

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

Volume Eleven, Issue Four
September 2007



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Photo Submitted

Brigadier Gen. Howard P. Hunt and Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver present Hall of Fame Golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez with a Kentucky Colonel Certificate, signed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher. Rodriguez was awarded for his patriotism and support of the Kentucky national Guard during the 2005-2006 hurricane season. Rodriguez, an Army Veteran, invited the generals and other Kentucky National Guard leadership to play at his golf course in Puerto Rico in August during the National Guard Association of the U.S. conference.

THE COVER

Photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff



The 20th Special Forces Group jumped in an international competition held Aug. 11 in Rhode Island. Read more on page 9.

A letter from the Command Chief

My fellow Kentucky Guard members,

I am Chief Paul E. Beane, Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) for Kentucky. I was selected for this position on June 1 of this year and life hasn't been the same.

As CCWO, I am charged with the warrant officer program of the Kentucky Army National Guard, which means that I am in charge of the career development for all warrant officers. That translates to "I am working for you." With your help, I will be all that I can be for the warrant program and I promise you that this program will grow.



I want to reach out across the Kentucky Army Guard and develop an accurate and complete list of all the warrants. I also want to pass my contact information along to everyone. If you have any suggestions or recommendations that will benefit the warrant officer program, please feel free to contact me at anytime at 502 607-1055 or e-mail me at paul.beane@ky.ngb.army.mil.

Last, but not least, I am currently working on a Warrant Officer Advisory Council and will be looking into establishing a Kentucky Warrant Officer Association. You will be hearing more on both these issues in the coming months.

If you are not a warrant officer but are interested in our program, by all means, please feel free to contact me. The same goes if you know of a deserving and qualified candidate. I am continually searching for high quality individuals to help us fill our ranks.

Paul E. Beane
Command Chief Warrant Officer
Kentucky Army National Guard



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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Command Chief Warrant Officer Paul Beane

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Demeaning use of uniform

It has come to our attention that uniformed military members (from more than one service) participated as escorts for models during a fundraising fashion show in Chicago.

Active and visible participation in a fundraiser (particularly by those in uniform) is prohibited by numerous laws and U.S. government ethics regulations.

Department of Defense Directive 5410.18 is very clear that military members shall not be used in a demeaning or menial way ...

It is absolutely imperative that you educate all your field offices that participating in these types of events is not legal, nor is it respectful to the men and women who wear our nation's military uniforms.

Cynthia Minnick
Senior Assistant for Policy
Office of the Assistant
Secretary of Defense

Corrections

Due to a reporter's error, the story on page 29 incorrectly spelled Michele Pace.

Please report any corrections to:

The Bluegrass Guard
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

Change of Address

All change of address should be made at the unit level by the unit clerk.

Army retiree address changes should be made through Staff Sgt. Jason Pettitt at the Kentucky National Guard Personnel Services Branch. He can be reached at 502-607-1613 or jason.pettitt@ky.ngb.army.mil.

Air retiree address changes should be made through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at jturpin@fewpb.net.

The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

To comment, keep remarks under 150 words, include your name, rank and address and send them to:

The Bluegrass Guard
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

We reserve the right to edit letters for tone, length, clarity and factual accuracy.

Homecoming celebration



Photo by David Altom/KYARNG

Dignitaries, including Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher, welcomed home the 410th Quartermaster Company on Aug. 25. The unit spent more than a year in Iraq.

Disney discounts available

Courtesy of Walt Disney World Resorts

Editor

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. - Military Families who are unable to travel to a military installation to purchase specially priced Walt Disney World Theme Park tickets now have a new option. Retired, Active, National Guard, Reservist and Department of Defense personnel are now able to purchase these specially priced tickets over the phone.

"Many military Families don't live near a base. We wanted to make sure they were able to take advantage of the savings on Disney Theme Park tickets without having to travel for hours to their nearest base," said Randy Gerber, Disney Military Sales director.

