

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: FROM PINSTRIPES TO FLIGHT SUITS

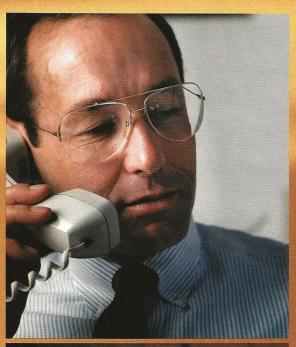
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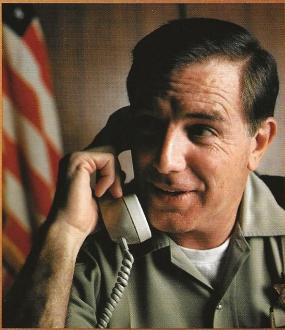


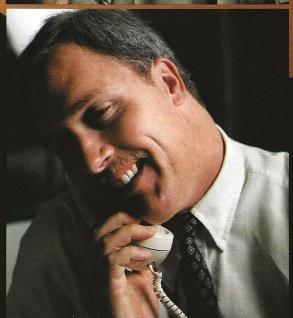
HIGHTERS FROM FRESNO

Tt's easy to underestimate the role of the Air National Guard. The ANG accounts for less than four percent of the Air Force's budget, and part-timers account for more than two-thirds of its force.

These numbers tend to hide more revealing statistics: The ANG performs about one-third of all Air Force missions. It is responsible for half of the Air Force's reconnaissance missions, one-third of tactical airlift, one-third of the tactical air support, one-fourth of the tactical fighters, and a large percentage of rescue and recovery missions and air refueling. It provides approximately one-fourth of the Air Force aeromedical evacuation capability.









The ANG also performs over 80 percent of the Air Force's air defense missions. At any moment, the ANG is ready to scramble air defense fighters. Its pilots can be in the air in less than five minutes to protect the continental United States. As it turns out, these "part-timers" make up the backbone of America's air defense.

The 144th Fighter Interceptor Wing of the ANG, based in Fresno, California, plays a pivotal role in air defense. Its home unit, the 194th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, defends much of the western seaboard of the United States—from the Mexican border to just north of San Francisco. The wing has subordinate Fighter Interceptor Groups located in North Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Texas, and Minnesota.

Code One sent General Dynamics' newest photographer, Lans Stout, to Fresno to cover the home base. His instructions were uncluttered by detail: a photo essay on the double life of the ANG's citizen soldiers. Lans returned with a satchelfull of exposed film, some taped interviews, and a lasting impression of the dedication and experience of Maj. Mike Budd, Maj. Andy Bender, and Tech. Sgt. Donald Jorgensen.

MIKE BUDD

What do stockbrokers have in common with fighter pilots? The answer according to Mike Budd: Nothing. At the office, he doesn't have time to think about flying. Planning individual and institutional finances demands his complete attention. When the office door shuts, Budd goes through a necessary transformation from stockbroker to fighter pilot – from citizen to soldier. In his own words: "Essentially, it's leaving the office and coming out here to a whole other world." Budd has been flying for 15 years. This year marks his 20th anniversary with the 144th.

"When I'm in my office, I'm not thinking about airplanes, except for the ones on the walls."

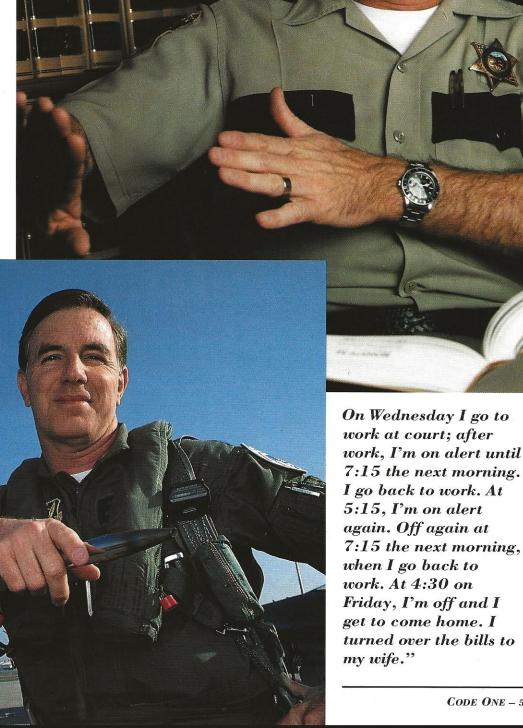
> "There are many people dedicated to serving the country. This is a way to do it part-time. The Guard is important."

"It's a way to pay back the country for all the things that have been given to us."

