



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

MP company prepares for departure to Germany



Spec. 4 Keith Andrews, left, and PFC Keith Williams inventory their equipment and clothing during the MODRE. By having the exercise, 438th leaders were able to determine equipment needs before departure.

By SFC David Curtis

The 438th Military Police Company is going to Germany. The statement is simple enough, but it was not as simple to prepare the unit for the mission. That's why the 438th conducted a Mobilization Overseas Deployment Readiness Exercise (MODRE) before its departure for Germany.

The MODRE enabled unit leaders to review the preparedness of the unit and helped them determine unit needs before its deployment.

The unit will be a part of Winter Reforger '85 and will be hosted by the 95th MP Battalion while in Germany. "We will

have platoons across West Germany assisting in traffic control and convoy support missions," said SFC Jim Scrogam, the unit's full-time training and operations NCO.

"The MODRE was good for us. We'll be leaving here better prepared to fulfill our mission," continued Scrogam. "We were able to identify areas we needed to strengthen, plus, we accomplished many details of actually deploying."

During the weekend MODRE, unit members determined clothing and equipment shortages; received dental examinations, shots and updates of their personnel files; tested loading plans; and performed operators maintenance on weapons.

"I think most of our members are pretty excited about going to Germany," adds Scrogam. "It shows in the way they worked and the enthusiasm they demonstrated during the exercise. It was like packing a suitcase before going on a trip, and we wanted to make sure everything was in place. We're anticipating the trip and with what we accomplished during the MODRE, I think it will be a successful mission."

Museum opens show on Kentucky Guard history



Uniforms, equipment, weapons and photos of Guards 210 year history have gone on display at the Military History Museum. Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly.

"Kentucky's Citizen Soldiers - The Militia and National Guard 1774-1984," is the latest addition to the Kentucky Military History Museum. The exhibit traces the history of the Kentucky National Guard from its beginnings as a frontier militia designed to defend and protect early settlers to its present role as an integral part of the American Armed Forces.

See Guard Shows
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DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 6 . . . Saint Nicholas' Day
 7 . . . Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
 8 . . . John Lennon Remembrance Day
 Full Moon
 10 . . . Human Rights Day
 11 . . . Edward VIII, Abdication (1936)
 12 . . . National Ding-a-ling Day
 Frank Sinatra Birthday (1915)
 13 . . . Battle of Fredericksburg (1862)
 14 . . . Gen. James H. Doolittle Birthday
 (1896)
 15 . . . Bill of Rights Day
 Last Quarter Moon
 16 . . . Ludwig van Beethoven Birthday
 (1770)
 Boston Tea Party (1773)
 17 . . . Flight of the Kitty Hawk (1903)
 Meeting of the Electors
 20 . . . Louisiana Purchase (1803)
 21 . . . Underdog Day
 Winter Begins
 Phileas Fogg wins a Wager Day (1872)
 22 . . . Arbor Day
 New Moon
 24 . . . Christmas Eve
 Howard R. Hughes Birthday (1905)
 25 . . . Christmas
 Washington Crossed the Delaware
 (1776)
 30 . . . First Quarter Moon
 1985 . . . Halley's Comet re-appears, late 1985
 and early 1986. Last appearance was
 1909-1910. Next appearance 2060.
 1985 . . . International Youth Year.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 . . . New Years Day
 Year of Well Being
 Paul Revere Birthday (1735)
 Betsy Ross Birthday (1752)
 3 . . . Alaska: Admission Day
 Congress Assembles
 Earth at Perihelion
 5 . . . Twelfth Night
 5 . . . Electoral vote counting
 Full Moon
 Tom Mix Birthday (1880)
 8 . . . Battle of New Orleans (1815)
 Elvis Aron Presley Birthday (1935)
 10 . . . Ethan Allen Birthday (1738)
 11 . . . Alexander Hamilton Birthday (1755)
 Human Relations Day
 13 . . . Stephen Foster Memorial Day
 14 . . . Ratification Day (1783)
 15 . . . Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
 (1929)
 17 . . . Benjamin Franklin Birthday (1706)
 18 . . . POOH Day
 19 . . . Robert E. Lee Birthday (1807)
 20 . . . Inauguration Day
 New Moon
 21 . . . Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson Birth-
 day (1824)
 23 . . . John Hancock Birthday (1737)
 26 . . . Douglas MacArthur Birthday (1880)
 27 . . . Vietnam War Cease-Fire (1973)
 30 . . . Franklin D. Roosevelt Birthday
 (1882)
 31 . . . Jackie Robinson Birthday (1919)
 U.S. Space Exploration Anniversary

Guard at a glance

GUAM ASSIST

CW4 Glenn Birdwhistell, of the State Area Command personnel staff recently returned from spending two weeks in Guam aiding the Guam National Guard to set up a new Officer Personnel Management System. He was nominated for the assignment by the National Guard Bureau. Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, noted that his selection was a great personal honor.

