

The Bluegrass Guard



Volume Four, Issue One

serving the men and women of Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard

Summer 1999

*1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery
doing what it does best ...*

... making

*Steel
Rain!*

Also in this issue:

- ✓ Meet the newest Soldier, NCO of the Year
- ✓ Youth Challenged by new training program
- ✓ Kentucky supports eastern Europe mission
- ✓ Engineers help make "Thunder"
- ✓ New PX opens up at Boone Center
- ✓ The latest on tuition assistance
- ✓ The Kentucky Guard and Y2K

and much, much more

THE GENERAL POINT OF VIEW
by Major General John R. Groves Jr.
Adjutant General of Kentucky



One of the curious things about being in the United States military today is that even in these times of downsizing and budget cuts, growth and expansion continue. The face of the world political structure is in constant flux, the role of our nation as probably the *sole* superpower is redefined, and as a result, new and complex missions crop up for our military forces.

Since the end of the Cold War the total number of US military personnel worldwide has been diminished to a fraction of its former self. Likewise, the amount of taxpayers' dollars spent on the national defense has been reduced proportionately. The number of missions and taskings, however, have expanded beyond anything planners a decade ago imagined.

What this means, of course, is that the Kentucky National Guard is constantly undergoing change to meet both our federal mission requirements as well as our state commitment.

This edition of *The Bluegrass Guard* is testament to these changes.

In this issue we'll talk about things that you may not be aware of but have a definite need to know, such as the upcoming Y2K event and how your National Guard plans to respond. We'll also introduce you to topics such as *force structure* and how it affects the overall health of the Kentucky Guard; our newly adopted *order of merit list* and how it may (or may not) affect your military career.

A small but significant sign of change to better support the force is our new Post Exchange. Considerable effort went into

bringing this customer-oriented resource to Boone Center and I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity it represents.

Training to deploy is, of course, what the Kentucky Guard is all about. It is our primary mission and it is what we do best. I invite you to join our soldiers and airmen as they practice their warfighting and lifesaving skills. I also invite you to meet some of the men and women who are currently deployed to eastern Europe to practice those skills.

During my tenure as adjutant general I have often said that membership in the Kentucky National Guard requires a special commitment, a dedication that goes beyond money, glory or personal gain. I believe this to be true now more than ever. We ask much of our troops and very often we are beholding to them for the sacrifices they make for this great organization.

The stories and images before you should be taken as a reminder of these sacrifices and a warning that they must never be taken for granted. Our Guard family is being asked to do more with less, and as the National Guard becomes more and more involved in the daily mission in the international as well as the domestic scene, the ante is increased. By definition our job is a hazardous one, and the harder — and smarter! — we train, the more efficient and safe our soldiers and airmen will be when it comes time to deploy.

Please remember, too, that one of the best ways to support all that we are and do is to support the National Guard Association of Kentucky and the Enlisted Association of Kentucky. Your decision to belong to any group or organization is entirely yours and is in fact one of the great freedoms for what the National Guard stands. As you make choices about organizations and causes, you may wish to support, if you have not already done so, consider these two fine organizations.



The Bluegrass Guard

Commander-in-Chief Governor Paul E. Patton
 Adjutant General Major General John R. Groves Jr.
 Assistant Adjutant General, Army Brigadier General Bruce Pieratt
 Assistant Adjutant General, Air Colonel Richard Ash
 Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs Officer Major Phil Miller

133rd Public Affairs Det. Commander Captain William Nutter
 Kentucky Air Guard Public Affairs Officer Major Ralinda Gregor
 Editor Staff Sergeant David Altom
 Contributing Editor..... 2nd Lt. Dale Greer

Printed in cooperation with the Defense Automated Printing Service

circulation approximately 8,500

The Bluegrass Guard is published periodically under the provisions of AR 360-81 for the personnel of the Kentucky 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, Department of the Air Force, or the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. News, features, photographs and art material are solicited from readers; however, utilization is at the discretion of the editorial staff. Contact Editor, *Bluegrass Guard*, Boone National Guard Center, Frankfort, KY 40601-6168. tel. 502-564-8556/8562 DSN 366-3556/3562, or send by fax to 502-564-6260 or email to daltom@bngc.dma.state.ky.us No paid advertising will be accepted, nor will payment be made for contributions.

Good news for military families!

New policy expands commissary privileges for National Guard and Reserve members, dependents

There's good news for those Kentucky Guard soldiers and their families who want to take advantage of commissary privileges at nearby military installations.

The 1999 Defense Authorization Act increases the number of commissary visits from 12 to 24 that Ready Reserve members can make annually if they satisfactorily complete 50 or more retirement points for military service in a calendar year. The expanded commissary benefit is also available to Reserve retirees eligible for retired pay at age 60, but who have not yet attained the age of 60. The benefit also applies to the dependents of Reserve and retired Reserve personnel.

For calendar year 1999, the military Services will issue two 12-visit DD Forms 2529 to authorized Reserve and Retired Reserve members. For calendar year 2000, the Reserve commissary privilege card will be revised to contain 24 blocks for recording the dates of visits in lieu of the current 12 blocks.

"Service in the National Guard and Reserve is now more challenging and more difficult than ever before," said Charles L. Cragin, acting assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

"Doubling the commissary access for Reservists and their families helps to level

the playing field and improve their quality of life. For that reason, it was very important for us to get the policy out quickly."

The new policy also states that National Guard members on state active duty for federally declared disaster operations and their dependents will be permitted to use commissary stores during the period of their state service. The required documentation will be a military order stating

that the National Guard member is serving in support of a federally declared disaster.

Commissary privileges are part of the non-pay compensation to which active and Reserve forces members are entitled. According to the Defense Commissary Agency, a Reserve component member with a family of four can save approximately \$2,000 on grocery purchases each year, using the 24 commissary shopping visits.

Details at a glance

- Currently effective
- For Calendar Year 1999, there will be two (2) Commissary Privilege Cards (DD Form 2529) prepared for each soldier
- The commissary ID card checker is to overwrite, with initials, the completed visits annotation on this year's commissary cards
- Commissary Privilege Cards are issued based on calendar year, not fiscal
- Starting calendar year 2000, a new twenty-four (24) visit commissary card will be available, expected to be ready for issue on/about 1 October 1999
- Service members and/or family members *must* have valid identification card to be presented with commissary privilege card for admittance
- Commissary cards are available through your unit administrator

Army dress uniform to change

Wear out date September 30th, replacements available through your unit

This is just a reminder that the US Army has recently approved a series of changes to its Class A uniforms for both male and female service members.

Perhaps most noticeable will be the change in color from AG344 to AG489, described as a "richer, darker green." These changes will require soldiers to replace older uniforms in the future. The old shade, AG 344, will not be allowed for wear beginning October 1, 1999 and AG 344 and AG 489 can not be mixed and matched.

Likewise, both male and female soldiers are required to wear new uniform shirts and blouses as of the October 1st deadline. The new male shirt has pleated pockets while the female blouses have been completely redesigned.

The yearly clothing allowance for enlisted members can be used to help pay for the uniforms, or parts of the uniforms which need to be replaced.

For further information on uniform changes and how you can obtain the proper gear, check with your chain of command or unit administrator.

Cold War Certificates recognition certificates now available

Qualified individuals can apply online

If you were a member of the military between Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991 you're probably authorized to receive the Department of Defense Cold War Recognition Certificate.

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government

civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era.

Qualified individuals may now apply for a Cold War Recognition Certificate. All that's required is an official government or military document with your name, social security number/military service number/foreign service number and date of service.

Online application is preferred; however, the application form may be printed and mailed, or faxed. The applica-

tion form also will be available through other sources to be announced.

For more information write:

Cold War Recognition
4035 Ridge Top Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-7445
FAX: 1-800-723-9262

The online application and instruction are available at <http://coldwar.army.mil/>

The Rights of the Soldier Returning Home

by 1st Lt. Lance Daniels,
9th Legal Support Organization (USAR)

Recently I had the opportunity to provide legal assistance in my capacity as an Army Reserve JAG Officer to soldiers returning from Bosnia at Ft. Benning, Georgia. These Army Reservists had served in Bosnia for periods ranging from 180 days to as long as 277 days. There were a multitude of questions and concerns voiced by these service members about their employment and re-employment rights. Many had already contacted attorneys to assist them in their attempt to retain their previous jobs.

With tens of thousands of reserve component soldiers and airmen currently serving on active duty for peace-keeping and other missions, the question of what are the employment and re-employment rights of the service member has become a repeated issue that needs to be addressed for both the benefit of the employer, employee and service member.

The Uniform Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994 is a federal law which gives members and former members of the US Armed Forces (active and reserve) the right to go back to a civilian job they had before military service.

Who is provided protection under USERRA? The answer to that question is that a service member or former service member will probably qualify for protection pursuant to USERRA if all the following are met:

- a. **job** A service member must have had a civilian job before he or she went on active duty. All jobs are covered unless it is deemed that the job held by the service member was a true temporary position. All state and federal government, as well as private, employer are bound by USERRA.
- b. **notice** The service member must give the employer advance written or oral notice of the service-related absence.

- c. **character of service** The service member must receive an honorable discharge from the active military duty. This test does not apply if you remain in the Reserves or National Guard
- d. **duration** A service member may be gone from their civilian job up to five years total. Most periodic and special Reserve and National Guard training does not count toward a five year total.
- e. **prompt return of work** If a service member is gone up to thirty days, they must report back to the first shift which begins after safe travel from their duty site plus eight hours to rest. If gone 31 to 180 days or more, you must apply in writing for work within 90 days.

There are several different methods and alternatives that a service member has to enforce the provisions of USERRA.

- 1) Contact a JAG legal assistance attorney
- 2) Contact the US Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service
- 3) USERRA also gives the service member an opportunity to sue employers in federal court

Most employers are very willing to accommodate the soldier or airman seeking to return to his job after leaving active military service. However, there are those employers who are not as accommodating. Many times this is the result of the service member taking advantage of and abusing some of the protections provided by USERRA. Ensure an amicable relationship with your employer by providing advance notice of training or deployment dates, tell them about the schools you're scheduled to attend and of any foreseeable extended active duty training. Better yet, give them a copy of this article and offer to help them answer any questions regarding your rights under USERRA.

