

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

Volume Twelve, Issue Six
July 2008



Guard saves taxpayers
millions on new road

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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.

Guardmembers 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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FROM THE FIELD

Public Affairs needs you!

The Public Affairs team is looking for one Soldier from each unit to join our ranks in the Unit Public Affairs Representative program.

If you are interested please contact Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson or 1st Lt. Andi Hahn at 502-607-5091.

Thanks,
Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson, Editor

Change of Address

All changes 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.

Corrections

In the previous Bluegrass Guard:

Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler took the photos on pages 9-10

A photo published on page 13 was submitted by Kelly Sandidge and Ruth Sorace

The photo caption on the last page incorrectly identified the location of the traveling Vietnam War Memorial in Danville, Ky.

Please report any corrections to:

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The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

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

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

Motorcycle safety courses now available

By Capt. Rob Cornwell
KYARNG State Safety Officer

With the consistent rising cost of fuel, lowering the monthly gas bill is on most Soldiers' mind. Motorcycles are one way many Soldiers invest their hard-earned money to reduce their fuel costs. However, there is more to motorcycling than just buying and riding. Soldiers must get the approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation training.

To aid in accomplishing the task of getting Soldiers' properly trained and ready to ride, myself and Sgt. Maj. John Stinson volunteered to become official motorcycle safety instructors or Rider Coaches. After attending a 65-hour long, 7-day Rider Coach Prep Course at Eastern Kentucky University, we were given the tools to instruct a basic or experienced rider's course to Soldiers wanting to participate in the motorcycle experience.

The Basic Rider Course is designed for

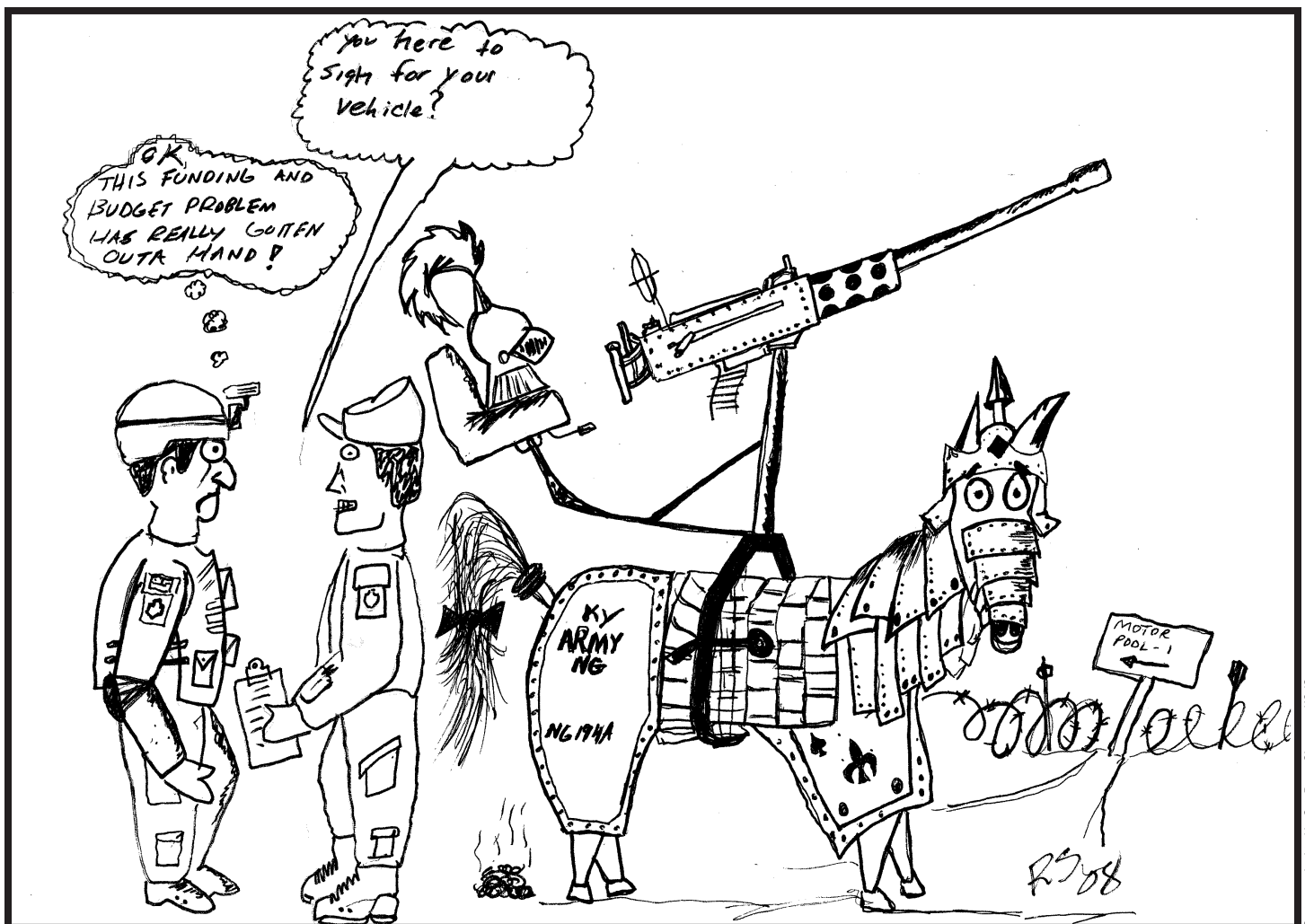
beginning riders. Approximately five hours of classroom instruction and 10 hours of riding exercises in a controlled environment provide a complete introduction to motorcycling. The course is conducted over two or three sessions. The only prerequisite is students must be able to ride a bicycle.

