

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

Volume Eleven, Issue Two
June 2007



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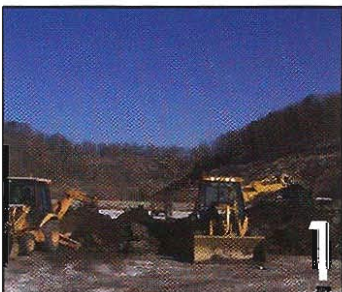
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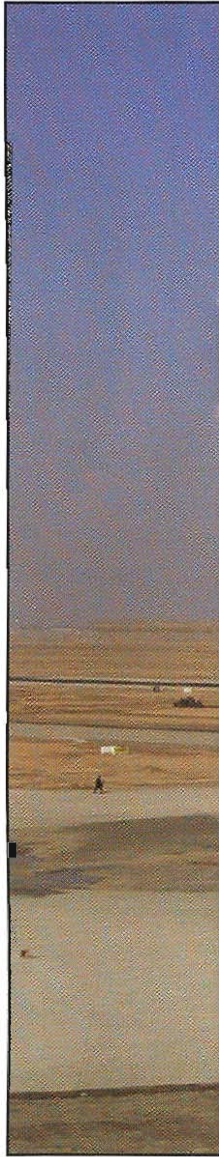
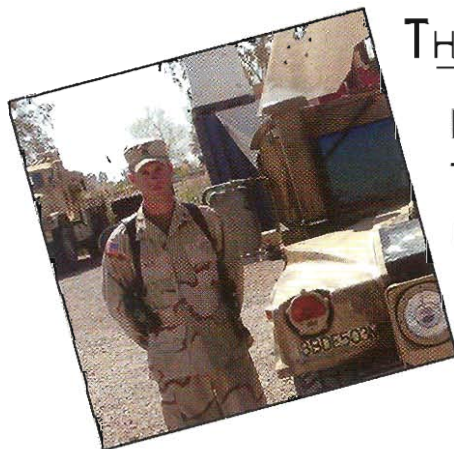




Photo illustration by Sgt. Gina Valle/KYARNG

Kentucky National Guard Soldiers, Maj. Richard B. Davis, and Sgt. 1st Class Richard Ashbrook stand atop one of Saddam Hussein's aircraft bunkers on LSA Anaconda. Davis received the American Flag from U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell while he was in ROTC at the University of Kentucky. The Flag has flown over the US Capitol, the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan and Pole-e-Charki, Afghanistan. The Kentucky flag was given to Davis by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, department of Highways District One, Paducah, of which Davis is a 22-year employee. The Kentucky flag has flown in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Korea and Iraq.

"I have very much enjoyed flying these two banners in the face of the enemy," Davis said. "It lets them know that the Soldiers they are facing are not just any Soldiers, but Soldiers from Kentucky!"



THE COVER

Kentucky Soldier, Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, received the nation's second highest honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, in February. Read more on page 11.

Paying tribute to the finest in the state

As your State Command Sergeant Major, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Soldiers and Airmen who participated in the Outstanding Soldier & Airman of the Year (OSAY) competition that was held at different levels across this great commonwealth!

In addition to a full training schedule, the commands sent their top notched Soldiers, Airmen, NCOs and Senior NCOs to compete against their peers. The end result was a remarkable competition that showed the best across the rank and file of the Kentucky National Guard, Army and Air!



If you haven't been to one of the OSAY awards dinners, I highly encourage you to attend next year's event. It will most definitely be worth your time. The suspense at this year's ceremony lasted through dinner for the Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen, and you could feel the pride as all the spouses, family members and guests watched their loved one march up to take their position in the formation.

It was inspiring to see last year's winners pay tribute to the 2007 honorees by passing along the Kentucky's Enslited Exceptional Personnel (KEEP) trophies. All said and done, it was a magnificent event, and I was personally honored to be part of that process along with State Chief Master Sergeant Mark Grant.

While I have your attention, I want to take a second to encourage everyone, Army and Air, to consider using the terms "Soldier," "Airman," and "Family" or "Families" as proper nouns. This means capitalizing these words when using them in all military or military-related correspondence. By making this small change in your daily habit, you pay tribute to the fighting men and women of the Kentucky National Guard and the sacrifices your Family has made on your behalf.

