



# THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

## Basic change for new 2Lts

Second lieutenants in the Kentucky Army National Guard will now have to complete the officer basic course in residence instead of through correspondence.

The policy, which became effective Jan. 1, has been adopted by the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, because of the more sophisticated equipment now in use, according to 2nd Lt. R. Neill Fox, state training technician.

"This whole thing has come about because of force modernization," Fox said. "We're using the same equipment that the Active Army is ... the technology of war is changing."

Resident courses provide 50 to 60 percent of what a new officer needs to know about his branch, he said. These courses give a new lieutenant ground work which he can expand through practical experience. Correspondence doesn't always offer as much ground work, he said.

Lieutenants enrolled in a correspondence course when this policy was adopted will be allowed to complete it and receive credit for initial branch qualification. Completion will also meet the educational requirements through the rank of captain.

The correspondence course may also be used to retire waivers from a federal recognition board in connection with branch transfers if the lieutenant has completed initial branch qualification.

The alternative is enrollment in a resident officer basic course in the new branch.

Wellman is also requiring officers who receive their commissions through direct appointment to complete the direct appointment course offered by the Kentucky Military Academy or the Guard Professional Education Center. The officer must serve a year before he can be promoted.

This policy is not intended to penalize those officers who receive constructive

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**SURROUNDED BY** a sea of mud, members of the mortar team of Troop A, 240th Cavalry prepare for fire mission during exercises conducted on the firing ranges at Fort Knox. (Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

# Unit bonuses to be offered

By SP4 DON BELISLE

Fifteen units in the Kentucky Army National Guard have been selected to participate in a Priority Unit Bonus Program, in which cash enlistment bonuses of \$2,000 will be offered. The program, which is a test, is scheduled to end Jan. 31, 1985.

"Since the program has just started the response has been slow," explained Sgt. Jerry Kilgore, who manages the Select Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP). However, Kilgore says, "once the word gets out, things will pick up quickly."

In order to receive the \$2,000 bonus, an individual must enlist in one of the Guard's 15 priority units for a six-year period. Once the individual successfully completes basic training and advanced individual training, he or she will receive an initial entitlement of \$1,000."

According to Kilgore, it takes about 60 to 90 days before an individual receives his initial entitlement check by mail. The balance of the bonus is paid in subsequent amounts of \$500 at the satisfactory completion of the second and fourth years of the individual's enlistment.

Kilgore stressed that this program is only for those without prior military service.

"The program is actually two-fold," stated Kilgore. "We are attempting to get new people in the Guard while, at the same time, increasing priority units to 100 percent strength."

For more information on the Priority Unit Bonus Program, contact Kilgore by mail or phone (502) 564-8549.



SSG DAVID W. Winstead, Safety NCO instructs Pvt. 2 David L. Boone in the proper firing procedures for the LAW during exercises conducted on the ranges at Fort Knox by Troop A, 240th Cavalry, 149th Sep. Arm. Bde. (Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

## Bluegrass Guard earns first

The *Bluegrass Guard*, the command information newspaper of the Kentucky National Guard, earned first place honors in its category in national competition sponsored by the National Guard Association of the U.S.

The award, which covered 1983, was published throughout the year by the Kentucky Army Guard's 133d Public Affairs Detachment. All stories and photos were produced by unit members, and printing was done by the state Department of Military Affairs. Capt. Thomas E. Little served as editor throughout the year.

Both Army and Air Guard entries were considered in the thirteenth annual contest, according to the NGAUS officials. Maj. Gen. Francis S. Greenleaf, executive vice-president of NGAUS, offered his "hearty congratulations on this notable accomplishment," and Kentucky Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman passed along a plaque awarded by the national association.

The 133d continues to provide most of the material for the newspaper, which is now published by the Media Relations Section of Recruiting and Retention.

## Air Guard gets 'excellent'

The 12th Air Force Inspector General's team recently awarded the Kentucky Air Guard an "excellent" rating during the annual Management Effectiveness Inspection (MEI).

Most units, either active or Guard or Reserve, would be very proud of an overall 'excellent', according to Col. John L. Smith, 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing commander. He said there were only seven deficiencies noted that required response.

The unit received "outstanding" ratings in seven specific areas, which meant they were at the highest level. These included:

immunizations/physical/clinical examination program; standard evaluation program; flying training; scheduling; life support; manuals control; and budget.

Smith noted that he was very concerned about the "marginal" rating given in the area of appearance. The report noted improperly trimmed mustaches, improperly fitting uniforms, and an absence of proper patches.

The commander advised his staff that such deficiencies would not be tolerated in the future.

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is published using the offset method by the Kentucky Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Office, Boone Center, Frankfort, Kentucky, in co-operation with the 133d Public Affairs Detachment and the National Guard Association of Kentucky and in accordance with AR 360-11. It is distributed free of charge to members of the Kentucky National Guard and to other persons upon request. Telephone number AY 366-3315 or Commercial 502-364-8513. Circulation is 7,500.

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