

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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1/623d BEST IN NATION, AGAIN!

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Deputy AG
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OUR COVER

The prestigious Kerwin Award came home to Kentucky again. On our cover, Army National Guard Director MG Donald Burdick, 1/623rd FA Commander LTC Michael F. Gant and CW4 James L. Strange pose with the Kerwin just after it was presented to the 1/623rd at the Association of the U.S. Army awards luncheon in Washington last month. (Photo by ILT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD)

AT EASE

While you'll find several stories in this month's edition of *The Bluegrass Guard* giving recognition to individuals in the Guard and their units, you'll also notice on pg. 8 a couple of stories about recognition for Guard employers. We think those companies and bosses who realize the value of National Guard service deserve some credit and an occasional pat on the back.

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THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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BG Davidson Emphasizes Soldiering

Editor's Note: This story is printed with permission of the *Daily News* in Bowling Green.

By Denise Purcell
Daily News Staff Writer

Kentucky Adjutant General Michael Davidson wants to put the emphasis of the National Guard back onto the soldier.

Davidson, named state adjutant general by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson in December, visited Western Kentucky University for a recruiting presentation to Western's ROTC cadets.

"(The National Guard) is a good organization to start with, but I am going to concentrate on training the soldier to defend the United States," he said. "My emphasis will be on soldier skills."

Davidson serves as commander of the National Guard in Kentucky.

The general is most interested in improving physical training, weapons use and rappelling skills. He said soldiers are not getting enough first-hand experience in those areas.

"Right now, half of the country's war fighting capabilities are in the Guard and Reserve," he said. "The proportion is increasing and I want to make sure the soldiers are ready."

Being commander, he said, will allow him to teach the soldiers by example.

"I will go out and do it and then they will do it," he said.

Davidson said the number of enlisted active soldiers has continued to decrease but the number of reserves and guardsmen has increased.

"Early next year, we will have more paid guardsmen and reserves than active soldiers," he said.

Davidson said the national budget was the main reason for



Western Kentucky University ROTC cadets listen as BG Davidson discusses his plans for change. (Photo by Kevin Eans, Daily News)

the interest in the National Guard. A National Guard unit can operate on about one-quarter of the money that it takes to fund a unit of enlisted active soldiers.

Davidson said the guard also is more attractive to the soldiers because guardsmen remain in their communities.

"They can live in one place, whereas active soldiers are on the move about every 18 months," he said. "The wartime mission would be the same."

The strength of the Kentucky National Guard is in its soldiers, he said.

"They are committed to defending the country," Davidson said.

Vuono On Training: "We Will Not Back Off!"



General Carl Vuono

The following is an excerpt from Army Chief of Staff General Carl Vuono's address delivered during the Association of the United States Army's annual luncheon on October 12, 1988 in Washington, D.C.

"We have developed a Reserve Component training strategy which I believe will enable us to obtain the best war fighting capability with the resources allocated to the Army Reserve and the National Guard."

"This strategy takes into full account the difficult restraints under which they operate, and I'm convinced it is a move in the right direction and will further improve what is already one of the great success stories of our Army . . . the work that the Guard and the Army Reserve have done in the past couple of years . . . and I'm proud to stand with them as part of the Total Army."

"One may say why are you hitting training so hard . . . why is this important?"

"It's important because of the dangers of war . . . all of us who have been in combat know how terrible it is and that's why we'll do all we can to prevent it . . . and we know we lose lives in war, that happens . . . but I don't want to be part of an Army that loses one of America's sons or daughters because he or she was not properly trained."

"If you think the Army is serious about training, it is! And if you ask any leader in this audience, he'll give you the same answer."

Our country deserves that we train our sons and daughters, and we will not back off from that commitment!

COL John P. Haggerty

COL John P. "Jack" Haggerty, 59, facilities director for the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, passed away on October 28. Haggerty, a native of Rochester, New York, was a veteran of Korea and Vietnam with 29 years service in the U.S. Army. He had retired from service in 1980.

From 1977 to 1980, he had served as senior Army advisor to the Kentucky Army National Guard and had been appointed facilities director in 1981.

His Army decorations included the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with V for Valor and three Army commendation medals.

Haggerty is survived by his mother, Mrs. Nora Lehman Haggerty, three sons, two daughters and three sisters.