The Experienced Rider Course provides current motorcyclists lifelong opportunities for rider education and training. With approximately six hours of riding exercises, ERC consists of two separate one-day Rider Courses: Skills Plus Rider Course and the License Waiver Rider Course.

For more information on attending one of these courses or becoming a Rider Coach yourself, contact Capt. Rob Cornwell, 502-607-1281, robert.w.cornwell@us.army.mil or Sgt. Maj. John Stinson, 502-607-1457, john.stinson@us.army.mil.



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Cartoon submitted by Sgt. Roger Sizemore, KGJ3.

Paying for checked baggage at the airport ?

Due to rising fuel costs, at least three airlines have begun charging passengers extra for checked baggage, leaving some Soldiers wondering how much cash they should bring when flying for official duty. Read below for more information.



Aren't Soldiers exempt from these policies?

Per policy, military and government travelers are exempt from paying extra fees at the ticket counter. To prove exemption, show your government ID and a copy of your travel orders.

However, Soldiers should be prepared to pay out of pocket if bags are checked. Fees vary per airline, and you may be charged on the return flight as well. Call your airline to find out how much they are charging in fees prior to your flight.

Will I be reimbursed for checking my bags?

Yes. Receipts are required, so don't forget to ask for a receipt if you are charged a baggage fee. Soldiers may claim reimbursement on the DD Form 1351-2 travel voucher, or the DTS voucher.



Where can I find tips for packing light for our Family vacation?

Packing light is the way to go to avoid extra fees on checked baggage.

According to www.AAA.com, purchasing new, light-weight luggage is one option, but visit www.AAA.com/luggage for a detailed video presentation on packing lightly while maintaining TSA guidelines for air travel.

Guard improves road at W



WHFRTC, saving taxpayers millions

Story and photos by Spc. Michael Pfaff
133rd MPAD/KYARNG

GREENVILLE, Ky. – Engineers from the 130th Heavy Combat Engineer Detachment have worked around the clock on a road improvement project at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center for most of the summer.

Instead of contracting the road work out, the Kentucky National Guard activated Soldiers for annual training, and some additional duty, to complete the project. This is expected to save Kentucky taxpayers millions of dollars.

“By our best estimates, we believe we have saved the state of Kentucky more than two million dollars by using troop labor and troop assets,” said project supervisor, Staff Sgt. Marty Hammer, a heavy equipment operator from Bowling Green, Ky.

“The big advantage the National Guard

has over the regular Army is that we have people that do this for a living and you have those assets to draw from,” he said.

