert A. King, 507th CAMS, this was one of the better deployments. "There was a lot more pre-planning for this one. It was quite realistic and we made good use of the training time that was afforded to us." King, who taught the Self-Aid (Buddy Care) course was named the top instructor by the majority of people who talked to the On-Final. "I was impressed with the importance of the Self-Aid/Buddy Care program," said 2nd Lt. Renee Lane, OIC, Disaster Preparedness. "The more people we train in that program, the more we will be able to reduce the number of actual heat stress casualties suffered while wearing the ground crew ensemble."

"It was amazing that those of us who only see each other and work together two days a month came together and worked as a team during the deployment," said TSgt. Gayle Lopes, 507th Mobility Support Flight. "It took less than 24 hours before we all had the feel of the deployment. We really worked together to get the mission accomplished."

Working together was one of the main goals of the unit. "I thought we worked together quite well.

Although we made mistakes, they were all fixable ones. After all, we do learn from our mistakes and next time we will know what to expect and how to deal with it," said SSgt. Mark D. Kent, 507th Mobility Support Flight. "Our section really learned from this deployment. The hands-on training was invaluable."



Even during condition black exercise, the paperwork goes on as air and ground crew members wait in a simulated shelter for the all-clear signal.

(continued on page 6)

COLONEL'S JOURNAL

WE TRAINED SMARTER, NOT HARDER

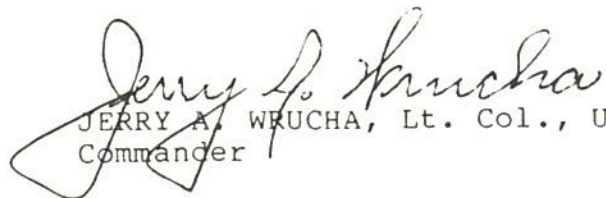
Now that **PATRIOT BLAZER** is in the history books, we can reflect on whether or not we achieved our goals for the exercise. I can answer that question with a resounding **"YOU BET!"**. All in all, what was accomplished in preparation for and during this deployment far exceeded my expectations.

Everyone involved approached this challenge with the right attitude - we were there to learn! Participation in the "ability to survive" scenarios was excellent. Although some responses were incorrect, people reacted with a sense of urgency and a knowledge that action was necessary. I am especially pleased with the unit's response to our hasty departure in the shadow of Hurricane Elena.

A special word of thanks to Lt. Col. Cliff Cole who served as the

organizer, coordinator and Base Commander while at Gulfport. Thanks also to TSgt Williams and his chow hall staff for the good chow and sandwich support provided during the hurricane evacuation.

I applaud each and every one of you that contributed to the success of **PATRIOT BLAZER**. However, we are not stopping there. We've got much more to do in preparation for the festivities next June. **PATRIOT BLAZER** was just the beginning. We need much practice to ensure our success and will use the upcoming months to hone our skills. Keep up the good work; and, most of all, keep up the **Sierra Hotel** attitude!


JERRY A. WRUCHA, Lt. Col., USAFR
Commander

FORMER 507TH MEMBER WINS COURT CASE

Billie Garde used to work in the 507th social actions office. Then she went to work for the U.S. Census Bureau in Muskogee, Okla., where she was fired for revealing fraud and patronage.

She also claimed she was sexually harassed and discriminated against by her boss, and that he conspired to have her children removed from her custody. He was later convicted

and imprisoned.

A hearing by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was held, and the finding upheld that there was a consistent pattern of sexual bias and harassment. The Commerce Department personnel office approved the finding, but Garde's lawyer plans to appeal the decision, saying the damages awarded her were unsatisfactory.

ON-FINAL IS A FUNDED CLASS II AIR FORCE NEWS-PAPER PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR PERSONNEL OF THE 507 TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP (AFRES) AT TINKER AFB, OKLAHOMA 73145-5000. OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS ARE SOLICITED AND WELCOMED BY OUR STAFF. PLEASE SEND ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO THE 507 TFG/PA, TINKER AFB, OK 73145-5000 OR

CALL US IN THE GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT 734-3078.

LT COL JERRY A. WRUCHA
STAFF

COMMANDER

MR WHITIE BLANSHAN	CIVILIAN PAO/EDITOR
MAJ JEFF THOMPSON	RESERVE PAO/ASSOC. EDITOR
TSgt RICH CURRY	NCOIC/REPORTER
SSgt CATHY BENEDICT	REPORTER
SRA JEANETTE DEATHERAGE	ADMIN/REPORTER

HOW DOES A SOVIET ARMY PRIVATE , DRAFTED FOR TWO YEARS, START HIS DAY?

