

The Bluegrass Guard

Volume Six, Issue One

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

Spring 2001

Enemy at the Gate!

**Kentucky Guard troops stand ready
to serve state during disasters**

*206th Combat Engineers prepare to tackle
another forest fire in eastern Kentucky
(photo by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom)*

THE GENERAL POINT OF VIEW



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

Since I communicated with you last, I have attended several major national events for adjutants general and senior military leaders. Almost without fail, the themes at those meetings underscore the need for more resources and more full-time manning. In Kentucky, our proactive efforts to embrace change, mainly through significant involvement in Army Division Re-design (ADRS), have positioned us well to be strong participants in all future missions assigned to the Army and to offer a range of military specialties that will attract and keep unit members. Our senior command group with BG Doyle, COL (P) Youngman, COL Carpenter and CSM Satchwell work every day to streamline this transition. Our efforts are secondary, however, to the efforts and attitudes of unit leaders and administrators whose commitment to this process has been total, positive, and the clearest example of a strong, unified, dedicated and successful team effort.

The Air Guard is facing similar challenges and continues to lead in virtually every category of objective measure. In short, our future will demand best efforts and best leadership but we have the ingredients of strong tradition, justified optimism, the force mix and a shared vision to direct our actions and to cause us to be successful.

Internally, the Kentucky Army Guard is experiencing the normal changes in command that periodically reenergize and sustain our organization. The abilities and commitment possessed by our latest group



of commanders will serve us well and no less is true of our senior enlisted leadership. At the same time, the need to personally and individually encourage and underwrite our soldiers and Air Guard members as they contemplate whether to remain in the force has never been more

important.

On a related subject, the accession rate of junior leaders, especially second lieutenants, has not met the needs of the Kentucky Guard by a wide margin. Our future welfare demands that we collectively address this issue. I urge each of you to encourage our capable enlisted members to consider continued service as a commissioned officer.

Ongoing are other important programs and initiatives. Included are maintaining the momentum and reaching the potential for the Western Kentucky Training Site, assuring success of the Youth Challenge Program, equipping and training our new Civil Support Team and maturing its relationship with all of its constituent organizations especially our very capable Division of Emergency Management, assuring a successful deployment of our military police personnel to Bosnia, and most importantly, continuously underscoring personnel and institutional decisions based on merit, performance and doing the right thing.

As we evaluate the past year, undoubtedly areas of improvement will be found. Let's work on these and find solutions. At the same time, let's build on our successes, identify best practices and execute. Finally, our soldiers and airmen are the essence of who we are - everything else is secondary. Lead accordingly.

I am enormously proud of all of your efforts and look forward with you to new challenges and accomplishments that constantly invigorate our great Kentucky National Guard. I wish you and your families the best for the coming year and urge you to put safety first in all that you do.

The Bluegrass Guard

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Army adopts black beret as garrison headgear

Army News Service

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley has assembled a team of senior NCOs to iron out the details of how the Army will adopt the black beret this coming June. He was charged by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki with devising an implementation plan for the entire Army to don the berets.

"This is a great idea - it's a way to pull the Army together," Tilley said. "The beret has instilled pride in soldiers for years."

One issue about the beret has been decided - the flash in the center. Shinseki ended the discussion about whether soldiers will wear distinctive unit flashes on their black berets when they are initially issued in June by deciding on a universal flash.

All soldiers will initially wear the universal flash, except for those in units that already have berets, such as Ranger, Airborne and Special Forces. These troops will continue to wear the beret flashes they currently have.

The universal flash will eventually be replaced by unit-specific flashes.

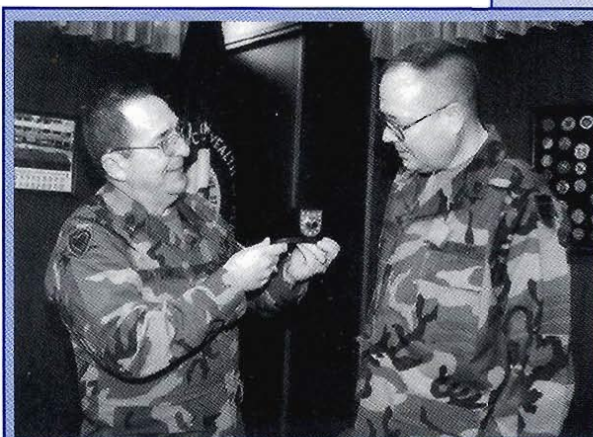
The new flash, worn on the left front of the beret, is a semi-circular shield 1-7/8 inches wide and 2-1/4 inches high. It has a bluebird background with 13 white stars superimposed just inside its outer border. Officers will wear their rank in the center of the shield.

"The flash is designed to closely replicate the colors (flag) of the commander in chief of the Continental Army at the time of its victory at Yorktown," said Pam Reece, an industrial specialist with the Army's Institute of Heraldry.

The chief of staff announced Oct. 17 the Army will begin wearing the black beret on the next Army birthday, June 14.

He said the beret will symbolize the Army's transformation to a lighter, more deployable force.

"It is time for the entire Army to accept the challenge of excellence that has so long been a hallmark of our special operations and airborne units," Shinseki said. Adopting the berets will be "another step toward achieving the



State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Satchwell shows the new Army beret and universal flash to Sgt. 1st Class Tom Kaldy.

capabilities of the objective force" of Army transformation, he said.

The Army's elite Ranger units have in the meantime been given permission to switch to a tan beret, according to a release put out by Fort Bragg command staff.

Tilley said the BDU cap, now referred to as the patrol cap, will remain the optimum headgear in the field when the kevlar helmet isn't worn. Berets just don't shade the eyes from sun and hold up to weather the way a cap does, he said.

"I think that it (the beret) is uplifting for soldiers," Tilley said about adopting the beret. "It's very positive. It's a part of change. I've been in the Army a long time and change is part of being a soldier."

Kentucky Army Guard prepares for transition to beret

State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Satchwell sees the imminent fielding of the black beret as just another requirement for Kentucky's Army Guard troops. With service dating back to the Vietnam War, the state's top sergeant has gone through changes in uniforms before, and this one is no different than any other.

"The Chief of Staff of the Army issued his orders, and it's up to us to carry them out," Satchwell said. "That's what we do best."

Kentucky Army Guard troops will be authorized to wear the beret on June 14th, the Army's birthday. The significance of the new beret, however, means its adoption will be a little more complex than going from, say, one boot style to another.

"It's not just a matter of issuing the berets out to the troops and telling them to put them on. The way the Army's got it set up, there's an examination testing the soldier's knowledge of Army history. That will be followed by a ceremony formalizing the soldier's right to wear the beret."

Differences between the running of an active duty post and a National Guard unit mean that Guard soldiers will have a separate procedure.

"The Kentucky Army Guard policy still has to be worked out," Satchwell explained. "There are several logistical problems that have to be solved, but we'll get it done, on time and in proper military fashion. I'm counting on our NCO corps to make this happen, and I have every confidence that we'll do just that."

Army National Guard selects Lever as new Command Sergeant Major

*S.C. Army National Guard
Public Affairs Office*

A seasoned South Carolina Army Guard enlisted man who studied at one of America's premier military colleges has been named the command sergeant major for the Army National Guard's entire enlisted force.

A. Frank Lever III, 53, was selected by Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army Guard's director, the Thursday before Veterans Day to succeed Command Sgt. Maj. John

Leonard Jr. as the chief advocate for the Army Guard's more than 300,000 enlisted people.

Leonard, 54, is leaving that position after nearly four years to become the sixth senior enlisted advisor for the nearly 750,000 enlisted people in the United States' seven Reserve Components. He will work for the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs.

