The BLUEGRASS GUARD

Vol. 20, No. 1 | Published by the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment | February 1980

Brown reappoints Wellman as Adjutant General

Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. confirmed in early February the permanent appointment of Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman as Kentucky Adjutant General.

Brown praised Wellman's command of the Guard over the last two years.

"General Wellman has demonstrated through years of distinguished service his commitment to a professional National Guard organization in Kentucky," Brown said.

Wellman reflected on the past two years recently and stated that they have been very rewarding. He stated that the growth to 96 percent strength, increased readiness and more meaningful training have been goals that will continue into this administration.

The Adjutant General also said another gratification has been the nationwide support for draft registration. Wellman said, "I have spoken publicly 209 times in the past two years for registration and it's satisfying to finally see our nation's leaders support such a plan."

Wellman added that even though progress has been made, there are still many problems to solve. "Our budgets on both the federal and state level will be very frugal for the next four years," he said. He went on to explain that only

See BROWN REAPPOINTS
back page

GOV. JOHN Y. Brown Jr., in his first official act after taking oath, reappoints Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General.

New look

The front page looks a little different, you say? We're glad you noticed!

The staff of The Kentucky GUARDSMAN felt that it was time for an updated look along with a new name that says something special about our state. Kentucky's nickname, "The Bluegrass State," inspired the change to The BLUEGRASS GUARD. We hope you like the new name and new look.

IG inspectors rate five units 'noteworthy'

Teams from the 5th U. S. Army Headquarters, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, looking not quite as dastardly as the cartoon sketch but probably provoking as much fear, conducted 66 IG inspections across the state from August 1979 through January 1980.

Inspected units received either a satisfactory or unsatisfactory rating.

Col. John Evanchick, Inspector General, gave five Kentucky units an overall noteworthy rating. They are: Company C, 42nd Aviation Battalion, Frankfort; Company B, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry, London and Prestonsburg; Company A, 201st Engineering Battalion, Ashland; HHC, 201st Engineering Battalion, Ashland and 441st Medical Detachment, Frankfort. The last two units also received an overall noteworthy mark in fiscal year 1977.

"BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE HERE TO HELP ME!"

Only two of the Kentucky units received unsatisfactory ratings. They are: Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry, Harlan and CSC, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, Owensboro.

The Inspector General pointed out a few areas needing emphasis in the state, including the Army physical fitness and weight control program; storage and security of supplies, equipment and facilities; attendance at training assemblies; actual strength; equivalent training and personnel qualifications.

The next IG inspection will be in calendar year 1981.

Newspaper places second

The Kentucky GUARDSMAN has been recognized for the second time in three years as one of the top newspapers within the National Guard.

The GUARDSMAN recently received the second place award within the largest category of competition in a contest sponsored by the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

In making the presentation of a plaque to the unit, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, expressed his appreciation for the work of all those who contributed to the newspaper. He recognized it as an excellent forum to provide information to Kentucky Guardsmen across the state.

The paper earned the same award in 1977.

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 ..... Managing Editor
SFC J. Gordon Nichols ..... Editor
Ms. Terri L. Barnett ..... Associate Editor
Jean Marie Gunn ..... Typesetter
Douglas E. Buffin ..... Graphic Arts
Capt. Bruce W. Pieratt ..... Pres., NGAKy
Lt. Col. Joseph L. Kotrak ..... President Elect
Capt. John E. Oswald ..... V. P., Air
Maj. Charles E. Hillard ..... V. P., Army
Col. Jerry W. Heaton ..... Executive Director
Capt. Jasper Carpenter ..... Sec.-Treas.

NGAKy increases insurance funds

The National Guard Association of Kentucky's insurance program increased its reserves to $35,469.56 this year, as shown in a Charles T. Mitchell Company audit report. This is an increase of $8,537.10 over last year.

The reserves are used to guarantee continued operation in less profitable years. Funds dipped to less than $1,000 in 1971 and went up to $54,719.16 in 1975.

In addition to a program back-up, the reserve is intended to someday be used to provide additional insurance benefits for Kentucky Guardsmen insured by the program. Monies earned as profit in this non-profit program can be used only for benefits to those insured.

