

The Bluegrass Guard



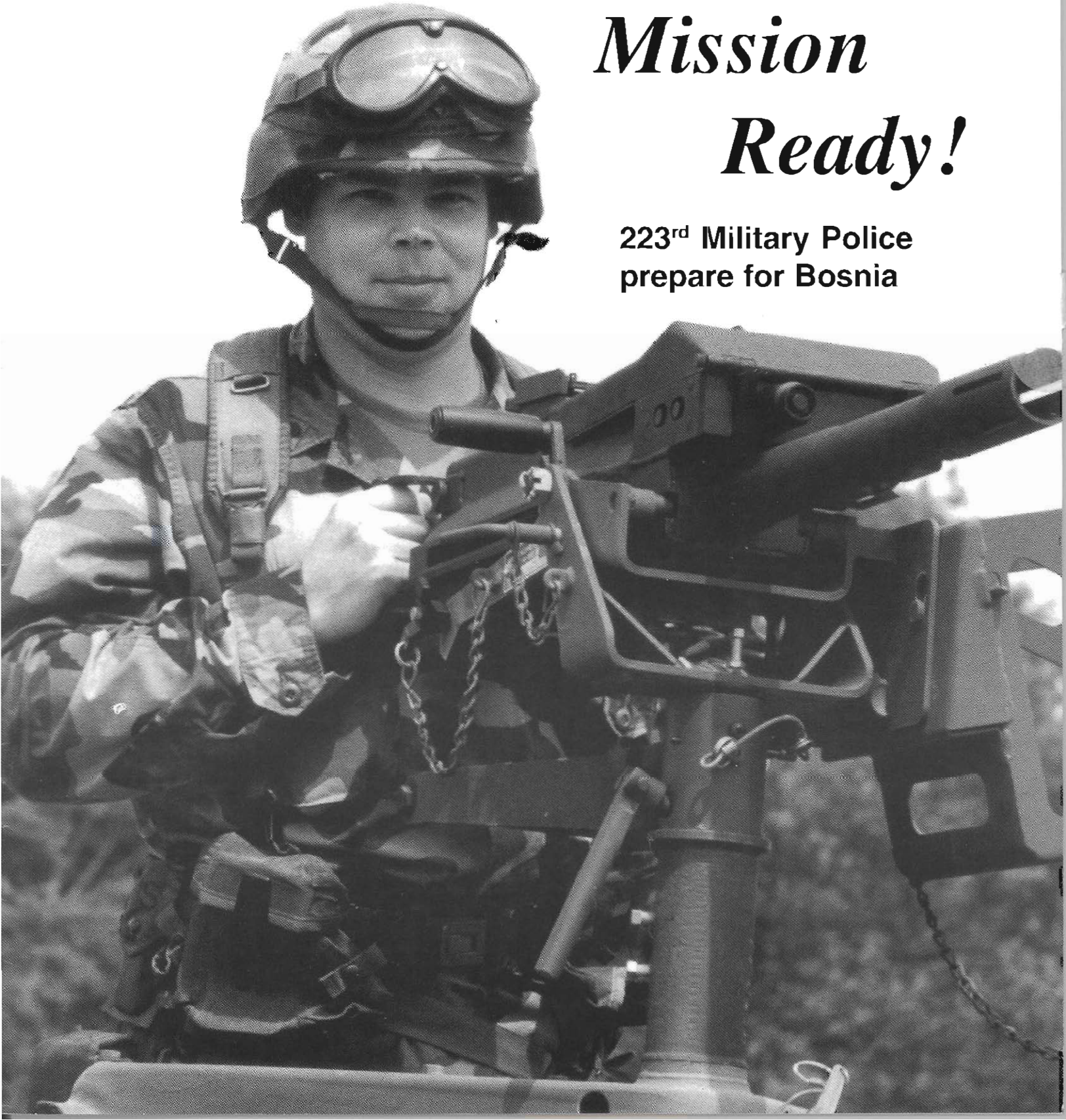
Volume Five, Issue One

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

Summer 2000

Mission Ready!

**223rd Military Police
prepare for Bosnia**





The General Point of view

by Major General John R. Groves Jr.
Adjutant General of Kentucky

Americans have given little notice of late to a societal shift that is affecting the United States military in general and the National Guard in particular. Along with reservists of all the services, the National Guard and its citizen soldiers and airmen are this nation's reserve force during wartime. In addition, since its formation as the Kentucky Militia on June 24, 1792, the community-based Kentucky National Guard has provided willing and capable assistance when disaster or domestic strife occurs.

Until now, for other than domestic assistance missions and service during wartime, a Guard or reserve member could expect to attend drill once monthly with two weeks of active duty each year. However, crosscurrents in American society are slowly but surely causing these traditional time commitments to change.

Since the early 1990s, U.S. military forces have decreased in size by about one third. Today, over one half of all Army forces are in the Army Reserve and the National Guard. At the same time, military missions around the globe have increased dramatically. The fall of the USSR was a momentous event and brought hopes for a world free from major conflict. However, while the U.S. faces a peer competitor at present, numerous smaller conflicts, often managed through the use of military force, have moved to center stage.

The era of Globalism has arrived with its many manifestations. In this environment, the U.S. military is increasingly finding itself dispatched to support aspects of evolving U.S. global interests. At the same time, the fundamental mission for the U.S. active and reserve military forces - to maintain warfighting capabilities necessary to counter threats against undisputed U.S. national vital interests - has not changed.

Discussions among academics and senior U.S. policy makers concerning the use of U.S. military forces were common in the 1980s and have continued since. United States military doctrine today is based on several principles including the use of overwhelming force against an

adversary, a clearly stated mission and a predetermined point for disengagement. In addition, these precepts have historically rested largely on the premise that United States military forces should be used only when traditional vital national interests were threatened.

Increasingly, however, the definition of threats to vital interests has expanded and along with it, the increased use of the military to counter those threats. One might conclude that U.S. vital interests are more situational than in the past and now include the willingness of the American people to register their disagreement with such events as genocide and rogue governments through the use of military force. Attacks against the U.S. homeland and U.S. economy will always be seen as threats to national security, but in the early 21st Century, threats to other American sensibilities may now also qualify as sufficient for the deployment of U.S. military forces.

The relatively small size of the active military today demands that Guard and Reserve forces must now be integrated into mobilizations for war and mobilizations for smaller scale contingencies as well. For example, future rotations of U.S. peacekeeping forces into Bosnia will require Guard and Reserve forces in large numbers for periods of up to 179 days. The regular Army today just does not have the personnel required to complete these missions while maintaining a readiness for small scale contingencies and large-scale warfare at the same time.

The frequency of missions of this description is not likely to decrease. When combined with the trend among young Americans to turn away from military service, the outcome is troubling. Those who do join the ranks of the Guard and Reserve will do so expecting to drill monthly and to attend two weeks of annual training. The reality of future reserve service may be different. The potential for stress and tensions with employers and families when long

term deployments are required under conditions where the purpose for the mobilization is unclear may increase. As a result, the desire to serve in the first place may be lessened. In the process, it may change forever the implied social contract between the nation and its reserve forces in which deployment of reserve forces has normally been only for a "big one."

Other global factors are at work that will have an impact on the Guard. Homeland defense is an old term with new dimensions. The methods and means to counter chemical, biological and radiological weapons of mass destruction are now front row issues. The National Guard in each state will have a major responsibility to respond to and

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The Bluegrass Guard

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Former adjutant general left legacy based on wartime experience

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom

A significant chapter in the history of the Kentucky National Guard closed earlier this year with the passing of Maj. Gen. (ret.) Larry C. Dawson on 13 July after a long illness. Maj. Gen. Dawson was Adjutant General for Kentucky from 1968 to 1971.

Maj. Gen. Dawson devoted his most of his life to the service of his nation, joining the Kentucky Army National Guard in 1930 and serving in the Far East during World War II with the 138th Field Artillery

Regiment. During the war he participated in the New Guinea, Leyte and Luzon campaigns.

