



# The Bluegrass Guard

Volume Six, Issue Two

*serving the men and women of Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard*

Fall 2001

## A Change of Command

***Also inside:***  
223rd MPs return from Bosnia  
149th Brigade OPFOR Mission  
Marksmanship Team scores again!  
Coach Tubby Smith speaks to employers

# Kentucky National Guard, Virtual University providing internet education opportunities Guard network connects students with colleges

In keeping with Governor Paul E. Patton's commitment toward higher education, the Kentucky National Guard and Kentucky Virtual University (KYVU) joined forces to provide internet access to Kentucky residents across the state. A proposed joint endeavor will initially comprise three National Guard armories with access to KYVU, Department of Defense sponsored computer literacy and certification courses, and a whole host of other training and information being developed specifically for distribution via the worldwide web.

Kentucky Virtual University was created by the 1997 higher education reform initiative from the General Assembly as an alternative to the bricks-and-mortar classrooms that are so hard to reach for hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians. All the courses can be transferred to participating institutions, and degrees and certificates are earned from a student's "home" school where they first register.

The initial configuration of the joint venture consists of six dedicated workstations installed at three Guard armory sites selected for their lack of public internet connectivity and distance from a university network. The first three sites are **Marion, Tompkinsville and Jackson.**

"We are truly excited to be working with the National Guard to bring the resources of the Kentucky Virtual University to the people in these counties," explained Dr.



**Serving the community** Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Turner watches a student navigate the KYVU website during a demonstration. Three armories currently have workstations dedicated exclusively to assisting in collegiate studies.

Mary Beth Sussman, CEO of the virtual university.

Sussman added that the KYVU centers are open to everyone in the community, not just KYVU students. She said there are plans to expand into other armories in the future if the venture is successful.

According to Lt. Col. John Heltzel, Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management, "Our primary purpose is to take advantage of the National Guard facilities located across the Commonwealth to provide community-based internet access points for distance learning. Our vision is that this initiative will provide the capability to access training via the internet."

KYVU has provided the basic infrastructure costs consisting of funding for one video projector, three laser printers and six workstations and chairs. Total investment by KYVU is \$23,900. Expansion of the project would enable the Commonwealth to provide educational opportunities across the state with very little cost using existing community-based facilities and existing communications services.

For more information on Kentucky Virtual University visit the website at <http://www.kyvuu.org> or call toll-free at 1-877-740-4357.

**cover photo: Governor Paul E. Patton presents the command of the Kentucky Guard to Brig. Gen. D. Allen Youngman**

## The Bluegrass Guard

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# The changing of the guard

## Governor Patton presents command during historic ceremony

photos and story by  
Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

For the first time in anybody's memory, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky participated in the change of command of the Kentucky National Guard. In an historic ceremony Paul E. Patton received the adjutant general's flag from retiring Maj. Gen. John R. Groves, Jr. and presented it to Brig. Gen. D. Allen Youngman. Youngman is Kentucky's fifty-first adjutant general.

"Brig. Gen. Youngman brings with him the experience and wisdom of a warrior and scholar," said Gov. Patton in a speech following the change of command ceremony. "His wartime service is surpassed only by his service during peacetime, working to ensure the success of the National Guard concept and the defense of our nation."

Governor Patton also recognized Maj. Gen. Groves for his service, citing a list of accomplishments that included the success of the Kentucky National Guard Tuition Assistance Program, Kentucky's participation in the National Guard's State Partnership Program in South America, and overseeing the recovery effort following the Flood of '97, the Snow of '98, and other crises.

"Maj. Gen. Groves has served my administration effi-

ciently, wisely, and in such a manner that I always had confidence that, no matter mission, no matter the circumstances, the job would get done."

In his remarks Brig. Gen. Youngman praised the leadership and the troops of the Kentucky Guard, both past and present. He also spoke of the influence his family's military heritage has had on his career.

"What I learned from my parents is that this country is worth fighting and if need be, dying for. They never complained about the

sacrifices along the way. They just went on with their lives doing what was expected of them and what they thought was right."

A veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, Brig. Gen. Youngman has served in the Army for more than thirty years in all three components: the active, the reserve and the National Guard. He is a native of Owensboro and a graduate of the US Army's War College and the University of Kentucky, where he obtained his *Juris Doctor*; and he has served in the Office of the Assistants to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for National Guard and Reserve Matters and as the Special Assistant to the Commanding General, United States Army Armor Center, Fort Knox.



Spc. Bradley Youngman, 20th Special Forces Group, pins a general officer silver star on his father's beret following Brig. Gen. Youngman's promotion. Looking on are the adjutant general's wife, Alisa, and his father, Maj. (ret.) Dean Youngman.



