

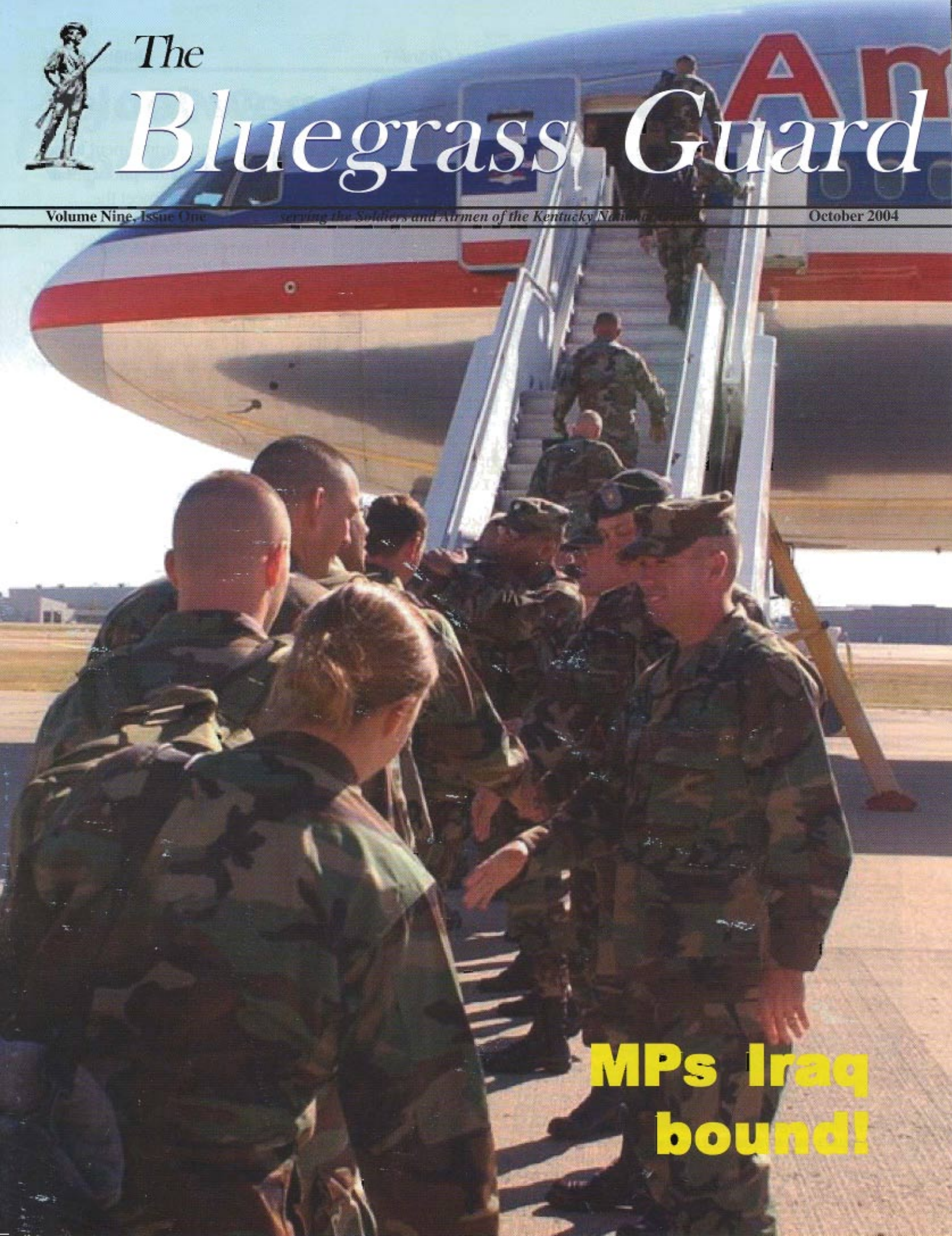


The Bluegrass Guard

Volume Nine, Issue One

serving the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kentucky National Guard

October 2004



**MPs Iraq
bound!**

Bluegrass Guard gets new look

Greetings fellow members of the Kentucky National Guard. I am CPT David B. Page, the deputy public affairs officer and editor of the Bluegrass Guard.

As you will notice, this edition of the Bluegrass Guard is slightly different from previous editions. The Adjutant General has approved our request to increase this publication from 8 pages to 12.

