Hidden Valley resort goes to Guard

Kentucky National Guardsmen will have a major new training site in the state. The state Finance Department has approved the use of the Hidden Valley resort in Powell County as a training area and has transferred the land to the Department of Military Affairs.

Finance Secretary George Atkins stated that the use of the land for military purposes was "by far the most viable option" because the state would not have to provide additional monies for the property.

In a letter to Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman, Atkins also added, "You present a very convincing argument on how the Department of Military Affairs might use this tract to the benefit of the Commonwealth."

Wellman had presented a three-year plan on developing a weekend training site for engineer and infantry battalions. He added that the Guard had been looking for such a training site in the eastern section of the state for several years.

The 541-acre resort has been the focal point of several investigations in past years and Wellman feels the Guard can enhance the image of the property and the state's use of the land.

National Guard Bureau officials from Washington had aided the Guard's position by briefing Atkins on the use of such sites and by committing federal financial support to construction and ultimate full-time staffing.

Engineer units from the 201st Engineer Battalion have already begun the process of cleaning up the property and most drill weekends will be spent working at the site. Planning is also being made to permit the engineers to perform annual training at Hidden Valley next year.

"The bottom line is that our troops won't spend so much time in the armory classroom and on the road to Fort Knox," Wellman said. "This wasted their time as well as thousands of gallons of gasoline each year," he added. "When this is completed, we will have something to be proud of and we will continue to develop it through the years to improve our training and readiness."

The BLUEGRASS GUARD

Vol. 21, No. 5 | Published by the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment | August 1981

Dining In set

The ninth annual Dining In of the Kentucky National Guard has been set for Louisville's Holiday City Convention Center Sept. 26. It is designed to formally welcome all officers who have joined the Kentucky Guard during the past year.

All Air and Army warrant officers and officers are encouraged to attend the formal dinner, which costs $16. Checks or money orders are to be submitted through command channels to reach state headquarters by Sept. 1.

Special invite

Kentucky National Guardsmen have a special invitation from Congressman Larry Hopkins to see a performance by the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Team, and Color Guard at Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington Sept. 6. The free performance will begin at 2:30 p.m. This performance is widely recognized as one of the best displays of military music and drill in the world.

SGT. BOB WALTERS, of Company C, 42nd Aviation Battalion, fires a machine gun from a UH-2 helicopter during an exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind. (Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Ed Armstrong)

Doctor responds to Guard physician shortage

For a physician with little military training, Dr. Clyde A. Burgess of Ashland has the makings of a good soldier.

The doctor, a lieutenant colonel in the Ashland-based 201st Engineer Battalion of the Kentucky Army National Guard, earned that accolade from his comrades because of the circumstances which brought him back into uniform after a lapse of more than 25 years.

Dr. Burgess came into the Guard several months ago after learning of a shortage of physicians in the Kentucky units, particularly the Ashland battalion which had not had a physician in its medical section for several years.

Dr. Burgess recalls that he perhaps was ready for such a challenge because of his position as director of emergency services for King's Daughters' Hospital in Ashland. A member of Ashland's medical community since 1974, the Oak Hill, W. Va., native works a set schedule of hours in the hospital's emergency room.

"By virtue of this special type of medical practice, I have more control over my free time than do many of my colleagues in private practice," he said. "My previous military experience had benefitted me greatly and I felt that I had a responsibility as a citizen to do my part."

Dr. Burgess said he visited the Ashland units of the 201st and became aware of the National Guard's important mission and the obvious need for a medical officer.

"I enjoy working with young people and I find that the Guard provides me with a stimulating change of pace from my daily routine in medicine," he added. "The opportunity to meet new people and experience the real camaraderie of military life is important to me."

Dr. Burgess obtained his medical training at the University of Cincinnati, and has been practicing since 1961. He served four years in the Air Force as a medic and says that experience convinced him to become a doctor.

"I don't consider myself some kind of patriotic zealot, but I do feel strongly that our country should have an adequate military defense, and part of that is making sure that the National Guard is ready to do its part in a national emergency," Dr. Burgess said.

The Kentucky Guard's newest medical officer admits to being "over 50," but adds that the regimen of military life, even on a part-time basis, has helped him feel younger and be more active physically.

"I highly recommend the Guard to other physicians," Dr. Burgess stated. "In fact, I like it even better than I expected."

Air Guard sponsoring hemophilia benefit run

The Kentucky National Guard is sponsoring a 10 kilometer run and challenges all military units in the state to compete for team and individual awards. The Kentuckiana Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation will reap all benefits from the entry fees.

The Air Guard will host the event Sept. 27 at their Louisville base, off Grade Lane. Registration will close at 8 a.m., to be followed by a brief non-denominational religious service.

