In Time of Crisis the Reservists Were

CALLED TO SERVE

Fort Stewart Salutes You!
HONOR ROLL

THE POST

108th SIGNAL BATTALION

377th SIGNAL COMPANY

497th SIGNAL COMPANY

828th SIGNAL COMPANY

2d MEDIUM TANK BATTALION, 123d ARMOR

418th ORDNANCE BATTALION

413th ORDNANCE COMPANY
HISTORY of FORT STEWART, Ga.

Fort Stewart, home of the U. S. Army Armor and Artillery Firing Center, was created initially as Camp Stewart in June 1940 by an Act of Congress. Named for General Daniel Stewart, Revolutionary War hero, the post was activated to meet the need for an antiaircraft training center.

During World War II, thousands of antiaircraft artillermen were trained on the post's 280,000 acre reservation. Covering a rough quadrilateral area of about 20 by 35 miles, the post is located in five Georgia counties—Bryan, Evans, Liberty, Long and Tattnall.

Peak wartime strength for the post came in July and August of 1943, when over 55,000 troops were in training at the installation.

After the war, the camp was used as a separation center until its deactivation in July 1946. Reactivated in August 1950, Fort Stewart became the Third Army Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center and then the Camp Stewart Antiaircraft Artillery and Tank Training Center. Official ceremonies redesignating Camp Stewart as a permanent military installation were held on April 7, 1956, and the post became Fort Stewart Antiaircraft Artillery and Tank Training Center. On January 1, 1957 it received the United States Army part of its title.
As a permanent installation, Fort Stewart has been the site of considerable construction, including tank maintenance facilities, 471 Capehart housing units, a $3.9 million troop housing complex, a National Guard equipment concentration site and 33 mess halls.

The increasing importance of the post in the nation's military picture has been reflected by the 31,000 National Guard and Reserve troops which train here yearly. The post also provides field training facilities and support for more than 7,000 active Army troops from other Eastern posts.

Designated the U. S. Army Armor and Artillery Firing Center on May 1, 1959, Fort Stewart continues to perform increasingly important missions in the training of tankers and artillery-men. Its vast acreage has also been used for several Army tests of new concepts and equipment.

The post celebrates its anniversary each year with great satisfaction in its accomplishments and with the firm belief that its role in the national defense picture increases with each passing year.
Upon visiting Ft. Stewart this past year, Lt. Gen. T. J. H. Trapnell, Third United States Army Commander, (center) went to the field to witness the field training of the activated reserve units here. On his visit to the 108th Sig Bn Gen. Trapnell was escorted by Lt. Col. Samuel O. Robertson, Battalion Commander. He is shown meeting Capt. Robert F. Murphy, C. O. of the 497th Sig Co.
Since the 108th Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment arrived at Fort Stewart in October, it has been obvious that the importance of this unit cannot be measured by its size.

With an authorized strength of only 46 officers and men, the South Carolina unit was battalion headquarters, with staff, supply and maintenance sections, for four smaller Signal units. Under its command at Fort Stewart were the 497th Signal Company, the 828th Signal Company, the 377th Signal Company and the 287th Signal Detachment. Under the leadership of the 108th, a South Carolina National Guard unit, the three U.S. Army Reserve companies and Regular Army detachment were molded into an efficient, functioning Signal Battalion capable of maintaining a state of combat readiness.

The first job of the 108th after their arrival was to process men and equipment, acquire additional unit equipment and organize the Signal Battalion. Then the unit’s Intensified Combat Training Program began.

For thirteen weeks the Signalmen trained in basic military subjects and in their individual military specialty. The men learned to operate as a military team in exercises ranging from squad and section up to company size. Their training also included supplying administrative and tactical support to the units operating within the battalion.

In February the 108th successfully completed the Army Training Test, showing that the weeks of training had been effective and that they were capable of operating as a Signal Battalion under combat conditions.