After the war Dawson rose through the ranks of the Kentucky Army Guard and was eventually assigned as executive officer of the XXIII Corps Artillery Group. He retired in 1967 with thirty-seven years of service.

One year later Maj. Gen. Dawson was called to duty by then Governor Louise B. Nunn, who selected him to be Kentucky's forty-third adjutant general.

Maj. Gen. Dawson's time in the Guard



Adjutant General Dawson (left) visiting with the troops of 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery in Vietnam. At the far right is then Lt. Col. Robert W. Cundiff. *archive photo*



soon sent him back into a war zone with his visit with the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment during their tour of duty in Vietnam.

Maj. Gen. Dawson's greatest legacy, however, may be the acquisition of a small plot of land in western Kentucky that would eventually become the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. It was his vision that the nineteen acre "weekend training site" be developed into a place where Kentucky Guard troops could sharpen their warfighting skills and prepare for the kinds of battlefield situations that he himself had endured.

Maj. Gen. Dawson is survived by his wife, Thelma Jeffreys Dawson.

Point of View, cont.

analyze the nature of these threats. Also on the horizon is the national missile defense system in which the National Guard is expected to play a major role.

Additional areas of expanded National Guard activity include Youth Challenge Programs in many states for high school dropouts. Kentucky's program has over one hundred students at its site on Ft. Knox. The Kentucky National Guard is also a partner with law enforcement in a state wide drug education and eradication program

Despite important and demanding new missions, maintenance of the highest level of war fighting skills remains the enduring foundation. Constant training in the military art is essential and has as its goal the mastery of both basic soldiering skills and the highly technical demands of

the modern battlefield. Changes facing the Guard are both inevitable and complex. The Kentucky Guard will meet these challenges and as it does, will continue to reinforce the historic linkage between the military of the United States and the American people.

The men and women of the Guard serve proudly and voluntarily. Of all forms of public service to community, state and nation, the National Guard is among the most venerable. The message is clear: while the military overall will experience many changes in the years ahead, when the need arises, Kentucky's citizen-soldiers will respond with urgency and commitment. Two hundred and eight years of service to the people of the commonwealth give testament.

Kentucky Air Guard assists downed pilot

by 1st Lt. Dale Greer

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AFP) — An aircrew from the Kentucky Air National Guard helped rescue a civilian pilot May 17 after his aircraft plunged into the chilly Atlantic 360 miles off the coast of Portugal.

The pilot, 35-year-old Alex Haynes of Seattle, was not harmed in the crash but could have sustained severe injuries because of exposure to the 50-degree water. At such temperatures, death from hypothermia can occur within a few hours.

Fortunately, a C-130 crew from the 123rd Airlift Wing, based in Louisville, Ky., heard Haynes' distress calls and diverted to the crash site with survival gear.

"We were flying from the Azores to Pisa, Italy, to pick up some Army National Guard soldiers," explained Capt. Todd Lally, aircraft commander. "About an hour after takeoff, we heard an air traffic controller say, 'Who's declaring a Mayday?' That really got our attention."

Haynes, who was flying a single-engine Cessna, responded by saying he was having engine trouble and that he expected to impact the water in eight minutes.

"There was a hush that fell over the cockpit," Lally recalled. "We knew it was a very serious situation."

Lally asked his navigator, Maj. Jason Arnold, to compute how long their C-130 could stay over the crash and still have enough fuel to reach land. In the meantime, Haynes made his final radio transmission before going down.

"The last call I remember real distinctly," said Master Sgt. Scott Davis, a flight engineer in Kentucky's 165th Airlift Squadron. "His altitude was about 300 feet, and the very last thing he did before he hit was spout out his coordinates. It was pretty chilling to hear his voice because you could tell he was really in trouble."

Lally, who was about an hour from Haynes' location, con-



Staff Sgt. Randall Hood, a loadmaster in the Kentucky Air National Guard 165th Airlift Squadron, writes a message on a life preserver being prepared for a downed civilian pilot forced to ditch in the Atlantic ocean.

tacted the nearest air traffic controller to offer assistance but was told repeatedly to stand by.

"They didn't realize I was trying to help," Lally said. "Finally, after they told me to stand by twice, I said, 'We can help you. Give us the opportunity.' That's when they sent me to another frequency so they could talk to me on a channel that wasn't so congested."

The Kentucky crew was told to divert to the crash site and render whatever assistance they could. In the meantime, a Portuguese P-3 Orion rescue aircraft and an Egyptian C-130 were also en route.

The Egyptian C-130 arrived within 36 minutes of the crash and reported seeing Haynes in an orange dinghy. The Egyptians then departed the scene because they were running low on fuel.

About 20 minutes later, the Kentucky crew arrived on scene and began making passes over the crash site at about 300 feet. They were unable to see the dinghy. Instead, Haynes seemed to be clinging to a partially inflated life jacket.

"There was one distinct pass when we could tell he was swimming in the water," Lally said. "That's when we decided we needed to get this guy a life raft."

The C-130's two loadmasters, Master Sgt. David Riedley and Staff Sgt. Randall Hood, first dropped some sea dye to mark Haynes' position from the air. They then began fabricating a system for deploying a sea kit, which includes a life raft and mittens.

"Our concern was that it might not float," Hood explained, noting that the kit is normally worn as part of the survival gear attached to a parachute.

"Sgt. Riedley and I were basically making it up as we went along, so we hooked the sea kit to one of our life preservers and threw it out of the aircraft."

The gambit worked. The kit landed just 50 feet from Haynes, who swam over, inflated the raft and crawled inside.

"That was the last thing we saw before we bugged out," Hood said. It was not, however, the last word. Hood had scrawled a note on Haynes' life preserver with a grease pencil, telling the downed pilot that he would be picked up by a Turkish fishing trawler in about five hours.

As the Kentucky C-130 departed, its fuel reserves now almost depleted from loitering over the crash site for 75 minutes, the Portuguese P-3 arrived to watch over Haynes until he could be picked up by the surface vessel.

Lally said he was pleased by the ingenuity his crew displayed during the crisis. Also involved in the rescue were Capt. Doug Velander, Maj. Jason Arnold, Staff Sgt. Brian Bauer and Tech. Sgt. Michael Cook.

"We were performing a mission that we're not really trained to do, so we had to improvise as we went along," Lally said. "I was really proud of the teamwork our guys showed in dealing with this situation. I think it probably had a lot to do with saving that guy's life."

Haynes expressed his gratitude during a phone call to Velander after returning to the United States the following week. "I can't thank you guys enough," Haynes said. "I'll be eternally grateful."

Doyle, Youngman assigned to top Kentucky Army Guard positions

A pair of familiar faces have taken up new positions in the Kentucky Army National Guard command structure. Brig. Gen. Earl L. "Jack" Doyle replaces retired Brig. General Bruce Pieratt as Assistant Adjutant General, and Colonel Dean Allen Youngman has been assigned the position of Deputy Adjutant General. Youngman has also been selected for promotion to Brigadier General.

Reporting for duty full-time on August 1st, they will assist the Adjutant General in the daily operation of the Kentucky Army National Guard.

According to Maj. Gen. John R. Groves Jr., "The full-time senior leadership team in the Kentucky Army Guard will be exceptionally well served with the addition of Brig. Gen. Doyle and Col. Youngman. Their experience means that we are now uniquely positioned to meet the complex and demanding challenges ahead."

Both officers come to the job with a distinguished military background and wartime experience.

Brig. Gen. Doyle

A veteran of both the Vietnam and the Persian Gulf wars, Doyle joined the Kentucky Army National Guard in 1966 in Bardstown, Kentucky. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1968, graduating from the Field Artillery school at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. That same year Doyle was mobilized for federal

duty, deploying for Vietnam from Ft. Hood, Texas with the Kentucky Guard's 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery in October. During his thirteen-month tour of duty in Vietnam, Doyle served with the 101st Airborne Division.