This year is a special time to visit as the Disney Parks celebrate the "Year of a Million Dreams." Randomly awarded, these dreams include such "money can't buy" experiences as a Dream FASTPASS badge with unique access to some of Disney's most popular attractions; private meetings with favorite Disney characters' shopping sprees; and a variety of unique



Disney vacation experiences, including the chance to spend the night in a special suite inside Cinderella Castle at Walt Disney World.

Disney Military Sales has offered discounted tickets to military Families for more than 20 years. The proceeds directly support the base community and the programs offered to the military personnel stationed there.

Discounted tickets for qualifying Kentucky National Guard Families may be purchased by calling Fort Knox or Fort Campbell. See the advertisement on the back page for phone numbers.

Free mental health screenings available

Courtesy Kathernie L. Cruise

Screening for Mental Health Inc.

A new Department of Defense funded initiative offers servicemembers and their Family members the opportunity to take anonymous mental health and alcohol screenings for free online, via the telephone and through special events held at military installations.

The Mental Health Self-Assessment Program is offered to more than 1.5 million military Families in all branches, including the National Guard and Reserve. It is designed to help individuals identify their own symptoms and access assistance before a problem becomes serious.

The tests available address common yet often under treated conditions such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol use. After an individual completes a self-assessment, the Soldier is provided with referral information including services provided through



Have you lost pleasure in things you used to enjoy?



Do you have trouble sleeping or eating?



Are you keyed up and anxious all the time?

Log on to www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org for a free assessment.

the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

If you've been feeling disconnected and unlike your usual self lately, this program can help you put the pieces back together. It is available at www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org, and 1-877-877-3647.

YOUR HEALTH

Following a deployment, all Soldiers must participate in the required Post Deployment Health Risk Assessment. The PDHRA provides education, screening and assessment and access to care for questions or concerns a Soldier may have related to deployment.



How do I complete the PDHRA?

To complete the PDHRA, it is a two-step process. First, the Soldier must fill out an on-line Deployment Health Assessment available on AKO under the tab “Medical Readiness” (click on health assessment then DD2900).

Then, the Soldier must speak to a provider at 1-888-PDHRA99 (1-888-734-7299).

Why do I need to complete the PDHRA?

Soldiers returning home from deployment are sometimes reluctant to report all issues at their demobilization site because they are focused on their Families and getting home to them. Once they are back in that setting, they realize they may have questions or concerns with their health, or may have readjustment issues after their return to work.

It is mandatory per Regulation DOD 6490.03 for Soldiers to complete the PDHRA screening three to six months post deployment..

Where do I go for more information?

Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Deaton at the J1 Health Services Branch in Frankfort: 502-607-1272 or jeremiah.deaton@us.army.mil

Lieutenant Col. Natalie Lonkard at the J1 Health Services Branch in Frankfort: 502-607-1520 or natalie.lonkard@us.army.mil



Partnership with Ecuador essential to GWOT training

By Cadet John Adkins

133rd Mobile Public Affairs

The Kentucky Army National Guard is home to many dedicated soldiers who are ready to serve at any time, anywhere.

From June 11-22, 17 members of the 75th Troop Command, traveled to Quito, Ecuador to participate in a joint-forces peacekeeping exercise.

Known as the Combined Forces Land Component Command, or CFLCC, the exercise is based on a complex peacekeeping operation in a fictitious country. Military forces provide and maintain security while civilian organizations provide aid and relief. The overall goal of the exercise was to ease the Army's transition from a combative role into a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

Colonel Donald R. Conover, the CLFLCC Commander, said the Kentucky Soldiers came away from the exercise better prepared to respond to worldwide peacekeeping missions.

"One objective of this mission was to improve the capabilities within the Western Hemisphere to respond to world wide peace keeping missions," Conover said. "This exercise allowed us to work with and learn from our other components, such as the Marines, Navy and Air Force, and to mentor our partner countries from Latin America," he added.

During the exercise, the Kentucky Soldiers found themselves facing typical obstacles that Soldiers fighting the Global War on Terror are also facing. Language barriers and cultural differences between all parties involved in the training added a degree of difficulty to the exercise.

