Fairchild is new assistant AG; Kuhn retires

Nation's first female assistant AG is also third female general in Air National Guard

By Capt. Ralinda B. Gregor
Asst. Public Affairs Officer

In 1986 she was the first nurse to command an Air National Guard hospital and in 1990 the first Air National Guard assistant for nursing to the Tactical Air Command surgeon general.

Col. Verna D. Fairchild scored another first in October when she became the first female assistant adjutant general for air. With that position came a promotion to brigadier general, but Fairchild is waiting for federal recognition to pin on the new rank.

Fairchild would like to see the Kentucky Air National Guard attain several goals during her appointment.

"I'd like to see us continue to emphasize quality as we strive to maintain combat readiness," Fairchild said. "We also need to become more involved in joint training exercises, especially with the Kentucky Army National Guard. It's important that we pool our state's National Guard resources," she added.

"I also want to see us continue our involvement in the community and look for ways we can add value to America, starting right here in Kentucky," Fairchild said.

As a member of the National Guard Human Resources Quality Board, Fairchild also plans to focus on minority recruitment and retention.

Fairchild began her military career in 1968 when she joined the Air Force Reserve and was commissioned as a first lieutenant. Her initial assignment was at Bakalar Air Reserve Base in Columbus, Ind., where she served as hospital training officer and later as chief nurse.

She transferred to the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1973 and was appointed chief nurse. In 1986 she was selected to command the hospital and in 1990 she left Standiford Field to serve.

Story continues on page 6

Byrum's death saddens KyANG friends

From the eulogy given by Lt. Col. Robert Williams, 123rd SG Commander

Husband, father, son, provider and chief master sergeant. He was Bill, the friend and caretaker, everyday. He was the chief, the organizer and leader, everyday.

Bill was born in Loconia, Ind. He became a 1953 Manual High School graduate and a University of Louisville alumnus. He was a strong supporter of professional military education, too. He was a graduate of the non-commissioned officer and senior NCO academies.

Bill loved bowling and served as vice president in two bowling leagues. His annual participation at the Air Guard Tournament brought a special joy to Bill every year, especially in 1991 with a National Championship for the Kentucky Air Guard.

The chief was a giant of a man; he had the strength of a bear and the gentleness of a lamb. He expected excellence and realized the only place

Chief Master Sgt. William Byrum
40 years of devoted service

Story continues on Page 8
1994 has fast start with Bosnia call, 9th Air Force assessment team visit

We are starting another year on the run. The call came just before the holidays, requesting increased C-130 support for operation Provide Promise in Europe. We were the first unit to respond; one aircraft departing before Christmas and the second leaving the first of the year. We anticipate at least a 120-day involvement, so many of you will be asked to volunteer again this year for overseas tours.

Some of you have asked how these deployments will affect our planned July 1994 annual field training at Alpena, Mich. As we did last year, we will stick to our plan unless it becomes obvious that we will not have enough people available to make the exercise cost effective. We need the training in preparation for our next Operational Readiness Inspection, so we will be as innovative as possible in our attempt to keep it on the schedule.

As I reviewed our record for the past year, I came away with a strong feeling that we should be very proud of our team accomplishments. We were ready with well-trained volunteers and we responded quickly to all taskings. We deployed into difficult situations around the world without bitching or complaining, and we performed exceedingly well while maintaining high safety standards.

We are not a slipshod outfit, but a well-organized team ready to fight and win. We have steadily improved our team spirit with a dramatic reduction in complaints and a renewed spirit of cooperation. Our surveys of E-5s and below are reflecting a much more positive attitude toward supervisors and leaders. You have become involved in our quality improvement process, and we are starting to feel the effects. Don't hesitate to talk with members of the 9th Air Force Quality Assessment Team who are with us this UTA and let them know what you are doing to improve service to your customers.

