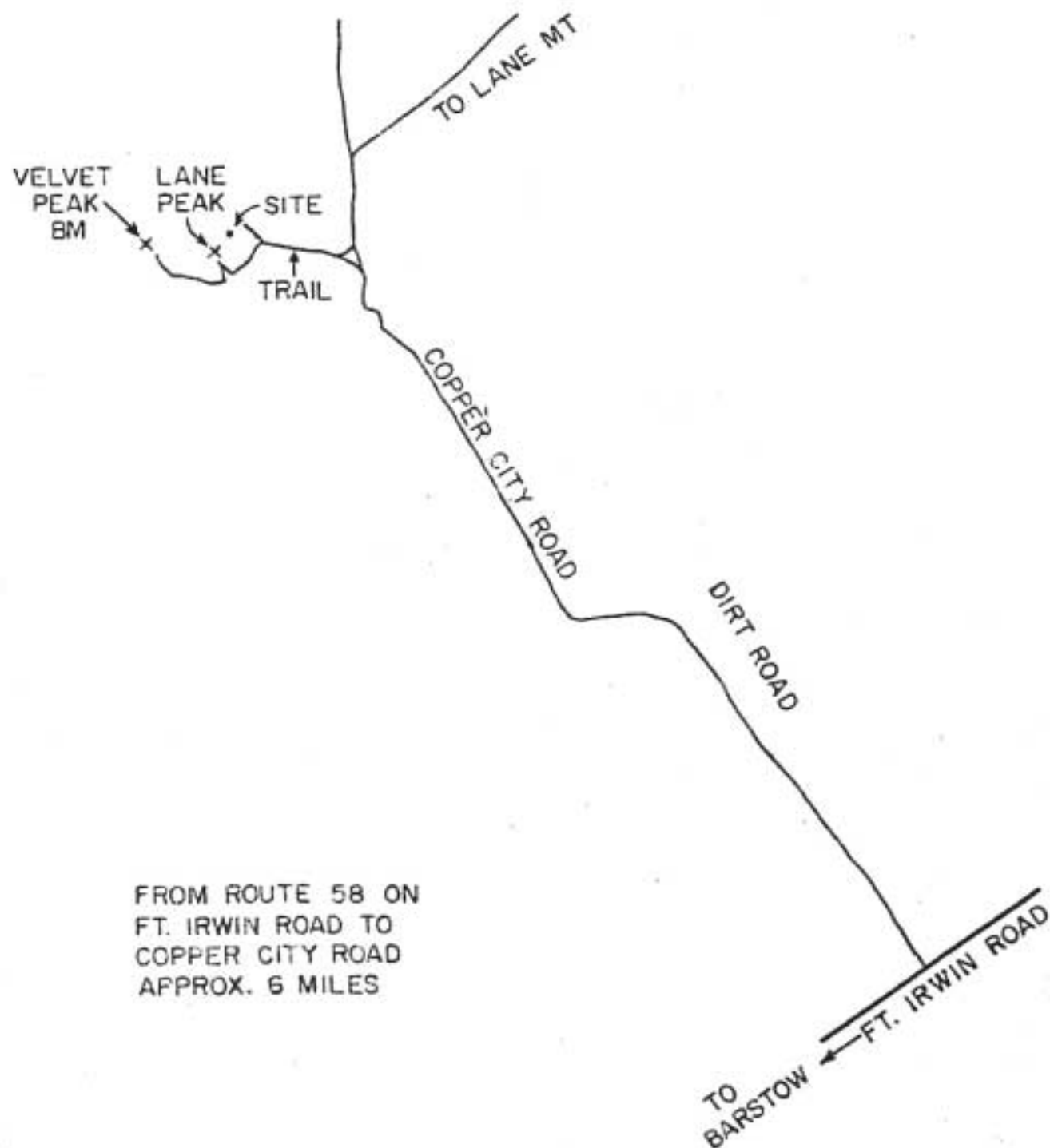


BRAVE SHIELD XVII

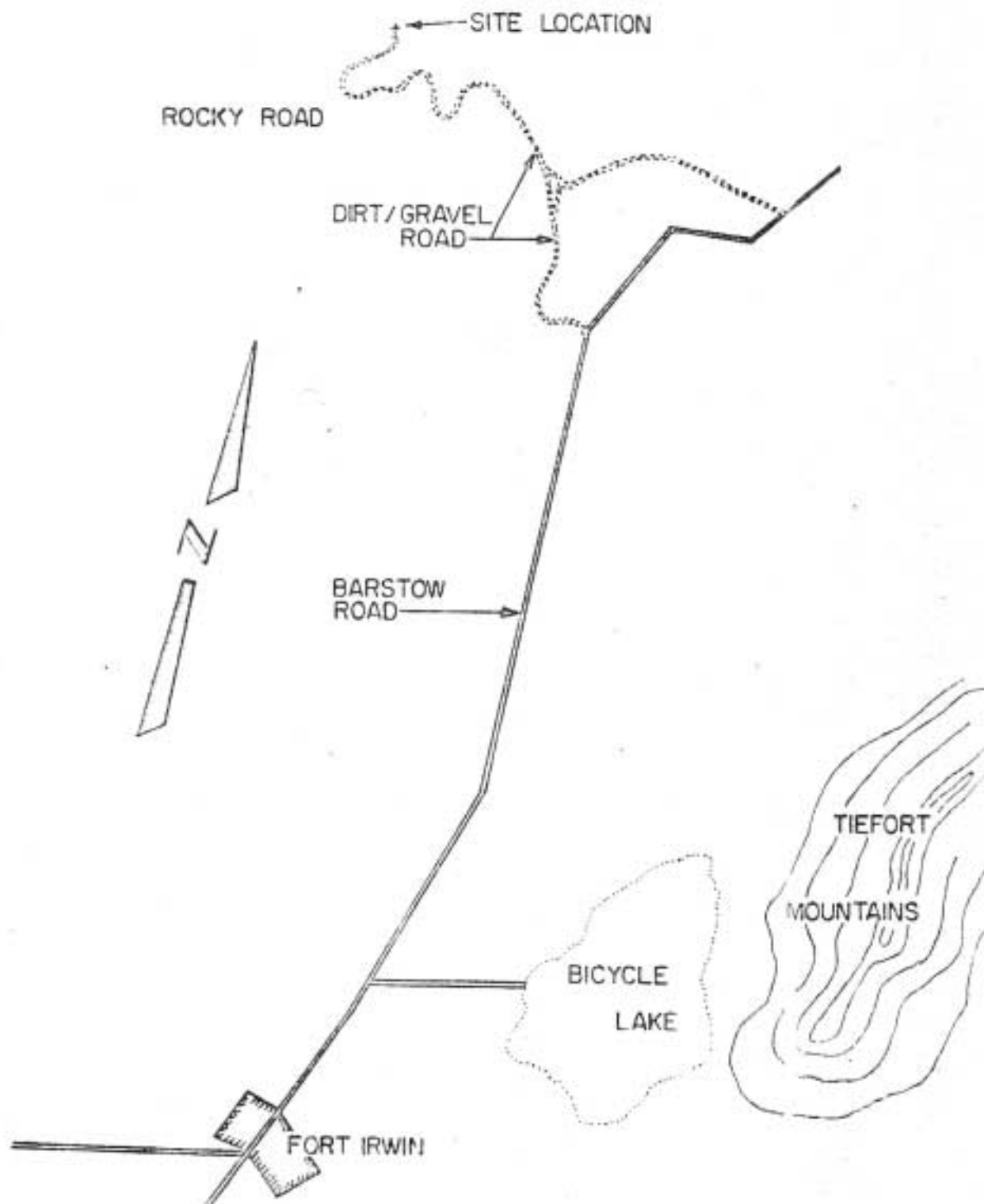


SITE ACCESS/LOCATION
LOWER LANE PEAK
& VELVET PEAK
BARSTOW, CA



FROM ROUTE 58 ON
FT. IRWIN ROAD TO
COPPER CITY ROAD
APPROX. 6 MILES

SITE ACCESS / LOCATION
IRWIN RELAY
FORT IRWIN, CALIFORNIA



AUGUST 1978



Featuring...

EYES OF SPECTRE



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AFRES

GUARD COMMUNICATES WELL

by Gerald H. Smith
Staff Writer

When the commander of a major command says he couldn't operate without the Air National Guard, all Air Guardsmen have to feel proud and fulfilled.

That is exactly what Maj. Gen. Robert E. Sadler, commander of Air Force Communications Service, has been telling everybody in recent speeches across the nation.

"Seventy-five per cent of my wartime communications capability is in eight ANG combat communications groups. We couldn't get through an Active Duty year without them," said General Sadler. "Last year for example, ANG combat communications groups deployed over 1,400 persons in support of Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises. . . . The key thing is that it was done superbly—as good as, if not better than, the Active force."

One example of this Air National Guard capability being used in a JCS exercise was this spring in the Mojave Desert, Ft. Irwin, Calif., during Brave Shield XVII.

The exercise was conducted on 642,000 acres, about 38 miles northeast of Barstow, Calif. It involved 23,000 Reserve and Active Duty people from 14 bases in 11 states.

Nellis AFB formed the hub of a sprawling communications net, with relay stations atop Table Mountain, Erwin Relay, Ft. Erwin and Lane Peak. Snows came on one of the first nights. Temperatures varied from a low of 25 degrees to a high of 95 degrees. Sand and wind were constantly present.

