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# THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

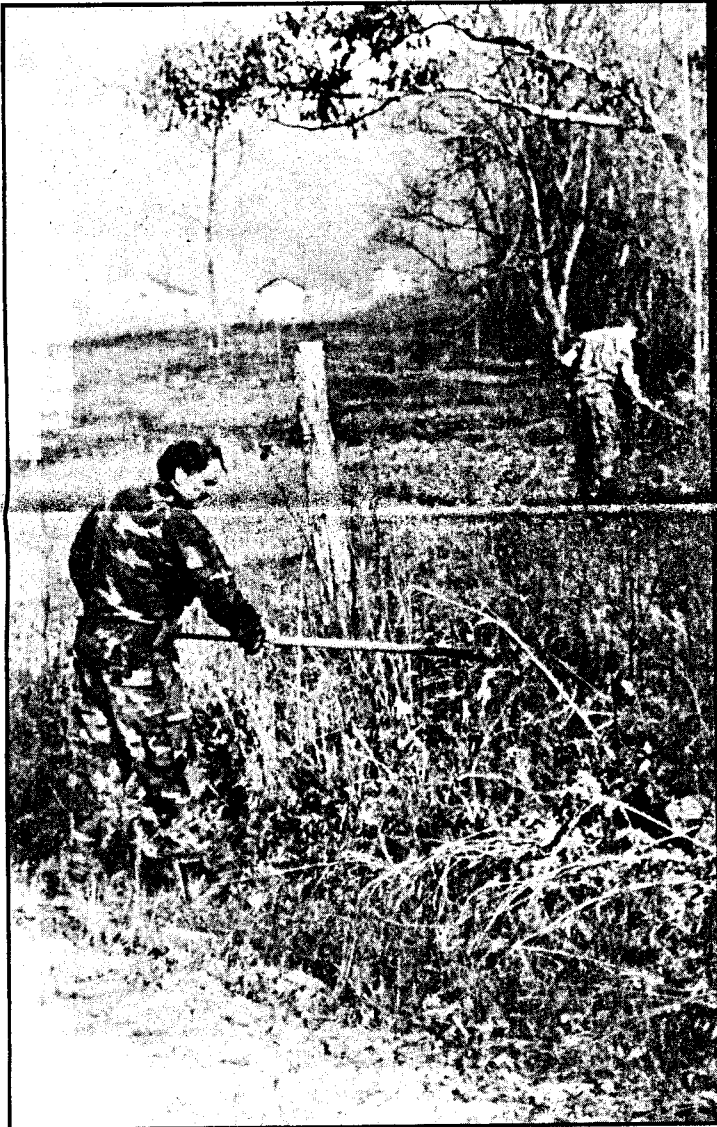


Vol. 27, No. 10

Frankfort, Kentucky

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## By Land and By Air: Firefighting Guardsmen

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## OUR COVER

From the moment we began to assemble this edition of *The Bluegrass Guard*, there was no doubt what the subject of our cover picture had to be. Last month saw a serious outbreak of wildfires mostly in the eastern half of Kentucky. When they got completely out of hand, local officials and the Kentucky Division of Forestry turned to the Army National Guard. The efforts of the Guard are detailed in stories and photos on several pages of this issue. (Cover photo by SGT Robert Ham, 133rd PAD)

## THIS IS FOR YOU

The November fire-fighting duty involved in the largest state active duty tour in years. Over 500 of you were called out to contain forest and brush fires on the ground and from the air. Coverage of the fire-fighting service and related support duties takes up half of this issue. We think your service was worth the space in your paper.

We would also like to thank the 2123rd Trans. Co. for the story on their extended annual training. We challenge other units to submit stories about their activities, too.

Call us at: (502) 564-8698  
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THE BLUEGRASS GUARD  
ATTN: KG-PAO-AR  
Boone National Guard Center  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6168

## TAG LINES

By MG BILLY G. WELLMAN



The National Guard has two primary missions. The first is to train units capable of deploying in national emergencies.

Our second mission is to maintain the resources to aid the governor in keeping law and order or providing assistance to our people during times of emergencies.

Our citizens have made a great investment in tax dollars in the National Guard, even though sometimes they aren't aware of our mission until there is an emergency. When we arrive on the scene to assist they appreciate us.

State Active Duty is a frequent occurrence for the Guard member. We are asked to perform major civic duties: marching in parades, traffic control, transporting food, water and medicine and assisting in times of floods and tornadoes and, most recently, helping fight forest fires.

Our Guard members realize their mission and are willing to serve, even though it means a sacrifice, being away from their families and jobs and working long hours, sometimes under hazardous conditions.

As always, I've been extremely proud of the Kentucky Army National Guard when they have responded to these emergencies. In most cases, they have represented our organization very well. Sometimes your service has been acknowledged; sometimes you were taken for granted. But somehow, it all seems worthwhile when you receive a letter from a citizen, a county judge/executive, a state representative or senator thanking you for the lives that you have saved, service you have performed. Perhaps you saved a minor incident from turning into a major one.

