

U.S. Armed Forces



Even weekend warriors get K.P. Private David Harris, left, and Private John Gho spend Saturday morning in that perennial military chore, peeling potatoes.

Weekend Warriors

They patrol the post.

They guard the gate.

They cruise the city, and they walk its streets.

They catch the criminal, the breaker of military law.

Their white hats and white gloves and highly polished leather are symbols of safety and law and that stern stuff known as military discipline.

They are the Military Police.

Located in Santa Cruz, at the U.S. Army Reserve Center, 313 Swift street, is the 422nd Military Police Company (PCS) commanded by Captain Gordon S. Grout of Los Gatos.

The 422nd is part of the Army Reserve, a reservoir of trained manpower that is ready and waiting if needed.

The company's 108 men, including four officers and two warrant officers, are drawn primarily from Santa Cruz County and represent a cross-section of civilian pursuits. At least two are bank officials, another is a sporting goods store owner, and still others are employed by civilian law enforcement agencies including the California Highway Patrol and the Santa Cruz

County Sheriff's Department.

The 422nd is one of four companies that make up the 496th Military Police Battalion with headquarters in San Jose. Each of the other companies has its own role, Grout explained, primarily in processing and transporting and guarding of prisoners of war, duties that are not assigned to the 422nd.

Captain Grout explains that PCS stands for "Post, Camp and Station" and reflects the unit's mission to police a garrison, which may be a post, a camp or a station, or a nearby city or town.

The unit has five sections — headquarters, dismounted patrol for on-and-off-post assignments; desk, records and registration; traffic and gate; motorized; and criminal investigation.

A distinctive feature of the company is its criminal investigation section. With a clerk-typist, four criminal investigators and an assistant investigator, this section represents "the Army's detectives".

