

BRIGHT STAR 82





Military Department of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

Major General Richard A. Miller
The Adjutant General

Vol 5 #1

8 January 1982

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

The Holiday Season has disappeared about as quickly as it came. 1981 was a banner year for the Oregon National Guard. The Air side of the house pulled off a major transition from the F-101's to the F-4C's, resumed its Alert Mission in record time, came to C3 on 30 June, and passed a major portion of an Organizational Readiness Inspection before the weather zeroed-out the remainder of the exercise. Portions of the 244th Combat Communications units made it to Korea while others made it to Egypt (Bright Star 81) and back. The 116th Tactical Control Squadron was the catalyst for a major exercise off the Oregon coast and the 104th Tactical Control

MAJOR "CAIRO" KEITH HALLMARK and his 20 "Knights of the Desert" (244th) have returned from Egypt following participation in "Bright Star 81". Information received from the exercise indicates that the Guard did an outstanding job. They are now preparing for deployment to the Mojave Desert Region in support of exercise

"Gallant Eagle 82" during the March - April 82 time period.

duty training evaluation from ARMK IX by achieving satisfactory in all 20 areas in which they were evaluated. This is the first time in my recollection that any Battalion size unit in the Oregon Army National Guard has achieved this goal. The Cavalry Squadron qualified 22 out of 23 tank crews, produced one master gunner, and received an excellent Annual Training rating despite the fact that they are not eligible for additive full-time manning.

The list goes on and on but space confines the remainder of my remarks. It is entirely possible, although no decision has been made, that during 1982 the 142d Alert Detachment at Kingsley will find itself sharing those facilities with a Reserve Training Unit from the National Guard Bureau, assigned to transition aircrews into the F-4 aircraft. That decision I am told should be forthcoming sometime during the first quarter of the calendar year. In the meantime I have been informed by General Walker, the Army Director, that Oregon will receive an Aerial Exploitation Battalion Headquarters. This unit will enhance the maintenance capability that the 1042d Military Intelligence Company will lose during reorganization sometime in 1982.

As the year progresses my two major goals are to bring the Air Guard to a 2,000+ status and achieve and maintain a 7,500+ status in the Army Guard. As I write this the Air Guard strength is 96.1% and the Army Guard is at 89.2%. My third goal is to bring Army and Air units up to 100+% strength.

BRIGHT STAR shining experience for airmen

By TSgt. Chuck Davis
142d Ftr. Intep. Gp.

PORTLAND AIRBASE — Against the backdrop of the turbulent Middle East, 21 members of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron and Flight did their part in BRIGHT STAR. Encamped at Cairo West airfield, they helped establish and maintain telephone communications for over 2,000 American airmen during the joint service exercise in Egypt.

Major Keith Hallmark and Senior Master Sergeant David Dent headed for Egypt Nov. 2, acting as the Oregon Air Guardsmen's site survey team. The 4,000 BRIGHT STAR troops at Cairo West had to start from scratch with a "bare base." That is, they had to provide their own shelter and facilities of every type. All they had to begin with was bare desert earth, and Hallmark and Dent had to stake out a patch of it for their people.

The other 19 Guardsmen left Por-

tland Airbase two days later. Their job was to set up and operate their TTC-22 switchboard. In addition, they aided sister units from Washington state, the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron and Flight, in the operation and maintenance of their equipment.

Because the scope of BRIGHT STAR expanded as it developed, so did the need for "real estate." The 244th airmen wound up in an area originally set aside for recreation.

With 12 to 16 hour workdays, there wasn't much time for recreation, anyway. There was also a strange environment for the Guardmembers from the green Northwest to cope with.

"There wasn't even sagebrush," said Technical Sergeant John Matzka, "just sand. We lived in tents. It was usually 75 degrees or so during the day and got warmer at times. We had one pretty severe dust storm, which only lasted about 20 minutes

but it caused us to button things up. It looked like a big wall of dust as it approached."

Matzka found the Egyptians friendly and he said their military people were, from all reports, very cooperative and more than willing to help the Americans.

The regular Air Force personnel and the Air Guardmembers meshed well, according to Matzka: "They were super. And our equipment ran just fantastically! The Ninth Air Force people over there thought our TTC-22 equipment wouldn't last long, but we showed them."

