

# 18 hometowns giving Guard VIP treatment

BY SANDY DAVIS  
Democrat Jacksonville Bureau

All of the 1,780 soldiers who are part of the Arkansas National Guard's largest call-up since World War II are headed for Saudi Arabia, a Guard spokesman said Tuesday.

And some of the 18 hometowns of Guard units involved in the deployment have taken the soldiers under their wings in ways reminiscent of World War II.

"It has been unreal — overwhelming really, how the whole town of Harrison has taken care of these boys," Shirley Hefley of Harrison (Boone County) said. Her husband is in the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, which will be deploying Saturday.

"The grocery stores and restaurants have been sending food since this whole thing started," she said. "These guys haven't bought a Coke or a candy bar."

The activation of three Guard units was announced Saturday and, when they are

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# Guard

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deployed, will bring the number of Arkansas guardsmen in Saudi Arabia to about 2,020.

That means Operation Desert Shield has drawn twice as many Arkansas guardsmen than airmen from Little Rock Air Force Base at Jacksonville.

"It's safe to say that there are about 1,000 personnel from the base over there," Capt. Rick Riebeling, a LRAFB spokesman, said Tuesday.

"That number fluctuates every day, but not by much."

Members of the Guard's 148th Evacuation Hospital, headquartered at Camp Robinson, the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, headquartered at Fayetteville, and the 224th Maintenance Company, headquartered at Mountain Home, were ordered to report for duty at their respective armories today, Maj. Cissy Lashbrook, a Guard spokesman, said Tuesday.

"They'll spend the next few days getting their shots, loading up equipment and taking care of personnel matters," she said.

"They'll be doing things like getting their wills finished. They've already dictated their wills, but some of them need to have them typed and signed," she said.

Lashbrook said that all of the guardsmen will be given several hours off Thursday to eat Thanksgiving dinner with their families.

"We had considered having a Thanksgiving lunch at the armories, but we want them to have some time with their families before they leave," Lashbrook said.

Hefley said her husband and several other guardsmen from the 142nd's Battery 1 headquarters in Harrison have been at the armory "night and day" since the unit was placed on alert Friday.

"I'll admit we've shed a few tears," she said. "But that was necessary."

Most of the time has been spent getting records in order, she said.

"Taking a person out of civilian life and into the military requires a lot of papers," she said.

Meanwhile the town has thrown its support behind the brigade.

Hefley said that enthusiasm was so high in the area that young men are coming in off the streets asking if they can enlist so they can go with them.

Other residents have offered their help and support. "I know everyone is hurting more for us because of the holidays," Hefley said.

But Hefley said the north-central Arkansas city has tradition to uphold.

"This isn't the first time we've sent our boys off," she said. "They went in the Korean War, too."

"We're planning a parade and other events on Friday between 2 and 3 to give them a real send-off."

The 224th and the 142nd are scheduled to leave Saturday for their mobilization center at Fort Sill, Okla. It is not known when they will head to Saudi Arabia.

The 148th Evacuation Hospital, which has 450 members including 22 doctors and 46 nurses from greater Little Rock, will leave Monday for Fort Polk, La. It is also not known when that unit will leave for Saudi Arabia.

Lashbrook said that later this week, members of the 142nd would be painting desert camouflage on howitzers, mobile cannons with 8-inch barrels.

Each of the two battalions in the 142nd has 12 howitzers that will follow the battalions to Saudi Arabia, Lashbrook said.

The armories in the 18 cities and towns will be closed after Family Support Centers have been established, Lashbrook said.

The 1122nd Transportation Company of Monticello, which has 140 members, was deployed to Saudi Arabia on Nov. 1.

The 216th Medical Company at Lake Village, which has 100 members, left Tuesday for Fort Polk, and Guard officials have said the company will also be sent soon to Saudi Arabia.

Of the units called up since the mobilization of guardsmen and reservists in Arkansas began, only the 296th Medical Company in Charleston (Franklin County), which was mobilized Monday, is expected to remain in the states for the duration of Operation Desert Shield.

# Guardsmen get 'proper send-off'

Citizens line streets for 216th Medical Unit's departure

BY JOE STUMPE  
Democrat Staff Writer

LAKE VILLAGE — National Guardsmen got a "proper send-off" they aren't likely to forget from Southeast Arkansas residents Tuesday.

Several thousand people, many holding American flags, stood along about 30 miles of U.S. 65 and 82 as members of the 216th Medical Unit left their armory here for Fort Polk, La.