MAINTENANCE AWARD

Company C, 103rd Support Battalion, Danville, of the 149th Separate Armor Brigade was selected as the "NGB Efficiency in Maintenance Award" winner. Other finalists in the competition were Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 623d Field Artillery, from the 138th FA Brigade, and Co. A, 201st Engineer Bn. from Troop Command. Maj. Gerald V. Howard, Assistant State Maintenance Officer, said "The competition was close. The difference in being number one was the result of unit members working to achieve the highest standards during their annual training."

OFFICERS' RECORDS

Want to see your life pass before your eyes?

Officers in the Army National Guard can do so by visiting or writing the National Guard Bureau's personnel center located near the Pentagon in Falls Church, VA.

There an officer's "life" has been permanently preserved on transparent sheet of pale blue microfilm the size of a recip card. The microfiche records items such as an officer's efficiency reports, physical examination, civilian and military school diplomas and paperwork from prior active military service.

Any weekday, officers may visit the center to review their official military personnel file and obtain a free microfiche copy. Those who cannot come to the Washington, D.C. area may write for copy to: ARNG Personnel Center, NGB ARP-CA, 5600 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-5125.

The request should contain name, address, social security number and individual's signature that authorizes the center to release the records to your unit or home address. Those officers planning a personal visit should call at least one day in advance (703) 756-1334, or (AV) 289-1334.

Your records are an important part of your personnel actions such as promotion, retention, retirement point computation.

THE BLUEGRASS Guard accepts material submitted from the field by writing to the Editor, Bluegrass Guard, Boone NG Center, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

is published using the offset method by the Kentucky Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Office, Boone Center, Frankfort, Kentucky in co-operation with the 133d Public Affairs Detachment and the National Guard Association of Kentucky and in accordance with AR 360-81. It is distributed free of charge to members of the Kentucky National Guard and to other persons upon request. Telephone number AV 366-3515 or Commercial 502-564-8515. Circulation is 7,500.

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Kentucky Guard facts

By Capt. Frank Mattingly

In May, 1774 Capt. James Harrod, Abraham Hite, James and Jacob Sandusky and 37 other men came down the Ohio and up the Kentucky Rivers for the purpose of setting the first permanent settlement in Kentucky at Harrodsburg.

Dragging Canoe, son of Cherokee Chief Attakullakulla, is attributed as having said "a dark cloud hung over that land," which has over 200 years been reduced to "dark and bloody ground."

The Cherokee word for Kentucky, "Ken-tah-teh" meant *tomorrow*, "the land where we will live."

During the French and Indian Wars, Daniel Boone, a young North Carolina farmer, served as a teamster and blacksmith.

The first political meeting of whites in Kentucky was held on April 22, 1775 near Fort Boonesborough beneath a great elm under the direction of Col. Richard Henderson.



SP5 Paul Joiner shares a Thanksgiving meal with his family during 2123rd's Family Day. From left, Joe, Lori, Paul, holding son, Bobby and Carolyn Joiner. Photo by SFC David Curtis.

Day held for family members

By SFC David Curtis

The weather was rainy and cold, but it didn't dampen the spirit inside the Kentucky National Guard Armory in Bowling Green. That's where members of the 2123d Transportation Company were holding Family Day to show their appreciation to family members.

Family Day was held to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by families of the unit's members. Husbands, wives, children and parents shared a Thanksgiving dinner, toured the facility, received a mobilization briefing and visited during the day.

Numerous unit members received decorations and spouses of all unit members received Certificates of Gratitude from the Department of the Army. The decorations and certificates were presented by Assistant Adjutant General, Army Col. Kenneth C. Wood.

According to the unit's first sergeant, Roger Lambert, this particular day was a long time in coming. "We had always been able to have our families together once a year," he said. "But, beginning several years ago, it seemed like the unit was so busy, we could never get everyone together for an outing," continued Lambert. "This year, the unit members were really involved in moving equipment to and from Camp Grayling, Mich. for annual training. So, with all the effort and time away from

home by our members, we decided that we were going to show our appreciation to our families by having them in for a dinner.