Matzka said there were some opportunities to see the more spectacular aspects of BRIGHT STAR. He was able to witness a B-52 bomb run and a parachute drop, along with many members of the news media and assorted dignitaries.

The airmen also had a chance to visit the pyramids at Giza and Cairo itself, Matzka adds. He found Cairo

to be "very crowded, very busy. The streets are narrow and jammed with people and cars going like mad with their horns all honking."

A bit of American civilization sprouted in the Egyptian sand during BRIGHT STAR. . . FM-97, also known as WANG. . . Washington Air National Guard-97. The radio station, covering a half-mile radius, was set up by the 242nd to make the troops feel at home. WANG-97 used cassette tapes loaned by airmen for music, Associated Press news via satellite, Armed Forces Network programs and "local" talent. Hallmark, for example, read the news under the name of "Wally Wonderful" and Airman First Class Vicki Martin was program director.

"They were a big morale booster during our 30 days in Egypt," said Matzka. "They got all kinds of raves."

So did BRIGHT STAR, in Matzka's opinion: "It was really worth going for."

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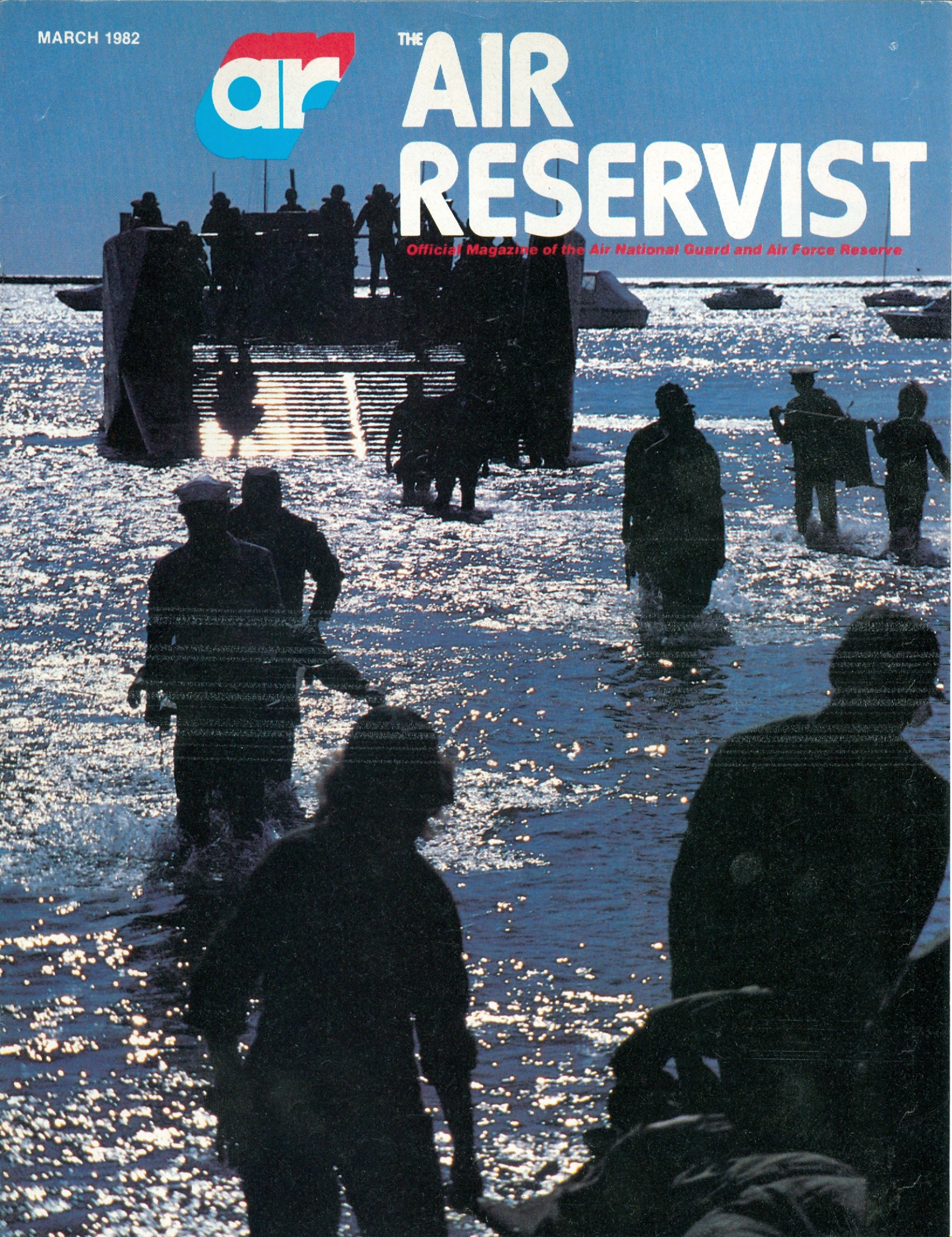
MARCH 1982