This is a key change because each month the staff of the Bluegrass Guard struggles with so many great stories and tidbits of information that we can't fit into the publication.

We have so many good things to share and it has been difficult to squeeze it into the eight pages, so these additional pages will increase our ability to share more information with you.

Along with the increase in pages, we have redesigned the cover. The changes are small but the staff of the publication feels like it is a cleaner, simpler look. We are trying to keep the focus on the stories and not the graphics.

The last change you will notice



as you read the articles is a style shift on the Army side. The Defense Information School where our military journalists are trained teaches the Associated Press Stylebook as the standard for journalism. Until this issue, we followed the AP Stylebook, but many of you on the Army side complained because our abbreviations on rank are different than that of Soldiers magazine. We have heard you and will convert our stylebook on the Army side to match that of Soldiers magazine.

Hopefully these changes

demonstrate our commitment to continually making this publication better. Our goal is to meet the information needs of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kentucky National Guard.

To that end, we ask you, our readers, to help us with your suggestions and story ideas. I encourage you to call me with your ideas for stories. If I have the resources available, we will cover your events or personal interest stories. Even if someone on this staff is not available to cover your events, you can always submit photos after the events for us to publish.

As the editor of this publication I appreciate your feedback. Please feel free to call me with questions, comments or story ideas at 502-607-1186, or via email at david.page@ky.ngb.army.mil.

CPT David B. Page
Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

The Bluegrass Guard

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Members of the 617th MP Company board a airplane bound for Fort McCoy, Wis., on Oct. 5. (photo by CPT David B. Page, State Deputy PAO)



KyARNG units deploy to support Operation Iraqi Freedom

by CPT David B. Page
State Deputy PAO

The afternoon of Sept. 8, friends and family of the Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation gathered at the Army Aviation Support Facility on the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort to say goodbye as the unit departed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Less than a month later, another 182 members of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 617th Military Police Company kissed their loved one's goodbye and boarded a plane bound for Fort McCoy, Wis., the unit's mobilization station in route to their deployment to Iraq.

These deployments are the beginning of many upcoming mobilizations of Kentucky Army National Guard members in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Before the end of October, the Kentucky Army National Guard will deploy 49 Soldiers from the Headquarters Company, 206th Engineer Battalion, located in Harrodsburg.

Then in November, three more units will join the deployment. Three hundred and sixty-four members from A and B Batteries from 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery will mobilize on Nov. 7 and 17 respectively. Then 182 members from the 940th Military Police Company from Walton and Lexington will move to their mobilization station at Camp Atterbury on Nov. 29.

Before the end of the year, the Kentucky National Guard will say goodbye to the remainder of the units currently slated to



SPC Richard L. Cole with the 617th MP Company holds his 4-day old son, Michael Thomas Cole, after the departure ceremony held for the unit on Nov. 5, at the Louisville Air National Guard Base prior to departing for Fort McCoy, Wis. (photo by CPT David B. Page, State Deputy PAO)



Family and loved ones wave goodbye to the Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation as the unit departs for their mobilization station, Fort Sill, Okla. (photo by SSG David W. Altom, JFHQ PA)

deploy this year. B Company, 206th Engineer Battalion from Hazard and the 299th Chemical Company from Jackson will deploy 364 Soldiers on Dec. 10. Followed by the 2113th Transportation Company with its 169 members on Dec. 16.

At the conclusion of these mobilizations, the Kentucky National Guard will have deployed more than 1,200 Soldiers from September to the end of December to fight the War on Global Terrorism.

"We have been decisively engaged in the War on Terror since Sept. 11, 2001, and these deployments are a continuation of our involvement in the defense of our nation," said MG Donald C. Storm, the Adjutant General of Kentucky. "The Kentucky National Guard is entrenched on the front line of this war, and I am so proud of the excellent job our Soldiers and Airmen continue to perform everyday for the citizens of this great country."



Jessie Singer gives her husband SGT Matt Singer a hug prior to his departure with Det. 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation (photo by SSG David W. Altom, JFHQ PA)

National Guard Plays Big Role in War on Terrorism

Courtesy American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8, 2004 — America's citizen soldiers are taking an unprecedented role in the global war on terrorism, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said today.

