

# Gilmer Mirror

since 1877 - Upshur County's Oldest Business Institution



Saturday, May 10, 2003

Two Sections 30 Cents

## Texas State Guard completes training sponsored by Upshur County Sheriff



Mirror Photos

**'DON'T MOVE,'** says a Texas State Guard military policeman during a training exercise held last Saturday at Sand Hill. Instructor Jim Liberacki has been training the Guard personnel on behalf of Upshur County Sheriff Anthony Betterton at his JBarL Ranch for the last four months. Below Sheriff Betterton congratulates one of the policemen and hands him a certificate of training. At left is Instructor Liberacki. Between them is LT. Robert Brevelie, Unit Commander of the Third Battalion, TXSG.

A group of 14 military policemen with the Texas State Guard (TXSG) said to consist mostly of Dallas-area volunteers has been training at the JBarL Ranch of Jim Liberacki at Sand Hill one weekend out of each month for the last four months.

Saturday afternoon, May 3, they graduated from the course taught by Instructor Liberacki of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office. On hand to give them certificates was Sheriff Anthony Betterton. Upshur County SO sponsored the training.



The guardsmen from the 19th Military Police Brigade (aka Parson's Brigade) have reported to the Upshur County Sheriff's Office one Saturday a month since February for training in basic police skills.

The training consisted of land navigation, radio communications, firearms, handcuffing techniques, evidence collection and

See STATE GUARD, Page 5A



Mailmen collect food donations

# State Guard

Continued from Page 1

crime scene preservation. The Texas State Guard is an all-volunteer force subject to call up by the Governor in the event of an emergency or public need requiring training personnel to augment local authorities within the state of Texas. Guardsmen also participate in civic activities such as parades, patriotic ceremonies, security and crowd control.

Liberacki said, "This is more than a classroom exercise because we need the outside. All day long, we've been out in the field doing exercises."

As he said this, he was critiquing his MP trainee as they conducted an apprehension/handcuffing exercise in a nearby field.

The 14 volunteers split up into three teams and rotated out with two teams apprehending the designated "bad guys" of the third team.

"You can never expect it to work according to some preconceived scenario," the instructor cautioned the sweat-drenched trainees as they returned to a metal building on the ranch to discuss the exercise.

Also on hand Saturday was Lt. Robert Breville, the 26-year-old Unit Commander of the State Guard's Third Battalion.

"Texas State Guard participates in homeland security and supports the mission of the National Guard and U.S. Army," said Lt. Breville, himself a U.S. Army veteran who now works in the field of electronic systems for defense contractor Raytheon in Dallas and is earning a Ph.D. at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Texas State Guard soldiers are volunteers between the ages of 17 and 60, and train a minimum of one weekend each month. All serve without pay except if called upon for State Active Duty by the Governor. TXSG soldiers come from all backgrounds and walks of life, many with prior military service.

He said TXSG has received more emphasis since "9-11," the shorthand term commonly used to designate the events of Sept. 11, 2001, involving the attacks on the World Trade Center's Twin Towers and the Pentagon by hijacked airliners.

"Since '9-11' we've been right back on the hot plate," he said.

The State Guard was involved in the retrieval of debris caused by the breakup on Feb. 1 of the space shuttle Columbia over East Texas, he said.

Lt. Breville said another recent duty of TXSG was providing security at the Governor's Inaugural Parade through downtown Austin in January.

He noted that TXSG now numbers about 3,000 military policemen with another 3,000 to 4,000 medical personnel volunteering their time under the jurisdiction of the University of Texas Health System, including doctors, nurses and NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) specialists.

TXSG is the second branch of the Military Forces of the State of Texas, operating alongside the Texas National Guard, which is comprised of the Texas Army National Guard and the Texas Air National Guard. The



Mirror Photo

**TEXAS STATE GUARD** volunteers of the 19th Military Police Brigade have just completed four months of training in Ushur County sponsored by Sheriff Anthony Betterton and led by Instructor Jim Liberacki.

TXSG supports the mission and goals of the Texas National Guard, in addition to numerous roles in community support and civil assistance.

Composed of a headquarters group, support detachments, an air support wing and six military police brigades, the size and structure of the TXSG is determined and directed by the Governor of the State of Texas, through the Adjutant General. TXSG companies and detachments are collocated with Army National Guard and Air National Guard units throughout the State.

"We're all just weekend warriors," said Louisiana native Breville, as he inspected members of the brigade sweltering in the warm and humid piney woods of Upshur County.

He noted that the Sand Hill trainees included a copier company manager, pediatrician, air conditioning specialist and chaplain.

On behalf of Texas Gov. Rick Perry, he also thanked Sheriff Betterton for sponsoring the training.

"You guys look good out there," Lt. Breville told the graduates as the sheriff stepped forward to hand out

certificates. "It was a lot of fun."

He told them to "distribute this knowledge out to the troops." The trainees let out a loud "whoop" before receiving the order to "fall out."

Lt. Breville said the State Guard, begun during World War II because of manpower shortages on the home front, raised 10,000 volunteers within six months of its inception. The concept is not unique to Texas, he said, as at least 38 other states also have state guards.

Here is a more detailed history of the 19th Military Police Brigade courtesy of the State Guard's Web site:

<http://www.agd.state.tx.us/stateguard/>

"On 10 FEB 1941, the Defense Act (H.B. No. 45) authorized a volunteer militia. Volunteers from the Northeast Texas area were constituted as the 19th, 29th, 35th, and 51st Battalions of the Texas Defense Guard. These units remained active throughout World War II and in 1943 the 48th Legislature changed the name of the Defense Guard to Texas State Guard. After the Texas State Guard was inactivated on 28 AUG 1947 (AGTX-GO 21), the 50th Legislature re-autho-

rized the Texas State Guard Reserve Corps on 26 JAN 1948 (AGTX-GO 4) and the unit reformed and designated the 6th Regiment including an ROTC section. In 1958 the unit was re-designated the 1st Military Defense Group and in 1965 renamed the 102nd Military Police Battalion. In 1984 the unit was designated the 9th Military Police Group. When the Texas State Guard reorganized on 1 JUL 1993 elements of the 7th and 9th Military Police Groups were combined and designated as the 19th Brigade, and the name Parson's Brigade reclaimed for the unit.

"The original Parson's Brigade was formed in the Spring of 1862 by COL Nathaniel M. Burford of Dallas, Texas as the 19th Texas Cavalry. The 19th was successively attached to Hawes', Cater's, Flourney's, Steel's, and Parson's Brigade of the Trans-Mississippi Department. The Brigade was disbanded in Marshall, Texas in May 1865."

To find out more about the Texas State Guard and the benefits it offers contact SSGT Glen Parsons at 903-797-2162.



Mirror Photo

**HANDCUFFING TECHNIQUES** were being practiced Saturday afternoon during the final session of the Texas State Guard's spring training in Upshur County.

By  
LENA CHAMBERLAIN