

Hazard, Jackson to get armories

Two Kentucky communities should gain new armories as a result of action by the 1982 General Assembly. Funds representing the state's share of armories for Hazard and Jackson were included in the budget passed and sent to Gov. John Y. Brown, Jr. for signature. At press time the appropriations act had not been signed.

The funds, which will be used for portions of site preparation, architectural fees, and construction, were first recommended by the Senate Appropriations and Revenue

Committee. Although the House committee had not included the amount in its initial recommendation, the conference committee adopted the Senate position. The funds will represent about 30 percent of the total project.

The Hazard unit currently utilizes a very small space beneath bleachers in an old gymnasium, while the Jackson unit is confined to only a portion of its available space. Engineers have condemned the armory itself as unsafe, and it was determined that a new armory could be con-

structed for only slightly more than it would cost the state to repair the present structure.

The funds will not become available until July 1983, which would place the project in the federal Fiscal Year 1984 budget. Although federal funding is not guaranteed, top Guard officials are confident that it can be obtained.

If everything remains on schedule, ground-breaking should occur in late summer or early fall 1984.



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Kentucky sends most troops to Brigade '82

By Capt. J. Gordon Nichols

For two weeks in late May and early June, the facilities at Camp Shelby, Miss. will be bulging at the seams when virtually all troops from the Kentucky Army National Guard attend annual training.

Brigade '82, as the AT period has been nicknamed, will be the largest camp the Kentucky Guard has ever attempted. There will also be troops there from six other states and Puerto Rico.

Adjutant General Billy Wellman has said that this AT period will be a milestone for the new brigade. "It is the first time we have all been to camp together and we will learn valuable lessons from the field grades down to the squad leader in the areas that we need to train for the future."

Wellman also added that there will be a large number of V.I.P.s who will be visiting the camp throughout the two weeks. These will include state officials, National Guard

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SPEC. 4 TIMMY LANHAM, of the 1155th Transportation Company, Frankfort, takes collections for the Kentucky Easter Seal Society. This year's collection totalled \$47,819, making over \$1 million the amount Kentucky Army Guardsmen have collected in the last 11 years for the Easter Seal Society. (Photo by PFC J.C. Newton)

Black promoted; Palmore is Chief of Staff

One Kentucky National Guardsman has recently received an important promotion in rank, while another has been assigned to a very important post.

Carl D. Black, of the Air Guard, is now a brigadier general, serving as commander of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

On the Army Guard side, Col. Ralph Palmore assumed the position of Chief of Staff. He had previously served as Director of Personnel and is Command Administrative Officer for the headquarters on a full-time basis.

General Black began his distinguished Air Force career in 1955 following graduation from the University of Kentucky.

His professional military education and

civilian activities are truly exemplary. He is a graduate of such courses as primary and basic pilot training, USAF ground safety, TAC fighter operations orientation, air command and staff, reconnaissance staff officer and the Air War College to name a few. He has also distinguished himself by receiving the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation medal, Combat Readiness Medal W/4 OLC, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal.

Palmore began his career in 1947, enlisting with the 623d Field Artillery Battalion. He earned a commission in 1953 through direct appointment. His military career includes Battalion Staff assignments, service as Battalion Commander, and Director of Maintenance of State Headquarters.

Palmore has earned the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Korean Medal with two Battle Stars.

Kentucky sends

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Bureau and Fifth Army officers and a number of press representatives.

"We should all be placing an emphasis on a sharp military appearance because the Kentucky Guard has the reputation of not only performing as soldiers, but also looking like soldiers," he said.

For three days during the second week, a field training exercise called "Brigade '82" will be held for all Kentucky units attending the Shelby camp.

This brigade-level exercise will test all elements of combined arms and the support units that they depend upon. The exercise will provide training in the preparation of estimates, plans, orders, troop leading procedures, tactical motor marches, occupation of assembly areas, day and night defense, disengagement, counterattack, local security, fire support coordination, tactical air support, combat service support, and other training objectives.

Col. Harold Loy, Director of Operations and Training, noted that the plans sound like an enormous amount of activity and it will be just that.

"This will be the first time that an Army Guard separate brigade has attempt-

ed a field exercise on such a scale as this one," Loy noted. The exercise will be evaluated by the 2nd Armor Division, which has been affiliated with Kentucky Guard armor units for several years.

Loy added that on an exercise of this magnitude errors are expected and these will result in everyone understanding the mission much better. He also stated that with the results of the exercise, trainers can develop a training program that will prepare the units for next year's annual training, which will be at Fort Hood, Texas.

