

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD



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JOINT OPS!

1/149th INF and Co. E, 135th AVN Teamwork

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OUR COVER

Troops from the 1749th Infantry set up hasty defensive positions following an insertion into an east Kentucky landing zone during joint air/ground operations in mid-April. A story and more photos on the operation can be found on pages four and five. (Photo by SGT Charles Spizzers, 132nd PAD)

AT EASE

Like any other organization, the National Guard is no better than its people, and when the people are quality people, so is the organization. We have several "people" stories in this issue of *The Bluegrass Guard* involving quality members who are returning from the Guard and others who have earned accolades in their civilian careers. The Guard is proud of these people and we hope that pride shows in the pages of this issue.

Call us at (502) 564-5779
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THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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TAG LINES . . .

By BG Michael W. Davidson

The brigade commanders and I recently attended the National Guard Senior Commander's Conference. General Vuono, the Chief of Staff of the Army, gave a presentation which is right in step with our program for the Kentucky National Guard.

General Vuono made the following points:

1. **Doctrine.** All the elements of our Total Force, Active Guard and Reserve, must prepare to fight and win the Airlift Battle. Our brigade and battalion commanders must make the Airlift Battle doctrine real through specific training applications. At annual training, the brigade and battalion commanders must translate valid doctrine into meaningful field training.

2. **Modernization.** The purpose of getting more modern equipment in the Guard is to improve our combat capability. We in the Kentucky Guard are receiving new equipment. In the near future, I will announce exciting and challenging new equipment headed our way.

We will not stop training to introduce new equipment into the system. We will use the training time required for the new equipment as an opportunity to further our overall war fighting training.

3. **Training.** We must link individual training to unit train-

ing. Individual, team and squad training are the building blocks for platoon, company and battalion exercises. Focus on Core METL tasks. Focus on critical tasks.

4. **Leadership.** The success or failure of our training program will be determined by the quality of our leadership. Equipment helps, training sites help, but in the final analysis our success is determined by the quality of our senior NCO's and commanders.

Leaders bear the responsibility of defending our country and caring for our soldiers and their families. We will continue the tradition of success in the Kentucky National Guard.

To continue that progress, the POTO is setting up a program for special training opportunities. These will be an assault school, jump school and mountain school. We will announce the slots available both through the chain of command and in *The Bluegrass Guard*.

These opportunities will be the best, most challenging training the Army school system has. When these slots are announced, go for it.



Memorial Day Message From the President

On Memorial Day Americans pause to pay solemn tribute to the countless members of the Armed Forces who have given up their lives in the service of their country.

It is fitting that this day should fall during springtime, the time of rebirth and renewal. Though our sorrow is deep at the loss of so many of our finest men and women, in remembering them we also celebrate the precious freedoms they preserved for others with their lifeblood. The flowers we lay at their resting places and the quickening of life around us remind us of the many joys made possible by their willing sacrifice.

Americans have never sought conflict, and the only foreign soil we claim is the grave in which our heroes sleep. But since our beginning as a Nation, we have always understood the high price freedom demands of us. Whether the challenge came on the greens of Lexington and Concord, at Belleau Wood or Omaha Beach, on the Pusan Perimeter or in the Mekong Delta, the answer of our fighting forces has always been clear and unequivocal. Here at home and around the world, rows of white

stone markers stand in silent testimony to our determination to defend liberty with our deeds and, if necessary, with our very lives.

The legacy of our fallen heroes is at once our birthright and our responsibility. And we look to you, the members of today's Armed Forces, to carry on their noble work. Your skill, dedication, and courage are the guarantees of our continued security. Those qualities defined the meaning of duty to your predecessors and their fellow Americans; they are a torch that will pass to each new generation as long as we remain determined to fulfill our duties as a free people.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your hardships and sacrifice in that great tradition. As your Commander-in-Chief, I salute you. God bless you.



Think Safety During AT



"Control your Fate in '88" is the safety slogan for AT '88. What does this mean? It means each leader and soldier must take on a personal responsibility for the safety of themselves and the safety of others around them.