The 130th Heavy Combat Engineer Detachment has worked for the last six months on the project during drill weekends. The detachment devised and submitted the plan, received approval for it and developed a budget to complete the project.

The road was originally a narrow mix of gravel and old pavement. Hammer and his Soldiers will widen the road and add an additional roadway which will extend from the bridge crossing Highway 181. They will also build shoulders and ditch-lines to eliminate sharp slopes.

“Our goal is to make this a safer road,” Hammer said. “It’s going to be a safer troop environment, especially transporting troops from the cantonment area out to the training site.”

There were two incidents last year, and it was command’s intent to eliminate any possibilities of that ever occurring again, Hammer said.

The project will not only improve the transportation capabilities at WHFRTC, but will also improve the knowledge and experience of the Soldiers.

“This is a dual mission,” he said. “We have a project and also this is a training mission. In the course of the mission, we want to do as much cross-training as possible.”

The road improvement project is part of a series of construction efforts to enhance the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center’s training capabilities. In addition, three new barracks facilities have been built and are waiting to be approved, and a new



Wounded Warriors re-enlist



Photo submitted

Sgt. Matthew M. May shakes the hand of Lt. Col. Jerry Morrison after re-enlisting into the Kentucky National Guard May 31. May received the Purple Heart after sustaining injuries in an IED attack 10 days prior.



Photo submitted

Spc. Wayne A. Mayes raises his right hand as he recites the Oath of Enlistment before Lt. Col. Jerry Morrison May 31. Mayes received the Purple Heart after sustaining injuries in an IED attack 10 days prior.

May and Mayes injured in Afghanistan 10 days before swearing in

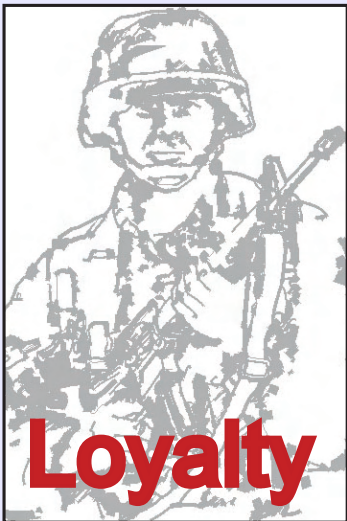
Two Bravo Co., 201st Engineer Battalion Soldiers re-enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard May 31 in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Matthew M. May and Spc. Wayne A. Mayes both raised their right hands during a swearing-in ceremony conducted by Deputy Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jerry Morrison.

Just 10 days prior, May and Mayes were wounded by a vehicle-born IED attack. Both Soldiers received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the incident.

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.



"The greater the loyalty of a group toward the group, the greater is the motivation among the members to achieve the goals of the group, and the greater the probability that the group will achieve its goals."

- Renis Likert

Loyalty means to bear true faith and allegiance to the US Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers. The loyalty of your people is a gift they give you when, and only when, you deserve it—when you train them well, treat them fairly, and live by the concepts you talk about. Remember, Soldiers fight for each other—loyalty is that commitment.

Kentucky assists with Indiana flooding

Staff Report

Nine Kentucky National Guard Soldiers deployed to assist the Indiana National Guard in support of Operation Noah's Ark, to provide flood relief to Southern Indiana after rising flood waters broke levees in early June.

The Kentucky Soldiers assisted the Indiana National Guard with public affairs operations and Joint Incident Site Communications Capabilities June 10-15.

In addition to those who deployed, 10 Army Aviators from Detachment Two, Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation, a MEDEVAC unit from Frankfort, were on stand-by to assist with search and rescue operations.

Kentucky National Guard Soldiers who deployed are:

Spc. Cassandra Groce, Staff Sgt. Marvin Cornell Jr. and 1st Lt. Andi Hahn from the 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Capt. Jacob Mayes, 1st Lt. Carla Getchell, Master Sgt. John Caudle, Staff Sgt. Jerry Hensley, Sgt. Dale Young and Spc. Kenneth Koch, from the JISCC team.

- Kentucky Soldiers deployed to operate the JISCC system, which puts local, state and federal responders in communication with one-another in times of disaster.
- ✔ Indiana National Guard requested volunteers from Kentucky after severe flooding during the month of June.



