



The Bluegrass Guard

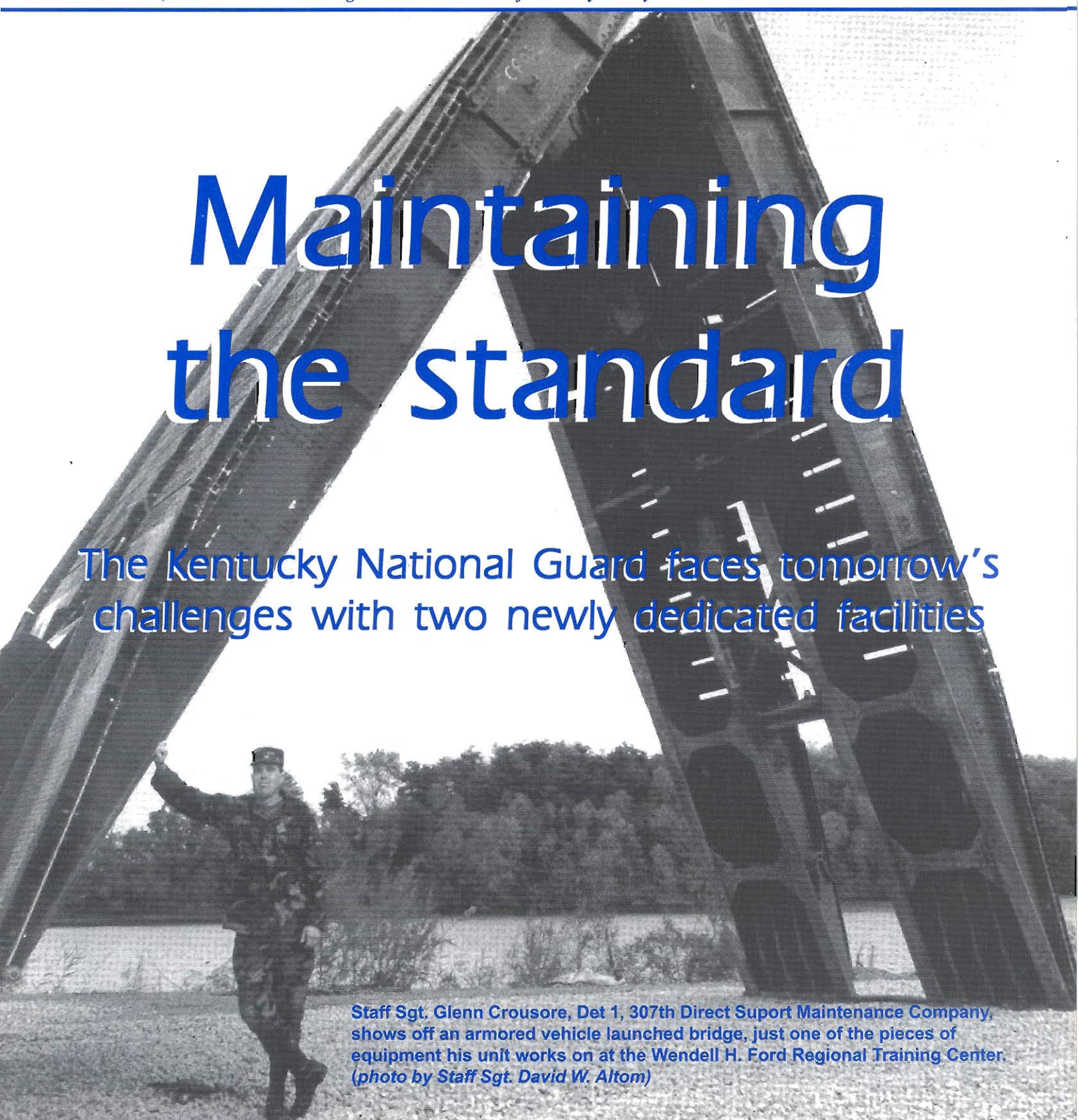
Volume Two, Issue One

serving the men and women of Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard

Winter 1998

Maintaining the standard

The Kentucky National Guard faces tomorrow's challenges with two newly dedicated facilities



Staff Sgt. Glenn Crousore, Det 1, 307th Direct Support Maintenance Company, shows off an armored vehicle launch bridge, just one of the pieces of equipment his unit works on at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. (photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom)

THE GENERAL POINT OF VIEW

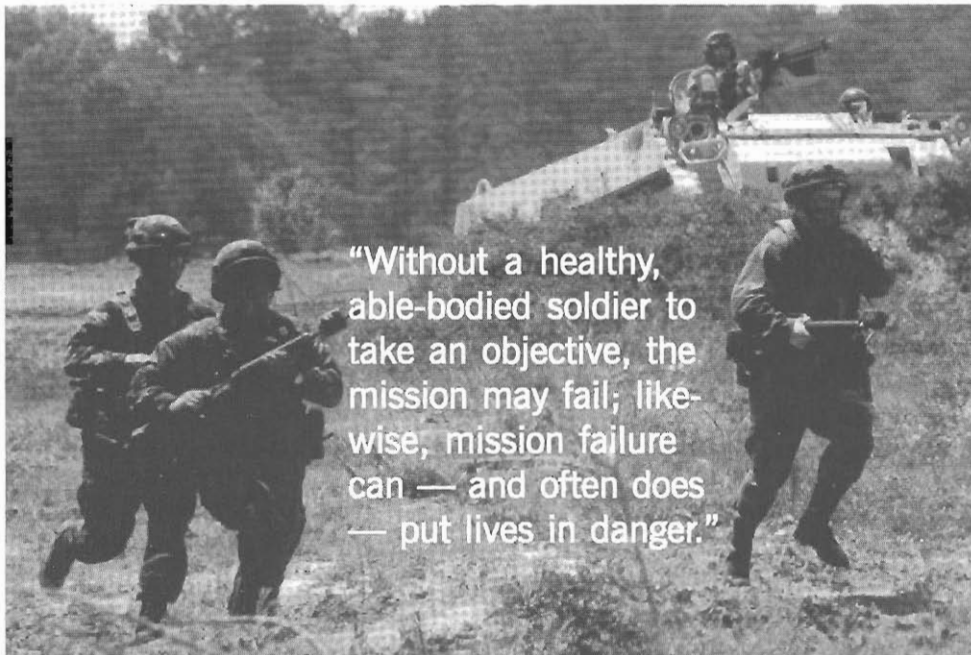


by Brigadier General John R. Groves Jr.
Adjutant General of Kentucky

Following up on our discussion in our last issue regarding training and its impact on the Kentucky National Guard, I'd like to talk with you for just a moment about the notion of maintenance. Physical maintenance, not of equipment and vehicles, but of the most important item in the Department of Defense inventory: the individual.