The 3,910 Guardsmen insured put membership at an all-time high, according to Capt. Jerry Ream, chairman of the NGAKy Committee on Insurance. A 65 percent participation goal for this year was set by the Association president and the committee. Presently, enrollment is about 56 percent.

Winter operation successful

About 260 Kentucky Air National Guardsmen were deployed to Gulfport, Miss. in January to participate in a flying operation aimed at coordinating programmed and actual flying time.

Kentucky's inclement January weather has traditionally kept actual flying time behind programmed flying time. Col. Carl D. Black, vice commander, 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, said, "For the past three years, airport conditions have been so bad that this year we decided to schedule enough people to go to Gulfport in January to support a flying operation."

Usually, according to Black, flying hours get behind during the winter months due to bad weather and "down" times. "We like to stay 50 hours ahead of programmed flying time," he said. Because of the Gulfport operation, they are now 72 hours ahead of flying time. The extra time will help keep the Air Guard ahead even if the remainder of winter is bad.

While the operation served as annual training for some personnel involved, it was not considered annual training for the entire unit. "We sent the minimum number of people required to support an operation," Black said.

Another benefit other than improved flying time was the fact that the Mississippi exercise provided a variation from normal operations at home. "It is good to get people out to a strange base so that they can learn to operate under unusual conditions," Black said. "This way they are better equipped should the need arise to go to Europe or to another U. S. base." Units from South Dakota and North Dakota were also in Gulfport during the January period.

Participants were generally favorable toward the January exercise. "Since many of our people work outdoors, winter is traditionally a slow time for them," Black said. "Also, many people are glad to go south in January."

Overall, the cost was minimal and the benefits were many, making the Gulfport operation "quite a success," according to Black.

EANGKy elects officers

The Kentucky National Guard Enlisted Association held its annual meeting in Owensboro Nov. 2-4.

Officers elected for 1980 are: CSM Robert L. Bailey, Lexington, president; M. Sgt. Harold Strange (retired), Glasgow, vice president, army; M. Sgt. Robert Denton, Louisville, vice president, air; SFC Phyllis L. McSpadden, Frankfort, secretary; M. Sgt. Kenneth A. Bruner Sr., Louisville, treasurer and S. Sgt. Jimmy L. Elliott, Springfield, Sergeant-at-arms.

The next meeting will be held in October in Frankfort.

'Operation GAIN' aims for full strength

Capt. Stephen Collins, Recruiting and Retention manager, has announced "Operation GAIN," a two month recruiting drive to bring the Kentucky National Guard to 100 percent or full strength.

"Operation GAIN" stands for "Guard Approaching Important Number." For the past two years the Kentucky Guard has grown from 78 to 96 percent, while many other states have shown losses. Kentucky needs to recruit 265 persons to reach a full strength of 6,404.

Collins noted that "Operation GAIN" will be a competition for Guard units lasting two months. At the end of March awards will be given to units showing the largest gain.

Collins added the recent publicity on the resumption of draft registration will probably help Guard recruiting. "With our benefits package, most young men and women see one weekend a month and two weeks each summer as much more attractive than two to three years active duty," he said.

Guard statistics show that recruiting continues to be the most difficult in metropolitan areas. However, Collins noted that Lexington and Louisville units have made significant progress during the last year.

Some other weak areas that will be striving for full strength in these two months are Harlan, Cynthiana, Owensboro, Elizabethtown and Central City. Kentucky has 61 Guard units located in 42 communities.

Collins also said that January was the best recruiting month since January 1979. There were 206 enlistments, most of them before the President's Announcement on registration. After 169 discharges there was a net gain of 37.

National Guard Armory dedicated in Harlan

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman expressed gratitude to the people of Harlan and Harlan County for their "strong support" of the Kentucky National Guard during the dedication of the Harlan National Guard Armory Jan. 20.

"The strength of the National Guard program lies in a partnership," Wellman said. "The federal and state governments provide us with facilities, equipment and supplies, but it is you, the citizens of our communities, who must provide us with the men and women to staff our units at acceptable levels so that meaningful training can occur."