ANDY BENDER

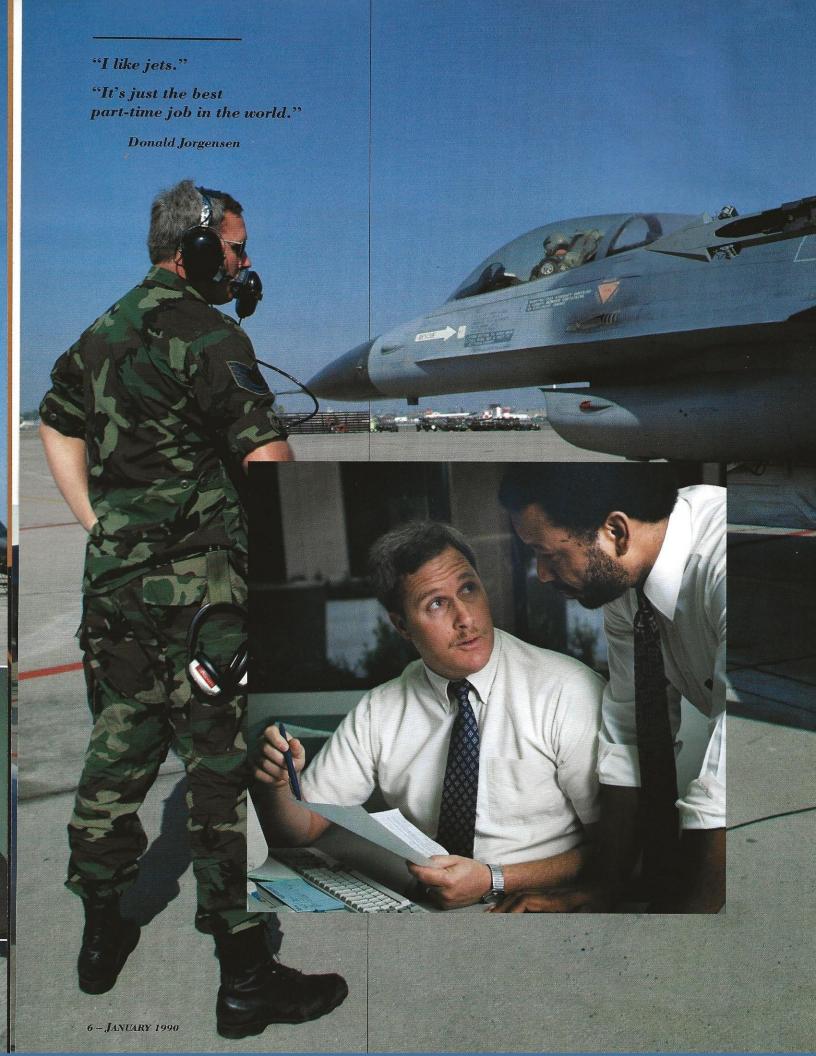
Andy Bender carries a badge. As a deputy sheriff for Fresno County, he performs the duties of a bailiff: seeing to the needs of county judges and juries and escorting prisoners to and from the courthouse. Bender spends most of his spare time in another uniform, that of an F-16 pilot for the 194th Squadron at Fresno. The deputy sheriff has been flying for 24 years. How does he handle the conversion? "I've been doing it a long time," says Bender. "I just turn off one and do the other."

"During a typical week, I fly one night, and I'm on alert two nights, or vice versa. If I'm on alert Wednesday and Thursday, I'll go to fly Monday and get home at 10:00 p.m. Then I'll go to work Tuesday, come home.



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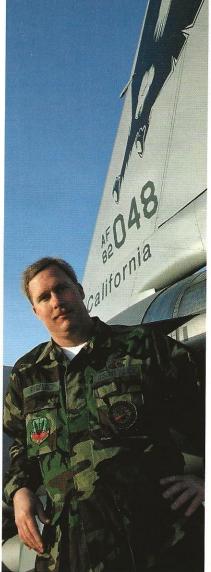


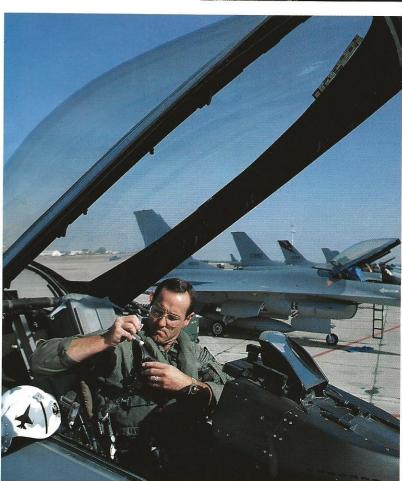
DONALD JORGENSEN

As a civilian, Donald Jorgensen is a customer representative for Pacific Gas and Electric Company. He's the first person people talk to to get gas and electricity flowing into their homes. He also helps established customers solve problems with their service. Two weekends a month, Jorgensen dons his drab and heads to the Air National Guard Base at Fresno, where he assumes his part-time role as a crew chief for the 144th Squadron. Jorgensen, who has been in the Guard for 11 years, says the transition from service representative to crew chief is relatively smooth since he deals with a variety of people in both jobs.

> "You can't find a better group of people than right here."

"We are all here for one thing airplanes."







"At work, usually in the afternoon, I start to think about airplanes."

Andy Bender