Maintenance in the military is the practice of keeping our gear in battle-ready condition, whether it's our protective masks, our weapons, vehicles or aircraft. All of us — from the most senior officer through the most junior enlisted — is taught to keep his or her equipment in tip-top condition, ready to deploy for whatever contingency that merits our attention. Mission success, as well as lives, often depends on how well we perform maintenance.

The same can be said for maintaining our bodies. We are each charged with keeping ourselves physically fit in accordance with set standards, and it is our responsibility to meet these standards. Besides being a requirement for membership in the



military, physical fitness is a key factor in mission readiness. Without a healthy, able-bodied soldier to take an objective, the mission may fail; likewise, mission failure can — and often does — put lives in danger.

I am proud to say that the Kentucky Guard is highly successful in this arena, thanks in large part to our junior officers and the NCO corps for setting the example. The Kentucky Guard physical fitness philosophy is surely becoming a model for how we operate, as a lean, mean, fighting machine. We must, however, strive to excel beyond our current successes and look toward the future.

Discipline is the key to any successful physical fitness program. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to perform the physical training, faithfully and to the standard, regardless of work schedule, personal commitments and other inevitable distractions. Just as it takes effort to practice good PMCS on a

tracked vehicle, or cleaning a weapon, or even backing up computer files, physical fitness is something that you must turn into, not just something you do — it has to become part of your routine, your life. After all, it is part of your job.

The reality of all this rests with you, the individual. No one can make us do it. And it's not easy; the coming winter months give us

plenty of excuses not to maintain ourselves at the same level we might normally attain. I encourage you to resist such complacency. Mission readiness is not a seasonal condition; no one knows when we might be called on to serve our fellow citizens, either at home or abroad.

The Bluegrass Guard

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Open for business!

New mobilization and training equipment site puts Kentucky on the map

story and photos by
Staff Sgt. David W. Altom



The Kentucky Army Guard took another step in modernization last fall with the dedication of the new Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Ft. Knox. Representing a \$10.5 million federal investment in Kentucky, the recently completed MATES will provide equipment maintenance and storage support for National Guard units from throughout the U.S.

Operated by a staff of 55 full-time Kentucky Army Guard soldiers, the 25-acre facility features a 91,000 sq. ft. high-bay maintenance building with a 35-ton crane and drive-through maintenance bays capable of accommodating the largest wheeled and tracked vehicles in the Army's inventory. A

separate 14,000 sq. ft. building houses a repair center for small arms and combat vehicle weapons.

The complex is complemented by an outside storage area capable of accommodating more than 500 military and civilian vehicles belonging to National Guard units from surrounding states that train at Ft. Knox.

Col. Barry Gilbert, maintenance director for the Kentucky Army Guard, expressed great pride in the new facility. "For my people it was like moving from a high school gymnasium into Rupp Arena. It's big, it's awesome ... and we're proud of it."

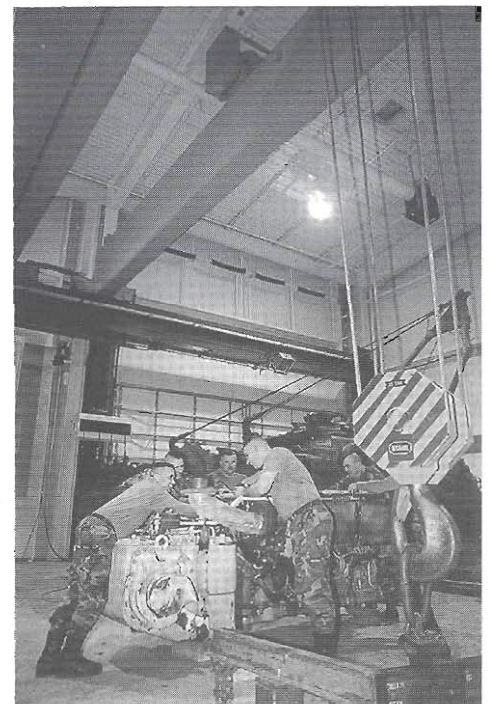
For Ft. Knox the MATES represents an added value to the training that

goes on at the "Home of Armor." According to post commandant Maj. Gen. George H. Harmeyer, with as many as 1,500 to 2,000 National Guard and reserve troops on site during annual training periods, the new MATES is a welcome resource.

"This [facility] is a great monument to the changes and the vision for the future of the Total Army," he said.

The biggest in the state Members of Co. B, 103rd Forward Support Battalion use the MATES' 35-ton crane to pull an engine from an M-88 Recovery Vehicle. The main work bay is large enough to allow an M-1 Abrams main battle tank to swing its gun 360°.

The last of the red tape A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially marked the opening of the Kentucky MATES. Pictured (left to right) are: Maj. Mike Sutton, Maj. Gen. Michael Davidson, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Robert L. DeZarn, Maj. Gen. Harmeyer and Col. Barry Gilbert.



Moving toward the future

Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center result of vision, planning



photo by Sgt. John Kibler, 133rd MPAD

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

In 1969 Kentucky Army National Guard soldiers took machetes and shovels to a discarded piece of strip mine land and carved out a modest but practical “weekend training site” where the craft of warfare could be practiced economically and safely.

Little did those soldiers know that their efforts were the seeds for the training center of the twenty-first century.

On October 17, 1997 the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center was officially dedicated, bringing the Kentucky Guard to the forefront of the U.S. military’s training options.

