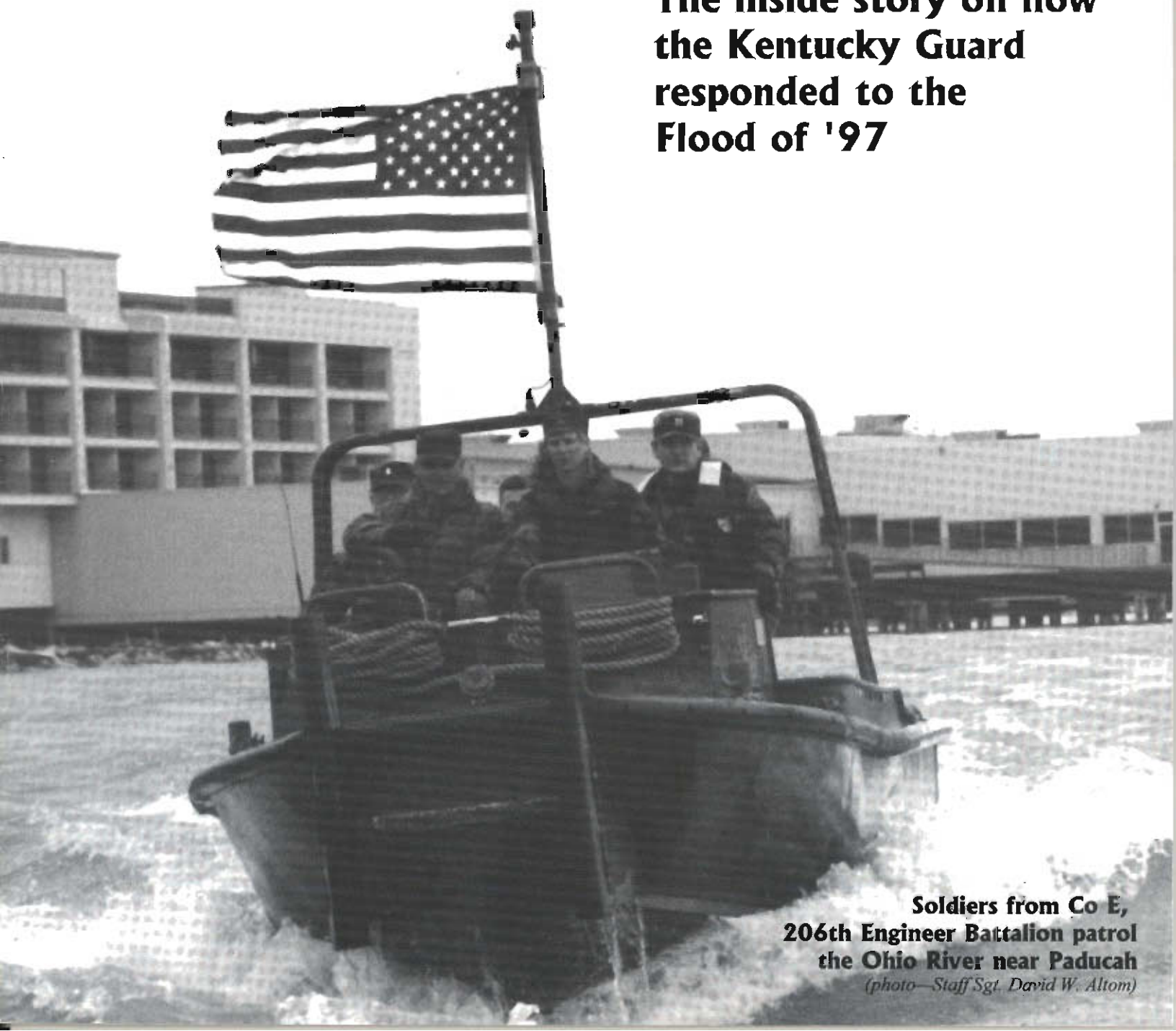

The Bluegrass Guard

Volume One, Issue Two *servicing the men and women of Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard*

