

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

Volume Ten, Issue Two

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

October 2006

NATION'S PROTECTORS



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Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Kentucky National Guard steps up to the President's call for troops to guard the Nation's borders. Read more on page 15.

Joint Forces is force multiplier

The Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) is a win-win proposition no matter how you look at it. Having a command and control organization within the state that can integrate the resources and talents of all the military services is a significant force multiplier. When fully developed, the joint force headquarters at each state will have representatives from each branch of the service. This will provide civilian authorities with significant capabilities in times of crisis.

The JFHQ is a bargain. While there is a core team of dedicated full timers who keep the headquarters moving in its basic day to day activities, the majority of the headquarters is manned by traditional Guard members. This means that Kentucky can have a ready to go at anytime, dynamic command and control organization for a fraction of the price of the cost of a full-time, stood up organization. Our men and women are well-trained using their drill periods, annual training, and additional training days (as resources permit), to remain constantly prepared and ready to respond.

Some key areas of the JFHQ are the Joint Operations Center (JOC) and the Joint Planning Group (JPG). These two groups are essentially the brains of the operations. The JOC handles the day to day events while the JPG looks beyond the next 24 hours to ensure that our resources of personnel and materials will meet the demands of the taskings.

The state of Kentucky has been operating "jointly" now for about three years. It has been inspiring to participate in exercises and real world events and watch our Army and Air Guardsmen work side by side to get the mission done. When we first started working together there were a few minor differences in procedures and terminology. However, they were quickly overcome. The fact that we are all Kentuckians and knowing we have such an important mission overshadows any obstacles between blue and green. In fact, the biggest rivalry I see in the JFHQ is between the colors of red (Uof L) and blue (UK) on game weekends.

We are only at the beginning in the development of the JFHQ. Our active component counterparts are quickly moving to the joint concept. We will adapt with them and together remain the most effective fighting organization in the world. We will provide the best service possible to the citizens of our Commonwealth.

Robert J. Yaple

Brigadier General

Assistant Adjutant General, Air



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Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain Bluegrass Guard readers. Send submissions, photos and correspondence to gina.vaile@us.army.mil. Payment will not be made for contributions. Paid advertising will not be accepted.

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FROM THE FIELD

Glad you're back!

I love The Bluegrass Guard magazine,
I'm glad it's back.

Thanks again,
Cindy Culver, wife of Maj. Tim Culver

The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

To comment, keep remarks under 150 words, include your name, rank and address and send them to:

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We reserve the right to edit letters for tone, length, clarity and factual accuracy.

Corrections

The Freedom Salute photo on pg. 26 picturing Sgt. 1st Class George Childers presenting his father Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) George M. Childers with a Freedom Salute Medal was taken at the 2123rd Transportation Company Freedom Salute.

The photo of Staff Sgt. Gearld Smith, his wife Judy and son Adam was taken at the 2123rd Transportation Company Freedom Salute.

Please report any corrections to:

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Change of Address

Report change of address at the unit level.

Welcome Home 231st!



After spending a year in Iraq, the Shelbyville based 231st Military Intelligence Company came home to excited family members on June 10 at the Louisville Air Guard Base.



HOMETOWN HEROES



Kentucky Runners finish 10th

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

For runners, there's nothing like it. The rhythm of the feet, the sound of each breath and the cooling drip of each bead of sweat.

"It's the runners high, a state of euphoria and once you reach it you can just keep going forever," said Sgt. 1st Class Allen Davis of the 307th Maintenance Company.

Davis, along with Staff Sgt. Michael Embury of the 202nd Army Band and Staff Sgt. David Bice of Headquarters 206th Engineer Company, pounded the pavement during the 2006 National Guard Marathon. More than 200 Army and Air National Guardsmen competed in the run, held each year in Lincoln, Neb.

The Kentucky team finished 10th with a combined time of 9:49:19.

"This marathon was the highlight of my year," Davis said.

Embury finished five minutes faster than the goal he set for himself.

"I had a specific time in my head, and I just took it mile by mile," he said. "I beat my own time by five minutes and it felt great."

Both Embury and Davis encourage other soldiers and airmen who are interested in putting on some miles to seriously consider running in marathons.

"Running in marathons is a great way to get into shape and to feel good about yourself," Embury said. "I would love to see more people get involved."



Photo by NEARING PAO

The Kentucky National Guard Marathon Team finished 10th in the 2006 Lincoln National Guard Marathon. Members are: Staff Sgt. David Bice, Sgt. 1st Class Allen Davis and Staff Sgt. Michael Embury.

Running 101

Tips from the pros at runnersworld.com

- ✓ Stay hydrated
- ✓ Run daily
- ✓ Strength-train your legs
- ✓ Blog your training

Spalding named Geologist of the Year

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

The Kentucky Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists named Kentucky National Guard Environmental Specialist Tom Spalding as the 2006 Kentucky Geologist of the year. The Institute is a certifying association for geologists and sets standards of competence and integrity in geology.

"It's an honor to be given the award," Spalding said, "I'm just glad that my profession is something I love to do."

Spalding has worked for the Kentucky National Guard for a little over a year and has developed plans to keep the cave system underneath Boone National Guard Center pollutant free.

"Yes, there is a cave system under Boone Center with underground streams," Spalding notes.

And one of his primary purposes at Boone Center is to make sure the underground water system remains intact and unpolluted by all the activity above ground.

"If you just look around there are many of ways the groundwater



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Tom Spalding observes natural water runoff on the side of Highway 127 in Frankfort. Spalding monitors the ground water system under Boone National Guard Center and was awarded Kentucky Geologist of the year.

system under Boone Center can get polluted. We have helicopters; we have tanks and other armored vehicles and huge diesel trucks. We also have the fueling capabilities for those trucks and helicopters. If we had a major spill on Boone Center, we could run into major problems," he said.

But with the groundwater protection procedures he's helped to create, Spalding says Boone Center is prepared for action should any spills occur. "We have plans in place and we analyze water samples to make certain groundwater is not contaminated."

In addition to monitoring the underground water systems, Spalding also works closely with Kentucky National Guard recycling projects.

"The Kentucky Guard is a leader in environmental issues," Spalding said. "We've learned that recycling is a terrific service

that everyone should take advantage of."

Currently, Boone National Guard Center recycles white paper, mixed paper and cardboard. Spalding thinks many of the armories throughout the state can recycle easily also.

Some recycling is tricky though. Wrappers are a case in point. "Just make sure when you are opening the fresh stack of paper for the printer, not to throw the wrapping in the recycle bin. That's one kind of paper that's not recyclable," he said.

Under a new Army directive, Spalding is also working on plans to recycle 50 percent of debris from upcoming Kentucky National Guard construction projects. In 2004, over 60 percent of the Army's non-hazardous solid waste consisted of construction and demolition debris.

Spalding is an outdoors enthusiast who enjoys hiking, fishing and hunting. He lives in Louisville with his wife Theresa and has two sons Matthew and Andrew.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Tom Fugate and Tom Spalding discuss a natural spring just off Boone center with Facilities Environmental Director Faith Fiene.