Following a ceremony honoring the site’s namesake, hundreds of National Guard and active component military personnel, national, state and local community leaders, numerous press agencies and family members were treated to tours and equipment displays, as well as aerial demonstra-

tions by the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Airlift Wing and 123rd Special Tactics Flight.

Formerly known as the Western Kentucky Training Site, the Ford Training Center covers nearly 8,500 acres and has many of the features expected of a modern training facility; in addition to housing for nearly 500 troops and a 400-seat dining hall, there is a modern learning center, provision for computer simulator training, five small arms live-fire ranges, hardened bivouac sites and a 4,200 foot grass runway.

Nearly 140,000 man-days were expended at the facility last year — the equivalent of nearly 400 persons working year-round. While active and reserve component Army units comprise the majority of the training schedule, the Ford Training Center has opened its doors to other agencies as well. The Kentucky Air Guard makes frequent use of the grass airstrip, ideal for tactical airlift practice exercises.

Cited by Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau as “NTC east” — referring to the Army’s National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Ca. — the Ford Training Center has already made a name for itself with such high profile projects as the Army’s Advanced Warfighter experiment, in which troops on the ground fought battles with troops in other states using satellite-based cyber-technology.

Also, Operation Mega-Gold has been held at the Center twice, involving as many as 8,000 troops from the Ft. Campbell-based 101st Air Assault Division.

The facility has received \$11 million in federal funds since the expansion began and there are plans for additional expansion to accommodate the Army’s ever-growing training requirements.

“We have something to offer everybody,” said Cpt. Dwight Kinder, manager of the Ford Training Center. “With our location and the versatility of our training resources, we are quickly becoming the prime training facility east of the Mississippi.”

Tech. Sgt. Todd Swenson of the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Special Tactics Flight coordinates the lift-off of a C-130H air transport from the Ford Training Center runway.

(photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom)



Ford hails training site as one of best in country

by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer,
123rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs Office

During dedication ceremonies for the training site named in his honor, U.S. Senator Wendell H. Ford hailed the new facility as one of the best in the nation.

"We are here today to dedicate a facility that plays a tremendous role in training our men and women to be their best when things are at their worst," Ford told an audience of several hundred military and civilian spectators gathered at the dedication.

"And that makes this facility one of the most valuable weapons that our military could have.

"When commanders come to this facility, they know their men and women will find no better simulation of what they can expect in a wartime situation."

"Today, we are witnessing the start of a new era in military training — an era where the nation will look to Kentucky for much of their training needs," Ford said, who was instrumental in funding the site's expansion.

"I can't begin to tell you how proud I am to have my name associated with a facility of this caliber — a facility that will not only prepare today's armed forces for whatever they might face, but will continue to be a leader in training future generations."

Ford, a native of Owensboro, was a member of the U.S. Army in 1944-46. He then went on to serve in the Kentucky Army National Guard for thirteen years before pursuing public office.



Tribute to a former Guardsman ... U.S. Senator Wendell H. Ford — who served as a lieutenant in the Kentucky Army Guard — reacts to the unveiling of a dedication marker in his honor. Also present were (left to right) Mrs. Jean Ford; Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, chief of the National Guard Bureau; Dr. Ed Ford, Deputy Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet; and Brig. Gen. John R. Groves, Adjutant General for Kentucky.

... and to those who serve Ford expressed his appreciation, as well as a commitment of continued support toward the future of the Kentucky Guard.

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1701

ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

November 9, 1997

Dear General:

I want to thank you and everyone involved for all the hard work and planning that went in to the October 17th ceremony. It was simply outstanding.

I am so proud and honored to have my name associated with the Training Center. So many people have worked to bring it to the position it is today. The vision of a few will benefit the many.

I want you to know I will continue to work while I am in office and afterwards to see the Center completed and reach its true potential.

Again, my heartfelt thanks for the great honor.

Sincerely,

Maintaining the standard

Soldiers work hard to keep those wheels turnin'

story by Spc. Stephen Woolverton
photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

It's a beautiful day, the sun is out, the air is cool and the road is calling you. You get in your car, roll the windows down and turn the key. You hear the dull roar as the engine turns over and give yourself a moment to enjoy that feeling of power. You press your foot on the break, put the car in reverse and — BANG! — it stopped. No, this can't be happening, you think. Turn the key, press lightly on the gas and... nothing.

Problems with vehicles occur on a regular basis, and with nearly 2,300 wheeled and track vehicles in the Kentucky Army Guard, there is always work to be done. This is where the men and women of the maintenance branch come in.

"We try to keep all of our equipment above the standard," says Colonel Barry Gilbert, director of the Kentucky Army Guard's Surface Maintenance Management Office. "We have people who work five days a week to keep things going, as well as the M-day soldiers who work on equipment during drill weekends. It's quite a challenge."

While National Guard soldiers are expected to maintain their equipment to the best of their ability, there are several maintenance resources available to them, usually in the form of a maintenance section or detachment.

Special problems or requirements are sent by the unit to local Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS). There are currently

Sgt. 1st Class Dale Bailey, HQ STARC, oversees the maintenance and repair of weapons such as the .50 caliber machinegun.



Sgt. Gene Riley, Co. B, 103rd Forward Support Battalion, rebuilds a humvee engine at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop.

11 such facilities in Kentucky, each with between five to twelve full-time personnel. Soldiers at these sites are able to take care of most problems with wheeled vehicles; units responsible for track vehicles, on the other hand, go to either Fort Knox or the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center for support.

Fort Knox is home of the Kentucky Army Guard's new Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES), a huge complex capable of servicing a wide variety of equipment, as well as storing and stores and maintains over 400 track and wheeled vehicles.

When soldiers complete their training period, they clean up their equipment and fix any problems that are not too complicated. Serious deficiencies are addressed by MATES personnel upon equipment turn-in.

Units training at the newly dedicated Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center will find a useful resource in the Unit Training Equipment Site (UTES). The UTES is similar to the MATES, but on a smaller scale.

There are times when the MATES, UTES or OMS's do not have the equipment to make the necessary repairs. When this happens the problem is referred to the Combined Services Maintenance Shop (CSMS) in Frankfort, the last stop for all repairs.