The race itself begins at 8:30 a.m. and is open to teams and individuals. Each winning team will receive a unit flag, while individuals will earn trophies. Up to seven people may enter as a team, but only the top five finishers will count in the standings.

In the military competition, awards will be given to the top teams in four classes, as well as to the overall winner. Classes include: Army, Navy and Coast Guard, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Individuals will compete by age groups. Divisions include: 12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 60 and over.

groups, businesses and others are also being invited to participate in the event.

The entry fee is $7 per person for all who register before Sept. 15 and $10 afterwards. Entry forms should be in all unit orderly rooms, but anyone who does not have a form but wishes to run may call Lt. Col. Dick Jett, (502) 564-8490.

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

is published using the offset method by the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment, Boone Center, Frankfort, Kentucky, in cooperation with the National Guard Association of Kentucky and in accordance with AR 360-81. It is distributed free of charge to members of the Kentucky National Guard and to other persons upon request.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman ..... The Adjutant General
Capt. Thomas E. Little ..... Editor
Capt. Keith Kappes ..... Managing Editor
Sgt. 1st Class J. Gordon Nichols ..... Associate Editor
Ms. Terra L. Barnett ..... Associate Editor
Jean Marie Goins ..... Typesetter
Douglas E. Buffin ..... Graphic Arts
Lt. Col. Charles E. Hillard Jr ..... Pres., NGAKy
Lt. Col. Donald J. Waldner ..... President Elect
Maj. Jacquelyn D. Reid ..... V.P., Air
CW4 Edwin G. Birdwhistell ..... V.P., Army
Col. Jerry W. Heaton ..... Executive Director
Capt. Jasper Carpenter ..... Sec./Treas.

Second in command

Fiorella appointed assistant AG

Brig. Gen. Fiorella

Robert M. Fiorella, 52, of Owensboro, has been appointed by Gov. John Y. Brown, Jr. to serve as Assistant Adjutant General for Army. In the position, he will be second in command to Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, over Kentucky Army National Guard troops.

With the appointment comes promotion to brigadier general. Fiorella replaces Brig. Gen. Robert Cundiff, of Hodgenville, who retired after 36 years of military service.

Virtually all of Fiorella's military career has been spent with the Kentucky Guard. He enlisted in 1948 and served in the enlisted ranks until he earned a commission in 1951. By 1955 he had risen to become a company commander and he held that post until he was called to active duty in 1961.

After his release, he returned to hold several staff positions with the 2nd Battalion of the 123rd Armor. He has served as commander of that battalion and has also lead the 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor.

After holding state headquarters staff positions, he returned to the field to command the 149th Armor Brigade, headquartered in Bowling Green. Most recently, he had returned to Frankfort as the Chief of Staff at the state headquarters.

Fiorella has earned numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal and the Berlin Crisis Service Ribbon.

He and his wife, Thelma, live in Owensboro, where he owns and operates AMGAS, Inc. He also has operations in Bowling Green and Hopkinsville.

Soldiers will dress differently in '80s

The Army has adopted a new clothing system for the combat soldier of the 1980s. Known as the Battle Dress Clothing System, it is designed for use in combat as well as in field training and garrison. National Guard units are not expected to receive the uniforms for several years.

A major feature of the system is a new camouflage pattern that provides reduced detection by both visual and near-infrared sensors.

The basic uniform for wear in the temperate zone consists of a coat, trousers and cap. The coat is designed with breast and lower pockets, while the trousers contain the four standard top pockets as well as large thigh bellow cargo pockets.

Reinforcement patches have been placed at the normal high wear points - elbows, knees and seat. The uniform is designed to provide optimum body ventilation while maintaining military appearance. The material used is a nylon/cotton blend in a twill weave weighing 7 to 7½ ounces per square yard.

To augment this uniform, a new combat boot which uses a grain (rough side out) leather in an earth brown color is under development. It incorporates a reinforced fiberglass toe for impact protection and a highly water-repellent leather.

The complete system also includes a field jacket, field trousers, poncho, helmet cover, wet weather parka and trousers, ballistic armor vest and load-carrying equipment, all using the new camouflage pattern.

Vehicle Crewman Uniform

The Combat Vehicle Crewman's Uniform will provide the crewmen of ground combat vehicles with a great improvement in protection against flame, ballistic and environmental threats.