While the National Guard has always been in the homeland-defense business, it is being used in a new and different way, Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum told media at the Foreign Press Center here. He noted that the Guard bureau acts as an operational force supporting both the Army and the Air Force overseas and defending the homeland in the United States — and doing both simultaneously.

The Guard is deployed around the globe in support of every combatant commander, Blum said. At home, it has responded to DoD missions and state missions, such as assisting in cleanup efforts after natural disasters.

"You can see the National Guard is participating in every single aspect of our national-security strategy," Blum said. "(Defense of the homeland) is always Job One for the National Guard. But it doesn't always mean we have to defend the homeland here at home."

At the request of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, the National Guard is becoming a more meaningful and useful tool in the global war on terrorism.

To this end, the Guard transforming from a strategic reserve — to be called only in the event of World War III — to an operational force to be called up as needed — any time, any place, for any reason, both here at home and abroad, Blum said. But, he cautioned, this presents challenges.

"We still have a mandate to the governors to provide them the right force capabilities ... in the right mix and the right size and the right place so that they can handle Hurricane Ivan or they can handle al Qaeda should they visit a neighborhood in the United States," Blum said.

To meet these needs, the Guard has established a Joint Force Headquarters in all 54 U.S. states and territories to leverage the capabilities of both the Army and Air National Guards, he said. They are set up to

provide capabilities in command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance - known in the military as C4ISR.

Each Joint Force Headquarters is a tactical joint task force-capable headquarters able to manage any military service element — including active duty, Reserve or National Guard — individually or in combination with other agency and government responders, needed to respond to an incident in any given state or territory. If needed, the Guard is able to synchronize responses from across the nation, pulling resources from other areas.

Blum called it a "very, very powerful model, which means that there is no part of our country that is not protected and would not have the capability to respond if it were attacked or if it suffered a tragedy."

To become more relevant, ready, accessible and essential to the defense of the country, the National Guard Bureau is taking on some specific initiatives, Blum said.

One is the development of chemical- and biological-response teams that have special training and equipment to perform mass decontamination, treat mass casualties, and perform technical extractions of victims from collapsed buildings. He said that in addition

to these teams, each state and territory has an immediate quick-reaction force and rapid-response force capable of delivering a battalion-sized force in less than 24 hours.

Some 32 civil-support teams are trained to identify various weapons and advise local first responders. Eventually, 54 such teams will be set up, one for each state and territory.

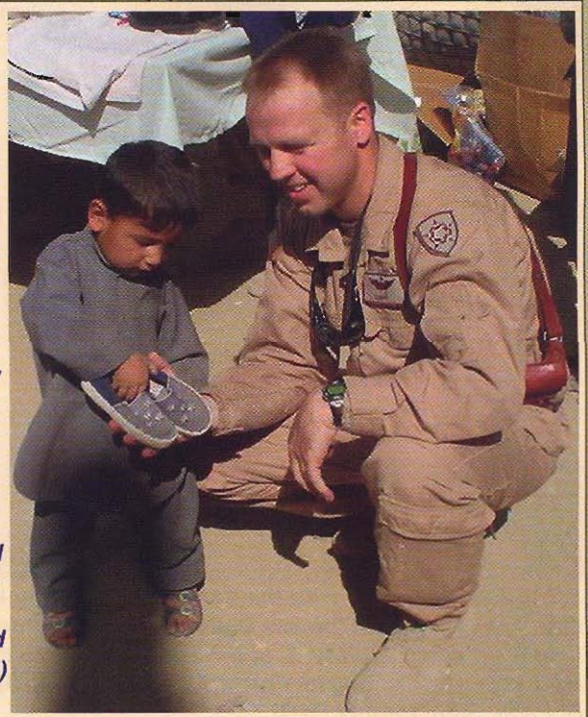
Blum said these teams "can offer an immediate communications bridge so that the local first responders can plug in to the Department of Defense communications system immediately."

All elements are tied together through a secure information-technology system, and the Department of Homeland Security's information network has been integrated for maximum effectiveness.

Blum called the Guard's efforts "a tremendous capability that has been developed in the last three years that most people in our own nation don't even know about."

"I think we have delivered what we promised: a ready force, a reliable force, absolutely an essential force, and an accessible force — accessible to both the governors here at home and to the president and the secretary of defense and the services when they need them abroad."