"This week we have 40 jobs, but we have had in excess of 100 jobs in a week," said Warrant Officer Doyle Manley, the heavy mobile equipment supervisor for the CSMS. "We do everything here from replacing engines to complete rebuilds."

According to Manley, the CSMS also repairs a wide range of electronic equipment, from radios and tactical computers to night vision devices.

"Of course, we have a small arms repair shop, and we do work on the major weapons systems like the MLRS (multiple launch rocket system) and the M-1 tank."

The CSMS also provides a two-person satellite shop to the UTES in western Kentucky, greatly expanding that facility's versatility.

The two major challenges for the maintenance program are the lack of money and the lack of manpower, a common concern in times of military cost-cutting and downsizing. "

"With the reduced resources and [less] money to buy repair parts we have to get more innovative every day trying to figure out how we are going to keep all of this equipment running," explained Gilbert. "There is a certain readiness level that these units have to meet and we have to make sure that they meet the minimum standard number of vehicles ready for duty."

He credits his soldiers with doing more with less.

"One thing I think is remarkable is how our people keep all our older equipment in good working condition," he said. "We've got some vehicles dating back to the 1950's, but they get the job done."

In order to deal with the lack of personnel, proficiency is a key factor in mission success. According to Master Sgt. Dale Mitchell, director of OMS #9 in Glasgow, spreading the wealth of training and experience is the key to mission success.

"We will take time out on the weekend to go to another unit and conduct training for their maintenance section whenever the unit requests it."

Another aid in keeping vehicles in good condition with less money is at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. There are five buildings there that were originally built as a test program that was being conducted by the Army in order to research the effects of Controlled Humidity (CH) storage. Since the Army has completed its testing the KYNG has continued to use these buildings.

"While vehicles are in these buildings they are not prone to deterioration affects," said Gilbert. "The canvas won't rot, the paint won't fade and the tires won't lose pressure. We also have mobile humidity control tubes that fit inside tank turrets in order



Staff Sgt. Stephen Plouvier, 207th Maintenance Co., shares his knowledge with a group of visiting high school students.

to keep moisture from building up in the electronic sighting and guidance controls."

But technology only takes you so far. The key to the Kentucky Army Guard maintenance program is innovative thinking, hard work, and communication. And, of course, informed operators.

"Operator maintenance is the lifeline to a successful maintenance program," says Cpt. Jeffery Hensley, coordinator for OMS #5 in Frankfort. "And I believe that we have the kind of soldiers who can make it work."

Besides repairing tactical radios, Master Sgt. Jim Akers, HHB, 2/138th, also works on computers, telephone and video systems.



Even the big guns need maintenance Spc. Duncan Arnold (left) gives his team from the 207th Maintenance Co. some guidance in checking an M-109A howitzer barrel for damage. Also pictured are Spc. Paul Greenwell, Spc. Jerrod Wright, and Pvt. Tobey Johnson.



ID cards to go to Total Force Green

Move another step toward consolidation of active, reserve component forces

In another step toward achieving full integration of the active and reserve military components, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen recently announced that identification (ID) cards for all active component and Reserve active status U.S. military personnel will now be the same color – green.

This initiative, which will be phased in over a two to five year period that could begin as early as June 1998, calls for changing the color of the Reserve active status forces identification card

(DD Form 2 (Reserve)) from red to green. Reserve active status forces include members of the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve, and the active Standby Reserve. Only the color of the card held by these members of the Reserve components will change; there will be no associated changes to current service benefits, privileges and entitlements, unless a change in status occurs.

The change responds to a pledge made by Cohen in a recent policy memorandum, calling on the civilian and military leader-

ship of the Department of Defense to eliminate “all residual barriers – structural and cultural” to effective integration of the Reserve and active components into a “seamless Total Force.”

The red identification card has been the primary card used by members of the Reserve who are not on active duty or full-time National Guard duty. Red identification cards (DD Form 2 (reserve retired) will continue to be issued to ‘gray-area retirees’ – members of the Retired Reserve who have not reached age 60. Family members of Reservists will also continue to receive the red (DD Form 1173-1) ID card.

PSB, Mission Support Flight offer ID card services

It's new! It's exciting!
It's computer generated!

by Spc. Stephen Woolverton, STARC PAO

Yes, it's the new exciting computer generated Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reports (DEERs) identification card, better known as the military ID card. Get one for yourself, your spouse and while you're at it, don't forget the kids!

At Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort the Kentucky Army Guard's Personnel Service Branch (PSB) will process ID cards each Tuesday between 8:00am and 3:00pm, as well as on drill weekends. If you are unable to make these times you can walk in Monday through Friday between 7:30 and 5:00; it may take a little longer, so you might want to call ahead.

“Just make sure that you bring all of your relevant documents” says Sgt. 1st Class Sandy Sloan. “That includes marriage certificates, divorce papers and birth certificates.”

For personnel living in the Louisville area, try the 123rd Mission Support Flight at the Air National Guard Base on Grade Lane. According to Master Sgt. Elizabeth Green, her office is eager to provide help to anyone entitled to a card.

“We're one of the Guard's best kept secrets,” she said. “We don't just support Air Guard personnel. It doesn't matter if you're Army, Air, Navy or retired. Just make an appointment with us ahead of time and we make sure you're taken care of.”

Green said they'll also issue cards on drill weekends for those



of you who can't break away during the week. Again, it's a good idea to call ahead.

“And, yes, we do take walk-in requests, though it may take a little longer to check your records and make sure everything is up to date and okay.”

If you don't happen to live near either of these two locations, don't despair; there may be an issuing agency in your area.

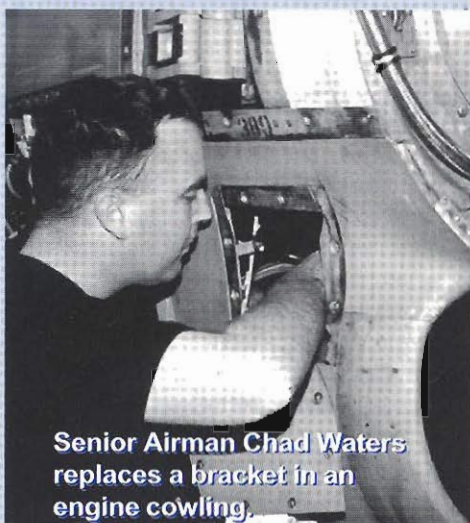
“Just give us a call,” said Sloan, “and we'll help find the office nearest you.”