Maj. Gen. Groves, seen here with his wife, Barbara, plans on returning to the University of Kentucky where he is assistant dean for the College of Architecture.

# Aviation Day 2001

*Even Mother Nature can't keep it down!*

*Photos by Spc Brett Travor,  
133rd MPAD*

Despite the overcast skies and the threat of thunderstorms, Aviation Day 2001 attracted an enthusiastic crowd for its fourth year in a row.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Guard, Frankfort's Capital City Airport and the Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist and Convention Commission, Aviation Day is designed to give the general public a hands on exposure to a wide range of aviation equipment and career opportunities. This year's event attracted more than 5,000 visitors

Participants in Aviation Day 2001

included the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing; the Army Guard's 63rd Aviation Group; Co. B, 1-114th Aviation; Co. F, 135th Aviation; the Kentucky Chapter of the Civil Air Patrol and several other aviation enthusiast groups and individuals.

The big attraction this year was the arrival of the 123rd's C-130 Hercules and rappelling and water bucket demonstrations using UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

Food was provided by the 63rd Aviation Group Family Support Group and the Military Order of World Wars.

Aviation Day is held annually at on the second weekend in August.



**Aviation Day 2001 gave the general public the chance to get hands on experience with modern military equipment such the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter (above)**

**The arrival of the 123rd Airlift Wing's C-130H Hercules transport never fails to get the crowd's attention (left)**



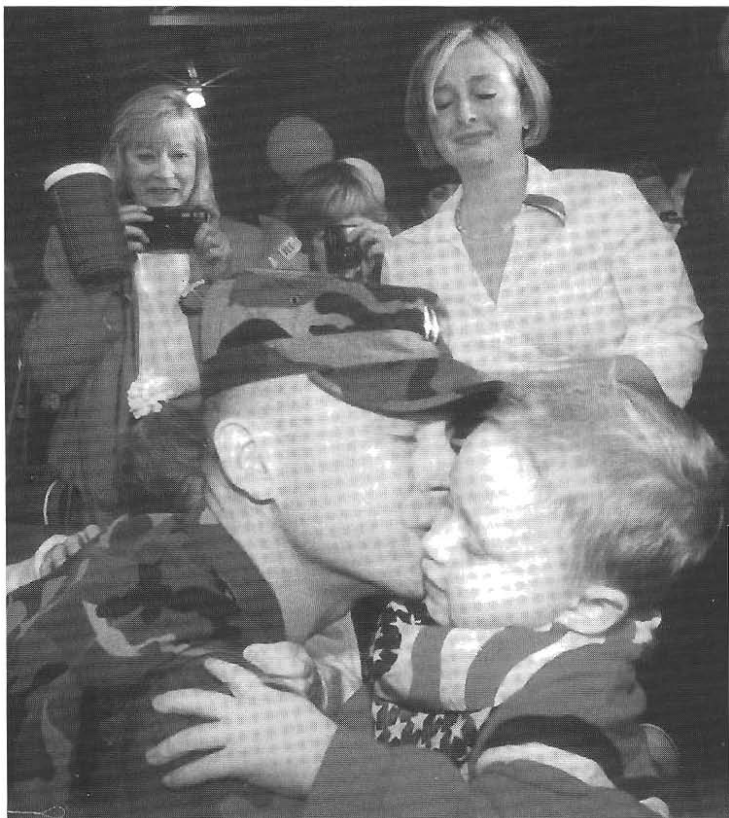
# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



**223rd MP Company home from Bosnia!**

It was an emotional crowd that greeted the 223rd Military Police Company upon its return home from a deployment supporting the peace-keeping mission in Bosnia. In the wake of the terrorist attack in New York and Washington, DC, families were especially glad to see their loved ones, who were gone for more than seven and a half months.

"We're just glad he's home," said Anna Hill of her husband, 1st Lt. Charles Hill. Their daughter, Joanna, sported her father's BDU



cap. "She's nine months old and he's been gone seven and a half, so we have some catching up to do."

Shelita Jones just as glad to see her father, Spc. Joseph Jones. "I'm just happy, happy, happy!" she said with a smile. Her sister, Telana, nodded in agreement.

