

# A few good men from Company D

By Rebecca Mullins  
of the Carle Mercury Staff

**CARLE, Ky.** — A group of about 20 men from places as distant as Knoxville and as close as Carle sat quietly in a corner of the Carle National Guard Armory Saturday morning.

The group listened intently to Lieutenant Danny Hodge as he reminded them of the responsibilities of being part-time soldiers in the army's Company D 201st Engineering Battalion.

The lecture was fitting, especially now, with three volatile power struggles persisting in Africa, Iraq and Southwest Asia.

The lecture is called a "mobilization briefing" and the event is called a National Guard "mobilization exercise," a two-day event filled with updating the soldiers' medical and legal records, checking equipment and polishing up on military techniques.

"Every unit has a mission depending on the war situation," Hodge told the casual-

ly dressed men. Personal information about a soldier's dependents is included in the records.

Around the briefing group other men (no women are in the unit, according to Allen) talked to their officers about military paperwork, received identification, stocked their duffel bags with boots, blankets, tents and other gear.

Others had blood drawn, shots administered, and teeth checked, as if the soldiers were preparing to be deployed immediately.

"I evaluate my unit every quarter and tell my higher headquarters in Frankfurt how many days I believe it would take to be deployed," Allen said.

Not a moment of time was wasted, and no soldiers left the armory.

Tenderloin sandwiches, corn and chocolate pie was ordered from Jake's Restaurant and catered to the soldiers.

"If we were actually being mobilized, we would lock the front door. The meals are also contracted from a local establish-



Members of Company D enjoy tenderloin sandwiches, vegetables and dessert from Jake's Restaurant in Carle's dining hall during mobilization exercise. Soldiers are not allowed to leave the armory. (Pictured from left: Sergeant George Wilson of Sharpburg, Private Robert Johnson of Winchester, Specialist Richard Fussell of Mt. Sterling and Sergeant John Daniel of Cynthiana.)



Sergeant Barney Graham of Frankfort makes sure he has the proper clothing, wool blankets, a sleeping bag and tent during an equipment check known as a clothing "showdown" in the military.

ment troops "Ours is to build air fields and maintain supply routes."

"We will usually be given 24 hours notice prior to reporting," he said in a loud, authoritative tone.

Asking the men how they would be located in such a situation, one man raised his hand.

"Use an alert roster," he responded.

Once they are located, they are notified by telephone or "messenger" to report to the Carle home station for duty. They begin an intense mobilization exercise in preparation for deployment.

"Don't get the wrong idea, though. The company has not been called for deployment to assist overseas, despite the timeliness of last weekend's activities."

"It's mandatory that we do this once every two years," said Commanding Officer Tom Allen of Somerset, who spends his civilian time in the pharmaceutical industry.

"We won't do it again for three years. It has nothing to do with deployment. That's what people thought when we were doing it before."

Last weekend's exercise was conducted routinely every two years to keep the soldiers' insurance records, personnel records, shots, wills, army-issued clothing and any other needs in order.

"Every two years is really not enough, because people are getting married, divorced and having children," Allen

added. Personal information about a soldier's dependents is included in the records.

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Photos and story by Rebecca Mullins



Sergeant Gordon Sargent of Carle has his teeth and gums checked by Captain Phil O'Rourke D.M.D. as part of Sargent's and every soldier's medical screening. Soldiers also need physicals, shots and medical kits.

"I evaluate my unit every quarter and tell my higher headquarters... how many days I believe it would take to be deployed."

— Lt. Allen

"I have the responsibility to take care of you, feed you, take care of your family," he said.

To take care of men and women who mobilize onto a battlefield, removing mines planted by the enemy, planting mines to deter the ene-

my's movement while trying to survive bombs, bullets or prison camps doesn't seem like much to ask, especially since all of the guard members are volunteers.

"Some times we come in every day and do field exercises," Allen said. That's commitment.

## Water lines to reach Simon

By Jason Hart  
of the Carle Mercury Staff

**CARLE, Ky.** — After much discussion, Carle City Council voted Monday to approve the signing of an agreement between the city and the Nicholas County Water District to extend lines to resident James Simon.

The agreement, which will be signed this week, states the Nicholas County Water District will extend lines farther to Simon to receive water service.

Provisions for extension of the lines will be written into the contract for improvements to the water works that will be made this year.

"This extension will be put in place first, before the main part of the construction begins," said Carle Mayor Frank Hughes. "It will also go into service before the rest of the lines."

Council discussed a rate increase for water sold to customers outside the city.

Councilman Ronnie Clark said he would oppose any increase for customers within the city limits.

"I don't want my gas payment subsidizing non-city residents' water," said Clark. "That's exactly what will happen if we don't raise some rates somewhere."

City clerk Mary Tapp told council the reason the rates needed to be increased could be traced to past council actions.

"The rates were compromised on when they were set," Tapp said. "They weren't set high enough, and now we have to make up the difference somewhere."

Council tabled any rate increase until January 26, when a special meeting will be held to discuss this and other mat-

ters.

Council discussed the installation of a traffic light at intersection of Route 22 and 68, in front of the Nicholas County Board of Education.

"The Highway Department didn't want to conduct a traffic survey when school was out," said Hughes. "They want to wait until school is in to do it, to get a better picture."

Hughes said the survey should start sometime in the near future, depending on Highway Department priorities.

Tapp told council she had received one bid from Lexington Publishing of Lexington for updating city ordinances. The process would bring city codes up to modern standards, and would incorporate provisions called for in the Americans with

Disabilities Act, as well as changes in federal and state law, changes in the salary scale, as well as correction of all typographical errors.

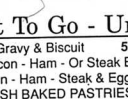
"This one bid states Burlington will do it for \$790," Tapp said. "If they include the ADA provisions, it will cost an extra \$225."

Council took no action, pending receipt of additional bids.

In other business, council discussed the purchase of chemical spill cleanup materials, for use in situations such as vehicle accidents where materials such as gasoline or diesel fuel have been spilled.

Council also voted to renew city attorney Skip Watson's contract for another year.

Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Small will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, January 24 at Carle's Christian Church. The couple were married in Carle. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.



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