

Kentuckians attend national conference

Thirty-seven Kentucky Guardsmen were among members of the National Guard Association of the U.S. who heard President Gerald Ford speak about national defense at the group's annual conference in Washington, D.C. Aug. 30 to Sept. 1.

Sgt. Gary Wall, of the 438th Military Police Company, received the Valley Forge Cross and the Kentucky Medal for Valor during the event, while Capt. Edward C. Taylor accepted the Reckord Trophy for the 201st Engineer Battalion.

Lt. Col. Armando J. Alfaro, calling the conference an "excellent event," noted that three members of the Kentucky Congressional delegation demonstrated their strong support of the Guard by attending an "All States" dinner as guests of the Kentucky Association. Those attending were Romano Mazzoli, third district; Tim Lee Carter, fifth district; and Carroll Hubbard, 1st district.

The Resolutions Committee considered 66 items, according to Lt. Col. Raymond

Wallace, who served on the committee, and 46 were passed.

Major resolutions called for support of legislation that would entitle survivors of Guardsmen who retire but die before reaching age 60 to a portion of earned retirement benefits.

Other resolutions opposed unionization of the armed forces and supported federal education assistance proposals for Guardsmen.

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The Kentucky

GUARDSMAN

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Education board obligates \$5,700 in August

More than \$5,700 in tuition assistance funds has already been obligated for the coming year by the Educational Encouragement Fund Board.

"We're still anticipating many more applications for assistance for the fall semester," a board member said, "and we hope that the program continues to build."

The spokesman noted that the volume of applications has increased considerably as Guardsmen have become aware of the program.

"Units in Louisville seem to be getting into the program early," the spokesman said, "but we're beginning to see more from different areas. The far eastern and western sections aren't participating much, though."

The board is authorized to pay up to 50 per cent of a Guardsman's tuition at any

state-supported university, community college, or vocational school. Application forms are available from each unit.

The board has been approving applications through the spring, 1977 semester.

"We've had a few misunderstandings, but things seem to be smoothing out now," the board member noted. "The biggest problem has been in the area of ETS dates.

We simply cannot approve an application unless the applicant has a firm ETS date that obligates him to serve for at least a year after the semester in which he receives funds ends."

Applicants may submit the application form before registration, but payment will not be made until the board receives an itemized receipt for the eligible items.

Dezarn observes REFORGER '76

Lt. Col. Robert L. Dezarn, commander of the 201st Engineer Battalion, is now in Germany as an observer at "REFORGER '76," a NATO exercise involving more than 12,000 U.S.-based troops.

The Kentucky Guardsman was invited to attend the Sept. 1-19 event because the 101st Airborne Division is a prime participant and the 201st is affiliated with that unit. He is accompanying the 326th Engineer Battalion during the exercise.

According to Army officials, the exercise is designed to test American capability to deploy and operate in the European Theater.



FILL'ER UP—The Air Guard's RF-4 isn't really waiting for a service station attendant. It is merely making a rather awkward move from its Standiford Field home to a display site at the Kentucky State Fair. The plane had to cut through a service station to negotiate a turn. (Photo by TSgt. Chuck Amsler)

School bells ring for 130th LEM

Nineteen members of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 130th Light Equipment Maintenance Company went to school for summer camp this year. But the school wasn't on an Army installation; it was at the Northern Kentucky Vocational School.

The state school provided military-equivalent training in electronics for the Guardsmen and has promised to continue to provide facilities and instructors to assist the Guard training program.

Specialist 4 Fred Hines, who is head of the school's electronics department in civilian life, served as the instructor for the group from the Hebron-based unit. Two other members of the unit are full-time electronics students at the school.

Col. Billy G. Wellman, the Guard's command administrative assistant in Frankfort, said that the program proved to be an excellent training vehicle.

"This is a new unit," he said, "and most of the members don't have all of the training that they need to perform their military assignments. But, with the school's help, the maintenance unit should be able to meet all requirements in the near future."

Students worked in basic electronics and progressed into radar instrument maintenance. Instruction in other fields, including auto mechanics and welding, may be made available in the future.

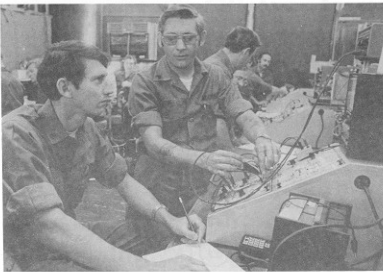
All of the Guardsmen had high praise for the school and for James Patton, the regional director of the state's Bureau of Vocational Education.

"Without Mr. Patton's help and cooperation, we couldn't have done any of this," Hines said. "I know that the Guard program in northern Kentucky will be much stronger because this type of practical training has been made available."

Patton views the project as a chance for the school to serve its purpose.

"I think that if we can do anything to improve the technical competence of the people in the area, we have a duty to cooperate. I believe that in a three-year period we can help develop the most competent National Guard unit in the state."