How to handle Anthrax



Photo by Sgt. Gina Valle/KYARNG

Members of the 41st Civil Support Team enter the Joint Mail Operations Center on Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort to take samples of a piece of mail suspected to be laced with anthrax. The soldiers were participating in a field training exercise in conjunction with the Kentucky State Police and Kentucky Emergency Management.

State military leave days increase; family members get days off

By Dave Altom

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Thanks to the Kentucky State legislature and Gov. Ernie Fletcher, state employees who are entitled to military leave now have a total of 15 days per fiscal year.

According to Bryan Crall, Personnel Cabinet Secretary, "an employee who is an active member of the United States Army Reserve, the United States Air Force Reserve, the United States Naval Reserve, the United States Marine Corps Reserve, the United States Public Services Reserve or the Kentucky National Guard shall be relieved from their civil duties to serve under federal order or training duty without loss of regular compensation for a period not to exceed 15

working days in a federal fiscal year."

Even better, employees who have not used their entire 15 days of military leave will get to carry the balance forward. Keep in mind that you can't exceed thirty days of accumulated leave and that your unused leave expires in two years.

And there's more good news! Any state employee who is the spouse of a member of the armed forces will receive a day off – with pay – when the member is deployed and another day off – again, with pay! – when the member returns from deployment.

For more information state employees should contact their supervisor or personnel services representative.

Kentucky to stand ready against disasters

New technology makes crisis communication easier for officials

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the government was faced with a new challenge: finding a way to establish better communication between federal, state and local agencies working in the aftermath of disasters in the United States.

One company, Systems Engineering Technologies Corporation, (SyTech) answered the call with a half-million dollar communications system. Termed the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC), the system enables first responders and other agencies to link up with radio, telephone, internet and video teleconferencing (VTC) capabilities in a self contained mobile center.

Kentucky is in the forefront of the new technology, according to Gil Armendariz, owner of SyTech. "Kentucky is one of only six states with this technology, and the Kentucky National Guard has three systems that will establish communication anywhere in the world."

"After the Kentucky National Guard's performance during Hurricane Katrina, it was established that we would receive three systems and become a primary responder to the 10 hurricane prone states," said Col. Rod Hayes, Director of Information Technology for the Kentucky National Guard.

The Kentucky National Guard will be primary responder to Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Puerto Rico should another hurricane with the force of Katrina or Rita hit land. Deployable within 24-hours, there are 80 soldiers and airmen in the Kentucky National Guard able to set up the JISCC.

The eight Kentucky National Guard Joint Incident Site Communications Capability teams know how important their training is and are looking forward to using it.

"The soldiers (and airmen) don't want the devastation or destruction, but they are aware of the weather down South and are ready to roll if they need to," said during a recent tropical storm brewing off the East Coast.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Soldiers set up a satellite on Boone Center during an exercise of the new Joint Incident Site Communications Capability equipment. The JISCC allows for communication capabilities in areas devastated by disaster.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Spec. Adam Voyles and Pvt. 1st Class Justin Leonard set up computers and phone lines before a briefing in the JISCC tent.

The system is housed in a lined tent capable of withstanding 85 mph winds and rain. It comes with an air system and lighting, hard floor, environmental control unit, spectrum analyzer, cargo trailer, tables and chairs.

"We can load this in an airplane or haul it behind a truck and get it out to the area of devastation very quickly," Armendariz said.

Hayes called the system complete and powerful.

"This is a phenomenal benefit to the Commonwealth of Kentucky because we now have the most technologically advanced emergency communications capabilities on call to respond to natural disasters such as tornadoes or floods here and hurricanes that affect our sister states," he said.





Soaring to new heights

New hot air balloon takes to Kentucky skies

Story and pictures by Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

At 65 feet tall and 765 pounds, the patriotic Aero Force One is hard to miss. With red, white and blue strips and stars, the new Kentucky National Guard hot air balloon promotes from hundreds of feet in the air.

"People love balloons, they like to take pictures of balloons and they like to watch them fly over their homes," said pilot Bill Smith of Simpsonville.

"This is one more way we are making 'Kentucky National Guard' a household name," said Lt. Col. Ron Turner, Recruiting and Retention Commander. "People will look up and see this patriotic balloon and remember that the Kentucky National Guard is there for them."

THE BALLOON

On September 11, 2001, a patriotic themed balloon was on the Aerostar cutting table. The finished balloon was first flown at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta on October 6, 2001 shortly after the FAA's flying restrictions were lifted.

After the first time Smith saw the balloon, he had to have it.

"The stars, the stripes ... this balloon was me all the way through," said Smith.

So he purchased the balloon and began the search for a name. Looking back on his time with the Air Force, he found the perfect name.

"We christened it Aero Force One," Smith said. "My wife laughed and said 'don't think there will be a two or three'."

PILOT GIVES BACK TO THE GUARD

In 1972 Smith enlisted into the Kentucky Air National Guard. He inspected and maintained parachutes, restraint harnesses, oxygen equipment, survival kits and other critical life-sustaining equipment for aircrew flying the F-4 Phantom and F-101 Voodoo fighter jets.

Before retiring in 2003 as Chief Master Sgt., Smith assisted with training the 123d Special Tactics Squadron. He's attended free-fall schools and jump schools as part of his military training.

While enjoying retirement and his new ballooning hobby, Smith still felt something was missing.

"I was missing the Guard. I missed being a part of (the organization)," he said.

Then during the 2005 Aviation Days at the

Frankfort Airport, Smith met Turner and the two began talking about a partnership.

"It was perfect for Aero Force One and the National Guard," Smith said. "The balloon is patriotic and the perfect way to get the Kentucky National Guard logo out to everyone, and with the National Guard sponsorship I could fly in the big races. It was a win situation for all of us."

The logo is, according to Smith, as big as a billboard at 16 feet tall and 30 feet wide.

"People will see our name every time Mr. Smith takes our logo into the skies," Turner said. "When you see a hot air balloon you can't help but look at it. People will see our organization's name on this balloon and that's great exposure. It gets us out there."

"It makes me feel great. I spent the best years of my life in the Air Guard and now is my time to give back," Smith said, adding that the flight team plans to rechristen the balloon the Go Guard!

FLYING THE BLUEGRASS

"I've always enjoyed the feeling of being on top of the world," Smith said. "As a kid I would climb trees - I just loved being up high."

From the basket of his balloon Smith can see the world. He describes a flight as drifting through the air, watching the world pass by underneath like a movie.

A crew of 15 personnel support Smith. During a flight, he usually has a team of four who make sure the flight goes up and comes down without problems.

"I really couldn't do it without them," Smith said.

FUN FOR SOLDIERS

Smith says balloon rides are a great idea for Christmas gifts and birthdays. The rides are perfect for special occasions like anniversaries and engagements.

"I've had several elderly folks come up because they want to ride in a balloon before they leave this Earth," Smith said. "It's so great to see their faces as we climb through the sky and watch the land below."

For \$325, couples can enjoy an hour-long ride with a complimentary champagne toast once the balloon lands. For more information about the Go Guard balloon, rides or flight lessons, visit www.balloonridesfor2.com.

FROM FRONT LINES

149th BCT unfurls colors in Iraq



First deployment since WWII for unit

By Spec. Michael Pfaff

133d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TIKRIT, Iraq (June 1, 2006) – Soldiers from the 501st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division folded up their colors today and let the 149th Brigade Combat Team, a Kentucky Army National Guard unit, unfold theirs during a transfer of authority ceremony.