Phillip D. Gearlds
State Command Sergeant Major



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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The Bluegrass Guard is distributed free to all members of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons by request.

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain Bluegrass Guard readers. Send submissions, photos and correspondence to gina.vaile@us.army.mil. Payment will not be made for contributions. Paid advertising will not be accepted.

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Catching up

My wife dropped the February 2007 issue into a care package she sent me. I truly enjoyed catching up on what my friends and fellow Guardsmen were doing back in Kentucky and all over the world. Keep up the good work.

Lt. Col. William A. Denny
Herat, Afghanistan

The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

To comment, keep remarks under 150 words, include your name, rank and address and send them to:

The Bluegrass Guard
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

We reserve the right to edit letters for tone, length, clarity and factual accuracy.

Corrections

Due to a reporter's error, the story on page 29 incorrectly spelled Michele Pace.

Please report any corrections to:
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or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

Change of Address

All change of address should be made at the unit level by the unit clerk.

Army retiree address changes should be made through Staff Sgt. Jason Pettitt at the Kentucky National Guard Personnel Services Branch. He can be reached at 502-607-1613 or jason.pettitt@ky.ngb.army.mil.

Air retiree address changes should be made through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at jturpin@fewpb.net.

Media frenzy



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Kentucky National Guard Soldiers from the 438th Military Police Company create a barricade to keep media out of the Winner's Circle as the 2007 Kentucky Derby winner, Street Sense, was presented the garland of roses and the winner's trophy.

NEED INFORMATION ON YOUR BENEFITS?

Maybe you're close to your retirement, or perhaps you're already there, but still have questions that need answered. Take a look at the typical questions that come in to the Retirement Points Automation Management department.

Where do I find my verified years of Service and credited Retirement Points?

Retirement points can be found in the bottom right two columns of the NGB-23, or retirement points statement.

How many credible points are required for a 'good year'?

A Soldier or Airman must accrue 50 points for a good year.

If something should happen to me, how much of my retirement would my spouse or annuitant receive if I elect RCSBP coverage?

The spouse or annuitant will receive 55 percent of what you would receive.

When am I eligible for medical coverage?

At the age of 60, when you obtain your Retiree Identification Card, you are eligible for medical coverage.

Where can I go for more information?

Contact Staff Sgt. Jason Petitt at 502-607-1613.
To obtain your own records, contact the Kentucky War Records Department at 502-564-4881.

ESGR gains new Chief

Army News Service

MIAMI (May 7, 2007) - Maintaining good communications with civilian employers of National Guardsmen and Reservists is a major component of mission success at the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the agency's new chief said in an interview.

Gordon Sumner Jr., a retired Army lieutenant colonel, was appointed as the committee's new executive director March 29.

Created in 1972, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Defense Department agency that provides information and education for employers of members of the reserve components. In addition, the agency can mediate potential disputes between employers and their employees in the Guard or Reserves.

"Volunteers are absolutely the most important piece of this organization," Mr. Sumner said. "Our job is to get that information out through an outreach program that is robust, timely and strongly supported, as well as keeping lines of communication that go both ways."

The national committees more than 4,200 volunteers at 56 field committees across the United States and its territories serve as advocates for good relations between employers and their military employees, Sumner said.



Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore/AFPS
Gordon Sumner Jr. is the new executive director for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

SGLI UPDATES

A few issues ago, The Bluegrass Guard reported how important it is for Soldiers to update and maintain their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance.

Did you know, when you elect SGLI coverage at any amount, your children are covered by an automatic \$10,000 policy?

Also, unless you decline the Family Serviceman's Group Life Insurance, your spouse is automatically enrolled for coverage of \$100,000. Rates for coverage vary by age of the spouse.

All Soldiers who have basic SGLI coverage are covered under the Traumatic Servicemen's Group Life Insurance. TSGLI covers a Soldier who becomes temporarily or permanently disabled due to traumatic injury. A premium of \$1 is automatically deducted from military pay.

For additional information regarding SGLI, FSGLI, TSGLI or Veterans Group Life Insurance, visit <http://www.insurance.va.gov/>.