The maintenance unit was formed only last December and has already recruited more than 100 members. Many of those recruits joined for the technical training and they're certainly receiving that with the help of the vocational school.



GUARD SCHOLARS—SP4 Thomas R. Svec, left, and Sgt. John A. Adank, both of the 130th LEM Co., get practical experience with electronic equipment at the Northern Kentucky Vocational School. The school is providing facilities to assist the unit's training program. (Photo by Jim King, Ky. Dept. of Public Information)

FHA loans available for eligible Guardsmen

As a National Guardsman, you may be eligible for a low downpayment Veterans FHA loan, even if you entered the Guard without prior service.

Men and women who have performed 90 days continuous active duty, including active duty for training, qualify for low downpayment loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration, if otherwise qualified.

There is an advantage of the Veterans FHA loan over the regular FHA loan in that the downpayment is smaller. The loan can cover 100 per cent of the first \$25,000 of appraised value (the veteran must make a minimum payment of \$200 to cover prepaid items), 90 per cent of the next \$10,000 of appraised value and 85 per cent on the remaining balance up to \$45,000.

Your drill and annual training pay may be shown as additional income on a loan application.

To apply for such a loan, contact the nearest VA office for a "Request for

Certificate of Veteran Status" (VA Form 26-8261).

Information on other loans, pointers for veteran homeowners and tips on buying may be found in pamphlets available at VA offices. Ask for Pamphlets 26-4, 26-5, and 26-6.

conference

(continued from page 1)

A resolution asking for permission to split basic and advanced individual training periods was also passed as was a motion to elevate the chief of the National Guard Bureau to lieutenant general.

Retirement benefits were also considered in a proposal to allow retired Guardsmen with 25 or more years of service to receive full benefits at age 55 instead of the current 60. Reduced annuities would be available at age 50.

Additional technician manning was sought in a resolution calling for elimination of the manning ceiling so that "truly vital" positions can be adequately filled.

Another resolution called upon future ROPA boards to work only within existing regulations. Colonel Wallace explained that this was designed to prevent boards from adding criteria, such as age, to the considerations.

The resolutions are expressions of the organization's will and are not binding.

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OFFICERS—THE DINING IS APPROACHING. HAVE YOU PAID YOUR \$12 FEE? THE EVENT IS SET FOR OCT. 9 AT LOUISVILLE'S HOLIDAY CITY. GOV. JULIAN CARROLL WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL GUEST.

Awareness program tells history, benefits

By PFC Doris Harrigan

During this bicentennial year, many people are reflecting upon the part that their ancestors and groups have played in our nation's history.

If you, as a Guardsman, were asked to address a group about the National Guard's

role in that heritage, could you do it? Could you talk about the famous people who have been Guardsmen? Could you even list the federal and state benefits that you enjoy as a member of the Guard?

Unfortunately, far too many people would have to answer "No" to all of those

questions.

To combat that problem, Lt. Col. Armando J. Alfaro, state recruiting and retention officer, has developed a "National Guard Awareness" program for presentation to Guard units around the state.

The presentation includes a film, "Voices of Freedom," which brings out the heroic deeds performed by the "citizen-soldier" down through U.S. history. The roles of Guardsmen and Militiamen George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Charles Lindbergh, Harry Truman, and poet Joyce Kilmer and many other are discussed.

The all-black 361st, the defense of American positions in France during World War I, the defense of the 38th parallel in Korea, and the battle of San Juan Hill, are described as highlights in the history of the Guard.

The presentation also brings out the two-fold federal and state missions of the Guard, giving America the resources for extensive public service during nearly any emergency.

"Community assistance" is also discussed in the program, with the Kentucky Guard's youth projects receiving emphasis.

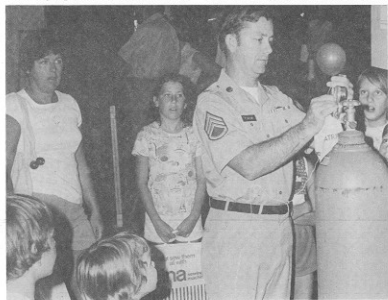
Colonel Alfaro concludes the program by enumerating some of the major benefits membership in the Kentucky National Guard brings:

*Up to 50 per cent tuition assistance for Guardsmen attending a state supported university, community college, or vocational school;

*Distinctive vehicle license plates available in January for a one-time fee of \$25, with only \$1 to be charged each succeeding year;

*\$20 deduction on state income tax;
*low-cost life insurance;
*excellent retirement benefits.

Colonel Alfaro said that he hopes to have the program presented to all units in coming months.



BALLOON MAN—SSgt. Proctor Taylor, of the 207th Engr. Co., inflates balloons at the Kentucky State Fair for waiting youngsters. The Army Guard also took photos of fair-goers with the Liberty Bell and earned \$536 for the Youth Activities Council.

Air Guard earns team shooting titles

The Air National Guard captured both team honors in the National Guard Association of Kentucky's recent state-wide rifle and pistol competition, while Army Guard shooters earned the top individual spots.