Spring 1997

A State of Emergency

**The inside story on how
the Kentucky Guard
responded to the
Flood of '97**



**Soldiers from Co E,
206th Engineer Battalion patrol
the Ohio River near Paducah**
(photo—Staff Sgt. David W. Altom)

FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

by Paul E. Patton,
Governor of Kentucky

The Kentucky National Guard has always been for me the symbol of Kentucky's military tradition. Whether the mission was protecting our citizens here at home during natural disasters or bringing peace to some troubled land overseas, the men and women of the Kentucky Guard

have been on the forefront, serving with the same pioneer spirit that built our great Commonwealth.

That same dedication to service, that quiet heroism, was evident during this year's historic flood. As terrible was the devastation that

rained down on our fair state, you rose to the challenge magnificently. From the tragic destruction in Falmouth to the unceasing waters of the Ohio River Valley, the soldiers and airmen of the Kentucky Guard were a familiar sight, bringing aid and comfort to people who in many cases lost everything. I saw it for myself when I accompanied the Guard on several of their missions, and the nation witnessed it from the intense



news coverage that followed. This was, indeed, your shining hour.

In recent days I have traveled about the state, meeting with citizens and community leaders in discussions about the flood, and there has been one recurring theme: the outstanding performance of the Kentucky National Guard. The response has been overwhelming and the voices unanimous; Kentuckians across the

Commonwealth know what you have done, and they are extremely grateful.

I also want to express my gratitude to the families and employers of National Guard soldiers and airmen. Without your faithful support, there would be no citizen-soldiers to respond to the needs of the state.

Those long days and nights you spent keeping the home fires burning were a tremendous sacrifice, and the state owes you a tremendous debt.

Again, I thank you for your dedication, your sense of sacrifice, your skills. You have upheld the tradition of the Kentucky pioneer in a most exemplary manner. It is, indeed, my honor to be your commander-in-chief.

"M" device authorized for Armed Forces Reserve Medal

by Spc. Stephen Woolverton
STARC PAO

On Aug. 6, 1996 President Clinton Signed an Executive Order that authorized, for the first time in history, wearing of the "M" device on the Armed Forces Reserve Medal for soldiers and airmen who have performed qualifying active duty service since Aug. 1, 1990.

To qualify for the "M" device guardsmen must have performed active duty service in one of the following designated contingency operations: Operation Desert Storm (Persian Gulf War); Operation Restore Hope (Somalia); Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti); and, Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia).

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal now has two devices for meeting separate criteria. The Armed Forces Reserve Medal that Guardsmen are currently wearing in recognition of 10 years of honorable military service will now be worn with a bronze hourglass. Guardsmen who have been in one of the designated operations will also wear the medal but with an "M" device.

The "M" device has been created to recognize the Guardsmen and women for their special sacrifice in service to the Nation. The list of qualifying operations, all within the past seven years, makes it evident that the National Guard will no longer be used as the last resort for major conflicts as they used to be. They will be, and have been, counted upon for quick response to essential missions, be they wartime, peacetime, or domestic emergencies.

For further information regarding the qualifications and wear of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" or hourglass device, contact your unit administrator.

The Bluegrass Guard

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"Gunner ... sabot ... tank identified ... fire on the way!"

KABOOM!

To the untrained observer, the sounds from the firing line give an illusion of complete chaos and madness. Soldiers screaming at the top of their lungs, the air thick with the smell of gunpowder and the sounds of heavy tracked vehicles moving into position, all set the adrenal glands pumping into overdrive, alerting even the most complacent soul to the challenge of armored warfare.

But these soldiers aren't fighting on a battlefield in some faraway land. Instead, these are Kentucky Army National Guardsmen from Shelbyville's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor, putting their equipment — and themselves — to the test during their annual training at Ft. Knox, home of the U.S. Army's Armor Training Center.