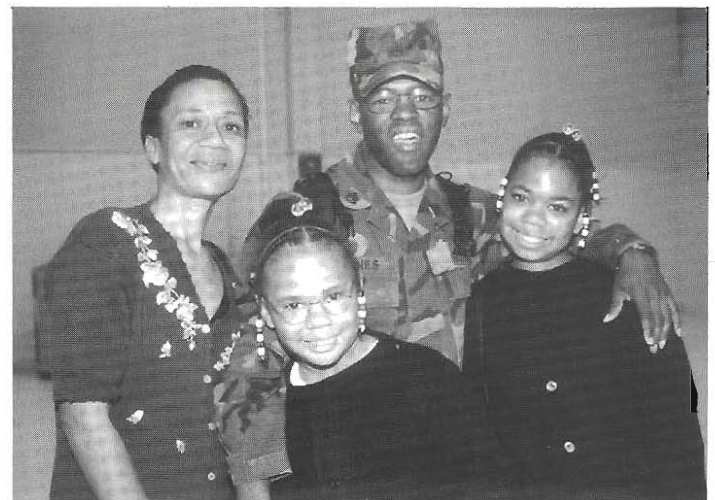
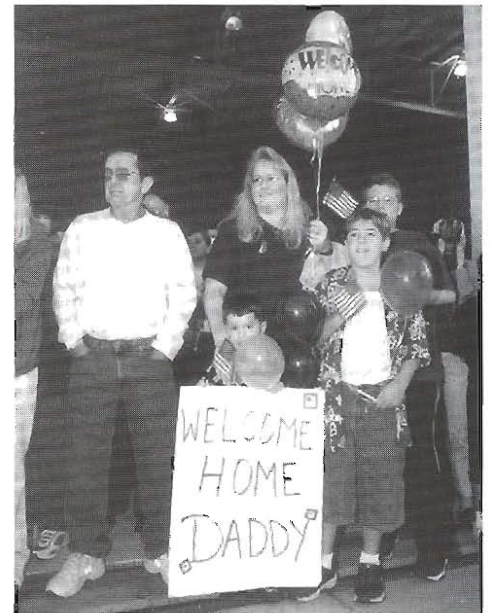
A somber note tempered the occasion as the recent national tragedy was on everybody's mind.

"We were flying over New York City twelve hours before it happened," said Staff Sgt. Richard Winder. "We saw the twin towers. Here we leave all the death and destruction [in Bosnia] and now we come home to this. It's a crazy world."

"As you all know, this has not been a great week for America," Brig. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, Adjutant General for Kentucky, told the returning troops. "But your coming home safe and sound has made it a little bit better."

Acting in his role as commander-in-chief for the Kentucky Guard, Governor Paul E. Patton greeted soldiers and thanked the families and employers who supported them while they were away. He said that the attacks on the nation shows that "Freedom is not free ... and we must have our soldiers to protect our interests"

Capt. Adrian Wheeler (left) gives his son Christian a warm greeting while his wife Heather looks on. Spc. Joseph Jones (below) was happy to see his wife, Tamra, and his two daughters, Shelita and Telana. The sign of the times (right).



# *Blackhawk Gunnery*



One of the most popular, and equally challenging, tasks of a UH-60 helicopter crew is aerial gunnery. Here the troops of Co. B, 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation try their hand at this essential mission skill. **Sgt. 1st Class Mark Newby (right) helps Spc. Ryan Thompson prepare for his M-60.** **Sgt. Cleveland Joyner and Staff Sgt. Joe Devers (below right) after a long day of training.** As if it wasn't challenging enough, try hitting a moving target while in full protective gear! (below)



# SHELLEY'S HEROES

*A special insert featuring the soldiers the 149th Armor Brigade*

## 149th Brigade attacks 278th ACR

**By Sgt. Brett C. Traver**  
133<sup>rd</sup> MPAD

About 1,300 Kentucky Army National Guard soldiers traveled to Fort Stewart, Ga. to act as the opposing force (OPFOR) for the Tennessee National Guard's 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment. The job of OPFOR is to give the 278<sup>th</sup> the toughest opponent possible to get them ready for the grueling test of the National Training Center in the California desert next year.

Lt. Col. Don Stevenson has served as an observer/controller for these two units through five ATs and has seen improvements in both units.

"By improving the 278<sup>th</sup>, the Kentucky National Guard units get valuable training," he said. "During the first exercise the 149<sup>th</sup> Armor Brigade's defensive



**Soldiers from the 149th Armor Brigade bore sight their MILES gear before going into battle against the 278th ACR.**

fighting positions were very good."

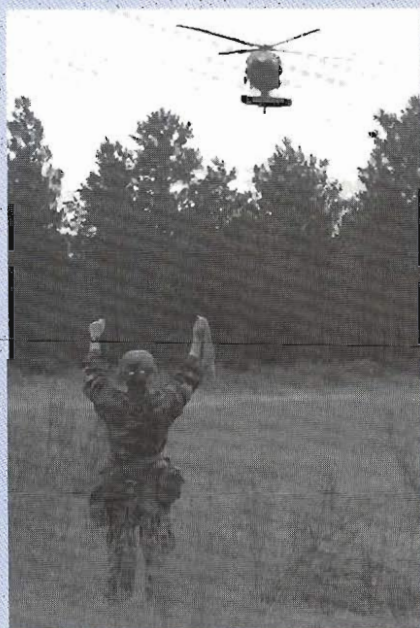
The type of teamwork needed to make an exercise like this successful is most evident in the Brigade TAC, where Capt. Michael Abel works as a Battle

Captain.