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn

Indiana declared a state of emergency in June after severe flooding took over towns in the Southwestern part of the state. Kentucky National Guard troops deployed to assist our northern neighbors.



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Photo by Indiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

Spc. Cassandra Groce, 1st Lt. Andi Hahn and Staff Sgt. Marvin Cornell Jr. accept certificates of appreciation from Indiana National Guard Public Affairs Officer Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson and Col. Marjorie Courtney, Indiana's Operations Officer.



END OF AN ERA

Last of Kentucky's M1 Abrams Tanks rolls out via rail line

Story and Photos by Spc. Michelle Waters
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

GREENVILLE, Ky. – The last of the Kentucky National Guard's M1 Abrams tanks rolled out of Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center June 16, ending the armor era for the Guard.

Though never used for deployment, these tanks served as training tools for Guard Soldiers in the armor field, and are recognized as an icon here in the Bluegrass.

"It's a hard pill for Kentucky to swallow to have to give up our tanks because Fort Knox is known as the Home of Armor," said Warrant Officer Dwight Harlan of the 307th Maintenance Co.

Under the Army Transformation, more than 40 M1 Abrams were moved to the Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, Calif. In addition to the Kentucky Guard tanks,

Fort Knox will also lose its Armor Center, which will move to Fort Benning by 2011.

"I've been a Tanker my whole career. I hate to see them go," said Sgt. Maj. Frank Epley of the 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor.

The first armor battalions, phased out in the late 1990s, left the 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor as the last standing armor unit in the Kentucky Guard.

More than 450 Soldiers were assigned to the 123rd Armor when Kentucky began reorganizing units nearly two years ago.

Now, Soldiers are cross-training and reorganizing under the 149th Brigade Support Battalion, which will be an official unit designation by Sept. 1, 2008.

The M1 Abrams, named after the late Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, has been the main battle tank for the armored forces since the late 1980s and is heavily used today in the Global War on Terror.



Staff Sgt. Courtney Johnson guides an M1 Abrams tank onto a rail car June 16. More than 40 Kentucky tanks were transferred to California.



- ▲ An M1 Abrams tank is moved from a holding facility at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center June 16 for shipment to California.
- ▲ Railroad employee Harold Nutt works to tie down an M1 Abrams tank to a rail car during the loadout of the Kentucky tanks June 16 at WHFRTC.

Historians recover stained glass

By John Trowbridge
State Command Historian

A piece of Kentucky National Guard history has returned to Frankfort after Fort Knox cleaned out the Patton Museum.

More than 40 years after the stained glass window, donated by the Kentucky National Guard, was installed at the F Avenue Chapel at Fort Knox, the history office brought the piece of artwork back to the Guard headquarters in Frankfort.

The window, cut in two sections, measures nine-feet tall and weighs 120 pounds.

It was originally donated by the Kentucky National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 123rd Armor, which was stationed at Fort Knox during the Berlin Crisis in 1962.

Col. VP Jaeger, post chaplain, had the idea to have units donate stained glass for the chapel. Third Tank "passed the hat" and armor personnel donated money for the window.

Joe Wilkins, director of the facilities division, was one Guardsman who contributed 25 cents to the efforts.

"I feel I got a pretty good return on that 25 cents I paid on that window," he said after making the trip to the Patton Museum at Knox to reclaim the window.

Personnel from the Patton Museum saved the windows from the F Avenue Chapel after the post began reconstruction in the 1970s. The stained glass was housed for more than 30 years, and recently had employees from the museum contact the Kentucky Guard History Office to reclaim the window.

The window was picked up last fall and plans are in the works to refurbish it and put it on display at Boone National Guard Center.

