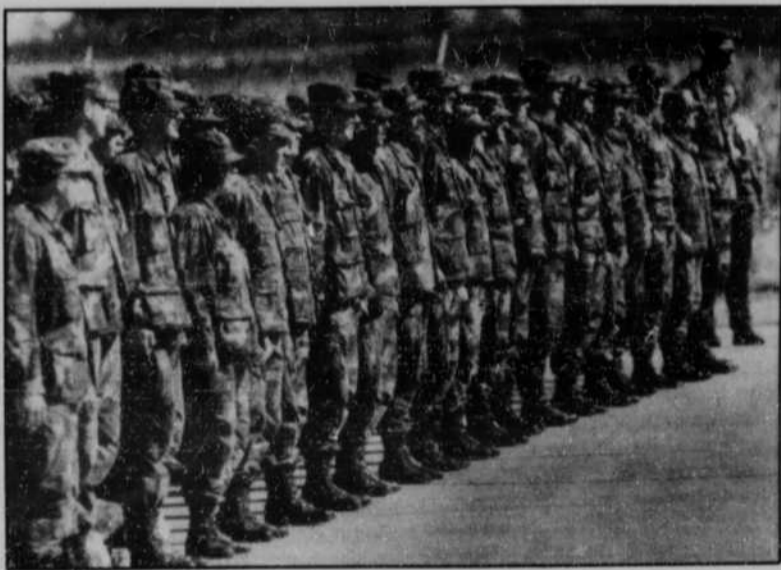


# UNL student reserves move out

Clockwise from right: A morning sun silhouettes a soldier as he carries out everything he'll need for active duty. Although the 1012th General Supply company was issued hot climate anti-lip chap medicine, the unit hasn't been notified of their destiny after training at Fort Riley, Kan.

About 150 1012th reservists stand at attention for the last time before leaving for Fort Riley.

SP.4 Randy Dye checks to see if his new protective mask will seal properly before loading Saturday.



Photos by Al Schaben

By Alan Phelps  
Staff Reporter

**F**REMONT — "What is our goal? To win the war," read the blackboard inside the room where members of the 1012th General Supply Company of the Army Reserves readied their equipment and themselves for active duty at Fort Riley, Kan., and the Middle East.

"I don't know if it's hit us yet. It probably will as soon as we get to Riley," said Gary Tichota, a UNL sophomore criminal justice major and member of the 1012th. Tichota is one of 15 to 20 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students in the Fremont-based company that left Sunday for Fort Riley.

Reservists of the 1012th began their work Thursday morning at the Army Reserve Center in Fremont. The mission of a supply company such as the 1012th is to coordinate supplies such as food, laundry and petroleum from behind the front line. The 150 members of the 1012th are capable of managing supplies for as many as 100,000 front-line troops.

Preparations were made in a relaxed atmosphere amid camouflaged trucks and stacks of duffel bags. Pamphlets about Saudi Arabian customs, religion and weather lay on a table near the blackboard along with an Army-produced packet with information about the Arabian peninsula, including "helpful phrases in Arabic."

"We are in the U.S. Army right now — not the Reserve. It's a very

big change," said Brian Terry, a junior majoring in business management. "It's a real situation. It won't be fake rounds anymore."

The UNL students are among 350 Nebraska Army reservists who reported for duty Thursday to pack up and move out to Fort Riley. They will receive retraining, immunizations and desert gear in preparation for transport to somewhere in the Middle East in the next four to six weeks.

"Nobody knows anything definite. At Fort Riley, we'll find out," Terry said.

"Everybody's thinking of the unknown," Tichota said. "We'll be active for a minimum of 90 days. We're thinking around six months, but nobody knows."

"What we do know is that we don't have to wait," said John Villwok, a junior majoring in criminal justice. "All the stress is over. That was the worst. It affected grades." Villwok said the day before he was called in, he wrote an English paper about the stress he was under from not knowing if his unit would be activated.

"I guess God heard me," he said. The three reservists agreed that the biggest drawbacks about the call-up were delaying school and leaving family and friends.

"The hardest part is leaving my family and girlfriend," Tichota said. "The goodbyes were emotional."

"Right now, it looks like we won't be with our families for Thanksgiving and Christmas," Villwok said. "That will be kind of hard."

Terry said, "When something like this happens, you find out how

many friends you have. Everybody's been really supportive." "The town's been great," Villwok said.

Many of the troops had taken up a Fremont hair salon on an offer of free haircuts for reservists in the 1012th. A local bar planned to give discounts on beer to members of the company before they shipped out.

As the unit waited for a formation to be called, reservists joked with one another and speculated on what life would be like in "Saudi." "Our unit will stay together. The friendships we have here help," Villwok said.

"It won't be studying and hitting Nebraska football games on the weekends," he said.

However, he said, he was excited to go.

"It doesn't bother me. It beats the hell out of a three-hour lab. "I'm only 21. I have a lot of life left. Some of these guys have wives or kids. That would be bad. But I guess we're all in the same Army."

The other reservists seemed to share Villwok's enthusiasm. "We're trained and we're ready," Terry said. "Everybody knew it was coming."

"I kind of wish I knew how long we would be gone so we could have something to look forward to," Tichota said. "I'm not scared about leaving. We're trained for this."

"Waiting here is tough. As soon as we can get there and do our jobs, it will be better."

Tichota said if he had a choice, though, he'd rather stay.

"It's a big change in life," he said. "I'm anticipating things will start to get tense over there."