"This is the first time we've worked as a combined Task Force, which means we've integrated infantry, armor and engineers and support

*See Teamwork, page 8*

## Medics learn more than basics during 'Super Medic' lane training



**A Charlie Company soldier guides in a medevac helicopter.**

**By Sgt. Brett C. Traver**  
133<sup>rd</sup> MPAD

Medical soldiers of Charlie Company, 103<sup>rd</sup> Forward Support Battalion conducted lane training on a five station, 16 kilometer course here at Fort Stewart, Ga.

The course tests more than the soldier's medical skills. It tests soldier skills from land navigation and planning, to mine sweeping and air evacuation procedures. Training like this allows the soldiers to identify weak areas which the soldiers can work on during future drills, according to Capt. Brady Reed, Charlie Company

commander.

"If six months before this I told them to do some mine sweeping training, they would have thought, what are we doing this for," Reed said. "But now when we get back they'll see why we do this training. If you are exposed to training you've never done before, then you learn what you can't do."

Being a combat medic is more than just being able to dress a wound. Medical soldiers have to be able to perform a host of duties, and it can be one of the toughest jobs in the Army, according to Reed.

*See MEDICS, page 10*



***Spc. Michael Woodall, Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mech), test fires the M60 machine gun on his M113 Armored Personnel Carrier***

## **AT: Teamwork equals success**

*From page seven*

personnel," he said. "Getting all these pieces to work together has been the greatest challenge. We knew we were going to be doing this for two years and all the rehearsal has paid off."

The Scouts of the 249<sup>th</sup> have been acting as the eyes and ears of the Task Force, providing them the best possible first-hand knowledge about the enemy.

"We've been doing the true scout mission," Scout Sgt. Christopher Jackson said. "We go out find the enemy, report to higher headquarters and call in fire if it is available."

The battlefield is not the only place where Kentucky Guard soldiers are gaining valuable training.

"When we are not on the battlefield, the training continues," Sgt. Mike Edwards, Charlie Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 123<sup>rd</sup> Armor Battalion, said. "From occupying a battle position, to land navigation and tactical road marches, there is a lot of training you can do while out here."

Learning more about communications systems has been the most valuable training for Spc. Robert Deatley, also of Charlie Company, 2-123<sup>rd</sup>.

"Getting the new SINCGARS systems working right has been hard, getting the frequency set and everything," he said. "But, we've had two people in the unit who have received SINCGARS training, and they've been teaching the rest of us about the radios."

By putting all the logistical support and war-fighting assets together, the Kentucky National Guard ensured the

278<sup>th</sup> ACR has experienced the most effective OPFOR they will see before going to the National Training Center, according to Col. Melvin Shelley, 149<sup>th</sup> Commander.

"I want to make sure all the supporting units know that without them the infantry wouldn't have been able to do the excellent job they have done," he added.



***Sgt. Mike Edwards, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, makes adjustments to the MILES gear on his Abrams Main Battle Tank***





Pvt. Howard Fint (left) and Sgt. First Class Tony Robertson Fint lift a fan into place for an M88.



Medical soldiers of the 103rd Forward Support Battalion take a "casualty" to a landing zone for air evacuation during lane training



M113 armored personnel carriers turn toward a staging area before heading into battle against the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment



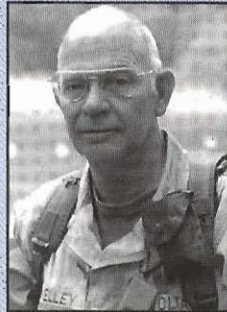
Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mech) show off their opposition forces uniforms

# Leadership wins day, AT for 149th

Congratulations for an excellent Annual Training at Fort Stewart, Georgia! The 149th Brigade continues to prove that we are the elite, fighting soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard. This makes us the best Brigade in the Guard.

I am proud of every soldier that is a member of this brigade and attribute our success to our superb attitude. Attitude and our sincere desire to win the battle and the discipline instilled by the Junior NCO's are the reasons for the following accomplishments:

- Our battalion successfully maneuvered a Task Force.
- We stood strong against a three-to-one ratio.
- We only suffered one heat casualty, who was returned to duty within hours. Let me add this happened because this soldier wanted to dig a fighting position to surprise attack the enemy.
- Safety stayed in the forefront of everyone's mind, and as a result, there were few accidents.
- Our soldiers displayed excellent collective skills as a



squad, platoons and companies.