Traffic was stopped for 15 minutes as two high school bands and several fire trucks turned the medical company's 60-vehicle procession into a parade. Intersections were decked with red-white-and-blue and yellow ribbons and the town's emergency siren sounded at 8 a.m.

Libby Borgognoni, presi-

dent of the Lake Village Chamber of Commerce, said the parade was inspired by the guardsmen having to disrupt their lives and careers to serve their country. Most of the guardsmen are from Southeast Arkansas.

"We felt like if they could put their lives on hold, then certainly people could take 30 minutes of their own lives to give them a proper send-off and their blessing and support," Borgognoni said.

Borgognoni said she believes most area residents hope for "a peaceful solution" to the Middle East crisis, but do not fault President Bush for sending troops there.

"The people around here are trusting that the president and world leaders know what's

going on, and we have to be supportive of this endeavor," she said.

The 140 members of the medical company were handed fruit baskets as they left the armory, where they reported last Thursday to prepare for their mobilization. From Fort Polk, some or all may go to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield.

Schoolchildren who wanted to watch the parade were allowed to report to school late.

Townpeople in Montrose, Portland and Wilmot (all in Ashley County) also turned out to salute the guardsmen as the procession made its way toward Louisiana. Police cars escorted the convoy to the state line.

## Farmer fears leaving crops for battlefield

BY SANDY DAVIS  
Democrat Jacksonville Bureau

**LAKE VILLAGE** - A Chicot County man who farms nearly 800 acres said Monday he doesn't know who will take over if his Arkansas National Guard unit is activated.

About 100 men and women of the Guard's 216th Medical Company from Lake Village (Chicot County), of which the farmer is a member, were placed on alert Monday and could be part of a planned buildup of troops in the Persian Gulf.

"I don't have a solution," the farmer, who asked not to be identified, said. "I need to be thinking about it, but right now I can't. The worst thing will be leaving my family."

The handful of soldiers at the Lake Village armory.

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## Guard

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which serves as company headquarters, was busy notifying others of the alert.

"I really don't think anyone has thought about it, yet. There's so much to do. We're all in a rush, but maybe that's a blessing," said a company sergeant.

The sergeant, who also asked not to be identified, and other members of the 216th were notified late Sunday night that they had been placed on alert for possible mobilization.

"The guy who called me is a friend of mine," the sergeant said. "I thought he was joking at first, until I realized how late it was and I knew it was for real."

"While we've known for a long time that it could happen, it's still a shock when it does," he added.

If the company, which provides ground evacuations for patients, is activated, it will report to Fort Polk, La., where it will be told of its mission, Maj. Cissy Lashbrook, Arkansas National Guard representative, said Monday.

Lashbrook said she did not know when those orders would be made. "I can't speculate on that," she said.

The notice comes on the heels of President Bush's announcement Friday that there would be another massive deployment of troops to the Middle East.

While no troop deployment figures were released, it was estimated that another 100,000 would be added to the more than 320,000 already there.

The only Guard units identified as destined for the Persian Gulf in the Friday an-

nouncement are three that are considered "combat ready."

A Pentagon representative said Monday he could not confirm that the Lake Village company had been placed on alert, but "everyone has to know that a massive buildup like the one planned will require the activation of more Guard units who will be deployed to the gulf region."

Newspapers and television stations were notified of the alert Friday afternoon by Lashbrook's office.

"We really thought the mobilization orders would follow earlier today," Lashbrook said. "But they didn't."

The company is commanded by Capt. Randall C. Carey. Twenty-seven percent of its members are women and 63 percent are minority.

Last week an identical unit, the 296th Medical Unit at Charleston (Franklin County), was activated. However, that unit was told Friday it probably will remain at Fort Polk, which is also its mobilization station, for the duration of its active duty.

The sergeant said the company was having difficulty notifying its members of the announcement.

"A lot of our members are in the deer woods hunting," the sergeant said about 4 p.m. "We've had some problems notifying them, but we're in a lot better shape than I thought we'd be in at this time."

He sergeant said his wife was taking the news "as well as can be expected."

He also has three children. "My least one, who's 10, is real upset. She doesn't like it too well. My 16-year-old is old enough to understand, but she doesn't like it too well either."

# Another state unit off to gulf

By John Reinan  
Gazette Staff

Another contingent of Arkansans soon will be on its way to military duty in the Persian Gulf.

The 374th Medical Detachment, an air ambulance unit of the Army Reserve based at Adams Field in Little Rock, likely will be in Saudi Arabia by Christmas, its commander said Monday.