According to Capt. Henry Kaplan, 254th Combat Communications Gp., Tex., the ANG provided almost 75 per cent of all the Air Force communications assets in Brave Shield XVII using elements of the 162nd CCG from California, the 252nd CCG from Washington and Oregon, the 254th CCG from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and the 281st CCG from Rhode Island.

To link the 600-mile-long communications network of relay and reception sites spread throughout the California-Nevada desert areas, the 254th deployed 26 commu-



nications-electronics packages to three major operating locations and seven remote mountain sites using 200 people.

The communications packages provided radio, teletype, telephone, microwave and other types of communications support carrying command and control, logistics and air traffic control messages.

Said Captain Kaplan, "The Air Guard is no longer a second-string back-up force, but is a first-line combat ready organization, ready to deploy worldwide within 48 to 72 hours. Combat communicators such as those in the 254th CCG provide an increasingly larger portion of the communications necessary to support Air Force deployments."

The 252nd CCG, stationed at Camp Murray near Tacoma, Wash., is the largest communications unit in the

United States. It moved five convoys with over 200 Guardsmen to four sites in the area. Often, roads had to be leveled to enable the 252nd's heavy equipment and huge antennas to be positioned on high points in rugged terrain.

The first few days of the exercise proved critical for the 252nd when a snowstorm rendered a microwave system on a mountain peak inoperative, causing the 252nd's digital subscriber terminal equipment to go down. It was tied to lines belonging to four commercial telephone companies and the Nellis commercial system. However, repairs were quickly made, and the exercise continued on schedule.

