

Guardsmen train in California hills

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry (1-115) traveled more than 3,000 miles to Camp Roberts, Calif., training almost entirely at night in rough, hilly terrain.

The battalion, headquartered in White Oak near Silver Spring, and part of the 29th Infantry Division (Light) participated in an exercise called "Dragon Summit II." Approximately 1,500 Guard members and active Army soldiers were involved in the exercise.

Training, which was conducted from Aug. 15-29, included Regular Army members from the 9th Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, based at Fort Ord, Calif., and the 82nd Airborne Division, based in Fort Bragg, N.C.

The 7th Division is the prototype for the Army's light divisions. The 29th Division is one of five light forces in the Army and the only one in the Reserve Components.

Part of the training included the mobilization of 338 members of the 1-115,

who were transported by two C-130 Hercules aircraft operated by the Maryland Air National Guard and two commercial aircraft that departed from BWI Airport in Baltimore.

Training was done in a reverse cycle, meaning that training is done mostly at night, while all down time occurs during the day. Not only the heat, but also a light division's mission dictates the night training. A light division is supposed to be able to survive under all climatic conditions and in restricted terrain such as that at Camp Roberts.

Camp Roberts is located in the foothills and coastal range of California, south of San Francisco, where the daytime temperatures reached 108 degrees, and nighttime temperatures were in the upper 40's.

The terrain at Camp Roberts is extremely hilly, making the training more difficult and treacherous. Cpl Vidal J. Rios, a Montgomery County resident and communications chief in

Company B 1-115, said, "Walking up this exceptionally hilly terrain with a full field pack and radio was one of the hardest tasks of this year's training."

SSgt. John J. Andrus, a Prince George's County resident and a team leader in Company B, 1-115, said, "Trying to sleep in the daytime was the most difficult part of the training."

The terrain was dotted with gopher holes. Medics were busy treating sprained ankles, as well as some minor heat-related injuries.

Fort Detrick supported the 1-115's 15 medics with 17 additional ones. The California National Guard supported the exercise with two Medevac helicopters.

The Maryland Army National Guard's 1229th Transportation Company, based in Crisfield, transported 29 vehicles on 15 flatbed tractor trailers to California for the exercise.

The 82nd Airborne Division served as evaluators, played the role of opposing forces for mock battles and trained guardsmen on the tube-launched optical-wire guided missile (TOW).

During the first week of the annual training, the 1-115 conducted tactical battle drills, such as air assaults, weapons firing, land navigation and anti-armor fire support.

Major Gen. James F. Fretterd, the adjutant general of Maryland, visited the soldiers and seemed pleased with the caliber of training. He stressed safety with individual units.

During the second week, the 1-115 will train at Fort Hunter Liggett, 36 miles north of Camp Roberts, where it will participate in Dragon Summit II. Also, it will be involved in an Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP).

The battalion consists of four companies: Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) in White Oak; Company A in Frederick; Company B in Olney and Company C in Greenbelt.

Capt. James L. McCarthy, a member of the HHC and a resident of Gaithersburg, said, "Training with the Regular Army shows us how good we really are. This training is tremendously valuable."



Photo by SFC Michael A. Pitarra Sr., 29th

1st Lt. Glen A. Nicodemus, a resident of Baltimore, and a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Maryland Army National Guard's 1st Battalion 115th Infantry, is making sure all the cargo is accounted for as it's being loaded onto a commercial aircraft prior to departing for two weeks of annual training in California.



Photo by SFC Michael A. Pitarra Sr., 29th

Cadet John R. Gohegan of Company A, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry and a resident of Frederick, lines up a tube-launched optical-guided missile (TOW) during annual training at Camp Roberts in southern California.

Byron announces deadline to service academies

Representative Beverly B. Byron announced that young men and women who are seeking nomination to one of the U.S. Service Academies should have all application material completed by Nov. 30, 1987 for the class entering the summer of 1988.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens, legal residents of the state of Maryland and the Sixth Congressional District, and have no children or dependents. Applicants must be at least 17 years of age, but not past their 22nd birthday on

July 1 of the year of admission. All applicants must take the SAT or ACT examination. SAT's may be taken more than one time. The highest score will be used.

Applicants are selected on the basis of their ACT or SAT scores, class rank, grade point average, school records, extracurricular activities, leadership potential, motivation and recommendations.

For additional information concerning the application process, you may

contact any of the following Byron offices: Representative Beverly Byron, 2430 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 225-2721.