The Air Guard's "Red Team," composed of TSgt. Louis Colgate, MSgt. Kenneth Brush, TSgt. Robert Denton, and SSgt. Gary Stormes, defeated the second place 149th Armor Brigade squad by 451 points in the pistol category.

In the rifle competition, Air Guard "Team 1," made up of Capt. Donald Durbin, Sgt. Michael Wirth, TSgt. Virgil Crouch, and MSgt. Robert Condor, edged Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery entry.

Capt. Gregory Drake, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 149th Armor Brigade, won the pistol championship, and MSgt. James Mortimer, HHB, 2nd Bn., 138th FA, topped all rifle shooters.

Sergeant Stormes, of the 123d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was recognized as the top "new shooter" with a pistol, while Sgt. William Putnam, 307th

Heavy Equipment Maintenance Co., earned similar honors with the rifle.

Awards will be presented during the association's annual conference in Louisville in February.



RIVER CROSSING—Members of Combat Support Co., 1st Bn., 149th Inf (Mech), of Somerset, head down Buck Creek as part of a recent exercise. The exercise was designed to give practical instruction in river crossing by raft and in navigation. (Photo by SP5 Tom Murphy)

E'town man strikes gold

By SP4 Steve Krasnokopf
Fort Sill, Okla. Info. Office

Active duty for training at Fort Sill, Okla. turned out to be a "golden" opportunity for Pvt. Tracey Caspel, a Kentucky Army Guardsman from the Elizabethtown unit. While studying to be a fire direction assistant at the U. S. Army Field Artillery Training Center, he walked away with a pile of gold medals, capturing 10 first place awards in 11 events in the Ft. Sill Swimming and Diving Meet.

The Louisville resident finished second only once, losing in the 100 meter backstroke to a soldier who was two-tenths of a second off the post record.

"My times weren't great," explained Private Caspel, "but they were good enough to convince me there is still a spark left in me for competitive swimming."

He prepared for the meet by swimming for an hour and a half after classes each day and for three to four hours daily on weekends.

The Kentuckian's performance put the Advanced Individual Training team in fourth place. And he was the entire team. His

one-man team placed behind teams with nine, seven and six members.

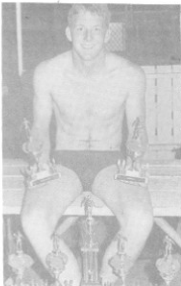
The private began swimming when he was four years old and joined his first swim team at seven. He stayed active in competitive swimming through his senior year at Louisville Seneca High School, where he served as captain for three years.

After graduating from high school in 1975, he attended the University of Louisville for a year. He has now enrolled at Western Kentucky University, where he will major in biology, working toward a career in marine biology.

And what brought the student into the Kentucky National Guard?

"Besides the extra money each month, the Guard offers me the opportunity to receive a variety of training each year," he said. He also hopes to take advantage of the Kentucky Guard's tuition assistance program.

"The one thing that I am really grateful to the Army for is the self-discipline I've learned. This will help me both in school and swimming," the 18-year old Guardsman concluded.



THE WINNER—Pvt. Tracey Caspel poses with some of the trophies he won in swimming competition at Fort Sill, Okla.

MP unit draws cycle security duty

Military policemen from the Kentucky Army National Guard draw many unusual security assignments, ranging from the American Freedom Train to the Kentucky Derby. Another such task joined the list Aug. 14-15.

MPs provided track security for the National Cycling Championship Finals at Louisville's Cherokee Park to protect both the competitors and spectators from possible injury.

One of the Guardsmen, Sgt. Jose Zellers, of the 438th MP Company, said that he sees crowd control as realistic training for military situations.

"The duty itself was very interesting," he said. "After one spill on the track we had to help get two riders to the hospital."

Guard...at a glance

Marksmanship

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 103d Supply and Service Battalion, Richmond, has earned the National Guard Bureau's trophy for attaining "highest proficiency in marksmanship" with a rifle for 1975. The unit also received a certificate from the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice.

Top Recruiter

SFC Glenn E. Wilson, of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 123d Armor in Russellville, has been named Kentucky's winner of the "Chief's 50" award. For a one-year period, he was responsible for enlisting 126 people.

Bowling Tourney

A bowling tournament open to all members of the Kentucky National Guard and their families (boyfriends and girlfriends,

too) is planned by the 223d Military Police Company in Louisville. Singles, doubles and team events are set, beginning in December and running through March. The Dixie Bowl in Valley Station will be the site of the event, sanctioned by the ABC and WIBC. Entry fee of \$20 includes everything except shoe rental and refreshments. Applications will be sent to all armories in the near future.

Old Photos

The Kentucky Military History Museum is again looking for old Kentucky National Guard photos for its collection. Anyone who has such photos and is willing to loan them to the museum long enough to have them copied should send them to: Public Information Officer, Dept. of Military Affairs, Boone Center, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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