"That was really our only serious problem. During the entire exercise, our reliability rate was 98.7 per cent, in one of the largest communications networks we have ever set up," said Colonel Towne, 252nd CCG commander.

When General Sadler visited the exercise area he again extolled the virtues of the Guardsmen by saying, "I'm very impressed with the capability and performance of our Air National Guard combat communications units. Three-fourths of our communications capability on this exercise is in the Guard."

Even more interesting and perhaps just as revealing about the degree to which the Air Guard plays a role in the nation's defense communications is that 21,000 Air Guardsmen are involved in communications and electronics.

According to Mr. Joseph C. Ciarcia, deputy chief of Communications and Electronics for the ANG, that means 20 per cent of all Air Guardsmen are involved in communications and electronics.

They are scattered from Alaska to Puerto Rico, and from Delaware to Hawaii. They are found in 78 communications support flights which are located on the bases of their parent flying units. Of the two special communications squadrons, the 280th at Maxwell AFB, Ala. works with an Active Duty communications unit at Maxwell. The other is the 299th at Salt Lake City, Utah. It provides around-the-clock range and weapons control for the Hill-Dugway-

Wendover ranges in Utah and Nevada with an eight year perfect flight safety record. Also, the only combat communications available to PACAF is provided by the 201st Combat Communications Support Gp. in Hawaii.

Ciarcia says that today, Air Force communications and electronics equipment programming includes the Air National Guard at all times.

Maj. Gen. John T. Guice, director, Air National Guard, stated, "Our tactical air control groups can now deploy three complete tactical air control systems and two tactical air base weather C & E systems. Our combat communications units are equipped with modern equipment, and our radar units are being equipped concurrently with the Active units receiving the new three-dimensional radar."

There also are 19 electronics and installation squadrons providing engineering and installation support in the total of 50,000 mandays each year at bases around the world.

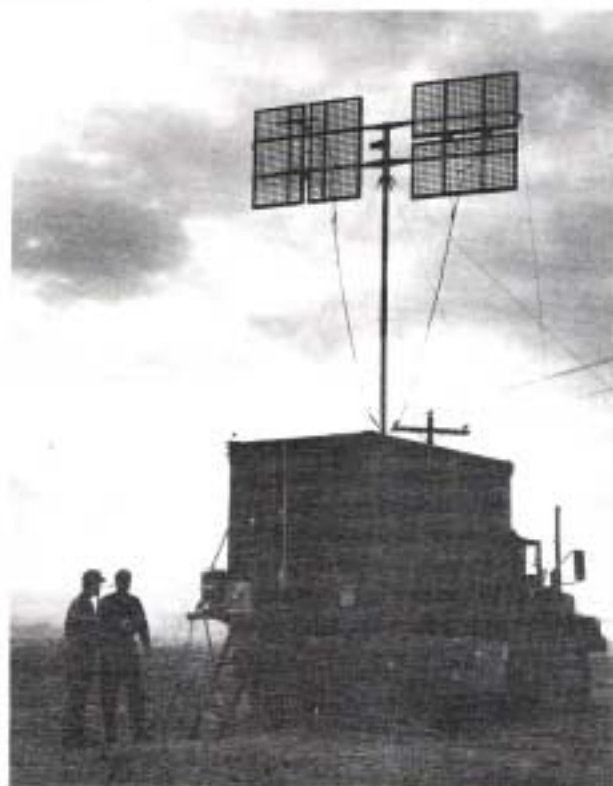
General Sadler says these E & I squadrons provide him with 50 per cent of his command's engineering and installations capability. "Today they accomplish one out of every nine hours of my engineering and installation work. During the last three years they have averaged over 48,000 mandays of work each year. Without that effort, I would have needed over 290 people to have accomplished the same work load. So, in our business they are not just providing a wartime capability, they are replacing us in peacetime."

But even better than that, according to General Sadler, is the cost effectiveness of the installation and engineering Air Guardsmen. Although it costs \$9 million a year to have this ready force of Guardsmen, they return \$5 million a year in constructive work. That is, they pay back 56 cents of every dollar spent for having a wartime force in reserve.

Summing up his respect for the Air Guard communicators, General Sadler said, "No matter how you look at it, they are a good deal."

Photos by Capt. Henry Kaplan

ABOVE LEFT: Track 97 tropospheric scatter terminal antennas atop Table Mountain provide an appropriate background for (LEFT) Maj. Gen. Robert E. Sadler, comdr., Air Force Communications Service, as he visits the command post of the 252nd Combat Communications Gp., accompanied by Col. Milton Towne, comdr., 252nd CCGp. **CENTER:** This TRC-61 wide band radio operated around the clock by members of the 254th CCGp., permitted field commanders to have direct access to national command authorities during Brave Shield XVII. **BELOW:** Lt. Col. Fred Eddens, comdr., 255 CCSq., discusses duty rosters with MSgt. George Kassis, 255th CCSq., and A1C Lisa Steel, 254th CCSq., in the orderly room tent of the cantonment area.





19 April 1978

Colonel Milton H. Towne
Commander
252 Combat Communications Group
Camp Murray, WA 98430

Dear Colonel Towne

I was really impressed with the job the 252nd and its units from Washington and Oregon were doing at Brave Shield XVII. Everyone looked sharp and was obviously highly motivated to provide the best support possible. This was the Air Guard's opportunity to stand-up and shine - the 252nd sure didn't miss it. Please pass along to all my thanks and best wishes for continued success to all your troops.