The crewmen's clothing system consists of the following items:

* Standard two-piece cotton/wool long underwear for use in winter and cotton underwear for summer.
* A ballistic undergarment to protect the upper torso from fragments and small particles as well as small caliber, low velocity bullets.
* A coverall with a removable two-piece insulated liner.
* A bib overall with insulated liner which is sized for wear over the coverall for added protection against the cold.
* A jacket with liner.
* An improved helmet which provides for increased bump protection and a 100 percent increase in ballistic protection from fragments.
* Two pairs of boots - one for summer and an insulated version for winter. Both pairs of boots provide toe protection, are designed to be put on quickly and have a wedge type heel for better traction on the deck surfaces of the vehicle. When worn with the new vinyl overboot, better foot pedal dexterity is provided during winter operations.

Protection of the hands from flame are provided by two types of gloves -- summer and winter. These gloves are thin cattlehide leather on the palm to minimize their effect on the sense of touch.

Face and head protection are provided by:

* A face mask for fragmentation, flame, dust and wind protection.
* A hoodlike knitted cap to protect the head and neck from wind and flame.

Except for the underwear and ballistic undergarment, all clothing components are fabricated from Nomex fabrics which have outstanding resistance to flame. The added protection against battlefield threats will result in decreased injuries more than justifying the $1,200 cost of outfitting each crewman.

The Army is working vigorously to develop improved chemical protective clothing for the 1980s and beyond. Today, technological advances not available at the turn of the decade make possible a number of improvements in protective clothing.

— DA Spot Light

90 Guardsmen train in Europe

Ninety Kentucky Air National Guard members are spending this summer's annual training in Europe.

Ten KyANG members have been deployed every two weeks to either Zwiebrucken, Germany or Alconbury, England. This will continue through September.

All areas and shops are involved in this European program, which allows a variety of personnel to become acquainted with actual North American Treaty Organization operations and to experience new training techniques.

Kentucky Army National Guard overseas summer camps are all in Germany. The 307th Maintenance Company spent July 25-Aug. 8 in Kaiserslautern; Detachments 1, 1155th Transportation Company is training Aug. 1-15 at Mannheim; and the 441st Medical Detachment, from Sept. 5-19, will be in Frankfurt.

Enlisted schools offer opportunities

While attendance at qualifying Active Army service schools has been mandatory for officers for many years, the Kentucky Army National Guard is now placing great emphasis on enlisted service schools as well.

These schools are available at no cost to the enlisted member. While attending these schools, Guard members receive regular active duty pay and benefits.

Information on these service schools and the proper application forms are available from any Guard unit.

Col. Harold Loy, Director of Plans, Operations, and Training, said "Kentucky Guard members are urged to take a few moments to look at what is available and to learn of this opportunity for education and self improvement."

Additional information is available from 564-8452 at Boone Center, Frankfort.

COMPANY C, 42nd Aviation Battalion, Frankfort, airlifted these Lexington Marine Reserve Military Policemen from Lexington to Ft. Knox during a joint exercise.

Guard helps plan for retirement

Retirement is probably about the last thing on your mind right now. But one day, it'll be foremost. So now's the time to realize that you will be entitled to a government pension and retirement plan if you've completed 20 years of creditable service in the Kentucky National Guard.

Moreover, your retirement benefits are completely "portable." Regardless of how often you move or switch units, you can still earn retirement credits.

It's hard enough to believe that a retirement program for a part-time job even exists, particularly one so flexible and that offers so much security – as much as $30,000 in cash value alone. And premiums are the lowest you can pay: none.

But that's only the beginning. Here's a brief summary of all your benefits:

Before age 60, you will receive:

* Officer and NCO Club Membership eligibility.
* Space available travel (in uniform) within the U.S., including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.
* Indefinite retention of Commissions.
* Post and Base Exchange Privileges (while on drill or other official training duty).

After age 60, you will receive these additional benefits:

* Retirement Pay.
* Medical treatment and hospitalization for yourself and your dependents (space-available basis).
* Dental treatment. Dependents are authorized routine dental care outside the U.S. and at installations within the U.S. where adequate civilian facilities are not available.
* Care at VA facilities (retired only).
* Use of military clothing sales facilities.
* Legal and veterinary services.
* Use of post, camp, station and base facilities.

If you're thinking about giving up the Guard, think about all you're giving up. Keep the most important part-time job in America.

AIR GUARD RF-4Cs fly over the flag at Boone Center during a recent open house. Several thousand people attended the event, which featured a variety of exhibitions and displays. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ron Bayes)

New national cemeteries open

The opening of five new national cemeteries was recently announced by the Veterans Administration.

According to a VA spokesman, a definite need for the expansion exists in the national cemetery system because of the large veteran population and the limited space available in the 55 cemeteries currently open for internments.

Burial in one of these cemeteries is available to Reservists and Guard members who die while performing active duty for training and veterans who have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
BOONE NATIONAL GUARD CENTER
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DOD-314

U.S. MAIL