THE

AIR RESERVIST

Official Magazine of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve



BEYOND THE STATUS QUO

Story and photos by SMSgt. Jerry Smith



The 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group, among others, is evidence that the Oregon Air National Guard is just not content with the status quo.

The group was not satisfied just to get more modern aircraft. Today it's maintenance people are upgrading the new F-4 airframes and its aircrews are envisioning new aerial combat tactics. All this while providing twice the Aerospace Defense Command alert duty than before.

Another group of Air Guard people at Portland International Airport, who aren't happy if they are standing still, belong to the 116th Tactical Control Squadron. Not satisfied that they had the latest in mobile radar, the men and women of the unit tied their digital radar computers into the analog computers at NORAD's 25th Air Division to provide the Air Force with its first mobile air defense tracking and intercept system.

Nor is it enough that the 244th Combat Communications Squadron has the latest in mobile switchboards. Twenty-one unit people took their switchboard to Egypt for Exercise Bright Star '81 and bedazzled the exercise commander.

The 123rd FIS began transitioning in September 1980, as the last ANG unit flying F-101s for ADC, to change to F-4s. Before coming to Portland, the F-4s

were used as air-to-ground fighter bombers. A different maintenance emphasis was needed.

"As an example, the radar firing systems in the F-4s didn't meet our air-to-air needs," said Lt. Col. Dave Ward, deputy chief for maintenance. "The unit before us worried more about the bomb release than they did the radar, because bombing was their mission."

"We hope to build a good systems reliability through careful and thorough maintenance attuned to our aerospace defense mission. Once that is completed it will drop our maintenance time considerably."

With people like these, seemingly discontent with standing in one place, the extra burden of providing two full time alert aircraft at Kingsley Field, Ore., was merely a step in the direction of satisfaction. Especially for the aircrews. It meant more flying time.

"The versatility of the F-4 is its main advantage over the F-101," said Lt. Col. Raymond A. Pilcher, 123rd commander. "The F-101 was designed to accelerate to high altitudes. It didn't have much turning ability. The F-4 can turn better for fighter-to-fighter maneuvers, should the need arise."

Fighter-to-fighter is a low priority, secondary, training role. But Colonel Pilcher has a reason why he thinks more fighter-to-fighter training is a good idea.

"I've been flying for ADC my entire active duty and Guard career," said Pilcher. "During that time, units I was assigned to were deployed three times — the Cuban Missile Crisis, Southeast Asia and the Pueblo incident — and the threat we found opposing us each time was fighters, specifically MiGs. Although our war-time mission is continental bomber defense, if we were deployed elsewhere we might face fighters. Also fighter-to-fighter training teaches better airmanship by providing us with experience in the total capabilities of the machine."

The people of the 116th TCS also like to use their equipment to its limits. Their pride and joy is the TPS-43E tactical radar. It's mobile and it provides information on the direction of flight, distance away and height of all aircraft in its range. It is in operation at all times at Portland airport, guiding local F-4s and active duty F-106s from McChord AFB, Wash., in tactical flying and aerial refueling. But last year the 116th proved that the TPS-43E could be linked to NORAD's permanent radars.

"As far as we can determine, this was the first time a mobile tactical radar control system was interfaced with NORAD command and control systems," said Maj. Jim Fall, 116th TCS. "Not only did we interface our digital signals with their analog computers we did it through military radio channels exclusively."

"We are considering asking for a secondary tasking as a backup to ADC's permanent radar sites," said Fall. "We could increase the defense of the homeland. The enemy knows where the permanent sites are. But being mobile we could go anywhere to enhance or provide direct backup to ADC."

