Kentucky Guard sees largest GWOT call-up

483 soldiers deploy with 149th Infantry as Kentucky Guard remains fully engaged in Global War on Terror

The Kentucky National Guard remains fully involved in the Global War on Terror, with deployed troop strength levels again topping 1,000 this summer. The month of June, in fact, saw the largest single call-up of the conflict as a combined 483 Kentucky Army National Guard troops from the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry are now in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where they will receive several weeks of training prior to leaving for the Persian Gulf. Their deployment is expected to last at least one year.

Elements of multiple Kentucky Army National Guard units remain deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, members of the Air National Guard’s Special Tactics Squadron, along with airmen serving on individual tours of duty, continue to routinely deploy to various locations in Southwest Asia.

Deploying elements of the 149th Infantry include Headquarters and Companies A, B and C based in Barbourville, Harlan, London, Ravenna, Somerset and Williamsburg, Kentucky. They also include a detachment from Detachment 1, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, in Hopkinsville.

In addition, 119 soldiers of the 410th Quartermaster Company based in Danville and Springfield mobilized in June and have departed for Camp Shelby in preparation for deployment to Iraq. The 410th Quartermaster Company has supply control and warehouse management capabilities in addition to supporting fuel resupply and water purification duties for the US Army.

“As a native of eastern Kentucky and former commander of the First Battalion, 149th Infantry, I am very proud of these soldiers,” said Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky. “The ‘Mountain Warrior Battalion’ is one of the best units in the United States Army. These ‘Mountain Warriors’ are some of the finest citizen-soldiers in the world and are all true patriots. They are well led and all are working hard to prepare for this very important deployment. I am totally confident the ‘Mountain Warrior Battalion’ will represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our nation with honor, integrity and professionalism. I hold the soldiers and their families close to my heart and pray for their safe return.”

The 1st Battalion, 149th Mechanized Infantry was constituted on 22 May 1846 as the 2d Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. Since 1846, 2d Kentucky has

See GWOT CALL-UP, page 11

Bienvenidos! Albuquerque to host 128th NGAUS Conference 15-18 Sep.

The 128th Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) will take place 15-18 September 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The annual NGAUS conference features a 3-day business session and multiple social events, is attended by over 2,000 National Guard officers from 54 states and territories, and is open to all members of the National Guard.

The purpose of the conference is to have fun, network with senior leaders and guest speakers from Department of Defense, Congress and more; provide professional development opportunities to senior and company grade/warrant officers; establish legislative priorities for 2008; and visit with exhibitors from industry which provides the goods and services that make it possible for our soldiers and airmen to decisively and safely complete their mission.

Conference activities include a golf tournament at one of America’s premier golf courses, a Governor’s Reception unlike any other, a Fun Run along some breath-taking vistas, and Hospitality Night. Bring your pins for trading!

Apart from scheduled conference activities, the New Mexico State Fair (one of the nation’s top four in size and attendance) offers world class exhibits and entertainment, and the City of Albuquerque

See NGAUS, page 4

Gov. Ernie Fletcher joins Maj. Gen. Donald Storm (left) and 123d Airlift Wing Commander Col. Mark Kraus June 25 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, unveiling the new Unbridled Spirit logo tail flash for the Air Guard Wing’s C-130 aircraft. (photo courtesy 123d AW/Visual Information)
Fellow Members,

Thank you for your continued support of our Association, and thank you for your support and understanding as I begin my first year as your President. As I stated at our conference, my two priorities are membership and our insurance program. I am working hard to generate positive movement in both areas, but I need your help.

I have asked our Vice President for Air, Capt. Shawn Keller and Vice President for Army, Maj. Rich Palmer to Co-Chair our Membership Committee. Maj. Palmer and Capt. Keller are developing a membership campaign which should be announced soon. I ask for your help as officers and warrant officers of the Kentucky National Guard to support our Association. When you receive the membership campaign details, make a conscious decision to support it! If you are a unit commander, please provide the opportunity to the officers and warrant officers in your organization to join our professional military association. Encourage them to enjoy the benefits of membership and actively participate in the National Guard Association both in Kentucky and nationally through NGAUS.

Secondly, our Personnel Committee transformed our fulltime personnel providing more support to enrollment in our insurance programs. I sincerely believe in the benefit of our NGAKY insurance programs, and I personally hold coverage for me and my family. I spoke recently to our senior enlisted leadership, and I was disappointed that they did not know all new soldiers and airmen, officer and enlisted, can receive $10,000 free life insurance coverage for their first year in the Kentucky National Guard, just by signing their name. I sincerely hope our commanders know this about this benefit, and are briefing their new soldiers and airmen during their unit in-processing.

If my message sounds like a sermon – good! It’s my job as your President to get the word out. It’s your job as a member of the National Guard Association of Kentucky to get the word out. Let’s do our job.

See you in September, NGAUS Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

President’s Message

By Col. Gregory Nelson
President, National Guard Association of Kentucky

To arrange a visit by NGAKy staff to your unit to brief your soldiers or airmen on their association insurance benefits and more, call 800-251-2333

Interested in Cancer Insurance? The National Guard Association of Kentucky offers cancer insurance opportunities through Colonial Supplement Insurance ... for more information, please contact Insurance Manager Amanda Weakley at 800-251-2333 (502-564-7500 in Frankfort) or ngaky@bellsouth.net

Department of Military Affairs E-News!!!

Want To Be In The Know On Military News Affecting The Kentucky National Guard? You can receive announcements, media advisories, media releases, and related information from the Kentucky Army & Air National Guard, Kentucky Department of Military Affairs and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management via E-mail. Your E-mail address will not be used for any other purpose without your permission.