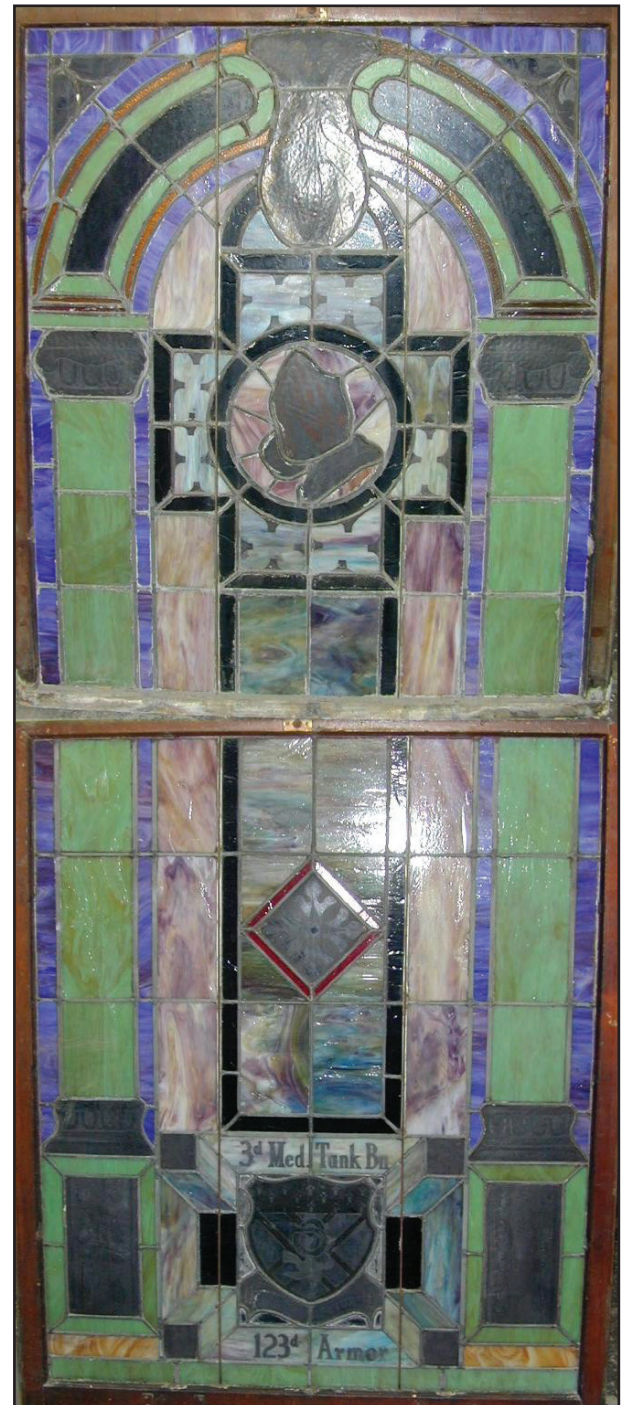


Photo by John Trowbridge/KYARNG

A recent photo shows the stained glass window historians recovered from a storage room at the Patton Museum. Kentucky National Guard Soldiers donated money to pay for the window which was placed in an old post chapel.



CHAPEL WINDOWS — Contributions on the part of members of the Third Medium Tank Battalion, 123d Armor, made possible this stained glass window for the "F" Avenue Chapel at Fort Knox. Shown are, from left to right, Chaplain (Capt.) Hugh P. Kelso, Battalion Chaplain, Lt. Col. Nelson Meredith, commander of the Battalion; and Armor Center Chaplain (Colonel) V. P. Jaeger. (U.S. Army Photo).

◀ This file photo published in the Kentucky Guardsman newsletter, vol. 2, Number 2 July 1962 shows dignitaries presenting the stained glass at the "F" Avenue Chapel at Fort Knox.



Members of the Kentucky Army National Guard biked more than 140 miles through the Bluegrass to raise money for the Kentucky and Southeast Indiana Chapter of the National MS Society. Team members are: Maj. Tamara Hurst, Staff Sgt. Joe Bartram, Col. Rondal Turner, Sgt. Mark Creech, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Link, Maj. Joe Hudson and 1st Lt. Christopher Hettinger. The team biked 45 miles per week for two weeks in preparation for the race.

Kentucky Soldiers bike through Bluegrass



The Kentucky National Guard Bike Team bikes through Boone National Guard Center. The team recently participated in the MS-150, a national bike race that raises funds for multiple sclerosis research.