CWO Shawn Gabhart, with Detachment 11, Operational Support Airlift Command, presents a pair of shoes to a Afghan boy during a trip to the local market. Christy Gabhart, Kim Knight, Sherry Lewis and other Family Readiness Group members collected shoes and other items for the unit to distribute to the people of Afghanistan. "A pair of shoes here is like gold to these folks," said CW4 Gerald Carroll, a member of the unit. "I know we're making a difference here.....it's slow and difficult work but the good that is America is being demonstrated everyday to a people who have known nothing but war and poverty." (photo by CW4 Gerald A. Carroll, Detach 11, OSACOM)



Helping our West Virginia Neighbors

Story and photos by SSG David Altom, JFHQ PA

A Wheeling resident left a thank you note for Soldiers.

SGT Jerrod Franklin clears debris from a flood stricken neighborhood.

SSG Virginia Pritchard traveled all the way from her Murray military police unit to help with the cleanup on Wheeling Island.

SGT Martin Grubb washes away a week's worth of mud and memories from his dump truck.

In a show of force involving more than 125 Soldiers from 17 different units, the Kentucky Army National Guard reached out to neighboring West Virginia to help the victims of that state's more recent -- and devastating -- flood.

What began in mid-September as a 30-day mission ended in less than two weeks. Soldiers cleared public streets and hauled debris, building a small mountain of trash in a public parking area. Homeowners were devastated by the loss of their personal items, but were happy to have someone help them clean up the mess.

"The Guard has been a lifesaver," said Wheeling Island resident Paul Shuster. "I hope they know how much people appreciate them."

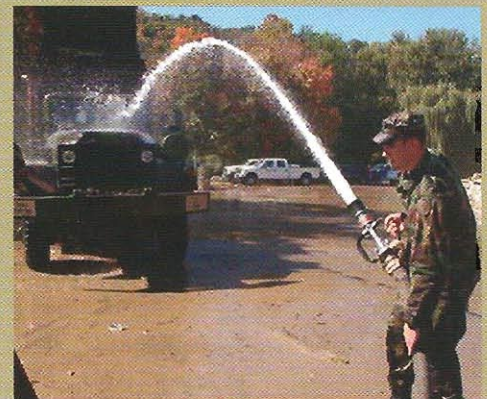
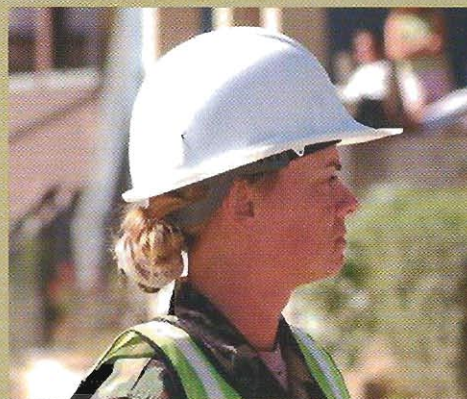
His wife, Schatzi, liked having the troops in her neighborhood. "We felt really safe with the Soldiers here. We hate to see them go."

The real success of the flood task force was how it came together.

"We took Soldiers from 17 units across the state and molded them into an engineer company," said MAJ Jerry Morrison, 201st ENG BN. "We've got MPs and artillery and infantry all pulling together. We've got a lot of experience doing flood relief, so that's why we're good at it."

West Virginia CSM Donald Hill, a combat engineer himself, had high praise for the Kentucky Guard Soldiers.

"The teamwork here is unprecedented. I've never seen a team come together like this. It's as though we've worked together for years. It's just outstanding."



CPT Gary D. Lewis, commander of E Co., 135th Aviation, speaks to reporters prior to departing on Sept. 28, for Florida to assist with the hurricane relief efforts. The Kentucky Army National Guard sent twenty soldiers and two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to provide aviation support to the Florida National Guard. Soldiers participating in the mission were from the following Frankfort-based units: Company E and F, 135th Aviation and 63rd Aviation Group. (photo by CPT David B. Page, State Deputy PAO)

Weather flight stands down

Other duty sections to gain assets

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Kentucky Air Guard's 165th Weather Flight closed the books on 57 years of service with a ceremony marking the unit's inactivation here Oct. 2.

"It's a sad day for the unit because we've had such good camaraderie and esprit de corps among our members," said Lt. Col. Jeff Peters, the flight's commander.