Sign up at: www.ky.gov/agencies/military/enews.htm

Fellow Members,

Thank you for your continued support of our Association, and thank you for your support and understanding as I begin my first year as your President. As I stated at our conference, my two priorities are membership and our insurance program. I am working hard to generate positive movement in both areas, but I need your help.

I have asked our Vice President for Air, Capt. Shawn Keller and Vice President for Army, Maj. Rich Palmer to Co-Chair our Membership Committee. Maj. Palmer and Capt. Keller are developing a membership campaign which should be announced soon. I ask for your help as officers and warrant officers of the Kentucky National Guard to support our Association. When you receive the membership campaign details, make a conscious decision to support it! If you are a unit commander, please provide the opportunity to the officers and warrant officers in your organization to join our professional military association. Encourage them to enjoy the benefits of membership and actively participate in the National Guard Association both in Kentucky and nationally through NGAUS.

Secondly, our Personnel Committee transformed our fulltime personnel providing more support to enrollment in our insurance programs. I sincerely believe in the benefit of our NGAKY insurance programs, and I personally hold coverage for me and my family. I spoke recently to our senior enlisted leadership, and I was disappointed that they did not know all new soldiers and airmen, officer and enlisted, can receive $10,000 free life insurance coverage for their first year in the Kentucky National Guard, just by signing their name. I sincerely hope our commanders know this about this benefit, and are briefing their new soldiers and airmen during their unit in-processing.

If my message sounds like a sermon – good! It’s my job as your President to get the word out. It’s your job as a member of the National Guard Association of Kentucky to get the word out. Let’s do our job.

See you in September, NGAUS Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

To arrange a visit by NGAKy staff to your unit to brief your soldiers or airmen on their association insurance benefits and more, call 800-251-2333

Interested in Cancer Insurance? The National Guard Association of Kentucky offers cancer insurance opportunities through Colonial Supplement Insurance ... for more information, please contact Insurance Manager Amanda Weakley at 800-251-2333 (502-564-7500 in Frankfort) or ngaky@bellsouth.net

Department of Military Affairs E-News!!!

Want To Be In The Know On Military News Affecting The Kentucky National Guard? You can receive announcements, media advisories, media releases, and related information from the Kentucky Army & Air National Guard, Kentucky Department of Military Affairs and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management via E-mail. Your E-mail address will not be used for any other purpose without your permission.

Sign up at: www.ky.gov/agencies/military/enews.htm

Fellow Members,

Thank you for your continued support of our Association, and thank you for your support and understanding as I begin my first year as your President. As I stated at our conference, my two priorities are membership and our insurance program. I am working hard to generate positive movement in both areas, but I need your help.

I have asked our Vice President for Air, Capt. Shawn Keller and Vice President for Army, Maj. Rich Palmer to Co-Chair our Membership Committee. Maj. Palmer and Capt. Keller are developing a membership campaign which should be announced soon. I ask for your help as officers and warrant officers of the Kentucky National Guard to support our Association. When you receive the membership campaign details, make a conscious decision to support it! If you are a unit commander, please provide the opportunity to the officers and warrant officers in your organization to join our professional military association. Encourage them to enjoy the benefits of membership and actively participate in the National Guard Association both in Kentucky and nationally through NGAUS.

Secondly, our Personnel Committee transformed our fulltime personnel providing more support to enrollment in our insurance programs. I sincerely believe in the benefit of our NGAKY insurance programs, and I personally hold coverage for me and my family. I spoke recently to our senior enlisted leadership, and I was disappointed that they did not know all new soldiers and airmen, officer and enlisted, can receive $10,000 free life insurance coverage for their first year in the Kentucky National Guard, just by signing their name. I sincerely hope our commanders know this about this benefit, and are briefing their new soldiers and airmen during their unit in-processing.

If my message sounds like a sermon – good! It’s my job as your President to get the word out. It’s your job as a member of the National Guard Association of Kentucky to get the word out. Let’s do our job.

See you in September, NGAUS Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
The National Guard Association of the United States now posts legislative bulletins from its Congressional Action Team on the NGAUS website. Please visit the NGAUS website at www.ngaus.org and click on LEGIT. If you have any questions, please contact NGAUS at 202-454-5301.

REGISTRATION FORM (STATE ATTENDEES)
128TH NGAUS GENERAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2006 – ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

REGISTRATION CATEGORIES (Please check applicable category):

[ ] Full Conference Registrant ($125)

[ ] Delegate
[ ] Retiree

Rank (if applicable), Last Name, First Name, MI                   (Badge Name)

Address

City/State/Zip

E-mail

Company/Unit

[ ] Company Grade/Warrant Officer Mixer – 15 Sep   [ ] Governor’s Reception - 16 Sep
[ ] Spouse Luncheon – 18 Sep   [ ] States Dinner – 18 Sep

Please check events included in the registration fee that you will be attending.

[ ] Spouse/Guest Full Conference Registrant ($125)

[ ] Company Grade/Warrant Officer Mixer – 15 Sep   [ ] Governor’s Reception - 16 Sep
[ ] Spouse Luncheon – 18 Sep   [ ] States Dinner – 18 Sep

Please check events included in the registration fee that your spouse/guest will be attending.

Additional Ticketed Events (please check applicable categories):

Full Conference Registrant:                                                                 Spouse/Guest Full Conference Registrant:

[ ] NGAUS Golf Tournament $65.00 - 15 Sep   [ ] NGAUS Golf Tournament $65.00
[ ] Fun Run $20.00 – 16 Sep   [ ] Fun Run $20.00
[ ] Retirees’ Luncheon - 17 Sep   (Retired NGAUS Members $5 – all others $25.00) [ ] Retirees’ Luncheon $25.00

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Hotel Name: Albuquerque Hilton  Deposit Required to secure room: $100.00

NOTE: Please call hotel on own to make reservations, though $100 deposit is paid to NGAKy. Room rate of $109 single/double, $200 suite is guaranteed through 15 July. Phone is 505-884-2500.