Recently, after the tour of duty during the forest fires, we received numerous letters from citizens and both state and federal forestry officials commending the guard for its performance. Three Ashland-area people wrote to thank helicopter crews fighting fires on their property on Daniels Fork:

"We are truly grateful for your help and request that you express our appreciation to your men for their many hours of service to our community," they wrote.

State District Forester Bruce D. Harris wrote, "without the efforts expended by the Guard, we could not have achieved the advantage your personnel provided in suppressing the extraordinary number of wildfires we were experiencing."

I add my voice to theirs in telling you what a good job you did. One of our aviation crews can be credited with having saved the lives of a forestry employee and a fellow Guardsman who were trapped when a fire shifted due to high winds. Another fire which got out of control was threatening some homes, until one of our Blackhawk helicopters arrived with its water bucket, contained the fire and saved the houses.

These duties were performed in often hazardous locations, at low level, through limited visibility; the crews flew long hours and missed many meals. Their actions speak for themselves, and I salute them for their tireless work.

Whether it is participation in the Green/Gray marijuana operation, fighting forest fires from the ground and the air, rescuing a family from a swollen creek bank, transporting an infant to the UK medical center or transporting medicine from one end of the state to the other to save a life, when it's all over, regardless of how physically exhausted the Guard members are, they still have the strength to show a smile of satisfaction that they have been able to help someone in time of need. Whenever we have been called when our citizens have needed us, the Guard has been there. It's a tradition; it's a way of life.

Whether the clouds are dark or the sun is shining, whether it's raining or snowing, you can count on the Kentucky National Guard -- they have always been there.

## Farewell Message From Governor Martha Layne Collins



This month, my term as Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky comes to an end. I hope that I have served the people of this state well. I will look back on these four years as a time of challenge and accomplishment for Kentucky, and some of the accomplishments are shared by the Kentucky Army National Guard. You have built on your past record and aimed your organization toward an even brighter future.

You have grown tremendously during the past four years: At the start of my term, you had about 7,300 members in 64 units. Now you have a thousand more members and 75 units. You are better prepared for your federal mission, should you ever be called to defend our nation. Not only have many of you travelled around our country and even around the world for training, but you have added the necessary modern equipment to keep you up to date, from the addition of M60A3 tanks to the Blackhawk helicopter. I am proud of the state of readiness of our National Guard.

I have steadfastly defended the precepts of the "Montgomery Amendment," believing the federal government must have the ability to send you wherever necessary to keep you as well trained as your active counterparts. I have refused to join some governors who sought, unsuccessfully, to limit where you could be trained.

But I am perhaps most proud of the way Kentucky's citizen/soldiers have performed when their fellow Kentuckians have needed them. Many of you recently were called upon to help fight a serious outbreak of fires in Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky. In past years, you have helped rescue people from flooded parts of the state, clear roads, provide electricity and transport vital supplies following severe storms, and you have taken critically-ill newborn babies to hospitals where they could get life-saving medical care.

There is no way I can count up the number of lives you have affected, the amount of property you have helped to protect and the extent of the suffering you have relieved. May I only offer my gratitude, on behalf of all the people of Kentucky, for a job well done.

I am also grateful for the many times elements of the National Guard provided special services to me and my office, from color guards for ceremonies to helicopter flights to see parts of the state affected by severe weather.

I am proud to have been your Commander-in-Chief. It is my sincere hope and prayer that the Kentucky Army National Guard will continue its reputation as one of the finest Guards in the nation.

### THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

*The Bluegrass Guard is published monthly under the provisions of AR 360-81 for the personnel of the Kentucky Army National Guard. Contents of the Bluegrass Guard are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Department of Military Affairs. News, features, photographs and art material are solicited from readers; however, utilization is at the discretion of the editorial staff, by writing Editor, Bluegrass Guard, Boone National Guard Center, Frankfort 40601-6168 or call (502) 564-8698. No paid advertisements will be accepted, nor will payment be made for contributions.*

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# Air-Ground War

## Kentucky Guard Battles Forest Fires

By SGT Robert Ham and LT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD

*Deep in a smoke and flame-filled eastern Kentucky mountain hollow, shovel and rake-wielding Guardsmen of Company B, 1/149th Infantry (MECH) are doing what Kentucky Army National Guardsmen do best ... helping their neighbors.*

*A woman, fighting alongside the troops to keep the rapidly advancing fire from taking her home, wonders aloud, "If it weren't for the Guard, who would be here?"*

When the work of arsonists, coupled with abnormally dry conditions and high winds, caused fire to ravage more than 75,000 acres of the Commonwealth's woodlands in November, the Kentucky Army National Guard found itself working for both the state and the federal government.