Warm regards,

ROBERT E. SADLER
Major General, USAF



RCRC

UNITED STATES READINESS COMMAND
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA, 33608
Office of Reserve Components Advisor

4 May 1978

Colonel Milton H. Towne
Commander
252 Combat Communications Group (ANG)
Camp Murray, Tacoma, WA 98430

Dear Colonel Towne:

Upon the successful completion of Joint Readiness Exercise BRAVE SHIELD 17, I would like to express my appreciation for the outstanding performance of the 252 Combat Communications Group.

The professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm displayed by your unit contributed greatly to the success of BRAVE SHIELD 17 and was noted by those senior officers visiting and participating in the exercise. It certainly made me proud to be a member of the Total Force team. For your information, the Air Reserve Force constituted 32.38% of the total Air Force in the exercise.

The Commander in Chief, United States Readiness Command, is forwarding, under separate cover, Certificate(s) of Appreciation.

I would appreciate a copy of your After Action Report for my files. Often, these reports contain data and information that would benefit future Air Reserve Force participants in our exercises.

Warm regards,

WILLIAM G. ENMON
Colonel, USAF
Reserve Component Advisor

Cy to: TAG, Washington
National Guard

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 365TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (TAC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, IDAHO 83648

RECEIVED

MAY - 4 1978

GTAG AIR DT



2 MAY 1978

Colonel Donald E. Richards
Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Washington
Camp Murray, Tacoma, Washington 98430

Dear Colonel Richards

During the recently completed Joint Readiness Exercise Brave Shield XVII, I had the opportunity of serving as the Opposition Air Force Commander. As you know, the 252d Combat Communications Group, Washington Air National Guard, had the responsibility of providing the communications support for HQ OPFAIR at Nellis AFB, NV.

The truly outstanding support provided by the 252 CMBTCG contributed significantly to the overall success of the OPFAIR operation, both during the E-3A Demonstration and Field Training Exercise phases of Brave Shield XVII. I was very pleased with the responsive and timely management of programmed voice, radio, and record communications facilities. In addition, the 252 CMBTCG provided the tactical multichannel wideband connectively between HQ OPFAIR and the Opposition Direct Air Support Center (DASC) at Ft Irwin, California. This wideband link had a sustained reliability of over 99 percent throughout the exercise.

Please convey my personal appreciation to the 252 CMBTCG Team Chief, Colonel Benjamin W. Faber, and all the members of the 252 CMBTCG for their highly professional communications support to Opposition Air Forces during Brave Shield XVII. I look forward to working with the 252d again.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John L. Pickitt", is written over the typed name.

JOHN L. PICKITT, Colonel, USAF
Opposition Air Forces Commander

1st Ind to Dept of AF (Col Pickett) ltr dtd 2 May 78

OTAG/AA

5 May 1978

TO: 252 CmbtCG/CC

1. I am very happy and proud to indorse Colonel Pickett's letter to you and the members of the 252 CmbtCG.
2. I believe, without a doubt, the 252 CmbtCG is the best manned, best trained and best performing Combat Communications Group in the total Air Force/Air National Guard structure.
3. Please extend my thanks to Colonel Faber, as well as each and every member of each unit of your Group, for the dedication and professionalism they have displayed over the past year. The great success of the Brave Shield XVII exercise is proof that the Air National Guard is truly a ready reserve force.



DONALD E. RICHARDS
Colonel WA ANG
Assistant Adjutant General, Air

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
DETACHMENT 12, TAC COMM AREA (AFCS)
BERGSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS 78743

8807 El Rey Blvd
Austin, TX 78737
03 May 1978

Colonel Milton H. Towne
Commander, 252 Combat Communications Group
Camp Murray
Tacoma, Washington 98430

Dear Colonel Towne:

Now that we've all returned from Brave Shield 17 and rested a bit, I would like to take a few minutes and convey some words of personal thanks and appreciation to you and all members of the 252 CMBTCG involved in providing outstanding communications support for the Opposition Air Forces.

As you know, Brave Shield 17 was my first chance to work directly with the 252nd, and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity. I was impressed from the beginning-- i. e. during the planning stages. Your personnel were highly interested, motivated and aggressive in getting the task defined and accomplished. I really appreciated your hosting the Opposition Communications Workshop at Camp Murray in February. This meeting proved to be highly effective and laid the framework for all follow-on opposition force communications planning.

The most pleasant experience I encountered, however, was actually working with the personnel of the 252nd during the employment phase. I found all personnel--operations, maintenance, power production and NCMO -- highly qualified and professional. On many occasions, too numerous to reiterate, I obtained fantastic support from your personnel in resolving OPPAIR communications problems. I think the best way of summing it up is to say that Colonel Pickitt was very satisfied with the OPPAIR communications support.

Although all of the personnel of the 252 CMBTCG provided outstanding support, please pass along my sincere extra special thanks to Colonel Wayne Faber; Lt Cols Jim Miller and George Tupper; Majors Gene Katke, Keith Hallmark, Dick Farmer, Harold Raymond and Dave Keller; and Captains Mike Reynolds, Tom Holland, Bob Miller and George Sample; and Sergeants Albertson, Gillick, Steiner, Buxton, Schwisow, Bostock, Norby, Rivera, Frazer, Volhard, G. Smith, J. Smith, Wilbur, Boxum, Shelton and Norberg.