"I just wanted to be an enlisted soldier," said Lever, the state command sergeant major who joined the South Carolina Army Guard in 1969,

the same year he graduated from The Citadel, South Carolina's state military college, with a degree in political science.

"I believe I have helped more South Carolina Army Guard soldiers as a sergeant major than I ever could have as an officer," explained Lever, the son of a lawyer. "I've never

of confidential documents for industrial, government and financial agencies before going to work full-time for the South Carolina Guard 17 years ago. He was the command sergeant major for 218th Regiment before becoming the Palmetto State's top enlisted soldier as State Command Sergeant Major.

"I want to continue helping our citizen-soldiers with quality of life issues so they will want to stay in the Guard."

Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III



"When I enlisted in the South Carolina National Guard I started looking toward the day when I could become the command sergeant major

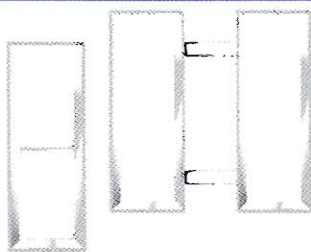
for the entire Army National Guard," Lever explained. "I wanted to be all that I could be and serve as an example to others about what they can accomplish if they work hard."

His awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Lever has a master's degree in management. He served for three years as deputy commissioner for South Carolina's Department of Youth Services. He also owned a company that collected and securely disposed

regretted my decision. I've never looked back."

Lever and his wife Ellen reside in Columbia, S.C. They have two sons David and Stephen.



Go for the Gold!

Become an officer in the Kentucky National Guard

With the right qualifications you could earn more than \$13,000 through the Kentucky National Guard Officer Candidate School. Soldiers from throughout the Guard's ranks are developed into leaders through rigorous and demanding training in this three phase course. Call 502-624-5011 or email liversjl@bngc.dma.state.ky.us to see if you have the right stuff.



Spc. James Ferrie readies his MLRS for the firing line.

Artillery unit brings out 'BIG GUNS'

By Sgt. Brett Traver
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery Brigade made sure their families had a "blast" when they visited them in the field at Fort Knox.

The unit tries to bring family members to a live fire range at least once a year so they can see what their husbands and fathers do when they are not home for one weekend a month and two weeks a year, according to First Sgt. Randall Shofner, Bravo Battery first sergeant.

"I think family support is very important to a unit," he said. "If the family is supportive, then the soldier is happier and feels better about leaving his family to support the unit."

"We really don't have a big problem with retention," Shofner said. "I think its because of the friendships the soldiers develop by working together on challenging new equipment. But, I hope events like this keeps the soldiers coming back."

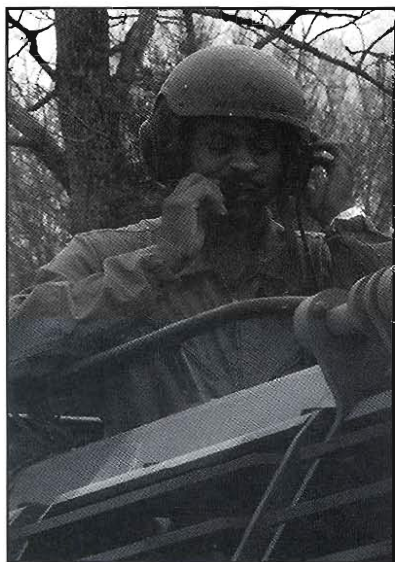
Spc. James Ferrie, Bravo Battery, is a seven-year veteran of the unit, and he likes the perspective the event gives his wife.

"She's going to have a better understanding of what we doing. She'll get to see the importance of what we do for the community and country," he said.

After years of being an active duty spouse Sheila Taylor saw, for the first time, what her husband did in the Army.

"I think this is nice. I've never seen this done. We were active duty before and we never got to

see this before," she said. "I'm very proud of him."



Sgt. Trenton Williams takes direction before heading to the firing line.



Soldier, NCO of the Year

Competition proves tough for candidates, board

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

This year's winners of the Kentucky Army National Guard's Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year competition show us once again that there is no easy road to the top. Like most things with the military, a lot of hard work and self-sacrifice are the main ingredients for success.

For Spc. Joseph Fontanez, the Kentucky Army Guard's newest Soldier of the Year, military service has been a family affair from day one.

"I'm a military brat, with my dad being a retired major coming out of army aviation.

He spent twenty-six years in, including some time as a drill sergeant, so I got it from both sides of the house, as an officer and as enlisted."

A technician with Gregg Laboratories analyzing concrete and soil samples, Fontanez serves as an intelligence analyst with the Lexington-based Headquarters Battery, 2/138th Field Artillery Regiment. From childhood he always knew he would be in the military, but rather than follow his father's footsteps into active duty, he chose the Guard.

"I like the idea of being able to serve your country and maintain roots at home. I joined mainly for school, but I know I'm going to stay for the full twenty."

Fontanez doesn't take his celebrity status as Soldier of the Year lightly. "It's awesome. Everybody comes up and congratulates you. They see standards you set and hold you to them. It's been a big influence on my life."

"The competition wasn't easy. I was really nervous when I got there. I saw all these sharp troops and thought, 'No way.' But it was a really good experience."

"I bought this huge book, with more than 6,000 questions in it, and I read it front to back a couple of times. I had people quizzing me all the time, including my future mother-in-law. She didn't know much about the military before, but she sure knows a lot now."

Fontanez offered a bit of advice to those who decide to follow his footsteps.

"Start studying right away, know your stuff and go full throttle. Let everybody know you're out to be number one."

Fontanez intends to join ROTC this spring while pursuing a degree in computer technology.



BAILEY

Sgt. Chad Bailey's job with Company E, 206th Combat Engineers is a far cry from his original MOS as an active duty military policeman. Having been stationed in such diverse places as Berlin, Guantanamo Bay and Panama during his active duty years, Bailey took the opportunity to join the Kentucky Army Guard when he settled down in Morehead with his wife Joy. Between his job at Midas Auto Systems and his role as a bridge crew chief, he keeps a pretty busy schedule.

"I get a lot of support from my family, though," he said. "They're excited about me being in the Guard and they're excited about me winning this award."

Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Davis, Readiness NCO for Echo Company, sings high praise for the young engineer. "Sgt. Bailey is a topnotch soldier. There isn't any mission that he won't do. You never have to do any follow up or anything. You know when you give him his orders it's going to be up to standard."

Davis is equally impressed with Bailey's people skills. "He's a well-rounded individual. He's a leader and a mentor when he's with his troops and he works hard at being a role model."

Like Fontanez, Bailey found the NCO of the Year Board challenging.

"It was pretty tough.

There were a lot more questions than I expected. I

studied quite a bit. I competed in the active Army and it's harder on the Guard side. They want you to study it all. My

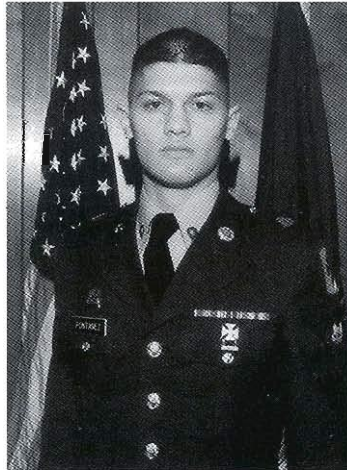
unit was supportive, though. They gave me some time during drill to prepare.

"I'm really glad I won. There's a lot of pride in the engineers and they've done a lot for me. Now I get to represent them."

According to State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Satchwell, the selection process for this year's competition was a difficult one.

