

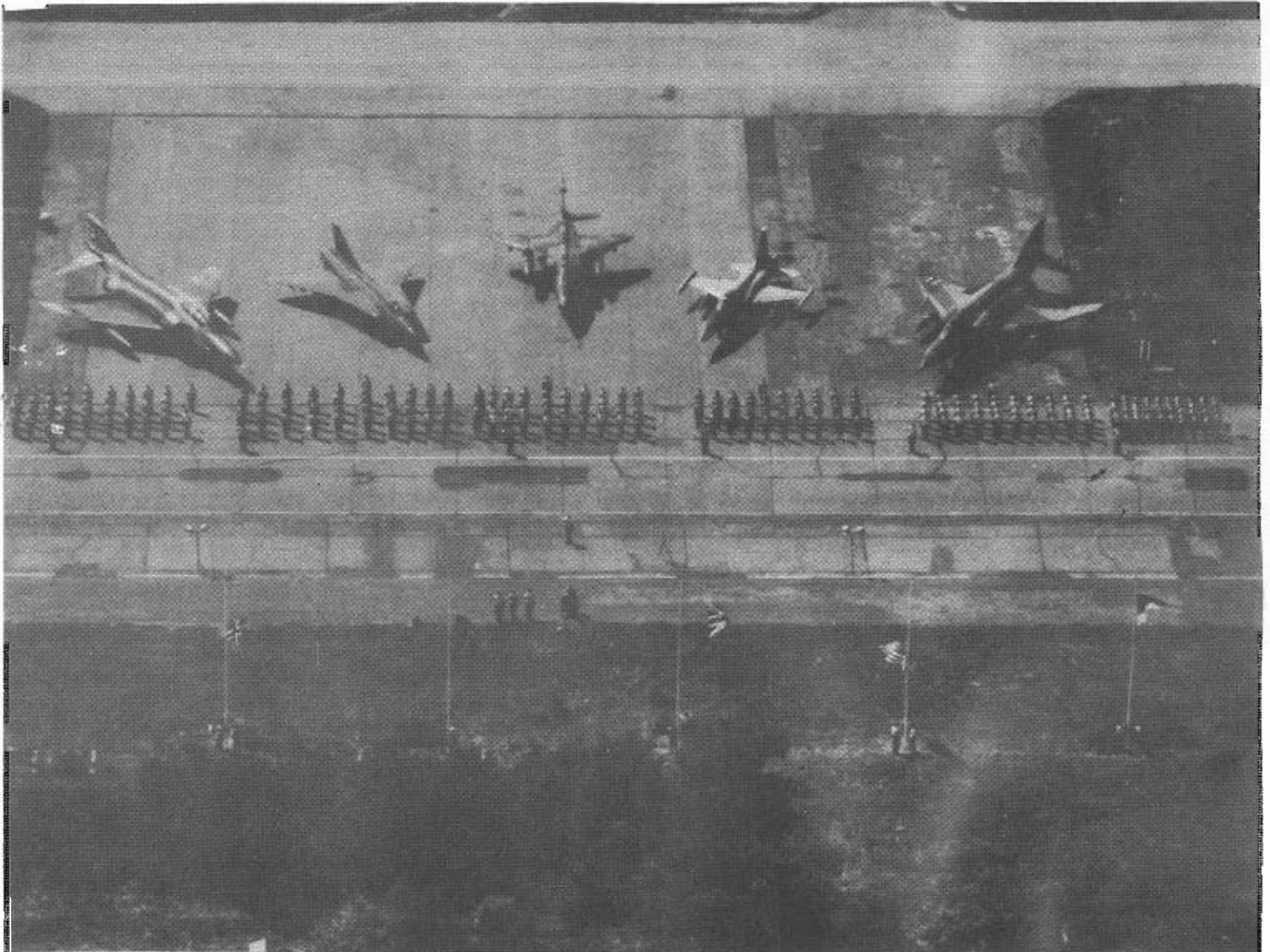


# The **BLUEGRASS GUARD**

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CREWS FROM the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing line up in formation for the opening ceremony of Best Focus '82 in Norway. Kentucky Air Guard RF-4C Phantoms stand

with aircraft from Great Britain, Germany, Denmark and Norway. (See story, back page)

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**THIS  
ISSUE:**

Brigade '82

Air Guard  
in Europe

Close calls:  
accidents

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# 149th Brigade trains in Mississippi

By Capt. Frank Mattingly

The largest single unit combined arms exercise in modern time took place for Kentucky Army Guard units in a three-day field training exercise annual training at Camp Shelby, Miss. Twenty-five units of the 149th Separate Armored Brigade from 29 communities took to the field during the second week of annual training to take part in the grueling exercise. Aggressor forces played by members of the 614th Military Police Company harassed participating units.