While the unit's colors are being retired and its organizational structure dismantled, the Kentucky Air Guard will retain most of its weather forecasting ability — 13 of the flight's 17 duty positions will be absorbed into other organizations on base, Colonel Peters said.

The reorganization will produce three combat weather teams that will be integrated with existing operational units, eventually giving Kentucky weather personnel new opportunities to deploy in support of training exercises and real-world missions.

The wing's weather troops currently do not routinely deploy in support of Kentucky Air Guard missions, but rather provide backfill when Air Force weather personnel are mobilized from Fort Campbell, Ky. That backfill mission will now be eliminated, Peters said.

The KyANG units slated to gain weather personnel are the 123rd Operations Support Flight, the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron and the 123rd Airlift Control Flight.

Lt. Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Control



Staff Sgt. Todd Barnes, a weather forecaster with the 165th Weather Flight, takes temperature readings by the base flightline. Barnes is being transferred to the wing's 123rd Airlift Control Flight, where he will continue to work as a weather forecaster. (photo by Capt. Dale Greer, Wing PAO)

Flight, said his unit would be able to respond more rapidly to future deployment taskings now that its weather assets will be based in Louisville. The unit currently has to source weather capability from external units prior to deployment.

"This move will give us organic weather capability that can respond immediately to taskings as opposed to being an augmented piece that's sourced after the taskings come down," Colonel Nelson said. "The weather personnel also will be trained and equipped to work with our own mobile command and control package — they'll know our systems, and we'll know theirs."

The reorganization is part of an effort across the Air National Guard to place weather assets in every state, said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Sarver, a meteorological technician with the

165th Weather Flight. Some states, like Kentucky, are losing duty positions, which will be used to staff weather operations in states that are gaining new weather capabilities.

The 165th Weather Flight traces its lineage to the founding of the Kentucky Air National Guard. Its precursor, the 165th Weather Station, was one of the original KyANG units when the base formally received federal recognition in 1947.

The weather unit was first called to active duty in 1950 and then again in 1968 for the Pueblo Crisis. Four years later, in 1972, the 165th Weather Flight was named outstanding Air National Guard weather unit of the year.

In 1991, 11 members of the 165th Weather Flight mobilized in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and were assigned to the U.S. Army's 20th Special Operations Group at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Three members were later deployed to Iraq — the only KyANG members to do so during Desert Shield/Desert Storm — as part of a post-war relief campaign to aid Kurdish refugees.

More recently, the 165th Weather Flight supported multiple Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotations and four stateside deployments as part of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

In 2003, two Kentucky weather troops deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We've worked very hard over the years to be one of the weather flights the Guard Bureau can count on when they get tasked for missions around the world," Colonel Peters said.

Museum opens Air Guard exhibit

By Capt. David B. Page, State Deputy PAO
and Tami Vater, Kentucky Historical Society

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Not even a dense blanket of fog could keep a crowd of about 50 people from attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony here Sept. 10 for "Into the Wild Blue Yonder," a new historical exhibit that honors the Kentucky Air Guard.

The exhibit, which will run through Sept. 11 at the Kentucky Military History Museum, was developed as a tribute to the individuals from the Kentucky Air Guard who've made a difference in the state's history, organizers said.

It tells the story of the civilian men and women who, in times of crisis, left their jobs, families and homes to answer our nation's call to service.

"It's important to tell how the Air National Guard has such a tradition, from its volunteers to its humanitarian efforts," said Chief Master Sergeant Jim Turpin, who assisted in the planning of the exhibit. "Kentuckians have always been first to volunteer, and still do today."

The exhibit allows visitors to experience some of the unit's 57-year legacy through artifacts, oral histories, photographs and more. Visitors will experience the evolution of the many aircraft flown by Kentucky aircrews, including F-51D Mustangs, F-86A Sabre Jets, RF-101 Voodoos and RF-4C Phantom IIs.

After touring the exhibit, Col. Michael J. Dombush, KyANG executive support staff officer, said, "It certainly was a nostalgic trip through our past."

Colonel Dombush said the exhibit documents the tremendous legacy of the unit, which has been recognized with many prestigious awards, including three Spaatz Trophies.

Named for Gen. Carl Spaatz, the first chief of staff of the Air Force, the trophy is presented annually to the overall outstanding Air National Guard flying unit.