Also Monday, an Arkansas Army National Guard medical unit based in Lake Village — the 216th Medical Company — was alerted for possible mobilization at a later date.

The change in the status of the two medical units means more than 2,200 people in Arkansas-based units are either on active duty or on alert in support of Operation Desert Shield, the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf.

## Arkansans activated for Operation Desert Shield

Unit	Number of members	Base	Current Status
321st Materiel (sic) Management Center U.S. Army Reserve	150	El Dorado	in Saudi Arabia
1122nd Transportation Company Arkansas Army National Guard	140	Monticello	in Saudi Arabia
299th Combat Engineers Battalion U.S. Army Reserve	130	Pine Bluff	scheduled for duty in Saudi Arabia
374th Medical Detachment U.S. Army Reserve	75	Little Rock	scheduled for duty in Saudi Arabia
216th Medical Company Arkansas Army National Guard	100	Lake Village	on alert, duty location unknown
Medical Company Arkansas Army National Guard	100 (est.)	Charleston	on alert, scheduled for stateside duty
Tactical Airlift Wing U.S. Air Force	1,500 (est.)	Little Rock AFB	in Saudi Arabia

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The 374th will mobilize Thursday, its commander, Maj. Darrell Bright, said Monday. Upon mobilization, the unit will depart for Fort Sill, Okla., for training and equipment refitting. Bright said he anticipated the 374th would be on its way to Saudi Arabia from Fort Sill "in somewhat less than a month."

"We've had our button pushed," Bright

said of the unit, which was activated last weekend. "It's been all elbows around here ever since — we've hardly had time to look up."

The 374th transports wounded soldiers using six UH-1 (Huey) helicopters. Most of the 374th's approximately 75 members

## Buildup

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are Arkansans, Bright said, but others are from Texas, Missouri and Tennessee. About 8 percent of the unit's members are women, he said. The 374th counts no doctors or nurses among its members, Bright said: "They're all aviation types."

The 216th has about 100 members who provide ground evacuation of patients, Maj. Cissy Lashbrook, a spokeswoman for the Arkansas National Guard, said in a statement released Monday. The

unit's makeup is 27 percent women and 63 percent minority. Its commander is Capt. Randall C. Carey.

When the 216th is mobilized, Lashbrook said, it will proceed to Fort Polk, La. Lashbrook said she did not know the "higher headquarters" to which the 216th would be assigned, nor could she say whether the unit would be sent to Saudi Arabia or whether it would remain in the United States to replace a regular Army unit sent to the gulf.

The actual mobilization date of the 216th hasn't been determined yet, Lashbrook said.

## Crisis in the Middle East

# Nearly 1,800 guardsmen from Arkansas put on alert

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something."

Yet Power, who has never been alerted before, said he is ready to do what he has to.

"I've been wearing a uniform 20 years," he said. "It's a serious situation and whatever it takes to keep our country like it is I'm willing to serve."

Capt. Everett Payne, battery commander and full-time employee at the National Guard Armory in Fayetteville, said leaving for Saudi Arabia isn't as hard to deal with as leaving his wife, son and another child who is on the way.

But Payne, 29, said country comes first.

"If we're needed that's where we want to be," Payne said. "You deal with it however you can, but it's simply that when you're in the role that we're in this is always a possibility."

Payne said it's hard for family members to deal with the departure of a loved one. Communication is the key, he said.

"It's just a matter of talking," Payne said.

Adjutant Gen. James A. Ryan of the Arkansas National Guard, said

at a press conference Thursday that actual mobilization dates to Saudi Arabia would be announced later by the National Guard Bureau in Washington.

Ryan said Thursday's callup brings to about 1,900 the number of Guard members now on alert in Arkansas. He said 2,140 soldiers or about 22.1 percent of the Arkansas Army National Guard is on active duty or on alert.

Of that number, 100 members had been activated for movement to mobilization stations and 140 members had been deployed in Saudi Arabia, he said.

"I'm really not in a position to comment on exactly what the reasons are [for the alert]," Ryan said. "I was asked this morning why we had so many, and the response to that was we have very good units. We have done a good job in training units to be combat ready. We have some of those units that are in need for Desert Shield."

The 216th Medical Company of the Arkansas Army National Guard, based in Lake Village, was alerted Thursday it would be mobilized Saturday and would depart to Fort Polk, La. Tuesday. Also, three other units, including 22 doctors, were placed on alert.

Ryan also said military officials did not know where the 216th Medical Company would go after leaving Fort Polk or what its mission would be.