"This gets tougher every year. The quality of our soldiers is so high, the point spread between competitors was the narrowest we've ever seen."

"We don't ask easy questions because we want our soldiers to be challenged. But the candidates come prepared, which demonstrates the support they're getting from their leadership. Considering how well these soldiers have performed, I'm confident they'll do us proud at 1st Army."



FONTANEZ

Kentucky Air National Guard select their 'Best of the Best'

by Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Being a member of the Kentucky Air National Guard requires the highest standards of dedication and discipline. But 22 of the unit's members recently met the airmen of the Year Board to determine who was a cut above the rest. After extensive evaluation by the board of five KyANG Chiefs, Master Sgt. Michael Shepherd, Tech. Sgt. Greg Lucas and Senior Airman Christopher Brawner emerged as the "best of the best" for 2000.

The competition was exceptionally tough this year because more airmen are vying for the honors, said Chief Master Sgt. David Orange, command chief master sergeant for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"The unit has had outstanding airmen for 50 years, but until just a few years ago, participation in the program was minimal," Orange said. "Now the program has grown so that everyone has a chance to be nominated."

Shepherd, an assistant dock chief in the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, was selected as Senior NCO of the Year. The airman has served in the Kentucky Air Guard for more than 20 years.

Chief Master Sgt. Bob Allen, superintendent of the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, said Shepherd is very deserving of the award.

"Mike always goes out of his way to ensure all of his duties are accomplished. He really works hard to help out the younger troops by giving them support when they need it, whether it be personal or at work."

Shepherd is responsible for helping aircraft mechanics and other specialists perform their duties on the inspection docks. He also researches current publications to ensure that up-to-date procedures are being used.

The NCO is active in community service programs as well, including little league sports and the Parent-Teacher Association Council. For his off-base activities, Shepherd received a Military

Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He also makes himself readily available to help out during special base events. For example, Shepherd volunteered his services during KyANG Family Day, Bean Soup 2000 and Thunder Over Louisville.

Lucas, the wing's outstanding NCO, is an airfield management technician assigned to the 123rd Operations Support flight.

Chief master Sgt. Sheila Atwell, superintendent of the 123rd Operations Support Flight, said Lucas is always looking for a better way to do things.

"He is very motivated and a self-starter. He gets things done before they need to be done. He is always looking ahead," Atwell said. "Basically, he eliminates problems before they have a chance to arise."

Lucas received special recognition for refining the flying procedures in his unit to better utilize equipment and personnel.

Like Shepherd, Lucas is involved in community-service programs. During 1999, he helped raise funds for Kentucky Special Olympics, the Kentucky Sheriff's Association and the Leukemia Society of America.

Lucas also volunteered to support base charitable activities such as the United Parcel Service-sponsored Plane Pull and the

Technician Charity Golf Scramble.

Brawner, a parachute rigger and repair specialist with the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, was named KyANG's outstanding airman of the year.

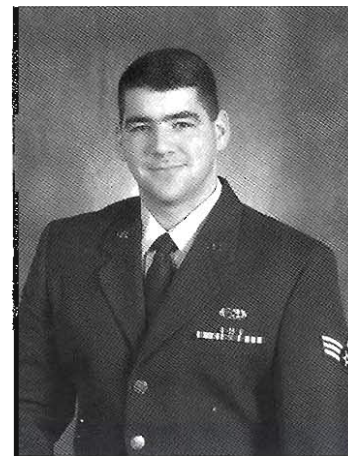
Senior Master Sgt. Roger Hamilton,



SHEPHERD



LUCAS



BRAWNER

123rd Maintenance Squadron Fabrication Element Leader, said Brawner is an all-around great worker. He is the type of guy that wears his uniform well and has great interaction with people throughout the base."

Brawner, who also acts as his shop's safety representative, helped a co-worker design a parachute safety pin that was substantially less expensive than the previous component, resulting in a cost savings of 50 percent.

Moreover, the airman is always one of the first in his unit to volunteer for deployments, and he served as his unit coordinator for the Combined Federal Campaign, which last year raised more than \$46,070 basewide—a new record.

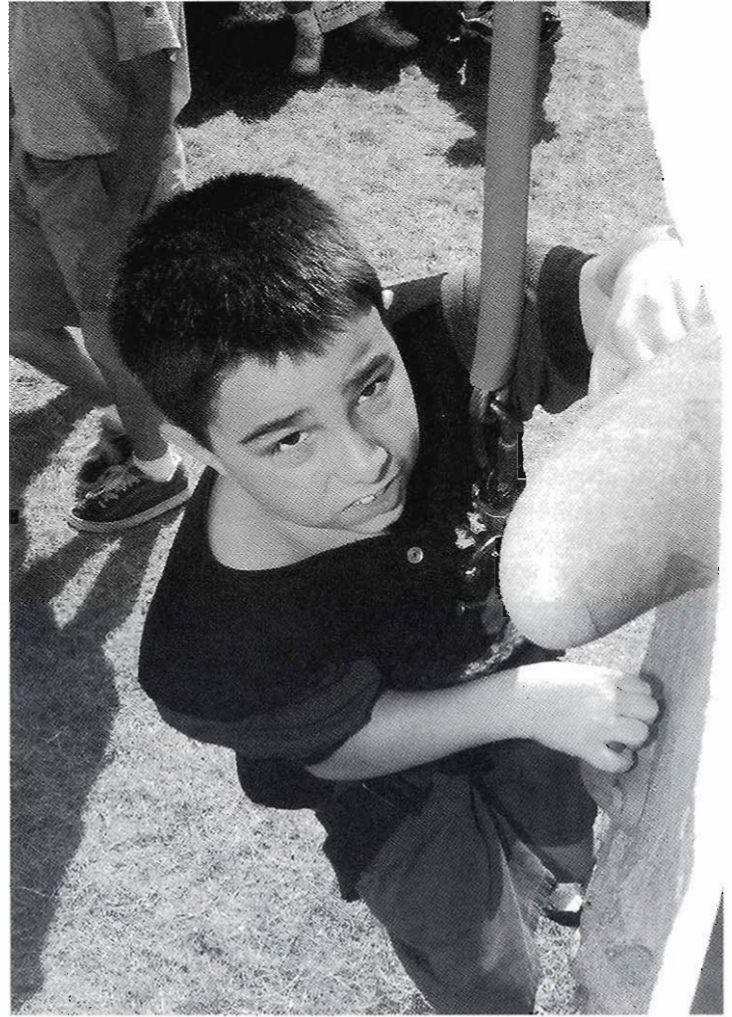
Off base, Brawner volunteered his time to speak against drug use in local schools.

Special events team bolsters recruiting effort

*Story and photos by Sgt. Brett Traver
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

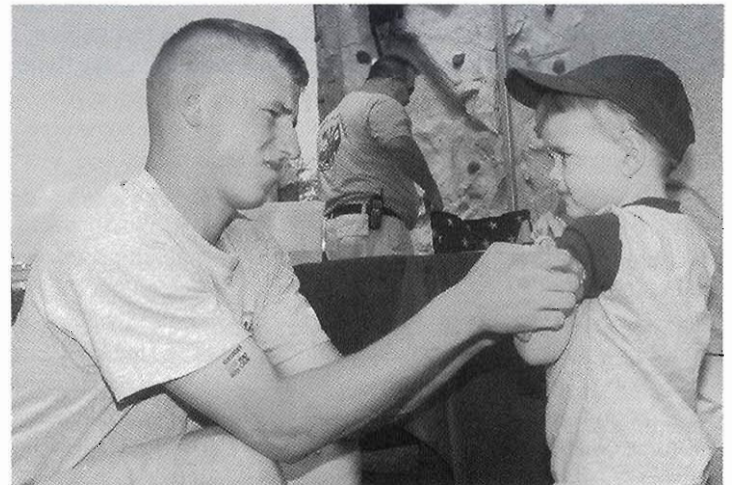
Recruiting has always been a challenge, but the Kentucky National Guard is fielding a new weapon to meet recruiting quotas – a Special Events Team.