Nearly 600 Kentucky Army Guardsmen were called to active duty, making up the rapid response teams that were mobilized at Guard armories and other central locations across the state to assist the U.S. Forest Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry in the war against fire on federal, state and private property in 25 counties.

While troops from Infantry, Engineer and Support Battalions joined forces with Aviation units to fight fires in 23 counties east of I-75, soldiers from west Kentucky-based Heavy Maintenance and Armor units fought to contain a massive 1,400 acre fire in Muhlenberg County, utilizing an M-88 armor recovery vehicle to bulldoze a firebreak around it.

### BY LAND

On the fire lines, where temperatures routinely soared above the 100 degree mark, the thick smoke and rugged terrain constantly provided a challenge to ground troops engaged in either transporting firefighters or actually fighting the flames.

Elements of the 3rd Forward and 4th Main Support Battalions worked 12-hour shifts to transport firefighters and citizen-soldiers from the 1/149th Infantry (MECH) by truck into the rugged terrain of the Daniel Boone National Forest, while, at the same time, members of the 206th and 201st Engineer Battalions were battling flames further to the east.

In addition to firefighting duties, the 1/149th also took care of making sure everyone got fed at a 1,300-man basecamp in the Redbird Ranger District (See Story on Page 6) by combining the battalion's food service sections and utilizing them on rotating shifts.

The firefighters said they were glad the Guard was able to provide the heavy trucks and drivers used during the emergency, because it meant they could get closer to the fires, with less walking time, which translated into the ability to catch and put out fires while they were still small.

"Our people have done a tremendous job," said SGT Larry Harris of HHC, 1/149th Inf, "Many of our people voluntarily left high paying jobs to serve during this mobilization ... they asked for the duty."

But while spirits and pride were high, anger could also be found on the fireline -- anger directed at those who deliberately set the fires.



Firefighting guardsmen of the Middlesboro-based Company D, 1/149th IN (MECH) tend a backfire near Barbourville. (Photo by SGT Robert Ham, 133rd PAD)



A hovering KyARNG UH-1 Huey refills its 250 gallon "bambi bucket" in a lake while participating in a firefighting mission on nearby Stone Mountain. (Photo by SGT Robert Ham, 133rd PAD)

Rex Mann, U.S. Forest Service Incident Coordinator, for the Daniel Boone National Forest, stated that up to 98 percent of the fires battled by the Guard and Forest Service firefighters were the work of arsonists. One example of woods arson, according to Morgan Jones of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, was a fire near Middlesboro that was deliberately set, then reset 12 times, before finally being extinguished.

### BY AIR

*As two Kentucky Guard Blackhawks glide down into the smoke on a water drop, CW2 Michael Turner wheels his Huey around in the sky above them so his crew can begin a high recon of the area ... spotting new fires, looking for routes in and out of the hills, and searching for a pond or small lake as near to the fires as possible for the bucket-ships.*

*Even at 5,000 feet, the fires have an eerie effect on the mountainous landscape below Turner's aircraft ... the haze and smoke have formed a blanket of white as far as the eye can see.*

When fires were inaccessible to ground transportation, or too large to encircle with a firebreak, UH-1 and UH-60 helicopters, equipped with 250 gallon water buckets slung underneath them, were made available.

The crews, from Co's E and F, 135th Avn; 441st Med Det; 140th Signal Bn; and HHT, 35th Avn Bde were able to drop, with pinpoint accuracy, up to 10,000 gallons of water in a single mission on the flames ... and on one occasion, to douse the firefighters themselves.

Knowing they could depend on their teammates in the air when they needed help containing a break in the fireline, firefighters acknowledged the bravery of helicopter crews when they flew blind over a smoke obscured ridge to lay down a curtain of water, allowing a Kentucky forester and a National Guardsman trapped by a ring of fire atop Stone Mountain to escape.

"That really feels good," said SSG Jim Thomas, crew chief of the lead helicopter on that particular mission, "to know that you've saved someone's life ... it makes it all worthwhile."

After two intense weeks of firefighting ... representing the expenditure of hundreds of man-hours on the firelines and thousands of gallons of fuel for aircraft and ground vehicles and, still, the sad loss of millions of dollars worth of timber, rain finally arrived in sufficient quantities to extinguish the flames.