NEXT ISSUE:

Kentucky ESGR Q&A

First female CSM for Kentucky

2007 Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen

"These Soldiers and Airmen are smart, well spoken, in fine physical shape and dedicated to their branch of service and the nation at large. These are task-oriented Soldiers and Airmen, who are always doing the hard right instead of the easy wrong. They are a credit to their unit, their Families, their communities, the Kentucky National Guard, the great commonwealth of Kentucky, the Army and Air Force throughout the world." - State Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip D. Gearlds



Spc. Joshua M. Meadors
Charlie Battery, 1/623
Field Artillery



Sgt. Jason W. Jackson
2123rd Transportation Company



1st Sgt. Joey Simpson
Headquarters Battery 1/623
Field Artillery MLRS



Senior Airman Garret K. Gerard
123rd Maintenance Squadron



Staff Sgt. John C. Preston
123rd Maintenance Squadron



Chief Master Sgt. Ray E. Dawson
123rd Aerial Port Squadron

Guard prepared to respond to earthquakes

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

On Feb. 27, Western Kentucky was rocked in the early hours of the morning by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake, damaging buildings and bridges, and bringing chaos to the region. But on this day, not one person was shaken from their slumber.

The Kentucky National Guard, in conjunction with state and local emergency responders, conducted an earthquake preparedness exercise Feb. 26 through March 3, to test their abilities to react in the event that the New Madrid fault line gave way.

"This exercise was designed to test the Guard's ability to respond to a catastrophic event," said Brigadier Gen. John W. Heltzel, the joint forces land component commander for the Kentucky National Guard. "For this exercise, we used the New Madrid earthquake scenario."

Heltzel said the exercise allowed the Kentucky

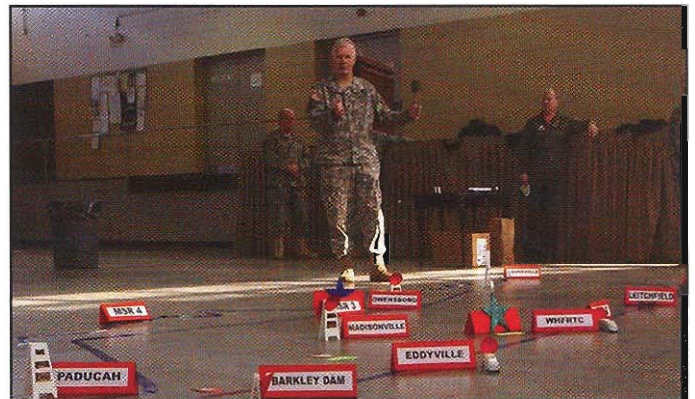


Photo by Capt. David Page/KYARNG

Lieutenant Col. Wayne L. Burd, director of military support, briefs units involved in the Seismic Exercise about scenarios and events that took place during the February exercise.

National Guard to gauge its statewide communications and information capabilities, while also strengthening relationships between the various participating state

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Organizational Excellence presented to KYANG

By Maj. Kirk Hilbrecht
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Brigadier Gen. Howard P. Hunt, assistant adjutant general, accepted the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award on behalf of the Kentucky Air National Guard Headquarters on April 15. Major Gen. Donald C. Storm presented the award.

The award recognizes the achievements and accomplishments of U.S. Air Force organizations or activities. The Kentucky Headquarters received this award for its exceptionally meritorious service from Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2005.

"When you listen closely to the reading of this citation, you will hear a lot of reference to Katrina, a lot of reference to overseas missions, and a lot of reference to Jumpstart," said Storm. "Let me tell you a thing about the Kentucky National Guard. When you think about the missions we've covered over the last five years—and since 9/11, you would agree; it's been simply amazing. We've been right on the cutting edge. We've been early and we've been often."

"I am so proud of our Kentucky Airmen. Kentucky has made our nation proud."



Photo by Capt. David Page/KYANG

Brigadier Gen. Howard P. Hunt accepts the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award from Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm. The Kentucky Air guard received the award for meritorious service between October 1, 2003 and September 2005.