The transfer of authority to the 149th BCT comes after a two week relief-in-place transitioning period, designed to allow the leaving unit to show the incoming unit how they've been conducting operations.

During the ceremony, Col. Charles T. Jones, commander of the 149th BCT, iterated his appreciation for the 501st STB's help during the relief-in-place process.

"I've done this a long time, and I've never been greeted with more open arms," he said.

This will be the first combat assignment for the 149th BCT since World War II. The 149th BCT's mission will be to provide command of the garrison at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.



Photo by Spec. Michael Pfaff/KYARNG

Col. Charles T. Jones, commander of the 149th Brigade Combat Team, and Lt. Col. Welton Chasae, Jr., commander of the 501st Special Troops Battalion, stand at attention during a transfer of authority ceremony.

Jones said the 149th BCT's mission is to "provide better support and a secure environment for the United States Army Soldiers who are conducting war outside."

The 149th BCT will be attached to the 101st Airborne Division's Task Force Band of Brothers and continue to command the garrison at Contingency Operating Base Speicher after the 101st Airborne Division leaves.

Gen. Schoomaker presents CAB to soldiers

Courtesy of 1-167 Cavalry RSTA
Camp LSA Anaconda

The 35th Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, presented awards to numerous soldiers under the 3rd COSCOM on August 8 at LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq.

Sgt. Jeremy Wallace of Benton, Ky. (top photo) and Spec. Matthew Bumpus of Murray, Ky. (bottom photo), both of Charlie Company 2-123d Armor, received the Combat Action Badge from the Chief of Staff.

In keeping with the spirit of the Warrior Ethos, the Combat Action Badge provides special recognition to soldiers who personally engage the enemy or who are engaged by the enemy during combat operations. The bayonet and grenade are associated with active combat. The oak wreath symbolizes strength and loyalty.



Photo by 1-167 Cavalry RSTA



Photo by 1-167 Cavalry RSTA

VALUE OF THE MONTH

Each month The Bluegrass Guard will explore a different Army Value and how to use that value in your daily life.



"Trust is the cornerstone of loyalty. If our subordinates, comrades and superiors trust us, loyalty follows easily." - Gen. John A. Wickham

Loyalty begins with true faith and allegiance to the US Constitution, the Army, your unit and fellow soldiers. A loyal soldier is one who supports leadership and stands up for fellow soldiers. It is the thread that binds our actions together and causes us to support each other, our superiors, our family and our country.

'06 YOUTH CAMP

Fun in the sun



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

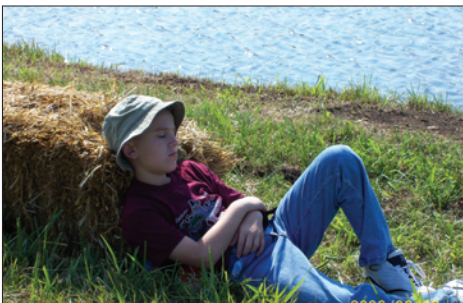


Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Nancy Christiano/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Guard youth accept challenges

The youth of the Kentucky National Guard accept challenges on a daily basis. While the children remain strong and supportive of parents and loved-ones during deployments, they too endure the stress and emotions Kentucky soldiers and airmen face.

For one week each summer, children related to soldiers, airmen and civilians of the Kentucky National Guard converge on Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. Activities are provided for the children to gain confidence and learn to work as teams. Rising with the sun and going to bed when it's gone, the children train just like soldiers and airmen to get a taste of what their loved-one has experienced.

Whether you enjoy rappelling, fishing, climbing in helicopters or getting soaked during the last water battle of the week, the Kentucky Youth Development week promises to have something for everyone. With a strong message to remain drug free and keep a positive attitude, many of the children keep coming back year after year.

ON THE HOMEFRONT

Kentucky answers President's call to border

Troops provide assistance to Border Patrol in Arizona

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

The first name of all Border Patrol Agents in this story has been withheld for security purposes.

Underneath the desert sun, Kentucky National Guard troops welded, grated, dug and patrolled miles and miles of the United States Border in Arizona.

The mission: to assist the United States Border Patrol.

The goal: make the border more difficult for illegal immigration.

"People don't understand, the illegal immigration issue is more than just a few illegals working on a farm," said Agent Mendoza of the Tucson Border Patrol Sector. "Some of them are drug traffickers; others are more interested in stealing vehicles (from U.S. citizens) then taking them back to Mexico."

According to Mendoza, he's seen them all along the Sasabee border, Southwest of Tucson. He's seen those seeking a better life in the Land of the Free, and then he's seen those who carry hundreds of pounds of dope to poison the streets of Arizona. He's seen the women and children who can't make the 45 mile trek from the border to the nearest highway – dehydrated and close to death. He's also seen the men with bullets in the back of their head, robbed of everything they attempted to bring with them

by Mexican "coyotes" or thugs.

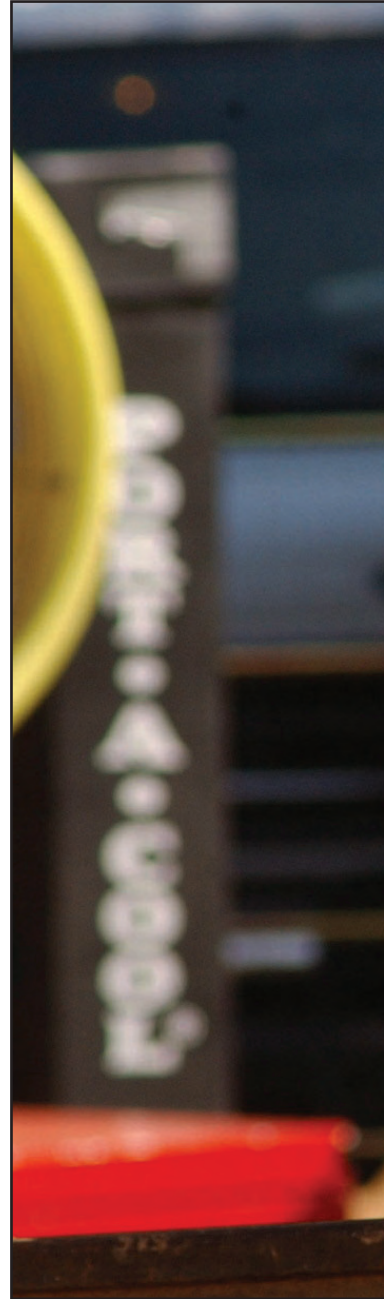
"It's a different type of war zone," he said.

"If we can do something to help the border patrol slow down the drug traffic and maybe even save a life, it's all worth it," said SPC Bruce Ashley of Bravo Co. 206th Engineers.

Ashley, along with 25 other troops from the 206th Engineer Battalion, worked along the Sasabee border, erecting a temporary vehicle barrier. The troops cut and welded steel beams weighing in at 125 pounds per square foot, to make the 21 foot-long barriers. The engineers then loaded the barriers onto flatbed trucks and drove 30 minutes to set them alongside a four strand barbed wire fence that was already in place.