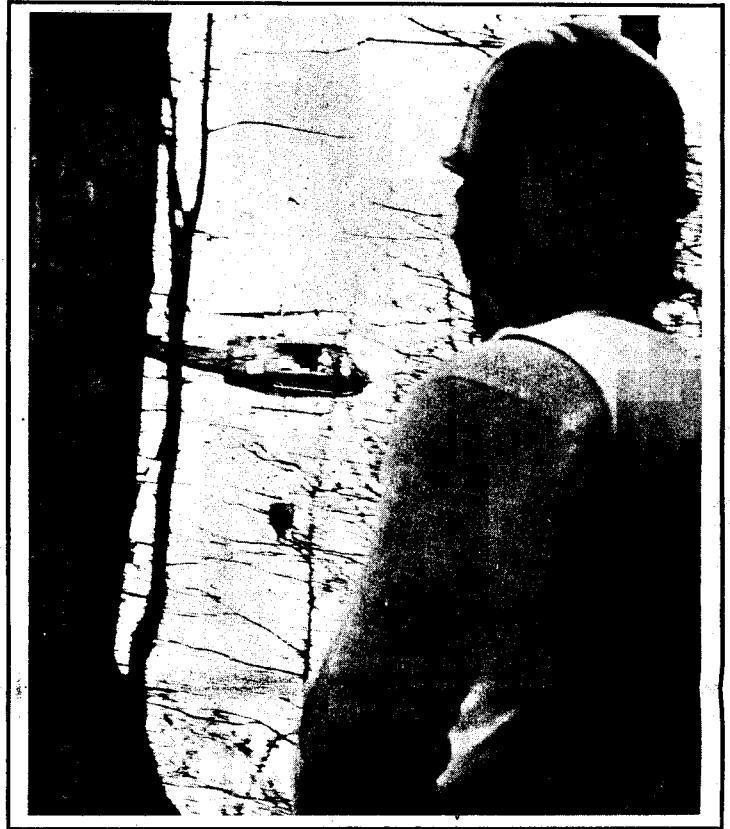
But as the smoke cleared and the forests began their long process of healing, many memories of the fires of 1987 remain: firefighters from across the country will remember the Kentucky fires as some of the worst in the history of the United States, and, once again, the people of Kentucky will remember their Kentucky Army National Guardsmen for doing what they do best ... helping their neighbors.

# The Fires of Fall 1987

(Photos by SGT Robert Ham, 133rd PAD)



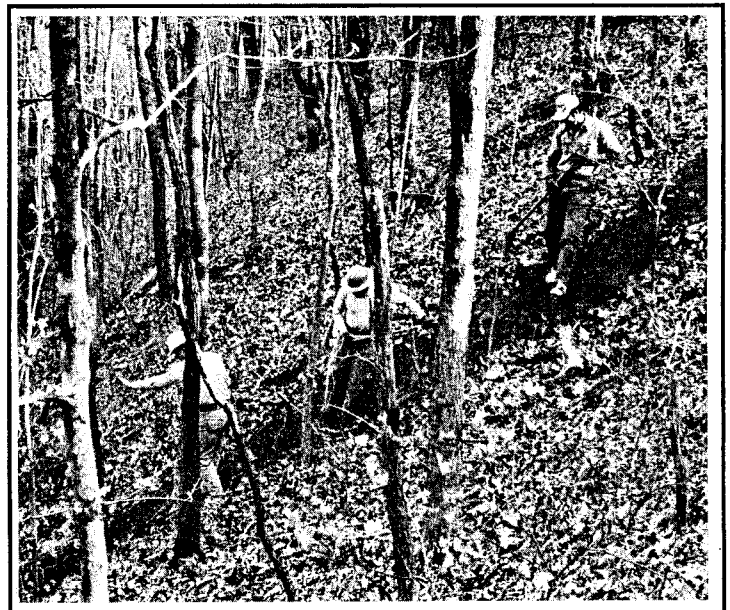
Viewed from above, a UH-1 Huey bucket-ship is dwarfed by the fire on the mountainside below it.



A volunteer firefighter's view of a KyARNG Huey bucket-ship about to make a water drop on a fire in the Pine Mountain State Park.



Guardsmen from Co. B, 149th IN (London) take a break from the heat on the fireline near Manchester.



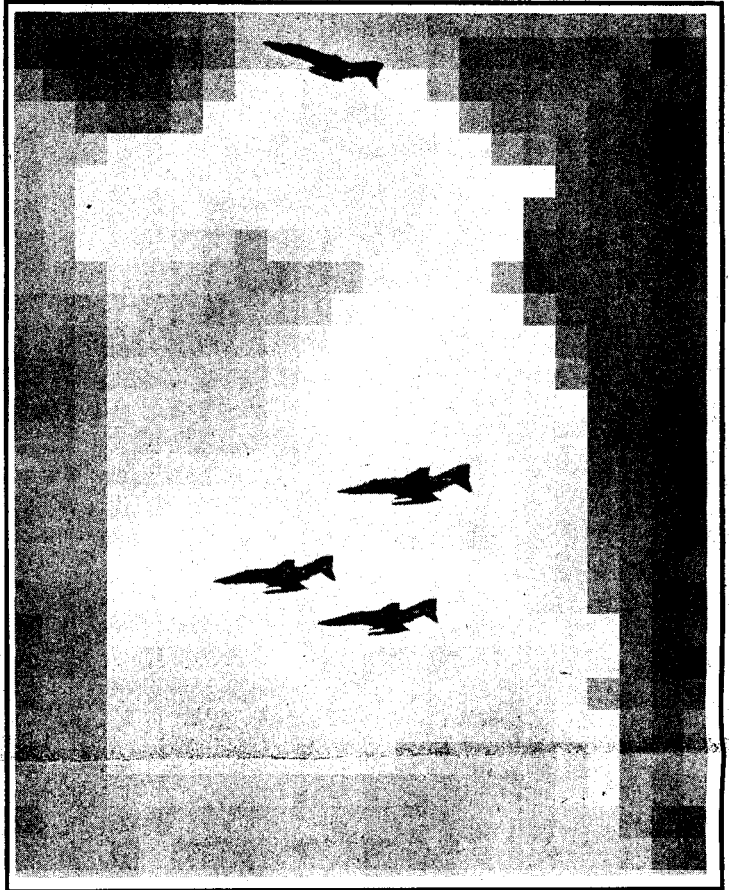
Guardsmen and volunteer firefighters joined forces to clear a firebreak on a steep mountainside in Bell County.