Family Tradition



Photo by Tech Sgt. Phil Speck/KYANG

Brigadier Gen. Howard P. Hunt shakes the hand of his daughter, Bebe Hanna, after administering the oath of enlistment to her on March 31 in Louisville. A graduate of Boyle County High School, Bebe plans to attend Air Force speciality training in operational intelligence at Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas.



Providing Stabi

By Spc. L.B. Edgar

7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Guardsmen making difference at Al Rasul Primary School

MAKASIB, Iraq – A warm welcome met the Soldiers upon their arrival. Smiles have replaced once contemptuous stares. The typical silence gave way to a friendly dialogue. A customary hand to the heart followed every handshake. The Soldiers were greeted, not as outsiders of the community, but the heroes of the now joyous school.

The day was special for the students of the Al Rasul Primary Elementary School here, a town west of Baghdad, April 17. This was the first day students enjoyed the fully refurbished learning facility made possible by the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Kentucky Army National Guard, assigned to 130th Field Artillery Bde., 1st Cavalry Division.

However, the day was just as special for the Soldiers as for the students, said Lt. Col. John Luttrell, the battalion commander,

“You could see the smiles on their faces. For my Soldiers that really means a lot for them. They truly get to see the fruits of their labors,” said the native of Harlan, Ky.

Just as Rome was not built in a day, the fruits of the Soldiers labor were the culmination of seven months working in the Makasib community. Work that was as much patrols as it was relationship building, Luttrell said.

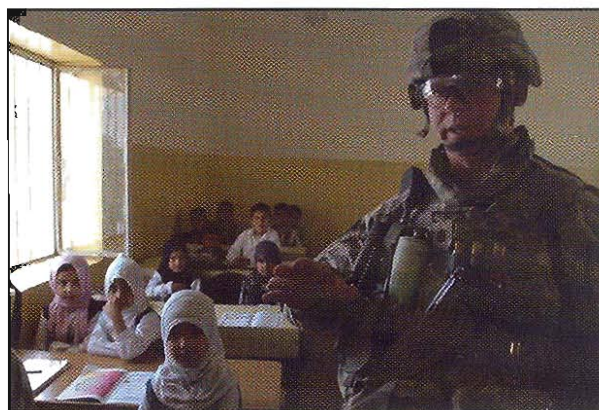
“Every day we go out, we try to make some kind of difference,” he said. “What makes me proudest is going out and talking to the communities and listening to the people say how much they appreciate you.”

The Soldiers of the battalion are Army National Guardsmen from Kentucky who bring a plethora of professional experience, which aids in civil military operations and humanitarian assistance missions, as well as simple social interaction with the populace, said Maj. Chris Cline, the battalion civil military affairs operations officer.

“One of the things that Kentucky boys are good at is talking. That one-on-one relationship with the local Iraqis (is) critical because you gain trust (with one another)” said the native of Hodgenville, Ky. “Our Soldiers are really good about interacting with the students. Our Soldiers are good role models. They saw a genuine concern and care for the students.”

The school project included the addition of classrooms, the remodeling of existing structures, a complete coat of fresh paint and the erection of living quarters for the grounds keeper, Luttrell said.

In addition, the school's 600 students were happy to receive school supplies, including pencils, note pads and erasers, from the Soldiers to mark the project's completion and assist their studies, he said.





Exercise successful

continued from page 7

and local agencies.

The exercise concentrated mainly on 13 counties in Western Kentucky and simulated damage, such as downed power and communications lines, that would have been caused by a large earthquake.

Based on different damage-related scenarios, Kentucky National Guard personnel set up command and control centers at strategic locations, as well as used fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and ground vehicles to patrol main supply routes to ensure they were clear for evacuation and flow of needed supplies into the area.

To help combat the communication problems learned from events like 9-11 and Katrina, the Kentucky National Guard used a new satellite uplink system, the Joint Information Support Communication System, during this exercise.

"This system is highly mobile and can be set up in 30 minutes to provide voice and data communications," said 2nd Lt. Kyle J. Key, a signal officer with the 198th Military Police Battalion.

With this type of system at the response team's fingertips, Heltzel said Guard troops can be on the ground within 12 hours of a disaster to help state and local emergency officials communicate during the critical hours of an incident.