To keep our quality improvement effort moving, we are going to have a real treat for you this February UTA. We have invited Dr. Charles Dygert, a high-energy, enthusiastic speaker from Ohio State University, to conduct a quality training seminar for us. This is something you or your employer would pay big bucks for, so I am sure you will want to attend.

Everyone will be included and it will be conducted in a comfortable auditorium off base. Come prepared for an interesting change ... I'll see you there.

**Wing Commander**
Brig. Gen. Stewart Byrne

**Public Affairs Officer**
Maj. Jeff Butcher

**Assistant PA Officer**
Capt. Ralinda Gregor

**Editor and NCOIC**
TSgt. Jeff Sansbury

**Administrative Support**
SSgt. Sandra Merriweather

Deadline for submission is Sunday of each UTA, for publication in next month's issue. Articles may be delivered to the wing public affairs office in Building 7.
WASHINGTON (AFNS) — In signing the fiscal 1994 Defense Authorization Bill on Nov. 30, President Clinton enacted the military's pay raise into law and ended speculation over additional force structure cuts.

The budget gives military people a 2.2 percent increase in basic pay, basic allowance for quarters and basic allowance for subsistence, effective Jan. 1. The plan also draws the line on the size of the military force but keeps open the possibility of additional manpower cuts in fiscal 1995.

During almost a year of budget debates, Congress had to resolve more than 1,600 language and funding differences, said a Senate Armed Services Committee report. Some of the differences included arguments over the military pay raise, funding for some Air Force weapons systems and calls for deeper cuts in the active duty and reserve forces.

The budget gives the Department of Defense about $26 billion in spending authority, about $2.5 billion below Clinton's request for defense authorizations.

In addition to the 2.2 percent pay raise, highlights of the 1994 budget include:

* Authorize a reserve component military end strength of 1,039,400 for fiscal 1994. The figure is 40,300 below the fiscal 1993 level and 11,800 above the requested level.
* Fully fund the request of $790.5 million for B-2 research and development and $911.3 million for procurement.
* Authorize $40 million to phase out development of an X-plane for the National Aerospace Plane Program and establish instead a generic hypersonic technology-based program.
* Approve $2.9 million for medical studies related to the possible exposure of American troops to hazardous materials, including chemical or biological agents during the Persian Gulf War.
* Repeat the combat exclusion law prohibiting women from being permanently assigned to ships engaged in combat missions.
* Establish a firm basis in law for the Pentagon's policy on homosexuals in the armed forces. The provision is identical to the legislation contained in both the Senate and House bills, and is consistent with the administration's policy.

In the area of manpower cuts relating to the drawdown, Congress also approved an extension of temporary transition authorities for active duty, reserve and civilian members.

Lawmakers said transition incentives are designed to assist the DoD in reducing the number of military people through voluntary means and to provide a "safety net" of services to separating personnel.

The Cargo Courier
Jan. 22, 1994
German blood scare spurs records check

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- U.S. European Command and CHAMPUS officials are searching through military medical records to identify people who may have received HIV-tainted plasma from German hospitals.

Officials are primarily looking for people who filed a CHAMPUS claim after suffering a serious illness or accident because plasma transfusions usually are only given in cases of massive blood loss, said Air Force surgeon general officials at Bolling AFB here.

EUCOM will contact anyone in the "at risk" category. Surgeon general officials said notification details are still being worked out.

One company, Pharma Dessau, has become associated with the blood scare in Germany. Pharma Dessau distributed plasma products it obtained from the now-suspended UB Plasma of Koblenz, the first pharmaceutical company charged with supplying German hospitals blood products that had not been properly tested for the human immunodeficiency virus.

Although three companies are involved in the blood scare, officials say only a small number of military beneficiaries could have received contaminated plasma because the military maintains its own blood supply.

German medical officials recently released a list of 82 hospitals that received UB Plasma products.

Another firm, Haemoplas, did not test for HIV and it did not test for other infectious diseases such as hepatitis and human-lymphotropic virus -- commonly called HTLV -- surgeon general officials said in the report.