# Viet Nam Memorial Site Dedicated



Governor Martha Layne Collins highlighted the Viet Nam Memorial Site Dedication by announcing the donation of \$100,000 in state funds for the shrine. (Photo by LT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD)



A squadron of Kentucky Air National Guard RF-4C Phantom jets flies the "missing man" formation over the site of the Vietnam Memorial in Frankfort. (Photo by LT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD)



A 19-volley salute by Battery A, 2/138th Field Artillery, ends the ceremony at the memorial site on a thunderous note. (Photo by LT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD)

# Veterans Memorial Rededicated



TAPS -- CPT J. Gordon Nichols, Commander of the 133rd PAD, sounds taps following placement of a wreath at the base of the Veterans Memorial by Governor Martha Layne Collins. (Photo by LT Phil Miller, 133rd PAD)



GUEST SPEAKER -- Marine Corps Brigadier General Michael P. Sullivan (left) greets Governor Martha Layne Collins and Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman prior to the ceremony at the Frankfort Cemetery. Standing to the right of BG Sullivan is World War I Veteran Roby Rex of Louisville. (Photo by SSG Richard Upchurch, Co. E, 135th Avn)

# 1/149th Field Kitchen Fuels Firefighters

By SGT Robert Ham, 133rd PAD

...packs and rakes in hand, the fire-fighting crews shuffle through the base-camp chow line. The unmistakable smell of eggs and bacon, cooked on an Army field stove, mingles with the scent of forest fire smoke in the early morning mountain chill. Bleary eyes that say "too many fires and too little sleep" guide smudged hands toward cups of steaming coffee offered by men wearing camouflage fatigues. As the firefighters climb into the back of a 5-ton truck for the ride out to the fire lines, a Kentucky National Guardsman waves and shouts above the roar of the engine "We're gonna have a steak dinner for y'all tonight."

Smiling, they wave back as the big truck moves into gear...

When the U.S. Forest Service was faced with the prospect of feeding more than 1300 hungry firefighters and support personnel at its Daniel Boone National Forest base camp, securing the services of the private catering firm they use when fighting fires on the Pacific coast was out of the question.

However, thanks to some round-the-clock work by the combined mess sections of the KyARNG's 1/149th Infantry, not only did everyone get fed, but some minds were definitely changed concerning the quality of Army National Guard field cuisine.

Within a few hours after Lt. Gov. Steve Beshear signed the executive order activating the Guard for forest fire duty, mess sections from the 1/149th were set up and operating in a corn field near Peabody, Kentucky, serving hot, nutritious meals to an evergrowing contingent of hungry firefighters.

The U.S. Forest service has an air-ground team to fight fires, but when they came to eastern Kentucky they did not have the resources to feed their firefighters, "We needed help and we needed it fast, that's why we called for the National Guard", said Rex Mann, Incident coordinator for the fires in the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Janet Stomcock, food service director for the Peabody Fire Camp added, "We asked for the National Guard because no one else could respond so quickly, with so much expertise, to feed so many people."

This was not the first time the 1/149th cooks had been tasked with duty during an emergency; When flood waters inundated Pineville in 1977, battalion mess personnel



**NIGHT SHIFT** - Cooks from the combined 1/149th food service sections greeted U.S. Forest Service firefighters each night with hot meals at the Peabody basecamp.



**LOGISTICS** - 1/149th Command Sergeant Major Harold Disney (left) coordinated the scheduling of mess personnel, transportation and feeding of 1,300 firefighters each day at Peabody.



**JOINT EFFORT** - USFS food service director Janet Stomcock (left) worked with the 1/149th guardsmen to make sure they received supplies necessary to feed the firefighting and support crews. (Photos by SGT Robert Ham, 133rd PAD)

moved in and fed more than 5,000 homeless Kentuckians until the Red Cross could set up their emergency kitchens.