The unit's first Spaatz Trophy, which is on display at the exhibit, was awarded just two years after the Kentucky Air Guard's creation, as the wing's aircrews rapidly reached a high level of combat readiness.

One of the artifacts in the exhibit is the RF-101 Voodoo flight suit worn by Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Richard L. Frymire. General Frymire served as adjutant general of Kentucky for six years and is



The first commander of the 123rd AW, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Phillip Ardery tours the exhibit at the Kentucky History Museum. (photo by Airman Phillip Speck)

the only Kentucky Air Guard officer to have served in this capacity.

The Kentucky Military History Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about the museum and the exhibit, contact the Kentucky Historical Society at (502) 564-1792.



Col. Mark R. Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing Commander accepts the Air National Guard Outstanding Airmanship Award from Air Force Association Chairman, John J. Politi during Air & Space Conference 2004 opening award ceremonies in Washington, D.C. Aerospace Education Foundation Trustee Gen. William "Bill" Spruance (far left) looks on as Brig. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Ickes, II, chief operating officer for the Air National Guard and 123rd representatives, Col. Michael Harden and Lt. Col. Paul Rhodes help accept the award. (AFA photo by Chris Cross)

Operation Coronet Oak begins

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The 123rd Airlift Wing began deployment rotations to Puerto Rico this summer in support of Operation Coronet Oak, with 52 Airmen and two Kentucky C-130s departing Louisville International Airport on Aug. 28.

Kentucky Air Guard members will continue to man Coronet Oak with six more deployment rotations through next year, said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

The deployed Airmen, who include pilots, navigators, flight engineers, loadmasters, maintenance personnel and other support troops, are based at Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, where they are providing airlift services for American military operations and government agencies in the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility.

That area includes Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

Colonel Kraus described the mission as "an excellent opportunity for the wing to provide airlift capability that meets the needs of U.S. forces abroad."

"At the same time," he continued, "it gives our aircrews a unique training opportunity because the missions they'll be flying into Central and South America will expose them to environments and terrain that they haven't encountered during recent deployments to Southwest Asia and Europe."

A total of 364 Kentucky Airmen are expected to deploy to Puerto Rico before the wing's role concludes Jan. 29.

Meanwhile, about 20 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing are expected to deploy to locations in Europe and Southwest Asia between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 as part of the unit's ongoing



Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, bids farewell to 52 Kentucky airmen as they depart Louisville on Aug. 28 for Operation Coronet Oak. The wing will be providing airlift for U.S. Southern Command through January. (photo by Capt. Dale Greer, KyANG)

support of U.S. Air Force missions around the world.

These individual deployments will range in duration from 30 to 120 days.

Both sets of deployments highlight the wing's continued role in global military operations despite the fact that most Kentucky Air Guardsmen are no longer serving on federal active duty,



Tech. Sgt. Tim Gagnon, a loadmaster with Kentucky's 165th Airlift Squadron, secures passenger baggage prior to takeoff (photo by Capt. Dale Greer, KyANG)

Colonel Kraus said.

Earlier this summer, about 140 Kentucky Air Guard members deployed to Germany for a three-month mission to provide airlift services for U.S. military operations in Europe, including stabilization forces located in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Prior to that, the U.S. Air Force called 637 members of the Kentucky Air Guard to federal active duty to support missions ranging from homeland defense and the Global War on Terror to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Of these 637 Kentucky Airmen, 454 deployed overseas for U.S. military operations in dozens of countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Bosnia, Croatia, Romania, Senegal, Serbia and the Ukraine.

Most of these federalized troops were taken off active duty in early 2004.

Briefly News...

Recruiting Command hits active Army, Reserve recruiting goals

by Joe Burtas

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 1, 2004) — For the fifth year in a row, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command hit its fiscal year active-duty and Reserve recruiting goals.

As of Sept. 27, the command brought in 77,587 active Army recruits against a Department of the Army mission of 77,000, and 21,278 Reserve recruits against a 21,000 requirement.

"Recruiting Command has served the nation well for the past 40 years and I am positive it will continue to serve well for the next 40 years at least," said Maj. Gen. Michael E. Rochelle, Recruiting Command commanding general, during a media briefing at the command's Fort Knox, Ky. headquarters.

Rochelle acknowledged that current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan may be seen as a drawback by some young people who would otherwise serve. However, he said, those operations are seen by others as a call to serve a nation in need.