The shrill sound of the junior sergeant's whistle pierces the early morning quiet, rousing 18-year-old Private Ivan Grechko out of a deep sleep. It's exactly 0650 as the sergeant marches through the crowded barracks shouting obscenities. Ivan scrambles out of his sack and into his uniform. It's not wise to be late for early morning muster.

All Soviet men take preinduction military training and serve in the armed forces. And, since Soviet generals have been quoted saying women are not needed in the military, that may explain why only 10,000 Soviet women serve on active duty; mostly in clerical and health fields.

Only 90 percent of Soviet men ever serve in their armed forces. Those who don't serve have educational exemption, family hardship or "know someone".

A Soviet military conscript is a lot more militarized than his American counterpart. And, in some ways, a lot more disciplined. After all, he's been programmed for a long time.

Soviet military patriotic education begins early - at six or seven years of age. Communist party organizations such as the Young Pioneers and Komsomol (Young Communist League) conduct training and summer exercises with a strong emphasis on developing military skills.

But the primary way preinduction training requirements are met is through 140 hours of mandatory training for 16 to 18-year-olds. This includes basic military skills, such as drill and marksman-

ship, which takes place over a two-year period, usually in school. School dropouts take their training where they work. Wherever they get it, this training could be likened to what you went through in basic or boot camp; but the Soviets use the term "basic training" to cover the early phases of training when a person reports to his first operational unit.

At 17, the Soviet man reports to his local draft office. He is given a physical examination and later appears before a board which determines what military training he has had, what his political activity has been and what skills he possesses. Still later, another board meets to decide who gets in and who stays out.

Those who are accepted are assigned to one of the five branches of the armed forces: Strategic, Rocket Forces, Soviet Army, Air Defense Forces, Soviet Air Force and the Navy.

Those who have the best skills are usually assigned to the elite units, and personal preferences usually don't count for much.

At age 18, the recruit goes on active duty.

There isn't a centralized basic training program in the Soviet Union. Most inductees are shipped directly to the unit they will serve in during their entire tour.

Before inductees report to their unit, they're pretty sure of what they're getting into: A very structured lifestyle with little or no free time.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

HOW DOES A SOVIET ARMY PRIVATE , DRAFTED FOR TWO YEARS, START HIS DAY?

The first week is especially intense, with physical conditioning and field training. And like everybody from generals on down, they spend about five hours a week listening to the political officer preach the party line.

Initial training usually lasts about three months. During the fourth week, he is sworn into the armed forces. Each soldier reads the oath of enlistment aloud in front of his comrades.

"If I should break this my solemn oath, then let me suffer the severe penalties of Soviet law and the general detestation and contempt of all workers" is the last line in the oath.

Even after initial basic training, a recruit's life doesn't change much. The average Soviet G.I. starts his day early and ends late. It's filled with organized drill, sports, physical conditioning, political lectures and, depending on the time of year, planting or harvesting local crops. Several times a week, the unit participates in very realistic combat exercises.

The Soviets place a lot of emphasis on physical conditioning. Before the end of the first year of training, all military people must pass tests consisting of pulling up and crossing the parallel bars, the 100-meter run, the 1- or 3-kilometer cross-country run, the 100-meter free-style swim and the 10-kilometer ski race or 6-kilometer forced march.

The Soviet soldier spends a lot of time cleaning his weapon. Soviets are known to keep their weapons very clean. But you can't say the same for the soldiers themselves.

Soviet society doesn't place as much importance on personal hygiene as Americans do. Soviet soldiers bathe once every two days, if that often. And wherever the conscript is assigned, there's probably a shortage of hot water.

Most of the barracks are open bay and sleep as many as 100 men. Bunks are stacked two, and sometimes three high, with as little as eight inches between stacks. That's about the same space as in your average coffin. There are common areas for personal hygiene.

A Soviet base usually has a library filled with officially approved books and a movie theater (open only on weekends), where you can be sure Western films aren't shown. Bases sometimes have a gymnasium and service club.

There isn't much free time. Nearly every minute of a serviceman's time is "organized". The Soviets have repeatedly said leisure time is often frittered away, so it needs to be directed to activities useful to the state and Communist Party. It may include sports competitions or contests to see how fast a weapon can be disassembled. Even when conscripts go out to see the sights, they go in groups and are accompanied by an officer.

If a few servicemen are musically inclined, they might be allowed to sing; but the songs are strictly censored by the political officer. Most of a recruit's free time is spent listening to the political officer.

Most soldiers don't leave their duty assignment during their entire tour. A very small percentage of them are granted 10 days leave as a
(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

HOW DOES A SOVIET ARMY PRIVATE DRAFTED FOR TWO YEARS, START HIS DAY?

reward for exceptional performance during a 2-year tour; up to 20-days while on a 3-year hitch.