"Exercise Seneca Spear," a combat problem conducted by the 2d Infantry Division, provided even more realistic field training for the Signalmen. During the exercise, the 108th provided radio relay and communications support for the aggressor forces, and many of the men of the Battalion took part in the guerrilla activity with the aggressor forces. At the end of the exercise, the National Guard men who had spent over 30 days living in the field under simulated combat conditions since their arrival at Fort Stewart. This, plus the knowledge and teamwork developed through rigorous training had made the 108th Signal Battalion a hardened, combat ready team.

The Soldiers also found time to improve themselves as individuals while at Fort Stewart.

On the Post small arms ranges, approximately 60 per cent of the detachment fired "expert", the Army’s highest marksmanship category.

Several Soldiers added college courses to their records by attending the University of Georgia Extension Center in Hinesville; another completed high school requirements through the Army’s Educational Development Program. Almost all participated in some post activity — sports, service clubs, library, hunting and fishing were favorites.

The men of this small unit can go home with the satisfaction of knowing that they have filled a vital need in the crisis facing their country and have performed a mission far more important than their size and number would indicate.
Much of the unit's training was done in the field. Shown operating an SP-22 Switchboard are (l-r) Sp4 Charles C. Edenfield and PFC Albert B. Watkins.

The unit supply room was always active, as Sp4 Donald F. Nicholson (left) is shown signing out a mess kit to Sp4 Marvin B. Culbertson.
In early October, 1961 the 377th Signal Company arrived at Travis Field in Savannah, and set out on buses for their new post, Fort Stewart. It was the beginning of what was to be a year of intensive training, a year that was to develop them into a combat-ready unit. And for many of the men of the Signal Company, it was their second or even third call to active duty.

Although the primary mission of the 377th was that of providing depot support, they first had to undergo the training that would make them fighting soldiers. This would be accomplished in the 13-week Intensified Combat Phase which they started in November of 1961.

During this phase the unit received training in the basic military subjects, training that would develop them physically and mentally for their Army mission. Individual training in special skills was received during the latter weeks of this phase, and the unit gradually developed the cohesiveness required of a smoothly operating military team.

The results of this training were recognized when the 377th took its Army Training Test in February, 1962. This test covered all phases of the unit's mission under combat conditions, and was successfully completed by the 377th.

In the spring of 1962, with other post units, the Signalmen participated with the 2d Infantry Division in "Exercise Seneca Spear." The company provided a team to support the Division's intelligence section, and also set up guerrilla operations against regular troops. For its role in this operation the Company received a commendation from 2d Division commander, Major General Charles Chase.

The Company sent teams of men to other military installations such as Fort Gordan, Ga., and the Atlanta General Depot during the year. At Fort Stewart, in addition to its training and support duties, the 377th operated a warehouse containing almost 20 million dollars worth of military equipment.

But the off-duty hours were spent pleasantly enough for the Signalmen. The post offered a complete program for relaxation and participation in many activities. The rural areas around Fort Stewart, and its proximity to the ocean provided opportunities for outdoor activities.

The dependents of the men were also assimilated into the Fort Stewart community. The wives and children found many organizations provided for their diversion and enjoyment, and they responded to them very well.

Sports played a large role in the 377th's off-duty activities. The Company provided teams in every major sport and saw its basketball team win the post American League championship. No less significant (for the less vigorous of the men) was another champion team: in ping-pong.

Several men from the Company took advantage of the chance to further their education. They enrolled and completed courses at the nearby University of Georgia Extension Center. Others furthered their military skills by attending Army technical schools.

The question of where they would go after their training was answered for the 377th Signal Company during the training year. They remained at Fort Stewart. But it was perhaps their very presence there, training to go elsewhere, that kept them and many other units like them from being sent much farther away.
Checking invoices are (left-right) CWO John W. Grady, Sp4 Gunter Polte, and Sp4 Jon C. Masten.

First echelon maintenance is always the drivers' responsibility. Changing a tire on his Fork Lift is Sp4 Leland D. Payne.

When the Berlin Crisis necessitated the bolstering of the Armed Forces, the 497th Signal Company of New York City was one of the many reserve units to be activated. The call to active duty interrupted careers and studies, and often family life, for the citizen soldiers. But members of the signal unit donned their uniforms willingly, fulfilling an obligation they had accepted as members of the Army Reserve.