It's your responsibility as well as your right!

Kentuckians support eastern Europe mission

Guard soldiers tell Army story, bring hope to those in need

by Spc. Karen Roche and Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

Seeds of bluegrass have been sown in eastern Europe with the deployment of Kentucky Army National Guard soldiers.

The 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) is currently assigned to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge, a nine-month mission that has proven to be one of the unit's biggest challenges since the Persian Gulf War.

A second contingent consisting of two Kentucky Army Guard chaplains is also in eastern Europe, giving Kentucky a unique presence in the ongoing mission.

The 133rd is no stranger to such assignments. The "Bluegrass Volunteers" — as they have become known — consists of Guard soldiers from both Kentucky and Tennessee, forming a partnership that began during the '91 war. Under the command of Cpt. William Nutter, the 18-person MPAD is tasked with telling the US Army's story in Bosnia through publication of the mission's official magazine, the *Talon*, and production of hometown television news releases.

The 133rd began the mission under the command of the 1st Cavalry Division and is currently transitioning to the 10th Mountain Division.

For Cpt. Ben Singleton, a five-year member of the 133rd, the Bosnia mission has a profound significance.

"I see this as an opportunity to grow not only as soldiers, but as people. We're going somewhere that we might never have gotten to go, and we've been given the chance to take part in something that actually helps change people's lives for the better."

Master Sgt. Steve Collier — known for his "Get in Gear" column in the *Bluegrass Guard* — echoes Singleton's sentiments. "We get to do what guardsmen train their entire lives to do. The National Guard is the ultimate good neighbor, and we're just fortunate to be part of this."

Lt. Col. Avert Wade and Cpt. James Messer make up one of Kentucky's smallest units, Det. 9 STARC, recently deployed to Hungary in support of the Army mission there.

Despite his experience and rank, Wade — formerly of the 149th Brigade — exhibited the enthusiasm of a recruit when he talked about his new assignment. His biggest worry, in fact, was that he might not get through the mobilization site and miss out on the deployment.

"This is a chance for me to serve the spiritual needs and the spiritual readiness of the soldiers serving in eastern Europe. I want to go and tell those young men and women that America is proud of them for doing their mission."

Wade's enthusiasm is

tempered by how he sees his role in the Army's mission.

"The chaplain corps is the greatest force multiplier in a hostile environment. It's my job to help a soldier maintain individual readiness and in turn to make the unit effective."

The 133rd is scheduled to return in mid-October. Det. 9 STARC is to come back in February 2000.



Bosnia bound The Kentucky contingent of the 133rd MPAD just before deploying. From left to right are: Master Sgt. Steve Collier, Spc. Kevin Greenwood, Sgt. John Kibler, Spc. Denise Jones, Cpt. Ben Singleton, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Moulliseaux, Staff Sgt. Rob Michaud, Cpt. Bill Nutter and Sgt. Charles Meador. Not shown is Spc. Shawn Davenport. *photo courtesy 133rd MPAD*

Getting ready Sgt. 1st Class Paul Moulliseaux has a DNA sample taken while Cpt. Ben Singleton brushes up on his M-60 skills. (below) *photos courtesy 133rd MPAD*

Tactical chaplain Lt. Col. Avert Wade (left) gets a refresher on land navigation in preparation for his mission to Hungary. *photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom*



Taking it to the limit!

123rd Medical Squadron flexes its muscle in field exercise

Senior Airman Shelly Portman sets up communications wire at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center

by 2nd Lt. Dale Greer,
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer
photos by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz and
Master Sgt. Charles Simpson

The demands of drill weekend can sometimes make it impossible for Guard members to meet training requirements while keeping up with essential duties.

That's especially true for members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Medical Squadron, which has seen its share of real-world taskings lately, processing personnel for several overseas deployments.

"Because of all the deployments and requests to set up shot lines, we were having a real problem staying current on our proficiency training," said Master Sgt. Barry Wright, public health manager for the unit.

The solution, Wright said, was to pack up the squadron's gear and get out of town.

And so, after a week of classroom instruction here on everything from the Law of Armed Conflict to bandaging techniques, that's just what 37 KyANG medical personnel did, deploying to the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center near Greenville, Ky.

From June 9 through 14, the doctors, physician-assistants, nurses and medics were tasked with setting up an Air Transportable

Clinic, providing perimeter security and retrieving wounded troops from enemy territory for trauma care and medical evacuation.

In the meantime, members of the 123rd Special Tactics Flight were assaulting them with real tear gas and attempted raids.

"We actually got a whole year's worth of training in that two-week period," said Capt. David Worley, who, as the squadron's education and training manager, helped plan the deployment.

The simulation mirrored a proficiency test the unit is required to take every four years at the Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich.

"We took their lesson plans and taught the same material," Wright said.

Because of that fact, and because the deployed environment added a dose of wartime realism, the unit should be well prepared for its next trip to Alpena in 2000, he said.

"There were a lot of new people who went on this deployment — a lot of young troops who have never experienced field conditions, put up a temperate tent or drank out of a canteen," Wright said.

"We've used moulage patients on

base in the past, but when you've got people shooting at you, or tear gas exploding, or it's hot outside and bugs are biting you, it's different than sitting in a comfortable classroom on drill weekend.

"Because of the realism of this kind of hands-on training, I think our people will have a fundamental understanding of what they're supposed to do when the red flag goes up."

That realism included the use of a medevac helicopter, courtesy of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division based at Ft. Campbell.

"That's something they don't even have at Alpena, and it was a real plus for our training," Wright said.

"There's a lot of ground safety issues involved with working around a helicopter and those rotor blades — especially when you're trying to carry a patient on a litter and get him loaded on board.

"Simulation won't work with that kind of training. It's something you actually have to do."

Working with the Army presented its own challenges, Wright said, because of incompatible radio equipment and different ways of accomplishing the same tasks.

"Those kinds of things are real-world," Wright added, "so it's good that we had a chance to get some joint-service training. The Army people said they now understand a little more about how the Air Force operates, too."

The Kentucky squadron exceeded the standards of Alpena's program in another area by becoming one of the first Air Guard medical units to provide comprehensive force protection training.

The training, presented by members of the wing's 123rd Security Forces Squadron, included briefings on cover and concealment, tactical communications and rules of engagement.

"The medical squadrons, for the longest time, have never really taught force protection," Wright explained.

"You were required to secure your camp if

123rd Medical Squadron personnel team up to assemble an air transportable clinic



Medical personnel get a taste of *the real thing* with the arrival of a 101st Airborne UH-60 Blackhawk medevac flight.

The patient is then transported to the clinic where she is evaluated and treated.

The "patient," Airman 1st Class Stanna Atwell recovers from her "wounds."



you ever had to deploy, but you were never taught how to do it.

"We let the security police teach us how to set up lines of fire and everything else we need to protect ourselves."

The squadron's program was so successful, Wright said, that instructors from Alpena are evaluating it for addition to their curriculum.

Overall, Wright and Worley were extremely pleased with the deployment and its training opportunities.

Just like in the real world, however, things didn't always go as planned. But situations

like that gave people a chance to exercise a little perseverance.

"If something didn't work, we had to find another way to make it work," said Senior Airman Roberta Davison, who joined the Kentucky Air



Guard in May and was accomplishing her first deployment with the squadron.

"Things came up that we had to deal with, and we had to think on our feet."

Worley was especially pleased with the facilities at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, which he called "outstanding."

"We're looking at the possibility of

going down there each year to accomplish some training," he said.

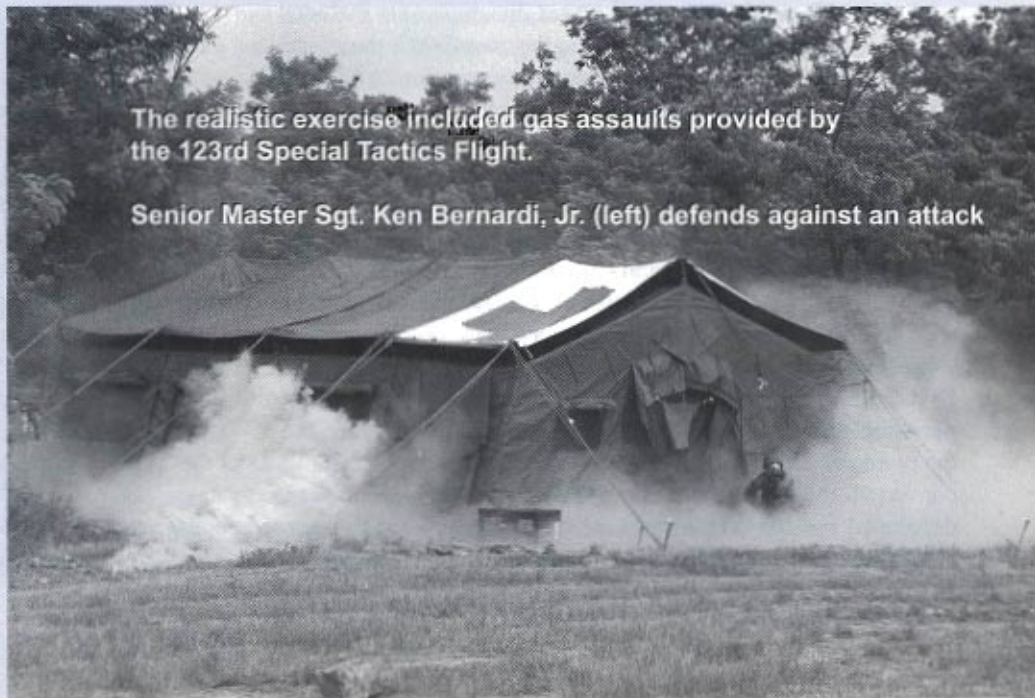
First, however, is the unit's 2000 evaluation in Alpena.

Wright, for one, is not concerned.