So now you know the latest on military ID cards. So make that phone call, come on down and take a seat ... and make sure you smile!

For more information, contact:

123rd Mission Support Flight (Louisville) 502-364-9486
Personnel Service Branch (Frankfort) 502-564-8560

Maintaining the fleet

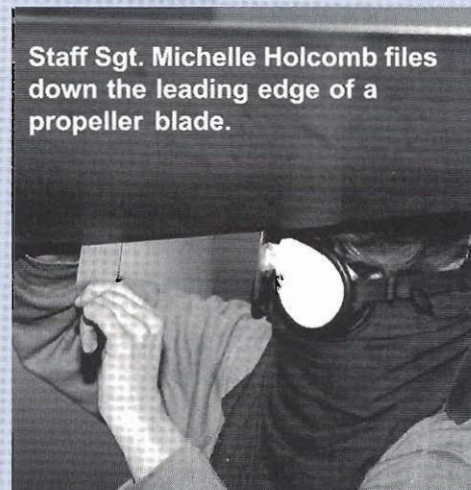


Senior Airman Chad Waters replaces a bracket in an engine cowling.

Like anything else in the military, teamwork is crucial to a successful mission. Here, some of the key players work to maintain the Kentucky Air Guard's stable of C-130H air transports. (photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Rines, KYANG)



Staff Sgt. Brandon Scott reinstalls an aircraft radar system.



Staff Sgt. Michelle Holcomb files down the leading edge of a propeller blade.

Kentucky Air Guard shines at 'Bright Star'

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing, KyANG

The Kentucky Air Guard's maintenance troops once again set the standard for combat readiness when the wing completed its role in an Egyptian training exercise last month without missing a single mission.

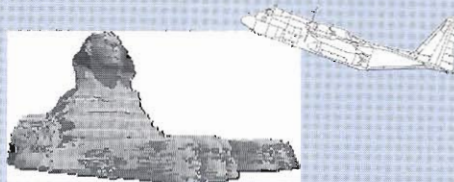
Kentucky aircrews flew more than 30 sorties during the two-week deployment, providing airlift services for Bright Star 1997, a multi-national operation designed to test the war-fighting abilities of the Egyptian military.

The Kentucky unit's 100 percent mission-readiness rate is virtually unheard of in the active duty force, said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Hall, who served as production superintendent on the deployment. For the Kentucky Air Guard, however, it was business as usual.

"We never dropped a mission for anything during the deployment," Hall said. "If we had a write-up for repairs to an aircraft, we were able to fix it that night. That's a reflection of our maintenance folks and the training that we undergo on a day-to-day basis. Our aircraft are constantly maintained in a ready state.

"When you're that well trained and that well prepared, you're ready to go into these kinds of scenarios at any time."

Egyptian mission brings out best in maintenance crew



The Bright Star scenario centered around a mock war in the Egyptian desert near Cairo West, where 90 Kentucky Guardsmen were based from Oct. 20-30. They joined forces with 1,000 other troops representing every branch of the U.S. military, as well as British, French and Italian forces.

The Kentucky Air Guard -- which was the only Air Force component to provide C-130s -- deployed four aircraft for resupply missions and paratrooper drops. The U.S. Marine Corps contributed two C-130s for helicopter refueling, and a British Hercules was used for heavy equipment drops.

Although the weather was relatively cool, the environment presented one unexpected nuisance for the 28 Kentucky maintainers who deployed from the unit's 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron and 123rd Maintenance Squadron: All repairs had to be accomplished on the tarmac amid a constant swirl of airborne sand.

More serious was the sudden failure of

the avionics and navigation systems on three of the unit's C-130s.

"It was very unusual to lose that many at one time," Hall said of the faulty systems. "Normally, you might lose one on a deployment like that."

Luckily, Hall's troops brought the necessary parts to fix one of the aircraft, and the other two were repaired after a Kentucky crew picked up additional components from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Challenges like that made Bright Star a valuable training experience for Kentucky maintainers, Hall said, but the mission was successful in other ways, too.

One of its less tangible benefits was the goodwill it helped foster between Egyptian and U.S. forces.

"We got pretty friendly with a sergeant in the Egyptian security forces and two of his associates," Hall said. "We ate some Egyptian food that he brought in for us, and he showed us pictures of his family."

"The day that we left, he had tears in his eyes, and that surprised me. It was a little sad when you get on an airplane and this guy is standing there hollering your name as you're going up the steps.

"He was really upset to see us go because we had become good friends."

story by Spc. Stephen Woolverton

Kentucky artillery

Annual training takes troops to the field and

“Fire mission, round HE, charge 5 white-bag, fuse PD, special instructions ... at my command, deflection 3219, quadrant 470 ... FIRE!!!”

It may sound like Greek to you but if you're ever out on a firing point with a field artillery unit and you hear those words, you better cover your ears. What happens if you don't? Well, let's just say it might take a few minutes for the ringing to go away.

Contrary to popular belief, annual training (AT) for the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery (FA) and the 1st Battalion, 623rd FA isn't just about shooting rounds down range. There's a lot that goes into getting them to that point; so much that I only got a small taste of it in the six days I spent with them.

It began with more than 300 soldiers from all over Kentucky loading up and moving out to Fort Stewart, Ga. Some of the troops flew down to pick up and prepare the M-109 howitzers and Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) that were sent down in advance by railroad. The rest drove their hummers and heavy trucks in a convoy that took a full two days.

“We're going to hit the ground running,” Spc. Tina Baxter told me as we drove into the base. And was she right! The moment the convoy arrived the preparation began; food, water, equipment, fuel and more had to be loaded up and taken to the troops already in the field.

Once the convoy was in the field communications were established and tents and camouflage nets were set up. Next, the tactical operations center — consisting of three trucks that open to double their normal width — were set up and put together so that the commander and his staff could coordinate unit activities.