TRANSPORTATION:

Airline ___________________ (Mil/Civ) _______ Flt# _______ Arr Date____ Time____

Airline ___________________ (Mil/Civ) _______ Flt# _______ Dep Date____ Time____

Other (Please provide details):

Specifications/Notes:

Total Amount due for registration fees, additional ticketed events & hotel deposit $________________________

Please make checks payable to: NGAKy

Mail (or drop off) registration, additional ticketed event fee & hotel deposit check and form to: NGAKY, 1117 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601
Membership in professional organizations that support the National Guard

Memorandum for Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Kentucky National Guard - 27 June 2006

By Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm
The Adjutant General of Kentucky

The Kentucky National Guard continues to lead in supporting the security of our great nation. Through our support of the Commonwealth; our answer to the call from fellow militia states during their time of need; and our continued execution of the Global War on Terrorism. Soon, Kentucky will deploy the largest group of soldiers in Operation Iraqi Freedom since our country was attacked on September 11th, 2001. We currently have airmen deployed around the globe participating in Aerospace Expeditionary Force operations. Kentucky leads the way, and our Officers, Warrant Officers, and Senior Enlisted lead our forces in training, preparing, and participating in the fight. Our country needs the Kentucky National Guard, and the National Guard of all states and territories.

The Department of Defense fiscal position and the GWOT continue to cause intense competition for limited resources. History shows the National Guard may be neglected without an effective voice at the national level. It takes an ongoing effort to educate decision-makers and legislators about the role of the Guard, and to insure our personnel and equipment requirements are fully understood when the defense budget is enacted. Therefore, I encourage each of you to consider joining and supporting organizations that advance the goals and purposes of our National Guard.

The National Guard Association of Kentucky (NGAKy), the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kentucky (EANGKy), and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) are three examples of private organizations that work specifically to maintain a strong National Guard. Their efforts have contributed greatly to the ability of Kentucky National Guard units to meet mission requirements, and are critical to improving the quality of life of our soldiers and airmen. Our National Guard Associations work directly for the benefit of all our soldiers, airmen, and our families.

I personally believe active participation in these types of organizations is an effective way to help maintain a strong Kentucky National Guard. However, membership in professional organizations is a personal decision and no member of this organization will in any way receive differential treatment based on his or her decision regarding membership. I therefore encourage each of you to learn more about these organizations and to seriously consider participating. Please take the time to talk to your Commander, Senior Enlisted leadership, fellow Kentucky Guardsmen, and the officers of these great Associations.

Bienvenidos! Albuquerque to host NGAUS

No registration deadline, but room rates only guaranteed thru 15 July - so call now!

Continued from page 1 ...

will host a variety of Tricentennial festivities to celebrate its founding in 1706.

Nearby lies historic Santa Fe and many Native American Pueblos for you to explore. For the adventurous there is North America’s longest tram-ride up to Sandia Crest where breathtaking vistas and superb cuisine await. How about a balloon ride over the nation’s premier ballooning city?! For a more sedate outing there is Old Town just a few blocks west of the convention center with its Spanish Plaza, many shops with various treasures, and dining to suit everyone’s taste.

The $125 conference registration fee includes conference sessions, the Company Grade and Warrant Officer Mixer, Spouse Brunch, Governor’s Reception, and the States Dinner. Other available events include the NGAUS Golf Tournament on 15 Sept., a “Fun Run” on 16 Sept. and the Retirees’ Luncheon on 17 Sept.

Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack, deputy commanding general, Joint Force Headquarters Kentucky, will play a significant role in this conference as he is running for the office of NGAUS Vice Chair for Army. Additionally, the National Guard Association of Kentucky has nominated numerous key Kentuckians for NGAUS awards. Award recipients will be selected by a NGAUS committee in late July and announced prior to the conference.

The Kentucky delegation will be staying at the Albuquerque Hilton hotel. The rate is $109.00 for a single/double and $200 for a suite. Required room deposit is $100 and must be provided to the association along with the registration information.

Room rates are guaranteed through 15 July – to ensure you receive the negotiated rate, call the hotel directly for reservations at 505-884-2500 and state you are with the NGAUS Conference. Reservations after 15 July may require a higher rate.

A registration form is available on page 3 of this newspaper, and more information can be obtained from Amanda Weakley at 502-564-7500 or 800-251-2333 (in Kentucky). Please return your registration form to the association office as soon as possible.

NGAKy Membership Report

As most of you are aware, the past several years have seen a substantial decrease in NGAKY membership levels and member participation in the association. Much of this can be attributed to the high operations tempo that has existed since 9/11 and limited the time and energy that our officers have to become involved. However, there are other factors contributing to this trend that are within our ability to control.

As the ANG representative on the Membership Committee, I will be working closely with the Association President and my ARNG counterpart to closer examine the association’s declining membership, and partner with them to find a solution to once again get our officer corps excited about the benefits of being an active member of NGAKY.

One of my objectives is to develop a strong recruiting program for our new and/or junior officers and get those folks involved in the association early in their careers. We are blessed in both the Army and Air with a tremendous number of new and junior officers, many of who are looking for opportunities to take on new challenges.

Currently, I’m examining the logistics of offering all newly commissioned officers and warrant officers a free membership in NGAKY and NGAUS for their first year. As current association members, it will be our job to sell them on the benefits of continuing their membership and getting them involved as volunteers.