"We're ready for Alpena," he said. "Our folks have already shown with this deployment that they know what to do."

The realistic exercise included gas assaults provided by the 123rd Special Tactics Flight.

Senior Master Sgt. Ken Bernardi, Jr. (left) defends against an attack



Force structure and the future of the Kentucky Army National Guard

By Brig. Gen. Earl L. Doyle, Deputy Adjutant General for Kentucky

The Kentucky Army National Guard is in the midst of reorganizing, a process that raises questions and anxiety in the minds of many. Over the past several months I've been asked *Why are we losing units? Why are we changing our force mix? How has this happened? And probably most important, Why us?*

Like anything else, in order to understand our specific situation it is helpful to go over some of the factors that have called for these changes.

Briefly, three major processes affect the Army (including the National Guard). First and second are the fiscal and manpower requirements driven by the military budgeting process. Third is the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which analyzes the military requirements for the Army regarding missions, troop numbers and types of units required to accomplish those missions.

One of the most challenging — but inevitable — results of this process has been the requirement to reduce personnel strength. This, of course, is in keeping with the trend to "downsize" in accordance with budget cuts mandated by Congress and approved by the President.

A second decision affecting personnel strength and force structure was the analysis from the QDR which, among other conclusions, determined that the Army was in need of combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) type units, while the Army National Guard was over-structured with combat-type units. None of the National Guard divisions were included as a QDR requirement to be deployed in the "warfight"; thus they become non-essential and candidates for conversion to CS and CSS. The Army's decision to "fix" the problem was to shift combat structure from these divisions to CS and CSS type units.

The adjutants general leadership of the National Guard approached this situation through an action plan designed to: 1) reduce overall personnel spaces in the Guard over time; and 2) convert combat units to CS and CSS units using the National Guard divisions. Thus, a National Guard Process Action Committee (NG DivPAC) was formed to develop the criteria by which units would be selected for conversion. The proposal was labeled Army Division Redesign Study (ADRS) and contained two phases. Unit personnel strength and MOS Qualification were determined to be the two most important criteria in the selection of units to be converted. An order of merit list (OML), by unit type, was then developed and sent to all states for further analysis and response.

Based on the OML Kentucky had six battalions at the very

bottom of the list; armor, artillery, engineer, and CSS. Kentucky was also notified that one of our brigades was a candidate for conversion to all CSS based on our current unit personnel strength and MOSQ.

An honest assessment was that no rational argument could be made that would allow us to escape our dilemma. The numbers are real and have been calculated over about twelve periods (or quarters) of unit status reports. The numbers as to strength and MOSQ were our own, and had been submitted routinely to NGB over the last several years. Phase I ADRS was completed and affected Nebraska, Michigan, and Indiana. Phase II ADRS was

next. NGB had identified units and a timeline had been developed with announcements from NGB planned. Kentucky was forecast in this phase and would have undergone total reconfiguration on one brigade. Through quick action and rebuttal from the leadership of the Kentucky Guard an extension was obtained. Phase II ADRS announcements were not

made as planned. We were given time now to formally assess, organize, and develop an action plan to counter what would have been a devastating blow to the Kentucky Army Guard if acted upon as planned by DivPAC.

The chief of staff (COS) — by the direction of the adjutant general — convened a process action team of seven directorates with the chief in the lead. The team conducted a detailed objective analysis of all Kentucky units, using readiness data from the past five years. Personnel strength and MOSQ by unit, to company level, were evaluated. Strength by armory and geographical location was also factored. The final determination was, Yes! Kentucky is in trouble!

Using the data collected from the five year period, the team calculated an average total number of soldiers in boots, by unit, that the KyARNG has supported historically and could currently support. That number was about 6,250 soldiers. Accepting the realization that Kentucky had some real deficiencies in soldier strength and MOSQ, the COS and I began to look at the profiles of other states in areas similar to ours. We began to contact those states to ask if they thought they were at risk and if they would consider consolidating or combining unit elements with Kentucky. The intent was to strengthen those at-risk units in participating



"The main message is that something had to be done or the Kentucky Army Guard would have lost almost half the troop units in our state"

Fairchild receives second star

Made history as Kentucky's first female general

Verna D. Fairchild, of Frankfort, was promoted to the rank of Major General in the Air National Guard in ceremonies conducted on August 9, 1999 in Washington. Fairchild's promotion is accompanied by a new assignment in Washington, D.C., serving as Assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard for Base Operational Support Readiness.

Maj. Gen. Fairchild made state and national history in 1994 when she became the Kentucky Guard's first female general officer, as well as the first woman appointed Assistant Adjutant General for Air in the United States. Additionally, she holds the distinction of being only the third female general officer in the history of the Air National Guard.

Fairchild began her military career with the Air Force in 1968, transferring to the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1973. There she became the first nurse to command the 123rd Tactical Hospital and in 1986, became the first Air National Guard assistant for nursing to the Tactical Air Command Surgeon General. Prior to her appointment as Kentucky's top air guardsman she served as the Air National Guard assistant to the US Air Force's director of nursing at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.



Verna D. Fairchild receives the two stars of the rank of major general of the US Air Force from Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and her husband, Byrnes. Maj. Gen. Fairchild is the third female general in the history of the Air National Guard.

photo by Master Sgt. John Thornton, National Guard Bureau

Force structure, cont.

states. Many of the states contacted declined any discussion, some with the idea that ADRS would go away while others were in complete denial of the issues.

Several states did show an interest and the COS and I visited them several times. Issues were discussed, concessions given, agreements tentatively made, but no real progress was made except with Alabama. It seemed that Alabama had a separate Armor Brigade, not missioned and in trouble. We jointly negotiated a combined posture and took that proposal to National Guard Bureau (NGB). Through numerous discussions and negotiations, we arrived at an acceptable end-state which NGB approved. The result was that Kentucky retain an armor brigade headquarters, the artillery brigade, our engineers, and one armor battalion; in turn, Alabama keeps their infantry battalion, a forward support battalion, and one armor battalion. Kentucky's 1-149th Infantry would be missioned elsewhere in the troop list; NGB assured us that since the 1-149th is historically a C2 unit, they would find it a proper mission.

All of the conditions concerned with combining the two brigades — including missioning the 1-149th — was signed as a memorandum of agreement by NGB, Kentucky, and Alabama in June of 1999.

I hope that I've chronicled the events and decisions we've made the past year and a half accurately and to your satisfaction. The main message is that something had to be done or the Kentucky Army Guard would have lost almost half the troop units in our state which would have effected our federal relevance and

certainly depleted our ability to support the governor and state missions. It would have taken us decades to rebuild. I want each of you fully understand this.

I know everyone is not pleased with our decisions. However, we succeeded in salvaging most of our combat structure with a real opportunity to become more relevant as a combat entity. We will modernize our armor to MIA Is, our artillery begins Paladin fielding very shortly, and the 149th Brigade headquarters is reorganized with additional assets. We'll bring in new units while losing some mirror units; for example, our forward support battalion will reorganize much like it is, with the same MOSs, a headquarters, and some equipment modernization. Other new units are scheduled into the Kentucky Army Guard over the next several years.

It is now up to us, each and every enlisted soldier, NCO and officer, to work toward making this initiative successful. No jobs have been lost, everyone in the Kentucky Army National Guard has a home and a duty that is important and relevant to our Commonwealth and our nation. We are guardsmen, serving because we want to. We take pride in the job we do. Now it is up to you and me to ensure the Kentucky Army Guard grows in numbers and duty qualification; for without that growth we will be forced to revisit these same issues in the not-so-distant future.

Make a commitment! Become actively involved in the recruiting process; help us build our units with quality young people with the same spirit and dedication you, our Kentucky guardsman have repeatedly demonstrated over the years. I salute your service and your dedication, and I feel confident you will rise to this challenge as you always have before.



Y2K, or Y(not)2K?



How the Kentucky Guard will respond to the coming "crisis"

story and photos by
Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

If you believe everything you read or see on the television (or the *internet*), the Y2K crisis is the biggest thing since ... well, the coming of the next millennium.

With the mere changing of the year's date from 1999 to 2000, untold numbers of computers, clocks, counters and automated systems may malfunction, creating a chain of events that — according to whom you believe — will either bring about the end of civilization as we know it ... or maybe, just *maybe*, cause some delays at the local ATM.

Given the widespread concern, questions have arisen as to what the role of the Kentucky Guard will be come the arrival of the year 2000. And no wonder, given the increased role Guard soldiers and airmen have played in recent years, responding to the needs of the Commonwealth during times of disaster.

A veteran of the Flood of '97 and a score of other emergencies, Maj. Vaughn Laganosky is the state planning officer for the Kentucky National Guard, making him the point man when it comes to deploying troops to support the state. Funny thing, when you talk to him about the upcoming Y2K scenario, his response isn't quite what you might expect.

"Y2K doesn't mean anything to me. I can't fix Y2K. The Kentucky Guard can't fix Y2K. Now, talk to me about power outages, communication breakdown and transportation problems, things that result from the Y2K crisis. *Those things* I can deal with. Those are the kinds of scenarios that the Kentucky Guard has historically responded to. Most importantly, those are nothing different than what we've reacted to in the past or what we've planned to respond to in the future."

Laganosky says the Guard is well-prepared to handle *whatever* lies ahead, whether it's Y2K-related or not. "We've proven ourselves in the past and we're ready to do it again. We can handle food

and water shortages, and even once in a while we support local law enforcement in case of emergency. Our contingency plans cover everything from earthquakes to riots to dealing with weapons of mass destruction. Anything the Y2K crisis might throw at us falls well within those plans."

Because of the possibility that something could go wrong, current plans are for the Kentucky Guard to have up to 300 soldiers on duty spread out among Kentucky's 120 counties this New Year's Eve ... just in case. Their primary mission is to work with state and local emergency response entities to provide emergency radio communications if the need arises due to power outages, communication system breakdowns and such.

"Our mission is to ensure that the state's various emergency response resources remain viable at all times," Laganosky explains.