Upon release from active duty, Doyle returned to the Kentucky Army National Guard and served in numerous artillery positions, including two cannon battery commands; battalion fire direction officer; battalion S-3 operations officer; and corps artillery fire support coordinator. He took command of 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery in 1984.

1988 saw Doyle being assigned as executive officer, 138th Field Artillery Brigade where he served until December of 1990. That same month he was again federalized, this time reporting to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, where he joined the Tennessee Army National Guard's 196th Field Artillery Brigade as its operations officer. The 196th deployed to Southwest Asia in January of 1991

in preparation for Operation Desert Storm, supporting the 18th Airborne Corps and 24th Division (Mechanized), and later VII Corps and the 1st Armored Division.

Doyle returned to the Kentucky Army National Guard in June of 1991 and took command of the 138th Field Artillery Brigade until June of 1992. He was then assigned as commander of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 149th Armored Brigade, a position he held for more than two years.

Nominated for general officer in September of 1994, Doyle was assigned as assistant division commander, 35th Division (Mechanized), where he served until June 1 of 1998, when he was appointed Deputy STARC Commander.

General Doyle is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and has done post-graduate study at the University of Louisville and George Mason University. Hailing from Bardstown, he and his wife, Rikki have two children, Tracy and Michael.

Col. Youngman

Also a combat veteran of the Viet Nam War, Youngman began his military career in 1970, receiving his commission through Infantry Officer Candidate School.

Upon completion of the Special Forces Officer Course, he was assigned to the 8th Special Forces Group in Panama before deploying to Southeast Asia as an advisor to the Vietnamese armed forces. Following his tour of duty in Viet Nam he served with the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, KY.

After leaving active duty in 1973, he served in Special Operations units in the Army Reserve prior to joining the Kentucky Army National Guard and transferring to Armor Branch where he commanded at the cavalry troop, battalion, and brigade level. Subsequent assignments included duty at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC and at the Pentagon where he was a Policy Analyst in the Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Since July of 1999 he has been assigned as Special Assistant to the Commanding General of the US Army Armor Center and Ft. Knox, KY.

Col. Youngman holds Political Science and Juris Doctor degrees from the University Kentucky and is a graduate of the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA. He is married to the former Alisa Jane Cossey of Bowling Green, Kentucky. He is the father of Sam, Brad and Betsy Youngman, all of Owensboro; and is the son of Dean and Bette Youngman, also of Owensboro.





Staff Sgt. Patricia Smith, 141st personnel records supervisor, sets-up her work station for the records review.

Personnel unit makes housecalls

By Sgt. Brett Traver
133rd MPAD

In this world of centralization, one Kentucky Army National Guard unit makes house-calls – the 141st Personnel Service Detachment from Frankfort. The detachment sent one of six five-person teams to the 2113th Transportation Company in Paducah to review the records for the company earlier this year.

"There were some questions I needed to ask and the readiness NCO can't know everything," 2113th Sgt. Michael Smith, Clinton Ky., said. "So, it really helps a lot to have the experts come here."

As the military records custodian for the Kentucky Army National Guard, the unit is instrumental in ensuring soldiers are credited for all the work they have done. The goal of the unit is to provide for the well-being of the soldier and his/her family through records maintenance. This is accomplished by providing quality record reviews to as many soldiers within the state as possible during each training year through the Tiger Team concept, according to Capt. Gene Roach, Jr. 141st commander.

"The Tiger Teams are able

to cover a more geographically diverse area. For example, in November there were teams in Frankfort, Louisville, Somerset and Middlesboro all supporting different units," he said.

During a visit, a Tiger Team works to update as many records as possible relating to pay, insurance and promotion and ensure updates are forwarded to SIDPERS or the Personnel Services Branch, according to Sgt. Carla Hawkins, personnel service specialist.

"The team concept is good because you get to know how everyone works, but we are all cross-trained and can step in and do any job that's needed," said Spc. Andy McEwen, 141st personnel service specialist.

"We request them (the 141st) to come at least once a year," Capt. Tim Williams, 2113th company commander, said. "They work real well with us and as long as you give them three months notice they will try and work with any unit. They are user friendly and they really try to help us out."

Units needing the support of a Tiger Team must send a memorandum through their chain of command to Headquarters 1st Bn. Of the 75th Troop Command, according to

Verification

When it comes to ensuring all your military records are up to date members of the 141st Personnel Detachment agree on one thing – verification.

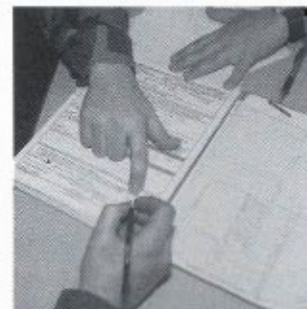
- **Keep copies of all Army documentation**
- **Know family member Social Security numbers**
- **Have birth and marriage certificates**
- **Have education records**
- **Make sure copies of training certificates get to the readiness NCO**
- **Leave and Earnings Statements are a good way to verify time in service**



Spc. William S. Davis prepares nearly 130 different record files.



Personnel soldiers review personnel records with the transportation soldiers Feb. 5 at 2113th headquarters in Paducah.



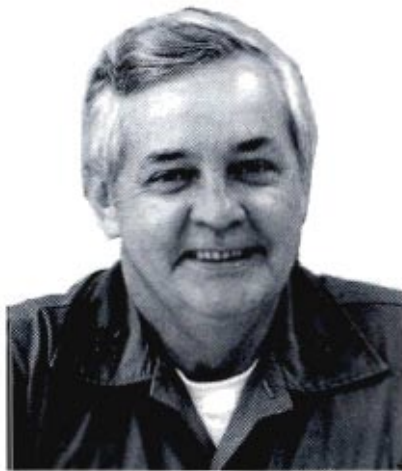
Personnel soldiers ensure all documents are reviewed.

Craft, Fleming recognized at Armed Forces Day celebration

Armed Forces Day 2000 took on special significance this year with an open house at Boone National Guard Center and ceremonies honoring a pair of Guard members who are often thought of as pioneers in their field.

The Col. Joe Craft Pavilion

Col. Joe Craft served the Kentucky Army National Guard for 36 years, 32 of those in the United States Property Fiscal Office. Beginning as a warehouseman, he



eventually worked his way up to serve a record twenty-five years as the deputy director of the USPFO where he is credited for setting the standard for professionalism. Col. Craft's commitment to the Guard and his involvement in the community exemplified the image of the citizen-soldier

The Col. Dave Fleming Aviation Facility

With a career that spanned the utilization of the L-19 "Bird Dog" on through the deployment of the UH-60 "Black Hawk," Col. Dave Fleming is arguably the father of Kentucky Army Guard aviation. As the first commander of the Army Aviation Support Facility at Boone Center, Fleming was a qualified pilot for each aircraft in the

Kentucky Army Guard inventory. It was under his tenure that Army aviation in the Kentucky Guard grew from a section that provided an observation platform for the ground commander into an integral part of a modern army division's fourth brigade ... *the aviation brigade.*



Personnel unit, cont.

Roach.

"The support units submits this request and if their time meshes with our training and missions to other units, then we can make it happen," Roach added.

Training schedules during the supported units drill time can create an obstacle for the Tiger Teams.

"Working into a units training schedule can be difficult. We have to work together to make in happen," Hawkins said. "When they (a unit) are on the tank tables we just have to take the soldiers as they come off."

"A lot of units in the field have older computers and forms. So, it can make it difficult to correct the records as we go. We have laptops on the way, and when we get those we'll be able to work a lot better."

McEwen added.

For 2113th soldier Cpl. Jerry Moore, McEwen and Sable team's visit cleared-up

"There were some questions about my bonus, and I learned about that. To me the most important thing is making sure about my life insurance. If something happens to me I want the money to go to the right place,"

some questions about Moore's most important subject - family.