Accident analysis has shown that 80 percent of the accidents were caused by human error; this error being the failure to follow correct procedures. Soldiers believe that safety requirements are suspended during training exercises to achieve tactical realism. This dangerous misconception must be eliminated. Safe and realistic training must go "hand-in-glove" to perform the overall mission of combat readiness.

Every soldier is the "eyes and ears" of accident prevention. Be alert and always aware of accident potentials and eliminate them. You can "control your fate."

Have a safe, accident free AT '88.

A Change at the CSM's Desk: Bailey Retires After 29 Years; Pendleton Appointed

By Mike Lynch

For someone who calls the National Guard his "hobby," CSM Robert Bailey has certainly put plenty of time into it — more than 29 years of service, a year's tour in Vietnam with the 2/138th, elevation to state sergeant major for Kentucky in 1981 and an active membership with the Enlisted Association, which he served as area director, vice president and president.

"I'm really not ready to go, but I haven't been given a choice," Bailey says. "I'm definitely going to miss it."

Bailey retired on April 27 as a result of medical disability brought on by a heart attack and five-bypass surgery last year.

"I don't want to sit at home," he adds. "I'd like to be active and go out and pursue a job. But I have to know my limitations healthwise."

Bailey, who retired in '81 from a full-time career with the Louisville Fire Department, has served under six adjutant generals during his time in the Guard. He was with the 198th Field Artillery in Louisville when he joined the Guard in 1957. It later became the 2/138th which was sent to Vietnam in 1968. He says the best part of his military career was his activation for duty in Vietnam. That duty, he says, proved to him the value of the Guard as a part of the Total Force.



Bailey

"Really not ready to go... I'm going to miss it."

"I am here to support them on the other way around. If they've got a problem they think I can help them with, my phone number is 564-8514."

He expects the messages to pile up while he's out on vision. "I guess I'm sort of a full-time state sergeant major with an M-day philosophy," he says.

Pendleton, too, has already retired from a long civilian career. He left the Kentucky State Police on March 31, following 24 years of service.

He plans to direct the troops of the Guard



Pendleton

"A full time CSM with an M-day philosophy"

part-time people. It's one thing to ask a person to be a dedicated Guardperson and give two weekends a month and two weeks a year. It's another to ask for three weekends, two weeks of annual training and other weeks for military schools."

Bailey quickly adds he realizes the reason for the extra demands: the integration of the Guard as an important part of the Total Force. But he also says the Guard must remember that the part-time Guard member also has a full-time civilian job and a full-time family to take care of.

In a separate interview, Pendleton appeared quite sensitive to those concerns.

"The adjutant general and I are well aware that we're talking about part-time soldiers. We don't want to over-burden them. So, if we're saying he has to go to school, then for his annual training, he'll go to school."

As for the man whose job Pendleton is taking over, he calls Bailey a personal friend.

"He is the kind of sergeant major you could disagree with and still get along with."

Bailey says he's seen plenty of improvements happen in the Guard during his nearly three decades of service, from pay to the quality of training.

In handing the reins over to Pendleton, Bailey had this farewell message to the enlisted troops throughout the Kentucky Guard:

"As a Guardperson, I always tried to do the best I could and expected those around me to do the best they could. The senior NCO's need to be firm but fair in dealing with the younger people. NCO's must always set the example in everything they do. The young troops pattern themselves after their NCO leader. If the NCO sets a good example — whether in uniform or out of it — the men will follow that example."

"With a little bit of training and total dedication . . . our Guard units can be just as effective or even more effective than our active counterpart."

"The 2/138th is well thought of by the active force (following its Vietnam service)," he says. "That proved to me that with a little bit of training and total dedication our Guard units can be just as effective or even more effective than our active counterpart."