"With so many different organizations present and different nationalities all speaking a different languages, it was difficult understand one another," said Sgt. Maj. Paul Royster, the operations sergeant major for the exercise.

"Each group has its own language, acronyms and word usage. It took some getting used to, but we did and we accomplished our objective."



Photo Submitted

During the Combined Forces Land Component Command exercise, Kentucky National Guard Soldiers conduct intel operations.

For other Soldiers, the mission itself was challenging.

Sergeant Ashley M. Black worked in the intelligence section of the Tactical Operations Center. It was the first time the NCO had worked in intelligence.

"At first I really had no idea what was going on," she said. "But my team looked out for me and taught me what to do.

"It was a little intimidating, but in the end I learned a lot about intel operations and I really enjoyed the challenge of learning a new skill in an intense fast paced environment. I know I will be able to take my experiences from CFLCC with me through the rest of my military career," Black said.

Ecuador, a country located in the North Western corner of South America, is Kentucky's state partner. For the last 10 years, the Kentucky National Guard has worked to develop and maintain working relationships with the country.



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carnes
Alpha Battery 2/138th Field Artillery
Aug. 26, 2007
Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. Delmar White
Bravo Battery 2/138th Field Artillery
Sept. 2, 2007
Iraq



Private 1st Class Sammie Phillips
Bravo Battery 2/138th Field Artillery
Sept. 10, 2007
Iraq

“...We should
thank God that
such men have
lived.”

- Gen. George S. Patton Jr



Special Forces jump in international competition

Paratroopers train with the best jumpers in the world

Story and Photos by Spc. Michael Pfaff
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

For the 10th year, Soldiers from the Kentucky National Guard's 20th Special Forces Group competed in the 25th Annual Leapfest, a one-day international military parachute competition, held Aug. 11 in Kingston, R.I.



An Ecuadorian Paratrooper drags his parachute as he tries to beat the clock and get to his position after landing.

"Leapfest is an international parachuting competition with 56 teams to see who the best paratroopers in the world really are," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Shuff, Leapfest competitor and member of the 20th Special Forces Group, based out of Louisville, Ky.

Representing 11 different nations, including a team from Ecuador – a Kentucky National Guard state partner – teams of four paratroopers leaped from CH-47 Chinook helicopters in a race toward a target located in the center of the drop-zone.

Individual jumpers are timed from the moment of impact on land until they reach the target. Teams are allowed three jumps, and the team with the lowest combined time is the winner.

Despite not finishing in the top three, Soldiers from the 20th Special Forces Group Military Intelligence Detachment seemed in high spirits after the event.

"I think we did very well," said Shuff, a Shepherdsville, Ky. native. "We held our own with some of the best in the world. We had

guys who made times that were very close to placing in the top three or four."

Sergeant George O'Rourke, a first-time competitor at Leapfest and Galgiston, Tenn. native said the experience was not just a fun-filled competition, but a place to learn.

"Leapfest has been great," said O'Rourke, a member of the 20th Special Forces Group. "It's been a learning experience to come together with all these other great paratroopers around the country, not to mention the international teams that are here.

"The greatest benefit is the camaraderie among the paratroopers. Everybody has their niche in any military service and paratroopers are no different. We're more competitive than a lot of other units out there and this is the best of the best in the country and world."



"X" marks the spot ... Kentucky National Guard Sgt. George O'Rourke hits his target after leaping from a Ch-47 Chinook Helicopter over the skies of Rhode Island.



AIR ASSAULT!

Guard Soldiers complete school offered at Fort Knox

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

Dangling upside down from a rope, 100 feet above the ground and spinning, Staff Sgt. Dustin Pack realized what it really takes to be an Air Assault Soldier.

“There was very little fear because the instructors built us up scenario after scenario on the rappel tower.” Pack said about the Air Assault Course, recently held at Fort Knox. “Stopping and going and confidence in the ropes were second nature by then.”

