

Guardsman: Chopper training 'realistic'

Michigan Guardsman C. J. Haller of Farmington piloted a simulated helicopter flight in mid-October combat training at Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa.

"Our basic mission was to go forward and engage those targets, trying to achieve as many kills as possible. The hardest thing was the enemy air-defense artillery. We made a few mistakes in identifying the type of radar being used against us. They got a few kills on us but we finally put it to them," the 1870 Farmington High graduate told the Patriot-News in Annetville, Pa.

A radar-guided Soviet missile system finally "killed" the Michigan Cobra crew, which won its competition. Haller called the competition "very realistic."

In the Cobra simulator, three full-

color video screens replace cockpit windows. Even while motionless, computerized images of hills, tanks and trees flash by the pilot, giving the feeling of flight.

The helicopter's hull, bolted to gigantic moving arms, rocked and pitched with every movement of the pilot's cyclic control stick, reporter Tom Bowman wrote.

Haller's unit took first place in the Cobra competition.

The \$14.7 million Cobra flight simulator costs about \$300 an hour to fly compared with actual Cobra flying time costing almost five times as much.

The AH-1 Cobra was first used as a flying battle platform to launch cannon and missile strikes against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong in 1968.

Churches celebrate anniversary

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tracting outsiders.

"IT'S IRONIC, but it was in no way a response to the activities that happened in Farmington," said Rev. James Greer, associate pastor of the Farmington Hills church. "This (event) was a sharing of two congregations. We have had Lester out here to preach. It's been an ongoing thing."

Greer, 34, and the Rev. Lester Mangum, 35, of John Wesley United Methodist Church, met in 1981. They studied for the ministry at Drew University in Madison, N. J., and served internships at the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in the Harlem section of Manhattan.

"We came from different backgrounds but ended up having a great deal in common," said Greer. Mangum was born in the south Bronx and grew up in Harlem. Greer hails from Grosse Pointe Woods. It seemed natural the two ministers and their churches would

eventually become "sister" churches in a program that puts Methodist churches together in a partnership striving for common goals and equal agendas. Mangum's church has less than 100 members. Greer's church has almost 1,000.

"The program allows minorities and white persons to venture out in partnership on a large scale. Its purpose is to make a significant breakthrough, linking up churches for cultural sharing," said Greer.

MANGUM BELIEVES racial harmony cannot be based on self-aggrandizement.

"Ordinary people change our lives," said Mangum. "We're dealing with a whole new generation. They're not aware of what their granddads did. Derwin Success is fixated in the '60's. He's off about 20 years. Blacks and whites don't need to meet in a public podium. We've earned our civil rights. Black persons have a great deal to offer to life. We have to reach out as well."

He said he didn't think that

Farmington deserved the negative racial image the peace march portrayed. "We (the congregation) wouldn't go near that (the peace march). If there was really a problem that needed to be addressed, I would have been there," he said.

Mangum contacted the media about Sunday's performance. "It's going to take time," Mangum continued. "Problems won't be ended overnight. We have to take into account the impact we have on one another. It's not about blacks telling whites that we have to do this, they have to do that."

MANGUM HOPES to bring a group of young people from his church to perform a musical at Orchard United Methodist Church next year.

For the fledgling singers who performed Sunday, the ceremony was a chance to venture out of the community.

Mary Lou Stewart, a member of the James Wesley United Methodist Church since she was christened there 40 years ago, said the children's performance brought back

memories of when she was growing up.

The church has lost its young population through the years as congregants moved or registered with other churches. "My daughters, age 20 and 24, really enjoyed it," Stewart said.

Added Heidi Thomas, 12, of Farmington: "It was kind of fun, going to another church and doing this." She was accompanied by her father, Dave, and brother, Matt, 13, another program participant.

Dave Thomas reiterated Greer's statement that Sunday's program was not in response to the Farmington peace march.

"You start with the kids because they don't have the preconceived notions that adults do," he said.

"The younger kids did not view it as a black-white issue. They viewed it as everybody being friendly there. It was set up to be a reciprocal thing. I have a hard time believing that there is the type of prejudice in Farmington that Mr. Success feels there is."

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