Filling Bailey's shoes at the state sergeant major's desk is CSM Thomas ("Tommy") Pendleton, of Barron County. Pendleton's military service began with an active MP battalion at Fort Bragg in 1962. After service with the Inactive Reserve, he joined the Guard in '66, beginning with "A" Battery, 1/623rd in Tompkinsville. In '81, he joined the 138th Brigade in Lexington, where he rose to brigade sergeant major before becoming state CSM last month.

How does he see his role?
"To see that the enlisted troops that we are responsible for are cared for — which includes training — caring for their needs, whatever they may be, so include employer and their families."

To that end, Pendleton says he doesn't plan to keep the new shoes he's filling under his desk much. He plans to be visiting around the state to hear the concerns of the troops. He also insisted that they know his telephone number.

toward Adjutant General Davidson's long range vision.

"He's given us a direction, and it's a very good direction," Pendleton says. "Now it's up to us to be ready to assume it and go with it."

"I'd like to see the Kentucky Guard at 125 percent strength, and I'd like to see all our E-5's PLDC trained and 100 percent of our people pass the Army Physical Fitness Test each year — which I think we can do. That's more or less the long-range. I would like to see us cut our losses of people we are not retaining at least by 50 percent this year. I know that's a very aggressive goal, but that's what I would like to see."

Pendleton notes that the Guard in Kentucky lost 1,500 members who were not retained last year, though the recruits were able to stay just ahead of the losses.

Bailey believes Pendleton will do a good job as state CSM, though he says there are problems which Pendleton and every CSM in the country face.

One of them, he says, is the extra demands being placed particularly on some of the senior enlisted people.

"We have, in some cases," Bailey adds, "lost sight of the fact that our people are

Vietnam "Moving Wall" Memorial Will Return to Kentucky in August

The Vietnam Traveling War Memorial "Moving Wall" will be on display in Louisville, sponsored by the Kentucky Chapter of the Air National Guard NCO Academy Graduates Association.

A 1/2-scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, the Moving Wall will be set up in front of the Louisville Zoo August 4-10.

"The members of the NCOAGA thought this would be a nice community project," said SSG Elise Adams, local NCOAGA chapter president. "Vietnam veterans in Louisville and the surrounding area may not have a chance to go to Washington, so we wanted to bring the Moving Wall here."

John Devitt, inspired at the dedication of the National Memorial in November 1982, created the Moving Wall.

The 250-foot-long, six-foot-high model is made of 74 hinged, black Plexiglas panels mounted on wood frames. It weighs 7 1/2 tons and is moved from site to site in a flatbed truck.

Mr. Devitt, in an article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, said he built the wall because visiting the memorial in Washington made him feel better than he had at any time since he went to Vietnam

in 1967.

"I wanted other Vietnam vets and families to see it because it is a recognition of the fact that we all stood together in the most adverse times and stuck it out," he said in the article.

The idea for bringing the Moving Wall to Louisville was suggested by MSG Stephen J. Dupont, 122d Resource Management Squadron, who had seen it in Ohio.

"It's an opportunity to give recognition to the Vietnam veterans in the area, of which there are plenty, and to give recognition to the Kentucky Air National Guard," said SGT Adams.

Mr. Devitt, who has been traveling across the country with the Moving Wall since October, 1984, does not charge for bookings to display the wall. However, compensation for expenses is required and that averages up to \$5,000.

SGT Adams said that the NCOAGA needs all the assistance they can get from Guardmembers and from the local community — both time and money.

To donate money or offer assistance contact SGT Adams at 364-9603 or MSGT James Kezler, 564-9441.

Birds and Warriors

Infantry and Aviation Team



SP4 Terry Hall, Co. D, 1/149th INF (Middlesboro), listens intently at a planning session with members of his platoon before boarding a UH-60 for one of the four air insertions carried out during the FTX. (Photo by SGT Charles Spizzirri, 133rd PAD)



Soldiers of the 1/149th pause during UH-60's approach their pickup zone.

... at first the five small black specks over the distant mountains resembled a gaggle of birds ... as they grew larger in the southern sky, the thumping of rotorblades became predominant and it was indeed a gaggle of birds, but iron birds, carrying armed, camouflaged warriors inside them ... warriors anticipating the mission on the ground below ... attack, secure and control the enemy objective ... then, as the crackle of gunfire drifted upward, the gaggle began its descent into the hot LZ ...