The Eastern Region U.S. Army Cadet Command opened the Air Assault course to members of the Kentucky National Guard allowing Pack and 11 other Guard Soldiers the opportunity to attend the course and become qualified as Air Assault Soldiers. The 11 graduated in August.

Pack, a Soldier with Alpha Company, 201st Engineers, said that every day was a mix of tough physical activity and hard academics.

“PT in the morning was the hardest I’ve had in my seven-year career,” he said. “Most of the exercises were done in cadence at a 100 to 150 count. After PT the day was packed with class room and hands on academics.”

Pack noted that the 10-minute-breaks each hour were really “smoke sessions” of flutter kicks and push ups.

Soldiers participating in the course braved record heat and personal struggles to graduate. Soldiers had to complete an obstacle course and run an additional two miles, as well as



Photos by Forrest Berkshire/Eastern Region Cadet Command Deputy PAO

Major Gen. Donald C. Storm and Col. Michael Sutton visit with Kentucky National Guard Soldiers on graduation day from the Eastern Region Cadet Command Air Assault Course at Fort Knox. “These Soldiers are true patriots, and true heroes,” Storm said. “They answer the call to duty and are so dedicated that they volunteer to put themselves through the strains and pains of Air Assault School to make themselves better Soldiers and better leaders.”

continued on page 16

COIN training essential to mission

Guard and Reserves become skilled on counterinsurgency in theater

By **Karen Bradshaw**
First Army Public Affairs

General David Petraeus, commander Multi-National Force-Iraq told the Military Review in 2006 that “insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan were not the wars for which we were best prepared in 2001; however they are the wars we are fighting...and are the kind of wars we must master.”

Now units must be skilled in the art of counterinsurgency. First Army trainers are ensuring that deploying National Guard and Army Reserve leaders and Soldiers understand the doctrine and strategies before their boots hit the ground in Iraq.

Soldiers have to know that insurgents want to influence politics and gain power by creating chaos and unrest in the population and swaying public opinion to drive a wedge between the people and the government.

Counterinsurgency doctrine includes driving a wedge between the insurgents and the people by building trust in coalition forces and the legitimate Iraqi government.

In the past year, more than 80 First Army Soldiers have graduated from the Army’s Counterinsurgency Center for Excellence (COIN FE) at Taji, Iraq.

Known as the COIN Academy in shorthand lingo, the school teaches an intense one-week classroom course of Iraqi history, cultures, customs of the various regions, counterinsurgency planning, techniques and applications.

After the classroom training First Army students entered a practical phase where they embedded in coalition units living alongside Iraqi security forces in a teaching, coaching,

mentoring mode that included patrols and other operations.

“We learned to inject leadership skills and confidence in the Iraqis, coaching and influencing them to step-up to the plate to handle their own missions,” said Maj. Justin Fiew, recent COIN CFE graduate and S-3, First Army, 205th Infantry Brigade, Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

“Our First Army brigade and battalion commanders and senior trainers are putting counterinsurgency skills into action as they train their own units and, in turn, train mobilized National Guard and Army

Reserve Soldiers,” said Larry Bergeson, First Army COIN program manager.

“We are already injecting counterinsurgency strategies into First Army’s realistic and demanding Theater Immersion training for our deploying Soldiers at Ft. Dix, N.J.,” said Col.



Newly recruited members of the only mechanized division in the Iraqi Army practice combat lifesaver skills.



During an embed phase at the COIN Academy, Maj. Just Fiew, First Army 205th Infantry Brigade, Camp Atterbury, Ind., stands with a school principal and an official from the Iraqi Ministry of Education at the doorway of a mud-hut school that was improved by an Army Civil Affairs unit.

Michael Miklos, commander of First Army's 72nd Field Artillery Brigade. "In fact, COIN is the framework for all training at Ft. Dix."

Gen. Petraeus, the senior American commander in Iraq who spoke at the COIN Academy and said, "Our focus on securing the population means that U.S. and coalition forces cannot commute to the fight. You must live in the area of operations 24/7."

Further he tells troops, "I count on each of you to embrace the warrior-builder-diplomat spirit as we grapple with the demands that securing the population and helping it rebuild will require."