The 296th Medical Company in Charleston was mobilized Thursday and will leave for Fort Polk Monday. That company is scheduled to stay in the United States. The 1122nd Transportation Co., of Monticello was deployed to Saudi Arabia on Nov. 1.

According to a news release, the mission of the 224th Maintenance Company company, which would be mobilized to Fort Sill, Okla., is to occupy unit areas and attain operational readiness, support corps units, provide maintenance support to non-divisional units and provide backup direct maintenance support to divisional units.

The 148th Evacuation Hospital is capable of servicing 450 beds, Ryan said. The doctors in the unit are from all over the state so one town won't be affected disproportionately. The unit's mission is to provide hospitalization for all classes of patients. The hospital's mobilization station would be Fort Polk, La.

The 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, has 10 units and 1,085 mem-

### Arkansas Guard units alerted

National Guard units placed on alert Thursday.

Unit	Size	Location
224th Maintenance Co.	280	Mountain Home Marshall Russellville
148th Evacuation Hospital	415, including 22 doctors and 46 nurses	Camp Robinson in North Little Rock
142nd Field Artillery	1,085	Fayetteville Harrison Bentonville Springdale Rogers Berryville
		Fort Smith Van Buren Siloam Spgs Ozark Lincoln

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bers. Its mission is to provide field artillery fire support to combat units.

The location of the brigade's units and the number of members in each unit are: Harrison, 125 members; Bentonville, 100 members; Springdale, 90 members; Rogers, 90 members; Berryville, 80 members; Fort Smith, 120 members; Van Buren, 85 members; Siloam Springs, 90 members; Ozark, 105 members; and Lincoln, 65 members.

Each of the units would prepare for mobilization during a training assembly scheduled for the weekend, Ryan said.

Ryan said each of the soldiers would be given a detailed briefing about the mission of each of their units. When the units are mobilized family support centers will be opened at the armories to provide

assistance and information.

He also said he did not see at this time any possibility of any of the state's infantry units being called.

"The infantry units we have are what we call straight infantry units," Ryan said. "They are not mechanized, not armor units. The need seems to be in Operation Desert Shield for either mechanized or armor units."

Ryan said the number of guardsmen on alert had caused military officials to rethink plans to have an earthquake drill next month on the dates a scientist has forecast one.

He said the Arkansas Guard had begun making contacts with neighboring states to see how many of their units had been alerted.

— John Rice of the Gazette staff contributed to this report.

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## 780 troops in state Guard now on alert

BY SANDY DAVIS  
Democrat Jacksonville Bureau

More than 1,780 members of the Arkansas Army National Guard, including a combat artillery brigade, were placed on alert Thursday and may become part of President Bush's second massive buildup of troops in the Persian Gulf.

"If all of these are called up, it will be the largest call-up since World War II," said Maj. Gen. James A. Ryan, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, at a news conference at Guard headquarters at Camp Robinson.

Thursday's announcement brings the number of Arkansas Army Guard personnel involved in Operation Desert Shield to 2,120, or about 22.1 percent of its total personnel, Ryan said.

Ryan said he learned Wednesday that Arkansas was one of 24 states whose

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# Lake Village buses Guard members home

By Lisa Perizow

Gazette Staff

The people of Lake Village made sure that each and every member of a local Arkansas National Guard unit posted in Fort Polk, La., got to go home to their families this weekend — just days before they leave for the Persian Gulf.

But the chance to get a two-day glimpse of family members bused in by the city didn't make it easier to see them go off to Saudi Arabia, said Betty Jones, whose husband and son are due to be shipped out with the 216th Medical Company sometime this week or next.

"It was just as hard this time as it was last — maybe a little harder," said Jones. Most of the town turned out for a parade when the unit first left for Fort Polk last month.

This weekend's trip home "was a chance for everyone to see them one more time before they left," added Jones' son, Patrick, who drove in from Jonesboro to see his brother and father. "I don't think it made it any easier to see them leave."

Ron Jones, a full-time sergeant with the Guard, and his 18-year-old son, Robert, were two of about

100 Guard members from Desha, Chicot and Ashley counties who got to spend the weekend with their families thanks to more than \$1,000 raised by groups in Lake Village.

Two buses loaned by the Lake Village and Hamburg School Districts carried the Guard members home Friday night and then took them back Sunday afternoon.

"They [officials at Fort Polk] made this time available for them to come home," said Lake Village Mayor Jack H. Rhodes. "But it was up to the families and community to see that they got here."

A huge crowd saw the Guard members out of town when they left several weeks ago, but there were no planned activities this weekend because no one wanted to take time away from the troops and their families.