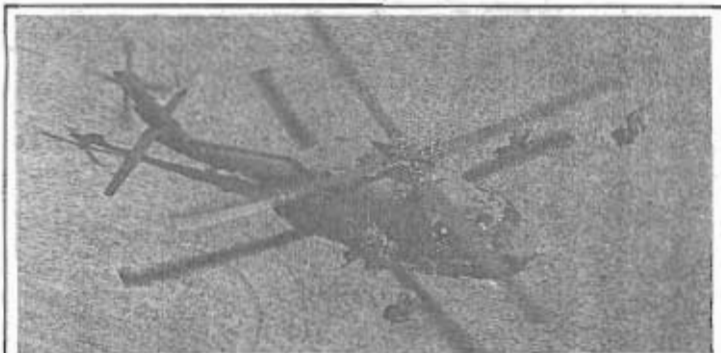
The "birds" -- UH-60 Blackhawks of Company E, 135th Aviation, and the "warriors" -- members of the 1/149th Infantry Battalion, were all part of a well coordinated, successful aerial insertion into a landing zone (LZ) in one of two "battle" lanes set up in the rugged terrain surrounding Barbourville, Kentucky.

The tactical training IDT (inactive duty training) exercise was carried out during the second weekend of April with more than 700 troops participating.

The success of the operation was due to the combined efforts of soldiers of the 1/149th from Barbourville, London, Harlan, Williamsburg, Middlesboro and Ravenna; Franklin-based pilots and crews of Co. E, 135th Aviation and its 44th MED DET (Helicopter Ambulance), along with support elements from Co. C, 206th Engineer Bn (Jackson) and a Cavalry Troop from the 100th Division, U.S. Army Reserve.

The exercise began early Saturday morning and continued throughout the day and night with a total of four air insertions, including one night insertion with a basic scenario of force-on-force or one company attacking, while another defended the objective.

The Reserve Cavalry troop, along with scout and mortar platoons, set up the defensive perimeter, with companies



Immediately on touchdown (top photo) in one of the FTX landing zones, air mobile troops of the 1/149th dismount their Blackhawk and within five seconds (bottom photo) are already in basic defensive position as the aircraft lifts off to pick up the second wave. (Photos by CW2 James D. Pope Jr., 133rd PAD)



Up for FTX in Mountains



air assault mission briefing as two
by SGT Charles Spizzaleri, 133rd

ding off as attackers or defenders, the Engineer company set up an armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (VLB) in one of the battle lanes, proving a tactical approach for the mechanized infantry armored personnel carriers operating in the area.

The rugged, mountainous terrain provided many natural obstacles to the maneuver elements. In particular, the landing zone (LZ) for aerial insertions is a narrow strip of land situated between a mountain on one side and a river on the other side.

"We're training for our wartime mission and things that we need to do to be able to accomplish the objective should be mobilized," stated CPT Donald Storm, Operations Officer for the 149th. CPT Storm added that after each "battle" a critique was conducted by battalion leaders to help the troops identify individual strengths and weaknesses, as well as the collective pluses and strong points of small unit activities under fire.

The primary mission of Co. E, 135th Aviation was to transport platoon-sized elements into the enemy's rear area where they could cut-off command, control and resupply efforts. "This is solem training!" said 1LT Brian K. Carlisle, Co. E Operations Officer. The terrain is good and we're flying isolated routes in the AO (area of operations). It's as realistic as we could make it."

The realism of the training was especially evident on the faces of the warriors as they again prepared to be fed-off and inserted into another of the battle lanes. . . a realism, best summed up by MAJ Larry L. Arnett, Battalion Commander of the 149th, as "the best coordinated training on IDT of any unit in the Kentucky Army National Guard!"