The list of Portland units discontent with the status quo includes the 244th Combat Control Flight, Detachment 5, 1905th Communications Squadron and the 123rd Weather Flight. Two Air Force Reserve units, the 304th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron and the 83rd Aerial Port Squadron have the same attitude.

Besides pushing everyone to the limit of ability, this peculiar form of Oregon malcontent produces an odd personnel management dilemma.

According to Brig. Gen. Charles A. Sams, chief of staff, ORANG, "People who come into the Oregon Air Guard don't want to leave!"



(a) In the engine shop SSgt. Randy Grunt and Sgt. Cindy Spurgeon practice the kind of maintenance that keeps the 123rd FIS flying.
(b) Meanwhile A1C Al Haney (rear) and TSgt. Tom Winston collaborate to check out new TACAN system.
(c) Engrossed in his work with pneumatic wrench beneath F-4 is TSgt. Ronald Wright.



(d) Operating AN/TCC-22 mobile switchboard is Sgt. Helene Sweet, who went with 244th CCS to Egypt where they handled 60,000 messages on the TTC-22.
(e) Operating 116th TCS radar are Amn. Betty McKay and Michaelle Moore.
(f) In 244th CCS mobile message distribution center Amn. Muffin Russell and Terri Hickman process messages.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS 354TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (TAC)
MYRTLE BEACH AIR FORCE BASE, SC 29577

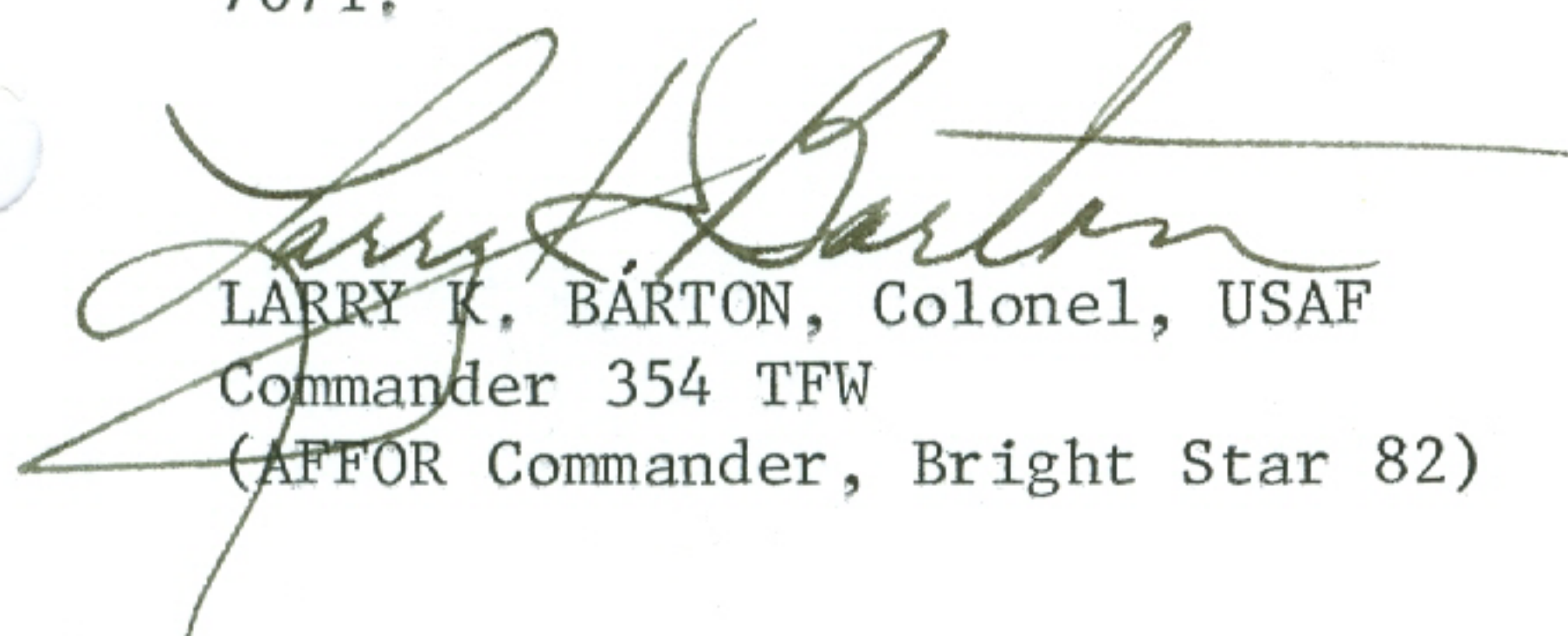
25 JAN 1982

REPLY TO CC
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Decoration - Bright Star 82 Participation