What's going to happen on December 31st, 1999 at 2400 hrs? Laganosky shakes his head and grins.

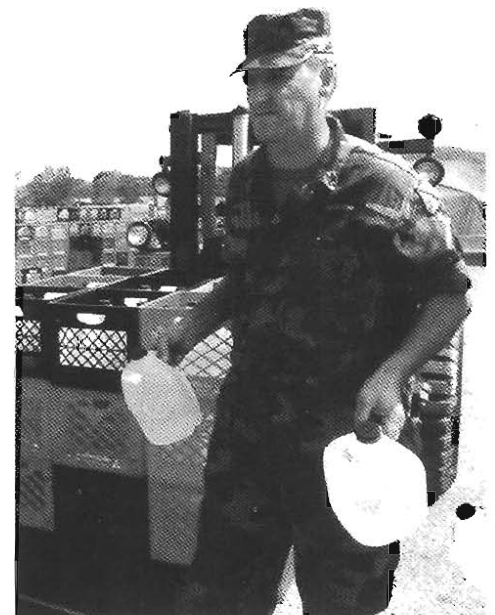
"Personally, I think this is going to be the most boring New Year's eve of my life. If we have power and telecommunications, **Kentucky Guard soldiers and airmen have a long history of crisis response, from providing drinking water during last year's shortage in Russellville (right) to clearing debris from public roads after a tornado devastated homes in Bullitt County.**

then 90% of the problems are solved. There might be some inconveniences, but nothing that can't be fixed. State agencies and local governments have been working to take care of problems and none have found catastrophic failures"

Laganosky figures that the human factor may play more of a role in the Guard being activated than anything else.

"I'm more concerned with malicious activity by people who get hit with 'millennium fever.' Of course, we have plans to deal with those scenarios if they come up.

"We'll just have to see what happens."



ALL QUIET ON THE CYBER FRONT

Kentucky Guards against Y2K

story and photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

Being a technologically based organization, the National Guard has a vested interest in preparing for the so-called Y2K bug. Computers, telephones and automated systems of all sorts are essential to the functioning of an organization that is capable of deploying troops in case of emergency, either overseas or here at home. If there is some sort of crisis — computer related or not — at year's end, National Guard soldiers and airmen are expected to respond ... *no matter what!*

For Lt. Col. John Heltzel, deputy chief of staff for information management for the Kentucky National Guard, the Y2K problem is only one among many that he's been dealing with for some time now. In true Army fashion, he's been working on contingency plans to deal with anything that might come up when the clock turns at the end of this year.

"We've been working on Y2K for more than a year. We've had ten functional area teams working on this and we've actually involved all the directorates. Everyone has been very proactive, and to be honest, I just don't expect any serious problems within the Kentucky Guard."

To illustrate how his staff has been preparing for Y2K, Heltzel explains that they've been gathering "certificates of compliance" for all of the Guard's automated systems, making sure equipment won't fail due to the impending date rollover. Recent growth in the Kentucky Guard's computerized infrastructure has been instrumental in preventing problems as all new equipment and software is checked for Y2K compliance.

"One of the most important things we've done is *business continuity planning*. This involves going through all our systems, checking all of our computers and performing external support tests to make sure proper procedures are in place. That's gone very well and we expect this to be finished by the first of October."

Heltzel's take on Y2K is less dramatic than you might expect, considering the recent hype in the media.

"The potential exists for Y2K to have some impact in certain areas. There are things like power grid support and local tele-

phone exchanges to worry about. But everyone from the federal government on down has been taking steps to keep things up and running. I just don't see anything serious happening here in the states."

Overseas, Heltzel says, the problem may be worse. "A lot of countries, especially in the third world, are behind in preparing for this. That's where I think you'll see most of the problems."

1st Lt. David Kaak — who works on Heltzel's Y2K team — shares his boss's confidence that Kentucky is ready for whatever lies ahead. His job has given him a unique perspective on the Y2K dilemma.

"Y2K is not a technical problem. It's a people problem. Computers and *things* are easy to fix. You just have to have the money to do that. It's not something our team can solve by ourselves. We help others solve their problems, like making sure we can deploy and pay the troops without interruption. That's what



"Y2K is not a not a technical problem. It's a people problem."

2nd Lt. David Kaak and Amy Monroe work on Y2K solutions for the Kentucky National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs.

we're all about. And it's not just for Y2K; it's true for any kind of contingency and in any kind of scenario.

Amy Monroe, Kaak's partner on the Y2K team, echoes his commitment to helping others help themselves.

"Some people think Y2K is going to take care of itself, and that's just not true. There are going to be some problems, that's unavoidable. It's my job to help people plan for Y2K and make sure they'll be able to do their jobs."

While Kaak and Moore are proud of the work they've done on Y2K, they explain that it's all in addition to the daily routine.

"We've just finished up the largest rollout of the Kentucky Guard's information infrastructure in 15 years," Kaak says. "More than 250 desktop systems are being installed and we've got a brand new telecommunication systems. Every armory location will be connected to the wide-area network by the end of this calendar year, making this one of the largest intradepartmental area networks around."

That's quite an achievement, and just in time for the millennium, no less.

1999 Kentucky Army National Guard NCO, Soldier of the Year

Top-rated troops bring experience and enthusiasm to competition

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

At first glance the winners of the 1999 Kentucky National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year combination seem an unlikely combination. One is a Marine Corps veteran with grandchildren, the other a middle school band director and proud mother-to-be. And while there are probably more similarities between the two than not, it is the variety in their backgrounds that makes them representative of today's National Guard.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Kaldy — the former Marine in question — is noted for his seriousness on the job, a trait he applied in large measure toward preparing for the NCO of the Year competition.

"I was very excited and honored to be nominated for this competition," he says, "and I worked hard to do my best. I don't know off how many hours I studied, but it was a lot."

"A lot" is putting it mildly. Kaldy's preparations for the competition took him to the internet, where he downloaded several study guides. He also pored over materials provided by the state command sergeant major as well as books he bought on his own. His study method included making more than 8 hours of audio tapes which he listened to during lunch and while running.

Kaldy acknowledges that being chosen as "the best of the best" is a great honor, but to hear him talk you realize there's something more behind his words.

"My father was a World War II veteran and from that I always seemed to have an interest in the military."

Kaldy turned his childhood interest into reality when he joined the Marine Corps. There he served as an infantryman and then in the combat engineers. After that he returned to Kentucky where he taught second grade in the public school system. But the call of the military proved too strong.

"I guess I always wanted to be in the Kentucky Guard. I'm proud to be a Kentuckian, and being in the Guard allows me to take an active role in the dual mission of protecting my country and serving my state.

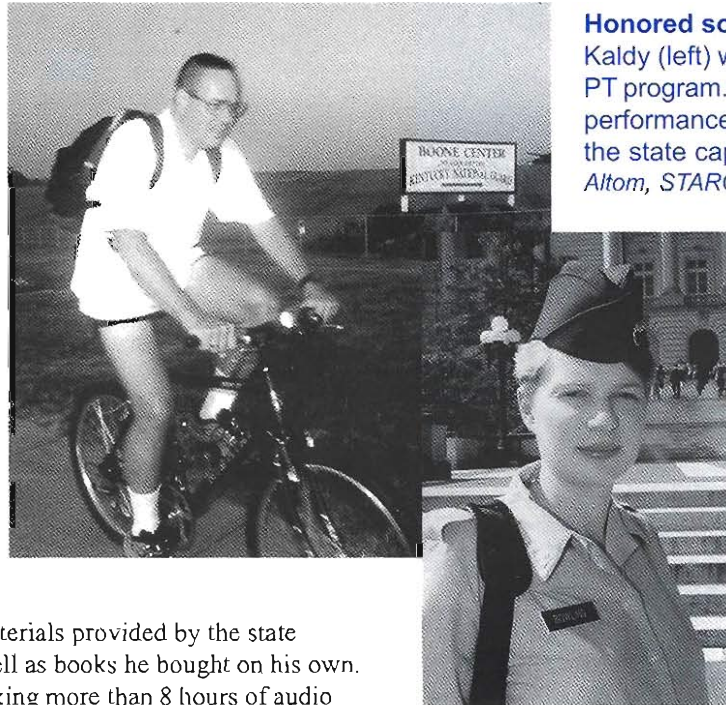
Kaldy's current assignment is in the Logistics Directorate as a traffic management specialist for the Kentucky Guard. But he

doesn't limit his expertise to just being "the convoy guy." The teacher in him wants to pass on the traditions of the past to future generations as well. One way he's found to do this is by developing a flag presentation program that gives elementary grade students a hands-on perspective on the history of the American flag and it's importance in representing the our nation.

Kentucky Army National Guard Soldier of the Year Spc. Jennifer Bowling is also an educator. In addition to being a trumpet player in the 202nd Army Band, she's the

Honored soldiers at work and at play

Kaldy (left) works his daily commute into his PT program. Bowling (below) following a performance with the 202nd Army Band at the state capital. Photo by Staff Sgt. David Altom, STARC PAO



band director at Virgie Middle School, an arrangement that in her opinion makes for a powerful combination.

"Being in the 202nd gives me the chance to be on the other side of the podium, to practice my music and take back to school the experience I need to be a better band director and teacher. Sometimes an instructor might forget what it's like to be a member of the band, but that doesn't happen with me. My students think it's pretty neat that I'm in the Guard, using my musical

skills, and then coming back to share what I learn with them."

Jennifer shares her unique career with her husband, Kevin, who is a high school band director as well as a fellow trumpet player with the 202nd. Jennifer joined the Guard after Kevin invited her to visit the band and sit in on a few practice sessions.

"I knew right away that they were a great band, and they are great soldiers, too. Everyone is so good at what they do and I felt I could learn so much from them, they knew so much that I didn't know, I just had to be a part of all that."

Jennifer had been only been out of basic training for six months when she was nominated by her unit for Soldier of the Year. She was a little worried at first about how to prepare, but she was given plenty of guidance from her unit and delved into the materials right away. She says her husband "helped some" with her preparations for the competition, but she did most the work on her own. Well, sort of.