James D. Pope, Jr., 133rd PAD)



Seen from above, an APC carrying a defense-force reaction team moves rapidly through one of the FTX "battle" lanes to head off an advance by air-assault troops. (Photo by CW2 James D. Pope Jr., 133rd PAD)



Hidden in the trees, engineers from Co. C, 206th EN BN, set up an armored vehicle launched bridge (AVLB) across a steep gully to accommodate APC's traversing the "battle" area. (Photo by CW2 James D. Pope Jr., 133rd PAD)



Blackhawk crew chief SGT Jimmy Morgan, Co. E, 135th AVN, gives safety instructions for boarding and exiting his aircraft prior to the aerial insertion exercises near Barbourville. (Photo by James D. Pope Jr., 133rd PAD)



Bravo Battery 1/623rd from Campbellville sets up a Howitzer during a field training exercise at Fort Knox, Kentucky. (Photo by SSG Ron Bayes, 133rd PAD)



SGT Edward Wright, a member of B Company 1/623rd Field Artillery from Campbellville, aligns the sight of an artillery piece during a field training exercise at Fort Knox. (Photo by SSG Ron Bayes, 133rd PAD)



PVT 2 Lewis Hestand, Tompkinsville, a cannon crew member with A Battery, 1/623rd Field Artillery, sets sights on a crest for distance computation for an eight-inch self-propelled Howitzer during a recent firing exercise at Fort Knox. (Photo by SGT Rick Baker, 133rd PAD)

1/623rd Field Artillery "Fires Up" for April Field Training Exercise at Fort Knox

By SGT Robert W. Pillow
133rd PAD

FORT KNOX -- With a ground-shaking blast, another 200-pound projectile was propelled 7,000 meters downrange to an awaiting target-- a scene repeated continuously throughout the April drill weekend at Fort Knox as batteries of the 1/623rd Field Artillery trained at nine live-fire points.

The 1/623rd, winner of the 1987 Kerwin Trophy as the best battalion in the United States, with batteries based in Tompkinsville, Springfield, Monticello, Glasgow and Campbellville, conducts nine field training exercises a year at Fort Knox for live fire exercises with the eight-inch, self-propelled Howitzers, as well as crew-served and individual weapons.

During the April drill weekend, the units operated in a tactical field environment, according to LT James Newton, executive officer of Battery A, Tompkinsville.

For example, Battery A first sent a few of its cannoneers into its firing points to check the areas for chemical warfare contamination, said Newton, who was acting commander that weekend.

A recon team set up the aiming circles, laid commo wire and prepared to guide the self-propelled, eight-inch Howitzers into their firing positions.

Headquarters Company 1st Sergeant Joseph E. Fair echoed LT Newton's comments, adding that the variations in field training were paying off in terms of allowing the units to work on their weaknesses.

"This month is a real treat for us," said 1SG Fair. "Normally we have to fire and move, fire and move. That's so our position can't be pinpointed by the enemy. But this time we decided to remain stationary so we could work on some other problem areas."

1SG Fair concluded "our people are getting pretty tough . . . they don't mind the field much anymore and that's where they're spending more and more time."



PFC John Wilson, Tompkinsville, fire direction coordinator for A Battery, 1/623rd Field Artillery, stores data on gun locations and firing direction in a portable computer during a recent battalion firing exercise at Fort Knox. (Photo by SGT Rick Baker, 133rd PAD)

Our "Exchange Soldier" Is Back!

British Officer Lectures on Terrorism in Northern Ireland

Story/Photo by SP4 David Strange, 1/623rd FA

A low-affair with the hospitality of south-central Kentucky has brought British Army "Lefenant" Russell Redmond back to the Bluegrass state, and so far, his plans for a five-month vacation in the United States have also included the opportunity to give Kentucky high school students a better understanding of life in Northern Ireland.

An officer of the 302nd (ULSTER) Air Defense Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers) of the Queen's Army of Belfast, Northern Ireland, LT Redmond originally came to America in the spring of 1987 when he was attached to the 1/623 Field Artillery as part of the U.S. Army Soldier Exchange Program.