At the same time three batteries from the 2/138th — consisting of four howitzers each — were going through lane training drills and sharpening their skills by firing live high-explosive rounds. Also, MLRS crews from the 1/623rd were doing their own lane training and fine tuning their skills at launching rockets.

The soldiers of Alpha Battery, 2/138th started me off with the basics, showing me

around and treating me like one of the crew.

“This is a howitzer,” they told me pointing to a big steel vehicle riding on tracks and supporting a large gun. Directly behind it was an M-548 ammunition carrier, which transports the supporting soldiers, equipment and rounds.

What I saw on the firing line was a prime example of teamwork. One soldier

coordinated the movement of the big gun, a second aimed it left or right, a third aimed it up or down and a fourth loaded and fired it.

The noise is so loud that later in the day, from seven miles away, I could hear the rounds whistling through the air and the loud boom signifying impact.

To the soldiers of the 2/138th the impact of firing the big guns is a bit



Spc. Paul Burkhead (left), C Battery, 1st Battalion 623 Field Artillery, processes digital information on a new target for his Multiple Launch Rocket System (above).



“Fire Mission ... at my command ... FIRE!!!” A Kentucky Army National Guard M-109 fires a 155mm projectile (captured in-flight, upper right corner) downrange during annual training at Ft. Stewart, Ga.

on the firing line

lets them do what they do best ... FIGHT!!!

different, but just as powerful.

"The best part is being able to fire the round," said Spc. Steven Lykins from Alpha Battery. "That's what everyone wants to do when they first get in [the Field Artillery]."

That's pretty evident; with each round fired, the excitement built, and voices rose up from each crew, shouting and cheering in rhythm to the clanking of the breech as

it recoiled and returned. Everyone's adrenaline was up and everywhere you looked there were smiles.

The other type of field artillery I got to see was the MLRS. Carrying either twelve rockets with a range of around 18 miles, or 2 missiles that can reach around 186 miles, these track vehicles shoot a long way and deliver a solid punch.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Ricky

Stringer from Charlie Battery, 1/623rd, MLRS mission instructions are received through digital high-frequency radio transmission.

"This gives us the location we need to go to and the direction we need to be facing in order to fire the mission," he said.

Once coordinates are programmed in the system, the pods on the back of the vehicle raise up, rotate to one side and launch its rockets at one or more targets. The noise is thunderous and smoke blinding, but to the men in the launcher it was all part of the mission. Once the rockets were fired they immediately moved off to a designated point where they dropped off the empty pods and loaded on new ones. Then they moved into a good hiding spot and waited for their next mission.

Training at facilities like Ft. Stewart is one of the best ways to help Kentucky Guard soldiers keep sharp. Everyone, from the unit commanders to the most junior enlisted, gets valuable experience during both the deployment phase and the fire missions themselves.

"While at annual training we have the time and resources to identify our weaknesses and strong points," said Cpt. James Walls. "This is so we can plan which areas we need to emphasize during our weekend drills. At the end of the AT, active duty evaluators who have [monitored] the units throughout the exercise will meet with the commanders and staff to discuss what they did well and what they need work on."

For the individual soldier in the field, however, it often seems that the lessons learned at annual training are more immediate and, not to mention, vital.

"What I want the soldiers to get out of this AT are the little things that get looked over when trying to create the big picture," explains 1st Sgt. Nazaire Filiatreau. His job, above all others, is to ensure the training and well-being of the personnel in his unit. "That's why for the first few days I constantly nag them about PMCS (Preventive Maintenance Checklist Services), noise and light discipline and drinking water so that they will do it on their own and be able to answer my questions before I have to ask them."

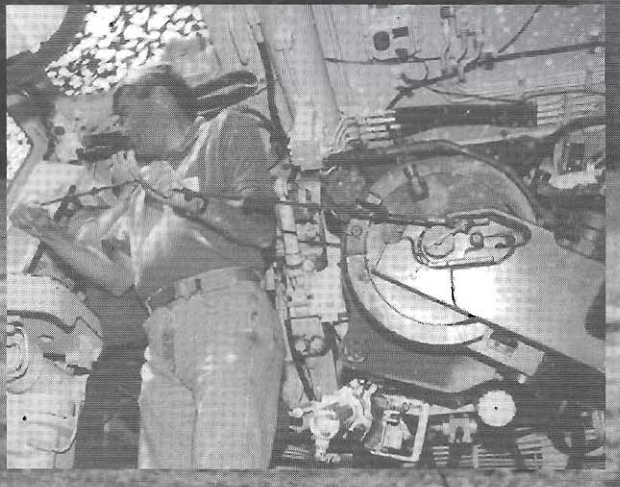
Filiatreau encouraged everyone to watch after each other when the tempera-

(continued on page 13)



Sgt. 1st Class Butch Browns and Spc. Billy Phillips (left) get their bearings prior to a fire mission.

Pulling on the lanyard of an M-109 howitzer gives Raymond Woodyard, -- an associate principal at Dunbar High School (right) -- newfound appreciation of the meaning of the word 'recoil.'



(photo by SSG David W. Altom)

Kentucky National Guard license plates get a *NEW LOOK*

Members of the Kentucky National Guard have something to look forward to in 1998 with the issuance of the new National Guard automobile license plates by the state Transportation Cabinet.

The plates, re-designed by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz, a graphic artist with the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Communication Flight, now feature colorful images of fixed-wing aircraft in addition to the traditional minuteman.

"We are very proud of this new design," said Maj. Steve Bullard, president-elect of the National Guard Association of Kentucky (NGAKY). "We wanted something that would stand out in a crowd, something would show the Kentucky Guard as an organization ready to move into the twenty-first century."

The NGAKY was the driving force behind making the new-design plates available.

The rules for obtaining the new plates are fairly simple. Members *without* current-issue National Guard plates can obtain the new ones for \$28.50 at their local county clerks office. Yearly renewals are only \$3 – a considerable savings over the standard renewal rate.

Members who already *do have* National Guard plates must wait until for the current plates to expire in December 1998. Because all Kentucky National Guard plates expire this year, you must be issued a new plate anyway. The only cost will be a transfer fee of \$3.00.