- Our support personnel, maintenance, cooks, medics and supply did not let the operation tempo defeat them. They were an integrated part of our success.

- Leadership was not compromised, because we wanted to win!

Yes, leadership throughout the ranks, all the way down to private has encouraged me concerning our brigades's future. Every soldier I met and spoke with always had a smile on their face and a positive attitude about the mission. I truly saw the Esprit de Corps; taking care of soldiers was our number one priority.

Every soldier that participated in this AT has shown me why we have a proud tradition and a great command. I thank each one of you for your time and the sacrifice you make by being away from your families. It is a privilege and a great honor to serve with every soldier in this brigade.

**Col. Melvin Shelley**  
**Commander, 149th AR Bde**

## MEDICS: Learn values of being complete soldier

*Cont. from page 7*

"Second only to the infantry soldier, the combat medic works harder than any other soldier on the battlefield, and they are learning the value of being physically

fit during this training," he added.

"This is tough training physically. I've learned a lot from this training," Sgt. Shane Campbell, Charlie Company squad

leader, said. "I've learned the meaning of good planning and pre-combat checks, map reading and land navigation, the duties of a chaplain, triage and doing good PMCS on your vehicles."

"The tactical vehicle is our main means of delivering healthcare, and without them, we can't perform," Reed said.

By being technically and tactically proficient and physically fit the medical soldier has the opportunity to do great things, he added. "A medic is a real hero."



*Charlie Company soldiers wait to take a "casualty" to a UH-60 Blackhawk during air evacuation training.*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Forms can now be accessed via Internet

Beginning this year, the U.S. Army Publishing Agency made available a software program on their web site that can be downloaded by active- and reserve-component soldiers and Army civilians. The program can be accessed from home or at work. The software is a major improvement in the economy and efficiency of managing Army forms, said Army officials.

Program users are able to enter and save data, print out a filled in form, and create databases — which will support generating reports. Another benefit of the site license is that the Army will not have to manage and design a number of forms. Maybe the most important benefit to the Army is that, for the first time, the site license allows users to use digital signature, allowing forms to be approved electronically, which will help streamline the administrative process.

Users can access these forms online at USAPA's web site, [www.usapa.army.mil](http://www.usapa.army.mil).

### Thrift Savings Plan open to Guard members

Service members starting Oct. 9 can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program (TSP) as part of building a nest egg for retirement. Previously available only to federal civilian employees, the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January 2002.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site, <http://www.tsp.gov>, or can be obtained at local military finance offices. Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds;

Military members who already have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an

# Getting to the *Root* of the Problem

by Sgt. Karen J. Roché, STARC PAO

The state of Kentucky spends hundreds of dollars each year on herbicides and pesticides for use on National Guard properties. The cost of using herbicides include purchase, storage, labor and contracting expenses required to spray the chemicals. Manufactured chemicals are not only pricey, but there's also the risk of contaminating drinking water and the ensuing hazards to human and animal life.

"Ricky French, an environmental technician with the Department of Military Affairs has come up with an inexpensive solution to the persistent problem of weed killing. French designed a mobile steam "Jenny" that heats water past the boiling point as it cycles from a tank to a wand. The boiling water is dispersed from the wand like a water hose or a high pressure washer. The hot water breaks up the wax coating on the leaves and stems and basically cooks the plant and its roots. In two or three days the vegetation is dead. Since the whole plant is killed there is no chance of the plant growing back unless more seeds are carried to the location by animals or the wind. Plants having a stronger root system may take more special treatment than others.

French and fellow employee Steve White rented a commercial steam machine and tested the theory of killing weeds with hot water on part of a gravel parking compound in early spring. They were pleased to see that even almost nine months later the weeds have not grown back.

French is optimistic that applications will only have to be made once a year, unlike the commercial herbicides that have to be used once a month. Further testing



**Steam those weeds away!** Thanks to some innovative thinking, steaming weeds may become as cost-effective as it is environmentally effective

will have to be performed to determine how long the benefits will last.

After the successful test, three of these steamers have been constructed and are currently in place around the state. Training and testing will be conducted throughout the fall and winter and ready for statewide implementation by spring. Spring is the ideal season for steaming the plants as the steam stops all germination and splits seeds in half, preventing future growth.

"I have a brick patio at home," said Faith Fiene, Environmental Manager for Military Affairs. "I've been pouring boiling water on my brick patio for years to kill weeds. Hot water is more effective on moss than any herbicide I've tried."

The limits for the use of the steam machine are unknown at this time. The National Guard is hoping that the same technology may be used for schools and day cares where young children may be exposed to herbicide chemicals daily. In addition, they hope that farmers may also benefit from the new technology. Studies are underway by the Guard in other states to test the effectiveness of the technology on fire ants and other pests.

entirely separate, second TSP account.