1/623rd FA BN -- Again the Nation's Best

By 1LT Phil Miller
133rd PAD

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- "It's pride, it's patriotism and it's professionalism and they all add up to performance . . . that's what wins the Kerwin."

That is how LTC Michael F. Gantt describes the key factors leading to the 1/623rd Field Artillery Battalion being recognized for the second year in a row as the best battalion in the entire National Guard.

member of the winning unit can take justifiable pride in his or her contribution to Total Army readiness," said AUSA president Robert G. Moorhead, as General Kerwin and General Vuono presented the award to LTC Gantt.

The annual award is jointly sponsored by the AUSA, the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Reserve Officers Association (ROA). Selection of the winning Guard battalion was made by LTG Herbert Temple, Jr.,

"These citizen-soldiers have been chosen the nation's best."

Headquartered in Glasgow, the 550-man battalion has units in Campbellsville, Springfield, Tompkinsville and Monticello.

During a ceremony presided over by its namesake, the Kerwin Readiness Award for Training Year 1987 was presented by General (Retired) Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. and Army Chief of Staff General Carl Vuono, on October 18 during the annual Association of the United States Army luncheon held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

"Knowing the competition, every

Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

In addition to LTC Gantt, and CW4 James L. Strange (the only Korean War veteran of the 1/623rd still in the battalion), Adjutant General Michael W. Davidson, Assistant Chief of Staff MAJ D. Allen Youngman and CSM Tommy Pendleton (a former member of the 1/623rd) travelled to Washington for the ceremony.

Following the presentation, LTC Gantt outlined plans by the 1/623rd to put a third Kerwin on the wall of the Glasgow headquarters next year: "Its going to take more



The Walter T. Kerwin Readiness Award, annually presented to the best Army National Guard battalion, is received by LTC Michael F. Gantt (second from left) Commander of the 1/623rd Field Artillery Battalion, Kentucky National Guard. Presenting the award are, from left, MG Robert F. Enslin, representing the National Guard Association of the United States, LTC Gantt, General Carl Vuono, Army Chief of Staff, and General (Retired) Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. This is the second year in a row the 1/623rd has won the Kerwin. (Photo by 1LT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD)

of the same . . . dedicated leaders, dedicated NCO's, and a lot of good, tough training so we can continue to test ourselves and make ourselves better"

"The ultimate test is how we really feel

about ourselves and whether or not we increase our readiness over the previous years. The Walter T. Kerwin award is just an outside indicator of how we feel inside the battalion and how we train our people"

Molloy Gets Star; Appointed Deputy Adjutant General

James H. "Mike" Molloy of Lexington was promoted to brigadier general and appointed deputy adjutant general of the Kentucky Army National Guard at ceremonies in Frankfort last month. He had been nominated for brigadier general by Adjutant General Michael Davidson. The appointment was approved by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson and the U.S. Senate.

Molloy replaces BG Edward L. Gill as deputy adjutant general. Gill, of Frankfort, retired last month, after 35 years of service in the U.S. Army and the Kentucky Guard.

Molloy, who is executive director of the

state Disaster and Emergency Services, was chief of the Army Guard's Selective Service System before his promotion

Serving in the Guard since 1977, BG Molloy's assignments have included chief of intelligence for Kentucky State Area Command Headquarters and executive officer of the 475th Combat Support Hospital in Frankfort.

He enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1958 and was commissioned in 1960 as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. He served about 12 years with USAR medical units in Lexington and Louisville.



Brigadier General John Smith, Wing Commander of the KyANG's 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, holds the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque.

Air Guard Gets Distinguished Flying Plaque

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing from the Kentucky Air National Guard was presented the National Guard Association of the United States' Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque at the Association's 110th General Conference, recently concluded in San Antonio, Texas.

The Distinguished Flying Unit Plaques recognize the five outstanding Air National Guard Flying units that are runners-up to the Spaatz Trophy winner



FRANKFORT -- James H. "Mike" Molloy, center, of Lexington, receives his brigadier general stars from state Adjutant General Michael Davidson, left, and Molloy's wife, Lynn. Molloy was promoted to brigadier general and appointed assistant state adjutant general at ceremonies in Frankfort Oct. 16. (Photo by SSG Hugh Smith, 133rd PAD)



TIGHT SHOTS — Competitors in the prone pistol series were short on elbow room during target familiarization rounds at Tollgate Range.



SECRET RECIPE — PFC Tommy Roark, 1/623rd FA BN, oils his pistol with "Kentucky Red," a mixture of "four or five different oils" and blended by MSG Bob Pionuske prior to the match.