The company meets two days each month—on Satur-

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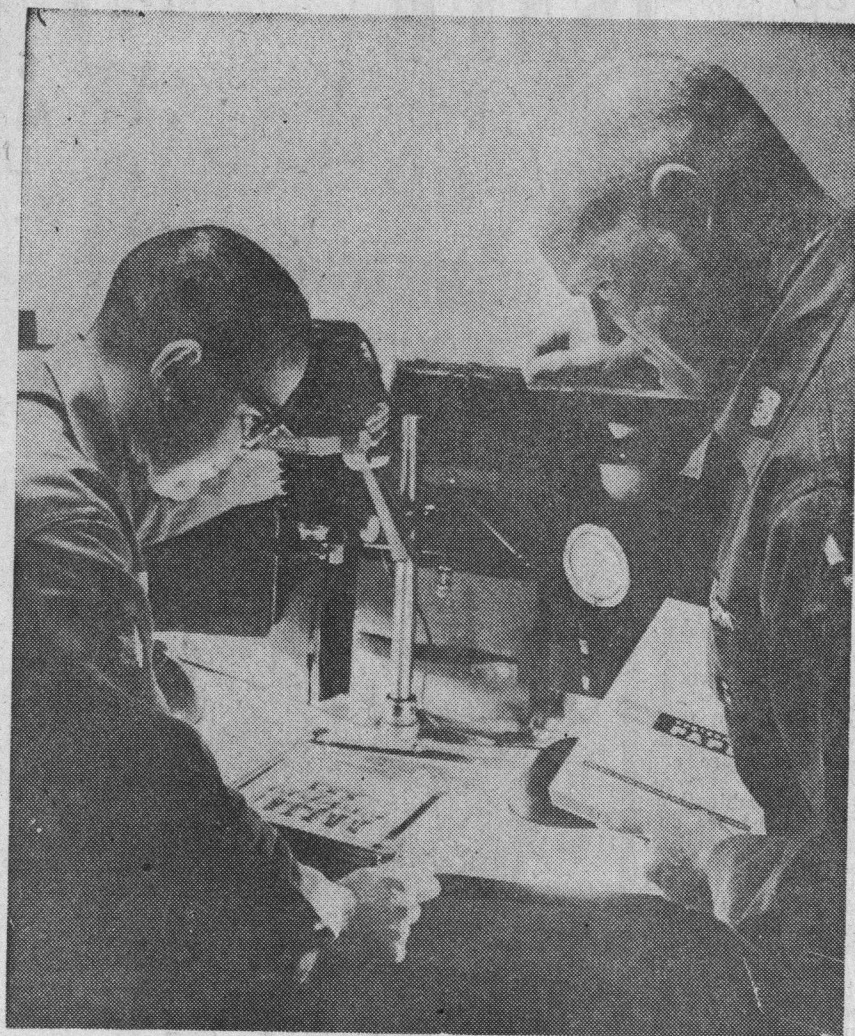
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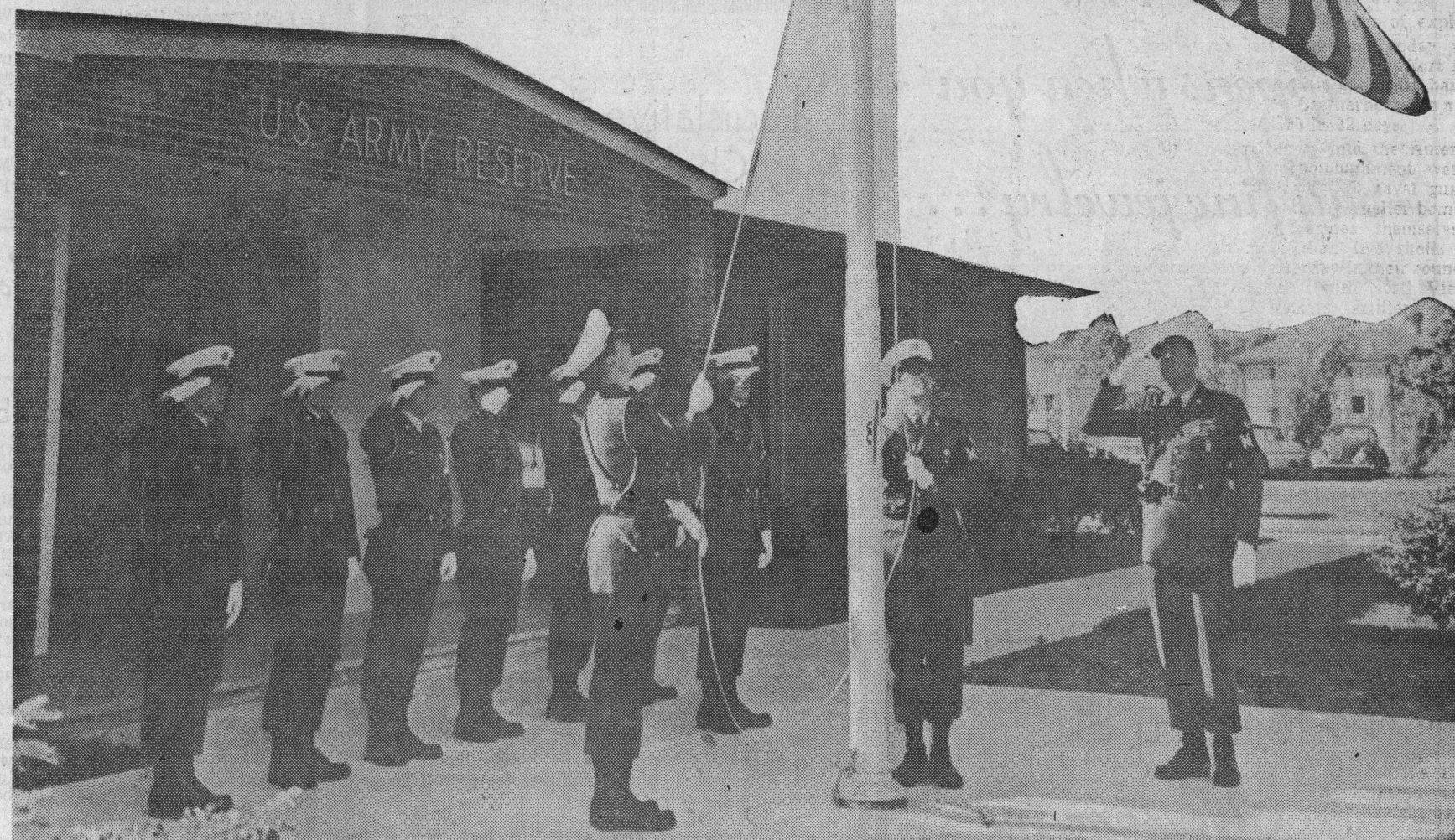
And now it's chow time. Saturday noon of the two-day weekend drill found the men of the 422nd enjoying a baked ham lunch on the lawns surrounding the reserve training center at 313 Swift street.