One of the main activities for many of the Guardsmen and women was a trip to the local Wal-Mart for batteries, cassette tapes, razors and other things they'll need in Saudi Arabia.

"Everyone spent some time at Wal-Mart," said Betty Jones. "But we pretty well stayed at home and had the family here."

## On home front, relatives fight fears with faith

BY SANDY DAVIS  
Democrat Jacksonville Bureau

As the beat of the war drums quickens, so increases the anxiety of Arkansans with loved ones in the Persian Gulf.

A North Little Rock father of two choked back tears as he talked last week about how he juggles his fears about his wife's safety with the comfort he must give his two young sons who are trying to deal with the absence of their soldier/mother.

The pregnant wife of a

McGehee soldier said she is praying, "Please God, let me just talk to my husband before Monday."

A Eudora mother wondered how she will keep "daddy alive in our 2-year-old daughter's mind."

A Jacksonville mother has peacefully accepted the fate of her son, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. Her anger lies with the U.S. Congress and its inability to present a united voice to Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Each of these Arkansans said they were watching Wednesday when the peace talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraq Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz failed to defuse the crisis.

"I was on my way home from the doctor," Cheryl Bailey, 26, of McGehee said. "I didn't expect a lot out of the talks, but I had to pull my car over to the side of the road when I heard. 'This is it. It's really going to happen,' I thought."

Bailey, who is about six

months pregnant, said she is pretty sure her husband, Army Spc. Kelly Bailey, 22, won't be home when the baby arrives.

Kelly Bailey is a member of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 216th Medical Company in Lake Village and was deployed to Saudi Arabia Dec. 30.

"I haven't heard from him yet. As the days click off to the 15th, I pray, 'Please God, let me just talk to my husband before Monday,'" she said. "I know I need to talk to him be-

fore then."

Mrs. Bailey said she and her daughter by a previous marriage, Rebekah, 6, have "good days and bad days."

"Rebekah is taking it more mature now. At first, though, it went straight to her heart and I had to take her to counseling once."

Before their lives were interrupted, Kelly Bailey worked at a lumber company.

"He had a regular job, eight to five each day," his wife said. "He was a weekend warrior

and he never ever thought anything like this would happen.

"In the beginning he held up pretty good. But when he came home for Christmas, he broke down. He said, 'I'm really, really, scared.' He's only 22 years old and he's about to go to war.

"I told him if you don't do anything else, please hold on to your faith. It's all that's connecting me to you."

Martha Hale, 33, of Eudora said she is "very depressed

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## War jitters affecting campuses

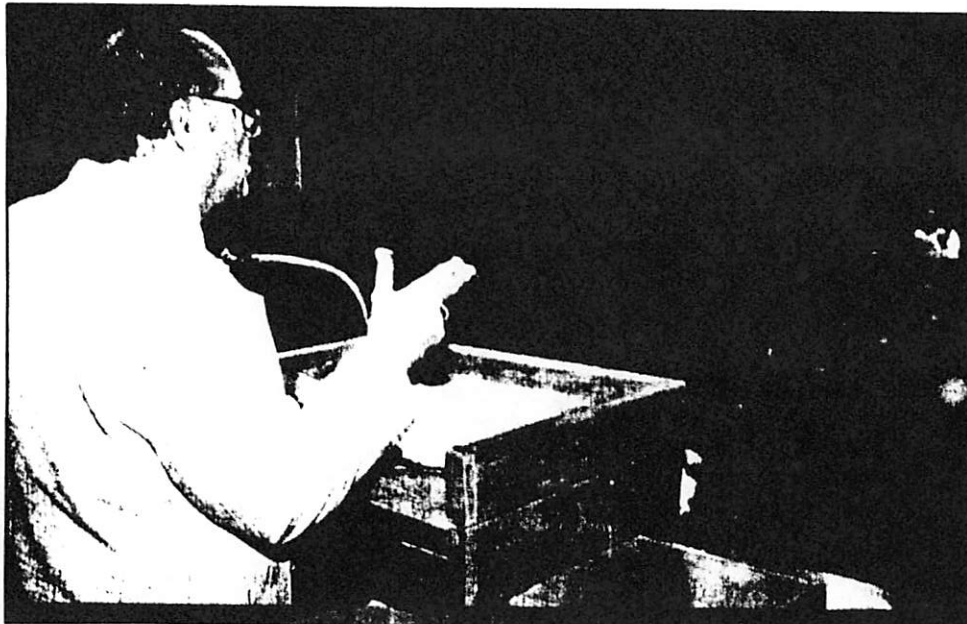
BY TERRY LEMONS  
Democrat Staff Writer

Students feel fear and tension mounting on the state's college campuses as the nation edges toward war.