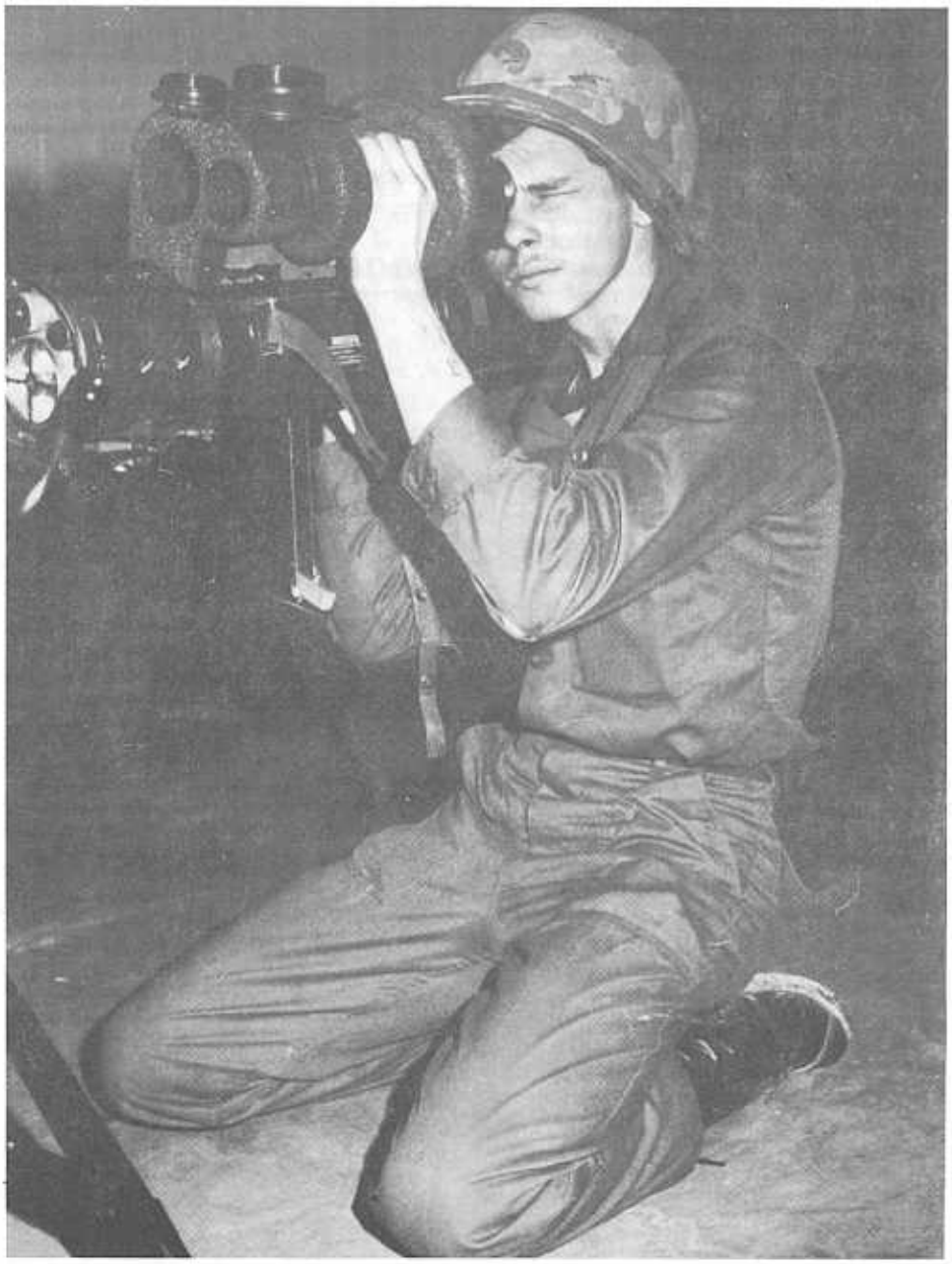
The armory, designed by Webb-Dillehay Design Group of Lexington and built by J. E. Hacker Brothers Construction Company of Corbin, occupies 14,000 square feet of floor space. It accommodates Company A, 149th Infantry (Mechanized) of the 149th Armor Brigade.