As for those more senior officers who have been involved in the past, or who have let their memberships lapse, we are working on new ways to reach out to those members and bring them back to the association. We are looking for ideas from those of you in the field for ways to make being an association member a fun and rewarding experience at the local level. We all know and appreciate the benefits provided by the legislative work that the NGAUS and NGAKY do at the state and Federal level, but what tangible benefits does membership offer us on a smaller scale? One idea is to perhaps offer opportunities for sponsoring a mentoring program that allows our more experienced field grade officers to match up with a protégé from our younger officers. Additionally, sponsoring social activities and events (aside from the annual conference) would also help build camaraderie and a sense of belonging amongst our membership.

These are just a few ideas that could help us increase NGAKY membership and continue us down the path of being a strong and viable organization prepared to improve the quality of life for our soldiers and airmen. I encourage each of you to give this issue some thought. Please contact me with your ideas, and together we will work to put the NGAKY membership numbers back on track.

Capt Shawn Keller - Vice President, Air
Amendment to defense bill seeks to increase Guard input into senior level decision-making

WASHINGTON (June 21, 2006) — Nearly 45,000 current and former National Guard officers are thanking Senate defense leaders this week for taking a “giant step” toward giving the Guard a stronger voice in its future.

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) is applauding the Senate Armed Services Committee for including an amendment in its defense authorization bill that would elevate the National Guard Bureau (NGB) within the Defense Department.

NOTE: The National Guard Association of Kentucky legislative committee touched bases with the military legislative staff of Senators McConnell and Bunning to brief them on this bill and ask for the senators’ support. Both senators have expressed strong support for protecting the role of the National Guard.

“This is a giant step toward providing the Guard a voice in defense planning commensurate with its role in national defense,” said Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Stephen M. Koper, NGAUS president.

Introduced by Senators Kit Bond, R-Mo., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the amendment would give Guardsmen access to the highest levels of Pentagon, thus ensuring, for the first time, real input into defense programming, budgeting and strategy formulation, Gen. Koper said.

“For far too long,” he said, “the Department of Defense has made the Guard wait at the kitchen table for something to eat while the rest of ‘family’ feasts in the dining room. The Senate wants the Guard to be a full member of our nation’s military family.”

The amendment involves four central elements:

♦ It elevates the NGB chief to a four-star position;
♦ It directs that the deputy commander of the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) be a National Guard officer to ensure NORTHCOM planning better encompasses Guard interests;
♦ It gives NGB the ability to identify and validate equipment needs essential to Guard missions; and
♦ It allows NGB to establish more direct lines of communication with the Office of Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs, states and federal agencies.

The amendment’s sponsors noted last week that the Guard provides nearly half of the military forces involved in the war terror while consuming less than 5 percent of the defense budget.

This contribution is in addition to the Guard’s role in responding to natural disasters and its recently assigned border mission.

NGAUS, NGAKy praise Senate for empowering Guard

Gov. Fletcher names Gen. Arflack Justice Cabinet Secretary

Governor Ernie Fletcher June 7 announced the appointment of Brig. Gen. Norman E. Arflack as secretary of the Justice Cabinet.

Gen. Arflack replaces Steve Pence, who submitted his resignation as Justice secretary June 7.

“General Arflack is not only a man of integrity and tremendous values, but he is the epitome of a dedicated public servant,” said Governor Fletcher. “His qualifications and extensive state police and military leadership experiences will be a tremendous asset to our Justice Cabinet. I sincerely appreciate his willingness to take on this new role and his continued dedication to helping this administration move Kentucky forward.”

“I am honored to be selected for this key role in Governor Fletcher’s administration,” said Gen. Arflack. “The cabinet has established an impressive record, and I commit to do all within my power to build on that reputation. I look forward to working with all members of the Fletcher team to move the state forward.”

On February 2, 2003, Gen. Arflack assumed the duties of deputy commander of the Kentucky Joint Force Headquarters in Frankfort, serving as an assistant and advisor to the Commanding General, Adjutant General Donald C. Storm.

“Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack is an outstanding choice to serve as the Justice Cabinet Secretary,” said Gen. Storm. “He possesses significant law enforcement and corrections experience. In addition, Gen. Arflack has worked with federal, state and local agencies conducting counterdrug operations, both supply and demand reduction activities. Finally, Gen. Arflack consistently displays outstanding leadership ability and values the contribution and dedication of all of those working to serve the citizens of the great commonwealth. We are proud of Gen. Arflack and thank him for his contributions to the Department of Military Affairs. We look forward to working with him and our continued focus to serve and move Kentucky forward.”

Gen. Arflack received a bachelor’s degree in law enforcement from Eastern Kentucky University in 1970 and a master’s degree in public administration in 1999 from Shippensburg University. He graduated from Army War College in 1999.
AMC declares KY Air Guard ‘combat ready’

By Capt. Dale Greer
123d Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

SAVANNAH, Ga. – A year of intense preparation, punctuated by a long series of drills and exercises, finally came to an end April 9 when the 123d Airlift Wing successfully completed an Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) at the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center.

Nearly 400 personnel and more than 120 tons of equipment were deployed for the week-long test, officially known as the Air Mobility Command Inspector General (IG) Exercise. Once here, the Kentucky unit joined forces with a similar contingent from the New York Air Guard to form a fictional 603d Air Expeditionary Wing based in the Republic of Korea.

AMC inspectors evaluated almost every aspect of the mission, from the first deployment sortie out of Louisville to the wing’s final redeployment flight back home. In between, hundreds of scenarios played out in Savannah as inspectors evaluated the performance of Airmen executing their jobs in a hostile combat environment.

In the end, the 123d Airlift Wing proved its combat readiness, earning an overall grade of “satisfactory.”

“I couldn’t be more proud of our folks and the way they performed their mission,” said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123d Airlift Wing. “Given all the things we’ve had to contend with, I think the accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary.”