"You can see what was here, just the wire, so if what we build helps, then we're glad to do it," said Spec. Tony Fraley of Bravo Co.

continued on page 19



Spec. Tony Fraley, Bravo Company 206th Engineers cuts a steel beam that will be welded into a temporary vehicle barrier in Sasabee Ariz. along the Mexican border.



➤ Troops in the 206th Engineer Battalion graded terrain to make roads safer for the Border Patrol to navigate in Nogales, Ariz. Agents noted they were able to see more land and capture more immigrants thanks to the new roads.

➤➤ Spec. Tony Fraley and Spec. Nicholas Hall of Bravo Company 206th Engineers set a steel barrier in place along the Sasabee, Ariz. border with Mexico.

-photos by Sgt. Gina Valle

New uniform transition in '07

Army streamlines service uniforms to one blue Army Service Uniform

Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 6, 2006) – Army service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform, the Army announced yesterday.

“World-class soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army’s most honored traditions,” said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

“We have all of these variations of uniforms – green, blue and white,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. “It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality and which soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that’s what we’ve done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition.”

Many soldiers already own an Army blue uniform (now to be called the Army Service Uniform) and may continue to wear it. Improvements will be made to the fabric and fit.

“What we want to do is design the uniform so it’s tailored to the soldier, so it fits his or her physique better,” said Preston.

The new uniform will also be wrinkle-free.

“One of the materials that’s been selected is a higher quality material than what is in the Army Green Uniform and will maintain its wearability and its looks,” said Schoomaker.

The uniform will also include a gold braid on the trousers for E-5’s and above. Additionally, the service cap

will be authorized for wear by Non Commissioned Officers (NCO) as well as officers.

Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on soldiers for purchases and alteration cost, officials add.

Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the clothing bag should begin first quarter 2009. The mandatory possession date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011.

A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date.

The consolidation of Army service uniforms is part of a streamlining process. In 2004, the Army reduced the number of battledress uniforms from three to one when it adopted the Army Combat Uniform in place of the Woodland Green Battle Dress Uniform (winter and summer versions) and the Desert Combat Uniform. That uniform consolidation has been a resounding success in terms of soldier acceptance and reducing the variety of combat uniforms in which they must deal.

Army Blue as a uniform color traces its origins back to the National Blue and was first worn by soldiers in the Continental Army of 1779.

Preston said the change reflects soldiers’ wants.

“I’ve talked to soldiers and asked them what their thoughts were on the Army green, blue and white uniforms,” he said. “It was always about 85-90 percent of hands that showed support for the Army blue uniform.”



Photo illustration



Photo illustration



Photo illustration

For more information about the new Army Service Uniform, please visit www.us.army.mil/suite/page/129362.

Online records easy for soldiers to use

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

It's the day before your board and you don't know what you've done with the certificate documenting you not only attended, but completed Warrior Leader Course (WLC) – formerly known as Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC).

What to do?

In the past, you would check with your unit to see if your Readiness NCO had a copy of the documentation. If not, make a call to Frankfort and talk to the Personnel Services Branch (PSB) Clerk in charge of your official Military Personnel Jacket, also known as the 201 File.

Now, it's as simple as point and click.

With a quick login at Army Knowledge Online, soldiers can view and obtain copies of documents in their 201 file using the IPERMS program.

"This new technology gives the soldier the ability to manage his or her own career," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Arnett, PSB records supervisor. "The soldier is no longer at the mercy of

the PSB, Readiness NCOs or anyone else. From the Web page they can download the documents to a CD, hard drive or print them out for easy access at home."

Arnett said original 201 files are projected to be distributed back to units sometime this fall. Soldiers should go through the files with their Readiness NCO and compare documentation to what is available on the IPERMS program. If there are discrepancies between the hard copy and electronic copy of the 201 file, soldiers will be able to fix them immediately.

"At that time, the soldier can provide the Readiness NCO with the hard copy document to scan into the system," Arnett said. "Then, it will be available for the soldier to see online."

Arnett strongly urges all soldiers to keep original copies of important documents such as DD214s and school certificates in a fire safety box.

"The Web site is completely secure, but it's always good to have hard copies as your back up," Arnett said.

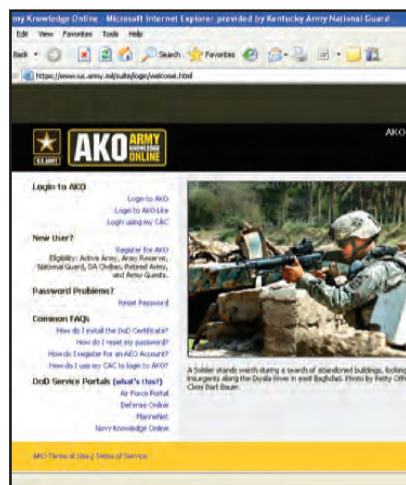


Photo Illustration by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

The IPERMS program at AKO will allow soldiers access to their 201 files online.

SGLI form important to soldiers and family

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

It's a common site during a Soldier Readiness Process (SRP). A soldier comes in to check off on the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) form and realizes an ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend is listed as the sole beneficiary.

"There is no law that says a soldier can't leave their life insurance to a friend," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Arnett, Personnel Service Branch records supervisor. "But we try to advise soldiers of all their options."

If you haven't deployed recently, chances are you may not have updated your SGLI form in a while.

"It's always important to keep that paper updated when changes happen so that the appropriate people get the money should something happen to you," Arnett said.

Changes in your love life are just one reason to change your SGLI, but there are many others Arnett said. For instance, the death of a parent or addition of a child.

"It's always best to be certain you have your wishes laid out because families have been known to contest the SGLI papers," Arnett said.

He gave the example of one soldier from Pennsylvania who left his insurance money to his brother who would become the guardian of his children.

"The soldier was advised to set up a trust for his own children, but he neglected," Arnett said. "Tragically the brother also passed away a short time later and that SGLI money was absorbed into his assets. The soldier's children didn't see a penny of the SGLI money."

Arnett always recommends soldiers obtain the maximum amount of coverage, \$400,000 when filling out the SGLI policy.

"I tell soldiers to do it for their mom and dad. They've already provided you so much, and God forbid something happen to you over there, you'll know they don't have to worry about your burial and finances after your death," he said. "Besides it's only \$29 a month, a small fraction to pay to know they'll be taken care of."

**COMING UP
NEXT ISSUE**



*Weekend trips
around Kentucky*



Holiday PX style

Assistance Needed

This isn't the first time the US Customs and Border Protection Agency has called on the National Guard. According to the CBP Web site, the two agencies have worked together for more than 20 years, with National Guard Troops providing counter-narcotic missions, engineering projects and patrolling the Nation's borders.

In May, President George W. Bush announced plans to hire 6,000 additional Border Patrol agents over the next year. For immediate support while prospective agents are in training, Bush outlined a plan to maintain a force of 6,000 troops for one year, to provide the following: operating surveillance systems, analyzing intelligence, installing fences and vehicle barriers, building patrol roads and providing training.

In response to the President's initiative, National Guard Bureau officials crated a plan to send troops in two to three week increments on Annual Training Status. In June, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky announced plans to send more than 600 Kentucky National Guard soldiers and airmen to the Arizona border.

"This was a mission the Kentucky National Guard was prepared to perform," he said.