Armed with special vehicles, displays and a climbing wall the team is working to spread the word about the Guard throughout the Commonwealth. The team generates recruiting leads by registering everyone who climbs the popular wall attraction. During the course of the Kentucky State Fair they will register between 4,000-5,000 people, young and old alike. These names are then given to the appropriate recruiter for follow-up, Master Sgt. Bobby Turner, recruiting events coordinator, said.



More than 250,000 people visited the Kentucky National Guard's display (left) during the 2000 Kentucky State Fair. Those that climb the popular rock wall are registered in a database to generate recruiting leads.

John Hutson, from Louisville (above) tackles the rock wall. Spc. Clifford Marbrey (opposite page) secures a climbing harness before letting a youngster climb the rock wall. Spc. Wallace Kand (below) with a prospective climber.



Special Events Team, cont.

"Last year we were up 29 percent from the year before," he said. "Now, there are a lot of reasons for that, one of those being our display promoting the Guard in front of six to seven million people here in Kentucky."

The special events team was approved and started in August 1999 and consists of 10-20 members at different times of the year. They have their own uniform, must portray a good image and be willing to work six days a week and sometimes be away from home for three weeks at a time, according to Turner.

Staff Sgt. Jon Gaddis, 20th Special Forces Group from Louisville, has been in charge of the team since June and enjoys this new challenge.

"I like interacting with the people in the different communities and it has given me the opportunity to travel throughout the state," he said.

Spc. Drew Logan, also of the 20th Special Forces Group and a Frankfort native, has been working with the team since May. He says the busy schedule is the hardest part of being part of the team.

"You have to be really flexible working six to seven days a week and working 10-12 hour days, but it's worth it."



The team would be nowhere without support, according to Turner.

"Like everything else in the military,

this is a team effort that works well for recruiting. The only way we are successful is with the help of all the units, maintenance crews and shops we work with on a daily basis. They always give us top priority if we have a piece of equipment go down," Turner said. "I can't say enough about our support."

Sgt. William Corley, Charlie Company, 103rd Forward Support (Mech.) is a member of one support team that was on hand for the State Fair. The medic was on hand to provide care and to display the unit's M577 Aid Station.

"I'm here to keep the public safe," he said. "If anyone gets a cut or scrap, I've got bandages, and I can get an ambulance if needed. If a guard member is hurt I can do total care for them as well."

Because this is the closest many of Kentucky's citizens may come to working with the National Guard, the team members work hard to keep the image positive.

"They are among the best the Guard has to offer, and they are highly motivated. It's a very professional group of soldiers," he added.

FIVE STEPS TO A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

by Karen J. Roché, STARC PAO

Safety is a constant concern whether you are at home, at work or at drill. The preparations and precautions you take can affect your family, friends and coworkers. As a soldier it is important to keep in mind your safety as well as the safety of those around you. Keeping your work environment safe can be as simple as wearing the appropriate clothing and equipment, staying aware of the hazards in your work environment and making safety a top priority among coworkers and yourself.

According to Capt. Kim Manasco, the state safety and occupational health manager, "Safety Attitude is stressed as the key to a safe environment. There are five steps to a good Safety Attitude: keeping focused, taking your time, strengthening your convictions, taking responsibility, and reducing risk."

1. Staying focused on your present task is key. It's easy to become distracted when working in a group. Do your best to keep in mind the goals you are working to achieve and fight the boredom that can often cause drowsiness.

2. A good plan always helps to make the job go more smoothly. When you are planning your jobs, make sure you allow

yourself and your team enough time to complete the job with as few errors and the best results possible. Rushing through a task can cause more harm than good.

3. Do the right thing. Even though people will distract you or try to convince you to cut corners you need the strength to stand up for yourself and complete the work according to the standards. Shortcuts may save time but risking someone's safety is not worth a minute here or there.

4. Initiative to assume responsibilities can make a big difference. If you see obstacles laying around or spills in the work area take the responsibility to clean them up.

5. Risk for injury is always lurking around. Do what you can to minimize or even eliminate any hazards. Know your surroundings and the risk factors before you begin. Develop plans to cut back the number of hazards and develop remedies for each one.

"Safety is a team effort," Manasco said. "In order to maximize a safe work environment coworkers need to keep each other aware of potential hazards. The more people working for a safe goal, the better the outcome."

223rd practices skills for upcoming Bosnia deployment

Story and Photos by Maj. William Nutter
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The blaring sound of Eastern European music echoes throughout the tiny village of Orasje. A small group of local villagers congregate with a chanting noise of protest. The 223rd Military Police of the Kentucky National Guard observes the activity from their vehicles on the outskirts of the small village.

During the demonstration, members of the news media approach the 223d soldiers attempting to provoke a reaction. Eventually the crowd breaks up with no major incidents to report from the peaceful demonstration. Mission accomplished. The 223rd MPs keep their cool and maintain their professionalism as peacekeepers at Fort Polk, La.

Keeping peace in Louisiana may seem unusual and unique unless you are a participant in the Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). The 223rd participated in the MRE this past January to prepare them for their current NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to Capt. Christopher Clark, a JRTC staff member, the purpose of the MRE is to prepare soldiers for joint military operations that involve interaction with civilians, military from other nations, and working with non-government organizations.



223rd soldiers had to deal with protesting "Bosnian nationals" and media at the same time during one scenerio during the training at Fort Polk



Staff Sgt. Michael McGowan, of Louisville, requests interpreters from his higher headquarters in order to communicate with some "Bosnian nationals" during the 223rd's MRE at Fort Polk, La.

"The MRE replicates scenarios to prepare soldiers for things they may encounter in Bosnia. There are over 500 role players that participate in this exercise and this includes Bosnians, that are contracted for role playing purposes," said Clark. He added the three base camps Eagle Base Tuzla, Camp McGovern, and Camp Dobol are replicated to support realistic training. Clark also mentioned that the MRE rotation includes approximately 2,500 personnel per rotation and 1,500 personnel to provide support for the exercise.

The 223rd Commander, Capt. Shontelle Adams visited Bosnia last July to prepare for the mission. He is finding that the MRE replication of the environment a great training tool.

"I think their doing an outstanding job. You go out there and you see actual Bosnians, ducks, sheep and goats. You name it they got it. It's amazing the extent of detail that is taken," Adams said.

"The 223rd soldiers are doing an excellent

Bosnia deployment, cont.

job and are one of the better units that I've seen going through this exercise. They are not overreacting to stressful situations," said Paula Schlag, with Fort Polk Public Affairs. Schlag commented the 223rd will most likely see the scenario intensify to the next level to push them in their training experience.

After each training event the Military Police discuss their training through a series of After Action Reviews (AARs). "AARs are the most important thing we do here" said Schlag. The AARs are conducted from platoon to Brigade level with Observer Controllers. The Observer Controller is the mentor or trainer that provides feedback to participants in the MRE.

Louisville native, Staff Sgt. Michael McGowan finds the MRE training demanding as well as con-

forming to every day life on active duty.

"It's an adjustment, going from one weekend a month to every day. We're learning to work together. The training is

"I have learned so much. The MRE is teaching me the NCO ropes. I am learning the job above me and below me. Go Kentucky Guard!"