On this trip (see May '87 *Bluegrass Guard*) LT Redmond and SGT Malachi Cosgrove lived and trained at Fort Campbell with the 1/623rd Headquarters Battery air defense section on Redeye and Stinger ground-to-air missiles, and even took in the Kentucky Derby (which Redmond and Cosgrove call "the Darby").

This time, he is again staying with members of the 1/623rd on a sort of informal goodwill tour that has included speaking engagements in Political Science and World History classes in high schools throughout southern Kentucky.

According to SFC J.D. Hodges, National Guard Recruiter for the Glasgow area, a local high school teacher had asked if he (Hodges) could speak to a class about terrorism.

SFC Hodges, however, told the teacher he could do better than that. He offered the services and experiences of LT Redmond instead.

Apparently Redmond's natural speaking ability, coupled with his stories of life in Ireland and in the British Army have made him a much desired guest on the high school and civic club speaking circuit.

LT Rickie Hagan, Survey Officer for the 1/623rd BN HQ and LT Redmond's host on both visits says the British officer is quite the talk of rural Monroe County.

"All it took was for people to hear his ac-

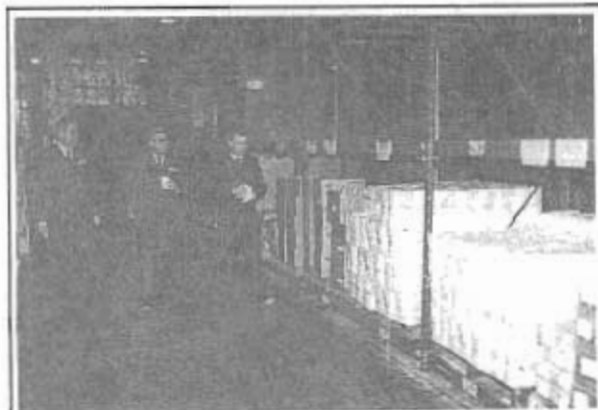


Lieutenant Russell Redmond, right, ponders a question from Glasgow High School political science teacher Bobby Cook during one of his class lectures on life in the British Army.

cent and he was a hit right away with the folks down here," said LT Hagan.

"We got him fixed up with a car and a place to stay and the next thing we knew

school teachers and clubs were calling wanting him to come talk to them . . . It's been great . . . and we're even taking him back to the "Darby" this year."



New Ration Point at LBAD Will Cut Drill Food Costs

The opening of a Troop Issue Subsistence Facility (TISA) April 29 at Lexington Bluegrass Army Depot will mean an annual savings of \$83,000 and the elimination of monthly trips to Fort Knox to draw rations for some 75 east Kentucky National Guard and Reserve units.

Managed by the U.S. Army Troop Support Agency (TSA), and operated by the Depot's commissary staff, the TISA will issue food items to units for use in dining facilities during weekend and annual training periods.

In the photo above, KyARNG Chief of Staff, COL Larry C. Barker (left) and COL Paul T. Ryan, Kentucky USP&FO, receive a tour of the new TISA from COL James Joy, Chairman of the Joint Innerservice Resource Study Group which developed the concept of placing a ration point at LBAD. (Photo by LT Phil Miller, 1/3rd PAD)

Take Command of Your Cholesterol

Ed. Note: This is another in a series of contributions from the Assistant State Surgeon about diet, health and the over-40 screening.

By LTC Paula Matonchi
Assistant State Surgeon

The over-40 screening program is designed to identify soldiers with an increased risk of early heart disease and stroke. One of the four major controllable risk factors that the program evaluates is your fasting blood cholesterol.

Cholesterol is a chemically specific form of fat. There is cholesterol in varying amounts, in beef, pork, egg yolks, butter, milk, fish and seafoods. There is no cholesterol in fruits or vegetables; however they can contain other fats.

The human body manufactures all the cholesterol it requires for proper cell function. When you eat more cholesterol than your body can utilize your body deposits the excess cholesterol in the arteries of the heart, the brain and the body. Progressive blockage of these arteries can lead to early heart attack and stroke. Each year 600,000 people die in the U.S. of heart disease.