State Sergeant Major praises competition winners, encourages more participation

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

To hear Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Satchwell talk about his troops, you'd think he was related to each and every one of them. Whether he's visiting units in Prestonsburg or Paducah, he's quick to point out that the soldiers of the Kentucky Army Guard are on a par with any of their active duty counterparts. He's especially proud of Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Kaldy and Spc. Jennifer Bowling, the 1999 NCO and Soldier of the Year for Kentucky.

"You could tell at the onset that they were competing for something they really believed in," Satchwell said. "They are two very professional people, very confident in everything they do."

Satchwell's admiration for his top two troops is evident in how he describes the way they conducted themselves during the competition process.

"Spc. Bowling showed a lot of pride in representing her battalion. Her confidence was unshakeable when she approached the board. Likewise, Sgt. 1st Class Kaldy has the NCO creed bred into him, 'There is no one more professional than I.' He went to great measure to make sure he was prepared, and it didn't surprise me that he did as well as he did."

As proud as Satchwell is of his competition winners, he feels strongly that they are representative of a larger group of

professionals who sometimes get overlooked.

"The Kentucky Guard has literally hundreds of soldiers like Kaldy and Bowling who are just as professional and just as dedicated to their duty. People who do their job no matter what, often in some pretty tough conditions.

"The NCO and Soldier of the Year competition gives them the chance to demonstrate their knowledge and experience, and maybe get a little recognition."

For more information on the NCO and Soldier of the Year competition see your squad leader or first sergeant.

(Soldiers, cont.)

"I didn't know it at the time, but when I first began the competition, I was pregnant," she explains.

The Bowling child — their first — is due in October. Jennifer plans on working up to the last minute, both on the job at school and with the 202nd.

"Everyone has been very supportive, both in my unit and at the school where I teach. The kids even held a baby shower for me before the end of the semester, which was really neat."

Jennifer is not the first in her family to join the Army. "I'm actually fourth generation military," she says. "My father was in the Army reserves and his father was a Marine. And then my mother's father was in the Army during World War II."

Her great grandfather was also in the Army during the turn of the century. Remarkably, he was also a trumpet player in the band! Jennifer laughs as she tells how he was reputed to have toured Kentucky with the band in a wagon.

Whether the newest Bowling will follow the family tradition remains to be seen. One thing is for certain, though — the family's military tradition is in good hands with the Kentucky Guard's newest Soldier of the Year.

"I'm really happy with what I'm doing," Jennifer says. "I love my job and I love being in the 202nd. I'm staying here!"

New flag for Sergeant Major of the Army

WASHINGTON (Army News Service)—Last June Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis J. Reimer officially unveiled and presented the Sergeant Major of the Army Flag.

Reimer said the flag was an important step for the Army since creating the service's senior enlisted position in 1966. "It is more than a symbol of an office. It recognizes they (NCOs) are key to our future."

Robert E. Hall, Sgt. Maj. of the Army, accepted the flag at the Pentagon ceremony by saying, "I accept for all those NCOs who served and who are serving," and said, "I am the least important part of the process, just a temporary keeper of the colors." No other service branch senior enlisted has a flag.

The flag, designed by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry, was taken from the insignia created in 1966 to distinguish the SMA rank. The flag background is divided diagonally from the upper fly to lower hoist, in scarlet and white, with scarlet uppermost. The insignia of the SMA is centered on the flag with the fringe in yellow, cord and tassels in scarlet and white.

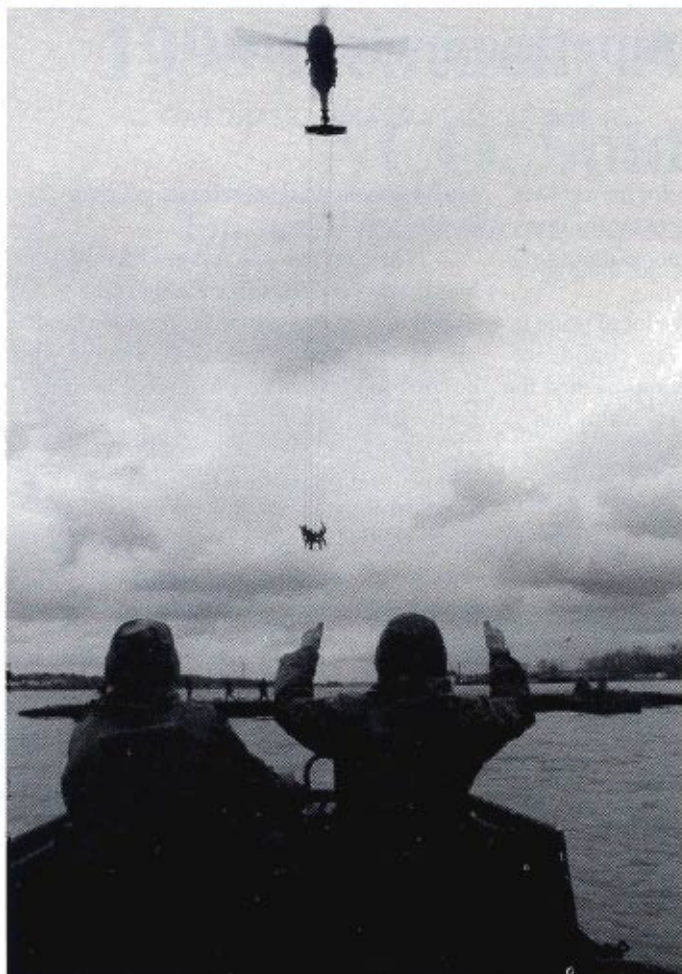
Reimer lauded the tradition of the noncommissioned officer and talked about Jamestown in 1609 when squads, led by NCOs, took turns in providing security for the settlement, up to and beyond the Civil War when NCOs marched up front of the Army's line ensuring the lines were filled when someone was shot. "The leadership skills were enormous then," he said.

He chronicled how the corps adapted to changes in the Army and picked up the most difficult task of training soldiers and to lead and to inspire. "That is the underlining philosophy still," he said, and he said NCOs live the line from the NCO Creed, 'No one is more professional than I,' everyday.

"NCOs work minor miracles turning citizens into soldiers and ensuring soldiers survive on the battlefield."



Army Sgt. Maj. Hall (center) with Spc. Bowling, Command Sgt. Maj. Satchwell and Sgt. 1st Class Kaldy photo by Command Sgt. Maj. William Dobbins, 1/75th Troop Command



Thumbs up! A combat engineer cheers as special forces troops are lifted off the barge during a practice session.

Moving into position The improvised barge moves down the Ohio River prior to the demonstration.



Engineers help make “Thunder”

story and photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

While “Thunder over Louisville” is best known as one of the nation’s largest and most prestigious airshows, one of its stars is a unit that you probably wouldn’t normally link with such a spectacular display of firepower and high technology.

The soldiers of Co. E, 206th Combat Engineers have become a regular feature in “Thunder,” working with the 20th Special Forces Group, the 63rd Aviation Group and the 123rd Special Tactics Flight to put on one of the most interesting — and thrilling! — demonstrations of the entire show.

“It’s exciting to work in a combined exercise like this,” says Cpt. Jeffrey Koenig, commander of the engineer unit. “Working with special operations and aviation folks like this, it gives us the chance to show off what we do.”

Koenig’s unit is actually the focal point in the demonstration. The premise is that a hostile force has taken over a barge and has to be neutralized. A special operations task force in the form of the Special Forces and the Special Tactics units is to seize the barge, gather intelligence material and get away as quickly as possible.

The 20th Group is trained up to rappel in and the 123rd guys have been practicing helocasting (a neat word for jumping out of a helicopter into a body of water). All that’s needed is a barge.

That’s where the Kentucky engineers come in.

It’s up to the engineers to provide a stable platform for the rappellers land on, with an emphasis on *stable*. While the mission may look daring to onlookers, safety is always number one; without a platform that is controlled and predictable, someone may get hurt. And that’s not acceptable.

Co. E has a lot of experience in the water. The combat engineers and their boats were an invaluable asset during the Flood of ’97 and their presence in Ecuador last year was essential to moving equipment up river to construction sites that would have been otherwise impossible to reach. While



their main mission may be bridge construction under battlefield conditions, they've learned to adapt to whatever task they've been called upon to perform.

The "Thunder" mission looks easy enough, but watching the soldiers in action belies their experience and training. A series of floating bridge sections is deployed and assembled. Through a system of hand signals, the engineer boats come together and move the improvised barge into place.

As with most things military, the key to all this is teamwork.

According to Cpt. Greg Long, Blackhawk mission commander, a lot depends on the engineers.

"The pilot can't see the barge when he's hovering, so the crew chief has to guide him in. If the barge doesn't maintain a steady position, it's nearly impossible to line everything up for the rappellers to go in. They depend on that barge being where it's supposed to be and staying there."

Koenig concedes that the Ohio River current is tricky, but he's confident that his men can do the job.

"This is what they do best," he says. "They love this kind of thing and they're good at it. It's what we train for."

Indeed. The exercise goes off without a hitch. The 20th Group team rappels in while the 123rd Special Tactics Flight provides security in their Zodiac boats. The Blackhawk returns and ropes are dropped for the stabilized operations (STABO) egress portion of the mission. The audience watches in awe as the Special Forces troops are carried away beneath the huge helicopter. A fireworks display signals the end of the exercise.

A little while later the engineers boats dock along the river and dozens of people approach, eager to meet the soldiers and take pictures of the boats that were part of the mission.