"There are hundreds in the training base that will tell you they want to make a difference," Rochelle said.

Army makes progress on IRR mobilization

by Sgt. Reebea Critser

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 1, 2004) — More than 1,100 Soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve have reported to duty since the Army received its mobilization authority four months ago.

"The plan discussed in June is working," said Brig. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, director of military personnel policy, G-1, at a Pentagon press conference Oct. 1.

According to that plan, IRR Soldiers receive notice by Western Union mailgrams and have at least 30 days from the time they receive the orders to report. The earliest report date was Aug. 31. Byrne said the Soldiers will serve in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

The Army's goal is to have up to 4,402 on duty by March.

The 1,143 IRR Soldiers who have reported so far are mobilized to one of five posts — Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Knox, Ky.; or Fort Benning, Ga. While there, they get their clothing issue and military equipment, receive training in common tasks, and they may go on to another post for MOS-specific refreshers before they're assigned to a Reserve, National Guard or active-duty unit.

By the time they're done with training, "they will be indistinguishable from the active-duty Soldiers they are serving with," Byrne said.

Of the almost 4,000 IRR Soldiers who currently have been issued orders, about half have report dates in October or later.

Changes in Command



During a Sept. 11 ceremony held at Fort Knox, LTC Charles T. Jones (right) took command of the 149th Armor Brigade. Stepping down from command is COL William G. Clark Jr. (left) BG Norman Arflack, Deputy Adjutant General for Kentucky, presided over the event. (Photo by SGT Charles L. Westmoreland, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



COL John W. Heltzel relinquishes command of Headquarters, 238th Regiment (Combat Arms) to COL James D. Head during a Sept. 11 change of command ceremony held at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville. (Photo by SPC Charles L. Westmoreland, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



MAJ Robert Hamm (right) receives the flag of command of the 206th Engineer Battalion from COL Joseph "Mike" Ritchie during ceremonies conducted at the Harrodsburg Armory on Sept. 19. Stepping down from command is LTC Jeffery Brown. (Photo by SSG David Altom, JFHQ PA)

Aviation Group fights cyber battle in Korea

Story by SSG David Altom, JFHQ PA

Photos by 1SG Alan Miller and SGT Lucinda Silver, 63rd Aviation Group

In a virtual battle between North and South Korea in August, the Soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 63rd Aviation Group made a significant contribution to the U.S. military's cybernetic success story.

"The 63rd Group deployed to Korea and performed as an aviation brigade headquarters running five subordinate battalions with UH-60 and CH-47 helicopters," said LTC Tom Barrier, the group's executive officer. "We fell into and trained on some of the latest and greatest equipment, working with everyone from 6th Cavalry to the U.S.S. Nimitz and Kittyhawk."

"This mission was all about us working with 6th Cavalry's higher headquarters," said 1SG Alan Miller. "We wanted the operation to be seamless and we were absolutely able to do that."

Unit actions were coordinated entirely through the internet with Soldiers conducting most of their communications through chat rooms.

"There isn't anymore lonely voice on the FM in the morning," said Miller. "Even the warning order came through a chat room. That's how we got the ball rolling, got the troops moving."

Like most Army missions, Mr. Murphy played an important role.

"Operations went 24 hours a day, sometimes as long as 48 hours," said Barrier. "But morale was good. The advance team was even hit with a tsunami, but they survived."

For their efforts soldiers received coins of excellence from the 6th Cavalry Commander and the Command Sergeant Major. At least a half dozen were recommended by their chain of command for other awards.

Miller's pride shows in talking about his soldiers and how they contribute to the group's success.

"All I can do is give a little guidance," he said. "It's those E-3s and E-4s that make things happen. Our Soldiers bring a lot to the table and I think they outshine their active duty counterparts. I attribute that to their civilian skills and work ethic. Out there in the civilian world they can't give up."

Miller said the active duty commanders were suitably impressed with the Kentucky Soldier's performance.

"We have earned their respect. They know what we can do."