The 47-page booklet <http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/forms/tspbku-08.pdf> "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" and other information on military participation in TSP can be found on the Web at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

# Kentucky National Guard Marksmanship Team excels at Bluegrass State Games

Story and Photos by  
Sgt. Karen Roché, STARC PAO



**Spc. William Davis** (left) of the 141st Personnel Services Detachment and **Sgt. Mitchell Philpot** of C Co. 1-149th IN represented the Kentucky Guard during the rifle competitions of the Bluegrass State Games.

Teamwork proved a successful asset at the Bluegrass Summer Games in Wilmore, Kentucky the weekend of the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth of July. Members of the Kentucky National Guard Marksmanship

Team walked away from the tournament with a total of twenty medals. Fourteen guardsmen competed in several different matches and fired many different types of weapons such as pistols, sporting rifles, service rifles and air rifles, among others. The team won a total of ten gold medals, eight silver medals and two bronze.

Team members worked side by side that weekend, some firing the weapons while others helped coach. Many guardsmen shared weapons throughout the weekend, and in some cases competed in the same match at the same time

*continued on page 13*



**Spc. William Davis** (left) of the 141st Personnel Services Detachment helped coach fellow team members while he waited for his turns to fire.

**Tech Sgt. Darryl Loafman** (below left) of the 123rd Air National Guard cleans his pistol in between matches.

**Sgt. Mitchell Philpot** of Co. C, 1-149th Infantry (below) adjusts his rifle before taking another shot.



# All I need to know I learned in *Basic Training*

by Sgt. Karen J. Roché, STARC PAO

Road signs, landmarks and global positioning systems help us to get us around in every day life, but are you prepared to navigate yourself through unfamiliar territory? While you were introduced to and tested on navigation skills in basic training, it is a skill that all soldiers need to practice and retain throughout their careers. Here are some important steps to take prior to venturing off to parts unknown.

One of the important steps is to learn your pace count. Test your pace count on both flat, straight surfaces and uneven surfaces. When you're walking over rocks and fallen trees or over hills your steps will not take you as far. When you know your average pace count use rocks or some other small object to track your distance. Gather a handful of rocks and place them in your right pocket. Every time you've walked 100 meters place a rock in the left pocket. If you must travel 300 meter then you'll know the distance you've traveled when three rocks are in your left pocket.

All members of the team need to

be aware of their location on a map before setting off in search of the first checkpoint. Make sure everyone can identify your location through terrain identification and grid coordinates. Look around for easy to identify terrain features such as a body of water or a valley. Be careful: since not all waterways and small ponds are on the maps. Later, if you feel disoriented stop,

disturbances that may cause an unreliable reading. If you are in a vehicle stop, get out and walk a few feet away before shooting an azimuth. It is also helpful to keep a compass warm to speed up taking your bearings.

When I saw the movie "The Blair Witch Project" I thought, "What idiots, they had all the tools they needed to survive and failed because of poor planning." When you're going out in a group remember that your success is dependent on the strength of your plan. Make sure all team members know the challenge, the objective and the steps it will take to reach the goal. Plan your exercise and exercise your plan!

If you'd like to refresh your skills there are several websites that offer tips and tests. <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/9283/page24.html> and <http://www.military-net.com/education/mpdland.html> both offer quick tests. You may also reference FM 21-26 for map reading and FM 21-31 to study topographic symbols.

*We better not be lost!*



look around for another terrain feature, determine what grid you feel you are in based on your pace count and then try to find that same terrain feature on the map.

A protractor can tell you the exact degree heading that you need to travel. Use your compass to shoot an azimuth. To find an azimuth using a compass you may use the centerhold method or the compass to cheek method. Both methods are reliable and fairly simple. Be aware of any magnetic

## Marksmanship

with the same rifle. Ironically, these top-notch shooters still came out on top.

(Below left) Master Sgt. Dennis Stockton helped competitors with weapon malfunctions and coached them throughout the competitions.



The marksmanship team consists of members from both the Army and Air National Guard. The team conducts additional training every year to practice marksmanship skills. Every March and April the Kentucky Guard hosts its Combat State Championships in Ft. Knox. During this time any guardsmen is welcome to come out and compete in pistol, rifle, sniper and machinegun championships. In the fall, the team competes at the Winston P. Wilson National Championships in Camp J. Robinson, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Competing in the various tournaments and training with the marksmanship team helps build and reinforce soldier's marksmanship skills. Maj. Ronnie S. Hall, the State Marksmanship Coordinator encourages all members the guard to come and participate with the team.

"Marksmanship is a perishable skill and must be practiced by every soldier to remain proficient," he said.