"I like being on tanks, it's like a power rush. It's a tanker's high," said Spc. Christopher Franklin, a tank loader and driver for Charlie Company, 1/123rd. "I don't take or need drugs. I've got tanks. I wouldn't trade this for anything in the world."

Kentucky Guard armor units such as Charlie Company are required bi-annually to qualify their M-1 Abrams tank crews on a series of eight exercises designed to enhance team-fighting skills. These exercises — known as *tank tables* — are ranked from Table 1, which involves simulated-firing, up to Table 8, the live-fire exercise that provides a crew with the experience they'll need for actual combat.

"The pride and the competitiveness of everybody shows when they're on the firing line," said Command Sergeant Major William Stokes, who explained that the ultimate goal for this year's annual training was to have all of his crews qualify successfully on the tank tables.

"It's like anybody going to the range to qualify with a pistol or with a rifle. This is our pistol and our rifle. We go down and shoot the

big gun," added Sgt. Greg Holbert, a tank commander.

The M-1 tank is considered a weapons system consisting of a 105mm main gun, a .50 Caliber machine gun and two 7.62 mm machine guns. The 61-ton vehicle is manned by a tank commander, gunner, loader and driver teamed together to make the tank perform.

"As far as an integrated small unit weapons system, nothing compares to it," Holbert said. "It's just four guys living, shooting, and breathing on a tank."

Holbert explained that it may seem to be mass confusion to an outsider listening to the activity during the firing of a tank, but in reality it is an organized team effort.

"When everyone comes together and we perform our specific duties to standard or above standards, targets will fall. It's a good day for everybody."

According to 1st Lt. Matthew Grant, Charlie Company's executive officer, meeting standards is important. With an active duty tour behind him, Grant finds similarities in

TANKER'S HIGH

story and photos by: Cpt. William Nutter,
HQs, 1st Battalion, 75th Troop Command

Sgt. Matt Clevidence calls range control for instructions during Table 8 qualifications.



regular army and National Guard soldiers; the key difference is the focus on training.

"I've been surprised," he said. "You actually find the troops are the same. The big difference is the active Army spends a lot of time keeping up facilities, doing maintenance,



Spc. Christopher Franklin, Co. C, 1/123rd Armor, preps for live-fire exercise at Ft. Knox's Yano Range.

mowing the grass and work details. In the National Guard we come out here [to Ft. Knox] and train. That's all we do."

The commander of the 1/123d, Lt. Col. Norman Arflak, views the training as a unique opportunity that the civilian sector can't offer.

"You go out and play with two million dollars worth of equipment you don't have to buy yourself," he said. "It's a stark contrast with what anybody would do in civilian life and you get to operate and fire a M-1 Tank, which is the top of the line equipment in the army's inventory today."

Arflak stressed there are other jobs in his unit that are career-enhancing in the civilian job market.

"The military regimen and the requirements we have teach us to be better citizens on the outside. We offer the employers in the community a healthy soldier, a physically fit soldier and a drug free soldier."

Arflak added that the leadership skills learned in the Guard are an attribute that his battalion can offer to the civilian world.

Younger soldiers, like Spc. Franklin, appreciate the opportunities the Guard has to offer. According to Franklin, the educational benefits and the extra money are nice, but the real motivation for being in Charlie Company is the training.

"It's hot and sticky. You can be miserable in the most enjoyable thing in your life. As soon as you pop that first round the adrenaline is flowing."

It's the tanker's high.

Kentucky Guard Website

Up and Running!

Information, photos available
with a click of the mouse

by
Staff Sgt. David W. Altom,
STARC PAO

The Kentucky National Guard and the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs have taken a plunge into the information age by developing an internet website aimed at bringing stories, information and photographs about Kentucky Guard activities directly into homes around the world.

"Our goal is to get the story of the Kentucky Guard out to as many people as possible," said Maj. Phil Miller, who — as part of his duties as the full-time public affairs officer for the Kentucky Guard — provides content guidance for the web site. "The internet gives us unprecedented exposure, allowing us to communicate directly with guard members and their families, or anyone else who might be interested. We're not dependent on television or newspaper to get the word out; we can respond accurately and in a timely manner."