Because I'll be leaving PCS for Maxwell AFB in July, I am not sure when or if I'll have the chance to work again with the 252 CMBTCG. I certainly hope so! The pleasure was mine.

Thanks again,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob".

ROBERT G. GRAY
Major, USAF



UNITED STATES READINESS COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33608

RCDC

18 May 1978

SUBJECT: Certificates - BRAVE SHIELD 17

The Adjutant General
Oregon National Guard
2150 Fairgrounds Road NE
Salem, OR 97303

1. The following units of your command participated in the United States Readiness Command Joint Readiness Exercise BRAVE SHIELD 17:

244th Combat Communications Squadron
244th Combat Communications Flight
82d Support Center (RAO)
1042d Military Intelligence Company (Aerial Surveillance) (-)

2. Their professional performance and dedication contributed greatly to the success of BRAVE SHIELD 17. It is a pleasure to forward the inclosed certificates for presentation to these units.

3. Please extend my congratulations for a job well done. Their performance strengthens the Total Force policy.

4 Incls
Certificates

JOHN J. BURNS
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Commander in Chief



UNITED STATES READINESS COMMAND JOINT READINESS CERTIFICATE

USREDCOM SALUTES THE

244TH COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

FOR ITS JOINT COMBAT SKILLS AS DISPLAYED ON

JOINT READINESS EXERCISE BRAVE SHIELD 17 1978

SIGNED THIS DAY OF IN THE YEAR

NINETEEN HUNDRED

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF
USREDCOM

GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY
COMMANDER IN CHIEF
USREDCOM

SGS (18 May 78) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Certificates - BRAVE SHIELD 17

Military Department, State of Oregon, Salem, OR 97303 28 June 1978

THRU: Commander, Oregon ANG, PIAP, Portland, OR 97218

TO: Commander, 244th Combat Comm Sq, PIAP, Portland, OR 97218

It is a distinct pleasure to forward correspondence of this nature. The assistance you rendered to the success of BRAVE SHIELD 17 enhances the prestige of the Oregon National Guard and those who serve in it. I add my personal congratulations for a job well done.



RICHARD A. MILLER
Major General
The Adjutant General

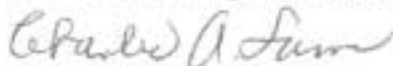
2nd Ind

8 July 1978

Hq OreANG/CC

TO: 244 CMBTCS

I am very pleased to add my comments to those expressed by Lieutenant General John J. Burns, Deputy Commander in Chief, US Readiness Command. Once again your unit has demonstrated superior qualities of mission effectiveness, equal to, and in some cases much better than our partners in the total force. Please extend my congratulations to the men and women of your fine organization for your most noteworthy achievement.



CHARLES A. SAMS, Colonel, OreANG
Chief of Staff, OreANG

Brave Shield 17

Air Guard at the ready

Col. Milt Towne was out of town last month.

Towne, a resident of the Five Mile Lake area, and several other Federal Way-Des Moines residents were participating in "Brave Shield 17", a mock war involving 23,000 active, reserve and national guard forces from all branches of the Armed Services.

The "war" took place in a 45,000 square mile area of the Mojave Desert in Southern California and Southwestern Nevada.

The maneuvers were a joint exercise designed by the military to train and evaluate the readiness of selected units operating in a desert environment.

Towne is the commander of the 252nd Combat Communications Group of the Washington Air National Guard. His job was to provide communications support for the opposition forces — the enemy — in the maneuvers.

The operation was a large one, involving units from all sections of the country. The flight line at Nellis Air Force Base outside of Las Vegas had nearly every type of air craft in the Air Force inventory except the F-16.