Photos and Story by Spc. Michelle Waters

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Seven Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers from Boone National Guard Center pedaled their way across Kentucky's winding roads June 7-8 to raise money for the Kentucky and Southeast Indiana Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Together, the two teams raised more than \$2,800 for MS research.

The teams consisting of the following Soldiers: Col. Rondal Turner, Maj. Tamara Hurst, and Sgt. Mark Creech on team one; Maj. Joe Hudson, 1st Lt. Christopher Hettinger, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Link and Staff Sgt. Joe Bartram on team two. Together the two teams covered more than 140 miles between Churchill Downs in Louisville and Lexington's Keeneland.

"The only thing that kept me going (during the 81 mile-trek) was the thought that someone with MS was counting on me," Bartram said.

The MS-150 Bike the Bluegrass is a fundraiser for the National MS Society, which holds similar races around the United States throughout the year.

Welcome Home Field

Brigade serves OIF and OEF

By **1st Lt. Andi Hahn**
Assistant Editor

More than 370 Kentucky National Guard Soldiers from the 138th Fires Brigade, Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Batteries, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery have made it back to the Bluegrass after serving one year overseas in support of the Global War on Terror.

Alpha Battery returned to Louisville March 6 after one year boots on ground in Afghanistan, where they supported military police operations for Coalition Forces.

Bravo Battery was welcomed back at the Frankfort Convention Center May 4 after serving one year at Camp Taji, Iraq, where they supported convoy security operations for Coalition Forces.

Charlie Battery returned to the Kentucky Air National Guard base in Louisville Jan. 21 after serving one year in Iraq performing force protection and security detail missions.

Forty Soldiers from Headquarters, 138th Fires Brigade were greeted home June 27 in Lexington after supporting Multi-National Division-Baghdad, whose missions included securing the populace of Baghdad, advising the Iraqi Security Forces, and providing fire control for coalition artillery units.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 10,000 members of Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard have deployed worldwide in support of the Global War on Terror.

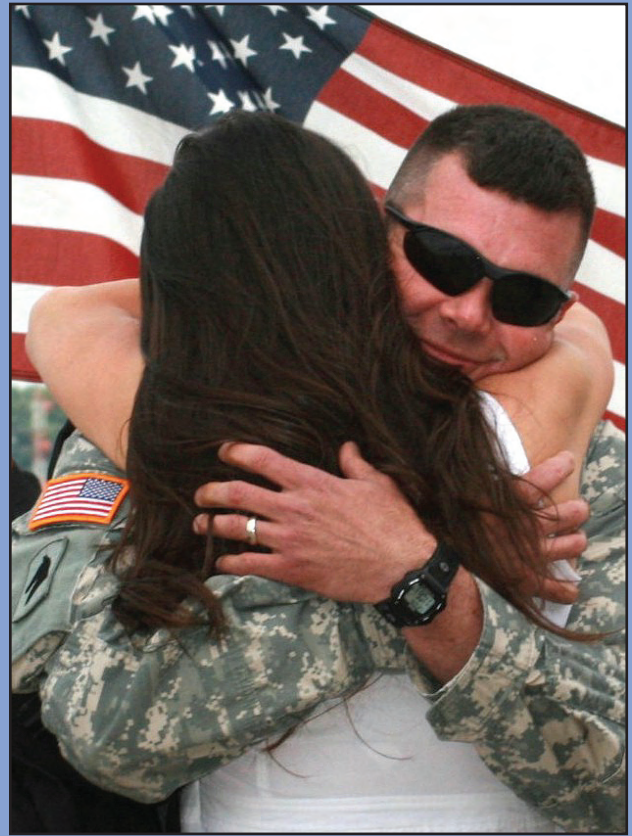


Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Artillery Soldiers!



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYANG



Photo by Capt. Dale Greer/KYANG



Photo by Capt. Dale Greer/KYANG



Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Martin/KYANG



Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Martin/KYANG

Training for disaster at BNGC

Guardsmen, state police and first responders participate in exercise

By **1st Lt. Andi Hahn**
Assistant Editor

Kentucky National Guardsmen and state officials conducted a mass casualty drill June 19 at Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort.