Shooters Battle Elements CHAMPION

Story and Photos By
CPT Richard Haines and
1LT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD

FT. CAMPBELL -- Windy, rainy weather dampened scores but not spirits during the first day at the Kentucky State Combat Marksmanship Championships held Oct. 1 and 2.

Blowing targets, soggy scorecards and rain-spattered eyeglasses delayed firings for both combat rifle and M-60 machine gun matches. To make the best of it, afternoon classes on shooting technique and range operations were organized indoors Saturday afternoon.

The Tennessee National Guard ran the "60" range, while Kentucky ran the M-16 range. Approximately 25,000 rounds of match grade M-60 and 14,000 rounds of M-16 ammo were ordered for the event, according to Supply Sergeant SFC Dennis Stockton.

One-half of each team must be comprised of new shooters. This requirement made the match an intense experience for each team, as the expertise of previous shooters must be shared in order to compete well.

Even "off duty" Saturday evening hours were spent with the M-60 participants in a special review. Huddled in the aisleway

between rows of bunks in a WW II barracks, the riveted attention of some 25 participants showed much was at stake.

The exercise is a notch above the annual weapons familiarization where fires document individual marksmanship, but do not work as a team. The marksmanship contest is more of an event, reported CPT James Hardy, "where detailed training can be encouraged."

MSG Bob Pionuske, himself but two points from "Gold Badge", expounded "many company commanders don't give marksmanship the emphasis it deserves", adding that during familiarization, many weapons never get properly zeroed in and individual firing problems never get addressed.

Starting extra early on Sunday to make up for lost time, the 10 M-60 teams were anxious to "have at it" as Sunday's fog and cloud cover burned off and a pleasant autumn day evolved.

Team Match winners included: 1st Place, HHC, 1/149th INF with a score of 796; 2nd Place was Btry A, 1/623rd FA with 322; 3rd Place was D0th Maintenance Co. with 292.

Top M-60 individual gunner was SSG Bobby Middleton, HHC, 1/149th INF. M-60 Open Class awards were 1st, SGT Timothy Cedillo, HHC, 1/149th INF; and



IN A JAM — SPC James Hobbs wades into the midst of prone shooters to assist AIC Perry McDaniel in clearing his jammed M-60 automatic.

Each Other SHIP SHOTS

2nd. SGT Curtis Angel of Co. C, 1/149th INF.

Novice Class awards were 1st. SSG Burgin Tuttle, Co. C, 1/149th INF; 2nd was SPC James Phillips of Co. B, 1/149th INF; and 3rd was SGT Ronnie York of Co. A, 1/623rd FA. HHC, 1/149th Indiana team members included SSG Bobby Middleton and SGT Timothy Cedillo.

Combat rifle TOP GUN was SFC John Gardner, 2/138th FA. Team match winners included 1st, 1/623rd FA BN as Gold Team with a score of 984-25V; 2nd Place was 1/623rd FA BN as Silver Team with 936-26V; and 3rd Place was 201st ENG BN as the No. 2 Team scoring 921-16V.

Open Class Rifle awards included 1st to SSG Darrel Duncil of 201st EN BN; 2nd Place to SSG Billy Honeycutt of 1/623rd FA; and 3rd to SGT Patrick Carter of 1/623rd FA.

Novice Class Rifle winners were 1st to SGT Freddie Gregory of Co. C of 1/623rd FA; 2nd to SSG Mitchell Henson of Co. D, 1/123rd Arty; and 3rd to SGT Timothy J. Smith of 1/623rd FA.

1/623rd FA BN Gold Team members included SSG Robert E. Dyer, SSG Billy J. Honeycutt, SGT John Stinson, SPC David Graves, SGT Timothy J. Smith and SPC John Wilson.

FORT KNOX -- The weather situation reversed itself during the Combat Pistol Matches held three weeks later at Fort Knox (Oct. 22-23), with a chilly-but-sunny first day, followed by cold and wind-driven rain the next, as the "Law Men" of the Kentucky Guard swept the .45 Cal. Team Matches.

The 438th MP Co. Red Team finished in the top spot with members 2LT Terry Orange, SSG Will Thomas, SGT Mike Jones and SPC Patrick Overall shooting a 1,057; followed by the 615th CID with 995 and the 438th's Blue Team pulling off a score of 972 for third place.