Col. Kraus noted that the wing seemed to be fighting an uphill battle from the very beginning.

During the past year, a shortage of active duty days made ORI preparations unusually difficult, and the wing continued to participate in numerous real-world missions even as it ramped up for the inspection. These included multiple deployments in support of hurricane relief efforts last summer.

“The hurricanes took us away from some ORI preparations, but the nation needed us then, so we set those plans aside to assist with hurricane relief,” Col. Kraus said.

Weather continued to be an issue right up through the inspection, when severe thunderstorms and tornadic activity caused power outages on base just as the deployment phase of the inspection was getting underway.

“The fact that we persevered is a testament to the people in this wing,” Col. Kraus said. “We’ve learned, especially since 9-11, that we must adapt, deal with adversity and take on challenges as they come. Anybody can work under ideal conditions, but it takes true professionals to stand up under difficult circumstances.

“We all knew that the wing was combat ready. What we did here was put the exclamation point on that for the IG. We proved that not only can we do our wartime tasking, but we can do it under very difficult circumstances. Everybody just stepped up and made it happen.”

A wing-wide luncheon and commander’s call was held during drill at the Kentucky Air National Guard base in Louisville June 25 to celebrate that success.

A wing-wide luncheon and commander’s call was held during drill at the Kentucky Air National Guard base in Louisville June 25 to celebrate that success.

The IG cited seven duty sections for excellence during the inspection – aircraft maintenance sortie out of Louisville to the wing’s final redeployment flight back home. In between, hundreds of scenarios played out in Savannah as inspectors evaluated the performance of Airmen executing their jobs in a hostile combat environment.

In the end, the 123d Airlift Wing proved its combat readiness, earning an overall grade of “satisfactory.”

“I couldn’t be more proud of our folks and the way they performed their mission,” said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123d Airlift Wing. “Given all the things we’ve had to contend with, I think the accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary.”

Col. Kraus noted that the wing seemed to be fighting an uphill battle from the very beginning.

During the past year, a shortage of active duty days made ORI preparations unusually difficult, and the wing continued to participate in numerous real-world missions even as it ramped up for the inspection. These included multiple deployments in support of hurricane relief efforts last summer.

“The hurricanes took us away from some ORI preparations, but the nation needed us then, so we set those plans aside to assist with hurricane relief,” Col. Kraus said.

Weather continued to be an issue right up through the inspection, when severe thunderstorms and tornadic activity caused power outages on base just as the deployment phase of the inspection was getting underway.

“The fact that we persevered is a testament to the people in this wing,” Col. Kraus said. “We’ve learned, especially since 9-11, that we must adapt, deal with adversity and take on challenges as they come. Anybody can work under ideal conditions, but it takes true professionals to stand up under difficult circumstances.

“We all knew that the wing was combat ready. What we did here was put the exclamation point on that for the IG. We proved that not only can we do our wartime tasking, but we can do it under very difficult circumstances. Everybody just stepped up and made it happen.”

A wing-wide luncheon and commander’s call was held during drill at the Kentucky Air National Guard base in Louisville June 25 to celebrate that success.

The IG cited seven duty sections for excellence during the inspection – aircraft maintenance, personnel, public affairs, redeployment, safety, security forces and weather.

Moving forward, Col. Kraus said he intends to focus the wing on home-station training – for at least a few months.

“We want to give folks a little time to reconstitute following the inspection,” he said.

Following that, however, it will be business as usual for the 123d Airlift Wing.

The unit is deploying to Germany this winter to provide airlift services for Operation Joint Forge, which supports military forces in Bosnia.

And hurricane season is once again upon us, Col. Kraus noted.

“We need to be ready to respond to that if we’re called upon,” the colonel said.

“Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the grey twilight that knows not victory or defeat.”

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Images from the year in the Kentucky Guard

Lt. Gen. (Retired) John Conaway, former director of the National Guard Bureau, addresses the 1st Annual officer-enlisted association banquet in February at the Galt House in Louisville.

Kentucky Airmen fill sandbags used to harden structures across the base during the 123d Airlift Wing’s April 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection at the Savannah, Ga. Combat Readiness Center. (Photo by TSG Dennis Flora/KyANG)

Members of the fictional 603d Air Expeditionary Wing check chemical detection paper following a simulated attack at the Savannah, Ga. Combat Readiness Center during the 123d Airlift Wing’s April 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection. (Photo courtesy New York ANG)

Kentucky Airmen perform self-aid and buddy care on a “wounded” individual during the 123d Airlift Wing’s April 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection at the Savannah, Ga. Combat Readiness Center. (Photo by TSG Dennis Flora/KyANG)

Services personnel set up a mobile field kitchen during the night shift of the 123d Airlift Wing’s April 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection at the Savannah, Ga. Combat Readiness Center. (Photo by TSG Dennis Flora/KyANG)

Command Sergeant Major of the Army John Gipe (3rd from right) and Command Sergeant Major of Kentucky Phillip Gearlds (3rd from left) join members of the 63rd Aviation Group posing with Kentucky’s Unbridled Spirit logo in Kuwait. (photo courtesy JFHQ-KY PA)

A member of the 123d Airlift Wing’s Readiness Squadron assembles equipment for a chemical decontamination station during the Wing’s April 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection at the Savannah, Ga. Combat Readiness Center. (Photo by TSG Dennis Flora/KyANG)

Kentucky Airmen set up a tent during deployment phase of the 123d Airlift Wing’s April 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection at the Savannah, Ga. Combat Readiness Center. (Photo by TSG Dennis Flora/KyANG)