At the conclusion of the exercise, participants met in Frankfort for an after-action review to discuss things that went well during the training and to talk about things to improve.

"Overall, the exercise went very well," said Maj. Todd C. Neal, the operations officer for the Joint Operations Center. He said the Guard is "confident that the first responders will be able to communicate effectively so the governor gets an accurate picture of what the conditions on the ground are."

Plans are in the works to conduct the same type of exercise again next year.

"The Guard constantly prepares to assist law enforcement and emergency management authorities, with the purpose of enhancing its ability to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the commonwealth," said Col. Philip Miller, the state public affair officer. "If the Guard is needed, we are there."

▲ Students of the Al Rasul Primary Elementary School in the Makasib village, west of Baghdad, look over their newly acquired school supplies delivered by Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade. The Kentucky Soldiers delivered the supplies and toured the remodeled facility April 17. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment).

◀ Harlan, Ky. native, Lt. Col. John Luttrell, battalion commander of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry "Mountain Warriors", meets with a class of Iraqi students in the Al Rasul Primary Elementary School.

- photos by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Distinguished Service

Nein honored with Army's second highest award

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

Hundreds of Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen witnessed history Feb. 17, during the joint conference of the National Guard Association and Enlisted Association of Kentucky, held in Lexington.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Lt. Gen. H. Stephen Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Nein originally received the Silver Star Medal for his actions in Iraq on March 20, 2005, during the Battle of Salman Pak. After final review, the award was upgraded.

"We were under heavy fire the entire time — there were bullets pinging all over the place. How we didn't get shot, I don't know."

Those were words Nein used to describe the events of March 20, 2005 to the military publication Stars and Stripes. Following the pinning ceremony, once again standing in front of cameras and reporters, he said, "I was just doing my job and everything I did that day was expected of me as a Soldier and a squad leader."

Assigned to the Kentucky Guard's 617th Military Police Company, Nein and his squad, "Raven 42," successfully disrupted an ambush on a coalition convoy by an estimated force of 50 enemy insurgents.

"Even the guys from my squad will tell you, there is not a day that goes by that it doesn't affect us in one way or another, good or bad," said Nein. "I've probably run a hundred different scenarios in my head of how we could have run it better, but I never can come up with anything."

Nein, who remains modest about his actions that day and the hype surrounding the Distinguished Service Cross, said he is honored to have even been considered for the award.

"Lieutenant Gen. Blum pinned the DSC on me and looked me in the eyes and said 'ladies and gentlemen, you're looking at a true American hero,'" Nein said. "That's when it hit me that I was receiving this honor."



"I've read the stories of so many others (Distinguish Service Cross recipients) during my life, from World War II and Vietnam and of all the things they've done. To be put in the same light as them is quite an honor. It's actually pretty humbling to know that people feel the way they do about me for doing things that I feel were just part of our job," Nein said after the ceremony.

He is only the fifth U.S. Army Soldier, and the first Guardsman, to receive the Distinguished Service Cross in the Global War on Terror. Nein is also the first Kentucky National Guard Soldier to receive the medal since World War II.

"While the name of Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein is already in the history books, his actions as a leader and as a Soldier typify the warrior spirit of all of our troops," said Gov. Fletcher. "I'm honored to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the Kentucky

National Guard because I know I have Soldiers and Airmen like Staff Sgt. Nein to answer the call of duty."

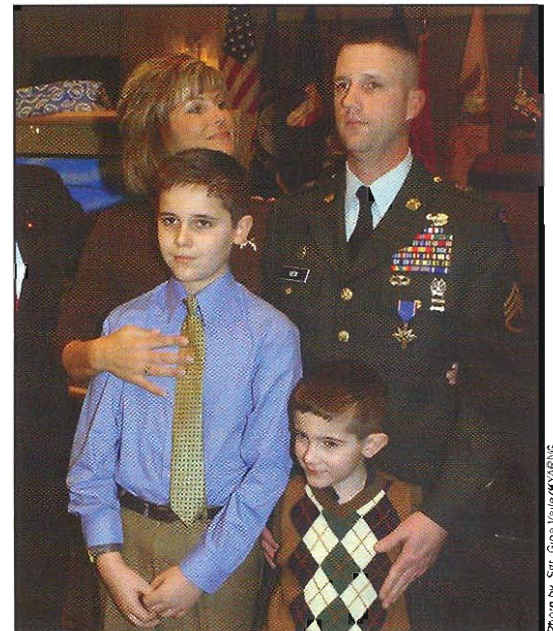
Nein says it's easy to answer the call of duty because of the forefathers who paved the way for today's Soldiers. "They put everything on the line to change the world.