In the Individual matches, TOP GUN was SSG Will Thomas of the 438th's MP's firing a 288-20.

Open Class winners were SSG Mitch Henson, Co. D, 1/123rd AR finishing first with a 279-12; MSG Robert Plomske, HQS STARC shooting a 277-10 for second place and CPT Daniel Fenwick of SVC, 1/623rd in third place with a 276-14.

Novice Class shooters finishing in the top three spots were SGT Andrew O'Hair of the 615th MP CO, who fired a 282-17 for first place; SPC James Jessie of HHB, 1/623rd FA finishing second with a 273-11; and Air National Guard TSG Gary Stormes of the 123rd CAM Squadron shooting a 273-9 for third place honors.



STAND UP GUYS -- A brace of eight Kentucky Guard soldiers fire from the standing position during the M-16 team competition at Ft. Campbell.



KEEPING SCORE -- SP4 Gregory Dalton, Co. A, 103rd FSB, uses an M-49 observation scope while coaching members of his M-16 team.



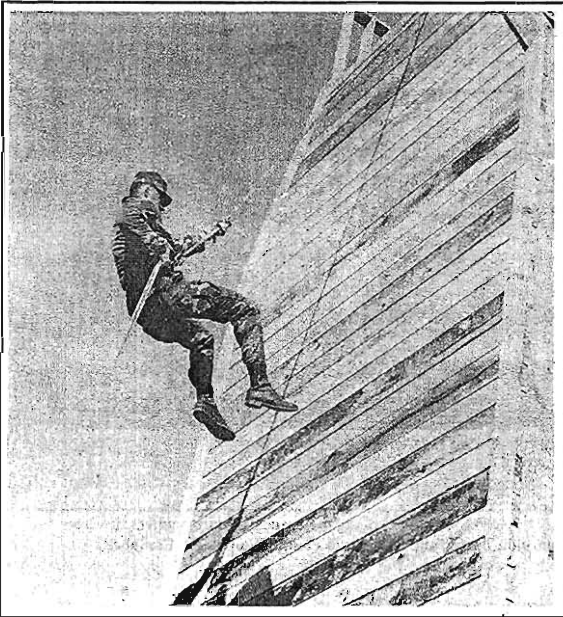
ON TARGET -- SFC Judy Bagan checks her pistol's accuracy during a practice round at the Fort Knox matches.



TWO HUNDRED METERS OUT -- 2LT John Shaw, Co. F, 135th AVN, squats down range during the M-16 competition.



IN THE MUD -- An M-60 shooter fires between the raindrops falling during the light machinegun matches.



Building Confidence

Boone Raider Challenge OCS Class 31-89

Story and Photos by SGT Robert W. Ham, 133rd PAD

ARTEMUS, KY – Officer candidates from the Kentucky Military Academy took to the mountains of eastern Kentucky in mid-October as they tackled the 1/149th Infantry Battalion's Boone Raider course.

For the members of OCS Class 31-89, taking up the Boone Raider challenge also meant facing their first tactical exercise under the watchful eyes of their TAC Officers. "This is the first real chance the candidates have to show their qualities as decision makers in the field," said CPT Randy Gardner, a KMA Officer Instructor.

"Teamwork and confidence are the main leadership qualities to be developed at Boone Raider," said CPT Donald Storm of 1/149th. "We teach them to rely on each other," he added, "and by drawing on the strengths of the entire class, they learn that they can accomplish any mission."

Throughout the three-day exercise, KMA Officer Instructors repeatedly illustrated for the candidates how the success of OCS Class 31-89 during the 13-month course depended entirely on the ability of the class members to become a unit unto themselves.

. . . Confidence lurks at the bottom of the rappelling tower . . .

"It's the challenge of the Boone Raider experience that helps to bring about the all-important transition from individual soldier to motivated team member," KMA instructor CPT Bill Blake told the candidates. "You've got to unite!" Blake exhorted, "become one body!"

The opportunity to gain confidence in oneself, as well as in those upon whom you depend, presents itself many times during the Boone Raider challenge, as the candidates learn to conquer their individual apprehensions.

Several OC's found confidence lurking at the bottom of the rappelling tower where they learned to run 60 feet straight down, face first, trusting only the rope in their hands and their classmates' attention to detail.

The concept is quite simple: When a soldier faces and overcomes his fear, he develops confidence. "Today was the first time I ever rappelled," said Officer Candidate Avery Wilder, "but now that I've conquered that, I feel like I can do anything."