Besides photos and information about the mission of the National Guard,

the site contains a complete listing of the divisions within the Department of Military Affairs, as well as areas devoted specifically to the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard. There is even a map showing locations of all the Kentucky National Guard armories and a comprehensive telephone directory. The idea is to provide an in-depth view of the workings of the department to anyone who's interested.

Viewers can learn about the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial, download photographs of the Guard in action, or listen to a sound clip of the 202nd Army Band. They can also offer input or request more information about the Kentucky Guard.

"Right now we're averaging about 25 hits a day, so we expect that within a year we'll have been seen by 10,000 visitors," said Jason LeMay, architect and engineer of the website. "We've received inquiries from as far away as Singapore and we're constantly passing along recruiting leads from both within and outside the state."

As with any successful website, change is constant.

"We've been up since last October and already the site has been through some major revisions in content as well as layout and design," said LeMay. "As technology improves and different kinds of software become available, you'll see us improve as well."



How to get there from your computer

Accessible through either a government internet hookup or a commercial internet service provider (such as Compuserve, America Online, or Netcom), the Kentucky Guard website is best viewed with a Netscape-compatible browser. Once you've arrived, there are more than 150 pages of text, 148 images, audio clips and external links to other military agencies, enough to capture the interest of everyone from 20-year veterans to potential recruits.

The address (or "URL") for the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs website is <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/military/welcome.htm>. From there you can access information on both the Kentucky Army Guard or the Air Guard, along with Disaster Emergency Services and other state offices that come under the Adjutant General's Office.

A Flood of Support

More than 1,600 Air and Army Guardsmen and women respond to a Commonwealth in crisis

story by Staff Sgt. David Altom, with contributions by Capt. Ben Singleton, Spc. John Kibler and Pfc. Karen Roche

"We were trapped in freezing water up to our waists when I saw that big truck coming down the street with water splashing up to its headlights. I thought to myself, 'Hallelujah, buddy, we're saved!' They were a super sight for sore eyes."

Such was the scene in the flooded community of Cynthiana, Ky., when Ken Lear and nine other BellSouth employees were rescued by Kentucky Army National Guard troops. Lear and his co-workers — trapped while trying to save a multi-million dollar telephone switching system — credit the Kentucky Guardsmen with saving their lives.

"We were in pretty bad shape," Lear said. "Three of my people were nearly in shock and those Guard soldiers didn't hesitate in getting us out of there and to the aid station."

More than 1,600 Army and Air Guardsmen responded to similar crises when unusually heavy rains prompted severe flooding across the commonwealth of Kentucky. With the dubious honor of being the third worst of the twentieth century, the '97 flood has claimed at least 19 lives and either damaging or destroying more than 9,000 homes. Estimates are that at least 12,000 Kentuckians have been rendered permanently homeless. Like the waters that destroyed their homes, that number is expected to rise.

Volunteers from virtually every Kentucky Guard unit were immediately mobilized when the rains came. This included the 123rd Airlift Wing, which had its largest call-up in its 50-year history. While most soldiers and airmen reported to their armories and began mobilizing with



One of the most critical missions for Guard soldiers was the evacuation of stranded citizens, many of whom were taken completely by surprise by the quickly rising waters. (photo—Pfc. Karen Roche, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

heavy equipment many reported to the scene directly from their homes ... which in some cases were themselves threatened by the rising waters. Lives were at stake, and the time to respond was short.

"I lost count after we pulled the first hundred or so people off their rooftops," said Spc. Mark Hart. Hart, along with his brother, Spc. Marty Hart, worked frantically through the first twenty-four hours of the flood to save friends and neighbors trapped by the quickly rising waters. "They were everywhere, screaming for help. It took a while, but we got them all down."

And in some cases even the rescuers needed saving. In Frankfort, the state capital, where the rising Kentucky River swamped neighborhoods and homes, Army Guardsmen used a 2½-ton truck to tow a local water patrol to safety when waters became too rough for their small rescue craft.