When the 497th Signal Company left New York City in October, 1961 for Fort Stewart, veterans and recruits were ready for training that would bring the unit to a state of combat readiness.

Upon arrival at Fort Stewart an Intensive Combat Training Program was begun. It involved orientation and refresher courses in basic military subjects. The Signal Company being a radio relay unit, training during the latter weeks of the phase included advanced individual training in military specialties involving communications.

The 497th received the Army Training Test in January and February of 1962. This test determines if the unit has absorbed the lessons of the previous 13 weeks. It covers all phases of the unit's operations under combat conditions. The 497th passed this test successfully.

During April, 1962 the 2d Infantry Division arrived at Fort Stewart for "Exercise Seneca Spear". These war games involved all units on post, including the 497th. Their role in the operation was to provide a communications system for the aggressor forces. They also carried out guerrilla activity with Special Forces units operating against the 2d Division.

Support was provided by the Signalmen for other Army units during the year. They also constructed a number of radio and microwave towers for the big "Swift Strike II" exercise carried out in South Carolina during August, 1962.

Participation in various post activities was widespread... The men found time for every.

FORT STEWART, Ga., March 8—Fort Stewart's Soldier of the Month for February, Specialist Fourth Class Leon J. Titman, is congratulated by Brigadier General L. S. Bork (right), Post Commander. The 497th Signal Company radio repairman was chosen on the basis of his knowledge of military and world affairs, leadership abilities and soldierly conduct and appearance. He was awarded a three-day pass, a letter of commendation and a $25 U. S. Savings Bond by General Bork.
thing from the craft shops to the service clubs and library. The natural recreation areas of south Georgia provided leisure time activities.

Women and children were not left out. Post activities took up much of their leisure time. Wives of the servicemen often served as officers of the organizations of which they were members. An outstanding effort by the New Yorkers and their dependents was in Little Theater productions.

The 497th's bowling team won the post championship, while the football team reached the semi-finals in post play. The unit provided teams in all of the major sports, and went along enthusiastically with the post athletic program.

The questions of October, 1961 were answered for the 497th Signalmen during the training year that followed. Their service provided the added strength that filled the gap until the Regular Army could be built up. They served well.

FORT STEWART, Ga., May 21—Recent field maneuvers sent Army Chaplain (Captain) Thomas F. Early to Fort Stewart's woods, to conduct Sunday Morning mass for the Roman Catholic Soldiers of the 497th Signal Company. The company is commanded by Captain Robert F. Murphy.
A FAMILIAR SIGHT DURING THE 1961 FLAG FOOTBALL SEASON — 497th Signal Company’s Sgt. Tom Fitzgibbon was on hand to play the bagpipes at many of the unit’s night games. Fitzgibbon learned to play the pipes from an uncle, and is descended from a clan in County Clare, Ireland.

The 497th Signal Company set up and operated four Radio Relay Stations at Fort Stewart last winter, communicating with each other over its sending and receiving equipment. Constant on-the-job training kept the unit up to peak performance.
From the Twin Cities — Minneapolis-St. Paul — to southern Georgia is a long way, physically as well as psychologically. And as the miles dropped behind on the road to Fort Stewart no doubt many of the men of the 828th Signal Company became increasingly aware of the distance that was taking them farther along on a journey that could lead anywhere. The 828th Signal Company was activated to meet an urgent demand, a demand that resulted from another crisis of the Cold War. For the veterans of the unit it was an old story retold; for the younger recruits it was the realization of a possibility that they had often considered. But as those miles went by, for every man of the unit the fact that they were now fully involved struck home. The 828th arrived at Fort Stewart in a somber mood.

Luckily, Fort Stewart was the furthest the Company had to go. The 828th is a radio relay company, an Army Reserve unit, which is quite specialized. But since the men of the unit are first of all soldiers, it is this which received primary attention.

