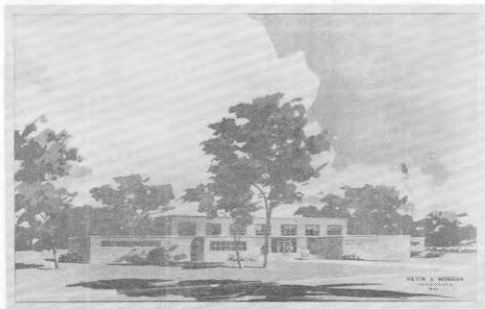


370

# Kentucky Guardian



**armory edition**

JAN

1956

# Guard sman

Lee J. Merkel..... Editor  
Frank J. Maloney... Director of Publication  
Robert J. Griswold..... Assistant Editor  
Richard B. Zimmerman... Production Manager  
Betty A. Kirby..... Copy Manager

## CONTENTS

President Page.....  
Editorial.....  
Armories Analysis....  
Louisville.....  
Air National Guard...

. January 1956



The Kentucky Guardsman is published by the National Guard Association of Kentucky, a non-profit organization devoted to the welfare of the National Guard in Kentucky.

Subscription through membership for all Officers of the Association, and controlled paid circulation.

Address all correspondent to: Kentucky Guardsman P. O. Box 64, Camp Taylor Louisville Ky. Telephone : EMerson 6-4486.

## P R E S I D E N T ' S   P A G E

Since the end of World War II there has been an ever increasing requirement for the expansion of the military services. The 81st Congress, mindful of this requirement, enacted Public Law 783 which provided for the expansion of these facilities. To carry out the provisions of this act the Congress set up a five year program and appropriated funds in the amount of two hundred fifty million (\$250,000,000.00) dollars. These funds were to be used for the construction of National Guard facilities within the several states. The law provided that the Federal Government would pay 75% of the construction cost of armories within the several states, provided that the state concerned would pay the other 25 percent. The five year program provided by P. L. 783 has expired; however, the Congress extended it through June 30th, 1958.

In the first five years of this program Kentucky has constructed only four armories, with funds possibly available for the construction of two more. At this pace we might assume that two, or possibly three, additional armories could be constructed prior to the expiration of the federal aid program.

Based on our present requirements, this would mean that we would still need eleven or twelve armories. To construct these armories from one hundred per cent state funds would entail an expenditure of more than two million (\$2,000,000.00) dollars. It is readily apparent that obtaining this large sum of money from state funds would be a most difficult, if not an impossible, task.

On the other hand, by taking full advantage of the federal aid program, our requirements could be fulfilled at a cost to the state of slightly over one-half million (\$500,000.00) dollars.

Our Association must insure that our state officials, including members of the Kentucky Legislature, be made cognizant of our armory requirements and of the federal aid program, in order that they may take appropriate action to provide the necessary state funds to carry out an adequate armory construction program.

## Editorial

### WITH THIS ISSUE

We are pleased to start the New Year by bringing to our readers and members of the National Guard Association an entirely new publication. Confronted with the problem of continuing an expensive magazine with extremely limited resources we have gone to and Off Set Reproduction process which will enable us to utilize talent within our organization and provide a more practical publication to serve the interest and welfare of the National Guard.

### THE NATIONAL GUARD ONLY TRUE RESERVES

Several years ago President Eisenhower and the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Charles Wilson, defended reductions in defense spending by stating that the National Guard and The Air National Guard can fill the gaps left in the ranks of the regular service. The President, in an address to a conference of governors singled out the National Guard as an example of how best to combine the "capabilities of the state and of the national government to provide security for us all".

With so much reliance being placed on the National Guard, it seems worth while looking at this organization as it exists today.

With a history and tradition of valiant service to our country dating back three centuries, the National Guard and the Air National Guard dramatically demonstrated their efficiency and combat potential at the outbreak of the Korean

War. The Guard response and availability in this emergency was particularly significant due to our general state of unpreparedness and the inadequacy of our regular forces to cope with the situation.

With Authorizations for about 600,000 men, 27 Air National Guard Wings, 25 Infantry Divisions, 2 Armored Divisions, numerous nondivisional corps and army units and anti-aircraft battalions for continental defense the National Guard represents the backbone of our combat ready forces.

In terms of hard work, the military obligation involved and the chances of call to combat, the differences between the Regular and Guard duty are hardly great enough to warrant comparison. From the standpoint of the capability of our economy, and value received for dollar expended, the National Guard provides more defense for considerably less expenditure.