During the first days of camp, as temperatures reached into the upper 90's, unit members of the 149th Brigade began checking equipment and sharpened their skills in artillery, mortars, and combined arms operations. The first week of training ended with a Review Ceremony conducted by the units at Camp Shelby. Lt. Gov. Martha Layne Collins and Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, The Adjutant General, reviewed the troops as Reviewing Officer.

According to Wellman, "Brigade 82" was a "very valuable training experience for all. It identified areas we have to work on, but the positive attitude was outstanding and very valuable to us."

According to Lt. Col. Edward Gill, State Maintenance Officer, the 1,200 mile round trip motor march by more than 900 vehicles, was "the safest and most successful" ever.



LT. GOV. MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS and Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman review members of the 149th Brigade as part of the Governor's Day Parade at Camp Shelby.



MEMBERS OF the 202d Army Band entertain guests at Paul B. Johnson State Park near Camp Shelby with some rocking Bluegrass.

Photos by

Capt. Frank Mattingly

and

SFC Chuck Toler

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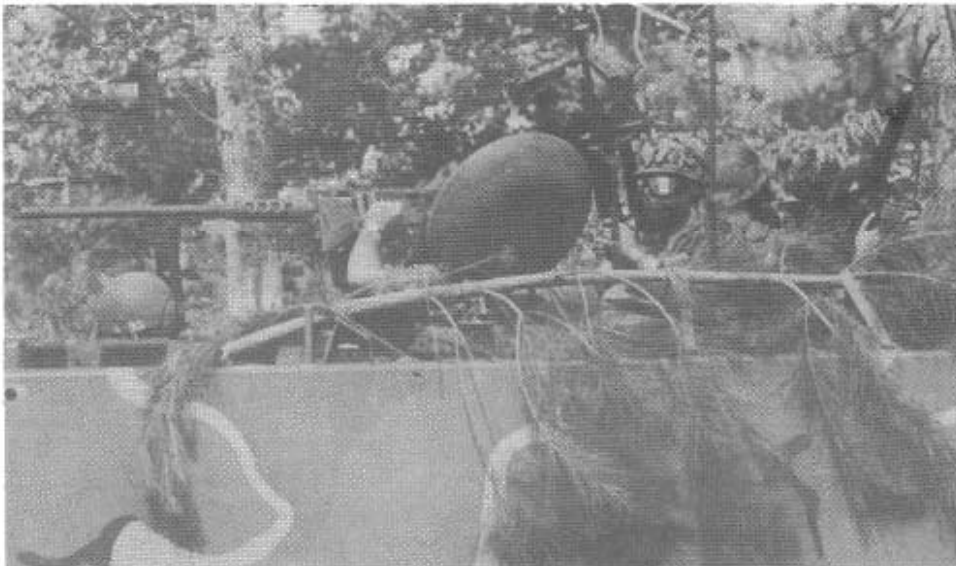
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**SPEC. 4 RANDY MARSHALL**, of Georgetown, a member of Company C, 42nd Aviation Battalion, works in the trees to string communication lines as his unit sets up field operations.



**AS TEMPERATURES** climb into the 90's, Pvt. 2 Lisa Phillips, of Stanford, maintains security at the entrance to Co. C, 103d Support Battalion bivouac site.



**MEMBERS OF 1/149th Mechanized Infantry** donned protective masks during a simulated chemical attack while participating in pre-exercise maneuvers.



**SPEC. 4 JOHN A. HANSEN**, of Whitley City, a member of Company C, 42nd Aviation Battalion, sets up a portable water heater for dish washing in the field.