The Frankfort Police Department's K9 and Tactical Units worked with Frankfort Fire and EMS, the Franklin County Fire Department, the National Guard and the Frankfort Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to prepare for an actual emergency.

The exercise kicked off at 10 a.m. with a simulated "shooter" gunning down volunteer victims at the armory. Medical personnel and first responders rushed to the scene and worked together to aid those wounded. There was even a simulated medical evacuation by a Frankfort civilian helicopter that landed on the military helipad and air-lifted a casualty to safety.

With the help of the K9 unit, police were able to track the suspected shooter into the woods and arrest him.

After the two-hour drill, authorities met to discuss what went well and how they can better plan for future exercises.



Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Martin/KYARNG

A Frankfort Emergency Medical Technician aids a wounded civilian during a mock shooting exercise at Boone National Guard Center June 19.



Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Martin/KYARNG

Frankfort Police apprehend a suspect in a mock shooting June 19 at Boone National Guard Center. The drill was a joint exercise involving local, state and National Guard personnel.

National Guard Soldiers volunteered for roles as victims during a June 19 mass casualty exercise at Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort. The exercise also included local and state agencies and measured how well everyone reacted to an emergency with several victims.

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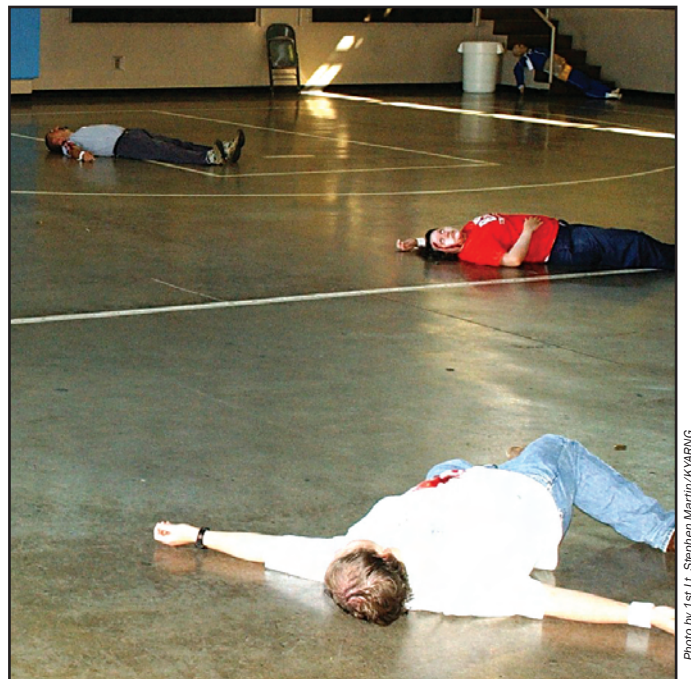


Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Martin/KYARNG

Bluegrass Guard Photo Contest

Submit a photo of anything relating to the Kentucky National Guard and have it published!

The winner will have their photo published on the cover of the October issue of Bluegrass Guard along with a biography of the photographer. The other top photos will be published in a 4-page spread in the magazine.

Submit Photos to:

andrea.hahn@us.army.mil

or

Bluegrass Guard Photo Contest

208 Maryland Ave

Frankfort, KY 40601

*** * * Deadline is Aug. 30 2008 * * ***

Photos will be judged by the Public Affairs Office and trained Army photographers

All photos submitted must include full name and contact information, unit and title (if applicable), one-two sentences describing the photo in detail (who, what, when, where) and full names of persons in photo (if applicable).

Guard Day honors Pueblo Crisis

By Capt. John Stamm

Kentucky Air National Guard Public Affairs Office

You could feel the rich history of the Kentucky Air National Guard in the air as more than 100 veterans, civilians, local media and current troops filled the auditorium at the 123rd Air Lift Wing June 24 in Louisville.

The group gathered to celebrate the 7th annual Kentucky National Guard Day as well as the 40th anniversary of the activation and deployment of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing in support of what is known as the "Pueblo Crisis."