"Because the counterinsurgency campaign is a mix of offensive, defensive and stability operations, leaders at all levels must learn to adjust their approach constantly," said Lt. Col. Robert Felland, First Army, 205th Infantry Brigade and recent First Army liaison officer who served for six months at the COIN academy.

"By inserting counterinsurgency events into Theater Immersion training, the lessons become transparent to Soldiers. Learning in a hands-on environment through scenario driven events, Soldiers take away a better understanding of COIN principles," said Maj. Chuck Russell, battalion executive officer for First Army's 2/337th Battalion, 205th Infantry Brigade at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Insurgents frequently change their tactics and methods, so staying operationally current is vital when training Soldiers like they will fight as mandated by First Army commander, Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré.

First Army planners keep training viable and up-to-date by studying after action reviews and digesting the steady stream of data fed from First Army liaison officers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Battle updates are swiftly translated into operational techniques, tactics and procedures for the mobilization station training lanes so National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers can train like they will fight.

Since 9-11, First Army has mobilized, trained and deployed more than 460,000 National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers for the war on terror.

Antiterrorism exercise keeps Guard and first responders alert

By David Altom
Public Affairs Office

On August 6, 2007, the Kentucky National Guard held an antiterrorism exercise at the Guard's state headquarters, Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort. The exercise was a test of the state's ability to respond to an act of terrorism on the installation, which is strategically close to the state's capital.

"This has become a key annual event for us," said Lt. Col. Charles Harris, Plans Officer for the Kentucky Guard. "Both military and civilians alike, Kentuckians take domestic antiterrorism mission very seriously."

The Kentucky Guard conducted the exercise in conjunction with civilian law enforcement agencies, including the Hazardous Devices Unit from the Kentucky State Police.

The scenario simulated a suspected bomb placed by terrorists near one of the significant buildings on the facility. First responders had to correctly react to the suspected bomb, inform the chain of command and set up a cordon to prevent passersby from becoming victims. The Hazardous Devices Unit then deployed their remote controlled robot to check out the suspected bomb.

According to Harris, an after action review showed that while the joint response team is off to a good start, a lot of hard work is still ahead.



Photo by David Altom/KYARNG

Technology provides eyes and ears for Kentucky first responders during a joint antiterrorism exercise at Boone National Guard Center Aug. 6.

GOT NEWS?



Story or Photos? Send them to:
gina.vaile@us.army.mil before
Oct. 20!

Keeping a



watchful eye

Kentucky Guard hits milestone of more than 1,000 deployed to OJS

Story and Photos by Capt. David Page

133rd MPAD Commander

Though the terrain and temperature vaguely remind Soldiers and Airmen of Iraq and Afghanistan, a deployment in support of Operation Jump Start is a very different mission but ultimately with the same goal – to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

“I think this is a very good mission,” said Staff Sgt. Merle C. Hughes, a team leader with the 617th Military Police Company, who feels the OJS mission is critical in stopping potential terrorist activities.

Each year an estimated 400,000 and 1 million illegal aliens attempt to slip across the southwest border. While some of these individuals want a better life for themselves, many of these aliens’ intentions are not as pure. From drugs and human trafficking to potential terrorist activities, some crossing our borders bring elements to our soil that endangers our security.

To help stem the flow of illegal aliens across our borders, on May 15, 2005, President Bush called upon the National Guard to provide 6,000 of its members to assist with surveillance and barrier construction while our Border Patrol ramped up its numbers.

Since that time, the Kentucky National Guard, both Air and Army, has been a major participant in OJS. With the recent deployment of approximately 240 Soldiers from the 617th and 940th Military Police Companies and the 149th Brigade Combat Team, the Kentucky National Guard’s involvement in OJS has topped more than 1,000 troops.

“The Kentucky National Guard has once again answered the call,” said Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Kentucky’s adjutant general. “Even with the deployment of more than a 1,000 Kentucky Guardsmen for Operation Jump Start to this point

and thousands more globally, we have been able to continue our full support of state missions.”