Anyone interested in joining the marksmanship team or competing in the state championships can contact Maj. Hall at (502)231-3884 or Master Sgt. Dennis Stockton, the Assistant State Marksmanship Coordinator at (502) 227-4433.

# “Valor” shines light on historical record

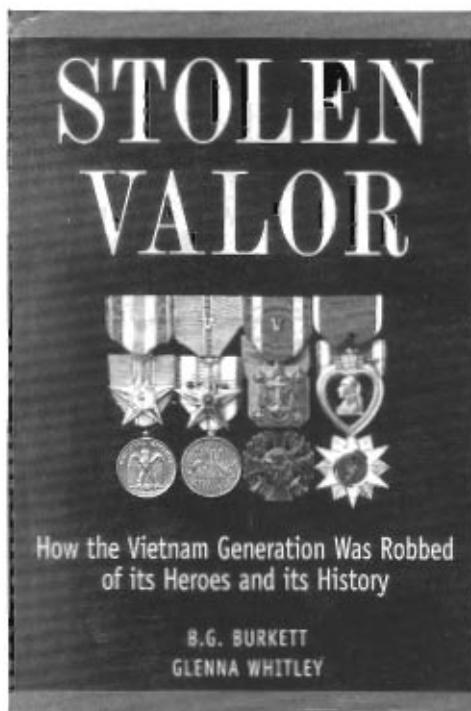
*Stolen Valor: How the Vietnam Generation was Robbed of its Heroes and its History*, by B.G. Burkett and Glenna Whitley. Verity Press, 1998, \$39.95.

Review by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO.

*Stolen Valor* is more than just another military history book. It is, at the risk of sounding melodramatic, many things: an exposé, a mystery story, a historical record, and an admonishment to those of us who take things at face value. Eye-opening and at times shocking, it is arguably one of the most important books ever written about a truly painful period in our nation's history, the Vietnam War.

*Valor* is one of those rare works that was created out of need. A prominent businessman who just happened to serve in Vietnam during the late '60s, B.G. Burkett wanted to honor those who fought in Southeast Asia by helping construct a memorial in his home state of Texas. What followed was a disturbing odyssey of prejudice, rejection, frustration and deceit. Burkett finally got his memorial built, but at the cost of his faith in his fellow man.

What *Valor* ultimately reveals is a complex network of stereotypes and clichés and very often outright lies that defined what it meant to be a Vietnam Veteran in the eyes of the American public. It's often



been said that there are three kinds of liars, "Liars, damn liars and statisticians." Burkett focuses on all three in his subsequent search for "the truth."

Agent Orange, *Rambo*, mysterious massacres, PTSD and "undocumented participants" in black operations, all of these are addressed and unmasked by Burkett as phenomena that crowd the real story of Americans at war out of the

headlines and into the dustbin. In doing so Burkett shatters the popular image of Vietnam veterans as shell-shocked murderers and destitute victims, and he shows them for what they are: honorable souls who did as their country asked, came back, and went on with their lives.

The Rosetta Stone in *Valor* is the truth, documented, notarized and on file in the government offices and courthouses of our nation. While the truth is not always a simple, Burkett cites example after example of how the most basic research is routinely forsaken by the press and even government agencies in favor of unconfirmed anecdotes and imaginary war stories.

In his search Burkett does not discount true sacrifice and trauma; indeed, he enlightens the reader with documented accounts of courage above and beyond the call of duty, and calls attention to those veterans who went on to serve their communities and prosper, not in spite of but as a result of their war-time experiences.

Some parts of *Valor* are hard to read, especially if you've been around long enough to know how the world works. Likewise, some parts are impossible to put down, especially when Burkett busts innumerable myths and stereotypes perpetuated by Hollywood and the press.

Meticulously researched and annotated, *Valor* reads less like a work of academia than a detective novel. Burkett and Whitley unravel the threads of deceit and reweave a tapestry of truth using official military and court records and in many cases the words of the perpetrators themselves.

Above all else, *Valor* honors the memory of those who served and sacrificed. It is a must-read for any serious student of military history and an invaluable resource for journalists across the board. Indeed, it should be required reading for investigators in any field if for nothing else but how to unmask falsehoods and bring truth to light.

Burkett is to be commended for his effort; with *Valor* he has served a second tour of duty, fighting not just for his country, but for his comrades in arms.

What more can be asked of a soldier?

## First Lady Turns Teachers Program High Profile

Earlier this year first lady Laura Bush challenged service members nearing retirement: "Turn your attention to the home front, to Uncle Sam's classrooms, where we need your service as teachers."

According to *Troops-to-Teachers* officials, her spirited support has triggered a dramatic increase in the application rate, amounting to 2,000 to 3,000 new teachers each year.