TO: 244CCS/CC

1. As AFFOR Commander for the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force Bright Star 82, I believe that Major Keith E. Hallmark stood out from among the approximately 1000 Air Force personnel assigned. He truly deserves to be recommended for the Air Force Achievement Medal based upon the outstanding professionalism, hard work, and sacrifice he made in support of the exercise.
2. Overseas deployments are difficult at best, and a bare base operation in the desert at Cairo West, Egypt, was the toughest I have experienced in my Air Force career. Major Hallmark's dedication and sense of purpose were key factors in our success.
3. Please give this recommendation your most careful consideration. Should you wish to talk to me about it, please call me at Autovon 748, extension 7671.


LARRY K. BARTON, Colonel, USAF
Commander 354 TFW
(AFFOR Commander, Bright Star 82)

Readiness is our Profession

HISTORY FILE

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

RECEIVED

DEC 17 1961

VIAG AIR



REPLY TO:
ATTN OF: NGB/CF

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

10 DEC 1961

TO: TAG Washington

Please convey my personal appreciation to the members of the Washington Air National Guard who participated in Bright Star 82. These outstanding men and women of the 252 Combat Communications Group demonstrated the capability to effectively support the mission of the Rapid Deployment Air Force in a most austere environment. Their enthusiasm, cooperation and preparedness to execute assigned tasks was personally observed and noted to me. Such professionalism reflects favorably on the Air National Guard and especially your people. My compliments for a job well done.

FOR THE CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John B. Conaway", is written over the typed name and title.

JOHN B. CONAWAY
Major General, USAF
Director, Air National Guard

1st Ind to NGB/CF Ltr, 10 Dec 81, Letter of Appreciation

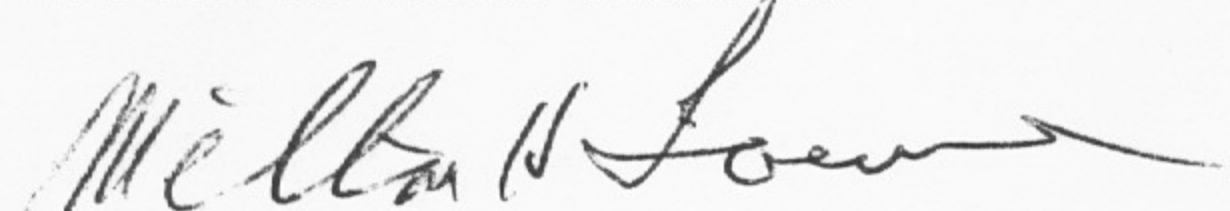
OTAG/AA

18 Dec 81

TO: 252 CMBTCG/CC

I would also like to add my thanks and appreciation to that of General Conaway. Once again your personnel have demonstrated their capability to an outstanding job and reinforce the fact that the 242nd is number one in combat communications.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:



MILTON H. TOWNE

Colonel, WA ANG

Assistant Adjutant General for Air

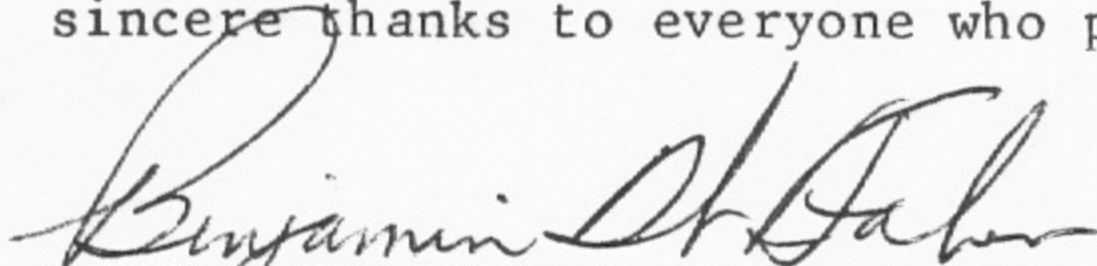
2nd Ind, Hq 252 CMBTCG/CC

24 December 1981

TO: 143 CMBTCS/CC
242 CMBTCS/CC
242 ATCF/CC
244 CMBTCF/CC

244 CMBTCS/CC
256 CMBTCS/CC
262 CMBTCS/CC

According to all the sources I have contacted, the 252 personnel who participated in "Bright Star 82" truly did an outstanding job. I realize that the 242 CMBTCS is the designated RDF unit, and the prime unit in this exercise; but there was super support by the other 252 units. My special thanks to Maj Keith Hallmark for getting everyone over and back safely and taking care of the people. My sincere thanks to everyone who participated for a super accomplishment.



BENJAMIN W. FABER, Colonel, WA ANG
Commander

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310



REPLY TO: NGB/CF
ATTN OF:

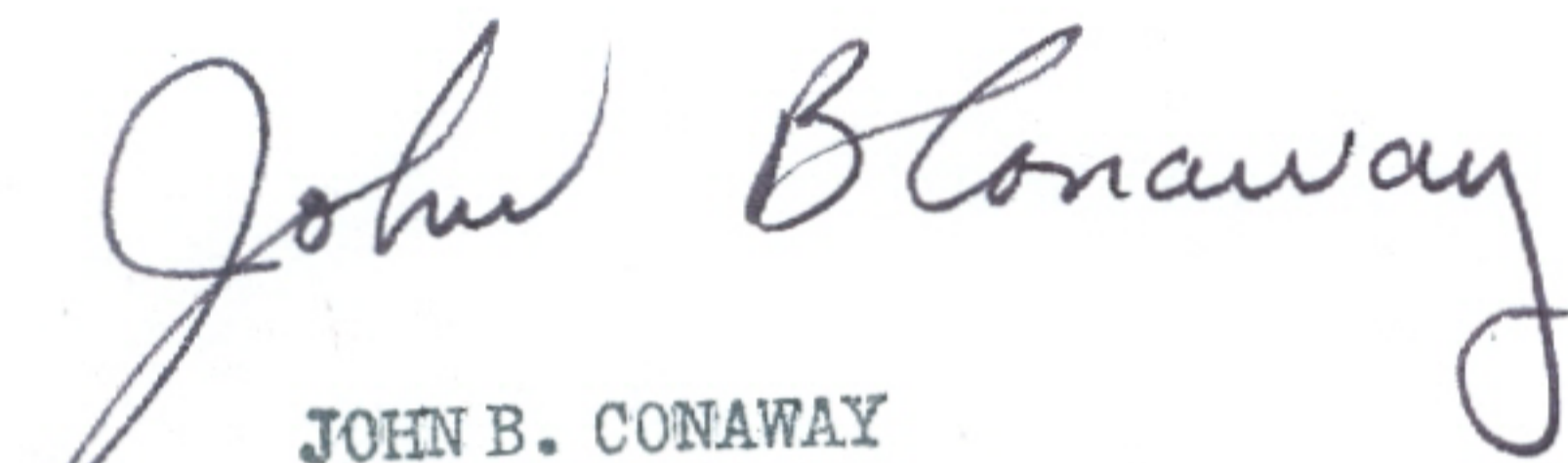
10 DEC 1981

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: TAG Oregon

Please convey my personal appreciation to the members of the Oregon Air National Guard who participated in Bright Star 82. These outstanding men and women of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron and Flight demonstrated the capability to effectively support the mission of the Rapid Deployment Air Force in a most austere environment. Their enthusiasm, cooperation and preparedness to execute assigned tasks was personally observed and noted to me. Such professionalism reflects favorably on the Air National Guard and especially your people. My compliments for a job well done.

