

NATIONAL GUARD



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SSgt Elsa G. Rosales

ENLISTED PEOPLE

LIFE RACES BY

It's not exactly like *Days of Thunder*, but for two Wyoming Army National Guardsmen, it comes close. Racing isn't just a hobby for **SGT Gregg Waldner** and **SPC Scott Warren**, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3d Battalion, 49th Field Artillery; it is a way of life.

Waldner is the owner and driver of a custom stock car; while Warren is his crew chief. They lead a six-person racing team that competes throughout the West. The team races in the International Motor Contest Association (IMCA) modified circuit.

The team won the Wyoming IMCA Modified Championship this year and placed fifth, overall, at the Sweetwater Motorplex last year. The IMCA's modified car division allows them to compete with teams that have limited racing budgets, although the team does have four sponsors.

Sometimes managing drill, their civilian jobs and racing can be an arduous task. Many are the times they have to go straight from drill to work on the car or to a race, but it's worth it for the duo. "The experience of being competitive is a great teacher," Waldner said.

Story, CPT Kevin Dennehy

INTERPRETER PROVIDED

As the daughter of a Panamanian mother and Mexican father, **SSgt Elsa G. Rosales**, 146th Tactical Airlift Wing, California Air National Guard, recently drew from her heritage to provide interpreter support for the U.S. and Honduran personnel operating in the Aguan River Valley, Honduras, during Exercise FUERTES CAMINOS.

Her language skills were essential for more than 150 Air National Guard members to work with Honduran citizens and soldiers constructing a temporary base camp. Rosales was selected from more than 50 people who volunteered from her unit for the deployment.

"The National Guard Bureau picked

only one from my unit and, I think, out of the whole West Coast, I'm the only one here," she said.

Rosales had two pluses in her favor. First, she is bilingual and is a Spanish teacher. Second, she is an aeromedical technician and has used this skill during the Persian Gulf War.

"I volunteered in August (for Operation DESERT STORM), went for about a month, came back home and was activated on December 26, 1990," Rosales said. "I ended up in the United Arab Emirates and most of us got to fly one or two combat missions called 'Brown Samaritan Missions.' You pick up patients at different spots with a C-130 and bring them back to the hospital."



SSgt Elsa G. Rosales (right) talks with Roberto Budde (left) and Honduran army SGT Juan B. Hernandez. Photo, SGT Debby Maschke-Colstrom, KSARNG

But transporting patients by air was not what Rosales volunteered for in Honduras. Instead, her training took on a whole new aspect. "It's been a completely different experience for me," she said. "I got to be a field medic, go out with a first-aid pack and experience the field in jungle conditions, poisonous snakes and scorpions."

She worked with the engineers as they went through the countryside talking with farmers about the road and where they must move fences. She was

also the interpreter for the clinic workers and support staff on the base camp.

Story, SSG Debby Maschke-Colstrom, 105th PAD, KSARNG

GUARDSMAN RISKS LIFE

Without concern for his own life, **SPC Joseph A. Dea**, 3623d Maintenance Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, charged into a burning Philadelphia apartment to save three children. Working through thick smoke, Dea followed the screams to find the children in separate rooms. One by one he carried them to safety.

"I remember getting to the first two children, and then the next thing I remember, I was out in the parking lot receiving oxygen," said Dea in a voice hoarse from smoke inhalation. "Everybody calls me a hero. It's a big word," the DESERT STORM veteran said.

According to police records, the fire started after 7 p.m. in a second floor apartment. Dea was in the area training for a sales representative position when he saw smoke and flames billowing from the apartment.

"I had to go find out what the deal was, because there were no medical or fire emergency vehicles on the scene," Dea said. Aided by a passerby, he forced entry through a locked door and started the rescue.

Three brothers, between two and six years old, had been left unattended and were playing with matches when the fire started. The children were taken to the hospital and later released. Dea, who had no medical insurance, did not fair so well. He was admitted in critical condition with severe smoke inhalation and a burnt larynx. After three days in intensive care, Dea spent a few more days in general care and then was released.

Although he feels his work was just a normal response to the problem, several organizations beg to differ. He is being nominated for several heroism awards.

"We are proud of Specialist Dea," said **CPT Dennis Demara**, 3623d commander.