Without question, the Guard’s impact on the border has been felt. According to Border Patrol Chief, David Aguilar, his agency’s narcotics apprehensions were up 20 percent with more than 1.2 million pounds of narcotics seized in 2006.

And, as for illegal alien apprehensions, he said the impact of the Guard and Border Patrol has been very significant. According to the White House’s statistics, the number of people apprehended for illegally crossing our Southern border is down by nearly 30 percent in 2007 from this point in 2006.

The mission is going according to plan so the National Guard Bureau announced on July 10, it is drawing down its numbers per the initial plan of OJS from about 6,000 to about 3,000 members in year two. The National Guard Bureau said the drawdown will be complete by September.

“Regardless of the draw down, we will continue to support this operation until our President and Border

Patrol feel that our mission is complete,” Storm said. “We will fulfill our obligation to provide for the safety and security of our nation, and we are proud of the contribution we have made while participating in Operation Jump Start.”



The Border Patrol has employed sophisticated technology, such as satellites, to assist agents with identifying illegal activities along the border.



Private 1st Class Tade Shackelford, 617th Military Police Company, scans the rocky terrain around his guard post in De La Osa near Sasabe, Ariz., in June.

Kentucky Air Guard Services Flight wins top award at Guard Bureau

By Capt. Dale Greer

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Services Flight has been named the 2007 Services Flight of the Year by the National Guard Bureau, officials announced June 10.

At home station, the 29-member Flight operates dining facilities, lodging services, recreational activities, mortuary affairs and honor guard details for Airmen assigned to the Kentucky-based 123rd Airlift Wing.

That role expands during deployments to include the operation of mobile field kitchens and other support activities.

The National Guard Bureau award recognizes the flight's exceptional performance in a variety of deployed and non-deployed settings throughout 2006, said Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush, the Kentucky Air Guard's chief of staff.

"A lot of folks don't realize how often this unit has gone outside Kentucky to provide comfort and relief," Dornbush said during an award ceremony held in the Base Annex on June 10.

Citing deployments to West Virginia, Mississippi and Louisiana following flooding and hurricanes, the Dornbush said he was trying to paint a picture of "29 very engaged people."

"This has always been a unit of excellence, but these folks have taken it to the next level," Dornbush told the audience.

Colonel William Ketterer, commander of the 123rd Operations Group, took the opportunity to thank Family members for their role in the unit's success.

"It takes a lot of sacrifice on the part of Family members to support these Airmen, and I really appreciate that," he said.

Addressing the unit's members directly, flight commander Capt. Robert Geary said he was blessed to have the Airmen of the 123rd Services Flight on his team.

"This award is all about you, your efforts and your dedication," he said. "You guys are the best."



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Members of the 123rd Services Flight display the Air National Guard's 2007 Services Flight of the Year award during a ceremony held June 10 at the Louisville Air Guard Base. The Services Flight has participated in humanitarian relief missions around the United States, including responding to flooding and hurricane relief

Lieutenants graduate at Capitol

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

Eight lieutenants from Officer Candidate School Class 49-07 graduated Aug. 18 at the Capitol Rotunda after more than a year of training under the 238th Regiment (Combat Arms) based out of Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

“The most challenging part of OCS was being put in leadership and feeling like I had to sink or swim,” said 2nd Lt. William C. Crowe. “Luckily I was surrounded by other officer candidates who were always there to help out. Everybody in OCS has to work as a team for the training to be successful.”

Crowe, a Soldier in the Kentucky Guard for the last two years, said his commissioning was the proudest moment so far in his military career.

Second Lt. Jessica M. Owens, Class 49-07’s class president, said she recommends any Soldier that has the capacity to lead and take care of troops, and who welcomes a challenge should consider OCS.

“I really grew as a Soldier and a person. Leadership development is something you can take with you and use in every aspect in your life,” she said.

Both lieutenants leave for flight school in March.



Photo by Dave Altom/KYARNG

Lieutenants from the Kentucky National Guard Officer Candidate School Class 49-07 graduated at the Kentucky Capitol in Frankfort, on Aug. 18.