Members with current-issue plates who are eager to change to the new issue plate right away can do so, but at an additional cost. It is recommended that you wait until your current plate expires.



Application forms for purchase of National Guard license plates can be obtained from member units.

Please note that because of delays in license plate production, some counties have had a hard time getting the new plates, so please be patient.

Bullard said issuance of the new plates represents the gratitude of the people of Kentucky for the Guard's contributions.

"Gov. Patton signed this order in recognition of humanitarian missions supported by the Kentucky Guard in the recent past. While we hope that all of our members will take advantage of the cost savings being made available to them, the main message is that the National Guard is a viable and active force in the Commonwealth."

For more information, call Maj. Steve Bullard at 502-491-4737.

Gulf War illness deadline extended

A request by Department of Veterans Affairs to extend the eligibility period for compensation for Persian Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses through Dec. 31, 2001 has been approved by President Bill Clinton.

After the regulation becomes final approximately 5,000 claims that were denied because they did not meet the current two-year presumptive period will be readjudicated.

Veterans in need of medical care who wish to take advantage of the physical examination under the Persian Gulf registry or who have general questions about DVA medical policies can call the Persian Gulf Information Helpline, (800) 749-8387.



It's all a good cause Chief Warrant Officer Harold Reynolds takes a pie in the face from Warrant Officer Roger Lambert during a recent fund-raising event for charity. Nearly \$12,000 was raised by Boone Center personnel for the Combined Federal Campaign, which distributes funds to a variety of state and local charities.

(artillery, cont.)

ture reached so high that it turned the howitzers into mobile saunas. Soldiers were told to drink at least one quart of water every hour. Factor in the sandy terrain that they were training in and it quickly became a situation where the medics were kept busy making rounds checking for heat casualties.

Spc. Teri Kidd summed the living conditions up pretty well.

“With a 113 degree heat index, bugs all over the place and swamp land here and there ... it can get pretty interesting.”

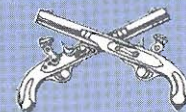
While conditions like these may seem rough, it’s all part of what soldiers refer to as their “train as you fight” philosophy; if this unit is ever called to war, then they’ll have at least some idea of just how rough it can get. According to 1st Lt. Brian Wurtzler, most of the troops prefer things this way.

“Our problem is that our soldiers don’t like to stay at home station. They train to move and shoot and survive, and the only place they can do that is in the field.”

Wurtzler promised the best is yet to come.

“Next year will be even more intense ... and interesting.”

“An old warhorse”



brings history alive during Military police ceremony



Dressed in the uniform of an eighteenth century Dragoon, 1st Lt. Robert Smither II and his steed, Flash, stand guard as Lt. Col. Brian Daly takes command of the 198th Military Police Bn. during ceremonies held at the Beuchel Armory. The Military Police Corps traces its history to a special unit authorized by Congress during the Revolutionary War and assigned by General George Washington to perform police functions in camp and in the field. Reflecting the unit’s special requirements, the corps was mounted and equipped as light dragoons. (photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom)

New home for

photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

AN HONORED VETERAN

RF-101 part of Air Guard history



The Kentucky Air National Guard’s only remaining RF-101 “VooDoo” has a new home marking the entrance to the Capital City Airport in Frankfort.

A remnant of the Cold War era, this particular RF 101 played an active role in history, having been flown by pilots from the Kentucky Guard’s 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing during the Pueblo incident in 1968.

The reconnaissance-fighter was moved to its new home by members of the 123rd Logistics Group. Pictured (left to right) are Lt. Col. Howard Hunt III, Staff Sgt. Stephen Young, Tech. Sgt. Robert Giles, Tech. Sgt. Donald Richeson, Tech. Sgt. Jerry Perkins, Master Sgt. Robert Hagan Jr. and Tech. Sgt. Jim Skaggs..

New State Command Sergeant Major *follows the road of experience*

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

If there's anything the Kentucky Guard values among its soldiers and airmen, it's experience. Let's face it, beyond the classroom and the firing range, sometimes there's nothing more effective than "the real" thing when it comes to the learning process.

Just ask Eddie Satchwell, recently assigned as the Kentucky Army National Guard's State Command Sergeant Major.

A member of the Kentucky Guard since 1965 and a veteran of two wartime deployments, Command Sergeant Major Satchwell works pretty hard to make sure that all he's learned isn't going to waste.

Like many Guardmembers, joining up was something of a family affair. His older brother was already in, and at one time or another, four Satchwell brothers would serve in the Kentucky Guard, all of them in Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery.

Working out of the Carrolton armory as a truck driver pulling towed 155mm howitzers, Satchwell learned early on the meaning of dedication.

"I was seventeen years old then. We drilled one weekend a month and on Thursday nights. All for thirty-nine dollars a month. I definitely didn't join for the money."

That was in 1965. Three years later Satchwell took the next step in his military career. Vietnam.

"I was at a local teen hangout and everyone asked me what I was doing there. Someone said the radio announced that we'd been activated. I called the armory and found out that it wasn't a joke."

Mobilization training at Ft. Hood marked a jump in technology for the 2/138th. The old towed guns were exchanged for the self-propelled M109, and with that came the training.

"We worked hard for about five months, sixteen to twenty hours a day, getting ready for war."

The unit's arrival at Da Nang was sobering; as the troops departed the plane five medevac helicopters came in with casualties, a harsh reminder of what was in



(above right) **A mudsplattered Satchwell with some friends following a fire mission in Vietnam.**

(below) **Home from the Gulf: Bringing everybody back.**



store for the next eleven months.

"It put the fear of God in us."

The 2/138th saw considerable action in places that now echo in the history books. Hue ... Phu Bai ... Pleiku ... Firebase Birmingham and Bastogne ... the Ashau Valley.

Satchwell recalled a particularly rough night at Firebase Birmingham.

"We had incoming mortars," he said.

"The 175mm battery below us was just about completely destroyed and we were shooting off illumination flares to light up the sky. Then sniper fire wounded a good friend of mine, right through the collarbone. He was lucky to be alive."