"This is where the National Guard really shines," said Captain Donald C. Storm, administrative officer of the 1/149th, "it's our ability to come to the immediate aid of our nation, our state and our communities."

Even though the chow lines at the Peabody fire-camp were scheduled to open at 0400 and close at 2300, battalion food service personnel were always ready to feed the continuous stream of fire fighting crews that rotated in and out of the camp on a 24-hour basis.

"I had always heard jokes about Army food," said US Forest Service Firefighter Randy Nichols, "but now I wish I had joined the Army instead of the Forest Service ... the meals were fantastic! This is the best food I've ever eaten in a fire camp!"

The Forest Service's Janet Stomcock was responsible for ordering food for the firecamp at Peabody, making sure the Guard cooks received everything they needed to feed the firefighting and support crews based there. "Our dieticians say that a forest firefighter needs 8,000 calories a day to maintain their strength when they're on the fire lines, so we feed them heavy and feed them the best."

In one day, the 1/149th mess section prepared and served more than 1,700 lbs. of steaks, 2,400 eggs, 1,400 lbs. of vegetables and 400 loaves of bread.

Ms. Stomcock added that "before the Guard came in, morale was as low as it could be in a firecamp, but with the help of Sergeant Major Harold Disney and his troops, we're riding high! Without their help, our job would've been impossible!"

Morale among the members of the 1/149th was high as well, according to CSM Disney, "These soldiers worked long and hard to give their very best ... the 1/149th takes a lot of pride in its ability to tackle any mission, and I believe we've shown it here."

...And, as the sun, colored blood-red by the smoke of a hundred fires, sets over the shrouded mountains of eastern Kentucky, the rumble of heavy trucks is heard in the distance, signalling the return of the firefighters to their basecamp.

Already, the mess crews of the 1/149th Infantry are bringing their field kitchen up to full speed as they begin cooking their way into another weary November night that, too soon, would turn into yet one more day on the fire lines.

# White line fever...

## 2123rd Spends 14 Weeks Bringing the Big Guns Home

By SGT Keith Monroe, 2123rd Trans Co.

For the 5,000 Kentucky Guardsmen who survived AT '87 at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, the memories of sweat-stained T-shirts and Gatorade bottles are probably as faded as their tans.

The cool of the holiday air has erased thoughts of the steamy sand and pine needles of South Georgia. The rehashing of summer-camp escapades has yielded to more current issues of the season.

In reflection, some will remember '87 as the year an Iraqi missile struck a Navy frigate and lightning struck the 202nd National Guard band.

But for the 2123rd Transportation Co., Georgia was more than just two weeks.

The Heavy Equipment Transport unit began moving Kentucky's tanks and howitzers to Ft. Stewart in May. The last load of armor rolled onto post just in time for the state's citizen soldiers to take to the Georgia pines for an FTX.

When the exercise was over, so were the infantry aspects. The truckers decamouflaged their trucks, shook the sand from their sleeping bags and set out for Camp Blanding, Florida, to retrieve some dozers for the 201st Engineers.

With the conclusion of AT '87, the Bluegrass Guardsmen scrambled for Kentucky, leaving enough tracks to keep the

2123rd's trucks on the road for the remainder of the summer.

Members of the 2123rd volunteered for enough "additional annual training" to keep the weekly convoys rolling, often with the assistance of other units.

Members of Ft. Campbell's 29th Transportation Battalion often traveled with the Bowling Green unit for some hands-on experience with the large M911 trucks and their National Guard counterparts.

The Richmond-based Company B TMT provided trucks and personnel for four weeks and the 201st Engineers traveled with the 2123rd for two weeks.

The weekly runs to Georgia also proved helpful to the Kentucky Air Guard which needed some equipment moved to Savannah for its annual training.

The Georgia sun was hot but the trucks were hotter. With cab temperatures above the century mark and 15-hour days, the CB chatter was often the only resort to battle the white-line-fever that came from blistering down the interstate at an average load-speed of 33 mph.

But, on the first day of Autumn, the last loads of tanks were lumbering down a 20-mile stretch of swampy range road out of Ft. Stewart toward Kentucky.

After 14 weeks of 'summer runs' the big guns were back home.



The M911 tractor-truck, when connected to a M747 trailer and M60 tank, hit the road at just under 75 tons. (Photo by SGT Keith Monroe, 2123rd Trans. Co)

The busier-than-normal summer of '87 was similar to previous years with the 2123rd. 1987's 14 weeks in Georgia were preceded by 1986's eight weeks of runs to Mississippi and Missouri, and 1985's 14 weeks to Michigan.

The 70-man unit, which privately refers to itself as "The Family," traveled to Europe in 1980 and 1983 as part of Reformer. Such opportunities, combined

with a high sense of unit camaraderie, have given the 2123rd a "Can Do" attitude and a reputation for getting the job done, both inside and outside the Commonwealth.