Border Patrol Agent Weygand, working in Sasabee, said he was glad to work alongside Kentucky National Guard troops.

"With the Guard here, we can put more agents out on patrol while the Guard constructs the



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

barriers and grates the roads," Weygand said.

"With five or six agents doing the job (Kentucky) guys did, we put out maybe five barriers per day. They (soldiers) are putting out 13 to 15 barriers daily, and we have enough people to immediately take them out to the border where before we would have to shut down production to get the barriers out to the



▲ Soldiers in the 201st Engineer Battalion construct a steel fence in Yuma, Ariz.

line,” he said. “We couldn’t do this without the National Guard.”

Making Roads safer

In addition to erecting barriers, Kentucky Engineers used heavy equipment to change the landscape in Nogales.

Due to hills and narrow roadways, Border Patrol Agents found it difficult to stop many illegals from crossing in the area. The nearest houses and blacktop roads are less than a mile from the border, making it easy for illegals to disappear into the community if not apprehended soon after crossing.

“This used to be the Wild West,” said Agent Keller of the Nogales Border Patrol.

“We could see the illegals coming over the border, but we couldn’t get to them fast enough because the roads were too narrow and hills obstructed our views. Once they made it over,” he said, “they would just walk into Nogales and disappear among the townspeople.”

Crime rates were up in the city, where vehicles were stolen almost daily and narcotic traffic was routine.



Photo submitted by 201st EN BN/KYARNG

The Entry Identification Team (EIT) of Cpt. David Grebe, Sgt. Billy Fite and Sgt. John Stoop, of the 206th Engineer Battalion conduct visual surveillance of the border near Sonoita, Ariz.

“We’ve had people cross here and when we run a background check, they have 35 pages of criminal history, they are pedophiles, drug dealers, murderers – it just wasn’t safe for the locals,” said Keller.

But when the Kentucky National Guard rolled in, it became more difficult for Mexicans to cross the border.

“This year, even though it’s the hot season, we’ve seen a decrease in the activity because there is more of a

continued on next page

presence of authority here – we have more agents out because the Guard is able to assist us with other projects.”

Agent Carson of Nogales agreed, “The Guard has made it more efficient to work, it’s allowed for us to have more agents out in the field.”

Kentucky sets standards

In engineering projects, Kentucky National Guard troops paved the way for other National Guard units from the first day of boots on ground.

It began with the 206th Engineer Battalion’s work in mid-July and ended with the 201st Engineers in early August, with both battalions surpassing goals set forth by the Border Patrol in all sectors.

“We had 1800 linear feet of fence structure constructed and over 800 feet of completed fence before we left,” said 1st Lt. John Barger of Charlie Company, 201st Engineer Battalion.

“No other rotation has done over 400 feet of completed fence. We were not only ahead of schedule, but we wrote the standard for that type mission,” he said.

Monitoring the border

In addition to the engineering projects, Kentucky troops from the 206th Chemical Battalion worked 24 or 48-hour shifts



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

The Kentucky flag flies among the flags of Arizona and Kansas in Yuma, Ariz. While in Arizona, Kentucky troops worked with troops from many states.

along the border observing any illegal traffic from Mexico.

Working as Entry Identification Teams (EIT) along the Southeastern border, the troops averaged more than 20 sightings per day, with approximately two-thirds of those resulting in detentions. The EIT were stationed in areas that the Border Patrol did not regularly monitor due to manpower shortages.

Mission a success

Storm called Kentucky’s role in OJS a success.

“Once again Kentucky stepped up to the plate and proved to the Arizona Border Patrol and to the nation that when we come to town, we mean business,” Storm said.

“Our troops were given specific goals by Border Patrol, to which they succeeded and surpassed on numerous occasions. This mission was a complete success,” he said.

In addition to carrying out the orders for OJS, members off the 201st Engineer Battalion assisted the Arizona Park Rangers in the Coronado National Memorial Forrest with cleaning up debris after 12 inches of rain flooded the Southeastern Arizona Park in late July.

Trails and roads were washed out and large trees and mud filled the picnic area at the park. The Kentucky soldiers couldn’t reach work sites due to the debris, and volunteered to assist with cleanup.

“This mission could not have been done without the kind of teamwork you find in the National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak, Arizona Adjutant General. “The Kentucky Army Guard responded quickly and efficiently, and their performance has been outstanding. It is good to know that we can count on our fellow Guard members in times of need.”

“We’re proud to do it,” Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Christian told the Douglass Dispatch newspaper.



Gettysburg trip a step back in time

2006 Staff ride informative and historical look at Civil War era

By Maj. Don Peters

Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs Officer

GETTYSBURG, PA - A long stretch of slightly rising pasture, broken up by the occasional three-rail fence. Across the field, three-quarters of a mile away is the objective – a small stand of trees behind a low stone wall. Standing there, it's not hard to visualize the smoke of a battlefield, the roar of cannons and the sharp crack of rifles.

It's the site of Pickett's Charge, and August 7-10 a group of 40 leaders of the Kentucky National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs traversed the historic Gettysburg battlefield.

Commonly known as a "staff ride," the trip was designed to not only teach the participants about the battle, but to bring together people from all parts of the Kentucky Guard and DMA. It was the second such recent trip, following last year's visit to Chickamauga.

The staff ride's theme, "Tactical and Operational Decision Making in a Strategic Environment," focused on the military, political and social issues affecting the battle, as well as how those issues influenced the decision-making of key leaders.

Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General of Kentucky, sponsored the event and Lt. Col. William Denny planned the curriculum. Denny, who serves as Chief, Training Branch for the Joint Force Headquarters, was excited about the opportunity to visit Gettysburg.

"I've wanted to do this for quite a while," Denny said. "We

wanted to come here last year, but just didn't have the time to get it set up properly."

Denny, who also coordinated the Chickamauga staff ride, said he spent four months planning this event. A graduate of the American Military University and a self-proclaimed Civil War history buff, Denny said he's more knowledgeable about the battles that took place in the Western theater. That made planning a Gettysburg trip even more challenging.

"I had to do a lot of digging and research," he said.

The participants visited Little Round Top, site of the famous charge by the 20th Maine Regiment, and the Copse of Trees and Bloody Angle, known as the "high water mark" of the Confederacy.

The staff ride also included a visit to the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks. Both Gettysburg and the Army War College proved rich in military history. However, strengthening the working relationship between Kentucky Air and Army Guard members and the DMA civilian leadership was an important aspect of the trip.

"These types of events are very important," said Kentucky National Guard State Chief Master Sgt. Mark Grant. "Any time you can bring the leadership together improves the working relationships and increases everybody's knowledge."

Following two successful staff rides, it might be difficult to come up with an even better place to go, but Denny said he's prepared.

"I have a lot of books on Pearl Harbor," he said, laughing.



Photo by Col. Phil Miller/KYARNG

An animated Lt. Col. William Denny leads the 2006 Staff Ride. Guard staff toured Gettysburg and the Army War College.

INTO THE BLUE

AMC declares Kentucky's Air wing 'combat ready'

By Capt. Dale Greer

123d Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A year of intense preparation, punctuated by a long series of drills and exercises, finally came to an end here April 9, when the 123rd Airlift Wing successfully completed an Operational Readiness Inspection at the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center.