FOR THE CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

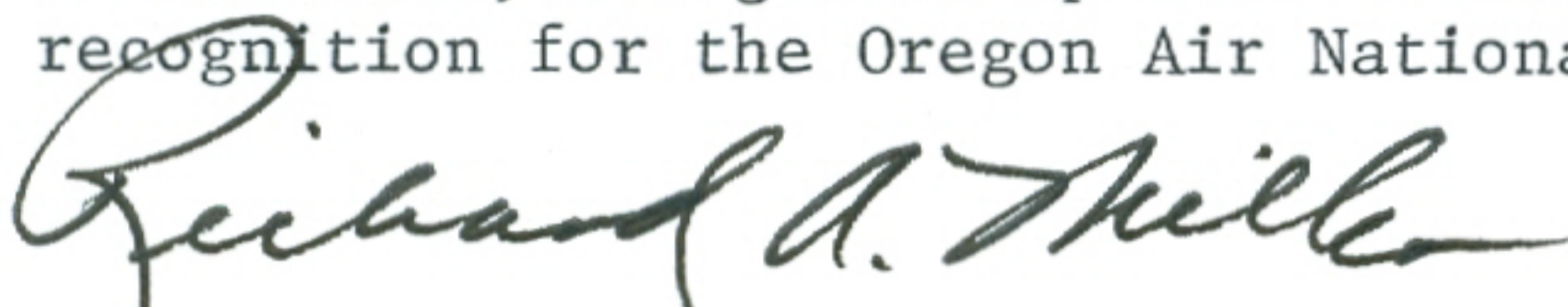

JOHN B. CONAWAY
Major General, USAF
Director, Air National Guard

1st Ind, TAG-OR/DPA

22 Dec 81

TO: Commander, Oregon Air National Guard

It is a genuine pleasure to forward the congratulations from Major General Conaway recognizing the outstanding effort by the participants of your units who contributed to the success of Bright Star 82. Their ability to accomplish the assigned mission attests to the excellent training programs conducted in the 244 Combat Communications units. Please convey my appreciation to those individuals, along with special thanks to Major Hallmark, for earning this recognition for the Oregon Air National Guard.


RICHARD A. MILLER
Major General
The Adjutant General

2nd Ind to letter, dated 10 Dec 81, subject: Letter of Appreciation

Hq, ORANG/CC

30 Dec 81

TO: 244 CMBTCS/CMBTCF

I am very pleased to add my comments to those expressed by Major General Conaway and Major General Miller. Indeed both units, the squadron and the flight have again demonstrated the ability to perform their Air Force mission in outstanding fashion while under the most limited operating conditions. Bright Star 82 is yet another milestone in the accomplishment of the 244th Combat Communication Squadron and Flight. My sincere thanks and gratitude go out to each member who contributed to the success of this vital mission. Special appreciation is given to Major Hallmark for his leadership and national guardsmanship that brought the success to this exercise.



CHARLES A. SAMS, Brig Gen, ORANG
Commander

WASHINGTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD
242D AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FLIGHT
SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WASHINGTON 99219

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: 252 CMBTCG BRIGHT STAR/DO

14 December 1981

SUBJECT: A BRIGHT STAR 82 Thank You

TO: 252 CMBTCG BRIGHT STAR/CC

1. I would like to express my thanks to those 244 CMBTCS personnel who provided excellent support to the BRIGHT STAR 82 AFFOR Communications Operations Branch. They are:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SECTION</u>
TSgt Terry D. Cummings	Switchboard
TSgt Mark M. Newell	Comm Center
SSgt Joseph B. Schmeltzer	Switchboard
SRA Randy L. Bray	Tech Control
SRA Helene Sweet	Switchboard
AlC Janet L. Davidson	Switchboard
AlC Darbra R. Helmken	Switchboard

2. The success of the communications portion of the exercise was due in a large part to these individuals. It would be a pleasure to work with them again.

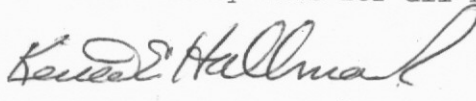

NEIL G. PETTIGREW, Major, WA ANG
Comm Operations OIC

1st Ind

22 December 1981

TO: 244 CMBTCS/CC
244 CMBTCF/CC

My thanks also for the professional contributions of the personnel of your squadron and flight recognized by Major Pettigrew. Their devotion to duty was instrumental in the success enjoyed by the communicators in Bright Star 82. I will ask for these individuals by name for all future JCS Exercises. They were superb.


KEITH E. HALLMARK, Maj, OreANG
AFFOR Communications Commander
Bright Star 82