Air Assault: Graduates gain confidence to take on any mission, anywhere

continued from page 10

complete a 12-mile ruck march in three hours.

“Anyone who wants to pass Air Assault needs to be able to ruck-run, and be able to climb a rope,” Pack said, noting that a pre-qualifying weekend sponsored by the Kentucky Guard at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center ensured that he was ready to complete the school.

Sergeant Dereck Spencer of the 577th Sapper Company, said the confidence he came away with after attending the course will help him as he progresses through his military career.

“I’m glad I had the opportunity to represent the Kentucky National Guard and prove that the



◀ A Soldier rappels down the tower during the Fort Knox Air Assault School held in August.

Photo by Forrest Berkshire/Eastern Region Cadet Command Deputy PAO

Guard has the same standards as the Active Army,” he said. “It shows that the Soldiers from the Kentucky Guard are ready to accept any mission, anywhere.”

Captain Frank J. Mulder, of the 298th Chemical Company agreed.

“I would take any or all of these 11 Soldiers with me into combat because they know how to work as a team and greatly exemplified the Warrior Ethos,” he said.

A new home for the engineers



Photo by Private 1st Class Brandon Cornell/KYARNG

206th Engineers establishes headquarters at Owensboro Armory

By Pfc. Brandon Cornell

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 206th Engineer Battalion has been on the chopping block twice. Once in 2002, and then again this year, the battalion was up for deactivation. This time after surviving the cut, the 206th Engineer Battalion moved shop to Owensboro.

Headquarters for the Battalion was re-stationed during a ceremony Sept. 8, after moving from Harrodsburg, Ky. The unit has deployed in support of operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom, but according to Battalion Commander Maj. Derek Shawn, the unit is ready to assist it's new hometown.

"In a major disaster we can come in and clear the roads, saw up debris and haul it off," 206th Engineer Battalion Commander Maj. Derek Shawn Flaughter of Mayslick, Ky., said. "We have those assets internally. It's really helpful for state active duty missions."

Not only is this transfer helpful to the community, but also to local National Guard Soldiers.

"One of the major effects for the community is that there will be more positions open and we can bring additional recruits here increasing our manpower," Flaughter said.

During the ceremony, the unit was given a plaque honoring their new home station.

"We're glad to be here in Owensboro and that is one of the things we want to communicate," said Flaughter. "We want to let the community know that we have made a commitment here. Also there have been a lot of changes recently, but we want to let the Soldiers know we're committed to stay here and build a strong unit and battalion."

This ceremony marked the unit's first drill at their new home station.

Constructed in 1948 and dedicated in 1949, the Owensboro armory has hosted numerous Kentucky National Guard Soldiers, including the 103rd Chemical Battalion; the 2123rd Transportation Company's Det. 1 and elements of the 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, among others.

Learning Kentucky's military history

Leadership visits Shiloh battlefield during 2007 staff ride

By Maj. Don Peters

Joint Forces Headquarters PAO

On April 6, 1862, shortly after 10 a.m. and few miles northeast of the small Tennessee town of Shiloh, the 7th Kentucky Infantry – a Confederate regiment – participated in the first charge against a thicket of woods that would forever after be known as the Hornets Nest.

A couple of hours later and not more than a few hundred yards away, the 17th and 25th Kentucky Infantry regiments dug in to repulse attack after attack. These two regiments were wearing Union blue.

Friend against friend. Neighbor against neighbor. Brother against brother.
Civil war.

On Aug. 7-9, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, personnel from the Department of Military Affairs, and members of the Kentucky National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters traveled to the Shiloh battlefield to participate in a staff ride. It was the third year in a row for this kind of event, following previous trips to Gettysburg and Chickamauga.

John Trowbridge, the JFHQ command historian, planned the trip.

"I started working on it about a year ago," he said. "Luckily, I got plenty of support from the staff."