Wellman spoke of the long-standing National Guard tradition in Harlan and of the individuals who have made it possible. "National Guard tradition in Harlan goes back beyond WWI," Wellman said. "Men such as Sgt. Joe Jordan, who has served more than 19 years in this unit, and Sgt. Curtis Johnson, a disabled veteran of WWII, carry on the 300-year-old tradition of the citizen-soldier in the United States," he said.

Construction and equipment costs for the facility amounted to nearly $750,000 with two-thirds provided by the federal government and the remainder provided by the state. The Harlan County Fiscal Court contributed $50,000 toward the purchase of the land.

"In return for the county's assistance and support, the state is conveying the old armory in Sunshine to the county," Wellman said. "We are glad that it will continue to be of service to the community."

Wellman thanked Judge Executive Tipton Baker and others of the community for helping to plan the event. He also thanked the Cawood High School band for providing music.



SGT. JOHN "Sky" King Jr. demonstrates the DRAGON missile at one of the many equipment displays set up during the Harlan Armory dedication.

Pending legislation may help protect civilian job status

Pending state legislation may soon improve protection of civilian jobs of National Guard members.

A recently filed bill, H. B. 63, states that employers shall grant a leave of absence to Guard members for active duty or training. The bill was filed by Rep. Ronald Cyrus, of Greenup.

The bill also provides that when the employee returns from active duty or training, he or she shall be permitted to work with the same seniority, status, rate of pay and any other benefits or rights that would have been included with employment had he or she not been absent.

Several other bills of interest to Guardsmen had been filed at press time with the General Assembly.

S. B. 56, filed by Sen. Tom Easterly, of Frankfort, would create a Center for Veterans Affairs within the Department of Military Affairs.

H. B. 193, proposed by Rep. Virgil Pearman, of Radcliff, would amend KRS 141.021 to exclude all federal military retirement annuities from gross income of persons 50 years of age or older.

TASA represents enlisted personnel

TASA, The Army Sergeants Association, which was chartered last year, is the only military service organization to represent only enlisted personnel.

TASA is open to both current members of the Army, Army Guard and Army Reserve as well as to retired members.

Members enjoy such benefits as low-cost travel insurance, group travel discounts, CHAMPUS supplemental insurance, reduced rates for car rentals and employment assistance.

For more information, contact: The Army Sergeants Association, P. O. Box 34930, Washington, D. C. 20034.

Course offered

The Department of the Army will conduct an Infantry Officer Candidate Course for Reserve Component personnel next summer.

The course will run from June 19 to Aug. 25 at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Individuals who think they possess the characteristics necessary to become an officer may apply through their local unit commanders.

Capt. Elmo C. Head Jr., Military Support, is one of many Kentucky Guardsmen already wearing the new gray-green men's shirt. The dress shirt, which is replacing the poplin one, won't be required until 1985.

Required in 1985

New shirts available for wear

Uniforms are changing for both men and women.

The Army has approved a new men's shirt, replacing the poplin one, to be worn with dress greens. The gray-green shirt, officially known as Army Green Shade 415, is authorized for wear now, but won't be required until 1985.

The shirt comes in two styles: short-sleeved for summer and long-sleeved for winter. A tie is not required for wear with the summer version.

Wearing of the green jacket over either style shirt is optional, but must be accompanied by a tie.

Only name tag and grade insignia are to be worn on the shirt. Chaplains and military policemen add the branch insignia or police badge.

Officers will wear shoulder boards showing rank, while enlisted men will wear brass collar pins.

The shirt is available for purchase in most PX facilities and will be an enlisted issue item.

Changes approved by the Army chief of staff for women include a new green uniform ensemble, maternity uniforms, windbreakers and gloves.

The "classic" design for the green uniform ensemble will be slacks, jacket and skirt to replace the current Army green uniform, mint green uniform, pantsuit and cord uniform.

A gray-green overblouse--long- or short-sleeved, with or without pockets--similar to the men's shirt will be adopted and may be worn in or out. A black neck tab will be worn with it.