In addition to building confidence, the officer candidates also received tactical training at the Artemus training site, learning the difficulties associated with night terrain movement and control of a unit.

Upon completion of a night patrol, these pitfalls were evaluated and remedial action taken before the next mission. "We recognized our problems and dealt with them before they happened again," said Officer Candidate Steven Chaney after his squad returned from a night patrol.

Boone Raider is known throughout the Kentucky Guard as a rigorous test of both endurance and leadership, and the KMA Staff are quick to praise the 1/149th INF (MECH) for its administration of the course, describing it as "first rate training" and the "best of it's kind."

Additionally, the KMA's CPT Gardner also spoke highly of the support the academy receives from all the National Guard units in the state, saying that "without them, we would not be able to accomplish our mission . . . the mission of training the next generation of officers who will serve as the leaders of the Kentucky Army National Guard."



Night Patrol



Sunday Morning River Crossing

Engineers Help Complete Vietnam Veterans Monument

By SGT Rick Baker
133rd PAD

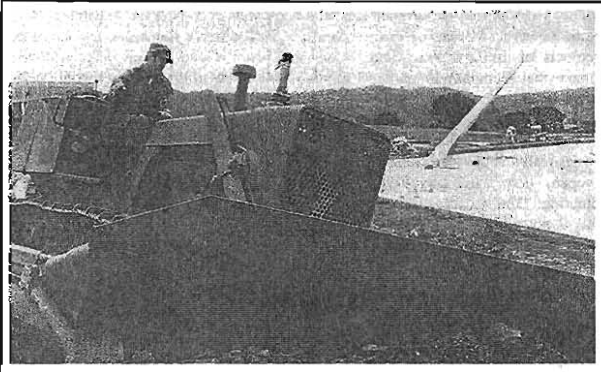
When Kentucky's Vietnam Veterans' Memorial is dedicated November 12, the landscaping around the granite structure will be markedly different from when the project started, thanks to National Guardsmen from Co. D, 201st Engineer Battalion.

Members from the Carlisle unit have spent their last two drill weekends moving

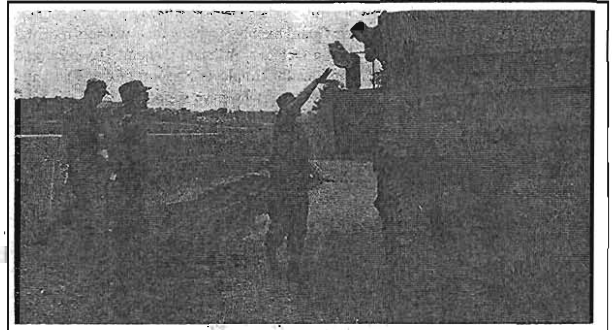
tons of dirt and rock, removing dead trees and reshaping the slope behind the memorial to resemble an amphitheater.

"The guardsmen are doing a fine job," said Billy Lane of Traco Construction, contractor for the project. "They've done whatever we've asked them to do."

According to SFC Harold Davis, who is supervising the Guard activity, unit members were eager to work on the memorial.



SGT Ricky Willoughby, Co. D, 201st Engineer BN, Carlisle, puts the finishing touches on the slope behind the new Vietnam Veterans' Memorial on Coffee Tree Road in Frankfort. The shadow of the pointer, in the background; will single out the name of a slain soldier on each anniversary of his death. (Photo by CPT E. Kelly Byrd, 133rd PAD)



Members of Co. D, 201st Engineer BN, Carlisle, load some of the 15 tons of rock the unit removed from the site of the new Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. (Photo by SSG Hugh A. Smith, 133rd PAD)

"Last month, we came from Carlisle to Frankfort with our equipment on Friday evening so we could begin work bright and early Saturday morning," Davis said.

After arriving at the memorial, tents were set up on the site for sleeping quarters. Meals were provided by the nearby Franklin County regional jail.

Once the 15 Guardsmen began working, they found there was plenty for them to do.

"We moved about 15 tons of rock, removed three dead pine trees, moved one drainage ditch and put in another," said 2LT James Galloway, the unit officer in charge.

"Our men also hand-filled, hand-shaped and hand-ramped the slope for the walkway."

In addition to the amphitheater slope, the engineers are also leveling ground for an extra parking lot and filling in a low area in front of a nearby creek.