With classmates joining National Guard units in Saudi Arabia, many Arkansas college students find themselves touched by a potential war for the first time.

Students, professors and administrators say that, so far, most of those on the state's campuses seem supportive of American action.

But like other campuses across the nation, isolated anti-war sentiments seem to be growing in recent days among some Arkansas students. Many students find themselves torn



**MISSING FLOCK** - The Rev. Glen Bolding preaches to a practically empty house recently at his North Hills

Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock. The two people in the audience were his wife and grand

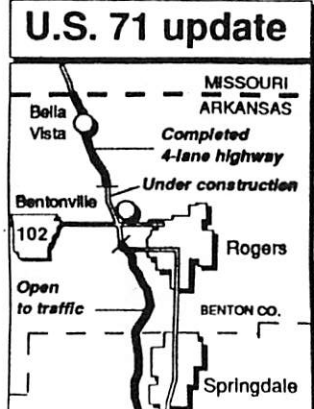
## Work on U.S. 71 predicted to take up to 9 more years

BY MARVON JOHANSEN BROWNING  
Democrat Staff Writer

It could be as many as nine more years before the new U.S. 71 between Interstate 40 at Alma (Crawford County) and the Missouri state line is finished.

Work on upgrading the highway dates as far back as January 1968, when the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department contracted for grading and structures on the two-lane Fayetteville loop (original U.S. 71 bypass).

The estimated completion date for the entire project is "near 2000," said Bill Stan-



# Congress' vote to approve war powers a

BY RANDY LILLESTON  
Democrat Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - On three gray, snowy, wet days here at the end of last week, Congress made history.

Saturday's votes, constituting a virtual declaration of war against Iraq, were actually anticlimactic.

When Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., introduced a resolution late Friday that would give President Bush virtual war power, the outcome was virtually assured.

There was no reason to introduce the resolution, and po-



tentially embarrass the president, if the votes weren't there to pass it in the Senate. There never had been much doubt in the House that Bush would get what he wanted. The battle was over in Congress.

But if you ever wanted to see the democratic process in action, the way idealists think it should work, the Persian Gulf debate made for the ideal

chance.

There were speeches. And more speeches. And more speeches. The House went at it from 9 a.m. Friday until 4 a.m. Saturday, non-stop, then started up again five hours later. C-SPAN and PBS carried it all, live.

Senators and congressmen genuinely wrestled with their consciences. Although the Democratic leadership in both the House and Senate pushed resolutions that were doomed to failure, there were no promises of retribution when rank-and-file Democrats didn't go along.

The visitors' galleries were packed. Hundreds of people waited in line outside the House and Senate chambers to get a chance to watch the debate. With the exception of a minor incident in the Senate gallery, in which a few protesters disrupted proceedings for a short time, there were no problems.

"The debate on these resolutions has been the best, most sincere, and most thoughtful I have ever heard in the Senate," Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., said when that debate was finished. "I think every

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deply held."

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## Guard

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and worried" about her husband, Sgt. Kenny Ray Hale, 28, who is also in the 216th Medical Company.

"I'm just trying to face reality," she said of the failed peace talks. "I hope and pray he'll be home soon, but I have to face the other possibility."

Mrs. Hale said her husband was able to get through to her on the telephone at 3:45 a.m. Jan. 6.

"His spirits were good. He said about 800 to 900 troops were staying in a warehouse. They were all sleeping under one roof. He said it was cold at night and the customs in that country are terrible. He's kind of afraid to go into town for fear he'll get in some kind of trouble."

Mrs. Hale said she is "disgusted with Hussein. I don't understand why he doesn't want peace."

"Bush is gung-ho for war. I only hope Congress can find a peaceful resolution so our men can come home."

The Hales have two children - Greg, 10, and Amy, 2.

"Greg and I write him letters every other day," Mrs. Hale said. "He is lonesome. He misses Greg and he's worried that Amy will grow up without

him."

To keep "daddy fresh in Amy's mind," the Hale's made video cassette tapes of him before he left.

"Now, she watches those tapes," Mrs. Hale said.

For now, the family is holding up well.

"All we can do is hope and pray," she said, choking back tears.

Becky Brooks of Jacksonville said she is at peace with the fact her son, Kenny, 26, a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, is in Saudi Arabia.