In November shortly after the unit’s arrival an Intensified Combat Training phase was begun. This program was designed to instruct and reinforce the soldiers’ basic military knowledge. As the training phase progressed, advanced individual training, closer to military specialities of individuals, was received. In the final weeks of the 13-week course intensive training in radio...
communications became the first consideration.

Training received, no matter how complete, can only be judged if it is tested. In February of 1962 the 828th received the Army Training Test, which determines if a unit is capable of performing its military function. This test covers all areas of operation expected of a unit under combat conditions, and determines if the individuals and the military team have learned their jobs. The 828th passed its test successfully.

Another chance to put the training to work occurred in the Spring of 1962. At that time the 2d Infantry Division arrived at Fort Stewart for exercises known as “Seneca Spear”. The Signalmen played a large role in these maneuvers. In addition to providing a communications system for the 2d Division Headquarters, they engaged in guerrilla activities, and participated in chemical and nuclear warfare operations. “Seneca Spear” was the highlight of the 828th’s training year.

Throughout the year the Company continued routine support of other Army units. It was responsible for the major portion of communication tower construction for the “Swift Strike II” exercise, carried out during the summer of 1962. In addition to regular unit training, the men received instruction and practiced firing of individual weapons.

Not all of their time was spent in “the military trade.” The men took advantage of the varied program for relaxation and entertainment offered by Fort Stewart. All recreational facilities — from service clubs to craft shops — were widely utilized, and the natural recreation areas of south Georgia offered many opportunities for spare-time enjoyment.

Wives and children of the men found adequate programs to fill their time. They not only participated but often became leaders in the various post organizations, which ranged from Scouting for the children to wives’ clubs for the women.

A number of the Signalmen found the year at Fort Stewart a convenient time to increase their education. While several increased their service skills at Army technical schools, others completed courses at the University of Georgia Extension Center in nearby Hinesville.

Athletics are always encouraged and emphasized by the Army. The men of the Company contributed teams in all major sports, and had a number of outstanding athletes among them.

Despite the longing to return home, morale remained high for the 828th Signal Company. This helped them to do their job during a critical period, and has contributed to their becoming a combat-ready unit.
Setting up communications is what they were trained for. Shown checking out a radio hook-up from the back of a 2½ ton truck, are Sp4 Mark R. Ulman and PFC Francis E. Koes.

PFC Ronald J. Andrle gets a jump shot blocked, in post intramural play, but the 828th went on to win 40-36.
On October 28, 1961, as the 80th Army Band played, the 2d Medium Tank Battalion, 123d Armor, rolled into Fort Stewart to begin a year of active Army service. On hand to greet the tankers were Post officials and National Guard officials from their home state of Kentucky — Major General Arthur Y. Lloyd, Kentucky Adjutant General; Brigadier General William R. Buster, Assistant AG, and Colonel Arthur C. Bonnycastle, commander of the Kentucky National Guard's 149th Armor Group.

The Kentucky tankers, from the towns of Owensboro, Livermore, Paducah and Henderson, moved into a modern brick barracks complex at Fort Stewart. The three-story buildings with air conditioned mess halls have little resemblance to the World War II type barracks in which many of the Soldiers had lived during past tours of duty.

As soon as they were settled, the National Guardsmen began the job of bringing their unit to combat readiness in the shortest possible time. They spent many days on the tank tables where each tank crewman became familiar with the use of weapons and equipment.

On the first three tables, they fired the light weapons mounted on the Patton tanks. Next they fired the heavier 90 millimeter gun on three tables. In the final two stages, the tankers participated in day and night crew exercises with their tanks, testing coordination and knowledge of tactics from the crew and platoon level up to exercises involving the entire battalion.

Just thirteen weeks after their Intensified Combat Training Program was begun, the citizen-soldiers proved themselves competent tankers in the unit's first Army Training Test.
Lieutenant Colonel William E. Hall, commander of the 2d Medium Tank Battalion, 123d Armored Regiment.