Members of the 41st Civil Support Team in Louisville practice a decontamination exercise at the Joint Mail Operations Building on Boone National Guard Cetner in Frankfort. (photo courtesy JFHQ-KY PA, Spec. Gina Vail)
The 2006 NGAKy Conference in pictures ...
Images from the year in the Kentucky Guard

Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Maj. Gen. Donald Storm talk to a man who lost his home in the Christian County tornado in April. (photo courtesy JFHQ-PA)

Army Guardsmen with the Joint Support Operations (JSO) counter-drug mission based in London, KY rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk during the Kentucky National Guard’s Family Support Camp at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in June. (photo by Spec. Gina Vail, JFHQ-PA)

Gov. Ernie Fletcher signs a law protecting military funerals from protesters. (photo by Spec. Gina Vail, JFHQ-PA)

Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Maj. Gen. Donald Storm visit families who lost their homes in the Christian County tornado in April. (photo courtesy JFHQ-PA)

Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Maj. Gen. Donald Storm talk to a man who lost his home in the Christian County tornado in April. (photo courtesy JFHQ-PA)

Army Guardsmen set up a communications satellite during field exercises at Boone Center. (photo by Spec. Gina Vail, JFHQ-PA)

Multiple Army Guardsmen with the JSO counter-drug mission based in London, KY dangle from a static-line off a UH-60 Blackhawk during the Kentucky National Guard’s Family Support Camp at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in June. (photo by Spec. Gina Vail, JFHQ-PA)

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, a former Air Force F-4 Phantom fighter pilot, shows off his new Air Force flight jacket, complete with pilot wings, presented by the 123d Airlift Wing. (photo courtesy 123d AW/Visual Information Office)

The Unbridled Spirit logo tail flash for the Kentucky Air National Guard’s C-130 aircraft. (photo courtesy 123d AW/Visual Information Office)

JFHQ-KY Chaplain (Colonel) Patrick Dolan is pinned with his new rank. (photo by Spec. Gina Vail, JFHQ-PA)

A rappel master demonstrates “Aussie Style” technique during the Kentucky National Guard’s Family Support Camp at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in June. (photo by Spec. Gina Vail, JFHQ-PA)

Maj. Gen. Donald Storm swears in new Officer Candidate School graduates, who have attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. (photo by Spec. Gina Vail, JFHQ-PA)
Kentucky Guard sees largest GWOT call-up

Continued from page 1...

participated in seven campaigns: The Mexican War, the Civil War, World War I and World War II, with significant action in Normandy, Ardennes-Alsace and throughout Central Europe.

The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry were last mobilized in 2001 to support force protection missions at US military installations both in the United States and in Europe in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Three Kentucky Army National Guard units recently returned home after a year-long deployment in Iraq

The Medics Platoon and Mortar Platoon from the 2nd Battalion 123rd Armor returned to Bowling Green June 18.

The Mortar Platoon and Medics Platoon arrived in Al-Ramadi, Iraq in July 2005. The Mortar Platoon fired countless indirect fire support missions for soldiers of the 2/28th Brigade Combat Team and the 2nd Marine Division. In addition to providing indirect fire capabilities, they conducted numerous patrols and offensive operations to ensure the safety of coalition forces and the people of Iraq. All members of the Mortar Platoon received the Combat Infantryman Badge for their actions against hostile forces.

The Medical Platoon established and maintained a 24-hour emergency treatment trauma center, providing necessary care to all coalition forces operating in the Al-Ramadi area. The medics also provided emergency evacuation resources to assist injured coalition forces and Iraqi civilians. The medics were awarded the Combat Medical Badge for their actions during combat operations against hostile forces.

The unit suffered one loss during the year-long deployment. Staff Sgt. Brock A. Beery was killed on March 23, 2006, in Al-Habaniyah, Iraq when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) hit the truck he was operating. For his actions, Staff Sgt. Beery received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal.

Delta Company 1st Battalion 149th Infantry returned to Middlesbrough Armory June 18. The infantrymen were assigned to Al Asad Air Base when they arrived in Iraq in June 2005. There, the soldiers were responsible for route clearing, patrolling and operating multiple checkpoints. Delta Company also conducted missions in Ramadi towards the end of the deployment.

Soldiers from the Kentucky Army National Guard’s 231st Military Intelligence Company returned to Louisville June 10. The 231st Military Intelligence Company deployed to Iraq in June 2005. While serving in the Middle East, the soldiers of the 231st Military Intelligence Company conducted intelligence gathering operations in Western Iraq.

These mobilizations are part of the ongoing nationwide mobilization of Army and Air National Guard units ordered by President Bush in support of the global war on terrorism. With this deployment there are currently more than 1,000 Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen mobilized in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Kentucky Army National Guard soldiers capture terrorists

Caught while trying to emplace a roadside bomb - Kentucky training critical

TIKRIT, Iraq – Quick thinking Kentucky National Guardsmen captured three terrorists trying to emplace a roadside bomb in February.

Sergeant Nuntawood Smith, Madisonville, Ky., was in the lead vehicle of a security patrol when he observed three males lingering near what appeared to be a disabled vehicle parked on the side of the road with its hood open. The three men began to act suspiciously; one threw items from the car as another man quickly began covering items on the ground with dirt.

“We just happened to be at the right place at the right time,” Smith said via e-mail from Iraq.

Sgt. Smith along with other members of the 130th Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion, based in Madisonville, reacted immediately and prevented the suspected terrorists from leaving the area.

Staff Sgt. Troy Piper, Greenville, confirmed the contents inside the vehicle and in a shallow hold just to the side of the vehicle to be components of a roadside bomb.

“One I searched the vehicle and discovered what was really going on, I was ecstatic that our team had stopped these insurgents from carrying out their mission,” Piper said. “As my entire team secured the site, I was pleased to learn that Sgt. Smith and his patrol gave the insurgents food and water while they waited for the appropriate authorities to take possession of them.”