When it comes to chowing down, Soviet G.I.'s are allowed about 4,100 calories a day. Breakfast consists of something like cream of wheat, tea, and bread. They usually eat soup for lunch and probably have potatoes and dried fish for dinner. There is very little meat.

They have messing facilities, but no civilian cooks. The soldiers do the cooking. Many of the messes rely on wood-burning stoves. It's not unusual for the troops to grow their own vegetables or raise chickens and livestock to supplement their diets.

Pay in the Soviet armed forces is almost nothing. Food, housing and other needs are provided, but conscripts only get about \$10 a month, most of which goes for cigarettes. Pay and privileges increase for careerists.

What about the wife and kids? Forget them for the whole tour. Soviet G.I.'s who reenlist do get some consideration for their families though, even housing assistance.

But less than five percent of conscripts make the military a career. In the Army, for example, nearly 77 percent of the soldiers are first-termers. Conscripts also get a lot of hazing from career NCO's. Since uniforms are at a premium, it's not unusual for an NCO to demand a new conscript turn over the uniform he was issued. If he resists, he is taken out "behind the barn" and taught the rules of the game.

And no recruit is going to report the incident. The officers turn their heads to that kind of abuse. They think it's necessary for good order and discipline.

Military life doesn't end after a conscript's tour of active duty is over. Everyone serves in the reserves until age 50. Occasionally, they are called up for refresher training.

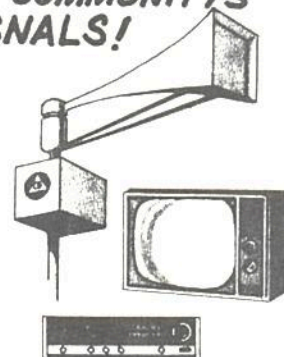
So, how does Private Grechko stack up as a fighting man? There are stories about highly centralized control, inability to make decisions at lower levels and rampant alcoholism. But Ivan is no pushover. He believes he's better than his American counterpart and thinks he would come out ahead in battle. As one observer put it, "Ivan isn't 10 feet tall, but he's not a drunken midget either."

DID YOU KNOW - ?

THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN LEARN TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS?

AMONG THEM, YOU SHOULD
**KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY'S
WARNING SIGNALS!**

A STEADY 3-TO 5-MINUTE BLAST ON OUTDOOR SIRENS, WHISTLES, HORNS, OR OTHER DEVICES MEANS TURN ON YOUR RADIO OR TELEVISION FOR EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS



MORE FACTS? CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CIVIL DEFENSE

(continued from page 1)

PATRIOT BLAZER DEEMED SUCCESS

"This was probably the best training we could give the reservists," said TSgt. Howard Aliff, 507th CAMS. "Normally we come in for a weekend and then turn around and leave for another three or four weeks. This time, we did it all. We worked long hours and it was up to us to get the planes ready and off the ground. That is what these deployments are all about. Getting the reservists to experience what they are taught--real life situations--this is what it is all about--war readiness."

Realism was another 'hot' topic of discussion. "The realism during the exercises was quite good," said Sgt. Stephanie Callow, 507th HQ Sq,. "I thought killing (simulated)

off some of the major players (commanders) was a great idea. It gave the others the chance to experience the 'real' life of war.

Maj. Donald Shaw, 507th HQ Sq, also thought the realism was good. "I was an on-scene commander for the first time and had to learn under pressure. Experience under fire so to speak. I only wish that the exercises lasted a little longer."

"We still have a lot of work to do in preparing for the ORI," added Lieutenant Lane. "But, with the right attitude and support, we'll learn to be survivors. That's what it's all about."

SUMMER CAMP FINDS THE BEEF

The 507th Civil Engineering Squadron's Prime BEEF (Base Emergency Engineering Force) Team split their annual tour--home at Tinker AFB and partly at Eglin AFB, Florida. Most 507th CES Members spent much of their time improving Tinker AFB. They prepared the area next to the Operations building for future construction; becoming the first of four Prime BEEF teams who will work on this building during the following months. The Prime BEEF team also poured concrete slab at building 1022 on Patrol Road. Some members did a minor plumbing job in the office of the base commander; another group changed filters in building 2280. According to SSgt Lynda D. Coley, this was the first time the filters had been changed since construction of the building. The job only sounds simple! There are 300 filters in six separate units in the ceiling of the high bays. Other members of the Prime BEEF team integrated with Base Civil Engineering, getting valuable hands-on experience in their specialties.

Five days of the annual tour were spent at Eglin AFB, Florida, on Rapid Runway Repair (RRR). Living in tents under simulated war-time conditions, the 507th CES was timed while repairing a section of abandoned runway purposely blown-up for this wartime training.

Not all 507th CES members took the hardship training. Unit firefighters went to Torrejon, Spain for their annual tour, and the Prime RIBS (cooks) team supported RRR training on mandays and spent their annual tour supporting the group's deployment to Gulfport, Mississippi.