Photos By
Vester Dick

Text By
Mel Baughman



Warrant Officer Ralph W. Landre Jr., right, and Specialist Fourth Class Stanley Wood enlarge pictures in the dark room of 422nd's criminal investigations section as part of the unit's regular monthly program of training.



The day ends at 4:30 p.m. with traditional retreat formation and ceremonies during which a detail of troops "snaps to" as Old Glory is lowered from the flagpole in front of the center.

They Police The Military

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day and Sunday—at Rebuffo Hall, the reserve center. Duty hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Then there are the annual two weeks of

summer camp at Camp Roberts, near Paso Robles, from which the unit returned on August 12. And, in addition, officers and section chiefs meet on evenings for “administrative drills.”

Equipment includes three jeeps, two 2½-ton trucks and a three-quarter-ton truck.

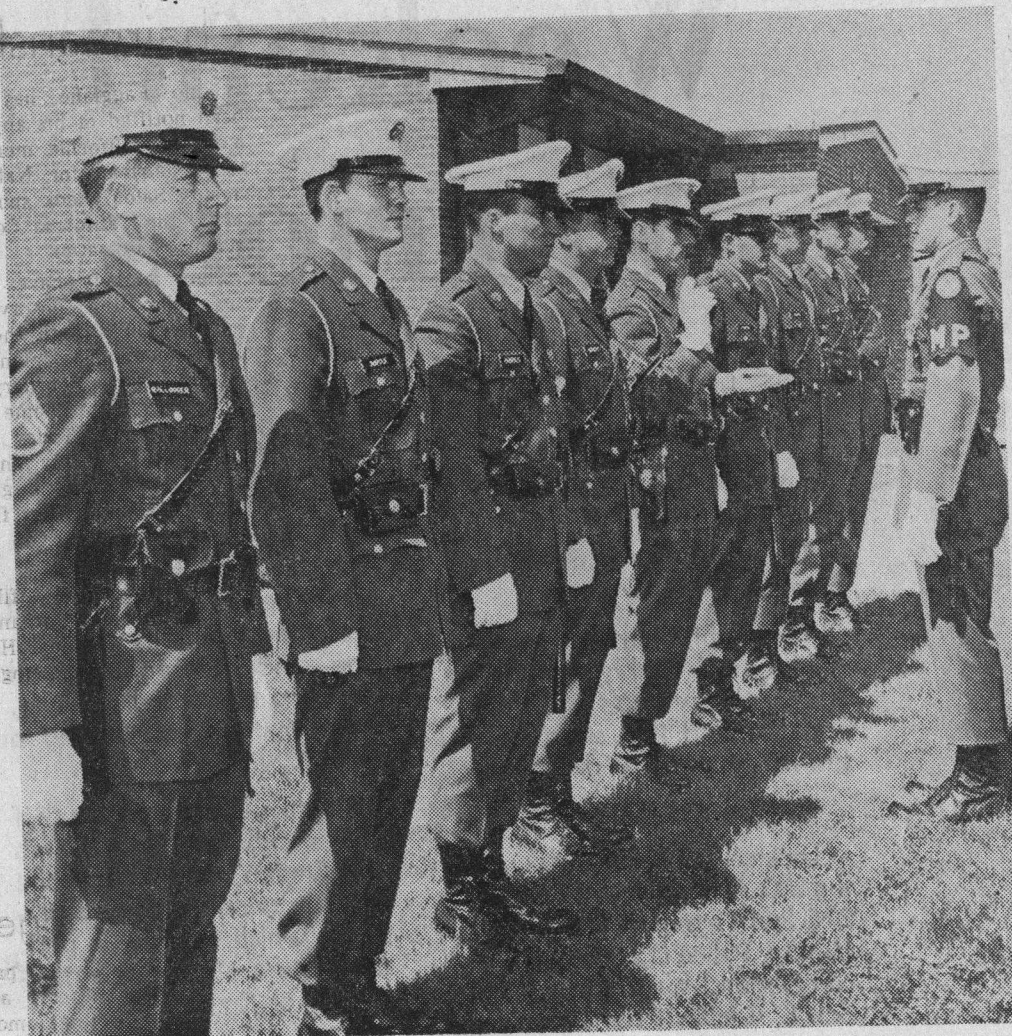
On a corridor wall in Rebuffo Hall there is a sign. It reads:

“Weak People Weaken US”

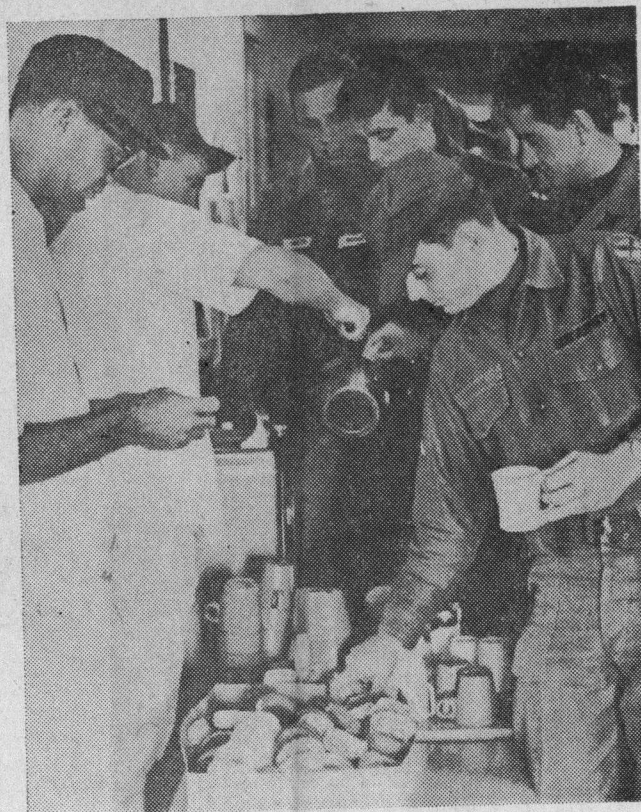
“We must not let weak people weaken us at any echelon. The only men we can afford to retain are those who measure up in both potential and output.”

This is the watchword of the officers and men of the 422nd Military Police Company as they pursue their important mission.

They police the military.



INSPECTION—Men and equipment get the eagle eye prior to simulated town patrol duty, one of the tasks assigned to the 422nd Military Police company, an Army Reserve unit based in Santa Cruz.



COFFEE BREAK—A break for coffee and doughnuts — an old military tradition — is included in the intensive schedule of training classes that are conducted one weekend a month by the 422d.



PATROL—Staff Sergeant William A. Veselka, behind wheel, and Private First Class Ronald R. Gandolfi prepare to depart on motorized patrol during training exercises of the 422d Military Police Company, a reserve unit.