Private First Class Robert L. F. Stokes, first man to re-enlist after the Battalion's arrival at Fort Stewart, is sworn in before "D" Company by company commander, Captain Lawrence C. Bladen. In the background are the barracks used by the tankers.
The second big test of the Tank Battalion's ability to operate as an Armor unit came with "Exercise Seneca Spear," staged by the 2d Infantry Division at Fort Stewart. A practical demonstration of cooperation between armor and infantry, "Seneca Spear" proved to be the most realistic training the unit received. The tankers also gained experience in divergent types of warfare, including chemical, nuclear and counter-guerrilla operations, in the realistic exercise.

As the men of the 123d Armor were molded into a close-knit, functioning unit, they also took time for individual accomplishment. Some added to their military skills by attending Army technical schools, others completed college courses at the University of Georgia Hinesville Extension Center, while still others received high school diplomas through the Army's Educational Development Program.

On the small arms ranges of the post many attained the rank of "expert," highest of the Army's marksmanship classifications.

There were other red letter events on the unit's calendar — Armed Forces Day when the armor unit paraded en masse in Savannah; the visit of Citadel Cadets who participated as soldiers with the unit in order to get the "feel" of life as a tanker; and, in sports, the perfect record of "B" Company's basketball team.

The Kentuckians can be proud of their record at Fort Stewart. They have proved themselves a credit to the Kentucky National Guard and to the U. S. Army — a fine example of the effectiveness of the "One Army".

Governor Bert Combs of Kentucky inspected the Kentucky National Guard units stationed at Fort Stewart during May. Governor Combs is shown here leaving the Battalion communications center.
A tank from the Battalion maneuvers on a Fort Stewart range. Armor continues to be one of the mainstays of modern battle. Training received during the year brought the tank companies up to combat efficiency.

On the tank tables the crews faced, and overcame, obstacles contrived to make their training difficult but effective. Here, a tank fires on one of the tank tables.
During "Seneca Spear" exercises with the 2d Infantry Division the tankers practiced maneuvers with infantry. Here, tanks and an infantry squad attack.

Cadets from The Citadel were guests of the Battalion during the training year. Here they examine the engine of a medium tank.
Fort Stewart's Soldier of the Month for April, 1962, is congratulated by General Bark. He is Specialist Fourth Class Robert L. Johnson, A Company. The award is given for knowledge of military and world affairs, and soldierly conduct and appearance.

Lieutenant Colonel William E. Hall and his staff (from left), Major R. H. Gregory, Captain James P. Erwin and Captain William Bickwermsert march in a Savannah parade.

Captain James L. Brady, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, receives the Re-Enlistment Trophy for the highest re-enlistment rate for three consecutive months. It is being awarded by General Bark, then post commander. The trophy testifies to the high morale developed by the unit.
418th ORDNANCE BATTALION

As a result of the world situation which caused the activation of reservists throughout the country, the importance of the “One Army” concept has become increasingly evident. Epitomizing this concept during their tour at Fort Stewart, is the 418th Ordnance Battalion.

The Headquarters Detachment of the 418th Ordnance Battalion arrived at Fort Stewart on October 25, 1961, from its home in Marion, Ohio. For some it was the first time on active duty, while for others it brought back memories of World War II, or the more recent Korean Conflict. But for all the mission was the same: To provide administrative and tactical support for three ordnance companies and an explosive demolition detachment.

The Headquarters Detachment is an activated reserve unit, while two of the ordnance companies and the EOD detachment are Regular Army units. Adding to this one National Guard company from Kentucky, truly emphasizes the importance of all three facets of the United States Army.

Upon arrival the unit embarked on a 13 week Intensive Combat Training Program (ICTP), designed to harden the men physically, condition them mentally, and teach them to perform as a unit. The culmination of the ICTP was the successful completion of its Army Training Tests, which covered all phases of the unit’s mission under simulated combat conditions in the field.

In the spring of 1962 the 418th took part in “Exercise Seneca Spear.” Although the prime participant in this exercise was the 2d Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga., the reserve unit from Ohio played an important role in providing support, while administering a training exercise to one of its companies, and undergoing its own tactical training tests.