A desirable cholesterol level is less than 200 mg/dl. If your cholesterol is 240 mg or greater you have at least twice the chance of heart attack as a person whose cholesterol is less than 200. If you also have other uncontrolled risk factors such as

poor control of elevated blood pressure, you smoke, you are a poorly controlled diabetic and you are obese your chances of heart attack or stroke are 10-15 times that of a person without risk factors.

You can be in command of your cholesterol with proper nutrition, in some special cases medication may also be needed. Your blood cholesterol will decrease by 10-20 percent if you exercise regularly, stop smoking, stay at a reasonable weight and decrease the amount of high cholesterol foods in your diet.

The typical American diet is 40 percent fat. The American Heart Association recommends your diet contain no more than 25-30 percent fat. Choose the foods you eat carefully. Sausage, bacon, processed meats, egg yolks, butter, ice cream, pork chops and most cuts of beef are high in cholesterol. Eat more broiled and baked fish and chicken. Don't fry foods. Add generous amounts of fruits, vegetables and sugar-free cereals to your diet. High fiber foods such as these help to block the absorption of cholesterol from the gut.

Ensure that your records are correct. Your cholesterol must be drawn after a 12 hour fast from all foods. DO NOT eat anything for 12 hours before your blood is drawn. If your cholesterol is elevated on your over-40 screening, make an appointment to consult with your doctor about the best and safest methods of reducing your cholesterol to a normal level.

BRIEFLY NOTED

MSG Bruner Becomes Family Assistance Coordinator

MSG Kenny Bruner, who has been full-time with Headquarters, 149th Armor Brigade, has been appointed family services coordinator for the Kentucky National Guard effective this month. Bruner, who has been full-time with the Guard since 1961, leaves the position of command administrative assistant with the 149th.

As family assistance coordinator, he will write the plan for caring for the needs of families of members of the Kentucky Guard in the event of a mobilization.

Inactive-Duty-for-Training Pay Subject to FICA Withholding

FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON, IN (ARNEWS) — Social Security or FICA will be withheld from reserve soldiers' Inactive Duty for Training pay starting with the July pay checks.

Because of the delay in the start of the new withholding tax, these soldiers will see a one-time debt statement on their July Leave and Earning Statements in Block 8. It will show the FICA withholding due for January through May 1985. They will also see a monthly FICA withholding in Block 23 of their LES.

The one-time debt will be collected from the reserve soldiers over the next five pay checks, July through November — in addition to the monthly FICA withholding they will pay for those months.

Home Loans Now Available to Kentucky Guardsmen through NGAKY Plan

The National Guard Association of Kentucky has adopted a plan to offer home loans to Kentucky National Guardsmen at a better rate than offered in most locales. Additionally, the potential home buyer can learn if he can qualify for a loan at no cost, a service for which some companies charge up to \$350.

The loans will be processed through the Statewide Mortgage Company, which has established offices in the NGAKY Complex in Frankfort. Statewide is a "servicer" company to Vitacore Life Insurance Company, the underwriter of the NGAKY Insurance Program for Guardsmen.

Available are FHA, VA, conventional loans and adjustable rate mortgages. Currently loans are being made only on owner-occupied homes. Future plans include loans on commercial, investment property and mobile homes. Ms. Melba Smith has been hired as Branch Manager for the Frankfort office. More information may be obtained by contacting the Association office at 800-234-2333.

Morehead Unit Donates Money to School

Morehead Grade School's book drive got a boost last month from Company E, 206th Engineers (Ribbon Bridge), located in the Rowan County city. The unit donated \$300 to the school's library for the purchase of learning materials. SGT James Stumper of Company E presented the check to Morehead Grade School Librarian Lana Day.