Saving lives was only one of the missions of the Kentucky Guard during the emergency. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor boarded engineering boats and traveled to a threatened emergency transmitter site where they filled 15,000 sandbags in a single day.

The same troops later teamed up with members of 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery to fill sandbags to reinforce a levy protecting the isolated town of Smithland from the rising Ohio River. At the time of this writing it is predicted that the cresting of the Ohio would very likely exceed the height of the sandbagged wall.

But there is no time to think about that; what time is left is spent filling sandbags.

Meanwhile, in the central part of the state, receding waters brought to light new problems. In the community of Lebanon Junction UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Bravo Co., I/114th Aviation

cont. on page 8



photo—John Sommers III

Airmen on duty The Kentucky Air Guard found itself in the thick of the action during the flood of '97. Members of the 123 Civil Engineer Squadron (above) battle a blaze that consumed a flood-damaged house trailer. Capt. Chuck Mayfield, 123rd Security Police Squadron, worked with local authorities to protect both life and property.



photo—Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson

"We came here, not only to help people escape the flood, but to help them put their lives back together in the aftermath."

—Col. Jan Camplin, Falmouth Task Force Commander

photo—Staff Sgt. David W. Altom



When disaster strikes A Kentucky Army Guard UH-60 Blackhawk (right) sits only feet away from the floodwaters that shut down the entire community of Falmouth. Sgt. Daniel Jenkins (below) helps in the debris removal mission in Cynthiana. Residents had to dispose of most of their personal belongings due to sewage contamination.

photo—Staff Sgt. David W. Altom





photo—Maj. Phil Miller

Pulling together With the city of Louisville under siege by the rising Ohio River, troops from the 149th Armor Brigade (left) filled and transported sandbags to threatened areas. Meanwhile, the rapid flooding of neighborhoods in Frankfort called for teamwork from everyone; (below) soldiers from 75th Troop Command use a 2 ½-ton truck to pull a swamped water patrol boat from danger.



photo—Spc. John Kibler

Engineers at work

A soldier from the 206th Engineer Battalion directs traffic in the flood-stricken community of Cynthiana. Because of the scope of the damage throughout the Commonwealth, elements each of Kentucky's engineering units were called to respond. Along with the Army Guard's 206th and 201st Engineers, the Air Guard's 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron joined in the effort, a collaboration that proved highly successful.



photo—Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

RESCUE 911

Kentucky Guard Style

by Sgt. First Class Steve Collier,
133d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

"It was like watching something on T.V."

That's how Cynthiana, Kentucky resident Shelley Slade described some of the dramatic rescues during the first hours of what has come to be known as "The Flood of 1997". Slade was helping relatives move belongings out of homes that were flooding, she saw these rescues first hand.

"It's a good thing the National Guard was here...some of those folks might not have made it," she said.

Those dramatic rescues started Saturday night, March 1st, as the Licking River roared out of its banks and into

Cynthiana. As soon as the people living in the lower parts of town realized they were in peril, so did members of the Cynthiana based "Charlie" Company, 201st Engineers. Within a short while ten Charlie Company Guardsmen were on their way with five ton dump trucks, swimming through water up to the fenders — about four feet deep. Staff Sergeants Darryl Tolle and C.D. Moore were two who were driving in the dangerously deep waters.

"We'd drive the trucks up to the front porch, put a ladder on the hood and people would climb down onto the hood," Tolle explained. "We had to keep the rear end on the street so they didn't sink."

No one is sure how many people the Guardsmen from Charlie Company pulled from almost certain death that night, but through their efforts there were no deaths as the frigid Licking River swallowed Cynthiana.



Moore and I pulled up to one man's house and asked if he wanted to leave," Tolle said. "At first he said 'no', then he changed his mind... We jumped out of the truck landed neck deep in water and waded over to his porch and carried him over to the hood of our truck. He was real cold and wet. We just drove him to the fire department laying on the hood of our truck," Tolle said.