"That's why it's important for young Soldiers to always strive to do the best they can at everything they do, and to listen to the men and women with the experience," Nein said. "It is the experience of or prior Soldiers that will help you survive on the modern battle field."

He credits his family for being supportive during the deployment so his mind could stay focused on his missions. He said his wife, Renae, took care of things on the home front which allowed him to concentrate better while serving in Iraq. If you ask his two children, Ian, and Samuel, they think it's cool to have a hero for a dad.



Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher looks on as Lt. Gen. H. Stephen Blum pins the Distinguished Service Cross on Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein Feb. 17 in Lexington, Ky.



Renae Nein looks up at her husband, Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, following the ceremony. Also pictured are their two children, Samuel (left), and Ian. Nein said the support of his family was instrumental during his deployment in '05.

A Tribute to Heroe



By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

More than 100 people were on hand Feb. 3, as the U.S. Army Women's Museum, Fort Lee, Va., opened an exhibit recognizing the contributions of female Soldiers during the Global War on Terrorism.

The exhibit features Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, of the Kentucky National Guard, the first woman awarded the Silver Star since World War II. Hester received the medal while serving in Iraq, following a March 20, 2005, ambush near the town of Salman Pak.



"I've always been reluctant to be in the spotlight," Hester said during the unveiling. "I'm honored to be part of this event, and what the museum has done here is amazing."

Hester, along with seven other team members of the Kentucky National Guard's 617th Military Police squad, Raven 42, were recognized during the unveiling ceremony.

"This event has put certain individuals – Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester and Specialist Ashley Pullen – in the public spotlight," said Kentucky's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm. (Pullen could not attend the event, but was recognized during the ceremony.)

"Their actions during the Battle of Salman Pak reignited a whirlwind of discussion across this great nation regarding the role of women in combat," he said. "Their actions are just what I expected from a pair of well-trained Kentucky National Guard Soldiers."

The exhibit features a diorama of an Army humvee with Hester and Staff Sgt. Timothy L. Nein – the Raven 42 squad leader who received the Distinguished Service Cross – standing at the front giving direction to Soldiers during the ambush. Also featured are photos of each Soldier involved in the Battle of Salman Pak and replicas of the awards they received.

The Soldiers of fourth platoon, second squad, thwarted an insurgent attack on a coalition convoy March 20, 2005 in Iraq. After a coalition convoy came under heavy fire, Hester "maneuvered her team through the kill zone into a flanking position where she assaulted a trench line with grenades and M203 rounds," according to the Silver Star award citation.

For their actions, every member of the squad was honored for heroism in combat. Three Bronze Stars with the Valor device, three Army Commendation Medals with Valor device and four Purple Hearts were awarded.

"I don't want to overshadow everyone's actions of that day," Hester said after the unveiling of the exhibit. "If it wasn't for these guys, I wouldn't be here today and this wouldn't be happening," she said of her fellow Raven 42 squad members.

During the brief ceremony, Sgt. Jason Mike, who also received the Silver Star, said he was proud that the Army has a women's museum and was honoring Hester and Pullen.

"This shows that America truly is a melting pot," he said, noting that in addition to two women, the squad also was comprised of two Hispanic Soldiers, an African-American and Soldiers of all religious backgrounds.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

"I hope what the public takes away from this is we are Soldiers who take our job and our training seriously."

Hester also asked people not to forget that Soldiers are fighting every day in Iraq and Afghanistan for the freedoms that many Americans take for granted, and offered advice to young women who are thinking of enlisting into the United States military.

"If you have a goal or a dream, you can do it," she said, noting that there are a few limitations for female Soldiers. "If your heart is set on it, don't let anything stand in your way."