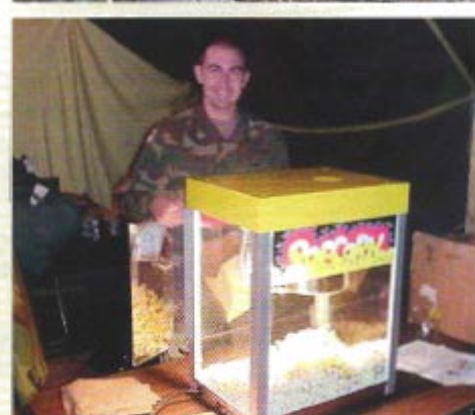
Top to bottom:

SGT Jamie Johnson and SPC Gary Brumly repair an internet connection with 6th Cavalry Headquarters.

Everybody's favorite training: MOPP training!

SPC Jeremy Young tops off the field generator.

1LT Michael Armstrong, headquarter company commander, performs some preventative maintenance on the unit popcorn machine.



Kentucky Guard shines during Aviation Days

Aviation Days at Frankfort's Capital City Airport was bigger and better than ever before this year with the expansion to a two-day event. The Friday balloon glow, an aerobatic bi-plane and a tactical search and rescue exhibition added to the day's excitement. Two of the biggest attractions were the KyANG's C-130 Hercules and its little brother, the "Mini-Herc." A visit by Gov. Ernie Fletcher and MG Donald Storm topped off a great family event!



Photos by MAJ Michael Stephens and SSG David Altom



TAG Golf Open...



The Adjutant General, MG Donald C. Storm takes aim at a putt prior to the start of the TAG Open.

BG Norman Arflack stands with Open winner, SGT Brett Howard, with Company C, 1st Battalion 149th Inf. Howard also works at Bluegrass Station in the Kentucky Logistics Operation Center.



New enlistment bonuses give Soldiers head start

Frankfort, KY — Applicants joining the Guard can now receive an enlistment bonus of to \$8,000 depending on the military profession they choose. Prior service enlistees may also get up to \$8,000, depending on their enlistment option.

Soldiers who extend their current enlistment can receive up to \$5,000 depending on their job skill.

Other increased benefits include the Student Loan Repayment Program, which has been increased to \$20,000. The Civilian Acquired Skills Program bonus is \$6,000.

The GI Bill is now \$288 per school month for full-time students. The GI Bill "Kicker" (based on critical MOS and ASVAB scores) is \$200 per month.

"The bonus is the icing on the cake," said SFC Ryan Turner, Marketing NCO for Kentucky Guard Recruiting and Retention Command. "We tell our Soldiers up front when they join, we're going to train and equip you, and you're going to get deployed. But while you're not deployed you're gonna get money for education."

"We're not just getting quality Soldiers, but we are getting Soldiers for life. The bonus helps us retain those soldiers when they get back from their deployment. It's all about taking care of the Soldier, giving them the money and opportunity they need to take care of their families and be a success in life."

The Bluegrass Guard
KG-PAO
Boone National Guard Center
Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

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Kentucky National Guard meets 2004 recruiting goal

Frankfort, KY — Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky, announced that the Kentucky National Guard has exceeded its recruiting goals for fiscal year 2004 during a press conference in the Capitol Rotunda.

As of 12:01 a.m., on Oct. 1, the Kentucky National Guard's total end strength was 7,587, surpassing the National Guard Bureau's recruiting objective for Kentucky of 7,575. Today's figures represent a net gain over last year of more than 350 Soldiers in the Kentucky Army National Guard and more than 29 Airmen in the Kentucky Air National Guard during the Federal fiscal year 2004.

"From the day I was appointed as the Adjutant General of the Kentucky National Guard, personnel strength has been our number one priority," said Storm. "The Kentucky Guard needs quality Soldiers and Airmen, and it has been my mission to ensure we get them. Today's accomplishment is a huge step in that direction, and we are well on our way to accomplishing our goal of having 7,000 Army National Guard and 1,225 Air National Guard members by 2007."

Storm went on to emphasize the need for Soldiers and Airmen in the Kentucky National Guard. "This is a crucial time in our history. We have a great diversity of challenges



Lt. Gov. Steve Pence speaks to Soldiers and Airmen present during the Oct. 1 press conference held at the Capitol Rotunda. Pence praised the Kentucky National Guard for meeting its recruiting goals. (photo by SSG David W. Altom)

facing us. The Kentucky Guard today plays an integral part in our nation's defense against the threat of terrorism as well as helping our citizens in the face of natural disaster within the Commonwealth. If someone wants to be part of the solution to the problems in today's world, the Kentucky Guard is the place to be."