Spc. Timothy Croxton

excellent and we are slowly coming on board day by day," he added.

Spc. Timothy Croxton is excited about the upcoming mission to Bosnia. He is getting more than he expected from the MRE.

"I have learned so much" said Croxton. "The MRE is teaching me the NCO ropes. I am learning the job above me and below me. Go Kentucky Guard!"

Spc. Bruce Garcia is also ready for the challenges of deployment. "I am excited about going to Bosnia. It is going to make positive changes in my life. I'm always looking for new challenges. The army is about challenges."

Not only does this challenge help him grow, but he plans to tell his children and future grandchildren about his deployment to Bosnia, Garcia added.

As the stress of the MRE increases, unit leaders have noticed the unit coming together to meet all challenges.

"I have outstanding NCOs that are stepping up to the plate and doing an outstanding job," said Adams who is pleased with his Noncommissioned Officer Corp contribution to the MRE success.

"They are getting a lot of teamwork. We are molding as one," he added.

Adams said that the Third Infantry Division staff, who the unit will work for, is surprised at how well they are doing and actually how well the unit is operating as a team.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Edgar Satchwell is beaming with pride on the MRE performance of the 223rd soldiers. He visited the unit during the first couple days of the exercise and is enthused about what he saw.

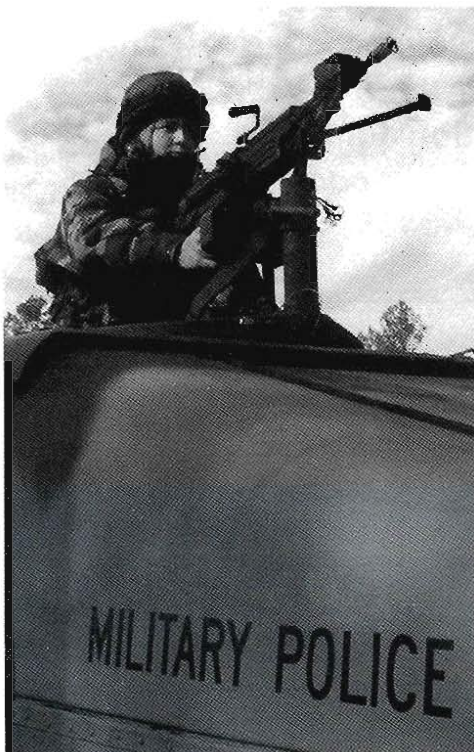
According to Satchwell the 223rd is doing an excellent job and setting the standard and the morale is the highest he has seen for a company in his 35 years.

"Overall the 223rd, with the leadership from the commander down to the new E-5's is truly ready for this mission," said Satchwell. He found one common area in the noncommissioned officers: Taking care of soldiers.

"If one person makes a mistake, there is always someone behind him to correct the mistake," Satchwell explained. Satchwell has no concerns about the MPs being able to do the mission and knows they will represent the Kentucky National Guard well.

Adams views the MRE as a success but is ready to go on with the mission.

"The 223rd MP Company is looking forward to get started in Bosnia," he said. "We want to continue the good tradition and standing the 223rd has had the last couple of years. Whether it be the floods in North Carolina, or the tornadoes in Bullet County, or going to Bosnia. They will do an outstanding job like always."



Lexington native Spc. Bruce Garcia mans a crew-served weapon, a necessity for every patrol in Bosnia.

Programs offer low-cost vacations

by Maj. William Nutter
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

How much would a vacation stay in historic Williamsburg, Virginia cost if it included a condominium with three bedrooms, two baths, a living room with a fireplace, kitchen and a hot tub? Most people would guess anywhere from \$160.00 to \$300.00 per night. The actual price and unbelievable cost is \$234.00! This is *not* \$234.00 per night, *but rather for seven nights!*

The Armed Forces Vacation Club offers the \$234.00 eight-day/ seven-night vacation program to all National Guard Members.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for a family to afford a fun vacation," said Staff Sgt. Angela Wilkins, an Administrative Specialist with STARC Headquarters. Her family participated in the program last spring on a visit to Williamsburg, Virginia.

"It is so easy to use the Armed Forces Vacation Club. All you do is go on the internet and find where you want to stay," said Wilkins.

Wilkins who stayed at Powhatan Plantation found the facilities to be adequate and first rate.

"My in-laws and family both participated in the program and would highly recommend everyone to try the program," Wilkins added.

The Armed Forces Vacation Club is affiliated with the Department of Defense. The program took effect in January 2000 and is gaining popularity throughout the armed forces. Most of the condominiums are timeshare resorts, however there is no requirement to attend any timeshare presentations. According to Wilkins



Home away from home Angela and Kevin Wilkins stayed at this top-quality condominium in Williamsburg with their family last year at bargain prices.



Armed Forces Vacation Club

www.afvclub.com

1-800-724-9988

Destin Recreation Facility

www.benningmwr.com

1-800-642-0466



the program offers last minute cancellations and condominiums that cannot be filled. The program is offered worldwide. The majority of the condominiums are offered in the United States, Mexico, South America, and Europe.

Staff Sgt. Wilkins suggested when calling the program it is best to check out what star rating the facility is rated. According to Wilkins, just tell the Armed Forces Vacation Club Representative what you are exactly looking for. Wilkins also mentioned that a service member is allowed to rent as many units they want. This includes renting units for non-military

members.

To participate in the program the internet is the best way to find resort areas. The web address is www.afvclub.com and the telephone number is 1-800-724-9988.

Another opportunity for a fun and economic vacation is on the white sandy beaches of Destin, Florida. The crystal clear green water on the Gulf of Mexico enticed Maj. Vaughn Laganosky and his family to try the U.S. Army resort, Destin Recreation Facility. Laganosky, Plans Officer for STARC, Military Support to Civil

Reserve, Guard families eligible for dental plan

Reserve and National Guard families will be included as beneficiaries for the new TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) beginning Feb. 1, 2001 under Department of Defense policy guidelines. This will significantly expand the number of Reserve forces personnel eligible for TDP.

One important new feature will allow Reserve and National Guard members called to active duty in support of contingency operations to sign their family members up for the TDP by excluding them from the mandatory enrollment period.

"The TDP will be a tremendous

benefit to National Guard and Reserve personnel in the very near future," said Charles L. Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "And the new policy guidelines will significantly improve the readiness of Reserve force families."

Under the current program, all military personnel are required to have at least 24 months remaining on active duty to enroll in the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan (TFMDP). The new program will reduce this mandatory enrollment period from 24 months to 12 months of service commitment. It also will combine the TFMDP and the

TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program (TSRDP). For Reserve and National Guard members, this means more covered services than were available under the TSRDP and a larger provider network.

Since 1995, more than 30,000 Reserve force personnel have served on involuntary active duty tours to support presidential Reserve call-ups for Bosnia, Kosovo and Southwest Asia.

For additional information, please call Army National Guard Col. Terry Jones at (703) 693-8617 or visit the Reserve Affairs web site at <http://raweb.osd.mil>.

Lowcost vacations, cont.

Authorities Branch visited the Destin Recreation Area in July 1999.

The Destin Recreation Facility is sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) at Fort Benning, Ga. The Destin Recreation area offers 54 motel units, five furnished three bedroom cabins, 17 furnished two bedroom cabins and 46 RV and trailer spaces. Laganosky, who stayed at the motel with his family, said his room came equipped as a standard motel room with double beds, bathroom and table but also included a small refrigerator and microwave.

All the cabins have a screened in back porch, patios and a grill. Laganosky found the facility to have a quiet, park like atmosphere, but said the facilities offered a lot for visitors.