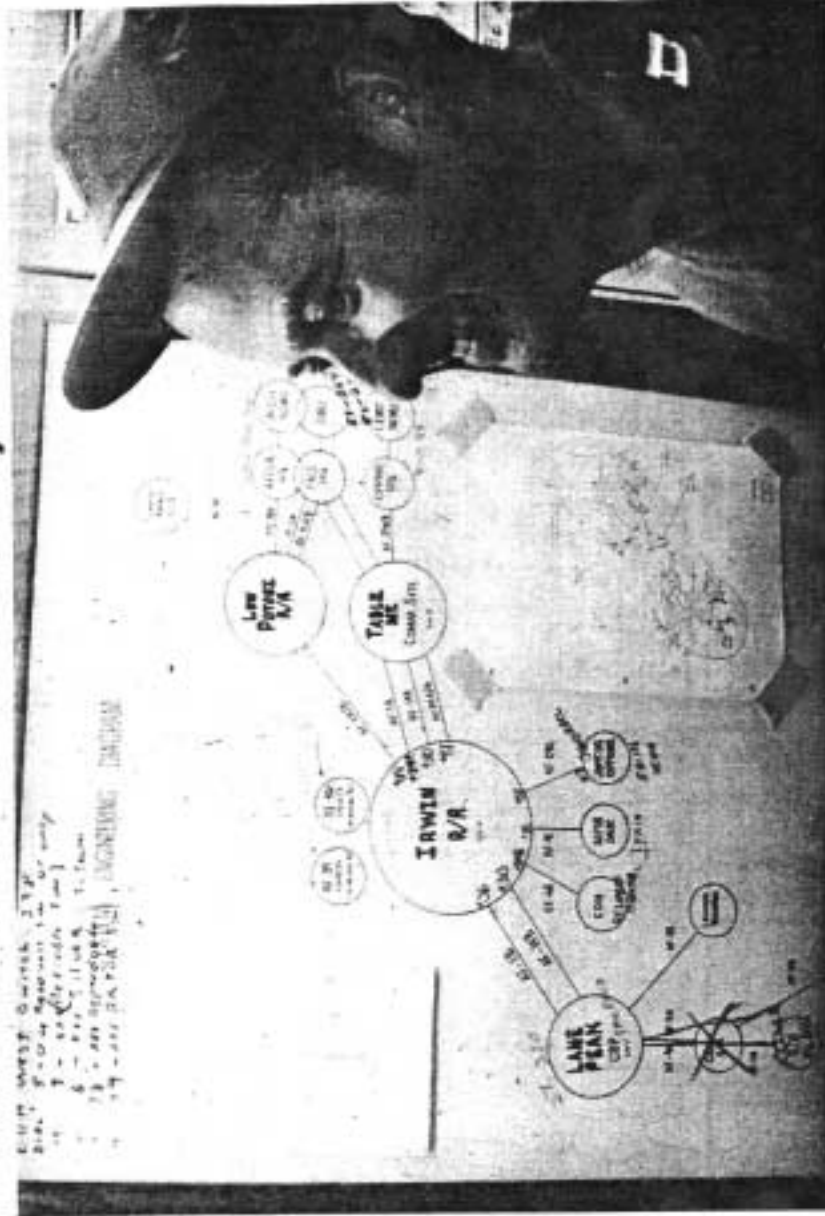
THE COMMUNICATIONS operation was

equally elaborate, with a 60 vehicle convoy of communications equipment making the 1,400 mile trip.

"Without communications nobody does anything," Towne said. More than 300 reservists from Washington and Oregon participated in the exercise. The reservists were in the field for 16 days, working shifts of 12 hours on and 12 hours off.

Some of the living conditions were severe. At Fort Erwin Relay, a major communications transfer station, 96 personnel were housed in 15 tents. The relay was perched in the barren hills of Southeastern California. The Fort Erwin Relay group endured high winds, two inches of snow and 85 degree heat. One of those was Albert Pete of Federal Way. "You should try putting up one of these tents in a 50 mile an hour wind," he said.

They weren't all men at the Irwin outpost. Women are becoming more of a factor in the reserve force, according to Towne. Kim Dixon, of Tacoma for example, was the medic at Irwin. She received her training at Wichita and in civilian life is a case worker for the IRS.



THE COMMUNICATIONS network for the mock war was complex as the engineering

TOWNE IS ONE who is tough—you have to offer career training," he said. "But there are two sides to the coin. The people here are motivated—they don't have to be here. And the re-enlistment rate is improving, because they are getting good training."

The former Panther Lake Elementary principal said that career trainings has improved the recruiting power of the guard and has brought more women into the program.

"In a no draft environment, recruiting

diagram shows. Capt. Dennis Jenkins was assigned to the Irwin relay.

"We can set up a communications network state wide within two days of an emergency," he said. "We have an earthquake plan, we get involved in community action, and provide emergency relief."

The Brave Shield 17 maneuvers were expensive. But, Towne notes, the reserves comprise 14 percent of the Defense Department, but only two percent of the defense budget, and "that's a helluva savings."

Towne was principal at Panther Lake for three years before becoming a full time guard member in 1971. His wife is a teacher at Nautlius Elementary.

text by Jim Shahan

photos by Chris

Shahan

by Allan R. Scholin

Realistic Training – As Seen in BRAVE SHIELD XVII – Is a Key Not Only to Combat Readiness, but to recruiting and retention as well.

When the United States Readiness Command conducted the 17th in its continuing series of "Brave Shield" joint readiness training exercises in California's Mojave Desert during April of this year, Guard and Reserve forces accounted for 24 per cent of the total exercise force.

Even if many of the troops involved did share their tents and C-rations with sand, scorpions, rattlesnakes and chilling winds, most seemed to take it in stride and appeared to be impressed that the desert environment provided an unusual backdrop for training.

More than 4,400 of the 25,500 participants in Brave Shield 17 came from the Army National Guard (2,286) and the Air National Guard (2,143) — the largest participation of Guard personnel in any USREDCOM exercise since before the Vietnam buildup.

First Lieutenant Roger Moseley, acting commander of Fresno's 2668th Transportation Company, California ARNG, said: "This is the first time since I've been in the company that our annual field training hasn't been held in summer. It's a welcome change. Working with the active Army gives us a chance to compare our performance and our readiness with theirs. And from what I've seen here, we can hold our own anytime."

Moseley seemed to express the sentiments of most Guardsmen that operating as part of an entire cross-section of a joint air-ground combat force, opposing similarly constituted forces, lends considerable spice to field training, as well as added incentive to do a good job in comparison with the active force.

The consensus is that the Guard did well.

"I've heard nothing but compliments on Guard and Reserve units in the exercise," said Lieutenant General J. J. Burns, USAF, deputy commander in chief of USREDCOM, who directed the exercise.

"These comments came not only from commanders of major units in

Allan R. Scholin, a freelance writer, is based in Tampa, FL. He is a former ANG officer and spent a number of years on the information staff of USREDCOM at MacDill AFB.

RESERVATION

the opposing forces, but also from our exercise controllers and evaluators. They played by the rules, and did a great job."

USREDCOM is limited to four joint training exercises a year, totaling fewer than 100,000 participants. Although the likelihood of the average Guard unit being picked to take part in a joint readiness exercise may be small, the Guard shares with the active force the considerable benefits of USREDCOM exercises as laboratories for testing new concepts and techniques.