"The 2123rd is a fine company," he added. "But, without the support of our wives, husbands and families, we would not be nearly as effective. Family Day was their day and I'm happy everyone had a good time."

Spec. 5 Paul Joiner, a heavy-equipment transport driver, was glad to have the chance to bring his family to the armory. His wife, Carolyn, shared his feelings. "I was excited about coming out to meet Paul's friends and their families," she said. "It also gave me a chance to see what the unit does during its drills."

Commenting on the day, Wood said, "Families play an important role in the Kentucky Army National Guard. I'm proud to have been able to share in the fellowship shown by the families and members of the 2123rd. Their enthusiasm and hospitality certainly made my trip very worthwhile."



Bronze Stars awarded 42 years later



The Bronze Star is presented to one of the 28 survivors of Company D, 192nd Tank Battalion Kentucky National Guard.

Photo by SFC David Curtis

By Capt. Frank Mattingly

Forty-two years after the end of World War II, more than 300 people crowded into the Harrodsburg Armory on Veterans Day to watch and listen as Lt. Gen. Arthur E. Brown, Jr., Director of the Army Staff, and Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, Adjutant General of Kentucky, presented 28 members of Company D, 192nd Tank Battalion Kentucky National Guard with Bronze Star Medals for their part in defense of the Philippines.

Twenty-nine of the original company's 66 members died in the war, either in early battles, in defense of the Philippines, or after the surrender of Bataan and Corregidor in the Bataan Death March and Japanese prison camps.

Sent to the Philippines under sealed orders less than a month before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, they became known as the "Philippine defenders." In the spring of

See "Philippine Defenders"

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Guard shows age in new show at museum

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The Kentucky National Guard is older than the state itself and the new exhibit links the Guard's history through a succession of displays that demonstrate the services of Kentucky's citizen soldiers to the defense of Kentucky and the United States, according to museum curator Nicky Hughes.

"Never in one exhibit have we had this much memorabilia from the Kentucky National Guard," said Hughes. "Much of the exhibit consists of items donated by former guardsmen and their families."

The exhibit is designed in chronological order and is divided into seven sections, with each section representing a distinctive era in the Guard's history. Kentucky Guardsmen have participated in every war from the American Revolution to Vietnam.

"I visited the exhibit at the Oklahoma Military History Museum, which starts with the Spanish-American War," said Hughes. "Ours starts more than a hundred years before that."

Hughes noted that the only reproduction item in the entire exhibit is the frontier hunting shirt uniform. The shirt, however, was woven on an authentic hand loom owned by the Kentucky Historical Society.

Much of the early-to-mid 20th century items were donated by the sons of Col. George Cheschier Sr., George Jr. of Louisville and Bill of Frankfort. Col. Cheschier was the commander of the 138th Field Artillery Regiment and a veteran of World War II.

"Col. Cheschier kept everything and took a camera everywhere he went," said Hughes. "I wish we had someone like that for other units."

Hughes said it took four months to get the exhibit ready for viewing. There is even some music from different eras, including the "Tecumseh March" and some Civil War songs. There is a copy of the words to the song "The Hunters of Kentucky" hanging on the wall. The song tells a Kentucky



World War II uniforms and photos are part of the new exhibit at military museum. Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly.

militiaman's version of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812.

Hughes hopes to expand the exhibit as more donations of items come in, and have a traveling version of the exhibit in about a year.

The exhibit is located on the second floor of the Old State Arsenal, which houses the Kentucky Military History Museum.

"If any Guardsmen are interested in what the Guard did before their time, this is the place to come and see it," said Hughes. "Military history is a popular subject, so there's no reason the Guard should be left out."

"Philippine defenders" get Stars

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1942 the outnumbered American Army surrendered the Philippines to the Japanese. Seventy-thousand American soldiers and Filipino Fighters and civilians were taken prisoner and forced on a 55-mile trek called the Bataan Death March.

Ten thousand people (more than 2,000

of them Americans) died on the march, which has become infamous for the atrocities committed by the Japanese. The prisoners were forced to travel with almost no food, water or rest. Many were shot or bayoneted by their captors when they stopped or fell out of rank.

Those who survived the march spent more than three years in prison camps in the Philippines and Japan.

Guardsmen needed for NASA

Guardsmen may now volunteer for astronaut duty, according to a message from National Guard Bureau dated Dec. 18. The Army is looking for as many as 10 candidates to add to its corps of two

currently serving with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Army National Guardsmen must have "sufficient retainability to serve an eight year tour," according to the message.