The U.S. Army Women's Museum tells the story of women's contributions to the Army from colonial period to present day. It serves as the central repository for historical material pertaining to women in the Army, including thousands of artifacts, photos and oral histories. It is the only museum in the world dedicated to Army women.

For more information, visit <http://www.awm.lee.army.mil>.

Members of Raven 42 take a reunion photograph at the U.S. Army Women's Museum, marking the first time most of the Soldiers have seen each other in two years.

The Soldiers were on hand for the opening of the Global War on Terrorism exhibit, which features a diorama honoring the Kentucky National Guardsmen.

From left: Sgt. Joe Rivera, Spc. Casey Cooper, Staff Sgt. Tim Nein, Sgt. Jason Mike, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, Sgt. Jesse Ordunez, Sgt. Dustin Morris, Spc. Bryan Mack, Spc. William Haynes and Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Valle/KYARNG

With her own likeness in the background, Sgt. Hester speaks about the events of March 20, 2005 and her experiences as a woman in combat after a ceremony and unveiling of the Raven 42 exhibit at the U.S. Army Women's Museum.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Valle/KYARNG

Fit for royalty



Photo by Tech Sgt. Dennis Flora/KYANG

Queen Elizabeth II arrives at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, prior to attending the 133rd Kentucky Derby.

Military Academy turns 50

Historians look for photos, information to commemorate the anniversary

Staff Report

June 18, 2008 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Kentucky Army National Guard's Military Academy. For the past fifty years, KMA has been the primary schoolhouse for the Kentucky Army National Guard's officer and non-commissioned officer leadership.

A commemorative committee, chaired by Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Culver (OCS Class XXI-79) has been formed to plan a commemoration ceremony to mark this historic milestone in Kentucky National Guard's history.

The assistance of all past and current members of the Kentucky Army National Guard who attended any of the courses conducted at the academy is needed to help tell the story through photographs, personal antidotes, memorabilia, etc. If you have items to contribute, please contact John Trowbridge at 502-607-6301, or john.m.trowbridge@us.army.mil.

VALUE OF THE MONTH

Each month The Bluegrass Guard will explore a different Army Value and how to use that value in your daily life.



"Men are respectable only as they respect."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

For the Army to work properly, there must be a bond between the leader and those being lead. A bond that rests not on authority alone, but on professionalism, good will and above all, mutual respect. The chain of command must respect Soldiers and the Soldiers must have respect for the chain of command.

UK's Horn nationally recognized

Staff Report

The University of Kentucky Army ROTC is proud to announce the selection of Cadet Terry Horn as the 2007 George C. Marshall Award winner.

In order to receive the award the recipient must be the top MS-IV [Senior] ROTC cadet from the cadet battalion, must have completed the National Advanced Leadership Camp and have demonstrated those leadership and scholastic qualities that epitomize the career of Gen. George C. Marshall.

The annual award is presented during a three-day seminar in Lexington, Va. Award winners are given the opportunity to explore a broad range of national security issues during the seminar.

Horn is a Simultaneous Membership Participant in the Kentucky National Guard's Alpha Company, 201st Engineer Battalion in Ashland, Ky. Horn currently serves as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the Wildcat Battalion while maintaining an overall GPA of 3.65 in Chemical Engineering at the University of Kentucky.



Photo courtesy of UK ROTC

Kentucky National Guard Cadet Terry Horn is a 2007 recipient of the General George C. Marshall award.

Eastern SPRINGS into training

By Cadet Scott Shafer

EKU ROTC

The fields and woods of the Eastern Kentucky Training Site in Artemus, Ky., were filled with ROTC cadets from Eastern Kentucky University; University of the Cumberlands and Union College April 20-22.

Nearly 75 cadets participated in the training in preparation for Warrior Forge 2007. All Military Science level III students will attend the Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Wash., this summer.

Senior- and junior-level cadets made up one platoon and concentrated on running patrol and squad tactical lanes. Basic course freshmen and sophomore cadets conducted confidence builders such as rappelling, field leadership reaction course and the hand grenade assault course.