The summer of '87 gave new meaning to the Ray Charles hit "Georgia on my Mind." But the most picturesque sight of the weekly trip was a large sign, just north of Nashville, which read: Welcome to Kentucky.

## Work Begins on Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By Mike Lynch

Hundreds of people, including Vietnam veterans, families of men killed in that conflict and state officials, gathered on a hillside in Frankfort November 7 to formally dedicate the site and unveil a portion of the monument to the more than 1,040 Kentuckians who gave their lives in Vietnam.

Governor Collins also had a surprise gift of \$100,000 for the completion of the monument.

"We will never forget your son or your father or brother or husband," she told the crowd assembled near the state Library and Archives building in view of the Capitol. "Generation after generation will visit this spot and recall the men and sacrifices

it memorializes."

The monument, designed by Lexington architect Helm Roberts, will be in the shape of a seventy-foot-by-eighty-foot sundial. The names of Kentucky's dead from Vietnam will be etched into the granite base, and the sundial oriented so that the tip of the pointer's shadow will fall on each name the day that man died in the conflict.

Before the ceremony began, relatives and friends of the Vietnam dead crowded around a model of the monument looking for the names of loved ones which could be barely read on the model.

The 25-foot stainless steel pointer was unveiled during the ceremony, followed by a 19-gun salute by Battery A of the Second Battalion, 138th Field Artillery. Members of the 2/138th served in the conflict.

"Welcome and welcome home," Ron Ray, chairman of the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (KVVMF) and a Vietnam veteran told his fellow veterans. "We're not here to glorify war," he added. "Rather, we are here to recognize service -- service of the very highest order -- and remember the sacrifices of those who gave their lives or are still missing."

23 Kentuckians are still listed as missing

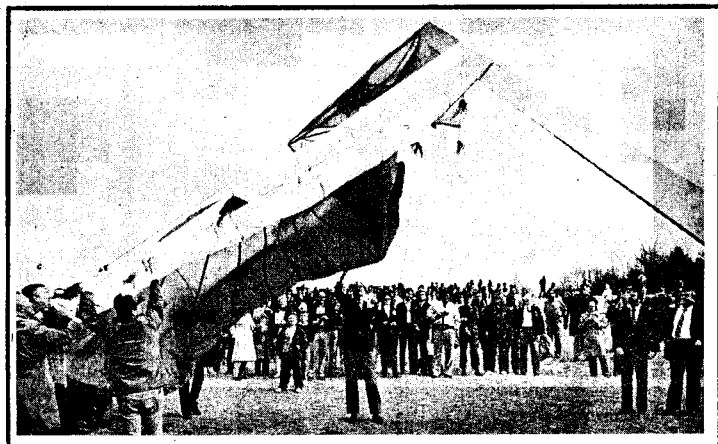
in action. Their names will be etched into the memorial between the sun and the pointer so those names won't come under the shadow until their fate is known.

The KVVMF has been raising funds for the monument, aiming for a \$1 million goal. Governor Collins' donation of \$100,000, from a state contingency fund, put the drive at the halfway point. The governor said she hoped the donation would spur other gifts for the memorial.

"To these veterans, on behalf of every citizen of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I want to say "Thank you," the governor said. "Thank you for your good faith effort to carry America's cause to another corner of the world. We are very proud of you. We are indebted to you beyond our capacity to even the account."

The 202nd band played music for the ceremony, closing with "Taps" as the flags were lowered to half-staff. Among those attending the ceremony were three Kentucky Medal of Honor winners, including Don Jenkins of Morgantown, who earned his medal in Vietnam.

Completion of the monument is expected to take about a year, and the KVVMF hopes to dedicate it in November 1988.



Kentucky Vietnam veterans join three Medal of Honor winners to unveil the pointer of the huge sundial which will be the state's memorial to its Vietnam veterans. (Photo by Steve Mitchell, Kentucky Department of Arts)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ADJUTANT GENERAL WELLMAN CHAIRS 35TH ID COUNCIL

Kentucky Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman was elected chairman of the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Council last month. The 35th ID is composed of National Guard units from Kentucky, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. The adjutant generals of those states make up the council, which selects the commander and provides policy and guidance for the division.

General Wellman's term as chairman will last for a year.

### FORMER ADJUTANT GENERAL MURRAY DIES

Roscoe L. Murray, who served as Kentucky Adjutant General under Gov. Earl Clements from 1947 to 1951, died last month. Murray had spent over 30 years in the military, including service as post commander at Fort Campbell and Camp Breckenridge. The 92-year-old Murray was a veteran of both World Wars. He had also been a school teacher and principal in Hardin County.