"There were some questions about my bonus, and I learned about that. To me the most important thing is making

sure about my life insurance. If something happens to me I want the money to go to the right place," Moore from Union City, Tenn. said. "If I had a question, Spc. McEwen had the answer, and he was able to explain it well."

When a soldier wants to change or add something to their personnel records they must have verification.

"A soldier should keep a copy of every piece of paper pertaining to their military career. They should always try to make the time to go to the company and check their records. So, they can keep a running tab on what's happeniug," said Sgt. Michael Smith from Clinton said.

"It's a good habit," Spc. William S. Davis, Frankfort, added.

"A lot of times we don't have the time to review our records," Smith said. "So, haviug this time set-aside really helps."

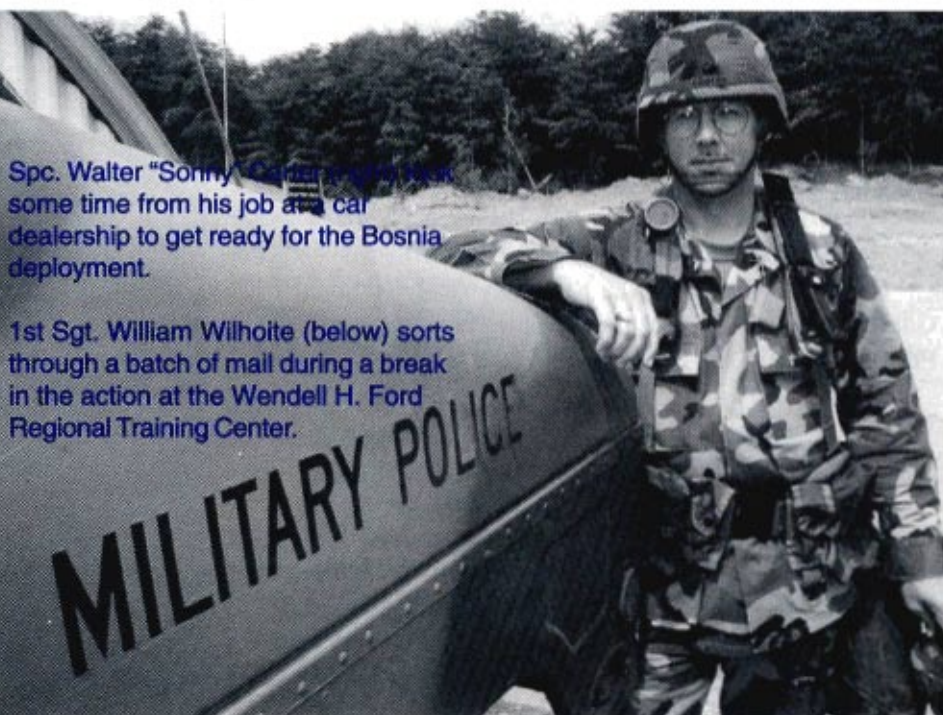
Kentucky Guard Unit faces possible Bosnia deployment

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

On July 14th Gov. Paul E. Patton announced that the Kentucky Army National Guard's 223rd Military Police Company had been alerted to begin training for possible activation and deployment to Bosnia in support of NATO peace keeping forces now engaged in OPERATION JOINT FORGE.

According to Adjutant General John R. Groves Jr. the actual deployment of the unit will depend on issuance of a mobilization order, adding that while the unit will probably be activated in early 2001, "this alert message should not be confused with an order to federal active duty."

The Louisville-based 223rd MP Company has a distinguished legacy of deployments, both at home and abroad. It was one of the Kentucky Army National Guard units mobilized and deployed to Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War. Additionally, its members have been deployed in military operations to Great Britain, the Philippines, and Latin America during the past 15 years, as well as throughout the Commonwealth and several neighboring states providing law enforcement support



Spc. Walter "Sonny" Carter took some time from his job at a car dealership to get ready for the Bosnia deployment.

1st Sgt. William Wilhoite (below) sorts through a batch of mail during a break in the action at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

for disaster relief operations.

In preparation for the Bosnia mission — currently scheduled for six months in country — the 167-soldier unit proceeded to the Kentucky Guard's Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville to proceed with the pre-deployment training.

Lt. Col. Donald Conover, commander of the 198th Military Police Battalion, which oversees training and deployment needs for the 223rd, sees the deployment as an eventuality.

"More than one half of the Army's military police assets are in the reserve components, so it was just a matter of time. The military police mission in Bosnia is a critical one, and we've got a proven track record for success."

Cpt. Shontelle Adams, commander of

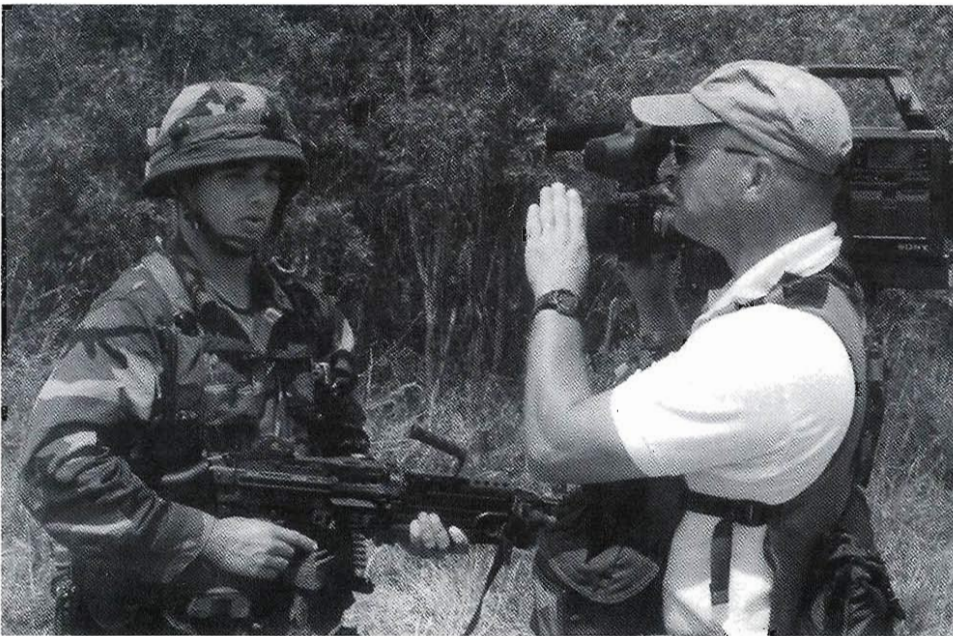
the 223rd, shares Conover's confidence in the unit.

"We fit in fine with this. I've got the best unit in Kentucky, and we've proven ourselves time and time again. Getting ready isn't going to be a problem. Within twenty-four hours getting being called to North Carolina for hurricane duty, we had two hundred people on the ground, ready to go."

The primary function of the 223rd is maneuver mobilization support operation, which comprises convoy security, base clusters and traffic control. The time spent at the Ford Training Center focused on brushing up those procedures, along with basic soldier skills.

Conover credits the unit's long history of deployments for preparing it for this mission.

"The soldier skills are definitely there, but it's the people skills that are invaluable. A lot of our people work in law enforcement in the civilian world and they're experts in using interpersonal communications skills. And our senior leadership knows what to expect in terms of making an overseas deployment happen. So we're ahead of the



ballgame.”

There’s more to getting ready for a mission like Bosnia than just training. Adams sees family support and employer issues at the top of the list.

“I try to see this through the soldiers’ eyes. We’ve got family concerns, students going to school, people with careers. Our troops come from more than thirty communities, so there are a lot of things that need to be addressed. But we’re trained to do

this, and I think when we get over there and see what kind of difference we can make, it’ll be worth it.”

Adams said the unit will establish a website with deployment information, schedules and email addresses covering the needs of the soldiers and their families.