The Guard is organized on an identical unit basis as the regulars, authorized personnel and equipment, and assigned Unit missions that require extensive training and maintenance of proficiency.

About 15 per cent of Air Guard personnel, and a much smaller percentage of ground forces are full time employees. These technicians provide maintenance, administrative, and custodial services during the week, filling their slots as Guardsmen during Unit Training periods and summer exercises.

All the rest, from Commanders to riflemen, pilots, tank drivers, cooks, Air police, Communications men, are week-end warriors.

The States provide armories, facilities, and small administrative services on a fractional cost basis, with the Federal Government providing pay, equipment, retirement, weapons, ammunitions, caretaker personnel.

In a National Emergency, The President may call the Guard to Active Duty as Units, in local emergencies and catastrophes the Governor and Adjutant General may call upon the Guard within the State for relief and assistance.

Guardmen are part time soldiers, but by no means play soldiers.

They are aware of the deadly seriousness of their business, and an asset to the Community and State. They are our citizen soldiers, outstanding in peace and in war.

They are a real reserve, and they are about the only true reserve this country has so far created.

## Armories

The Armory Issue of the Kentucky Guardsman was prepared and published to provide facts and information that the Legislature and the people of our State may realize the need for sufficient numbers of Armories and adequate training facilities. Confronted with the need for legislation and funds in practically every area of effort, whether it be education, health, old age compensation or the general overhead to maintain our society, it is logical and essential to assume that request for Armories and training facilities should be justified.

Accordingly, we will examine briefly why requirement exists, how this requirement may be met, and the impact upon the economy of our State in either event.

First, let us examine the requirement. Why do our unit commanders, why does the Military Department of Kentucky and why do our leaders responsible for National Defense urge building of Armories and provision of training facilities for National Guard personnel. This question becomes increasingly difficult to answer to the satisfaction of our people as time passes.

Since 1937 the world has been in a constant state of anxiety and pressure as the result of actual conflict and the continual threat of more dire things to happen. Since 1914 two major world wars have been fought, not to mention the Korean War and numerous minor conflicts that have highlighted the unrest and threat to world peace. The course was elected by the United States to maintain our military strength to ward off sudden attack and provide the capability and swift retaliation in the event of an enemy attack or surprise assault by an enemy nation.

To maintain a war time military capability during a peace time economy is almost an impossibility. The cost to the taxpayers is almost prohibitive and our standards of living and the economy in general would suffer. The only possible solution was an efficient and well trained regular Army, Navy, and Air Force backed by Reserve forces that could be mobilized quickly to carry out an assigned mission. One must bear in mind that statistics reveal that the composition of our military strength during time of war is approximately 80% Reservists and 20% regulars.

Such a program required a military budget set at an all time high figure for peace time economy and a continual flow of personnel being trained and assigned to Reserve unit.

The National Guard is a traditional service dating back to the American Revolution, with continuity of unit strength, and emergency capacity for defense of our country. It is only natural then that the National Guard should assume a major roll in the planning for adequate well trained Reserves. To provide personnel, the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 was passed which amends two of the principal laws constituting the foundation for the Reserve forces, namely, the Armed Forces Act of 1952 and the Universal Military Training and Service Act.

Generally speaking, the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 provides affirmative legislation in four principle areas:

- a. Improvement in the structure and size of the Reserve Forces.
- b. Establishment of a clear obligation for the young men of our nation to take part in Reserve training.
- c. Provision for the recruitment and training of young men specifically for the Reserve.
- d. Establishment of a lesser military obligation for individuals who enter the Armed Forces after the Act became legal.

**RESERVE STRUCTURE AND SIZE UNDER THE ACT.**  
The Reserves are divided into two elements, the Ready Reserve and the Standby Reserve. The Ready Reserve was designed to contain the Reserve forces needed for a Korean type emergency and available for a war or general emer-

gency as well. The Standby Reserve was to contain additional units and individuals needed from the Reserve forces in case of war. In brief, Ready Reserves consist of organized units with an assigned mission and the Standby Reserve is essentially a non organized pool from which the experienced personnel needed for the secondary phase of a war could be obtained through a process of recall.

The Ready Reserve may be ordered to active duty in case of a war or national emergency declared by the Congress or proclaimed by the President. In case of an emergency the President may call to active duty one million men of the Ready Reserve.

The Standby Reserve is subject to active duty in time war or emergency declared by Congress, and the availability of its members is determined by Selective Service.