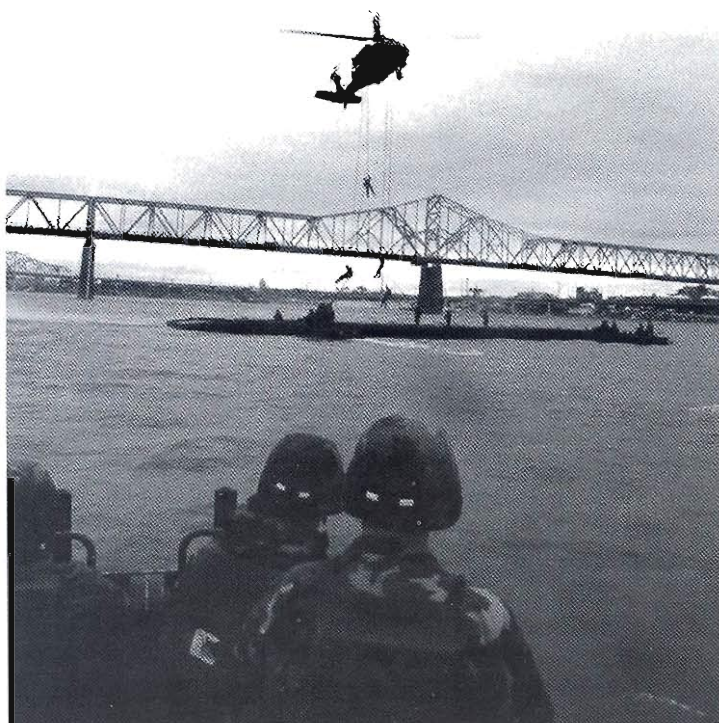
In more ways than one, the mission is a success.

Getting ready An engineer boat (above left) gets into position just prior to the demonstration.

Up and away The special forces team (above) egresses from the "enemy stronghold" via STABO.

Teamwork Combat engineers (left) watch as rappellers make a success landing on the barge.

Mission complete Sgt. Michael Switzer and Pvt. Thomas May piloted a safety boat during the demonstration. According to Switzer, opportunities like "Thunder" give the soldiers of Co. E the chance to show off their skills.



STEEL RAIN!

One thing's for certain—the soldiers of the 1/623rd know how to make a lot of noise!

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

Never let it be said that the soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard are lacking in enthusiasm. All you have to do is accompany the troops of the 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery to Ft. Knox on a drill weekend and you'll soon be grinning along with everyone else.

"There's nothing like it," says Maj. Ron Turner, battalion executive officer. "When an MLRS lets go, you can see it, hear it and feel it. It's a pretty intense experience, and the troops love it."

The MLRS Turner refers to is the *multiple launch rocket system* that he and his battalion are responsible for maintaining and operating. Dubbed "steel rain" by the Iraqis during the Persian Gulf War, MLRS has changed the face of modern warfare. Capable of reaching out to about 36 kilometers, the basic load in a single launcher is comparable to an entire battery of traditional howitzer-style artillery.

"It has awesome firepower," Turner says. "With MLRS you can

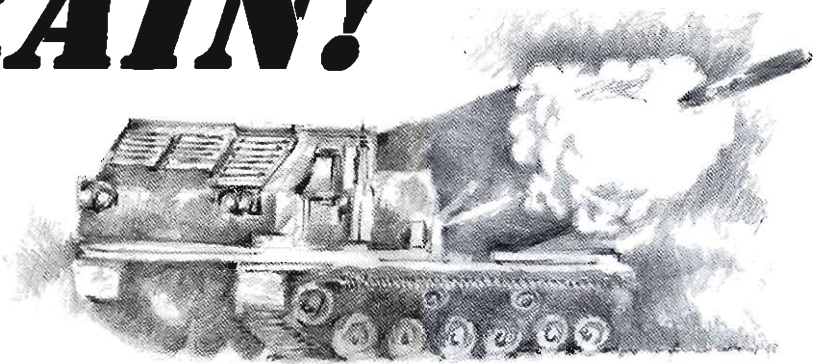


Illustration by Maj. Gen. John R. Groves, Jr.

help shape the battlefield quickly and decisively and with reduced risk to your troops. I think it is the wave of the future."

Watching a launch take place is akin to a Fourth of July fireworks display. Twelve rockets leave the launcher within a single minute, leaving behind a plume of smoke a hundred yards wide and streaming out as far as the eye can see. The noise is deafening, causing you to pause and think about the power being delivered on target. The MLRS definitely commands a lot of respect.

The aftermath of the launch is punctuated by hooting and hollering. The crews and observers around you are jubilant at what's just taken place. At first you grin and think, those guys are pretty funny, but then you realize that you've been one of "those guys" when you hear your own voice joining in. You grin at one of the troops and he grins back.

So maybe this is what it's like to be in the artillery

The enthusiasm generated on the firing range doesn't die off. Not in the 1/623rd, it doesn't. Spc. Sammy Fawns is an MLRS



Taking care of business 326th Ordnance Sgt. Randy Russell watches as Pfc. Linda Rich trouble shoots a multiple launch rocket system firing component in preparation for a mission.

Five, four, three, two In this rapid fire photo sequence a single MLRS training rocket can be seen leaving the launcher during a training exercise at Ft. Knox. Live warheads contain up to 600 bomblets capable of taking out an entire grid square when fired in concert with the launcher's other eleven rockets.

photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO





crewman who can't quite get enough of the guard. An EMT in civilian life, he adds his expertise to his Guard mission, working with his fellow soldiers to prevent heat casualties while on preparing for firing missions.

"I volunteer to do a lot of state active duty missions, too," he says. "Snow storms, tornadoes, stuff like that. I worked the Derby last year for the Guard and we treated at least 48 people for everything from heat exhaustion to severe trauma. It was a lot of work, but I enjoyed it."

Fawns is studying criminology at Western Kentucky University using the Kentucky Guard Tuition Assistance Program. He hopes to one day become a Kentucky State Trooper. In the meantime, though, he seems pretty content working with the MLRS.

Imagine that.

Checking location 1st Sgt. Larry Tooley and Spc. Sammy Fawns — both from HHC, 1/623rd — use a global positioning system device.

The Lunch Bunch A break between firing missions gives the troops a chance to recharge on some of that great messhall cookin'! *photo by Spc. Karen Roche, STARC PAO*

Young Guns Adjutant General Groves takes a break with a proud crew following a successful firing mission.



The order of merit

By Col. Jan Camplin,
Assistant Deputy STARC Commander

Knowing where you are is one of the first rules of being a soldier, whether you're on the battlefield, in a convoy or on the parade ground. Getting your bearings and maintaining them are essential ingredients to success in combat.

Likewise, it's important for officers to know where he or she stands in regard to a successful career.

In response, Kentucky has developed an order of merit list that may be used to more objectively review an officer's potential for promotion and where he or she ranks within their branch in the state of Kentucky. To formulate the Kentucky order of merit process the procedures and policies of many states were examined. Strong points were incorporated to formulate the most objective system possible for Kentucky, resulting in arguably the most professional program in the National Guard.

Overall the intent is to provide an order ranking, within branches of all senior captains, majors and lieutenant colonels in Kentucky. As a result, officers will know the total number of personnel in each grade, by branch, and numerically where



Strong points were incorporated to formulate the most objective system possible for Kentucky, resulting in arguably the most professional program in the National Guard.

he or she ranks among their peers

Other individuals within that branch will not be listed by name, but numerical sequence only. The individual will be informed of his or her rank in the order of merit and the points assigned by the order of merit board.

System helps determine career path, promotion process

Annually each individual will be examined independently by a board consisting of seven to ten senior officers. At the six month interval a similarly structured panel will convene to review personnel actions, promotions and projected vacancies that have taken place since the board. A fundamental goal will be to ensure an objective, well-rounded and representative review process.

The board uses a -1 to +7 point system with additional increments to individually evaluate each officer by rank and branch. The procedure will use a secret ballot by each board member. Only the result will be known, not how the individual board members voted. It is important to note that an individual board member has only one vote among seven to ten board members and can influence the outcome by only one vote.

Many factors are evaluated including: military education, civilian education, physical condition, APFT, difficulty of assignments, duty performance, military bearing, height/weight standards, rater potential evaluation, senior rater evaluation, and current photograph (not mandatory).

It is imperative that an individual review his/her personal records at least yearly to ensure all information is accurate and up to date. Important information such as schools attended, civilian education, recent job changes, APFT results and height/weight standards will affect the order of merit for any individual.

It is possible the individual standing for an officer may increase or decrease at subsequent order of merit boards. Accomplishments, achievements, or individual situations can have an impact.

This process is intended to promote a fair and objective system of officer ranking and to assist all officers in personal career management decisions. Remember, the order of merit listing is new to Kentucky and will continue to improve with application and experience.

Further information can be obtained through your brigade commanders in the near future.

Direct commissions available

Want to be an officer? It may be easier than you think. In addition to attending a military academy, federal or state officer candidate school (OCS), or Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) you may be able to obtain a direct commission.

At one time you had to have a highly technical skill, or apply to a special officer branch to receive a direct commission. Now your branch is not a factor and your technical skill level is not a pre-requisite.

Do you have a Bachelor's Degree? Have you served at least two years of Active Duty and one year of good standing in the Army National Guard? If so National Guard Regulations 600-100, paragraphs 2-11 states you may be eligible for a direct commission.

Begin with your chain of command up for processing and screening. If you're lucky — and qualified — your application will go to the National Guard Bureau (NGB) for prior approval. If NGB approves your packet then a Federal Recognition Board will interview you at the state headquarters for final approval. Only then can you be sworn in as a second lieutenant.

For more information call Military Personnel at (502) 607-1491.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



Reviewing the troops Governor Paul E. Patton recently visited with Kentucky National Guard soldiers and airmen at the Air Guard base in Louisville and at Wendell Ford Regional Training Center. After taking a break with troops from the 1/149th Infantry Bn. (above) Gov. Patton gets briefed (right) on the *engagement skills trainer*. Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Butler (below right) brags on his troops with the Commander-in-Chief. Kentucky Air Guard Cpt. Jeremy Shoop and Col. Richard Ash (below) give the Governor some hands on time with a special operations parachute rig. photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom



Youth Challenged by National Guard program

Cadets find new direction at Bluegrass Challenge Academy

By Staff Sgt. Amy Carr
Cargo Courier Senior Staff Write

The Kentucky Challenge staff paces the floor of the post hospital here as nervous cadets sit quietly in their chairs, waiting for their initial medical exams.