The fire department then transported this man to Cynthiana's hospital where he was treated for hypothermia.

Flood (cont. from page 5)

slingloaded a pair of badly needed pumps to remove water that had gotten trapped behind the levy.

Everywhere you go there are signs of destruction. Louisville, Owensboro and Paducah all suffered from serious flooding. The town of Falmouth was one of the hardest hit communities, with more than 500 homes either damaged or destroyed. Looking like a war zone with houses swept off their foundations and dried mud coating everything, conditions were impossible for residents to even consider returning anytime soon.

Soldiers from 201st and 206th Engineer Battalion brought their bulldozers, scoop loaders and trucks to Falmouth, ready to prove what engineers could do in combat against Mother Nature. There they joined the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Police Squadron and the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, along with other Army Guard soldiers.

"The damage to Falmouth is absolutely incredible," said Senior Airman Jeremy Meyer of the 123rd Security Police Squadron. "There was no hit and miss; almost everything was damaged. And knowing that there are people here who lost friends and family makes it especially tough."

National Guard scoop loaders shoveled what was left of buildings off the street and into the back of 5-ton dump trucks. Bulldozers plowed the thick gummy mud off the streets before it could dry into a layer of concrete that would have to be chipped away. And everywhere citizens and soldiers worked together to return some semblance of normalcy to this beleaguered town.

"We came here, not only to help people escape the flood, but to help them put their lives back together in the aftermath," said Col. Jan Camplin, the Falmouth task force commander. "We're here to lend these people a helping hand in their time of need."

And the help has greatly been appreciated. Gene Flaughter, who has lived in Falmouth all of his 66 years, said that the Kentucky National Guard has been invaluable.

"A lot of people were scared that looting would become a problem because we've seen so many strangers in town," Flaughter said. "The Guard being here has really given us a feeling

of security."

"And now everyone is rolling up their sleeves and pitching in to help us get rid of all this debris," Flaughter stated. "We couldn't do this by ourselves ... the National Guard is doing a tremendous job."



Assistant Fire Chief Marty Hart and his brother Spc. Mark Hart worked side-by-side to save lives and protect property in their hometown of Falmouth.
(photo—Staff Sgt. David W. Altom)

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Assistant Fire Chief Marty Hart and his brother Spc. Mark Hart worked side-by-side to save lives and protect property in their hometown of Falmouth.
(photo—Staff Sgt. David W. Altom)



photo and story by
Staff Sgt. Judy Woods, HHB, 138th FA

Sgt. Christopher Fitch, HHB, 138th Field Artillery, serves as spotter for students attending a Military Exposition held at the National Guard Armory in Lexington.

More than 1,000 students from 12 local schools attended the expo, which was aimed at providing information on career opportunities in the military. Exhibits included medical, aviation, armor and artillery equipment, as well a tactical operations center.

Portrait of a **SURVIVOR**

SUBJECT: CW3 RICK RUNKLE
CIVILIAN OCCUPATION ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN
JOB TITLE UH-60 PILOT/SURVIVAL TRAINING OFFICER
UNIT: COMPANY B, 1/114TH AVIATION
FAVORITE FOODS: GRASSHOPPERS, GRUBS, WHATEVER
IT TAKES TO GET BY

When you talk to Rick Runkle about being in the National Guard, you can tell right away that this is a guy who loves what he does. From his first annual training mission back in 1980 — which took him to Germany as a flight medic — to being commissioned as a helicopter pilot in 1984 and on through his last job as unit aviation safety officer, he's always been able find excitement in everything he's done.

And now, as the Kentucky Army Guard's Aviation Survival Training Officer, Runkle's excitement level has gone up another notch.

"I really love it," he said. "This is a job that lets me help people help themselves. And that's a good feeling."

Last fall Runkle completed the National Guard's first Aviation Survival Instructor Course held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a 5-day hands-on exercise that takes place on a 20-acre spread owned by the Bureau of Land Management. The accommodations, according to Runkle, were spartan, yet educational.