Nearly 400 personnel and more than 120 tons of equipment were deployed for the week-long test, officially known as an Air Mobility Command Inspector General Exercise. Once here, the Kentucky unit joined forces with a similar contingent from the New York Air Guard, forming a fictional 603rd Air Expeditionary Wing based in the Republic of Korea.

AMC inspectors evaluated almost every aspect of the mission, from the first deployment sortie out of Louisville to the wing's final redeployment flight back home. In between, hundreds of scenarios played out in Savannah as inspectors evaluated the performance of Airmen executing their jobs in a hostile combat environment.

In the end, the 123rd Airlift Wing proved its combat readiness, earning an overall grade of "satisfactory."

"I couldn't be more proud of our folks and the way they performed their mission," said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift

Wing. "Given all the things we've had to contend with, I think the accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary."

Kraus noted that the wing seemed to be fighting an uphill battle from the very beginning.

During the past year, a shortage of active-duty days made

ORI preparations unusually difficult, and the wing continued to participate in numerous real-world missions even as it ramped up for the inspection. These included multiple deployments in support of hurricane relief efforts last summer.

"The hurricanes took us away from some ORI preparations, but the nation needed us then, so we set those plans aside to assist with hurricane relief," Kraus said.

Weather continued to be an issue right up through the inspection, when severe thunderstorms and tornadic activity caused power outages on base just as the deployment phase of the inspection was getting underway.

"The fact that we persevered is a testament to the people in this wing," Kraus said. "We've learned, especially since 9/11, that we must





KYANG Photo



KYANG Photo

adapt, deal with adversity and take on challenges as they come. Anybody can work under ideal conditions, but it takes true professionals to stand up under difficult circumstances.

"We all knew that the wing was combat ready. What we did here was put the exclamation point on that for the IG. We proved that not only can we do our war-time tasking, but we can do it under very difficult circumstances. Everybody just stepped up and made it happen."

The Inspector General cited seven duty sections for excellence during the inspection — aircraft generation, personnel, public affairs, redeployment, safety, security forces and weather.

Moving forward, Kraus said he intends to focus the wing on home-station training — at least for a few months.

"We want to give folks a little time to reconstitute following the inspection," he said.

Following that, however, it will be business as usual for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

The unit will deploy to Germany this winter to provide airlift services for Operation Joint Forge, which supports military forces in Bosnia.

And hurricane season is once again upon us, Kraus noted.

"We need to be ready to respond to that if we're called upon," the colonel said.

Fighting the

Kentucky Guard works with local and state officials

By Spec. Vernis Phipps and Maj. Don Peters

Kentucky Army National Guard PAO

In the past few years, the Kentucky National Guard has received attention for its participation in homeland security, disaster relief and the Global War on Terror.

But in addition to those missions, a small group of Kentucky Guard soldiers and airmen have been supporting Kentucky citizens in an entirely different way since 1989.

The Joint Support Operations organization, commonly referred to as the Counterdrug program, helps 19 federal, state and local law enforcement officials with combating drug growing and production in the commonwealth.

It's no small task. According to Lt. Col Karlas Owens, the Counterdrug coordinator, 80 percent of the marijuana grown in the United States comes from Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Owens' 65 full-time soldiers and airmen perform two primary functions. The first, known as Drug Demand Reduction, involves educating local communities – mostly schoolchildren – about the dangers of drug use.

"That's a real important aspect of our job," Owens said about the DDR program. "We try to get to (children) at the middle-school level, because often by the time they get to high school, their minds are made up."

The other Counterdrug function is drug supply reduction, which involves providing support to law enforcement agencies. Though that support is restricted by federal law, the Counterdrug force performs a variety of missions.

"For us to participate, it must have a drug connection," Owens, who's been with the program for 16 years, said. "We're not door-kickers and we're not the police, but we do have resources that they don't have."

One such resource is helicopters. Owens said the

agencies he supports have "very few" helicopters to perform aerial searches for marijuana fields and other drug production evidence. But the Counterdrug program has the use of six OH-58's from Charlie 1-134 Service and Support Company.

"The police like that ability," said Owens, adding that the support requests he receives keeps his 15 full-time pilots "pretty busy" throughout the year.

The main focus of the program is during the marijuana growing and cultivation season, which runs roughly from May to September. Since many of the marijuana-growing areas are in rough terrain, the use of helicopters, to include UH-60 Blackhawks, is an invaluable tool for getting the law enforcement personnel on the ground.

Recently, Scott Burns, the Deputy Director for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, came out to observe the Kentucky

Counterdrug program assist in eradicating a marijuana field in Eastern Kentucky.

The eradication mission is one of the more highly visible aspects of the program. According to Owens, last year the combined law enforcement and Kentucky National Guard effort led to the destruction of more than 500,000 marijuana plants. With each plant having an estimated street value of \$2,000, that means more than \$10 billion of drugs was taken off the street.

"When you consider the total budget for the program (including law enforcement personnel) is about \$20 million per year, that's an incredible return on investment," Owens said. "We provide great value to the citizens of the commonwealth."

The program has one other added benefit. Even though the participants work full-time under Title 32, Active Duty Special Work orders, they still must remain traditional drilling soldiers and airmen. That means the skills they learn on the job get taken back to their units.



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack, Kentucky's Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, observes the efforts of the Kentucky National Guard and State Police during a recent mission in London.

war on drugs



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

- ▲ A Kentucky National Guard helicopter hovers over a patch of marijuana in Eastern Kentucky.
- ◀ A Kentucky State Trooper cuts down marijuana in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. The State Police along with other local and federal agencies work side by side with the Kentucky National Guard to slow down cultivation of the drug in Kentucky.



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

- ◀ Two Kentucky National Guard soldiers static line out of an eradicated field of marijuana.

EVERYDAY SOLDIERS

Drivers promote Kentucky Guard

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

It was a routine visit to the Paducah International Raceway (PIR). Sgt. 1st Class Matt Ihnen planned to hang some National Guard recruiting posters.

"I met with track manager Jeff Bruhn to see about hanging the posters," Ihnen said. "One thing led to another and the event was born."

Tony Stewart, Carl Edwards and Carl Wallace. Big name racers, big name promoters for the Kentucky National Guard.

The May 17th evening at PIR started with the first class arrival of Stewart and Edwards. A Kentucky National Guard Blackhawk hovered overhead as fans looked up, waving with excitement.

On the ground, fans met the drivers and had pictures taken while Kentucky National Guard soldiers were on hand to talk about benefits the Kentucky Guard offers to prospective soldiers.

"There is no measure to the influence that resulted from this specific event," said Ihnen, who commented that in Paducah, Kentucky National Guard is number one.

"When you think of laundry detergent you think of Tide, when you think of salt you think Morton. In Paducah, when you think of military you think National Guard," he said.



▲ NASCAR driver Tony Stewart poses with 63rd Aviation crew members with a flag that was flown in Iraq during the aviators deployment.