“I think if we keep the families and employers informed, be honest with them up front and keep the information flowing, then it’ll work out. It’s this kind of pre-

paredness that’ll be essential to reintegrating back into the families and the workplace,” he predicted.

Meanwhile, what happens in Kentucky while the 223rd is away? Business as usual, according to Conover.

“Our ability to provide support to the folks here in Kentucky should not diminish,” he said, citing high visibility missions such as the Derby and Thunder Over Louisville. “We still have a lot of assets in the Kentucky Guard that can take up the slack, so I’ve no qualms about the ability of our troops to do the job.

Spc. Walter “Sonny” Carter, Jr. sees the upcoming mission as a family tradition.

“My grandfather was at Utah Beach and my father served two tours in Vietnam. It’s time for me to do my part.” Carter spent three years with the Navy before joining the 223rd, so he doesn’t hold any illusions as to why he’s going.

“Everyone has to know what they’re doing. We’re going to a pretty tough neighborhood, it’s a fourteenth century neighborhood, so it’s a little more intense than what we normally deal with. Our job is not to be heroic. If we just pay attention and do our job and everyone will come home.

Even in the face of the deployment, Spc. Ken Nilsson thinks joining the Guard is the second best thing that ever happened to him; marrying his wife is the first.

“She understands that I have two families, the one at home and the Guard.”

He takes his role as father just as seriously. He’s making sure his daughter understands why he may have to leave home for long time.

“She knows there are people out there who need help and that’s what I do ... help them.”

Adams admits that being away from home for an extended duration may seem like a heavy price to pay for membership in the National Guard, but he also sees it as a badge of honor.

“I was at the Derby this year and I was kind of bothered by what I saw going on during the playing of the National Anthem. People were talking and going on as though it wasn’t important to them. Then I thought about the thousands of memorials around the world dedicated to the troops that have fallen, and I thought ... yeah, I can do six months for my country.”

Modern missions, modern training An MP (above) exercises restraint when confront by an aggressive reporter during a roleplaying exercise. **Safety first** Staff Sgt. Rick “Doc” Robbins (below) checks out Staff Sgt. Mike Gowan for a twisted ankle. *photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom*



“Drown-Proofing” for combat!

Innovative training improves battlefield survivability

*Story and Photos by Sgt. John Kibler
133d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

It looked like a strange pool party being held at the Russell McClure Aquatics Center at Morehead State College. Men and women in Army camouflage flailing around in the water, desperately trying to tie knots in their clothes and then slapping them into the water. To the casual observer, the participants might have looked quite insane. But there was method to the madness.

The soldiers of Echo Company, 206th Combat Engineers, were engaged in training that might save their lives. The Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) from Morehead State College were

learned basic floating techniques.

In addition to learning how to save themselves, they also learned how to save their buddies. The engineers were taught both single- and two-rescuer saves.

After mastering the techniques in the shallow end of the pool, the guardsmen proceeded to the deep end and went into the water in full battle dress, complete with a “rubber ducks” (non-firing M-16) and web gear. Those brave souls feeling really confident even went off the ten-meter diving board blindfolded.

According to 2nd Lt. Terrance Clemons, also from Echo Company, this kind of training should be taught as early as basic training.

“Any soldier could be faced with a water emergency, not just engineers,” Clemons said. “Not only that, but this is a great confidence builder.”

“Not only is this good training,” added Staff Sgt. Ken Adkins, Echo Company, “but this also provides fitness, unit cohesion and builds moral. This is a real team builder.”

Sgt. 1st Class Ken Adkins (left) makes a splash with web gear and weapon.

Spc. Kersey (right) demonstrates the improvised use of BDUs as a personal floatation device.

Spc. Shelvie Booth guides Spc. Jerry Kersey (below) down the “gangplank.”



teaching the soldiers “drown-proofing” in the relative safety of the campus swimming pool.

“We work on the water building bridges,” said Sgt. Thomas Oakley, “so this is important training for us.”

The training scenario was to show the guardsmen how to survive if they fell into water fully dressed in their battle dress uniform. This was made more difficult as some of the participants did not know how to swim at all. They learned how to make impromptu floatation devices out of their shirts and pants by tying knots in the sleeves or legs. They then filled them with air by slapping them over their heads into the water. They also



Kentucky did its part in “Forgotten War”



June 25, 2000 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the invasion of South Korea by communist forces. More than 54,000 Americans died during the Korean War, 868 of those from Kentucky. The following is taken from Col. (ret.) Arthur L. Kelly's contribution to the *Kentucky Encyclopedia*.

From September 3, 1950, to January 23, 1951 twenty Army National Guard and six Air Guard units from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky were ordered into federal service. A total of 1,860 Kentucky citizen soldiers reported to active duty with their units: one Air National Guard Group, three field artillery battalions, one engineer battalion, and five separate companies.

The Kentucky Air National Guard was activated, serving at Godman Army Air Field in Kentucky and at Manston Royal Air Force Station in England for two years.

On December 23, 1951, the 623d Field Artillery Battalion arrived in Korea. Headquarters, A, B, C, and Service batteries were from Glasgow, Tompkinsville, Campbellsville, Monticello, and Springfield, respectively. The battalion provided artillery fire support for the United Nations peacekeeping troops and was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Medal and the Republic of Korea Unit Citation Medal. No other Kentucky



National Guard units on active duty served in Korea.

Kentucky units did, however, provide individual replacements. Personnel detached from the 718th Transportation Company, the 113th and 413th Ordnance Companies served as logistics specialists in South Korea.

Numerous Kentucky airmen served in Korea throughout the duration of the conflict and many pilots served replacements into the combat zone. Maj. Meade Brown, Capt. John W. Shewmaker, 1st Lt. Lawrence B. Kelly and 1st Lt. Eugene L. Ruiz of the group's 165th Fighter Bomber Squadron were killed in action.

Troops from 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery Regiment take time out from their duties during Kentucky's 50th anniversary commemoration of the Korean War to meet with Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Ernie West. West was an infantryman near Sataeri, Korea, when he was critically wounded while rescuing his fellow soldiers following a devastating ambush. He was one of the guests of honor at this year's commemoration ceremony held at the state capitol.

Camp duties (below) during a lull in the fighting. Nearly 2,000 Kentucky citizen-soldiers deployed to support the effort in Korea. *archive photo*



Ecuador honors fallen Guardsman

Kentucky soldier led humanitarian mission in South America

by Lt. Col. Phil Miller
KYNG Public Affairs Officer

ESMERALDAS, Ecuador — It has been more than two years since Kentucky Army National Guard Major Robert S. Hacker died in Ecuador. But today all you have to do is look into the eyes of the children who attend the school there that bears his name and you know his spirit lives.

An 18-year veteran of the Guard and a native of Richmond, Hacker was administrative officer for the Ashland-based 201st Engineer Battalion. He was in charge of operations for a humanitarian relief mission when he died in a vehicle accident on July 8, 1998 — just three days before he was to return home to his wife and young son.

Hacker's assignment in the South American nation had been to direct the work of more than 1,300 U.S. soldiers and airmen participating in a five-month effort in this coastal province of Ecuador, building schools and clinics and providing medical care to its impoverished residents.

Shortly after his death, Hacker's family and friends in Ashland established a memorial fund that collected nearly \$4,000 to purchase school supplies to further aid the children Hacker had traveled to Ecuador to help.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito also got involved in the effort, with Cultural Affairs Attache Susan Crystal working with Peace Corps volunteer Julie Smithwick in Esmeraldas to find a school in need of assistance.

Having worked with the people of the coastal city for three years, Smithwick, a South Carolina native, had little difficulty identifying a needy school in the city's poverty-stricken El Neuvo Palmar barrio (district). But Smithwick went a step further by working with local leaders to have the school named for Hacker.

Esmeraldas school officials agreed, and in April of this year Kentucky Adjutant General Russ Groves led a small delegation of National Guard representatives back to Ecuador for the official dedication of "Escuela Robert S. Hacker" (The Robert S. Hacker School).

