

bat action, the battalion was awarded the French Croix de Guerre, eight Silver Stars, three Legions of Merit and sixty Bronze Stars. Purple Heart medals were given to 135, with 30 awarded posthumously. Combat credits included Rome-Arno; North Apennines and the Po Valley.

In 1947, the Guard was reorganized once more to include five separate anti-aircraft battalions. During this time, the New Mexico Air National Guard was organized as a fighter-bomber squadron.

The Korean War. The New Mexico National Guard answered the call once more during the outbreak of the Korean War. Two of the anti-aircraft artillery battalions as well as the 394th Signal Radar Maintenance Unit were activated.

The 188th Fighter Bomber Squadron of the New Mexico Air National Guard received its baptism of fire during this time. Army members of the Guard were used to replace other personnel.

During the 1961 Berlin Crisis, the 394th and 188th were activated once again. Army and air units served stateside during this time. The 188th was called up for the third time in its history and saw service from June 1968 to June 1969.

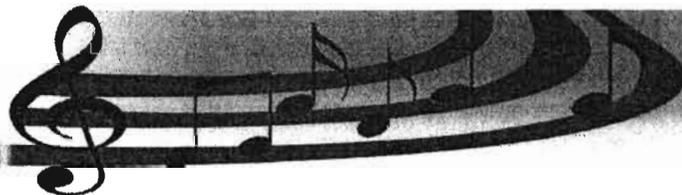
Vietnam. June 4, 1968. Tuy Hoa Airbase, Vietnam – The 150th Fighter Wing was the only unit involved. No Army units of the New Mexico National Guard were called up during the Vietnam War, but many unit members volunteered for duty. In 1980 the New Mexico National Guard was called upon during the Penitentiary Riot in Santa Fe.

New Mexico Guard units were called up once again for Desert Shield and Desert Storm as well as deployments to Macedonia, Kosovo and the continuing War on Terrorism. Meanwhile, they have continued to provide support locally for floods, snowstorms, hurricanes, tornados and search and rescue operations.

All of the members of the New Mexico Army and Air National Guard units continue to carry on the tradition of service to community and country which has been going on for more than 400 years, or in the case of New Mexico's history, "Desde el Principio: Since the Beginning." ■

For more historical information visit:
www.nm.ngb.army.mil/nmguard.html

MUSIC SOOTHES THE SOUL



By Staff Sgt. Anna Doo, 200th Public Affairs Detachment

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On a cold and wintry Sunday afternoon in January, members of the 44th Army Band warmed up a Vietnam veteran's heart and home. The "Darn Saxy" quartet of the New Mexico Army National Guard's 44th Army Band filled the air with marches, the service anthems of the Navy and Air Force and some toe-tapping Glenn Miller tunes. Retired Col. Frank Hines tapped his foot, grinned from ear to ear, and held his family close throughout the private concert.

Hines is an 81-year-old Vietnam veteran who served in both the Navy and the Air Force during his long military career. Upon learning of the severity of his medical condition, he requested live music to be played at his funeral. His daughter, Elizabeth Hines of Bellingham, Wash., however, did not want him to miss the jazzy notes so she phoned in a request for a special concert through Kirtland Air Force Base on behalf of her terminally ill father. Without an Air Force band located at Kirtland, the 44th Army Band was quickly called upon to support this special request. Elizabeth immediately flew in to be with her father and other family members as music filled his room. The musicians of the "Darn Saxy" quartet gladly spent the afternoon regaling Hines with various marches and tunes that he had heard during his active career in the military.

The 44th Army Band Commander, Chief Warrant Officer Wendy Franchell, has performed many concerts during her military career but said this one is the most memorable.

"It is moments like this that make what we do well worth every minute of struggle in order to perform for veterans like this," Franchell said. "What a great honor and memorable performance moment in history this was for the band."

Sgt. Christopher Gutierrez, an alto saxophone player in the "Darn Saxy" ensemble, said that this performance was the most humbling of his eight-year military career. He added that the performance was



Retired Col. Frank Hines taps his toes as the "Darn Saxy" quartet filled the room with jazz tunes, service anthems, and marches. The private concert was a special performance for a veteran of the Armed Forces per the request of his daughter. (Photo: Courtesy of 44th Army Band)

both gratifying and satisfying. Playing for Hines was a distinct honor for Gutierrez and a performance that he will remember forever.

"The family members were thrilled to have "Darn Saxy" play. Mr. Hines seemed to be enjoying the performance with a smile on his face and toes tapping," Gutierrez said. "We were able to shake hands with him and his family thanked us for being there."

Franchell said that she received the rare request for the private concert just days before the actual performance limiting the usual preparation time. But due to the always ready state of the New Mexico Army National Guard, even on short notice the band performed well beyond the standard. ■