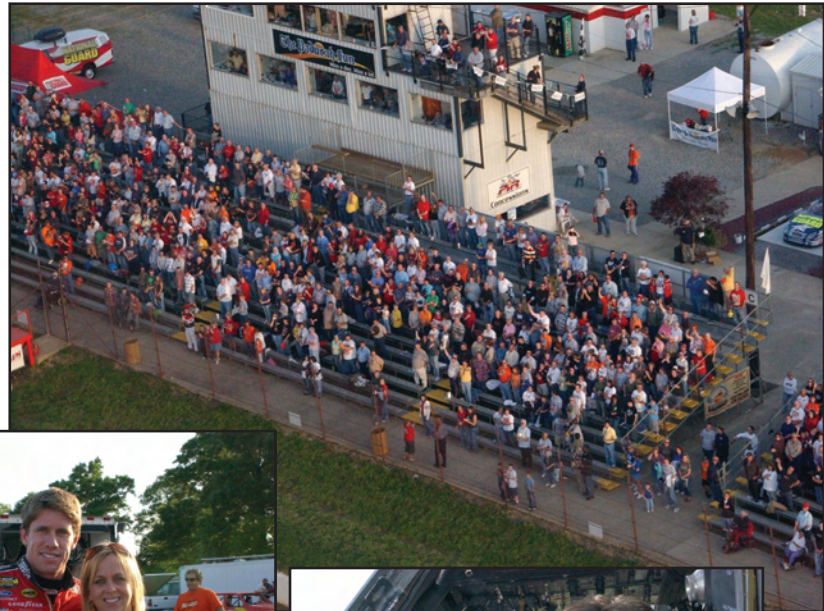


Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

- National Guard Association Insurance Manager Amanda Weakley takes a photo with NASCAR driver Carl Edwards.
- Susan Robinson enjoys her first time in the pilot's seat onboard a Kentucky Blackhawk.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Responding to tragedy

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

There were 67 members of the Kentucky National Guard Family Readiness Group (FRG) at Lexington's Campbell House in their final day of training on Aug. 27. Learning how to assist families of soldiers during deployments and tragedies, the members had something else on their minds when they met downstairs in a conference room that morning.

"The folks in training kept asking, 'how can we help?', but I had no details to give them," said Maj. Toby Peterson, State Family Programs Director.

Shortly before the first session of the FRG training day, Comair Flight 5191 – a regional jet service by Delta Airlines – crashed after attempting to take off from the wrong runway at Lexington's Bluegrass International Airport, killing 49 people onboard. The single survivor, James Polehinke, was the first officer.

Completely by coincidence, it was during a break in the FRG training session that the first police escort of family members arrived at the Campbell House. The families, along with a Delta representative stood in the hallway, not knowing they were surrounded by a complete support group, armed with resources and shoulders to cry on.

"I immediately stepped up and advised the Delta representative of who we were, and offered the services of our National Guard Family Assistance 1-800 number," Peterson said.

Family assistance center volunteers field the calls coming in to the number and are able to link callers with organizations that can assist them in times of emergency – such as the Red Cross, veteran's agencies and counseling services, to name a few. Then, Peterson called in reinforcements.

"I called our State Chaplain (Col. Patrick Dolan) who was leading a marriage enrichment session across town," Peterson said.

Kentucky National Guard Chaplains Cpt. John Callihan and Lt. Col. David Graetz responded quickly to the Campbell House, the designated area for families of the victims.

"Chaplain Callihan and I joined other local ministers and chaplains from the Red Cross, Kentucky Crisis Center Response Board, local police and fire departments," Graetz said. "We assisted the families by counseling them, praying with them and being that shoulder to cry on."

"We also had one of our own Kentucky National Guard soldiers there who lost a family member, so we tended to his needs as well," he said.

Kentucky National Guard Aviation assets were utilized early in the morning to fly Justice Cabinet Secretary, Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack and Charlie Winter from Kentucky Emergency



Comair flight 5191 crashed shortly after take off from Lexington's Bluegrass Airport Aug. 27, killing 49 people. Members of the Kentucky Guard Family Readiness Group assisted with supporting the families of the victims.

Management to the site of the crash. An additional Blackhawk was sent to Cumberland Falls to transport Stan Cave, State Chief of Staff to Lexington as Governor Ernie Fletcher was out of the country.

Just on the other side of the airport, the 138th Field Artillery was drilling at the Lexington Armory and alerted to provide assistance if requested. According to Lt. Col. Wayne Burd, Director of Military Support, the unit readied supplies, personnel and vehicles but no mission requests were made.

By the next day, the Kentucky National Guard had little official involvement with the crash investigation and site. The Guard provided two 15-passenger vans to shuttle family members to the site later in the week and Kentucky Guard soldiers supported the military funeral of one of the crash victims, a 20-year U.S. Navy veteran. A rifle detail from the 207th Maintenance Company fired three volleys and a bugler from the 202nd Army Band played Taps.

The Kentucky Family Assistance Center worked closely with the New York Family Assistance Center to provide aide to a service member from Fort Drum, N.Y. who had a family member on the flight. Peterson also noted that FRGs in affected communities are still offering domestic services to victim's families.

"August 27th was a horrific day for many Kentuckians and for those family members of the victims of Flight 5191," Maj. Gen. Donald Storm said. "Lexington and the surrounding communities banded together to show support for those who lost their life, and those who were left behind."

"The Kentucky National Guard wasn't 'called to duty' by the Governor, but we reported for duty to our citizens," he said. "We are here to protect and serve in whatever capacity we can. Including lending a shoulder to cry on."



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYAPNG

Kentucky's newest leadership

Officer Candidate School graduates 15 at State Capitol

By Spec. Vernis Phipps and Maj. Don Peters
Kentucky Army National Guard PAO

FRANKFORT - The Kentucky Army National Guard welcomed its newest group of officers on the steps of the Capitol Rotunda Aug. 19 with a commissioning ceremony for the Officer Candidate School class 48-06.

"We are so excited to welcome these soldiers as lieutenants in the Kentucky National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General of Kentucky. "These soldiers have worked hard and are the future leadership of our world class organization. And they are being trusted with our greatest resource – our Kentucky National Guard soldiers."

For the OCS graduates, the training is a life changing experience.

"I have been in the National Guard for eight years serving with Headquarters Battery of the 138th Field Artillery Brigade, and I felt I wanted to make a bigger impact in the Kentucky National Guard," said 2nd Lt. Joe Fontanez. "My father was an officer and I felt I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I really want to make a difference and lead troops."

Leading troops and making a difference are important traits, but just having the desire is not enough to make it through the physically and mentally challenging OCS program.

"The amount of training a candidate receives will take you from having limited knowledge of day to day troop leading procedures to a good understanding of how to perform these duties," said newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Raven Weaver.

Fontanez echoed the same sentiment, "I now know it is not only one weekend a month, but it's a full time job that I look forward to doing"

Weaver, who has six years prior service in the Kentucky Guard, said the training was hard as well as rewarding.

"As far as PT (physical training) goes it is difficult, but it really does motivate one to set a good example for the troops," she said.

The soldiers who received commissions completed their officer training in four phases, said Maj. Timothy Pickerrell, Senior TAC Officer and OCS Commander.

"One thing that makes our program a little different is the first phase," Pickerrell

said. "Our Phase Zero allows cadets to understand what to expect and begin preparing for what comes next."

Phase Zero is designed to introduce the officer candidates to troop leadership skills, land navigation, drill and ceremony, and physical training.