The incident began Jan. 23, 1968 when the naval vessel designated as an "Auxiliary General Environmental Research" ship, was accosted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea off of the northeast coast of the country in the Sea of Japan. Eighty-two crewmembers were captured and held prisoner by the North Korean Army until their release exactly 11 months later.

Retired Col. Ed Hornung, who was in attendance, was a Technical Sergeant assigned to the 123rd TRC as a personnel technician and was on duty Jan. 29, 1968, when the unit received news of its activation in support of the Pueblo capture.

"Every day at noon we went back in the mess hall and played ping-pong and that's where I was," Hornung said. "People kept running back and saying that they had heard on the radio that we had been activated; that they were activating units because of the Pueblo capture. I didn't believe it at first."

According to Hornung, the official notification came down sometime later and he and other members of the personnel flight started making plans for mobilization.

"We started doing what we had to do; plans we had to cut, forms we had to process the (troops) with. Essentially, we had to put people on active duty orders, get them out the back door and on to a plane," he said.

The troops were then rotated to a base in Japan where they flew recon missions over Korea. No attempt was made to physically rescue the ship or the crew, which caused some tension among the troops for the first few months.

"We really wanted to go somewhere and do

something," Hornung said. "But, there wasn't much we could do but a show of force, which may have been what President Johnson wanted."

Retired Lt. Col. Bill Hamilton, who spent several years with the Kentucky Air National Guard as a pilot and maintenance officer, recalls how difficult the call-up was.

"It was harder on the wives and families then it was on the men," Hamilton said. "One day you're a civilian and the next you're on active duty and I had three kids at the time," he said.

The ceremony also honored civilian personnel who have made outstanding contributions to the troops of the Kentucky National Guard. Sherri Smith, a member of the Patriot Guard Riders, was presented with the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal for her exceptionally meritorious service with the Kentucky National Guard in Frankfort from October 2000 to June 2008. The award came as a complete surprise.

"I had no idea," Smith said. "It was the first time I've been honored. I was speechless."

Smith participated in nearly 100 percent of the Patriot Guard Riders' Honor Flag lines, military funerals, departures and welcome home ceremonies for Kentucky's Hometown Heroes. She contributed more than \$10,000 worth of items to deploying troops and their families, which stands as the wing's largest single contribution to date.

"You feel like you just have to contribute, you have to be a part of it," she said. "I'm not fighting a war like you all are and this is my way of giving back."

This isn't the first time Smith has shown her patriotism. One of her pen pals during the first Gulf conflict in Iraq was none other than Gen. 'Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf. The correspondence started when Smith saw a picture of General Schwarzkopf holding a box of letters for the troops.

"I said to my husband, 'I bet he won't get any letters, so I'll write him,'" she said.

"I sent him derby pins and everything. Then I found out (after the Gulf War) that he was coming here and I met him at the base. Before he shook my husband's hand he gave me a hug. Everybody

laughed.”

Established on July 14, 2000, the day has been marked to honor members of the Kentucky National Guard who answered the call to duty and served in such conflicts as the War of 1812, the Mexican War, both sides of the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the Mexican border wars, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After the ceremony, guests were served refreshments and spent time catching up with friends and former colleagues, updating each other on what they’re doing now and recanting old war stories.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

▲ Retired Col. Ed Hornung accepts the Historian's plaque on behalf of the Kentucky Air National Guard Retiree Group, presented by Brig. Gen. Howard P. Hunt, III, Kentucky Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, and Col. Mark R. Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing Commander.

◀ Col. Mark R. Kraus delivers the governor's proclamation to more than 100 attendees at the 7th annual Kentucky National Guard Day celebration at the Air National Guard headquarters in Louisville June 24.

Taskforce Workhorse

Supporting Operation Enduring Freedom 2008-2009



Photo Submitted

Soldiers in the 201st Engineer Battalion organize a battalion photo at Fort McCoy, Wisc., prior to departing for Afghanistan. The Soldiers will remain there until Spring 2009. Read about two 201st Soldiers who were wounded in an IED attack and re-enlisted just 10-days later on page 7.

CALLING ARTISTS

The Bluegrass Guard Staff is looking for a cartoonist. Think you've got what it takes? Contact Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson at 502-607-5091 for more information.

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