Both Nuntawood and Piper attribute their quick thinking to the training they received prior to the deployment.

“Our training at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center was outstanding for the small period of time we spent there,” Smith said, referring to the National Guard training facility in Muhlenberg County.

“We never had this type of scenario in our training, but all of what you do know kicks in. The enemy is always evolving and it’s hard to keep up with them. But our training is what keeps us going,” he added.

“Every time my team goes out it feels like an emotional rollercoaster ride,” Piper shared. “But I trust my team with my life and we still train constantly.”

The Kentucky Soldiers are attached to Alpha Company, 878th Engineers, which is currently assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. The company also includes members from the Georgia National Guard. The unit was mobilized in September 2005 and deployed in December.

Other Kentucky soldiers involved with the mission include: Sgt. Roy Basham, Bowling Green Ky.; Staff Sgt. Ronald Moore, Wheatcroft, Ky.; Spec. Jared Carter, Owensboro, Ky.; Staff Sgt. Sandy Austin, Sgt. Harlan Wilkerson and Sgt. Jared Buntin all of Madisonville, Ky. Also included in the mission were two soldiers from Georgia, Spec. Roy Riner and Sgt. Sam Donaldson.
In Memoriam

Date of Death - Unit Status - Last Name - First Name

3/5/2005  Co B 206th / Isaacs, William
3/5/2005  Retired / Allord, James
3/19/2005  623rd / Hughes, Johnathan
3/31/2005  Retired - 307th  / Linkous, Jr., John
3/19/2005  623rd / Hughes, Johnathan
3/5/2005  Co A 2ND BN 123RD AR, 17-Jul-05
3/5/2005  2123rd / Toth, Eric
3/5/2005  Co A 2ND BN 123RD AR, 17-Feb-05
3/5/2005  Separated/20th SpForces / Hunt, James
3/5/2005  Spouse / Bush, Sandra
3/5/2005  HHC 1/149th / Shumate, Jr., Donald
3/5/2005  Retired / Hall, Jerry
3/5/2005  617th MP / Allers, William
3/5/2005  Retired / Purvis, Stanley
3/5/2005  Retired / Childers, Billy
3/5/2005  Co B 103rd / Hockensmith, Kyle
3/5/2005  Det 2, 207th / Coomes, Jonathan
3/5/2005  617th MP / Allers, William
3/5/2005  Retired / Mann, Charles
3/5/2005  SGT Sloan, Sandra
3/5/2005  Retired / Kelly, Shawn
3/5/2005  Retired / Dry, Richard
3/12/2005  1/623 B Btry, Humphries, Michael
3/12/2005  Former Asst. Adjutant General – Army / BG(R) Cundiff, Robert
3/12/2005  123rd AR / Beery, Brock
3/12/2005  HHC 149th BCT / Adamkavicus, Clayton
3/12/2005  Retired / Kurk, Wilbur Ray
3/12/2005  Retired / Lucas, Ronald
3/12/2005  New recruit / Miller, Justin
3/12/2005  2113th Trans Co / Cubert, Clinton
Kentucky’s military legacy...

Percival Pierce Butler: Revolutionary War hero, noted father, first Adjutant General of Kentucky

(Story compiled from multiple sources, including the General Butler State Resort Park website and the Col. Percival Butler State Marker)

Colonel Percival Pierce Butler (1761-1821), son of an Irish gunsmith and one of five brothers known as the “Fighting Butler” of the Continental Army, was appointed Kentucky’s first Adjutant General in Gov. Isaac Shelby’s first term and served 24 years in the position (1793-1817).

Butler served with Gen. George Washington at Valley Forge and was aide to Gen. Marquis De Lafayette when the British surrendered at Yorktown. Washington himself bore testimony when he gave the historic toast, “To the Butlers and their five sons;” and Lafayette superbly supplemented this with, “When I wanted a thing done well, I had a Butler do it.”

The Revolutionary War soldier originally migrated from Pennsylvania to Jessamine County, Kentucky and later to the mouth of the Kentucky River known then as Port William Settlement (now Carroll County), where he served as county clerk. In 1796, Butler and his wife, Mildred Hawkins, built a story and a half log home on their farm of 124 acres. From this home, he performed the duties of Adjutant General for 24 years. The location today is an archaeology site. Col. Butler went on to serve on the staff of Maj. Gen. Samuel Hopkins during the War of 1812.

“When I wanted a thing done well, I had a Butler do it.”

Gen. Marquis de Lafayette

Perhaps Butler’s greatest legacy was his five sons, all of whom fought in the War of 1812. His eldest son, Thomas Langford Butler, was aide-de-camp to General Andrew Jackson and commanded the city of New Orleans during the famous battle on January 8, 1815. Thomas was given a military officer’s commission of “Brevet” Major for his service. President James Madison later appointed Thomas Butler “Surveyor and Inspector” of the Port of New Orleans. The commission document hangs today in the bedchambers of Thomas Langford Butler at the Butler-Turpin State Historic House at General Butler State Park.

William Orlando Butler, his second son, was also a hero of the Battle of New Orleans, winning Jackson’s personal gratitude praising Butler’s contributions; “...on all occasions he displayed that heroic chivalry and calmness of judgment in the midst of danger which distinguished the valuable officer in the hour of battle.”

President James Polk recalled William O. Butler to fight in the Mexican War as one of his six major generals. After the war Butler was presented with a gold sword from the President of the United States and a silver sword from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Both swords were made by the renowned Ames Sword Company. Butler’s heroics at the Battle of Monterey also won him the Democratic vice-presidential nomination in 1848 on a ticket with General Lewis Cass, eventually losing to the ticket headed by Martin Van Buren and Charles Francis Adams.