# KyANG competes in Europe

Kentucky Air Guard crews recently won top honors in international photo reconnaissance competition, while the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing earned its third Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The Kentucky unit was selected to represent the United States in "Best Focus 82," against units from Great Britain, Germany, Denmark and Norway. The exercise was conducted in Karup, Denmark.

Maj. Don Goley and Capt. Paul Rhodes

formed the first place crew, while Kentucky crews also captured second and fourth places. Senior Airman Billie Schamen was awarded the international team plaque for her work in the Norwegian-sponsored photo interpretation facility.

Earlier, during annual training at Savannah, Ga., Lt. Gen. William P. Nelson, 12th Air Force Commander, presented the Outstanding unit award. It was the second consecutive reporting period in which the unit had been recognized.

## Lightning injures 20 Guardsmen

By Spec. 4 Sparky Goodman

Twenty Kentucky Army Guardsmen were injured during annual training at Camp Shelby, Miss., when a lightning bolt struck a tree near where they worked with mortars. One of them was seriously hurt.

According to 1st Lt. Phillip Shipp, commander of Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mech), a blinding light and a tremendous explosion sent powerful shock waves through the air, knocking most of the men to the ground. The lightning apparently struck a nearby tree and the electricity traveled through the ground and into the Guardsmen who were working there. The men had been feverishly loading a truck with mortar rounds before the storm hit.

Pvt. 2 Ancil Foley of Somerset was

affected the worst, suffering injury to his central nervous system. Foley was transported to Forest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, where he was immediately listed in critical condition.

Spec. 4 Terry Randolph, Sgt. Marcie Hood, and Spec. 4 Emmanuel Stogsdill were admitted to the Troop Medical Company at Camp Shelby where they were listed in good condition. The other 16 men involved in the accident were treated at the Troop Medical Company and released.

The four Guardsmen who were injured more seriously all responded well to treatment and two days later all were back in the field.

At press time, Foley was still undergoing treatment and testing at Fort Knox.

## Tuition assistance: study regulations

National Guard state tuition assistance payments had to be delayed for about 60 recipients because the funds were exhausted in early spring, according to a spokesman for the Educational Encouragement Board.

The entire \$150,000 allocation was spent in about nine months. The program began in 1976 with a \$25,000 appropriation.

The increased demand for funds has forced the Board to reconsider some practices and several changes are now being implemented. In addition, the Board is also reemphasizing current regulations.

Applications for assistance will be considered only when they are submitted during the term for which aid is sought. No back payments will be made, even if the Guardsman claims not to have known about the program. The Board noted this is consistent with other state and federal financial assistance programs.

The Board is implementing a priority system that will delay consideration of any applications from enlisted members in grades E-8 or E-9; CW3's and CW4's; and majors and above. People in those grades will receive assistance only if the

Board determines all other requirements can also be met.

Assistance is limited to \$250 per term or \$750 in a 12-month period.

The Board encourages individuals to apply early in each term in order to improve chances of receiving aid, which cannot exceed 50 percent of the tuition cost at an eligible school.

## Men survive crash

Two Kentucky Air Guard aircrew members followed ejection procedures to the letter and safely made it out of their RF-4C before it crashed into a heavily wooded hillside in Tennessee. The two men were Capt. Michael Sams and 1st Lt. Mike Bell, both of the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.

The incident occurred while Sams and Bell were on a routine low level route when they noticed a mechanical malfunction.

Neither man was seriously injured in the ejection and both are expected to return to flying status in the near future.

The crash was the first for the unit in 7½ years.

## round-up

### CHALLENGE RUN

The Air Guard will sponsor its second annual Military Challenge Run in Louisville Aug. 28. The distance will be 10,000 meters and participants will be categorized by age.

### DINING IN

The annual Dining In for all Kentucky National Guard officers and warrant officers is set for Louisville Sept. 25. Sen. Wendell Ford will be the guest speaker for the event.

### LEGION OF MERIT

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, was recently awarded the Legion of Merit in a surprise Frankfort ceremony. He was nominated for the award by Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. and it was presented by Secretary of the Cabinet George Atkins. The Legion of Merit is the second highest award that may be given to a member of the Reserve components in peacetime.



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