The recreation facility has several children's play areas, a swimming pool near the beach and a 300 foot pier. The pier is a perfect place for fishing. The area rents boats, jet skis, kayaks and offers a 22 passenger charter boat ride on the "Follow Me" vessel. According to Laganosky the area was nice because of the facility's location.

"It overlooks Choctawhatchee Bay which makes it relaxing and serene," Laganosky said. "Being near

Eglin Air Force Base was convenient for shopping at the PX and commissary."

The Air Force also owns beaches that are open only to DoD personnel. The rates are based on rank. Motel rooms start at \$41 to \$57 per-night. The two bedroom cabins start at \$47 to \$66 per-night. The three bedroom cabins start at \$53 to 73 per-night.

"If you're going to Destin on a budget, this is the place to go," added Laganosky. Rates are even better during the off season from Nov. 1 to March 15.

The irony is that Laganosky who was stationed at Fort Benning for three-years never knew about the facility. "Actually I found out about it in the Military Travel Guide."

To find additional information about the

Destin Recreation Center check the web address at www.benningmwr.com or call 1-800-642-0466 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Central Time), Monday through Friday. Reservations can be made as early as 4 months out. Only military ID Card holders, including National Guard, can reserve a room or cabin. However, according to Laganosky, military members can also reserve rooms for their non-military guests.

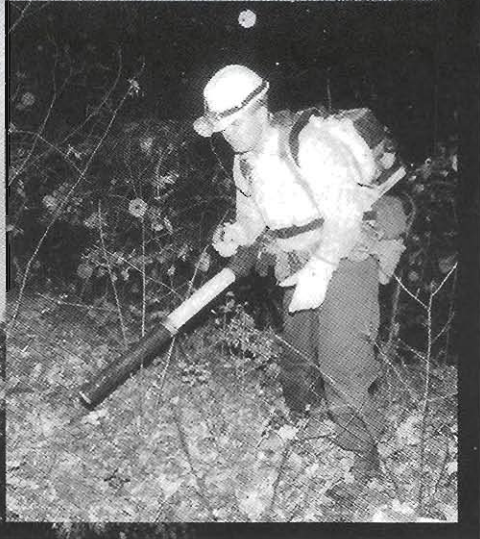
"It is so easy to use the Armed Forces Vacation Club. All you do is go on the internet and find where you want to stay."

Staff Sgt. Angela Wilkins
Administrative Specialist, STARC Headquarters

Troops get 'fired up' to protect forests



by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom
STARC PAO



Teamwork While UH-60 Blackhawks play an important role in controlling the spread of forest fires, ground troops are essential in making sure they are stopped. Leaf blowers are used to clear a path along the perimeter of a fire in remote Floyd County while soldiers set a back fire against a destructive wall of flames.

They work by night, in the dark, in the cold, behind enemy lines, often cut off from their support units. The work is risky, tough and sometimes frustrating. Still, it has to be done ... and someone has to do it.

They are the Kentucky Guard's forest firefighting teams.

Each year Kentucky's forests run the risk of destruction by fire, particularly when there has been a drought. Some of the fires are accidental, others natural; some even



intentional. Whatever the cause, the sheer acreage put at risk taxes the resources of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, who oversees the firefighting mission.

"We're in dire straits," said Director of Forestry Mark Matazewski. "We have tens of thousands of acres at stake here, and we just don't have the resources to tackle this alone. That's where the Guard comes in."

During the fall of 2000 soldiers from 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized) and the 206th Combat Engineers joined 63rd Aviation Group helicopters in taking on fires spread across the eastern Kentucky landscape.

Most visible are the UH-60 Blackhawks, often seen carrying 660-gallon "Bambi buckets," streaking across the skyline in search of targets. Despite popular belief, the helicopters can't do it all. As in battle, aviators are tasked with taking care of the hot spots and clearing the way for ground troops.

Gearing up the Guard soldiers for firefighting doesn't take long. There is equipment to be issued: flame-resistant uniforms, hardhats, rakes, leaf blowers, radios and satellite telephones. A quick class on how to deploy one significant piece of equipment, a portable fire shelter, is presented. Within a couple of hours assignments are given and crews prepare to move out.

Sgt. Thomas Oakley, Co. E, 206th Combat Engineers, is a veteran of many state active duty missions.

"It might take us two hours to get up to the fire this evening. That's just the drive. Then we'll have to hike up the mountain, so we may not get on the line until after dark," he explains. "After we get there we have to clear a path wide enough to keep the fire from spreading, and we'll have to stay there until it goes out. We probably won't get back until early in the morning."

Oakley's team heads out and it's after dark before the convoy of four-wheel drives and humvees stops. Everybody gets out, gathers up their gear and begins the long march up the mountain. Spirits are high, even when the going gets tough. Finally, the troops are on the edge of the fire and everyone gets to work. Leaf blowers mark the way and rakes clear out a path that looks like a small bulldozer passed through. Flames that once reached a dozen feet in height are starved for fuel, sputter, and die.

Oakley's team is credited with saving several thousand acres from destruction.

Like many of his teammates, Sgt. Roosevelt Bowles, Co. A, 206th Engineers, enjoys the firefighting missions.

"I like doing this kind of stuff," he said. "This is a good unit. There's good teamwork and everyone works hard."

Bowles says working missions like these for the Guard has affected him in a positive way.

"Before I joined the Guard I didn't have much focus. This gives me structure, it gets me out and shows me what I'm capable of doing."

Matazewski sees the teamwork between state agencies as essential to getting the job done.

"I've talked with my counterparts in other states, and when I tell them how we do things in Kentucky I find that we have one of the best systems going," he said. "They're often envious of the relationship we've established with the National Guard and they look to us as a role model."

State active duty missions make Guard unique

Airmen, soldiers serve on homefront in time of need

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

While the federal role of the Kentucky Guard is to support the U.S. military warfighting mission, there's another side to the coin that comes in the form of state active duty (SAD). Unlike our brethren in the active duty military and federal reserve forces, National Guard units can, at a moment's notice, be called into service by the Governor through the Adjutant General to support local communities in times of man-made and natural disaster.

State active duty missions come in all shapes and sizes. From fighting forest fires in the mountains to providing security during the Kentucky Derby, National Guard airmen and soldiers work year 'round to ensure the general safety and welfare of the public.

"We provide support to the state when local effort has been exhausted," said Maj. Rondal Turner, military support officer for the Kentucky Army Guard Operations Office. "We like to think of ourselves as Kentucky's 911 service in support of civil authorities."

State active duty missions are authorized by the Governor in his role as the state commander-in-chief. But they are usually requested by the local community, either through the county judge/executive or the city mayor and coordinated through Kentucky Emergency Management, which is part of the Department of Military Affairs. Activation of the Guard requires an disaster declaration by the Governor. Only then can troops be put on state active duty status.

"There's a lot of restrictions on what we can and can't do," explained Turner. "What it boils down to is, we're there to help the local community until they can get back on their feet. Once authorities have the situation in hand, long-term recovery is up to them."

The largest call-up of troops for state active duty occurred during the Flood of '97. Communities across the Commonwealth were devastated by the rising waters and in the case of the town of Falmouth, in Pendleton County, were wiped completely out. Water, power and sewage systems were disrupted, raising health and safety issues. Both Army and Air units were activated, some in a rescue role, others for logistical support. The number of troops on duty during a single 24-hour period peaked at 1,600. Soldiers were in many cases credited with saving lives and preserving property through quick action and personal sacrifice.