The cadets are beginning the first class in the Kentucky Youth Challenge program, a voluntary 22-week military-style training course for troubled teens.

Cadet Glenn Taylor Jr., 18, of Louisville said he hopes the program, sponsored by the Kentucky National Guard, will help brighten his future.

"I volunteered because school wasn't working out and it seemed like I kept going back to school and kept getting kicked out," Taylor said. "My mom read in the paper about the program and she started looking into it."

"Since all I was doing was working, and school wasn't working out, I thought I should do it so I could get my GED, and they'll set me up with a good job. It's something for my future."

Another Cadet, Thomas S. Holiday, 18, of Lawrenceburg, Ky., said he is nervous about starting the program but also thinks it will help get his life in order.

"I plan to leave here with my GED," he said.

"I have been training for the physical part of the program for about a month. I am mostly worried about the school part because I failed my junior year of high school twice.

"I was having trouble with the law, and this'll help me out court-wise to help me get my life straightened out."

Seven members of the 123rd Medical Squadron volunteered to assist the program during the July UTA, giving the cadets physicals with help from the Army National Guard and active duty Army medical personnel.

Richard H. Jett, a retired Air National Guard colonel who is now administrative branch manager for the Kentucky Youth Challenge Program, said contributions from the medical personnel help make the program possible.

"We couldn't do it without them," he said. "The Guard doctors and active duty Army folks here have been very supportive."

Jett said he hopes Kentucky's program will be as successful as those already operating in other states.

"I think the program is great. We are the 30th state to be certified. The 20 other states will ultimately have similar programs. Some other states like Illinois have had over 900 cadets at a time. We perceive

Kentucky growing to more than 200 cadets a year.

The program's main goal is to get its cadets back on the right track, Jett said.

For more information on the Kentucky Youth Challenge Program, call

1-877-KY-YOUTH

or 502-624-4515 or 502-624-4807

or write

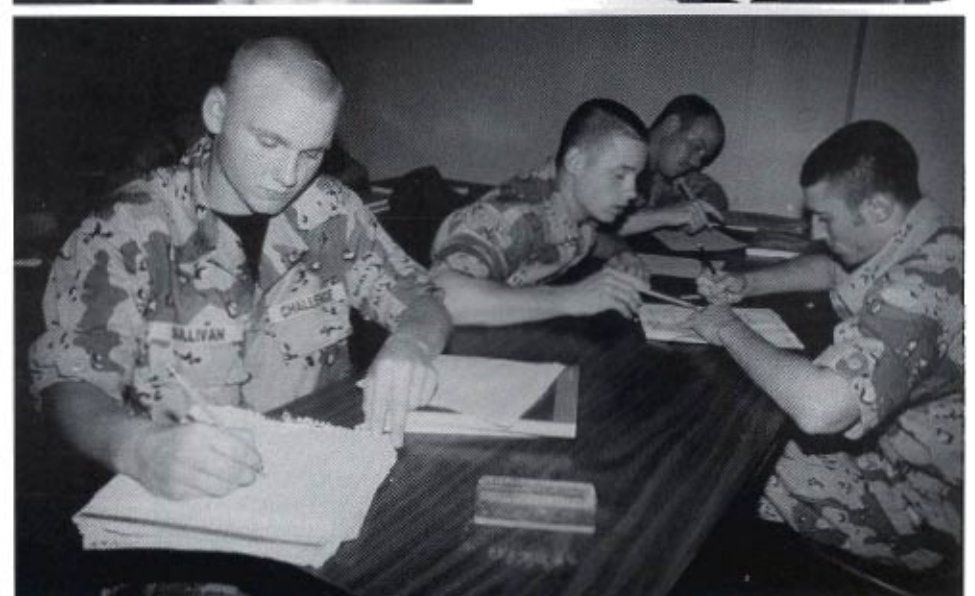
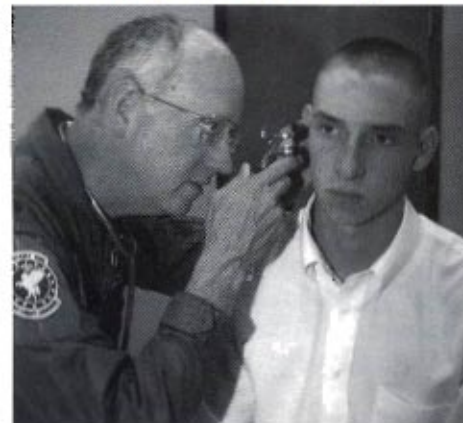
Bluegrass Challenge Academy

Building 2371

Ft. Knox, KY 40121-5000

In processing Lt. Col. Richard Kimbler, state air surgeon for the Kentucky Air Guard, (top left) gives Cadet Scott Holiday a medical exam as part of Kentucky Youth Challenge. photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Mind, body and spirit Curriculum at Bluegrass Challenge Academy includes physical fitness and academic training, as well as classes on leadership and citizenship. photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

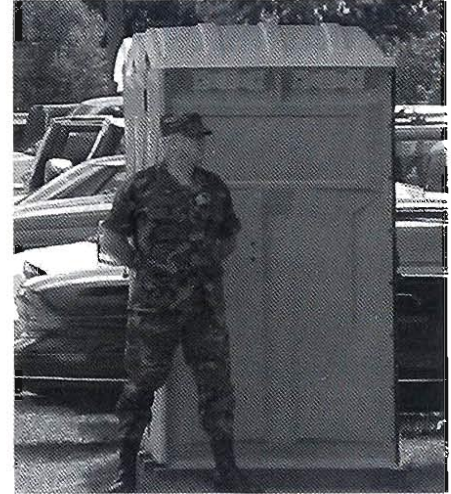


“Cyber Scouts, out!”

Do you or your unit have a digital camera? Have you a hard drive full of neat photos but nowhere to show them? Well, have we got a deal for you! “Cyber Scouts, out!” is a call to all Kentucky Guard digital photographers to contribute interesting, funny or otherwise unique images. Just email them to altomdw@bngc.dma.ky.state.us.



An artillery crew rehearses firing a “Pack 75” towed cannon for a salute during the 138th FA Brigade change of command. *photo by Maj. Brian D. Koehler*



This unidentified Guardman stands watch over a valued piece of equipment. *photo by Master Sgt. Granville Hollon*

State marksmanship match builds teamwork

story and photos by Spc. Karen Roche, STARC PAO

More than 100 Kentucky Army and Air National Guard marksmen attended the State Combat Matches held at Ft. Knox this spring courtesy of the state marksmanship team.

According to Master Sgt. Dennis Stockton, match coordinator, in addition to promoting good marksmanship among the rank and file, the state matches have another purpose as well.



“When you have a team of engineers competing against an armor team, that gets some friendly competition going. Everyone wants bragging rights and they are going to excel for that purpose alone.”

This year’s first place rifle team was Co. D, 206th Engineer Battalion. The 20th Special Forces Group came in second with Co. B, 206th third.

Top Gun award for the rifle competition was Staff Sgt. Curtis Angel from HHB, 2/138th Field Artillery. Top Gun pistol was Staff Sgt. Darryl Loafman, 123rd Airlift Wing.

Other awards included: *rifle* 2nd place, Spc. Ira Napier; 3rd place Pfc. Brad Youngman *pistol* 2nd place Staff Sgt. Cutis Angel; 3rd place, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Mullins.



Kentucky Air Guard Staff Sgt. Darryl Loafman (above) was *Top Gun* for pistol at the matches.



Spc. Aaron Steward, Master Sgt. Daniel Shell and Spc. Danny Luster check their scores (above left).

A rifle team sets it’s sites on building skills, camaraderie (bottom).

Tuition assistance program continues to help Guardsmen

For the third year running, the Kentucky National Guard is providing to its members free tuition to any state-funded college, university, or vocational/technical school.

Budgeted at approximately \$1.5 million for 1999, the Kentucky Guard Tuition Assistance Program has to date helped more than 4,000 soldiers and airmen seek a higher path toward education ... and opportunity!

Sound like a pretty good deal? Well, it is, but not just for the Guard soldiers and airmen who get to go to school.

"While this has been a great motivator for our troops, the ultimate benefactor will be those who helped make this happen," said Adjutant General John R. Groves Jr. "The education opportunities presented through the tuition assistance program will enhance the ability of our soldiers and airmen to more effectively respond to the needs of the people of Kentucky, whether it is here at home or in time of international crisis."

According to Groves, the success of the tuition assistance program is due to the generosity of the citizens of the Common-

wealth, and in large part to the historic coordinated support shown by the institutions involved.

"I've met with the presidents of the state's public universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and they've expressed enthusiastic support for what we're trying to do. With their help, we can now guarantee funding for all our applicants through spring semester of the year 2000."

One of only six similar programs in the nation, the Kentucky Guard tuition assistance program has been a boon to those men and women who wanted a chance to improve themselves and their situation in life, but because of financial obligations couldn't do so.

Applicants have to be members in good standing, that is, they must meet all administrative requirements and cannot have any outstanding personnel actions held against them. The accepting school's academic requirements must be met and maintained in order to participate in the program.

For further information about joining the Kentucky National Guard, call 1-800-GO GUARD. To learn more about the Kentucky National Guard tuition assistance program, contact our education office at 502-564-8550, or visit our website at www.military.state.ky.us.