Applicants must have served at least six continuous years on active duty prior to release from service, have a service record that will lead to an honorable discharge, and apply no later than one year after release from active duty, they said. Most applicants must have a bachelor's degree, they added, although some with technical training may be accepted for vocational-technical teaching.

For more information call 1-800-452-6616; visit <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/>; or write to the Defense Activity of Non-traditional Education Support, 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, Florida 32509-5243.



## FIRE MISSION!

This remarkable photograph was shot by Officer Candidate Kenneth McGrew, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, during the inaugural firing of the Kentucky Army Guard's new M109A6 Paladin. Taken with a digital camera, the photo shows a 98 pound projectile clearing the muzzle on its way downrange.

The Kentucky Guard arsenal now has 18 Paladins, representing more than \$40 million of enhancements to the battalion. The upgrade includes a new palletized load system, communications equipment, and handheld tactical computers,

"This system has revolutionized artillery," said Capt. Brian Wertzler, 2-138th. "We trained up for a year preparing to get this system and the troops absolutely love it. It is *awesome*."

Now it's time to get



## IN GEAR!

with Staff Sgt. David Altom

Believe it or not, Uncle Sam doesn't issue everything a troop needs in the field. Despite all those boots, socks, rucksacks and load-bearing equipment, you're going to be hurtin' if you don't take care of the finer details. Here's the recipe for a pocket-sized "comfort" kit that'll get you through a tough stay in the field.

Start with a small ziplock bag, the kind that'll fit in your BDU pocket, and stick with the essentials, such as a small traveler's bottle or squeeze tube of sunscreen (SPF 30 at the very least) and a similar sized container of insect repellent. A packet of baby wipes are good for washing your face and other — *ahem!* — sensitive areas of your body. Laugh now, but you'll thank me later.

A couple of band-aids are no substitute for a field medic, but they'll protect small cuts and abrasions in a hurry. A good length of duct tape (12 inches or so, rolled up in a nice neat package) is a great short term substitute, and can be used for a dozen other jobs, too; I like it better than mole-skin for protecting hot spots on my feet and preventing blisters. If you have any special medicines or allergies needs, a day's worth of doses stored in a 35mm film canister is handy in case you get separated from your main gear.

Don't forget a small bundle of 550 cord (at least 10 feet), a butane lighter and a small Swiss-style knife or miniature multi-tool with tweezers, scissors and such. Wrap the kit up in a cravat or subdued handkerchief, which can be used for wiping your fevered brow or preventing a sunburn on the back of your neck.

There you have it, everything you need and worth its weight in gold in the right situation. Keep the kit replenished and keep it with you always 'cuz it won't do you any good in the bottom of your closet.

## The Last Word

During the Revolutionary War the colonial forces were for the most part under-trained and inexperienced in contrast their British opponents. Enter one Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, courtesy of Ambassador to France Benjamin Franklin. Von Steuben left the King of Prussia's service under questionable circumstances, but his contribution to the war effort turned out to be immeasurable.

Appointed by Congress to train the Continental forces at their winter encampment at Valley Forge, Von Steuben began drilling the troops in proven European tactics. A model drill company was formed and copied throughout the ranks. The trainer eventually wrote *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*, which soon became the "blue book" for the entire army and served as the country's official military guide until 1812. On Washington's recommendation, in May 1778, von Steuben was appointed inspector general of the army with the rank of major general. In 1780 he was finally granted a field command; he served as a division commander in Virginia and participated in the 1781 siege of Yorktown, where the British met final defeat.

The key to Von Steuben's success in training the ragtag mixture of Continental regulars and citizen-soldiers was in adapting procedures such as the order of fire to meet the training needs of his adopted homeland. By assigning the steps of each process in numerical order, he was able to simplify the method of giving commands like so:

"One (ready), two (aim), three (fire!)"

And thus comes the phrase "*Doing it by the numbers.*"

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# Coach Tubby Smith speaks to employers on behalf of Guard, Reserve

University of Kentucky Basketball Coach Tubby Smith recently teamed up with Kentucky National Guard and Reserve soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines to shoot a television commercial at the Kentucky Guard's Mobilization and Training Equipment Site at Fort Knox. Sponsored by Kentucky Employer Support for Guard and Reserve, the commercial will air throughout the state between now and early 2002.

During his "tour of duty" Coach Smith was provided a military escort and call sign, "Wildcat 6," as marked on his command vehicle, a Kentucky Army Guard HMMWV. Fort Knox Armor School also opened their arms by treating the coach to a session in their M-1 Abrams Main Battle Tank simulator.

Don't worry about the coming basketball season. After spending time with the troops, "Wildcat 6" was safely returned to the university ... with a big grin on his face.

Here's a big salute to a class act and a true leader!