Hacker was a native of Richmond, and his parents, Lt. Col. (ret.) Warden "Percy" Hacker and Shirley Hacker, still reside there. His widow, Shelley, and the couple's 9-year-old son, Kyle, live in Ashland.

Situated near the Pacific Ocean on Ecuador's north coast, Palmar barrio is a maze of ramshackle wood and concrete block buildings. Deeply-rutted dirt roads narrow to less than a vehicle's width in some places and provide a thoroughfare for the scores of adults and barefoot children who live there, as well as the

chickens, pigs, dogs and cats that roam.

Providing a natural backdrop for the dedication was a typical Esmeraldas day. A dazzling sun poking through a sky of brilliant blue is occasionally blotted by black tropical storm clouds. The sun would then pop back out to produce the familiar swelter of heat and humidity that perpetually exists near the equator.

A crowd of 200 townspeople, parents, students and Ecuadorian military personnel gathered at the school — three buildings that house 65 students in grades one through six. The onlookers excitedly examined the new wood and steel desks. Their eyes shone brightly as they leafed through the new books filling the shelves, while outside in the schoolyard a dozen brightly clad boys and girls performed a traditional dance to the accompaniment of marimba and drums.

Ecuadorian government and military officials started the ceremony by formally welcoming the U.S. delegation. Maj. Gen. Groves, speaking in Spanish, described the life of the fallen National Guard officer

whom none of the Ecuadorians had ever met, but whose name is Hacker (above) was operations officer for Nuevos Horizontes, the Kentucky Guard's humanitarian mission to Ecuador. photo by John Flavell, Ashland Daily Independent

The children of Esmeraldas' Palmar barrio try out the new desks and chairs purchased for them through the Robert S. Hacker Memorial Fund. The school has 65 students in grades one through six. photo by Lt. Col. Phil Miller



New equipment, training open Kentucky Army Guard to new challenges



Volcano eruption! Spc. Garrett Morgan, Co. D, 206th Engineer Battalion, preps the M139 Volcano mine dispenser before its initial firing. More than 960 self-destructing land mines can be deployed in thirty seconds by one soldier using the Volcano system. Both the 201st and the 206th Engineer Battalions have received the new Volcano system.

More to come Master Sgt. Tim Giveden, CW4 Richard Kennedy and Master Sgt. Butch Burns, 2/138th Field Artillery, show off their new field artillery ammunition support vehicle (FAASV). Faster, easier to maintain and more efficient than the previous ammunition carry vehicle, the FAASV's arrival signals the imminent fielding of the state of the art M109A6 Paladin to the Kentucky Army Guard. *photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom*



(Ecuador, cont.)

known throughout the barrio.

"Today we come together in the true spirit of partnership that Robert Hacker supported," Groves said. "More than just a collection of concrete blocks and textbooks, this school, filled with the voices of children and their hopes for the future, is a symbol of his legacy.

"The dedication of Escnela Robert Hacker is a fitting tribute to the man, his family and the troops who served with him. This is the legacy of Major Robert Stephen Hacker, soldier, father, husband and humanitarian."

School principal Xiomara Angulo, her voice breaking with emotion, repeatedly told the Kentucky delegation, "Mil Gracias, mil gracias!" (A thousand thank-yous) for the gift of badly needed

school supplies, and also accepted from Groves a U.S. flag and a framed photograph of Hacker to place on the wall of the school.

The Rev. Ivano Zanovello, an Italian-born Catholic priest who emigrated to South America 37 years ago to work with Ecuador's street children, gave the church's blessing for the dedication ceremony.

Gesturing and speaking in an impassioned style of Spanish one can only find in Latin America, the priest implored the Kentuckians, "Go home and tell the people of your country how much we thank them for their generosity ... Tell them thank you for the love they and your soldiers have shown our children and our country, and above all, go home and tell them thank you, thank you for Major Robert Hacker!"

Turn weekend drills into full-time job

By Karen J. Roché, STARC PAO

If you enjoy your weekends with the Kentucky National Guard you can make it a full-time job through the technician program.

What is a technician?

Technicians for the KYNG are federal civilian employees who work with the Active Guard and Reserves to run the National Guard on a day to day basis. Despite their civilian classification each technician must follow all military rules and regulations to include the wearing of military uniforms. Technicians hold positions in several different areas such as supply, maintenance, clerical and much more.

According to a recent law all new technicians hired in the state must be a member of or eligible for appointment to the Kentucky National Guard. Individuals who are selected for a position acquire a military occupational specialty (MOS) that is compatible with their technician position.

Technician Pay

The technician program pays based on the federal wage scales. Generally maintenance workers are paid under the hourly Wage Grade (WG) pay scales. The WG scales differ from city to city. For example Lexington and Louisville fall under two different wage areas therefore pay is

different. As positions progress the WG scale can become Wage Leader (WL) and Wage Supervisor (WS). Since these positions are leadership and supervisory they are higher pay levels.

Other positions such as clerical, supply or pilots are paid under the General Schedule (GS) pay scales. The pay rate for a GS employee is the same nationwide, however a percentage of the annual income is added to accommodate the standard of living costs.

Benefits

The technician program offers several benefits including health insurance, retirement programs, paid leave and others. The Federal Employee Federal Health Benefit program offers several health care plans available for very reasonable costs. These plans can cover employees and their families.

There is a retirement investment plan known as Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The TSP has a couple of enrollment seasons per year known as "Open Season." People must join TSP during an enrollment season.

The plan allows the employee to invest a percentage of their salary. The government also matches a certain percentage through the program as well. In certain cases, this allows the employee to automatically double their investment in the program.

Leave

Most prior active military service and prior federal service are creditable towards earning leave. An individual starting out in the technician programs earns four hours of sick and annual leave per pay period. Once someone has accrued three years of creditable service then they start to earn six hours of annual



leave every pay period. Eventually after 16 years they will begin to earn eight hours per pay period.

Application process

The Human Resources Office advertises new positions as they come open. A position may be advertised for as little as 15 days and some will remain open until filled. On a technician vacancy announcement there is a complete list of all criteria required for applying.

One of the most important criteria is the Area of Consideration (or just area). The area is how an applicant is categorized.

Some positions are only open to Area One technicians, or "on board" this simply means that an applicant must already be a permanent full time employee of the Kentucky National Guard. Area Two applicants are current members of the Kentucky National Guard. Area Three are individuals who are eligible for enlistment or appointment to the National Guard.

Applicants must ensure they address the Knowledge, Skills and Abilities portion of the application to be considered for the job. A staffing specialist reviews applications to determine if applicants meet the qualifications. If an applicant does not meet the requirements then they will be notified by mail that their application could not be considered for the position.



Boone Center Showdown

Marines add fire power to Operation Gunslinger

*Cpt. Ben Singleton
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Marines took and held the beaches of the pond at Boone National Guard Center during the fourth week of June 2000...at the request of the Kentucky National Guard. It was all part of a computer training exercise called *Operation Gunslinger*.

Maj. Ron Turner, the Plans and Operations Military Support Officer for the Kentucky Army National Guard and liaison for the exercise viewed *Operation Gunslinger* as a real benefit to everyone participating.

"The more we work together with the civilian emergency management agencies and practice these exercises, the more effective we'll be in the event of a real disaster," Turner stated.

The scenario: An Earthquake plus a terrorist strike in Kentucky have stretched Kentucky National Guard resources to the max and the 4th Marine Division Reserve is federalized to lend a helping hand. The situation tests how well the Kentucky National Guard, the Marines and Kentucky Emergency Management agencies work together to handle the ensuing crisis.

Some might call the scenario far-fetched but the Kentucky Guard has a history of immediately pitching in whenever disaster strikes, including floods, tornadoes, forest fires and winter storms. And this is the kind of training that ensures the most effective response possible during those times of crisis.