"He is a precious young man. He's doing what he wants to do. He's where is supposed to be. I have peace about that and I'm sorry for those people who don't," she said as she sat in her office at Doug Wilkinson Realty in Jacksonville.

"My prayer for him is that he is protected," she said. "I'm more upset about Congress and the message they're sending to Iraq."

"If Congress votes against a resolution supporting the president, I'll lead a march down Main Street," she said. "Aziz was laughing at us at his news conference (after the peace talks failed). It was almost a look of mockery."

Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Newton, 35, said he is taking it one day at a time since his wife, Marilyn Sue Newton, 33, went on

active duty Nov. 21.

Both of the Newtons were full-time Guard members before Operation Desert Shield began. But only Mrs. Newton's unit, the 224th Maintenance Company of Russellville, has been mobilized. She is scheduled to depart today for Saudi Arabia.

The Newton's have two children, Seth, 7, and Aaron, 5.

"It's been difficult, but each of us has had to be away before for weeks at a time when we attended schools for the Guard," he said.

Newton gets emotional only when he is asked how the children are handling their mother's absence.

"Aaron, well, he's just 5. We talk about her going to Saudi Arabia but he really doesn't understand," Newton said. "But Seth does understand and he gets real emotional."

Newton said he is particularly anxious because his wife's unit is expected to be stationed about 100 miles from the Kuwaiti border. "That's pretty close."

And of the failed peace talks, "I'm hoping Hussein will back down. I'm nervous. I think about it a lot," he said. "It doesn't look good, but I still have hope."

## Retreat

Continued from Arkansas Page  
ing tired and frustrated after trying to put together a consensus list of proposed cuts in order of priority. Possible cuts would eliminate athletics, some bus transportation and some academic electives like advance placement and upper-level foreign language courses. An unknown number of employees will be laid off.

Debate at the retreat focused on two areas: The importance of academics over athletics and the need to move forward - not backward - on affirmative action.

"It's a tough decision," board member Gene Goss said of the proposed cuts. "None of this is going to be easy."

Superintendent Bobby Lester said the district faces a cash shortage this fall and needs to be ready to make millions of dollars in cuts that would start to go into effect July 1.

Lester said Sunday he did not know how much would need to be cut or how many district employees may lose their jobs.

The first sign may come from the conclusion of ongoing teacher-contract negotiations. No deadline has been set on the negotiations.

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# VIEWPOINT

## It's time to come home

Communication can be broken down in three categories: information, misinformation and disinformation. Information is based in fact and misinformation is based on fiction. Disinformation comes when people speak around the question instead of to the question.

The representatives of the Arkansas Army National Guard who appeared before a meeting of the 216th Family Support Group Thursday night were practitioners of disinformation.

The Little Rock contingent appeared condescending, aloof and unconcerned about the worries of the family members of the 216th. Only when pressed did a direct answer come to a question.

We understand the Guard is in a tight spot. They are the ones who have to face the complaints while having no say in the resolution of the matter.

The information from the Guard was contradictory, at best. On the one hand they told family members not to believe rumors, and yet they chose to instill hope that the unit would be back earlier than the "rumored" November date.

We are concerned that on a recent trip to Saudi Arabia, CSM Stanley Hicks and public affairs officer Major Cissy Lashbrook had trouble finding the location of the 216th. Granted, communications aren't the best but certainly they should have had an idea where to look for them rather than running down Arab highways searching for ambulances with hogs painted on them. This doesn't speak well for organization.

All through the meeting, Hicks and Lashbrook reiterated the point that the 216th's "mission" was not completed. We thought the

group's "mission" was the provide support to our troops in a combat situation. From what we have been able to glean, they did a superb job of that.

Probably the biggest complaint we have with this whole scenario is that ambulance companies within the regular military have returned stateside while our National Guard unit stays in the Middle East. Our information from the Guard in Little Rock indicates this has indeed occurred.

We are now officially at peace, with the signing of the treaty establishing the United Nation's peace-keeping force. That should signal the end of the national emergency, which was the reason our unit was called up to begin with.

To our thinking, it's now time for the guardsmen to come home.