Private dealings on base brings up AFR 30-30

By Lt. Col. Gary Napier Chief, Base Legal Office

Recently a local TV station came to the base unexpectedly. They came to investigate and do a news story on a report they had received, that "assault weapons" were being sold at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

Think about that: a military organization allowing the sale of assault rifles within its premises. It reeks of irresponsibility.

It had all the makings of an expose for an audience already emotionally charged by the issue of guns and violence. And here, the government is allowing it to occur. What an opportunity for sensationalism.

Well, they came, they looked, they left, and they did not run a story. The facts were not as they anticipated. There was no violation of federal, state or local law concerning firearms. Indeed, there had been purchases and sales of firearms between military personnel, but the sales had been by persons with a license to do so.

Does this mean that selling firearms on base is smart? Obviously not. Selling "assault weapons" or any other type weapon on base in today's political climate asks for scrutiny.

Does the fact that these incendences did not violate firearm laws mean this is legally permissible? Absolutely not. AFR 30-30 prohibits commercial solicitation between military employees. AFR 30-30 applies across the board to all military employees in any status, on and off-duty, on and off-base. AFR 30-30 applies to all commercial solicitations, not just firearms.

The regulation is punitive in nature, meaning that violations can result in disciplinary action.

This incident was an educational experience. Being the successful and ambitious people that we are in the military, it's very common to find that we have business interests other than our military duties, particularly for traditional guardmen. It's a natural mistake to wed the two.

This is a trap that is easily and most of the time, innocently, fallen into. Don't fall into it. Private commercial solicitation between military members is bad business.

Space-A travel makes changes

There have been many questions and a few changes relating to Space-A travel. The Space-A information line phone number has changed to 364-9459 (DSN 989-4439) and #3 on the menu. The recording is updated weekly on Tuesdays. Current policy for traveling Space-A is as follows:

All personnel must be in class A or B uniform. BDUs and flight suits are not authorized.

All personnel are required to have a valid military ID card.

Reservists are required to have a current DD Form 1853 signed by their unit commander.

Active duty and AGR personnel are also required to have a leave form indicating they are on leave at the time of travel.

All personnel are required to have a valid passport when traveling to any foreign country, with the exception of U.S. possessions Guam, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The Cargo Courier
Jan. 22, 1994
Senior NCOs are inducted into elite corps

By Capt. Ralinda B. Gregor
Asst. Public Affairs Officer

Senior non-commissioned officers assigned to the 123rd Support Group were recognized as an elite group during a senior NCO induction ceremony held Dec. 12. Lt. Col. Robert H. Williams, their commander, presented framed certificates to each senior NCO and charged them to pass on their wisdom and experience to the other members of the wing.

"The senior NCOs mold lives and direct careers," Williams said. "They touch more lives than anyone on this base. I instituted this ceremony to recognize them for their achievements and the key positions of responsibility they hold in this organization."

"I want the rest of the base to know that I depend on the senior NCO corps, and they have my full support and loyalty," Williams added.

More than 40 of the 69 senior NCOs assigned to the support group attended the ceremony, where they each received a framed induction certificate.

In the future, Williams plans to hold induction ceremonies to recognize newly-promoted master sergeants who are just entering the senior NCO ranks.

It's a great idea to recognize the new master sergeants," said Senior Master Sgt. Walter D. Tinsley, NCOIC of the base visual information support center. "They will be assuming a very important leadership position in the wing."

Deferred payment, credit plans offered by AAFES

(Air Force News) - An enhanced deferred payment plan, or DPP, is available at Army and Air Force exchanges worldwide. Authorized DPP customers include active duty, National Guard and Reserve members, military and AAFES retirees, most AAFES associates and family members with exchange privileges. Available overseas since 1979, the DPP first rolled out in the continental United States during fall 1993.

The credit program features an annual finance rate of 12 percent and includes a credit limit of up to $5,000, based on an applicant's disposable income; a 36-month payback period; and separate accounts for qualified family members with their own income.