The Minuteman calls for increased role for citizen soldier

Review of *The Minuteman: Restoring an Army of the People*, by Gary Hart (Free Press, \$22.00)

review by Maj. Charles Harris
75th Troop Command, KYARNG

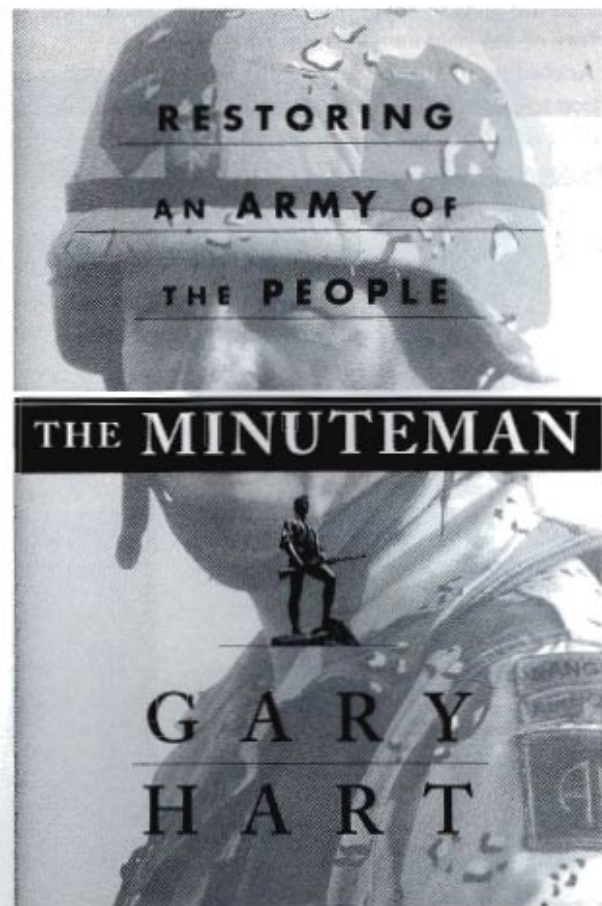
Gary Hart, United States Senator for more than 12 years and former presidential candidate, possesses a keen interest in military affairs. Clearly, he believes the US military needs significant reform. His recent book on the US military calls for an increased role for the citizen-soldier. In fact, in *The Minuteman*, he argues for a military based almost entirely upon the citizen-soldier, for US security in the post Cold War Era.

Hart's extensive research is evident as he supports his case. First, Hart asserts the US can save lots of money, creating the so-called "peace dividend," by opting for a defense centered primarily on reservists instead of a large active duty

force. Secondly, Hart contends the threat today is more diverse and unpredictable than during the Cold War, requiring smaller active component forces that can deploy rapidly where needed. Thirdly, he points out the effectiveness of the militia in US and world history and its close association with citizenship.

Hart relies on experts to give weight to his views, including Carl von Clausewitz, John Keegan, Robert Kaplan, Thucydides, and many others. His descriptions and insights into the political struggle between the active and reserve components in the US military, especially in the US Army, are particularly satisfying and enlightening.

All in all, *The Minuteman* is easy to read and very logically advocates an



increased role in US defense for soldiers in the National Guard. Read it, send it to your elected officials, and share with your friends.

You might be too "HOO-AH!" if ...

(collected from various sources)

Have you even gotten accused of being "hardcore" or maybe a little over the edge? Know someone who might be? Well, find out for sure by going through this list. We're not sure how to score this, but if you know someone who answers "yes" to all of the following, a little R & R might be in order

- 1) You make your newborn go through newcomers orientation within the first thirty days at home.
- 2) You have mermite food containers in the china cabinet.
- 3) Your kids salute their grandparents.
- 4) When your family gets together, you refer to them as "slice elements."
- 5) Your personal license plate says "AT EASE."
- 6) Your kids are hand receipt holders for their toys and clothes.
- 7) Your kids call their sandbox the "warfare training center."
- 8) Your older kids call the younger ones "trainee" and "recruit."
- 9) You decorate your Christmas tree with chem-lights and engineering tape.
- 10) Your son fails third grade and tells everyone he's just a "phase three recycle."
- 11) Your dog's name is "Ranger" and your cat's is "Airborne."
- 12) Your kids have to wax and buff the floor before school.
- 13) If your kids fail a test, they get letters of reprimand.
- 14) Your kids recite the alphabet phonetically.
- 15) Your kids get a leave and earning statement along with their allowance.
- 16) Your divorce is finalized by a change of command ceremony.
- 17) Your car has your name stenciled on the windshield.
- 18) Your daughter must sign out on pass before going on a date.
- 19) You do all of your "back to school" shopping at military surplus and clothing sales.
- 20) Your kindergartner refers to recess as his "smoke break."

Now it's time to get

IN GEAR!

with Master Sgt. Steve Collier
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
(forward deployed in Bosnia)

It's one of the most misunderstood pieces of military equipment. That's the entrenching tool (us old folks call'em "E-tools").

My favorite is the 1968 issue with a two foot wooden handle, mattock blade and the trusty, familiar spade. The current issue folding e-tool has been improved and modified. The new guy folds into a nine-and-half

inch package that fits neatly into the lime green plastic case which should adorn every serious field trooper's LBE. This modern military marvel will dig, chop and, if the conditions are right, fry up your breakfast, anywhere, anytime.

Its triangular blade is sharpened on one side to make slicing through the hard ground we always must dig in easier. There is a serrated edge for chopping underbrush and saplings to clear those fire lanes quickly and the neat little mattock blade makes easy work of cutting through the ground so your fighting position can meet all the specs you've come to expect. The spade blade will also turn perpendicular to the handle to make an even larger pick (although the handle might not hold too well in some soils).

Another nice thing about the current E-Tool is its adaptability: it turns into a real handy field expedient griddle. All you need are a couple of large rocks or sandbags a good cooking fire and the tactical situation that allows cooking fires. Make sure to clean the spade off extra good before frying up some eggs or making that grilled cheese sandwich.



The Last Word

Do you know ...

... where the term "a feather in your cap" originated?

It comes from the ancient custom of placing a feather in a soldier's cap for every enemy killed.

... why aircraft storage buildings are called "hangars" when planes don't hang in them?

The word comes from the 16th century French "angar", which is an open shed for storing plows and similar objects. The French term is derived from the Latin "angarium" for "shed" or "stable."

... how the term "a cup of Joe" came to refer to coffee?

Coffee became the strongest drink aboard ships when Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels abolished the officers' wine mess in 1913.

... who were the original "free lancers"?

Medieval knights who owed allegiance only to themselves and anyone willing to pay for their military services — their "lances."

... where the saying "devil to pay" came from?

The "devil" on a wooden ship is the longest seam on the hull, and "pay" is the tar used for caulking. Squatting in the bilges "paying the devil" was an unpleasant task.

Boone Center Post Exchange open for business!!!

Convenient location entices Guard members, retirees

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

Question: What's the difference between Boone National Guard Center and an active Army base?

Answer: Not much, since the new AAFES Post Exchange opened for business.

The much-anticipated PX, located at the first intersection after entering the Boone Center main gate, is more than just a place to stop by for a soft drink and a bag of munchies. It's the soldier and airmen's central Kentucky link to benefits and privileges that were previously obtained only by driving to an active military base.

In addition to the inevitable consumable goods and sundrie items, the new PX carries an assortment of military clothing, rank insignia, patches and accessories. Also readily available is a selection of electronic entertainment equipment such as stereos, video gear and computers.

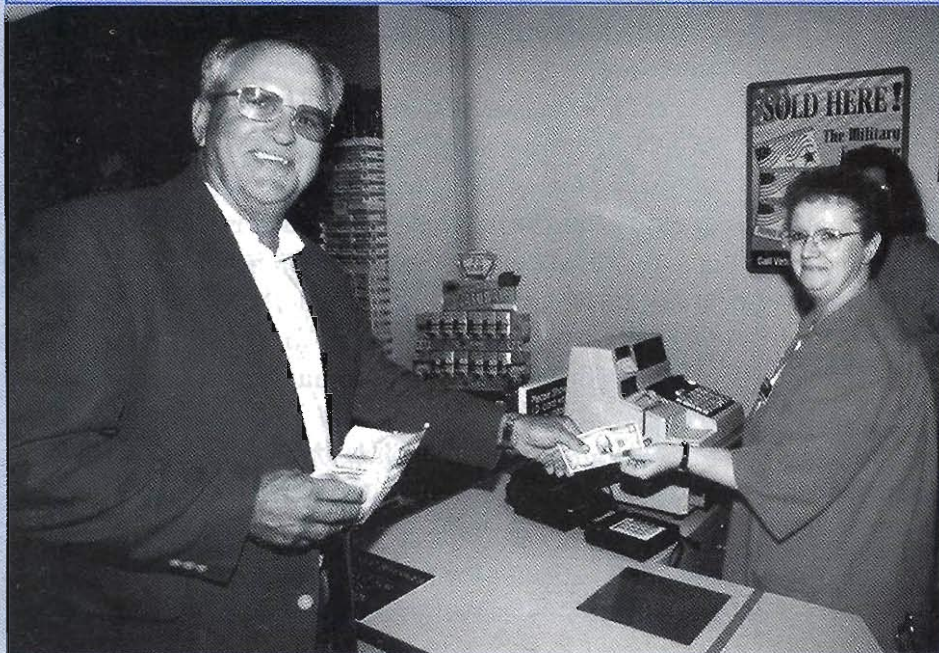
According to Janie Warren, manager of the new facility, the mission of the PX is to serve the customer. Suggestions are welcome and special orders can be placed for items not normally carried at the store.

"If we don't have it here and it's available from Ft. Knox or Ft. Campbell, we'll order it," Warren says. "All you have to do is let us know what it is you want and we'll do what we can to find it for you. We've gotten automobile tires, baby beds, mattresses ... even refrigerators for our customers. Just let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Financing through the AAFES delayed payment program is also available, Warren says. "We're here to please."

So the next time you come to Boone Center, be sure and stop by the new PX. Remember, it's open to all active and reserve component personnel, as well as dependents and retirees with proper ID cards.

Grand opening! Adjutant General John R. Groves shares ribbon-cutting duties with Craig Verwys, AAFES regional manager, Ft. Knox; Col. (ret.) Donnie Martin; and Boone Center PX manager Janie Warren
The first dollar Former chief-of-staff Donnie Martin (below) makes the first purchase at the new PX. Col. Martin was one of the first proponents for establishing a post exchange at Boone Center.



or current resident

The Bluegrass Guard
KG-PAO
Boone National Guard Center
Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

**Boone Center Post Exchange
hours of operation are:**

1030 - 1730 hrs

**Tuesday through Saturday
telephone: 502-607-1111**