"We learned to build our own shelters and we fixed our own meals using whatever we could find," he said.

The highlight of the course was getting eat a grasshopper. Runkle said it's best when you pluck the legs and toast it with a match.

"It's not so bad ... if you're really hungry."

Runkle puts great value on his role in survival training, especially from an aviator's perspective.

"It doesn't do you any good if you do a perfect emergency procedure and you can't survive on the ground. We're all infantry soldiers without our helicopters."



Runkle's experience in survival training proves popular with young and old alike.

But survival training isn't just for the military, he says.

"There are so many easy situations that you can get into, like a car wreck or being stranded on the interstate or getting lost in the woods. Survival training is important to everyone. Your confidence level is just tremendous. You're not going to panic if you know what to do."

In addition to training Guard aviators and soldiers in survival techniques, Runkle has been sharing his knowledge and experience with groups like the Cub Scouts.

"It also gives me the chance to tell the Guard's story," he says.

With his most recent goal accomplished, Runkle is now setting new ones. When asked what his next move is, Runkle smiles.

"I'd like to attend a debrief of Scott O'Grady," he said. "That would be an experience."

Education Update

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

Okay, it's time to talk about your future. You want the good news first, or the bad news? Me, I always want the bad news, but today I think I'll start with the good news for a change.

The good news is that when it comes to going to school under the Kentucky Guard's Tuition Assistance Program ... well, there is no bad news. And that's good news ... for you.

With nearly 1,000 Guardsmen and women having attended either a university or a vocational or technical institution with tuition assistance, the program is a widely hailed success. In fact, so many Guard members wanted to go to school that funding was limited this to only those with less than a four-year degree.

But next year will be even better.

According to Maj. John Roth, Education Officer for the Kentucky Guard, funding assistance will be doubled in accordance with legislation, allowing everyone — yes, EVERYONE!!! — who applies to go to school.

"We'll be able to cover everything next year," Roth said. "It doesn't matter what level of education you're pursuing."

Translation: now's the time to get that master plumber certification or an MBA ... so what are you waiting for?

There's no better time to make that big move forward!

Roth's enthusiasm for the potential of the tuition assistance program is evident when you talk to him.

"We're doing some great things for our soldiers and airmen," he said. "In turn, we've had a very positive response. We've done everything we can to simplify the process, making reimbursements easy to acquire. Even late awards have been handled with little problem, and there have been no administrative fees.

"We've developed a strong relationship with both the higher education and vocational/technical education communities," he added. "Some great things are happening because of this."

For those of you who tuned in late, qualification for the program is fairly simple. All you have to do is be a member of the Kentucky Army or Air National Guard in good standing and have a desire to go to a state-affiliated university, college or vocational-technical institution. Academic requirements are set by the school you plan to attend.

For further information, see your unit administrator, or contact Maj. Roth at 502-564-8550, or write to him at KG-DOP-ED, Bldg 124, Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

Some of the best shooters in the world, including those from the Kentucky National Guard, camp to Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas during the 25th annual Winston P. Wilson (WPW) Championships and the sixth annual Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting (AFSAM).

The major focus of both events is battle focused combat "move and shoot" course of fire. The course have continued to evolve over the years to reflect more realistic training.

Spc. Michael Perkins, a member of Company B, 103rd Forward Support Battalion, fired in the light machinegun discipline, winning first place in Novice Class.

Kentucky Air Guard historian Tech. Sgt. John Martin has been competing since 1993. His quick to tell you the value he places on being a member of the team.

"To me it promotes safety, awareness of the weapons and it teaches you a lot of self-discipline. When you do that, it has a ripple effect and teaches you other things [which] make you a better NCO." Capt. Robert G. Chapman of HHC, 1/149th Infantry (Mech) based in Barbourville, was a first time competitor. An 11-year veteran

Spc. Jonathan Reynolds awaits his turn at the combat rifle range during last fall's Wilson Marksmanship Championship

of the military and an officer with the Louisville Division of Police, he has extensive experience in civilian and police shooting competition.