Also, airmen no longer have to pay their accounts in full before separating. While most exchanges now have DPP, it will be a few months before some see the program enhancements.

For example, exchanges in Panama, Puerto Rico and the Azores lack the necessary computer link.

Commissary reminder; check ANG eligibility

Commissaries provide a valuable financial benefit to its customers, averaging 20 to 25 percent savings in patrons' food bills. Annual savings for military members can range from a few hundred dollars for a single person to more than $1,500, depending on family size and shopping frequency.

1994 UTA schedule

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The Cargo Courier
Jan. 22, 1994
Classroom space may tighten for Guard, Reserve

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFNS) — Air Force reservists will compete with active-duty members for classes on a first-come, first-served basis when the Air Force implements its mandatory, in-residence skill level courses next year.

The Air Guard has not announced its position but may follow the same standard. In most cases, commanders will have the option of sending a reservist to school in annual tour, school tour or reserve pay appropriations status.

"Mandatory course attendance will make training more uniform," said Master Sgt. Sharon Benoit, the NCOIC of Headquarters Air Force Reserve’s education services and requirements branch at Robins AFB, Ga.

The Air Force is developing exportable course materials for tech schools that are longer than two weeks to prepare people for the in-residence courses.

While the first two-week, in-residence seven-skill level courses begin this year, Benoit said it may be 1996 before all specialties have a course in place.

Verna Fairchild

Continued from Page 1

as the Air National Guard assistant to the Tactical Air Command surgeon general. In July 1993 she was appointed as the Air National Guard assistant to the USAF director of nursing at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. She relinquished those duties in October to assume her current position.

Fairchild says she only planned to stay in for one year when she joined the reserves, but she enjoyed the military and the friends she made, and she "couldn't give it up." Once she decided to stay in, she never dreamed of becoming a general officer.

"When I joined the reserves, the highest rank a nurse could attain was major," Fairchild said.

How did she get to the position she holds today?

"I've always tried to work hard, and I'm serious about what I do. I've been fortunate to work with some outstanding people, and I guess I've been in the right place at the right time at various points in my career.

In her civilian position, Fairchild serves as the assistant to the Kentucky state commissioner of the Department for Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services. She has experience as a staff nurse and chief psychiatric nurse, as well as experience in nursing administration, hospital administration and program management.

The colonel’s husband, Byrnes C. Fairchild, is retired from the reserves and the state Public Service Commission. She gives him a great deal of credit for her success.

"Byrnes has always been supportive of my career," she said. "He's been very understanding the past few years when my civilian and military duties both required frequent travel.

"He's proud and excited about my appointment," the colonel added. "He's the one who encouraged me to stick with it when he retired from the reserves."


Senior Master Sgt. David F. Pope received the Kentucky Medal for Valor Dec. 12 at the Standiford Field ANGB.

In a ceremony here, Maj. Gen. Robert L. DeZaro, the state adjutant general, recognized Pope for the distinguished honor. Pope, a lieutenant with the Jefferson County Police, rescued four people stranded on top of their car during severe flooding in Henryville, Ind., in 1992.

Pope, without regard for his own personal well-being, stood on the skids of his helicopter and pulled the victims up to safety.

He is the deputy chief of the 123rd Security Police Flight here.
American Express cards in force, Diners Club out for ANG members

By Tech. Sgt. Elke Adams
123rd RMS, Comptroller Section

Effective Nov. 30, 1993, the Diners Club government charge card program contract expired and went to American Express. Military members are advised to destroy their Diners Club cards because they are no longer valid. Do not mail them back to Diners Club.

If you had a Diners Club Card, you should have already received your American Express government charge cards and personal identification numbers, known as PINs.

New applications are not available yet, but the Kentucky Air National Guard expects them shortly. As soon as they are received here, each orderly room will receive a supply. Direct any questions to Tech. Sgt. Elke Adams at on-base extension 574.