If anything, Satchwell's experience in Vietnam furthered his commitment toward the military and, in particular, the Kentucky Army National Guard. Seeking a career in the Guard, he was eventually hired on full-time. And when an opportunity came for him to deploy in support of Operation Desert Storm, for instance, he didn't hesitate to volunteer.

"The 196th Field Artillery Brigade out of Tennessee was going, including [then] Lt. Col. Earl Doyle, who I served with when the 2/138th went to Vietnam. We'd been good friends for a long time and when I found out he was going to the Gulf, I went home and had a talk with my wife, Estelle."

The next thing he knew, Satchwell was at Ft. Campbell preparing for the deployment.

Attached to the 196th Brigade, Satchwell was kept busy working as an operations sergeant. He says he was so focused on the mission that he didn't think about Vietnam until the ground war started the brigade moved into Iraq. While his unit didn't receive incoming mortar fire like it did at Firebase Birmingham, they did get hit by some debris from where engineers were destroying enemy ammunition bunkers. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

"I just couldn't believe a man would put that many oil wells on fire .. you could see at night for miles ..."

Today Satchwell tends to the troops like a harried father, working with units across the state to ensure the welfare and readiness of his enlisted troops. He has some very serious concerns regarding the state of the Guard and the way we do training.

"We've probably got the best soldiers we've had in years. They're very knowledgeable in technology and the computer world and that's where the future lies. But with the way dollars are we've got to do the same with less money," he said. "We have to train smarter, not harder."

And the key to that, he says, is in the way we do training. "You've got have a good training plan. Keep people interested. If you're not prepared, you're giving a dull class. If you're losing people, you're not training people."

His best advice is simple. "Know your job, and make sure you give nothing but the best training. When you go across the water, it's your responsibility to bring everybody back."

So says a voice of experience.

Education Update

Army National Guard captains must still complete the Combined arms and Services Staff School (CAS3) to be eligible for both promotion to major and enrollment in the Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC).

Some confusion seems to exist over the CAS3 requirement, partly because the Department of the Army granted USAR captains a one-time exemption for the 1997 Army Promotion List to major. That board considered captains without CAS3 completion,

CAS3 Requirements reinstated to previous standards

partly because some could not find a school slot because of geographic location or constraints within the Army Reserve school system. Many of the funding and training problems have been resolved for the 1997-98 school year.

Additional information is available on the CAS3 website located at

<http://www-cgsc.army.mil/cas3index.htm>

For class schedules, captains in the state of Kentucky should contact Mr. Russell at the 10th Battalion CAS3 at 606-254-2085.

Now it's time to get...



IN GEAR!

*with Sgt. First Class Steve Collier,
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

We're talking boots this time, those things we use to store our feet when we're on duty. My worst military memory involves boots—it's February 1972, late into the midnight watch, knee-deep in water...my toes have become soggy, wrinkled blobs as my combat boots do nothing to provide protection or comfort.

Since then, I've worked out a few techniques to make my feet a little happier. For instance, the first thing I do when I get issued a pair of boots is put 'em on, lace 'em up, stick 'em in a tub of warm water and start massaging the leather until it feels soft. I then wear 'em until they're merely damp, rubbing them with saddle soap to make them as comfy as a pair of fine gloves.

Once they're good and dry, I treat them with a beeswax waterproofing agent -- which you can find at any good outdoors store. Finally, I give 'em a good polish (spitshine if there's an inspection, of course!) and wear 'em with pride and comfort.

If you want to go all out, I highly recommend Gore-tex lined combat boots (I take a pair everywhere I deploy!). An inexpensive alternative would be Gore-tex booties; these look like really thick black socks, with Gore-tex laminated between layers of cloth. Buy some silk socks and wear these under the booties to treat your feet right. Your feet will even stay dry when wearing jungle boots with these little jewels.

Speaking of socks, don't overlook their importance. Replace those old worn out ones with a new issue, or better yet, invest in some quality hiking socks. Thin nylon or silk liners underneath will minimize blisters.

And finally, remember, no matter what kind of leather you prefer, they'll last a lot longer if you clean them after each wearing...

Outta here.....

The Last Word

*by Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Airlift Wing Historian*



Unit coins provide Guard members with a sense of community so solid they can touch it, but the medallions also serve as a link to tradition.

That tradition began during the Vietnam War as the "Bullet Club," an informal collection of soldiers and airmen who became member simply by carrying bullets with them at times.

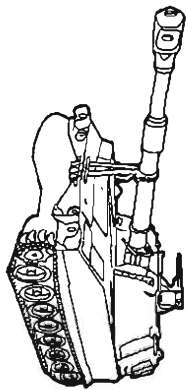
So common was this practice that the few unfortunate ones who forgot to pack their lead were chided to embarrassment for such a slip of protocol.

The tradition grew to the point that servicemen often were asked to "show their bullet" upon entering bars or restaurants frequented by military members.

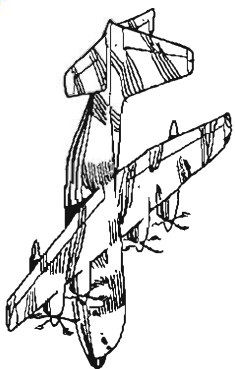
If a soldier or airmen was able to produce his bullet, the man who issued the challenge was obligated to buy refreshments. But if no bullet was forthcoming, the newcomer had to supply the eats and drinks. Obviously, few went about without his bullet.

Because of the connotations of carrying around live ordnance, military leaders discouraged this practice. The custom was eventually revived with military coins replacing bullets in the pockets of servicemen. These coins came in all sizes and colors with mottos, insignias and dates of important events such as military operations, graduation and service records, adding to the rich texture of military history and tradition.

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A BURNING MISSION

A Kentucky Army National Guard rappel master and UH-60 crew chief watch over an eradication team airlifted from a clandestine marijuana plot in eastern Kentucky. Teaming up with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, Guardsmen were responsible for the elimination of more than 400,000 marijuana plants across the state. National Guard support included eradication crews, aerial and ground detection monitoring and intelligence analysis. A Kentucky State Trooper (below) gets the signal to rappel into his next mission.