It was not all work and no play for the Ordnancemen, who participated fully in the varied activities offered at Fort Stewart. Off-duty hours were spent in the Post's library and service club, and the air conditioned Post Theater was a favorite nighttime retreat.

Many of the soldiers found, on active duty, an opportunity to further their education, and while several received their high school diplomas, at least one Buckeye citizen-soldier completed his first year of college at the University of Georgia Extension Center.

Dependents found in the active Scouting and youth activities programs an outlet worthy of their time and energy. While the children found joy in participating in these programs, the women and men found satisfaction in helping in the administration and supervision of these activities.
A message center in a battalion headquarters is always a hub of activity. Shown at their jobs are (left-right) Sp4's Gerry L. Green, Jack Lucas, Samuel Davis and Sgt. Richard E. Zender.

Members of the Detachment are shown making a Vehicle Status & Deadline Report for the battalion, while the Battalion S4, Maj. Russell B. Morris works at his desk. The ordnancemen are (left-right) CWO Coleman Tussey, Sgt. Carl J. Snyder, and Sgt. Walter Duffy.
The first of the activated reserve units to arrive at Fort Stewart was the 413th Ordnance Company, which arrived by convoy from Frankfort, Kentucky on October 7, 1961. As a result of its full time mission in Frankfort, the unit was accustomed to working as a team, and easily accomplished the transition to full time army life. As did all units, the Kentucky National Guard unit immediately began a 13 week Intensive Combat Training Program (ICTP). The ICTP was designed to condition the men and get them used to working as teams of various sizes. This allowed the ordnance company to perform the mission of providing support for the post ordnance section.

In the spring of this year the 2d Infantry Division arrived at Fort Stewart for "Exercise Seneca Spear." The two week field exercise provided valuable training for post units, as well as the 10,000 man Fort Benning division. The armored units received top-notch support from the 413th, which found in this realistic exercise an excellent opportunity for completing the tactical portion of its Army Training Test. In addition, during "Seneca Spear," the Kentuckians completed a counter-guerrilla warfare operation.

As long as the individual soldier is the ultimate weapon, all must be proficient in the firing of small arms. The Ordnancemen acquitted themselves extremely well, with approximately 50% of the company firing "expert," the highest class of proficiency.

The men of the 413th were quartered in the best the Army had to offer. Being billeted in a three story brick barracks complex was quite an improvement in the minds of those who remembered World War II housing, and "chow time" found meals tastefully prepared and served in a modern air-conditioned consolidated mess-hall.

The unit participated in all intramural athletics. The basketball team went to the quarter-finals in post competition. Individual achievements included the completion of one year of college at the University of Georgia Extension Center for five of the Kentucky ordnancemen, while twice this number took the opportunity to finish their high school education through the Army program.

Twice during their stay here, the 413th Ordnance Company won the "Troop Self-Help Award," which is a monthly presentation given to the unit which most improves the appearance of its unit area. Also on the list of monthly awards won by the Kentucky company, in competition with other post units, are the best motor pool award, and the best mess-hall plaque.

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The 413th contributed to the post in many areas. Three men of the Frankfort unit went to the Third Army championship matches with the Fort Stewart Pistol and Rifle Team. Three more of the company's soldiers secured places on the post golf team, one of them being the top golfer. Army life agreed with the men, and ten soldiers enlisted in the Regular Army. The National Guard unit from Frankfort received its most notable recognition upon receiving the Eisenhower Trophy for 1961. This is the highest award that can be given to a National Guard unit within a particular state.

In the ordnance shops of the 413th work progresses on one of the Company's trucks.
Former post commander, Brigadier General Bork presents a Best Mess Award to Mess Steward, Sergeant First Class Joseph R. Willet.

Sergeant First Class John E. Young and Captain Calvin L. Knoop stand by one of the awards the unit received while at Fort Stewart.

Repair and maintenance of equipment is an almost endless job, but a job which is of extreme importance when a unit is committed to combat. Specialist Fourth Class Carl M. Hoover and Specialist Fifth Class Charles M. Cox work on a winch.