"This program is set up for success, not failure," Pickerrell said, adding that each phase builds on the previous one, which allows soldiers to be prepared every step of the way.

Following the introductory portion is a two-week (Phase One) program at Fort McClellan, Alabama, which emphasizes the skills learned in the introductory program. Then comes a solid year of weekend drills, to enhance the officer candidates leadership skills. The program culminates with another two-week stint at Phase Two at Fort McClellan, in which the candidates build up to platoon-level skills.

"These newest officers are the thin green line, and it is my privilege to serve with these world class soldiers," said Storm. "They are the future for this outstanding organization, and the future leaders of the first line of defense on the war against terrorism."

Readiness Center opens doors

Morehead building benefits soldiers and local community

By Spec. Vernis Phipps and Maj. Don Peters
Kentucky Army National Guard PAO

MOREHEAD — Members of the 301st Chemical Company eagerly cut the ribbon opening their new Readiness Center July 8.

The state of the art facility, which is 100 percent federally funded, boasts classrooms, two equipment maintenance bays and a drill floor; and can host a unit of up to 190 people.

And for at least the next few months, the unit will share the facility with some very important students.

Shortly before the readiness center opened, the Rowan County School District found themselves in a bind. The district, in which the Readiness Center is located, found itself short of facilities due to construction delays on an existing school. With the 2006 academic year fast approaching, district officials approached the Kentucky Guard to see if the center could be made available to some of its elementary students.

The answer — an immediate yes.

According to Maj. Brian Demers, Guard Facilities Manager, this is a unique arrangement for a Kentucky Guard facility.

“It’s been done in other states,” he said. “But this is the first time we’ve been able to help a school like



Officials cut the ribbon to the new Morehead Readiness Facility. State Rep. Rocky Adams, State Rep. John Will Stacy and County Judge Executive Clyde A. Thomas assist Major Gen. Donald C. Storm and Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver with the honors.

Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

this.”

The agreement allows the students use of the building during the week, but also retains working space for the full-time unit staff. On drill weekends, the company proceeds with business as usual.

The facility — which has been on the planning books since 1987 and took approximately 18 months to build — is completely wired for the newest communication systems. It also boasts a geothermal heating system, an energy-efficient air conditioning unit and other modern amenities.

All of this makes the armory a great home for the unit, as well as an emergency shelter and communications facility during a local emergency, Demers said.

The Rowan County students are expected to stay in the armory until December 2006 when renovations to the existing school are completed.



Michelle Sheets pins her husband Staff Sgt. Daryl Sheets during the 307th Maintenance Freedom Salute.

Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

Members of the 307th Maintenance salute the flag during a Freedom Salute.

MOUNTAIN WARRIORS



Infantry Battalion mobilized in largest state call up

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

In June, Eastern Kentucky residents poured into the Knox County Central High School gymnasium. Men and women

donned patriotic clothing, children held flags and women from the community passed out the symbolic yellow ribbons for family members to tie to trees in the front yard.

The farewell ceremony for the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry brought family members, community leaders and supportive citizens together to send off soldiers deploying in the largest state call up since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Our cause is just. We are doing the right thing for the right reason at the right time,” said Maj. John Luttrell, battalion commander.

Luttrell thanked the 1-149th families for being “our heroes” and vowed to his soldiers that he would be the first on the battlefield, and the last one off. “I will leave no man behind.”

Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, a native of Eastern Kentucky

and former commander of the 1-149th said he was proud of the soldiers. “The Mountain Warrior Battalion is one of the best units in the United States Army. These Mountain Warriors are some of the finest citizen-soldiers in the world and are all true patriots. I am confident the ‘Mountain Warrior Battalion’ will represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our nation with honor, integrity and professionalism.

“I hold these soldiers and their families close to my heart and pray for their safe return,” he said.

The soldiers departed June 30 for Camp Shelby Mississippi where they received several weeks of training. During their time at Camp Shelby, groups from Somerset, Barbourville, London, Harlan and Ravenna raised \$60,000 to charter 11 buses to bring the Mountain Warriors home for a 10-day leave before deploying to Iraq.



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

TIME FOR CHANGE



Col. Mike Sutton
Chief of Staff
Army



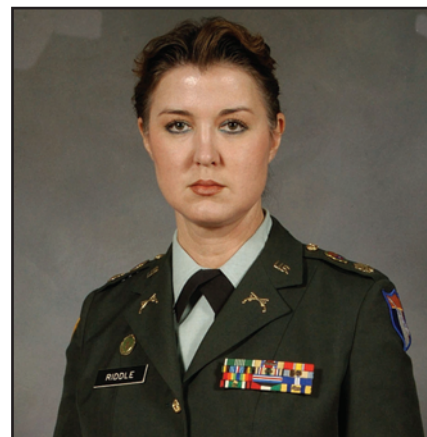
Col. James Head
Deputy Commander,
149th Brigade Combat Team



Col. Judy Greene-Baker
Commander,
238th Regiment
Drug Demand Reduction



Lt. Col. Rondal Turner
Directorate, J1



Maj. Tina Riddle
Recruiting and Retention
Manager



Col. Mike Richie
Directorate, J4



Col. Billy West
Commander,
138th Field Artillery



Lt. Col. Charles Peden
Deputy J4



Lt. Col. Mike Ferguson
Commander,
201st Engineer Battalion
Mobilization Readiness



Maj. Jeff Stevens
Administrative Officer,
75th Troop Command



Lt. Col. Steve King
Facilities Engineer,
Joint Forces Headquarters



Lt. Col. Larry Baxter
Surface Maintenance Manager,
Joint Forces Headquarters



Lt. Col. Jeff Brown
Executive Officer,
75th Troop Command

Congratulations to all these
fine soldiers as they transition
into their new positions!

Michael Sebastian
Colonel
Chief of Staff, Army

Editors note: Col. Sebastian will retire Jan. 31, 2007

Air Guard's Hunt promoted to brigadier general

Hunt has 32 years service with Air Guard

By Dave Altom

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Howard P. Hunt III received the silver stars of the rank of brigadier general from his wife, April, and Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky during ceremonies held on Sept. 13, 2006 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Annex in Louisville. Hunt, who was recently appointed the Joint Forces Air Component Commander and Chief of Staff for the Kentucky Air National Guard, has taken on the duties of Deputy Adjutant General for Air as part of his new responsibilities.

Prior to his selection as brigadier general, Hunt served as commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group. Under his command, the unit provided aircraft maintenance and flight support functions for the 123rd Airlift Wing during Operation Iraqi Freedom and peacetime missions.

Hunt is a decorated airman with 32 years of military experience, all with the Air National Guard. His awards include the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf; the Kentucky and Tennessee



Photo by Dave Altom/KYARNG

Howard P. Hunt III, of Danville, receives the silver stars from his wife, April, and Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky.

Distinguished Service Medals and several federal and state awards. He received his commission in 1974 at Texas Christian University through the Reserved Officer Training Corps and went on to earn a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kentucky State University in 1977.

GOT NEWS?

The Bluegrass Guard wants your photos, news stories and upcoming events to publicize in our pages and on the Web. Call Sgt. Gina Vaile at 502-607-1186.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE

<http://www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs>

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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