Members of the 507th Prime Beef Team preparing the ground next to the OPS Building for construction of a warehouse to be built on the site.

WEINBERGER TELLS REST OF STORY

Newspapers that withhold facts from the American public paint a poor picture of the Department of Defense, according to the Department's top civilian.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, in a letter to the Washington Post, wrote, "The public needs to know all the facts."

A recent Post editorial headlined "A Real Steal" criticized an Air Force purchase of pliers from Boeing and prompted the reply from Secretary Weinberger.

"We agree that \$1,500, or even \$80, is too much to pay for a pair of pliers--that's why we corrected the problem," he wrote.

"These individual 'Horror Stories' must be put in perspective and should not be extrapolated to indict the entire defense acquisition process," he continued.

"The only 'steal' here," he emphasized, "is in withholding all the facts from the American Public."

"The Secretary said that separate listings of management support and hardware costs are now used to spot pricing abuses.

ACTION LINE

QUES: The new GI Bill is only for three years. What if going to college part time takes me longer?

ANS: First, you have three years to get started in the new GI Bill program. Once you've enrolled, you have up to 10 years to complete your degree. Second, the maximum benefit period, 36 months, is based on being a full time student. A student going to school 3/4 time has a 48 month benefit period and a 1/2 time student has 72 months (6 years) of benefits.

"While we were changing our policy that led to this exceptional problem with Boeing," he wrote, "We were buying more than 3,500 of the same type of pliers for \$3.10 each."

A more balanced commentary, the Secretary wrote, would have pointed out that "Virtually every 'Horror Story' has turned out to be an isolated, infrequent occurrence among our more than 15 million yearly purchases.

He cited several other instances in which readers were not told all the facts:

"While the Defense Department did buy a diode for \$110, we also bought 122,429 for 4 cents each the same year and received a refund for the overpriced diode," he wrote.

"While we bought a claw hammer for \$435, we also bought 87,244 hammers of various types for \$6 to \$8 each the same year and received a refund for the overpriced hammers."

He continued, "In addition, the purchase of a \$9,600 allen wrench was stopped as a result of our audit--and we pay less than \$10 apiece for toilet seats."

IT'S FLU SHOT TIME

"The influenza vaccine is in," said MSgt. Carol Abberton, NCOIC Medical Administration. The flu shots will be given between 1300 hrs. and 1700 hrs. Saturday in the CAMS break room. This is a mandatory inoculation, so bring your shot record and the shot card (issued by your unit), so that they can be properly annotated and the computer product used for tracking delinquent personnel can be properly updated.

SEAT BELT USE: FACTS VS MYTHS

by TSgt Steve Ingram
HQ ATC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFRNS) -- Half of the people killed on U.S. highways last year would be alive today if they had worn their seat belts. That's 15,000 lives. But despite this evidence, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that less than 15 percent of all drivers buckle up.

What reasons do people have for not wearing seat belts? Are they based on facts? The NHTSA provides insight to four popular myths concerning the use of seat belts.

- **MYTH #1:** "I don't need seat belts because I'm a really good driver."

- **FACT:** There's no way to protect yourself against someone else's poor judgment and bad driving. Especially drunk drivers.

- **MYTH # 2:** "I don't want to be trapped in a seat belt. It's better to be thrown out in an accident."

- **FACT:** Being thrown out is 25 times more dangerous. If you're wearing your seat belt, you're far more likely to be conscious after an accident and alert enough to get yourself to safety.

- **MYTH #3:** "I just don't believe it will ever happen to me."

- **FACT:** Statistically, every one of us can expect to be in a crash once every 10 years. For one out of 20 of us, it'll be a serious crash. For one out of every 60 born today, it will be fatal.

- **MYTH #4:** "Well, I only need to wear them when I have to go on long trips or at high speeds."

- **FACT:** Eighty percent of deaths or serious injuries occur in cars traveling under 40 miles per hour and 75 percent of deaths or injuries occur less than 25 miles from home.

UTA SCHEDULE

14 - 15 SEP

PROPOSED FY 86

19 - 20 OCT;	16 - 17 NOV;
07 - 08 DEC;	11 - 12 JAN;
03 - 09 FEB;	08 - 09 MAR;
12 - 13 APR;	03 - 04 MAY;
07 - 08 JUN;	12 - 13 JUL;
23 - 24 AUG;	20 - 21 SEP;

507 TFG/PA
TINKER AFB OK 73145-5000
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



PRESORTED

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USAF
PERMIT No. G-1

\$140 FULL TIME
\$105 3/4 TIME
\$70 1/2 TIME



THE NEW GI BILL!
FOR MORE INFO CALL

OKC (405) 734-5331
TULSA (918) 582-5968