### Bring the 216th Home with the Rest!

According to the information we can get at the state level, the 216th Medical Company (Amb.) will be the ONLY National Guard unit that will still be in the Persian Gulf when the state honors "all" the troops with a weekend tribute, heralded as the largest parade ever in the state. There are promises to "do everything possible" to get them home sooner than the "rumored" November date while we are told no other guard unit will be there after the July date. The concern of the Family Support Group in Lake Village was expressed to Command Sgt. Major Stanley Hicks, Public Affairs officer, Maj. Cissy Lashbrook, and a legal representative, all from Little Rock. Their questions were skirted and information (???) lacking. For those who would like to write to our legislators to see what can be done of the federal level, the addresses are as follows:

Honorable David Pryor  
United States Senator  
248 Russell Senate Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Dale Bumpers  
United States Senate  
3229 Dirksen Senate Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Bill Alexander  
U.S. Representative  
223 Cannon Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Beryl Anthony  
U. S. Representative  
1117 Longworth Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable George Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Also contact:  
Honorable Bill Clinton  
Governor of Arkansas  
State Capitol Bldg.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Note: We are told hand written letters are read before form letters.

## Crisis in the Middle East

# Lake Village sends off 216th unit

By Toya Hill  
Gazette Staff

It was a send-off fit for a king, Lake Village officials said.

With streets lined with spectators, ribbons adorning the main intersection, and the local fire house whistle blowing, the town of Lake Village bid farewell to the 216th Medical Company in grand parade style, said Libby Borgognoni, Chamber of Commerce president.

"It was a sight to behold," she said. "From the armory all the way for miles we had the people to arrive on cars on the shoulders of the highways."

The unit was escorted by police "all the way to the Louisiana line," Borgognoni said.

The 216th, an Arkansas National Guard unit, left Lake Village about 8 a.m. Tuesday headed for Ft. Polk, La. The units activation is part of a host of call ups involving Arkansas guardsmen and reservists for Operation Desert Shield.

To date, Arkansas has about 2,645 part-time troops either on alert, activated, or in Saudi Arabia.

Today, three more guard units officially go active duty — the 224th Maintenance Com-

pany, the 148th Evacuation Hospital, and the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade. They will leave for their mobilization stations Nov. 24 and 26.

In Lake Village, more than 1,000 people turned out for the units' departure, Borgognoni said.

A parade, which included the 216th unit, local high school bands and the Lake Village police and fire departments, marched from the national guard armory north, and ultimately ended up traveling west on state Highway 82, she said.

"It was just so poignant and touching," Borgognoni said. "The women especially were just crying."

"We all felt like that because they were disrupting their lives, that the least the town people could do was to take up about 30 minutes of their time," she said, adding that school was even closed for the farewell.

The send-off was especially meaningful for Tarcy Olivi, who said goodbye to her oldest son Glen Olivi, 20.

"I couldn't believe the celebration," she said. "The town actually gave them the biggest send-off."

"When they went through Portland I heard they were all smiling," Olivi said.

As the troops traveled through the towns of Montrose, Portland, and Wilmot citizens of those communities also came out to wish them well.

Several town clubs also prepared care packages which went with the unit when they left, and one local bank is planning on erecting a billboard with the name and address of everyone on the unit for people to write to them.

"I think we just all can't believe where they're actually going to end up," Olivi said. "I guess it finally sank in."

"There's plenty of prayers being said," she said.

Members of the 224th, 148th and 142nd are expected to report to their armories today to pack up for mobilization, and on Friday an advance party from the units will leave to prepare for their arrivals, Maj. Cissy Lashbrook, a guard spokesperson, said.

The guardsmen, however, will be allowed time off for about three hours on Thursday to celebrated Thanksgiving with their families, she said.

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# Arkansans activated for Desert Shield



Unit	Size	Base	Status
321st Materiel Management Center, 1st Detachment	150	El Dorado	in Saudi Arabia
299th Combat Engineers Bn. Company D	130	Pine Bluff	in Ft. Sill, Okla., scheduled for duty in Saudi Arabia
374th Medical Detachment	75	Little Rock	in Ft. Sill, Okla., scheduled for duty in Saudi Arabia
314th Tactical Airlift Wing	1500*	Little Rock AFB	in Saudi Arabia
I Company, 3rd Bn, 23rd Marine Regt. 4th Marine Div.	150*	N. Little Rock	on alert, scheduled to go to Camp Lejeune, N.C.
112nd Transportation Co.	140	Monticello	in Saudi Arabia
296th Medical Co.	100*	Charleston	in Ft. Polk, La. for stateside duty
216th Medical Co.	100	Lake Village	in Ft. Polk, La., destination not known
224th Maintenance Co.	280	Mountain Home Marshall Russellville	activated today, scheduled to go to Ft. Sill on Saturday
142nd Field Artillery Bde.	1,085	Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Harrison, Pantowville	activated today, scheduled to go to Ft. Sill on Saturday