USREDCOM is not the only unified command to include Army and Air Guard units in its field training exercises. The Atlantic Command, at Norfolk, VA, whose Army and Air Force component commanders are the same as for USREDCOM — the commanders of FORSCOM and TAC — employs Guard units. Because its exercise locations are in the eastern U.S. and Puerto Rico it draws most units from the east.

The European and Pacific Commands also call on Guard units. Most of them are Air Guard flying units, because they provide their own means of transportation. It may cost as much, if not more, to move an Air Guard squadron as a comparable-sized ground unit, but flying from point to point provides an added dimension to their readiness training.

To keep expenses down, USREDCOM alternates exercise locations between east and west, north and south, to give more units an opportunity for selection.

As each projected exercise survives the early-year cuts, State Adjutants General are invited to nominate units designated by FORSCOM and TAC as eligible. Ideally this occurs at least a year in advance of the exercise date, to give individual Guardsmen time to clear their military leave dates with employers.

It appears unlikely that an entire ARNG division will be chosen for a USREDCOM exercise since the limit of four exercises a year makes it difficult for the Army to meet its goal of scheduling each CONUS active Army division for a JTX every other year.

In practice, USREDCOM seldom employs an entire active division, unless the exercise is being conducted at the division's home station. If any substantial movement is required, one brigade of the division, fleshed out with other elements, active and reserve, is used. This is adequate to provide the division commander and his staff an opportunity to gain experience in joint operations, and to apply the lessons learned to other brigades in the division, while spreading the benefits of joint training among as many different units as possible.

This system enables a variety of smaller Guard and Reserve units to participate.

Moreover, the variety of combat support units in the Guard and Reserve are needed to augment the active force. This increases the chances of being selected. (See the accompanying story on Guard units employed in Brave Shield 17.)

In contrast to the ARNG, however, it is a rare Air Guard unit that performs its annual two-week field training in a strictly Guard environment today. The ANG is more likely to perform its annual training tours in the far corners of the world.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, for the U.S. unified commands to conduct exercises and combat operations without them. Consider these facts:

Brave Shield 17:

The Brave Shield 17 scenario called for a brigade headquarters and two battalions of the 9th Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., to simulate a heavily mechanized force such as the Warsaw Pact might throw against NATO.

The 9th was beefed up with the 2d Battalion, 160th Infantry (Mechanized), California ARNG, an element of the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized). The Arizona ARNG provided the 2d Battalion, 180th Field Artillery, of Douglas, Ariz., equipped with 155-mm self-propelled howitzers.

Two brigade headquarters of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, Calif., with four maneuver battalions were cast in the role of the NATO force. To help defend against enemy fighters, it employed Battery D, 2d Battalion, 200th Air Defense Artillery, New Mexico ARNG, from Alamogordo.

The 1042d Military Intelligence Company (Aerial Surveillance) of the Oregon ARNG, from Salem, flew its Mohawks (OV-1B and C) with side-looking airborne radar and worked for both sides!

Army Guard and Reserve units made up 70 percent of the total strength of the U.S. Army's 1st Combat Support Command from Fort Bragg, N.C., charged with serving both friendly and opposition forces.

On the Guard side, these included the 158th Supply and Services Battalion of Phoenix, Ariz., with its 222d General Supply Company, 366th Maintenance Company (L), and 158th Finance Detachment; the 185th Transportation Battalion, Fresno, Calif., and three of its light/medium truck companies — 2668th of Fresno, 1113th of Sacramento, and 2222d of Douglas, Ariz.; and the 205th Military Police Battalion of Kansas City, Mo., and two of its MP companies, the 1139th (Pleasant Hill) and 1141st (St. Claire).

The ARNG/ANG Role

The 515th Maintenance Battalion of Sante Fe, N.M., with its 642d Maintenance Company (Las Cruces) and 115th (River-ton, Utah) and the 717th Medical Detachment, helicopter ambulance (Sante Fe), rounded out the Guard augmentation of COSCOM totaling 1,388 officers and enlisted personnel.

Finally, ARNG contributed the 128th Public Affairs Detachment of Salt Lake City, Utah, with 13 members, and an 11-man Special Operations Detachment 2059 from Company A, 5th Special Forces Battalion, of Glenn Arm, Md.

Air Guard involvement

On the air side, Brave Shield 17 marked the first operational test of USAF's E-3A airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft in a combat role. As a preamble to the exercise itself, USREDCOM put together the biggest mock air war in a decade to show off the E-3A's capabilities to the Secretary of Defense and other senior military leaders in Washington.

More than 300 tactical aircraft, including virtually every type in the TAC inventory, mixed it up in an air arena some 500 miles in diameter. The E-3A directed 85 friendly fighters, mostly USAF's newest, the F-15 Eagle, against an attacking force of 237 aircraft — F-4s, F-5s, A-7s, F-100s, and F-105s, many of them from the Air Guard.

The 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron of Buckley ANG Base, Colo., and 188th TFS of Kirtland AFB, N.M., each flew 12 A-7s against the E-3A and F-15s. A dozen RF-4Cs each came from the 190th Tac Recon Squadron of Gowen Field, Idaho, and 192d TRS of Reno, Nev. These Guard aircraft apparently did an excellent job for purposes of the demonstration, but all succumbed to E-3A-directed F-15 attacks.