"We were in pretty bad shape," said Ken Lear, a BellSouth supervisor who, along with nine other employees, was trapped in

building when floodwaters hit Cynthiana back in 1997. "Three of my people were nearly in shock and those Guard soldiers didn't hesitate in getting us out of there and to an aid station."

Governor Paul E. Patton, commander-in-chief for the Kentucky Guard, holds state active duty missions in high regard.

"The state mission is essential to Kentucky," he said. "When I think of the Kentucky National Guard, I think of a humvee

breaking through a snow-bank bringing much needed medical supplies to stranded families, or soldiers working shoulder-to-shoulder with local citizens, stacking sandbags to hold flood waters. That, in my estimation, is the spirit of the Guard."

Not all SAD missions are so dramatic, of course. Turner said he receives about several hundred non-emergency requests each year.

"We get a lot of requests from local government, or in some cases community-based organiza-

tions, for support during festivals and holiday activities."

Non-emergency SAD missions include funeral honors, providing color guards for public events and working security and traffic control when local authorities resources are overtaxed. Radio communications, one of the Guard's strong suits, is one the most requested services, especially during emergencies like forest fire fighting and snow storms.

While most SAD missions are strictly volunteer, there are times when entire units are activated, especially during extended periods of deployment.

"This is usually done to protect the soldier's full-time employment," Turner explained. "There are certain rights under state law that ensure job security, and if we think we're going to need troops on a mission for a long duration, we want to make sure they have a job to go back to."

Troops taking part in state active duty missions are covered by workman's comp and are considered employees of the state of Kentucky. Pay rates are consistent with your military pay, and all subsistence and housing issues are provided for by the state.

"We do our best to take care of our people," said Turner. "When you look at how hard some of these missions are, sometimes they put in sixteen, twenty hours a day working a forest fire, so it's the least we can do."

For more information on taking part in state active duty missions, contact your orderly room or unit headquarters.

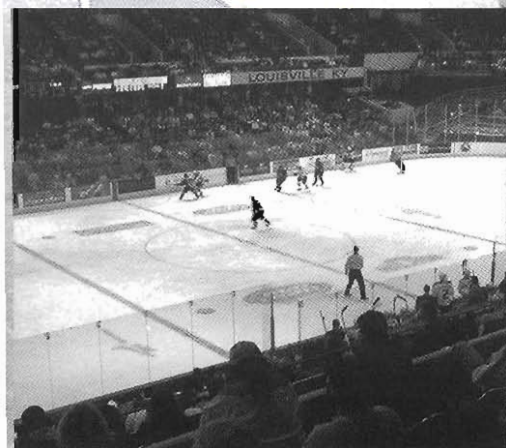


Kentucky Air Guard *Night with the Panthers*

More than 300 KyANG members and their families gathered last January at Freedom Hall to watch the Louisville Panthers play the Kentucky Thoroughblades during Air National Guard night.

Tech. Sgt. J.P. Roth, an intelligence specialist in the 123rd Operations Support Flight, takes a ride on the Zamboni during halftime.

photos by
Senior Master Sgt. Terry Lutz



123rd Airlift Wing deemed mission-ready at IGX

received "green dot" from exercise inspectors

*By Staff Sgt. David I. Tors
Cargo Courier Staff Writer*

Enduring the discomfort of MOPP level 4 conditions for hours at a time, 69 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing met the challenge of an Inspector General's exercise held Nov. 4 to 9 in Gulfport, Miss.

The wing's Readiness, Civil Engineering, Personnel, Comptroller, Firefighting and Combat Camera sections each earned "green dots" for their performances, signifying the highest possible rating for wartime proficiency.

The grading criteria represent a change for longtime wing members, who are accustomed to receiving ratings like "outstanding" or "excellent."

"With the new method for ratings, you get a green dot for capable, a light green dot for capable with a few discrepancies or a red dot for not being able to do the job," explained Col. Bill Leslie, wing commander.

Leslie said the exercise, which combined KyANG forces with more than 400 airmen from other units, provided an extremely realistic setting for evaluation.

In addition to simulated bombings and chemical attacks, members faced genuine severe weather, including downpours and multiple tornado warnings.

"I was very pleased with the results," Leslie said.

Senior Master Sgt. Glenn Farquhar, readiness flight chief for the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron, was equally happy with the inspectors' findings.



"Our inspector told us we were the best readiness flight he's seen," Farquhar said. "And that's compared to some readiness flights that have eight people compared to our office of only four."

"I think we were well prepared. They threw stuff at us, and we knew how to react."



Staff Sgt. David Johnston, Master Sgt. Troy Glenn and Tech. Sgt. Ron Shear (above), all firefighters from the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron, listen closely as an inspector explains their tasking.

Staff Sgt. Tom Downs (right), a video production specialist in the 123rd Communications Flight, edits video footage while in MOPP level 4.

ALL I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN BASIC TRAINING

Have you ever had a pay problem? Have you ever had a problem with tuition assistance? Is your paperwork getting lost? Is the supply sergeant ignoring your requests? Are you so fed up that you're ready to go to the Inspector General? Then STOP!

These are problems that we may all face at one point in our military career. Before you go straight to the top with your complaint, have you thought about using your *Chain of Command*? In Basic Training drill

by Spc. Karen J. Roché, STARC PAO sergeants stressed the importance of learning the chain of command. They taught it to you for a reason. It works! So make it work for *you!* The chain of command, among other things, is one of the basic concepts that guides individuals through their military careers.

Before you rush into anything like filing a complaint with the Inspector General's office, talk to your squad leader. If he or she can't help, then try your platoon sergeant. Go *up* from there. The IG should be a *last resort* when you've exhausted all other avenues.

The Inspector General's mission statement says an IG should act as an extension of the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the commander.

"By that we mean to work through the chain of command to provide assistance to the requesting soldiers, family members or civilians." says Col. Edmond Melville, the Inspector General of Kentucky.

If you aren't sure of your chain of command then learn it. If you have internet access then visit <http://www.military-net.com/education/mpdchain.html> for a quick quiz and study guide on the chain of command.

Book recounts vivid tale of Task Force Ranger

Black Hawk Down, a Story of Modern War, by Mark Bowden. Atlantic Monthly press, 1999, \$24.

Review by Maj. Vaughn Laganosky, KYARNG

It seems that within hours of any major military event there are a hundred books available in the stores espousing to be the pinnacle of expertise on that event. In fact, most of these books are worthless, inaccurate, and often dishonor the military operation and the personnel involved.

In 1999, however, almost six years after the battle, *Black Hawk Down* was published and proved to be an accurate and exhilarating telling of the Task Force Ranger mission in Somalia on Oct. 3, 1993. If you are looking for an accurate account of this historical event, this is the book. If you are looking for a fascinating story of special operations forces units and missions, this is the book. If you are looking for lessons in small unit tactics, leadership or personal courage, this is the book.

Mark Bowden conducted extensive research to ensure he had not only the facts and figures of the event but also the soldiers' feelings, thoughts, emotions, concerns and opinions. His research for the book included detailed interviews with participants, both Somali and US. He was provided access to military documents and radio transmission transcripts. He also visited the site of the battle to get the feel of the physical location and

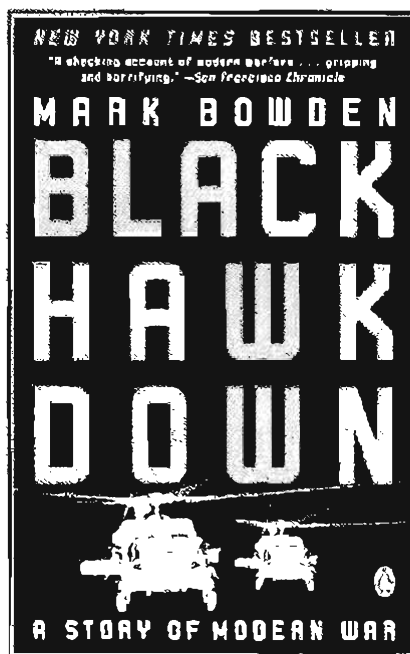
intensity of the fighting.