Safety is one of the main items that the state staff is encouraging everyone to monitor. Wellman has noted that with the large movement of troops and equipment to Mississippi, extra care must be taken.

Wellman said this annual training period will be a stepping stone in the development for the brigade. "I anticipate that the Kentucky Guard will be able to gain additional units related to our mission in future years because of the separate Brigade."

The Kentucky Air Guard will also be taking a larger than normal AT period when over 600 of its troops will train in May at Savannah, Ga.

1155th tops in reenlistment

By Pfc. J.C. Newton

The 1155th Transportation Company, based in Frankfort, recently had 59 six-year extensions out of a total unit of 124 troops.

The reenlistment effort was tops in the state and, according to Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, "one of the highest in Kentucky's history."

Wellman presented a plaque denoting the accomplishment to Maj. Robert L. Stephens, the unit commander. Wellman said, "I am extremely proud of this effort, because it helps overcome one of our major problems: retention. Our recruiting program helps us stay near 100 percent strength, but we must overcome the retention obstacle. An effort as successful as this one has to be attributed to an outstanding unit, good leaders and an enormous amount of pride in what you are doing."

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123rd TRW sponsors Explorer scout post

Young people who want to learn about emergency preparedness can join a new Explorer scout post sponsored by the Air Guard's 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

Ten boys and girls attended the post's first meeting Master Sgt. Dan Noland, post adviser, said.

The wing's goal in sponsoring the group, Noland said, is to give the youths training and experiences that could lead them into a career in the Air National Guard.

Those who want to join the post must be 14 to 20 years old, he said. Fourteen-year-olds must have completed eighth grade.

Those who join the group must pay \$5 for yearly dues and insurance.

The Explorers will meet weekly for a while to learn radio communications, disaster response, first aid and water safety. Later sessions will be held every other week.

Besides learning how to cope with emergencies the Explorers may arrange fund-raising activities and participate in such wing programs at the Kentucky State Fair booth and the walkathon.

The training will not be only an intellectual exercise, according to Noland. The youths could be called in to help civilian authorities in emergencies such as tornadoes.

KMA prepares future leaders

Physically, the Kentucky Military Academy is a collection of 23 buildings near the center of Fort Knox and including two dining halls, administrative buildings, several supply and storage buildings and lots of barracks. All are old, but many have been refurbished and are well maintained.

In reality, though, the physical attributes of the Academy are not particularly important. The mission itself is.

"I feel the role of KMA is that of a change agent and that of an institution of preparation," said Col. James Daniel, KMA commandant. "I think we can change a lot of ideas that are outdated and no longer useful. Our role is to prepare authentic leaders -- capable leaders -- and to understand what being a professional is all about."

The Academy currently operates three major programs. Basic and Advanced NCO courses are designed to meet the needs of enlisted men and women who are preparing for or serving in those middle management positions. The officer candidate school is a year-long program which provides second

lieutenants for the Kentucky National Guard and, to a much lesser degree, the U.S. Army Reserve.

The OCS program actually requires slightly more than a year to complete. Incoming candidates spend two monthly drill periods becoming acclimated before the initial annual training session. Candidates then meet monthly for a year and the process concludes with a second annual training.

Academy staff members are now working to develop additional courses, including a five-day program for company commanders. A Primary NCO course for the combat arms is also in the works.

The OCS program is also to be enhanced, if current plans prove successful. Staff members are working to arrange for winter training somewhere in a northern state and Expert Infantry Badge training is also anticipated. This badge is highly prized among combat arms troops.

In spite of the greater visibility of the OCS program, Daniel says KMA doesn't consider it to be of paramount importance to the Academy's future.

"I think the real fruit of the Academy over the next decade will be in the NCO program," the commandant noted, "because we get so many of them and they are really the ones who make the units function."

Although the OCS program has graduated more than 650 second lieutenants, Daniel has greater goals both in quality and quantity.

"We're going to be able to put out a

lieutenant and an NCO who are, first of all, trainers and who are competent as professionals," he said.

The colonel sees a need for greater involvement by unit commanders. He feels that, with proper command emphasis, each class can have 50-60 people.

KMA officer training has proven to be cost-effective and lower than any other means of commissioning. KMA training costs approximately \$6,000 per officer, while ROTC and active duty training for officers is considerably higher.

In some quarters, the OCS program has a reputation for harassment. Daniel explained the background of that charge and the current situation. He noted that the idea of breaking people down and then building them back stems from the old system of "beast barracks" at West Point. That attitude got picked up throughout the military system, but has now changed.