"This is a unique course, it's not a police course, it's designed with the same target type situations, but you have to remember to change your tactics a little bit because this is a military operation and not a police operation," he said.

Chapman sees the Kentucky Guard shooting program as a good investment.

"Any time that we can go and show that the Kentucky Guard, especially the infantry, can go out and win some trophies, it helps recruiting, it helps retention and gives us some bragging rights and improves the morale overall for the troops."

ON TARGET

Shooting team brings recognition, honor to Kentucky Guard

story by Master Sgt. Bernard DeLisle
Arkansas Air National Guard



photo—Tech Sgt. Cheryl Zorn

Guard recognized for role in saving lives

contribution by Jenny Miller, KODA

The Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA) honored Guard members for their role in facilitating life-saving organ donor transplantations during the 1996 winter storm emergency.

KODA received a call during a blizzard from an Ashland family giving consent for organ donation. The matching heart, liver, and kidneys were in Louisville, but extreme weather conditions made it impossible for most forms of transportation. Coming to the rescue was the Kentucky Guard.

"Through a coordination of efforts," said Bruce Lucas, a medical doctor and president of KODA, "a Blackhawk helicopter from the Army National Guard was pressed into service to fly a team of recovery surgeons to Ashland and



Air National Guard Lt. Col. Howard Hunt (left) and Army Guard Lt. Col. Scott Shannon (right) shared the spotlight with the Army Guard Blackhawk crew in center: Maj. René Goodman, Sgt. Brad Rice and Chief Warrant Officer Steve Knight.

return the organs to Louisville. Four lives were saved in the process."

For going beyond the call of duty to transport the team of recovery surgeons the Kentucky Guard received the Lloyd R. Workman Public Awareness Award.

Now it's time to get



IN GEAR!

with Sgt. First Class Steve Collier
133rd MPAD

It's a grunt's briefcase, the butt pack. It makes the LBE a complete ensemble for survival. You can wear it just to look like a seasoned trooper or you can pack properly and *become* a seasoned trooper.

You'll have two styles to choose from, nylon (the new issue) or canvas (the former issue). The nylon version is larger but has fewer hooks, straps and gizmos. The canvas classic is smaller but has eyelets on the flap that take the old LCE hooks. There are straps to tie things to the pack ... anyway, I prefer the older version because it is smaller but seems to carry more stuff.

Inside every well appointed buttpack is the key to survival: food and a wool sweater. Also, just in

case, is a small first-aid kit with enough moleskin to cover any blisters, a compress bandage or two, assorted adhesive bandages and antiseptic ointment ... among other medical stuff should be a bottle of aspirin, spare bottle of water purification tabs and the liquid insect repellent (good fire starter, too). All of this should be in heavy -duty ziploc bags.

While you're packing, throw in a couple of dark colored garbage bags ... these serve many purposes including the obvious (You should always pack out what you pack in!). They also provide great rain protection for yourself and your gear ... and then there are those situations in war or peacekeeping where they serve well in first aid roles.

Time's up on this issue. Next time we'll finish outfitting the ever-useful buttpack.

The Last Word

Rumor has it that the story of "Taps" is rooted in the Civil War, when a Union Army officer, Capt. Robert Ellicombe, risked his life under cover of night to bring a wounded soldier off the battlefield for medical attention. By the time he reached Union lines with the dying man, Ellicombe discovered that he had risked his safety to save a Confederate life.

But Ellicombe's surprise was overshadowed when a lantern was lit and he saw the dead boy's face. It was his own son! The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out and, without telling his father, he'd enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning the heart-broken father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a military burial, this despite his status as an enemy. His request was partially granted.

Ellicombe had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge during the ceremony, but the request was turned down. One musician was all that would be allowed.

The father chose a bugler, whom he asked to play a series of notes found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted. The music was the haunting melody known to all American service men and women as "Taps."

The Bluegrass Guard

KG-PA

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6168

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