The National Interagency Civilian-Military Institute (NICI), a National Guard Bureau initiative, helped plan the exercise with a computer scenario developed by Cubic Applications, Inc. The scenario is designed to help define

the role of the military in support of civilian authorities in this type of situation, as well practice communication, coordination and cooperation.

"These exercises help all the agencies involved practice working together, to ensure the most efficient help possible to citizens in distress," said Pat Conley, spokesperson for the Kentucky Emergency Management Operation Center.

This kind of training is nothing new to the Kentucky National Guard and Kentucky Emergency Operation Center. But the addition of Marines adds something new to the mix.

"We've *simulated* about 500 Marines on the ground, to add to the emergency response force," Marine spokesperson Staff Sgt. Kent LaBorde. But the reality sees only a handful of



Marine officers from the 4th Marine Division Reserve at Boone Center, directing their "computer generated Marines" in a coordinated effort with the Kentucky Guard. Marines from the 6th Communication Battalion in New York were also on hand to lend a sophisticated array of communications support.

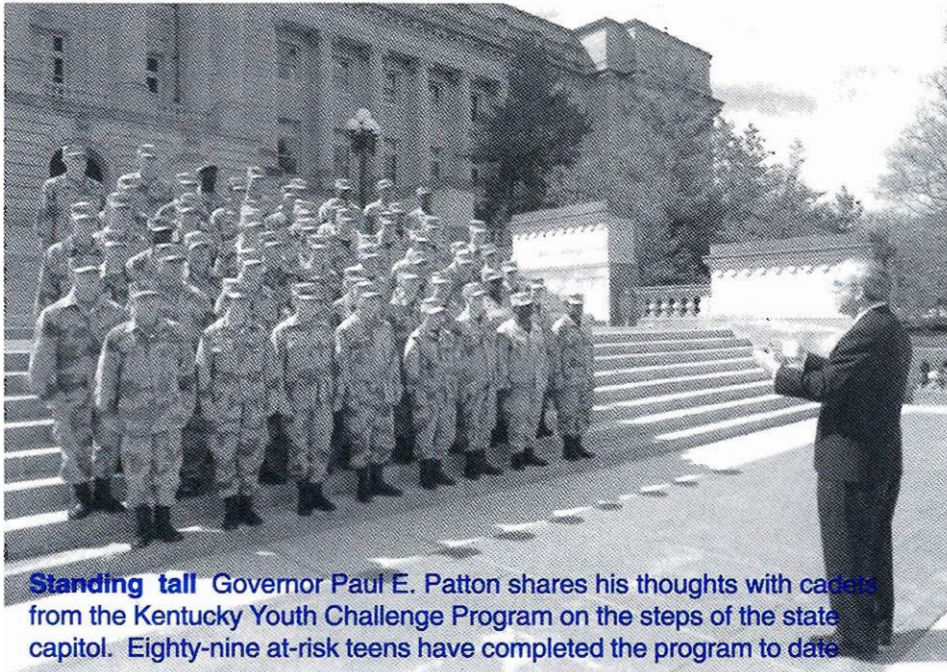
The cooperation with the Marines has been extraordinary, according to Turner.

"Being able to share knowledge and experience with our Marine counterparts has been valuable to all sides. Everybody brings something worthwhile to the table," he said.

Turner believes these exercises should continue and that they will prove even more worthwhile in the long run.

"We're already talking about the possibility of the next one," he stated. "What we can do better, where we can make improvements and how we can serve together to insure the best response possible for any disaster."

Youth Challenge Program graduates second class



Standing tall Governor Paul E. Patton shares his thoughts with cadets from the Kentucky Youth Challenge Program on the steps of the state capitol. Eighty-nine at-risk teens have completed the program to date.

This summer the Bluegrass Challenge Academy graduated 55 cadets from 34 counties following a 22-week residential phase of the Kentucky Youth Challenge Program. This marks the second class of teens to successfully complete the program, bringing the total number of graduates to 89.

Open to drug free teenagers 16-18 years of age, Kentucky Youth Challenge is a free program that helps high school dropouts get their GED, prepare to enter the workforce and earn a stipend of approximately \$2,000. The goal is to offer the discipline, life skills and education needed to assist young people in getting their lives back on track and become self-sufficient, productive citizens. The 22-week residential academy is voluntary and includes a rigorous schedule of academic studies and leadership/fellowship training. Graduates will also become enrolled in a year-long mentoring program that will assist them in obtaining and

keeping employment.

Based in Ft. Knox, the Bluegrass Challenge Academy is operated by the Kentucky Youth Challenge division of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. A wide range of state and local agencies — including the Kentucky National Guard, the Department of Education, Workforce Development, Juvenile Justice and local school boards as well as community organizations — have joined together to operate the program.

Also, the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs recently announced that the Kentucky Youth Challenge Program's grant application for \$100,000 has been approved.

The Youth Challenge Program sought the grant to setup a system of regional coordinators for the post residential phase of the Challenge program. The regional coordinators will facilitate the mentoring process and handle administrative tasks associated with the post residential program.

News Briefs

Governors say – Hands Off Guard!

The National Governors Association has written to the Defense Department strongly urging that a proposed reduction in the Army National Guard in the fiscal 2001 budget be delayed until a new Quadrennial Defense Review is released in 2001. The circumstances giving rise to the proposal to cut back on Guard end strength have changed, the group wrote on December 10. It noted that the last Quadrennial report, which led to the proposed reduction, was in 1997. Since then the Guard has become an even more integral part of the total force structure and has been activated to help in disasters in several states. This is no time to be reducing Guard strength, the governors told Defense secretary William Cohen.

Anthrax shots delayed

The Pentagon Defense has decided to delay inoculating military personnel (except those deployed to Korea and the Persian Gulf) until new lots of the vaccine are proved to be safe and effective. Defense medical authorities say there are sufficient supplies of government-certified dosages to vaccinate troops going to those areas, which are high-threat. So far, some 383,000 military personnel have received the anthrax shots. The next group to receive the shots include those among the first to respond to military contingencies or those ready to deploy. Then everyone else will be inoculated.

Commissaries save

A recent survey finds that military commissary shoppers save an average 27 percent over those who do their grocery purchasing at local supermarkets. Local retailers such as Wal-Mart are putting a dent in commissary sales, the survey also found, noting that in at least one surveyed location where Wal-Mart and another local chain were included the commissary savings advantage dropped to about 10 percent.

The survey was conducted last summer in stateside locations.

Hanging Tough!

**Military intelligence unit
spreads its wings
during training exercise**

photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom



One of the great things about being in the Guard is the chance to do things most people only dream about. Here members of the Military Intelligence Detachment, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) practice infiltration/exfiltration techniques via rappeling from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Pfc. Kevin Maynard, Spc. George Hamilton and Spc. David McCash (left) show their enthusiasm for the rappeling exercise. Additional training for the unit includes airborne, foreign language, voice intercept, Morse code, counter-intelligence, intelligence analyst, imagery analyst and signals analyst. Missions have taken them through Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.



Guard soldiers allowed cheaper flights for drill

Recent legislation permits military reservists to save money and use government (City Pair) fares when traveling by air to perform weekend unit training assemblies.

According to Charles L. Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, the new law allows drilling Reserve forces members to buy airline tickets at the General Services Administration (GSA) City Pair contract rates.

"GSA City Pair rates benefit reservists by giving them greater flexibility and potential cost savings when traveling to perform military duties," said Cragin. "This flexibility includes the provision of: unrestricted airfares; no requirement for advance purchase; no limits on length of stay at a location; full refund for unused tickets; no charge for cancellation or changes; last-seat availability and prohib-

its blackout periods.

"It is important legislation for two reasons. First, it represents one more significant step in the process of integrating our active and Reserve forces into one team, trained and ready to face the 21st century. Second, it demonstrates that our Reserve and National Guard personnel could not train and perform their missions without the combined support of the Congress, government agencies, and private industry. We must never lose sight of that."