The two-day battle at Shiloh was the first major engagement in the Western Theater, and foretold the bloodier conflicts to come. The collective 23,746 killed, wounded or captured were greater than the same figures for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American war combined.

Even though the battle was nearly 150 years ago, Trowbridge said there were still plenty of lessons that could be learned.

"War is war and soldiers are soldiers," he said. "That never changes."

Besides the chance to walk the battlefield, the trip also gave JFHQ members – both Army and Air National Guard – the opportunity to meet in a relaxed atmosphere.

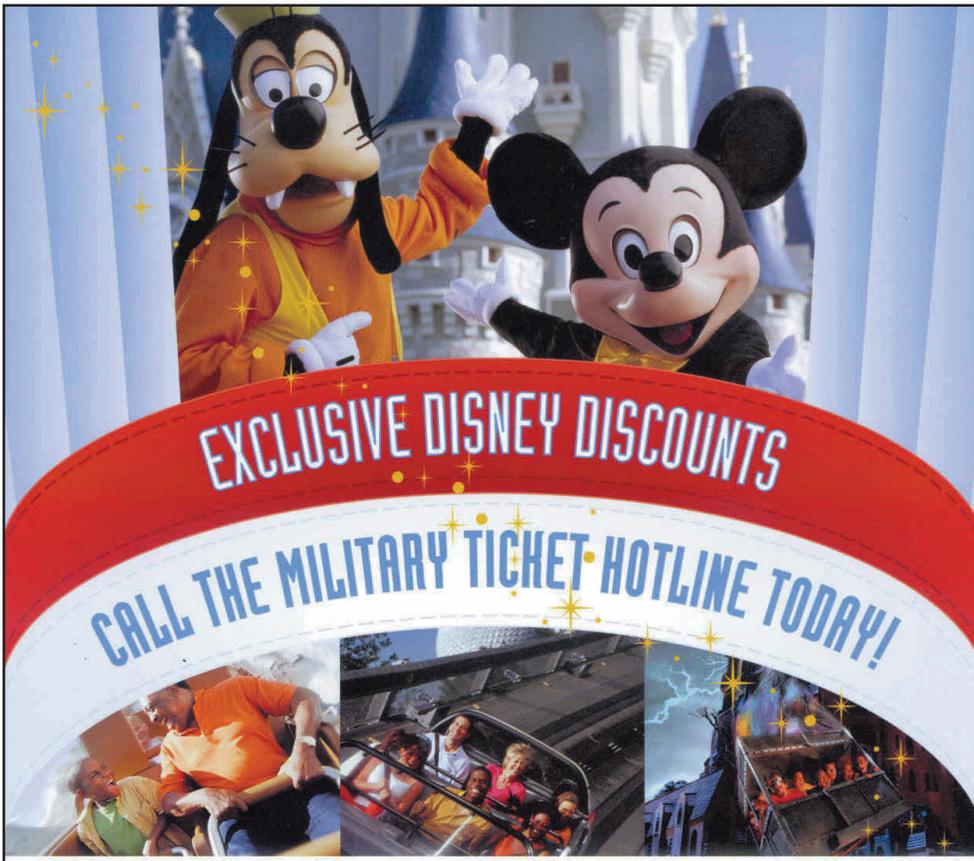
"This is a great opportunity," said Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush, the Kentucky Air National Guard Joint Forces Air Component Commander.

"Anytime you can get the members of the joint staff together it increases all of our understanding. We get to know each other better, and learn each other's capabilities."



Photo by Maj. Don Peters/KYARNG

Participants of the 2007 Kentucky National Guard Staff Ride to Shiloh Memorial park pose in front of the Kentucky battlefield memorial. The Staff Ride is an annual event where key figures in the Kentucky National Guard come together to learn about historical military events and to enhance working relationships between departments.



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DEADLINES

Now that The Bluegrass Guard is going monthly, write these dates down to have your photos and stories submitted to the editor!

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- Oct. 20

December issue:
- Nov. 20

January issue:
- Dec. 20

February issue:
- Jan. 20

March issue:
- Feb. 20

E-mail your submissions to:
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