"We've gone to a positive leadership approach," Daniel said. "Everything we do is in the performance-oriented mode and we will not humiliate a candidate in any way. Stress has to reside between the task and the candidate--not the TAC officer and the candidate."

The future of the program seems solid, he explained, but it depends upon the numbers and the quality of the prospective candidates. Anyone who wishes more information about the Academy can contact unit training NCOs and officers or write to the Academy, Fort Knox, KY 40121.

MAIT helps units prepare for inspection

By SSgt. Dwight Reed

A big maintenance inspection is upcoming and if your section doesn't pass, it could spell trouble for everyone. You've trained hard and you're fairly certain you're ready, but you would like to be a little more sure.

If you are a member of the 149th Separate Armored Brigade there is a way to alleviate many of your worries. The Maintenance Assistance Instruction Team (MAIT) is ready to help.

"We like to think of ourselves as a commander's tool to aid the maintenance section," SFC Robert Nugent, enlisted supervisor of the 149th MAIT said. At a unit's request the MAIT will visit and check anything in the maintenance area to make sure it's being done correctly. Nugent likes to stress, however, that a MAIT visit is not an inspection.

"We don't inspect the units, we simply show them the correct ways to train and try to help people do their jobs better," he said. "There isn't any kind of formal report written after our visit; it's strictly between the commanders and us."

In a typical visit to a unit the MAIT
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THE EASTERN KENTUCKY Training Site is already being used heavily for training. Here two members of the 201st Engineer Battalion, wearing protective masks, man a check point. (Photo courtesy Clay City Times)

NGAUS sets 1982 legislative goals

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) met in Washington, D.C. recently to discuss legislative priorities and goals for 1982. Presently, the NGAUS is urging Congress to pass several bills which would increase National Guard benefits and incentives.

Among the most important pieces of legislation supported by NGAUS are three bills which would extend the medical, dental and death (survivor) benefits of Guardsmen. The first of these three would provide medical benefits for Guardsmen injured enroute to or from inactive duty training.

The second would provide medical benefits to Guardsmen who contracted a

disease or illness while on full-time training duty for 30 days or less.

The third bill supported by NGAUS would authorize medical care for dependents of a Guardsmen whose deaths entitled their survivors to some type of death gratuity payments. These three pieces of legislation combine to form the NGAUS Omnibus Medical Package.

Another high priority issue in which the NGAUS is actively involved is a resolution to enact legislation which would increase the reemployment rights of Guardsmen. Currently, state and private employers are only required to grant up to 90 days training leave. This new bill would require employers to allow up to 12 months

training leave for Guardsmen.

A final high priority item sought by the NGAUS includes the authorization of special pay for Guard physicians and the extension of incentive bonuses for Guardsmen in other critical skill areas.

Beyond supporting high priority Guard-related legislation, the NGAUS has also adopted several goals for 1982. These goals include: correcting the inequity between hazardous duty pay for National Guardsmen and active duty personnel, the granting of commissary and exchange privileges for Guardsmen with over 20 years of total service, reducing the age at which retirement pay may begin and improving the Survivor Benefits Plan.

Physical fitness tests will become tougher

Weight control and physical fitness are items of tremendous concern throughout the Army Guard community. State headquarters officials recently issued guidance about plans for 1982-1984.

During 1982, each person will be expected to complete the four-mile walk in one hour. Those under 40 years old will also perform unscored push-ups and sit-ups as specified in FM 21-20. Each person will also weigh in twice during the calendar year.

In training year 1983, which begins Oct. 1, 1982, each person will again complete the four-mile walk in one hour. The push-up and sit-up requirements will be scored and each person under 40 will have to attain a passing score of 60 points.

Training year 1984 will bring full implementation of the standard Army Physical Readiness Test. Standards for those 40 and older have not yet been announced.

Commanders will be permitted to modify

the uniform by allowing a mix of uniform and individually-owned athletic clothing and running shoes. However, whatever combination is authorized by the commander must be followed by the entire unit. For example, if the commander authorizes fatigue pants and running shoes, that will be the uniform for all.

MAIT helps

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would check the arms room, weapons, vehicles, CBR equipment, mess facilities, and all paperwork in the maintenance section. "We try to make the units more ready for an IG or COMET inspection,"

Nugent added.

The four-man MAIT is comprised of CW4 Carol Knoop, SFC Ray Schafflein, SFC Lawrence Robison and Nugent. Among the four of them they have 103 years of full-time experience in their field.



THE EASTERN KENTUCKY Training Site gives units in training a chance to use virtually all types of equipment. This aerial view shows the 201st Engineer Battalion using water purification equipment near a lake on the property.



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