The card and the account are not to be used for personal purposes and may only be used in connection with official U.S. government business.

The card is to be used for major chargeable expenses only in connection with official government travel. Major chargeable expenses refers to commercial lodging and billeting, rental cars and approved common carrier transportation.

The ATM cash advance can only be obtained for out-of-pocket travel expenses in connection with official government travel such as meals and incidental expenses, local transit system fares, taxi and parking fees or gasoline for rental vehicles.

American Express does not charge interest on items charged to the card. Your payments should be made in sufficient time to arrive on, or before, the due date shown on the bill. ATM cash advances are included in the monthly billing and are subject to a fee which is included in the individual's bill. This charge is part of reimbursable expenses on the travel voucher. Please save your teller receipts and include them when you file your travel voucher.

Travellers who take ATM advances earlier than five days prior to departure will not be reimbursed for the fee.

The Air Force policy on delinquency provides for commanders and supervisors to become actively involved to ensure that personnel pay their government charge card and ATM bills in a timely manner.

Remember: your actions not only reflect upon yourself, but upon the Air Force and the Kentucky Air National Guard as a whole.

From the North Pole:

Santa (Gene Smith) visited with members of the Kentucky Air National Guard Family Support Group on Dec. 1. At the year-end party were (standing, from left): Phoebe Bryan, Karen Smith, Cathy Allen and Cynthia McFarland. Kneeling next to Santa are Darlene Swanner, left, and Kim Hartlage.

KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson

New vacation center opens for military at Disney World

(AFNS) — Military people will soon be able to spend their hard-earned leave at a Walt Disney hotel without spending too much of their hard-earned dollars to afford it.

The Army is leasing the 288-room Disney Inn at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., as an armed forces recreation center for all military members, including retirees and their families. The inn will be renamed the Shades of Green on Walt Disney World Resort and should be open by Feb. 1.

The Shades of Green is located in a rustic setting and features two swimming pools and two tennis courts, an arcade, fitness center, children's playground, snack bar and full-service restaurant. Each room boasts a breakfast area and will sleep five people.

Room and package rates are based on an individual's rank. Members can make reservations by calling 407-824-3600.
was first place. His total, unselfish desire was to give, serve and do more than what was expected. The chief was famous for his personal and caring manner. His love and devotion to family, friends and the Guard was unconditional.

Bill always had time for everyone. He provided sound advice, straight talk and calm during the storm. The Chief had vision, a direction and a never-ending desire to make things better. He was a dynamic leader, manager and organizer. He trained his troops well to perform during his absence, to continue the tradition of excellence and to accept nothing but the best.

The Chief loved the Air National Guard and the Air Guard loved him. On June 16, 1993, Chief Byrum completed 40 years of faithful service. His years of service were greater than the average age of our servicemen and women.

Bill led many construction teams, both inside and outside the continental United States. In Costa Rica, one of his many deployments, the Chief’s assignment was to construct a school house and that he did. But before departing for home, he filled his BDU pockets at the local store with candy for the children. His generosity was reciprocated by a small girl, who returned to the store to give him a piece of fruit.

I asked Bill during this past year to construct three gazebos within a short period. He was handed plans, money and the completion date. He, in turn, organized the right team to make it happen.

I instructed Bill to deviate from the plans by replacing some 2-by-2 structural posts with 2-by-4s in order to strengthen the gazebos.

Two days later at a staff meeting, the wing commander complimented me for the wise decision to use 2-by-6s in the structure. That was Bill’s decision; he had constructed better that I asked. The Chief always gave more, and then some more.

Among his many assignments, Chief Byrum served as first sergeant for the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron, the 123rd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

Bill lived our service song, titled “I Am the Guard,” and his mode of operation was “duty, honor, country.”

The Chief has successfully completed his mission. We salute him for his friendship, leadership and outstanding service. He will always live in our hearts and minds.