Galloway estimates they have worked more than 400 man-hours on the project, using a grader, bulldozer and dump trucks.

That has saved the memorial fund somewhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000, according to Lane. "You couldn't ask for any better help," he said.

KPUP Opportunities Offered at NTC

Several worthwhile training opportunities exist for field artillery officers and NCO's with the 177th Heavy Separate Armored Brigade (HSB) (P) (OPFOR) at the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California. Participants in this Key Personnel Upgrade Program (KPUP) training should have fire support experience.

Opportunities available:

- Grade 04/05 MOS 13A
Duties: Motorized rifle regiment, Chief of Artillery (Bde FSO)
- Grade 02/03 MOS 13A
Duties: Motorized 122 mm Arty, Battery CO (Bde FSO-Plans)
- Grade E6/E7 MOS 13F
Duties: Motorized Rifle Regiment, Artillery Sergeant (Fire Support SGT)
- Grade E4/E5 MOS 13F
Duties: Motorized 122 mm Arty, Battery Fire Direction SGT (Fire Support SGT)

Rotation dates for these opportunities are available this month through October of 1989. For the specific dates available and more information, see your unit training NCO.

The 2nd BDE, 1st ID (M) is also looking for KPUP personnel for an NTC rotation. Exact dates have not yet been worked out, though the time frame is the third week of January '89 to the third week of February '89.

These MOS's are needed:

| | |
|--------|--------|
| 75B101 | 76C201 |
| 7U1101 | 62E207 |
| 96B201 | 63E106 |
| 76Y202 | 63Y201 |
| 11C206 | 45E201 |
| 19D204 | 45E101 |
| 77F203 | 91B208 |
| 77F106 | 54B201 |
| 31C203 | 11M201 |
| 31V101 | 36M103 |
| 31V201 | 52D101 |

Any interested soldiers are reminded that they must be MOS qualified to participate in KPUP.



475th MASH Nurse First to Win Expert Field Medical Badge

FORT KNOX — Grinding her teeth, 1LT Karen Likens crosses the finish line of a 12-mile road march, to become the first Kentucky Guard soldier to earn the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) while in Guard status.

Conducted 19-21 October at Ft. Knox by the 42nd Field Hospital, LT Likens' quest for the EFMB involved three grueling days and nights of medical and soldier skill testing under simulated combat conditions, capped by a "final exam" of finishing a 12-mile road march in under three hours, while carrying a weapon, full rucksack and LBE.

LT Likens' time on the march -- 2 hours, 49 minutes, 57 seconds.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Employers Recognized at ESGR Awards

Three Kentucky employers who have Guard members among their workers received recognition at a Ft. Knox awards day in October. Adjutant General Davidson and state chairman Ed Hessel of the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) gave the awards to employers who have supported their workers' involvement in the national defense.

The Klein Safe & Lock Company of Louisville received the highest award given to an employer, the Pro Patria. Larry Klein, owner of the company was nominated by Senior Airman David M. Mndd of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Two chairman's awards were also handed out. One went to the Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Department Commissioner Dennis Boyd was nominated by LTC Verna Fairchild of Frankfort. The Kentucky State Police received the other chairman's award. CPT Eldon Isonberg, former commander of the Bowling Green Post, was nominated by MAJ Dorris Kirkman.

Volunteers Needed for Family Support Groups

The Kentucky National Guard's Family Support Office needs volunteers all around Kentucky. Family Program Specialist MSG Kenny Bruner is looking for spouses, sons, daughters, parents, friends, retirees and other volunteers interested in improving the National Guard and its families through family support groups.

"Remember," MSG Bruner says, "the stronger the family, the more ready the Guard. The Guard is family!"

For more information, he can be contacted at 800-372-7660 or, in Frankfort, (502) 564-8588.

3/123rd Armor Company to Locate in Leitchfield; Activation in December

By Mike Lynch
Dept. of Military Affairs

After months of speculation that they would receive a new National Guard unit, officials of Leitchfield and Grayson County were celebrating in October at the news that a company of the new 3/123rd Armor would locate in their community.

"This is truly a happy day for Grayson County," County Judge/Executive Glenn Tillford told about 50 people at Grayson County High School on October 22. Adjutant General Michael Davidson and members of his staff were there to announce that Company A of the 3/123rd would be located in Leitchfield, with activation scheduled for December.