The green turtleneck tunic will be discontinued in 1981, but will be sold in the PX as an optional item.

Another PX option will be a black windbreaker for men and women, ultimately replacing the men's green windbreaker.

Women will receive a clothing bag issue item -- Navy black leather dress gloves to replace present dress gloves.

Two units 'foster' Christmas spirit

Two Louisville National Guard units were part of a group responsible for bringing the Christmas spirit into the lives of 120 foster children.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, XXIII Corps Artillery, 306th Maintenance Company, and 614th Military Police Co., along with the Kentucky Department for Human Resources, sponsored the Eighth Annual Foster Children's Christmas Party held at the Fairgrounds Armory Dec. 19.

The children were provided with entertainment, Christmas dinner, presents and a visit from Santa.

NGAKy plans numerous activities for conference

The 49th Annual Conference for all members of the National Guard Association of Kentucky will be held in Louisville's Hyatt Regency Hotel Feb. 22 - 23.

Activities begin Friday at 7 p.m. with the President's Reception followed by a repeat performance of last year's Modern Army-Air Social and Hospitality (MAASH) Program, set for 8 p.m. Entertainment will include "The Traveling Rock 'n Roll Show," disc jockey Mark Anthony and recording artist Stephen Lee Cook.

The Conference business session is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday. Several legislative items are certain to be discussed and new officers will be elected.

During this time the ladies will be entertained with a brunch and shopping tour beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday evening's events begin with a formal banquet at 7:30, followed by a military ball.

NGAKy president, Capt. Bruce Pieratt promises a "first class" event this year. He assures an excellent program, an extraordinary dinner and quality entertainment.

Members are encouraged to purchase the couple's package ticket for $55.00, which includes admission for two to the President's Reception and the Military Banquet and Ball and admits one to the ladies' activities.

A member's package, priced at $28, is available for those attending alone. This package includes one ticket to the reception, banquet and ball.

Tickets not purchased through advance registration will be more costly.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Hyatt at (502) 587-3434, or by mailing the card sent to all members.

Exhibits by Marlow White Uniforms, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and Crest Craft, of Cincinnati, are anticipated.

One OCS, four NCO

Classes beginning at Kentucky Military Academy

One OCS and four NCO classes will begin in the next few months at Ft. Knox, according to Capt. Clyde Wiseman, Kentucky Military Academy.

OCS class 23-81 will hold orientation April 19-20 and will drill May 17-18. Annual Training will be June 14-28.

A basic NCO class, held one weekend a month, will run from July 19 through Dec. 7. Two NCO classes -- one basic and one advanced -- will be conducted June 14-28 and a senior NCO class will run from March 16-22 for E-7s, E-8s and E-9s.

Wiseman said there are many advantages in attending the classes. OCS graduates are automatically commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants. The basic NCO class is a prerequisite to promotion as an E-6. All KMA classes help develop an individual's management and leadership potentials while providing increased retirement benefits and a better chance of promotions.

Interested individuals should turn in applications as soon as possible. The maximum number of students is 75 in NCO classes and the last two classes have been full. Although there is no maximum number for OCS classes, applications should be turned in no later than March 15 for the upcoming classes.

Awards presented to the advanced NCO class A-1-79, which held graduation Dec. 2, 1979 at Ft. Knox, went to five outstanding students.

S. Sgt. Charles E. Babb received the Commendation Ribbon and KMA Staff Award 2nd runner-up.

Spec. 5 Robert W. Bush was awarded the Commendation Ribbon and KMA Staff Award 1st runner-up.

S. Sgt. Hubert Cole received the Kentucky Merit Ribbon, U. S. Army Plaque 1st runner-up, Adjutant General Trophy winner and KMA Staff Award winner.

S. Sgt. Bobby W. Dowell was awarded the Commendation Ribbon, Association of U. S. Army Plaque winner and Adjutant General Trophy 1st runner-up.

Sgt. William J. Tyler received the Commendation Ribbon, Association of U. S. Army Plaque 2nd runner-up and Adjutant General Trophy 2nd runner-up.

Graduation for OCS class 22-80 will be June 28 in the Capitol Rotunda.