Half a dozen ANG squadrons provided eight KC-135 tankers to

(continued on page 38)

- The Air Guard provides 74 percent of the U.S. Air Force's capability in combat communications. It provides 16 percent of the USAF tanker-refueling capability, a percentage that is increasing almost daily as more units convert to the KC-135.

- Together, the Air Guard and Air Force Reserve provide 61 percent of all tactical airlift, 60 percent of air defense interceptors, 31 percent of all tactical fighters, 47 percent of tactical reconnaissance, 37 percent of tactical air support, 35 percent of air rescue and recovery and weather reconnaissance, 50 percent of special operations gunships, 30 percent of special operations helicopters, 43 percent of aeromedical airlift.

- The Military Airlift Command depends on the Guard and Reserve for fully 45 percent of its strategic airlift capability, represented in associate squadrons that fly the same aircraft as active duty MAC crews. Passengers in MAC's globe-girdling transports today cannot know whether their air crew is from the active or reserve forces without asking — and frequently they would find a mixture of both on the flight deck. The same ratio applies to support crews on the ground, led by the Airlift Command Element (ALCE), teams that receive and dispatch MAC transport and their payloads, supported by mechanics, refueling crews, cargo handlers, passenger service technicians, even those who prepare and package inflight meals.

- Air Guard tactical airlift C-130 units alternate with the Air Reserve in providing all tactical airlift for the U.S. Southern Command. The Guard flies one quarter, the Reserve the next, covering much of South America in the course of a quarter.

But, though most of the Air Guard is frequently called on to work with active forces, there remains the problem of finding ways to provide more realistic joint training for all Guard units closer to home.

It is the challenge of meeting and overcoming an opposing force that breathes life into USREDCOM exercises and requires the participating Guard units to put into practice the skills and techniques they have developed in months and years of weekend drills.

The USREDCOM staff spends a year or more on detailed planning for each of its exercises, each designed in part as a test laboratory for new equipment and techniques, and each building on lessons learned from previous exercises. The scenario is designed to reflect real world situations — in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, or the far north. USREDCOM planners are in frequent contact with their counterparts in other unified commands, assembling data on the tactical problems facing operational units on the frontiers of the free world, working them into the exercise plan, and forwarding recommendations to the operational commands, through the JCS, on possible solutions.

It takes many manhours of planning and coordination to develop this kind of scenario, but it is time well spent in guaranteeing a payoff for the participating forces and in adapting to a real life situation the lessons learned in the exercise laboratory.

Realistic training is the key not only to combat readiness but, as many studies have shown, to recruiting and retention as well. The more realistic, and significant, the training given Guardsmen, the more they get out of it, and the more it bolsters the Guard's vital role in national defense.

244th takes part in Brave Shield 17

For members of the 244th Combat Comm Squadron, March was a month of checking, re-checking, packing, traveling, and participating in war games.

Eighty members of the Squadron are taking part in Brave Shield 17, a war exercise being conducted near Ft. Irwin in southeastern California. During the middle part of March, unit members spent the

better part of a week conducting quality insurance checks of all field communication equipment to be used in the maneuvers.

"The objective of 'Brave Shield 17' is to develop a joint-readiness training for selected active, reserve and Air National Guard units," Captain Dennis Jenkins, Chief of Maintenance, noted. "This is a big program. We're told more than 30,000 troops will be involved in the opera-

tion. Our responsibility is to provide communication systems for both sides during the exercise. It's really going to tax our ability, but that's how you learn. It should be an interesting three weeks."

Half of the 244th personnel will be assigned to Nellis AFB near Las Vegas, Nevada and the other half will be assigned to various communication sites around the Ft. Irwin reservation.

244th CCF captain 'moves mountains'

Captain Dennis Jenkins is, if not the only, certainly one of the few members of the Oregon Air National Guard who can literally move mountains.

Captain Jenkins, Chief of Maintenance for the 244th Combat Comm Flight, supervised a mountain-leveling operation at Ft. Irwin, California, during the middle of March.

"Well, we didn't actually level a mountain,

just moved it around a bit," Captain Jenkins admitted. "We were preparing a communication site for the upcoming 'Brave Shield 17' military exercise. The hill selected for the communication site was really rocky and there wasn't enough room to put in our communication relay gear.

So, we had to move the rocks around with explosives."

Captain Jenkins was

the site commander for the operation, directing the actions of the U. S. Army's 13th Engineering Battalion.

"When the exercise begins - involving 33,000 troops from the Marines, Army and Air Force - this site, Hill 5299, will be the main communication relay site for the various Marine, Army and Air Force bases participating in the military games. It's an important exercise. One would like to believe that they brought the Air National Guard in to set up the communication site because they wanted to make sure it was done correctly. However, I suppose that's something of a partisan opinion."

Move planned by military in vehicles

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Portland Air Base will resemble World War II days Monday and Tuesday as military vehicles from Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane join those of the Oregon Air National Guard here prior to moving to California and Nevada for training.

More than 65 vehicles, ranging in size from quarter-ton trucks to five-ton tractors, will participate in a four-day move to the training areas, departing Portland Tuesday.

The first will depart at 6 a.m. with other groups following at 20-minute intervals. Overnite stops are planned at Medford, Sacramento and Bakersfield, Calif.

Five communications squadrons and two flights, including Portland's 244th Combat Communications Squadron and Flight, will participate in the exercise. With the 252d Combat Communications Group, headquartered in Camp Murray, Wash., they will provide communications for joint service exercise Brave Shield XVII to be held in the Nevada-California desert.

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