This extensive preparation provided him the background information required to produce a book that was both accurate in its account and exciting to read. It is the story of the men of Task Force Ranger. These are the men of the 75th Ranger Regiment, the 160th SOAR, and other special operations and conventional units. Bowden has created a work that honors these men and their commitment to mission success and to each other. His commitment to excellence has resulted in a book that is factual, entertaining and thought provoking.

I highly recommend that every American read *Black Hawk Down*. I keep a copy on my desk where it is readily available to anyone that would like to borrow it. It is also there to remind me that every day I report to my climate controlled office with computers, hot coffee and friendly conversation, American service members are on missions around the world, missions that keep them away from home their lives

at risk.

The book honors men like Capt. Mike Steele, Lt. Jim Lechner, Sgt. Chris Atwater and the hundreds of other brave men I served with in the 3rd Ranger Battalion. These are the men that through physical trial and personal sacrifice have set the standard for the rest of us to follow.



Kentucky Guard soldier sets marksmanship standard



Kentucky Army Guard Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hager Hollon is a distinguished member of the military shooting community. For the last 19 years, he has been either a coach, Officer-in-Charge, or Assistant OIC for the All-Guard Rifle team. His advocacy of marksmanship has earned him, and Kentucky, an international reputation for excellence.

Hollon was recently recognized for his service with a new marksmanship match and trophy named in his honor.

The Hager Hollon Trophy is meant to recognize individual overall excellence in military marksmanship for Match 321, the Rifle Excellence-in-Competition at the annual Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms Meeting held each October at Camp Robinson.

Hollon is scheduled to retire later this year after thirty-two years as a shooter, coach and meet director. A member of the Kentucky Guard since 1974, Hollon took the honor in stride.

"I had no idea they'd name a match after me," he remarked. "They pulled a fast one on me."

Kentucky Adjutant General John R. Groves, Jr. and State Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Satchwell were on hand to help CW4 Hollon display his new namesake

Now it's time to get



IN GEAR!

with Staff Sgt. David Altom
STARCO PAO

Proper hydration is an essential factor not only in battlefield survival, but in mission performance and overall health. Water is the coolant, the lubricant and the catalyst that keeps your body operating as it should. Without enough water you don't function to standard. Without any you'll stop altogether.

The traditional military way of keeping water handy is the tried and true canteen, probably the one indispensable item in a soldier's inventory besides his weapon. Today's plastic canteen is practically indestructible as long as you take reasonable care of it. Its subdued appearance and construction make it Ranger-stealthy, and it's easy to clean with hot soapy water.

But, like everything else, there are newer and, yes, even better ways for today's soldier to carry water. A throwback to the days of the old waterskin is the Camelbak and similarly styled "hydration systems." Available at the PX and military clothing sales, their subdued colors and backpack design allows a soldier to keep a large amount of water in a low-profile package.

Accessibility is the key to the modern hydration systems; with a feeding tube at the soldier's shoulder there's no need to put off getting to a canteen. If you're thirsty, grab the tube and take a drink. It's that simple. Some models are designed to fit under survival vests and body armor, allowing access to water under the most awkward conditions.

No, you can't wear it on the parade field, nor should you wander around in garrison with one on your back, but in the field when the heat index is high and the mission must go on, you'll never be thirsty with a properly designed hydration system.

The Last Word

It's been said that the American Civil War was the first industrial war. The United States government's preparation of its forces was seen by many as a potential gold mine, and manufacturers bent on making a profit often cut corners on materials and workmanship, sometimes to the most alarming degree.

One of the raw materials used to produce uniforms for the Union Army was *shoddy*. Defined as "a villainous compound, the refuse, stuff and sweepings of the shop, pounded, rolled, glued, and smoothed to the external form and gloss of cloth, but no more like the genuine article than the shadow is to the substance ..." *shoddy* was reputed to hold together so well that "your shoes wouldn't fall apart until after the second rain." It was so common, in fact, to see soldiers' clothes, overcoats and blankets scattering in the wind and dissolving away to nothing that the northern press wrote scathing articles about this lack of quality control.

So, the next time you complain about "shoddy" gear, think about the soldiers of the Civil War and what they had to deal with.

Guardsmen to the rescue!

Aviators save family in runaway airplane

by Staff Sgt. David W. Altom, STARC PAO

When Mark Clements went to work that fateful day last December, he never suspected that one of his tasks would literally be a lifesaving one.

Clements, a recently retired Kentucky Army Guard aviator with combat experience in Vietnam, is employed by the state as a pilot, flying both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft for everything from passenger transport to environmental survey missions. On this particular day he flying division of Fish and Wildlife personnel in search of elk in eastern Kentucky.

That's when he got an emergency call from fellow pilot Don Livingston. A current member of the Kentucky Guard's Detachment 11, Operational Airlift Support Command, flying the Army's C-12, Livingston is also a state pilot. His mission that day was surveying surface mines in a state helicopter.

"I intercepted a call out of Indianapolis saying there was an aircraft in distress," Livingston said. "It didn't sound good."

It turned out that Thomas Bailey was flying his wife and two children from West Virginia to Murray in their newly purchased private plane, and that carbon monoxide fumes had overcome the pilot. His wife, Marcie, was trying to raise help from ground control when Livingston intercepted the call.

"They gave me the location," said Livingston, "but I was too far away to do any good. I knew Mark was in the area, so I called him to see if he could help out."

Clements was indeed in better position, and his mission then turned from wildlife to lifesaving.

"They were still pretty far away from our location," he explained. "Their airplane was quite a bit faster than ours, so we had some catching up to do."

When Clements did rendezvous with the distressed aircraft, he found out just how bad things were.

"I could see inside the airplane. Everyone, even the kids in the back, were vomiting. I figured it was probably carbon monoxide poisoning and radioed instructions to the pilot's wife on what to do."

In addition to having Marcie Bailey open fresh air vents, Clements instructed on her gaining control of the aircraft. Marcie Bailey turned out to have some flying experience, but still had difficulty. Attempts to land at Hazard and Pikeville airports failed.

"She was also incapacitated by the carbon monoxide," he said. "Plus, her husband was passed out and her two kids were sick in the back. She was having a tough time of it."

While Clements had his hands full coaching the novice pilot, he credits Livingston with working communications and raising assistance on the ground.

"Don would alert an airport that we were coming in, and then we'd end up passing on by. It was frustrating but necessary. I couldn't have done it without him. This was definitely a team effort."



or current resident

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The runaway airplane finally came to Big Sandy Airport outside of Prestonsburg. Clements directed Marcie Bailey to circle the airport and how to lower the landing gear. Thomas Bailey regained consciousness about that time and was able to land the plane. Thanks to Livingston's

efforts paramedics were there to take the entire family to Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg where they were treated and later released.

Gary Cox, manager of the Big Sandy airport, credits Clements with rescuing the Baileys.

"He saved four lives there, no question about it."

Clements and Livingston also received praise from officials at Indianapolis control as well as

from Kentucky Governor Paul E. Patton. Clements takes it all in stride, though, and his perspective on what happened is pragmatic, to say the least.

"I'm not a hero," he said. "I didn't put my life at risk. I just helped out. Firemen and soldiers and single parents raising a family, those are heroes to me. I'm just out there doing my job."