Reserve forces members traveling to and from their weekend drills are required to pay for their own transportation. The GSA City Pair travel contract with the airlines previously excluded members of the Reserve and National Guard from using the government fares, even though they were in an official duty status.

In order for Reserve force members to

utilize the GSA City Pair travel rates for their official travel, they must: get written permission from their commander; use the GSA travel card; book their travel through a contracted Commercial Ticket Office (CTO); use contracted City Pair airlines, routes and schedules; and comply with all rules contained in the Joint Federal Travel Regulation.

"Restructuring over the past 10 years has meant that many Reserve and National Guard personnel must travel longer distances to attend their drills," Cragin said. "The cost of airline travel was a deterrent to both recruiting and retention."

The Reserve Forces Policy Board identified the cost of airline travel as a barrier to the full implementation of Secretary of Defense William Cohen's Seamless Total Force Policy, enacted in September 1998. The contract language in the previous GSA contract excluded reservists from the use of GSA City Pair fares while traveling to and from drills. It was inconsistent with the other regulations covering these personnel in their drill status.



The guns may not have been very big, but the noise they made certainly was as 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery showed their stuff at this year's "Thunder Over Louisville." Better known for firing the famous M-109A5 howitzer, this team braved a tremendous fireworks display on the Second Street bridge in order to bring their own special brand of pyrotechnics to the show.

Cpt. Rob Larkin (above) monitors the radio for the signal to fire. The PAC75 crew fires a blank cartridge (right) during the musical climax of the show. Despite its compact size, the 75mm artillery piece had no trouble being heard above the barrage of fireworks.

Artillery adds to "Thunder"

photos by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom



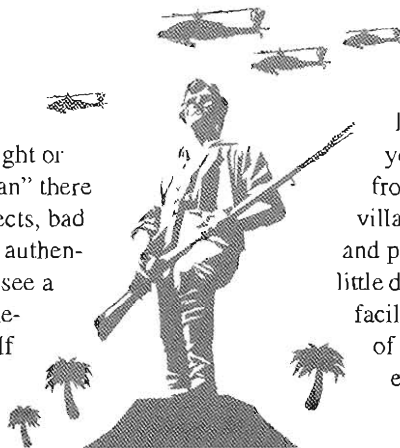
Citizen-soldiers score big at box office

"Three Kings," "Patriot" more than just entertainment

by
Staff Sgt. David W. Altom
STARC PAO

For most of us watching war movies is very often like listening to the violin: it's either a delight or painful drudgery. For every "Saving Private Ryan" there are dozens of lesser films, filled with cheesy effects, bad writing, lousy acting and felonious acts against authenticity. It's a rare and wonderful thing when you see a film that accurately depicts military life, and sometimes you get lucky and see a little bit of yourself or someone you know. It's rarer still to find a movie that has some insight into the role of the citizen-soldier, so when that happens it's worth talking about.

"Three Kings" harkens back to old World War II films like "Kelly's Heroes" and "The Dirty Dozen." The plot is simple enough: a cynical war veteran leads a handful of young troops into a mission behind enemy lines to retrieve the gold Saddam Hussien's army stole from Kuwait. Okay, it's Hollywood, and



you're pretty sure how it's going to end, but as with most movies of this genre, the fun is in the journey.

And what a journey it is! Beginning on the last day of the Persian Gulf War, "Kings" takes you through the war-ravaged desert landscape, from the prisoner of war round-ups to the besieged villages to the fabled oil spills. Amidst all the action and plot twists, Gulf War veterans will appreciate the little details that fill the movie, like the improvised latrine facilities and the Bart Simpson doll riding on the front of a humvee. Oh, and don't forget land mines, and everyone's favorite threat, chemical weapons!

Of particular interest is that the soldiers at the focus of the movie are from a reserve component civil affairs unit, a detail that plays a subtle, yet important role in drawing you into the story. Characters reflect on their lives back home and how things will change because of the war. The Iraqis, shown here not as faceless cannon-fodder, but as real people with distinctive personalities, exhibit the same fears and concerns as their American counter-

(continued on next page)

(Kings, cont.)

parts. Well, *similar* fears and concerns: at least we didn't have someone shouting "Saddam will kill you!" every time you had a decision to make.

Where "Kings" is self-aware and at times tongue in cheek, "The Patriot" takes itself very seriously. But that's all right. It's probably the only way to explain what the red means in "red, white and blue," and the sacrifices made during the founding of our country.

"Patriot" centers on the citizen-soldier at its humble beginnings, when the war for colonial freedom takes place not, as Mel Gibson's character tells us, in some faraway place, but "among us." A family's survival is threatened, forcing decisions that will eventually change history. Everyone has a different reason for fighting, and the lines between pacifism, patriotism, glory-seeking and revenge are blurred and redefined throughout the movie.

In the tradition of "Private Ryan" — another movie in which citizen-soldiers figure prominently — "Patriot" takes you to the front lines of eighteenth century battlefield. The action is bloody

but first rate; muskets and thirty pound cannon balls may be no match for modern munitions, but death is never very far away and is always brutal. And, as in real life, no one in the film is safe, on the battlefield nor on the plantation.

Period films are rare nowadays, considered a risky undertaking by the studios. Fortunately, the argument can be made that with "Patriot" Gibson has done for the American Revolution what he did for the Scots with "Braveheart." Flag waving takes on a whole new meaning with this movie ... as does the perception of the citizen-soldier.

In the end, "Kings" and "Patriot" are probably more Hollywood than not, but don't let that fool you as to their importance. The look they provide into the role of the citizen-soldier and the nature of war may be more valuable than the money spent on a ticket.

Rated PG-13 for violence and language, "Three Kings" is currently available on videotape and DVD. "The Patriot" is rated R and can be seen in theaters nationwide.

Now it's time to get

IN GEAR!



with Staff Sgt. David Altom
STARC PAO

Check the pockets of any soldier in the field and you'll find a wide range of tools, gadgets and gizmos designed to make life easier. Some things are mission essential; others are among the necessities of life. One tool that fits in all of these categories is the often overlooked flashlight.

The most common military flashlight is the crookneck, a familiar sight on LBE gear around the world. Durable, reliable and versatile in design, it works pretty good, though it does have its drawbacks, most obviously size and weight.

There are many inexpensive and lightweight replacements that are equally reliable and even more powerful. The most common is the Mini-Mag, found in PX's and discount stores. These little gems put out as much light as the old crookneck and can fit in a small pouch or pants pocket for easy carry. Colored filters are available.

My favorite pocket light is the "Photonlight," though many brands abound. These use light emitting diodes and camera batteries, aren't much larger than a quarter and weigh next to nothing. For their size they put out a tremendous amount of light and they last literally forever. For you tactical types they come in different colors, including white, red, and infrared. I keep one on my ID tag chain and on a lanyard attached to a multi-tool in my pocket. Perfect for midnight recons and that inevitable trip to the latrine in the dark.

Photonlights can be found in sporting goods stores and on the internet.

The Last Word

Next time you hear our national anthem... tip your hat to the drunken Redcoats who made it possible.

British troops torched Washington DC during the War of 1812, then marched off through Maryland.

As they passed through a small town, a local doctor tries to arrest six drunken stragglers. But more Redcoats came and carry the doctor off to a British ship. A lawyer friend sailed out to negotiate the doctor's release.

Unfortunately, the British began shelling nearby Fort McHenry, and both men were detained until the attack was over.

And that's how the lawyer Francis Scott Key came to observe "bombs bursting in air."

Now it gets interesting. A couple of years later Key anonymously published a poem, *The Defense of Fort McHenry*. Then, in 1815 his brother suggested that he set the words to the melody of *To Anacreon in Heaven* ... an old English *drinking song!*

Adopted by the Army and the Navy, it wouldn't be until 1931, more than a century later, that *The Star Spangled Banner* would be recognized as our national anthem.

Can *you* make the grade?



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