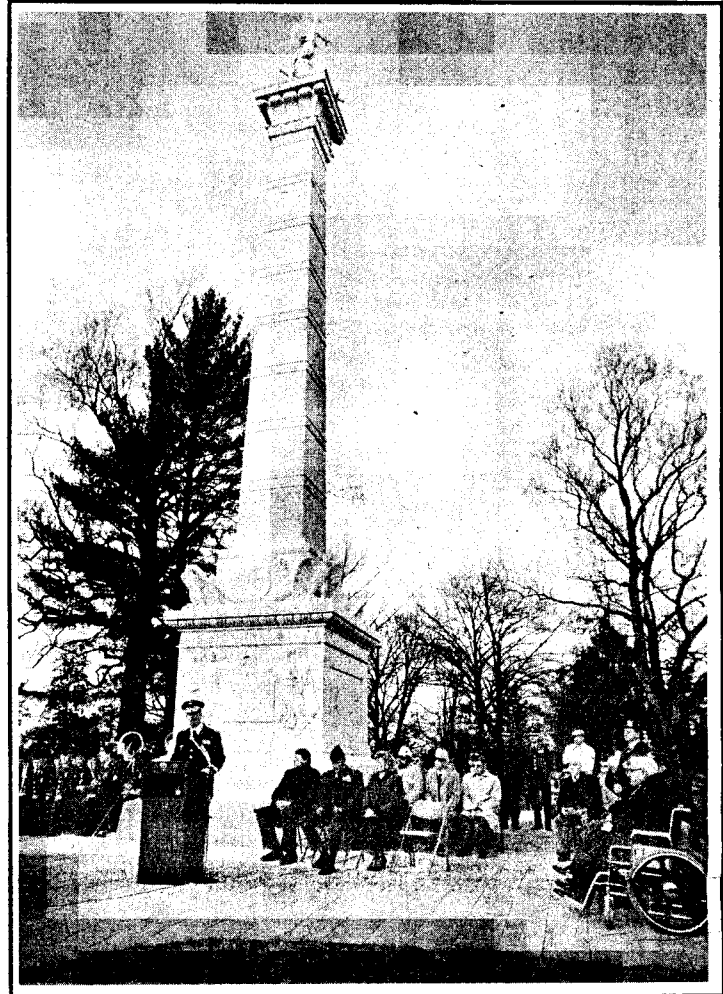
Murray was Kentucky's first adjutant general to hold the rank of major general.

### BLUEGRASS GUARD RECOGNIZED IN COMPETITION

The *Bluegrass Guard* has received second-place honors in a category of the National Guard level of the Keith L. Ware journalism competition. The May issue this year placed second in a special category for publication of information on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The issue will now go into national competition with publications of all the armed services.

### MEMBERS OF CO. E, 1/149TH AT NTC

Fifteen members of Somerset's Co. E, 1/149th Infantry left on 16 November for the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, CA, to train in the Key Personnel Upgrade Program (KPUP). Using Improved TOW Vehicles, they are training in anti-tank warfare with the 1st Infantry Division of Ft. Riley. The training lasts until 22 December.



Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman speaks in front of the Kentucky Veterans Military Monument during the Veterans Day rededication of the monument. (Photo by SSG Richard Upchurch, Co. E 135 Avn.)

## Military Monument Rededicated on Veterans Day

Veterans of this century's wars stood among the graves of those who died in previous conflicts as a monument to all of Kentucky's veterans was rededicated on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The 137-year-old Kentucky Veterans Military Monument in the Frankfort Cemetery had undergone a \$300,000 facelift—the first since it was originally dedicated in 1850. Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman told the veterans who came to the rededication ceremony that it was appropriate that the ceremony be held on Veterans Day.

"Many of our veterans gave everything they had to give for the cause of freedom, making that cause even more precious today," he said, standing before the newly-cleaned marble monument.

Marine Brigadier General Michael Sullivan, Commanding General of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing, represented the Marine commandant at the ceremony. "It's a special place for the Marine

Corps," he said. "One of our first heroes is interred here, LT Presley O'Banion."

O'Banion led a small band of Marines to Tripoli in 1805 overthrowing insurgents and raising the American flag over a foreign capital for the first time.

State Rep. Hank Hancock, of Frankfort, who led the effort in the legislature to get the state funds appropriated for the restoration of the monument, said the restoration links the present to Kentucky's past.

Governor Collins quoted from the poem "Bivouac of the Dead," by Theodore O'Hara, who is also buried at the site:

*The muffled drum's sad roll  
has beat the soldiers last tattoo.  
No more on life's parade  
shall meet the brave and fallen few.  
On fame's eternal campaign ground  
their silent tents are spread.  
And glory guards the solemn round  
the Bivouac of the Dead.*



### Change of Command for Det. 1, STARC

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel T. McClure (right) of Bardstown, accepts the colors of Detachment 1, Kentucky State Area Readiness Command, from Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman during a ceremony, November 21, at Boone National Guard Center. Outgoing commander Colonel Jimmie Judge (left) is retiring after 30 years service in the Kentucky Army National Guard.

McClure had served as the detachment's executive officer since March of this year. (Photo by SSG Ron Bayes, 133rd PAD)