"The citizens of Grayson County enthusiastically support a National Guard company here," BG Davidson told the gathering. "You've earned us coming here. This is not a gift."

The new battalion will be trained on the Army's most sophisticated battle tank, the M-1 "Abrams." Each of the four tank companies will be authorized for a total of 77

members

Battalion commander MAJ George Welch said the formation of the company would bring plenty of benefits for the community and the individuals involved, including pay, pensions, technical and leadership skills and educational assistance. But he added that continued community support would be important for keeping the company in Leitchfield.

"A Guard unit is no more successful than you want it to be," he concluded.

Following the Leitchfield announcement, Adjutant General Davidson and MAJ Welch flew to Brandenburg to re-confirm that Company B of the tank battalion would be located in the Meade County community. LT James Bussey will command Company B.

MAJ Welch told listeners in Brandenburg, "The Guard is the single best investment a community can ever have."

The Department of Military Affairs is negotiating with property owners over potential sites for temporary armories in both Leitchfield and Brandenburg.

Danville Industry Honored by Guard, Reserve Members

Editor's Note: This story is printed with permission of the *Danville Advocate Messenger*.

Supervisors at Mathews Conveyor received certificates of appreciation October 18 from employees who they have given time off to train in various military Reserve and National Guard units.

In addition to attending a two-week camp during the summer, nine employees at the plant spend one weekend a month serving in their area.

It was a time for the supervisors to learn about the type of training the men receive. The men in the military Reserve and Guard units also discovered that Harold Davies, vice president and general manager of the company, was a veteran of the Korean War.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dewey Pope, of the National Guard, was one of the men making the presentation. Pope, who had to go to Germany for three weeks in September, said, "Mathews has really been supportive of all of us. We've had one guy who had to leave for six months for training. There's never been any problem."

As a visual arts specialist at Mathews, Pope said the training he receives from the Army in graphics, audiovisual and aerial photography benefits his work at the plant. "The skills I learn, I take and apply to this job," he said.

In addition, Mathews supports the men by paying the difference between what they earn in the Reserve and Guard units and at work, Pope said. "I don't lose any money over the time," he said.

The majority of the men who serve in the Reserve and Guard units have about 10 years of training, Pope said. Each one has seven to nine years with the company and it's not always easy for the supervisors to get by without them while they train, Pope said. "A lot of times it's hard to let those people go, especially for two weeks," he said.

Regardless of the time they have missed, the company always has promoted the men, Pope said.

In addition to the training they receive, the company also has received some benefits from the men's involvement in the service. Pope said. He always has someone from Guard bring in a helicopter for the company picnic. "It's a big hit with the kids," he said.

For Veterans Day, the men are planning to honor the 80 and 100 veterans at Mathews with a luncheon, Pope said.

The certificates were from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a division of the United States Department of Defense.

The men making their presentations were: MAJ Dan Wells of the Kentucky Air National Guard; Lance Corporal Tim Bell of the Marine Reserves; Specialist 4 George Hamilton, Staff SGT Alonzo McGuire and SGT Garland Sapp, all of the National Guard; and Staff SGT Don Atkinson, First Lieutenant Jack Berry Gilmore and SGT First Class Danny Raney, all of the Army Reserve.



Harold Davies, VP and General Manager of Mathews, is pictured after receiving the ESGR certificate of appreciation. The ESGR award (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) was presented by employees of Mathews who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Employees pictured are: left to right - front row: CW2 Dewey Pope, KyARNG; SFC Danny Raney, USAR; SGT Alonzo McGuire, KyARNG, Davies, SSG Don Atkinson, USAR, and Lance Corporal Tim Bell, USMC Reserve. Back row - left to right: SP4 George Hamilton, KyARNG; SGT Garland Sapp, KyARNG; 1LT Berry Gilmore, USAR; and MAJ Dan Wells, KyANG.

More GED Testing Scheduled

Education Specialist CPT John Roth has scheduled GED testing sessions in three communities through January in his continuing push to have more Guard members earn their General Education Diploma.

Results from a September session conducted in Cynthia show that of 21 members of Companies C and D of the 201st Engineers, six passed the GED test.

Testing is set for Jackson this month, Glasgow in December and Ashland in January for units of the 206th EN BN, the 1/623rd FA and other members of the 201st Engineers.

The testing lasts for about seven and a half hours, not counting filling out forms and breaks between test sections.

For more information on the GED program, call CPT Roth at (502) 564-8550.