The Butler-Turpin State Historic House at General Butler State Park (named after William O. Butler), built of masonry construction, is a traditional four over four with center hallways built in the Greek Revival style. It retains many of its original features, which include the woodwork, the fireplace mantels, the staircase, and the flooring in the upstairs section of the house. Built in 1859 it was the home to Thomas Butler and his family Mary Ellen and Philip Turpin.

Original military documents, family heirlooms along with stories of patriotism bring to life the legend of the “Gallant Butlers.” Visitors to the park in Carrollton can revel in the history of one of Kentucky’s foremost military families at this place of remembrance for generations of soldiers who won notoriety for their exploits from Colonial times through the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the great Civil War. The Butler-Turpin State Historic House, cemetery and archaeology site is located on the west side of General Butler State Resort Park.

LTC Adkisson named ANG PA of the Year

LTC Bill Adkisson of the 123d Medical Group, Kentucky Air National Guard, was named the Air National Guard’s Outstanding Physicians’ Assistant of the Year for 2005, announced Maj. Gen. Charles V. Ickes II, deputy director of the Air National Guard, in May.

LTC Adkisson deployed to Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area (LSA) Anaconda, Iraq, dubbed “Mortaritaville” for its high frequency of mortar attacks by Al Qaeda terrorists, in the spring of 2005. While deployed, he excelled in the treatment of combat casualties, and since he returns he has participated in numerous briefings and exercises in his field. Balad and Anaconda, approximately 68 kilometers north of Baghdad in Northern Iraq, host Central Command’s largest in-theater multi-national hospital unit, including the Air Force’s only combat theater hospital since the Vietnam War. LSA Anaconda experienced 100 mortar attacks during his two month stay at the base, statistically the “most-bombed” U.S. base in the world today.

LTC Adkisson is a medical physicians’ assistant with the 123d Medical Group of the 123d Airlift Wing in Louisville. In civilian life, he works on the Orthopedic Trauma Team with the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.
All Kentucky Guardsmen now receive $1,000 FREE life insurance

The National Guard Association of Kentucky has secured another, new benefit for the all state Soldiers and Airmen. Effective 6 June 2006 all members of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard received, at no cost, a $1,000 life insurance benefit through the association’s corporate affiliate. This benefit is for every active member of the state militia, regardless of his or her membership in the NGAKy, and is the latest in a series of initiatives that the association has undertaken in support of the guard family.

In addition to this free benefit, the NGAKy still provides for the “New Recruit” insurance policy. Under this program, all new members of the guard receive, without cost, $10,000 in term life insurance through their first year of service just simply by completing a short application. With support from recruiters and commanders the NGAKy can ensure that every new guardsman is provided this coverage at no charge.

And for larger policies the association continues to promote great term insurance policy options. While SGLI is an outstanding product, the $400,000 cap may or may not provide for the needs of one’s estate. After all, $400K in a secure, 5% financial product would provide $40,000 a year in payouts for just 15 years before the principal is depleted. Maybe this is more than enough… maybe it’s not.

For more information contact Amanda Weakley at the National Guard Association of Kentucky and ask about State Sponsored Life Insurance. It can be a great supplement to SGLI, it’s underwritten by New York Life, and, unlike SGLI, can continue in force even after you separate from the guard!

Amanda can be reached at (502) 564-7500 (w) or (502) 330-9842.

$1000 Program:
♦ $1000 of free life insurance is provided for every member of the KY Guard

$10,000 Free New Recruit Program:
♦ $10,000 of life insurance is free for one year to all new recruits. After their one year term, the guard member is charged $3.66 a month to continue the coverage.

All other programs offered by the state sponsored life insurance (SSLI):
♦ Upto $500,000
♦ Pays in 24 hours
♦ No war or aviation clauses
♦ Keep the insurance while in the guard and after you leave until the age of 70
♦ Underwritten by New York Life

Quotable
“My experience in government is that when things are noncontroversial and beautifully coordinated, there is not much going on.”

John F. Kennedy

Group Term Life Insurance
Member-Spouse-Dependents

Life Insurance
You Can Trust and Afford!

Proud to be your official State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI)

Serving our membership “Since 1967”

Coverage provided by Militia Insurance Trust/USBA and underwritten by New York Life

Amanda Weakley
Licensed Agent/Insurance Office Manager

National Guard Association of Kentucky
1117 Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

Toll Free: 800-251-2333
Phone: 502-564-7500
Fax: 502-564-7504
Email: ngaky@bellsouth.net
“...We should thank God that such men have lived.”
-Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

Capt. Clayton L. Adamkavicius
HQ 149th AR Bde
20 April 2006 - Afghanistan

Master Sgt. Clinton W. Cubert
2113th Trans Co
16 April 2006
injuries received in Iraq

Spec. Michael R. Hayes
617th MP Co
14 June 2005 - Iraq

Spec. Jonathan A. Hughes
B 1/623d FA Bn
19 March 2005
Iraq

Sgt. Darrin Potter
223rd MP Co
29 September 2003 - Iraq

Spec. Ryan J. Montgomery
HHSB 1/623d FA Bn
3 July 2005 - Iraq

1LT Robert Henderson
2123rd Trans Co
17 April 2004 - Iraq

Sgt. James Sherrill
2113th Trans Co
3 April 2005 - Iraq

Staff Sgt. William A. Allers
617th MP Co
20 September 2005 - Iraq

Spec. Eric Toth
A 1/623d FA Bn
30 March 2005 - Iraq

(Significant injuries received in Iraq)

(Photos/concept courtesy of JFHQ-PA, Mr. David Altom and SPC Gina Vaile; Potter art- work from facesofthefallen.org, donated by Heartland Studio, Des Moines, Iowa)