Appointment extended

The appointment of Katherine G. Peden, Louisville, as Fifth Army civilian aide for Kentucky, was recently extended for two years by Secretary of the Army Clifford L. Alexander.

Peden, of Katherine Peden and Associates, consultants in industrial and community development in Louisville, will be serving her second term as the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Kentucky.

The Civilian Aides Program was conceived in 1922, with the aides performing a dual role -- interpreting and relating Army policies to area citizens and keeping the secretary of the Army informed as to public opinion on matters of interest to the Army. There are more than 60 aides nationwide serving voluntarily.

Philosophy changed on basic training

The Army has announced that life will be easier on recruits undergoing basic training.

Recruits no longer have to call drill sergeants by their title, but simply as "sergeant." Drill sergeants may only address the recruit by the titles "soldier" or "private." The term "trainee" is no longer in use.

In addition, other forms of harrassment, such as running on and off buses with duffle bags, are forbidden, as are "skinhead" hair cuts.

The standards for treatment are the result of a directive from the U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

The philosophy underlying these and other changes is to "train soldiers by building on their strengths and by shoring up their weaknesses," rather than to "tear them down and build them up again," according to Army officials.

Tax credit available to Guard members

It's tax time again, and that brings an opportunity for Kentucky National Guardsmen to take advantage of another membership benefit.

In addition, Guardsmen are entitled to itemized deductions for maintenance of uniforms. Guardsmen who live outside the normal commuting area may deduct travel expenses to and from drill as well.

Membership in the Kentucky National Guard entitles a person to additional credit which has the effect of making approximately the first $1,000 of income exempt from Kentucky tax.

Exam standards equal

Equality has reached the GT exam. The National Guard Bureau has announced that men and women must possess equal qualification scores on the GT exam.

Standards require a score of at least 80 on the GT and at least two scores of 90 or better on the aptitude tests.

THE CINCINNATI Bricklayers Union recently donated this enamel brick flag to the Walton Armory. Built by the bricklayers as a training project, each brick was individually hand-painted before the flag was assembled and the stars were added. The flag can be viewed from Interstate 75.

Brown reappoints

continued from page one

states that are full strength will receive favorable budget consideration from the National Guard Bureau.

Wellman explained that recruiting is now at a level that many units must begin a waiting list. This is required by regulations but does not mean recruiting efforts should be lessened. "We are continuing to seek the highest quality individuals," he said. When full strength state-wide is attained, additional management may be necessary to fill lower strength units.

Wellman ended by emphasizing that any success he has or will achieve as Adjutant General is because of the support of all Guard persons, their belief in Kentucky's program and the support of communities where Guard units are located. He added, "Where we have strong community support, we have strong Guard units."

Brown also announced the appointment of Col. Robert W. Cundiff as Assistant Adjutant General for the Kentucky Army National Guard and Brigadier General Fred W. Cross as Assistant Adjutant General for the Kentucky Air National Guard.

In-state annual training may pose problems

Plans have been made for annual training 1980, with the big switch to in-state training for 78 percent of Kentucky's over 6,000 Guard members.

The change to in-state training is an attempt to save fuel.

The majority of out-of-state training this year will be only a short distance away at Camp Atterbury, Ind., with the remainder, only three percent, at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. and Germany.

Lt. Col. Harold O. Loy, director of Plans, Operations and Training, for the Army Guard state headquarters, notes that there are some bad points about the training move.

"Training sites in Kentucky just can't provide the equipment and support we have been able to get outside of the state," he said.

Because of the lack of equipment and support at Ft. Knox and Ft. Campbell, where the majority of training will take place, Loy thinks training could be affected. Training on such familiar ground also "limits realism," Loy said. "These people wouldn't be in familiar territory if war broke out," he said.

Loy also sees problems in splitting up the armor, artillery and military police training, necessitated by the limited size and equipment at Ft. Campbell and Ft. Knox. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 123rd Armor, for example, will be at Ft. Knox at different times in August. "Having only one battalion to work with limits what the senior headquarters can do," Loy said. "There is not as much challenge."

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, directed the move in order to save fuel costs involved in moving troops and equipment to distant sites.

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