Representative Beverly Byron, 10 E. Church St., Frederick, Md. 21701, (301) 662-8622.

Representative Beverly Byron, 100 W. Franklin St., Suite 100, Hagerstown, Md. 21740, (301) 787-6043.

Representative Beverly Byron, 6 N. Court St., Westminster, Md. 21157, (301) 848-5366.

After 5 years

Boy still missing, but attitudes change

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Late one recent night, Urbandale police got a breathless call from a man saying a hitchhiker had made off with his new luxury car and had taken his 7-year old son as well.

Police jumped to action, and instantly even the FBI was notified.

Several years ago, the procedure might have been different. Then, reports of runaway or missing children were filed, but police assumed the children would soon show up unharmed, and they were usually correct.

That was before Johnny Gosch, a West Des Moines paperboy, turned up missing five years ago Sept 5.

The lonely search continues for Gosch, now 17 if he's alive, but the legacy of the case has made police keenly aware of missing children cases.

After the call in Urbandale, police instantly flashed descriptions of the car and driver to law officers in the area. Soon, they were broadcast statewide. Nearby states were notified and the descriptions were put in a national crime computer.

As a matter of policy, FBI agents rushed to the Urbandale station and agents of the state Division of Criminal Investigation also converged there. The news media were notified.

The hunt was on.

"We used to wait 24 hours," said Lt. Delbert King, who handled the Urbandale case. "But then with the Johnny Gosch case, we kind of saw the fallacy in that."

As it turned out, the Urbandale case was a false alarm. Six hours after it began, the boy was safely with his grandmother. The father, a discouraged drifter, was charged with filing a false report.

There have been no happy endings for the Gosch family, however.

"The pain doesn't diminish," said his mother, Noreen Gosch, who has given up her publicity campaign to get Johnny back. "A lot of people say to us, 'I suppose it's easier now that it's five years.' But it isn't. You hear a particular song that was his favorite ... it pierces the heart."

She remembers the last time she saw him, the night of Sept. 4. "He walked up to me, he was already taller than me, and he said, 'Mom, I'll always love you, remember that.' I'll never forget it."

The next morning, Johnny left to deliver the Sunday Des Moines Register. His wagon full of papers was found but the boy disappeared without a trace.

Mrs. Gosch blames slow police response for letting the abductors get away. Police have been reluctant to respond, and Lt. Lyle McKinney, the West Des Moines detective who has coordinated the investigation, said only, "We did what we thought was right."

Soon, however, there were massive

searches and huge rewards, along with a sustained media campaign by Mrs. Gosch and her husband, John, to find the boy.

Not one solid lead has been found.

The case was made all the more painful with false reports. Dollar bills bearing the message "I am alive" were found, and the Gosches were swindled of more than \$11,000 by a Saginaw, Mich., man who claimed the boy was being held prisoner in Mexico. Robert Herman Meier, now 21, was convicted of fraud and is in prison.

Posters bearing Johnny's picture were sent across the country. Enormous pictures and messages were pasted on the sides of semitrailer trucks.

The Gosches blasted police, saying they were dragging their feet.

"There have been critics who were outraged with us because we fought for our child," said Mrs. Gosch recently. "Does this mean they wouldn't fight for their own children?"

In the spring of 1984, the Iowa Legislature approved what was known as the Johnny Gosch Bill requiring police to respond immediately to missing children cases. A month after it went on the books, Aug. 12, there was a second disappearance with eerie similarities.

Eugene Martin, then 13, vanished while delivering the same newspaper to a southside Des Moines area. Again, it was a Sunday morning. As in the Gosch case, there were no witnesses.

Police responded rapidly this time, but no trace was found. The boy's father, Don Martin, said recently he is convinced his son is alive and has been forced to be someone's slave, perhaps overseas. Because of similarities between the cases, many investigators suspect a connection, but it has never been proven.

Mrs. Gosch said she is convinced she knows the name and address of a man who was involved. "He is under observation. We'll wait until he makes a mistake," she said.

"Someone who would steal a child and then come back and steal another could very well take a third one."

Sam Swann of the DCI declined to say whether there was a suspect.

"We continue to pursue leads in the Gosch case, although they're getting few and far between," he said.

The Gosches testified before congressional hearings and worked toward creation of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in June 1984.

"The Johnny Gosch case was one of several cases that gained national attention and made it clear that the issue of missing children was a national issue," said Barbara Chapman, spokeswoman for the center.

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