Over the three day period, all cadets participated in day and night land navigation courses, first aid, obstacle course, and basic rifle marksmanship. At the end of training on Sunday, cadets participated in force-on-force paintball which also involved some aspects of tactics



Photo courtesy of EKU ROTC

An Eastern Kentucky University Cadet pulls security during a spring training exercise.

and planning on the part of Basic course cadets. Airmen from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 63rd Aviation provided UH-60 Blackhawk familiarization rides to all contracted cadets. Every cadet who went up in the Blackhawk came away with a huge grin afterwards and a better appreciation of the capabilities of the military.

School days



Soldiers from the 207th Horizontal Company train on heavy equipment operations in the outdoor classroom.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Scotty Williams/KYARNG

Engineers team with Kentucky Community & Technical Colleges to train Soldiers

By Capt. James Richmond

Training Officer, 201st EN Battalion

Engineers with the Kentucky Army National Guard have implemented a joint venture with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System that allows Soldiers to attend college-accredited classes in carpentry, electrical wiring, plumbing and heavy equipment operation during drill weekends.

The Kentucky National Guard is transitioning two Mechanized Combat Engineer Battalions, the 201st and 206th, into a multi-role engineer force. Among units in the new battalion are two construction units, the 149th Vertical Company located in Cynthiana and Olive Hill, and the 207th Horizontal Company in Hazard and Jackson.

"We realized the need to train the Soldier in their new Military Occupational Specialty at a beginner's level while waiting on the equipment to be fielded to support it," said Lt. Col. Mike Ferguson, the 201st Engineer Battalion commander. "We thought of various ways to do this, like building small sheds and roads at local training areas, but we kept running into the problem of equipment."

In a collaborative effort, Lt. Col. Robert Hamm, the 206th Engineer Battalion commander and an instructor with the KCTCS, came up with a unique way to solve the problem: train the Soldiers at the local technical schools, use the schools' equipment and certified instructors, and then give college credit to the Soldiers for doing it.

Paying for the training is made possible by the Kentucky Tuition Incentive Program. Under this program, Soldiers receive tuition assistance for attending any state-

funded school, as long as they are in good standing in their unit. The battalions presented the program to Lt. Col. Sharon Tyson, the State Education Officer, and gained her support.

Sergeant Maj. Paul Royster, the brigade operations noncommissioned officer, arranged a conference with the KCTCS leadership and developed a training calendar that required five drill weekends.

"Together, we developed a training plan that allowed the instructors the time needed to teach the skills that would meet the requirements of the college credit," said Royster. "The fact that a Soldier had the whole day of drill to dedicate to instruction allowed the school administrators to develop a lesson plan that worked."

The school system was able to offer Beginning Carpentry Lab to the 21W (carpenter/mason) Soldiers, Installation of Plumbing and Fixtures to the 21K (plumber) Soldiers, Basic AC Circuits Lab to the 21R (electrician), and Heavy Equipment Operation to the 21E (heavy equipment operator).

The 201st Engineer Battalion began training with KCTCS in early 2007 and will complete the final coursework in August or September.

"This is a win-win situation for Kentucky," said Master Sgt. Mike Moore, battalion operations NCO. "The Soldiers get quality instruction in their new MOS and college credit, KCTCS enrollment is up which helps their program, and all this without any additional equipment other than what we had on hand already."



Photo Submitted

Alex Epley, son of Sgt. Maj. Frank and Master Sgt. Lisa Epley, proudly displays the bird he killed while participating in the 2007 Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Facility Youth Turkey hunt in April. Also pictured is Brig. Gen. Joeseeph L. Culver (back left) and his nephew, Tyler Culver (son of Maj. Tim and Cindy Culver) and Conservation Officer Tracey Bell, the guide for the hunt. Both of the hunters fathers were serving in Iraq at the time of the hunt.

NEW PHONE NUMBER

The phone number for Sgt. Gina Vaile, editor of the Bluegrass Guard, has changed. The new number is 502-607-5091.

Please call for news tips or send your stories and photos to gina.vaile@us.army.mil for possible publication.

IMPORTANT SGLI INFO ON PAGE 6

Do you know about all the benents you are entitled to with SGLI? Read the story on page 6.

If you have questions about SGLI benefits, contact Chief Nancy Christiano at 502-607-1460 or nancy.christiano@us.army.mil

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