Conducting rear area operations in a chemical environment was the theme of a joint training exercise in April for the 105th Personnel Services Company and the 141st Chemical Company. In this photo, members of the 105th help each other set up in MOPP 4. (105th PSC photo)

Seelbach Bellman, 141st Chemical Squad Leader, is "Bellman of the Year"

Ed. Note: SSG Larry Johnson is a squad leader with Louisville's 141st Chemical Company. This story about him is copyright The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Company. It is reprinted with permission. It was published in the Courier-Journal on March 31.

By Robin Carr
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Larry Johnson has been tipped as little as a dime and as much as \$100 during his six years as a bellman at Louisville's Seelbach Hotel, but he insists that the amount isn't as important as whether the gratuity comes with a smile.

"If they give me a tip, that's fine, but if someone tips me, looks me in the eye and smiles, I know I've done a good job," said Johnson, who will be honored next month at the American Hotel and Motel Association's "Bellman of the Year."

Johnson, 44, a Shively resident who was born and raised in the Louisville area, got a job as doorman when the Seelbach reopened in 1982.

Now he supervises 10 bellmen, doormen and drivers as the hotel's bell captain, but he still takes his turn when the desk clerk bellies, "Front," and he hustles to earn his share of tips during a working day that often lasts 12 hours.

He also acts as concierge, leads tours, oversees repairs on the Seelbach's sometimes persnickety van, and has declared himself the hotel's unofficial historian.

Wearing the black, gold-piped uniform, spit-shined black shoes and the Seelbach's traditional pin-striped apron (a European custom), Johnson looks every bit the military man; in fact, he's logged 21 years of service in the Kentucky Army National Guard.

But he trims his graying hair a bit closer and gives his shoes a glossier shine than even National Guard inspections require.

"The neater-looking you are, the better tips you make, so I try to keep myself as neat as I can," he said.

That's the attitude that was Johnson the national guard, in the opinion of his boss, hotel manager Michael Carnovale.

"He typifies what good service is all about. He'll do anything for a guest. He never says 'No,' and I think that's what real service is all about," Carnovale said.

Johnson went beyond the call of every-day duty last fall, Carnovale said, when a fire alarm went off, locking the hotel's elevators on the main floor. Johnson — who was off duty — volunteered to join three other workers who raced up seven flights of stairs to log an elderly man in a wheelchair down to the street.

All in a day's work, said Johnson, adding that good work pays off in satisfaction and tips.

Johnson will smile and become rather impressive if you ask him how much a



Larry Johnson
"What real service is all about"

bellman can earn in tips to supplement a salary below minimum wage.

"You have to learn to live day to day versus getting paid every Friday," he said, calculating that a slow day, when many rooms are empty, can find bellmen standing quietly in the Seelbach's lobby, marble lobby, counting only a few dollars in tips.

On the other hand, he said, "The money's there to be made if you smile and have a good personality and be gracious with the guests."

His biggest tip came as reward for another kind of tip: A guest, assuming that a bellman at the Seelbach would know as much about the ponies as anyone, sought Johnson's advice on a race at Churchill Downs.

The guest put \$200 on the nag's nose, came back to the hotel with greenbacks fairly spilling from his pockets, and presented Johnson a crisp \$100 bill.

Most days aren't as lucky. Johnson estimated that a bellman earns \$2, on the average, for showing a guest to his room and telling him about the hotel.

Johnson, who has worked as a prison guard, automobile-assembly worker and horse painter, and played a bit part as a military-track driver in the movie "Stripes," said he has found his niche: "I enjoy that enough that I don't have any plans to change," he said.

Next month, Johnson will travel to Dallas to pick up a certificate, a set of luggage, a \$500 United States Savings bond and a round of applause at the hotel association's national convention.

Then he'll hurry back to the Seelbach just in time to get ready for Kentucky Derby festivities.

"It's the most fun time of year to be in the hotel," he said with an eager grin.

TACTICAL ERRORS

Due to a reporter's error, a story on page 12 of our April issue gave the incorrect rank of Kentucky native MG John B. Conway of the Air Guard. Our apologies to MG Conway and our colleagues in the Kentucky Air National Guard.