Under the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 the statutory size of the Ready Reserve increased from 1, 500, 000 to 2, 900, 000 including members of the Reserve forces presently serving on active duty.

The Army National Guard and the Air National Guard are very prominently part of the Ready Reserve.

**MILITARY OBLIGATIONS:** Young men who enter the regular services between Aug 9, 1955 and Aug 1, 1959 have an over-all obligation of six years. They must serve a total of five years on active duty and in the Ready Reserve, followed by one year in the Standby (inactive) Reserve.

If a youth is drafted for two years, he also puts in three years in the Ready Reserve and one year in the Standby Reserve. An individual enlisting for three years must put in an additional two years in the Ready Reserve, and one year in the Standby Reserve. Four year enlistments are followed by one year with the Ready Reserve and one year in the Standby Reserve.

To fulfill his Ready Reserve obligation, the reservist will ordinarily be assigned to a specific Reserve unit in his area. He will be required to participate in 48 drill periods, plus not more than 17 days' active duty training annually.

The reservist may enlist in a National Guard unit and fulfill the remainder of his obligation through such enlistment.



If distance or occupation prevent the reservist from participating in the above schedule, he may serve 30 day's active duty each year.

If the reservist fails to perform his duties satisfactorily for 45 days active duty for training. Failure to comply with such orders could result in court-martial proceedings.

Enlistment in the Reserve: As an alternative to being drafted, individuals may enlist directly into the Ready Reserve. There are three types of enlistments: (1) six years; (2) eight years; and (3) more than eight years.

Six years: Any qualified young man, prior to being ordered to report for induction, may enlist in the Reserve for six years. During that period he must perform two years active duty, three years in the Ready Reserve in which status he is subject to the 45-day compliance measure, and one year in the Standby Reserve.

Eight years: Until Aug 1, 1959, youths between the ages of 17 and 18 1/2 (up to 250,000 a year) may enlist in Ready Reserve units and undergo six months of active duty for training. This is followed by participation in Ready Reserve unit training for 7 1/2 years, during which service they must participate annually in the 48 drills and 17 days active duty training. If unable to train with the unit, some may be permitted to serve 30 days active duty for training each year.

Young men in high school, however, may defer the six months active duty training until they graduate, cease to pursue their studies satisfactorily, or attain age 20, whichever occurs first.

Persons over age 18 1/2, who possess critical skills employed in defense-supporting industries, may be allowed to fulfill their military obligation through the six months active duty for training program, thus reducing their absence from the job.

More than eight years: As an alternative, the Reserve Forces Act retains and in fact broadens, a provision, that under certain conditions permits a limited number of youths ---the number to be determined by the President to fulfill

their military obligation by approximately 10 years or more participation in Ready Reserve training without the six-month active duty training.

Under this provision, a young man between 17 and 18 1/2 may enlist in a Ready Reserve unit. He will retain draft deferred status as long as he participates satisfactorily in the 48 -drill periods and 17-day training program of his unit. He must continue this Reserve training until he attains age 28. He will then no longer be liable either to the draft or for further Reserve training, except in case of war.

This alternative is already available to youths who choose to enlist in the Army National Guard.

If such a person performs a period of active duty for training of not less than six consecutive months and continues his satisfactory participation in the Ready Reserve, he can fulfill his military obligation after a total elapsed service of eight years, and he will not be liable for the draft thereafter.

Present reservist or guardsmen" The status of men who were members of the National Guard or Ready Reserve on Aug 9, 1955, will not be affected by PL 305, if they are already in a draft-deferred status and continue to participate satisfactorily in Reserve training.

They can elect, if they wish and their applications are approved, to take the six months' training. This will reduce their total military obligation to eight years. But they do not have to do so. They will remain draft deferred as long as they participate actively with their unit until they become 28.

Compulsory features: Ready reservists who skip the drills and training periods may be ordered to 45 days active duty for training for each year in which they are delinquent. In the case of draft-deferred 8-year enlistees, 45 days is required for the first delinquency, followed by having their deferments cancelled and being inducted, ahead of others on the local draft board lists, for two years' training, if they continue delinquent.

Pay and benefits: Monthly pay for the six months' Reserve trainee is \$50 a month while on active duty. But un-

der existing law, enlisted men of the National Guard who elect to take the six months' training, will receive the pay of their grade, unless they are privates first class, corporals or higher. Then they must agree to being reduced to private during the six months' training. This may be \$78, \$83.20 or \$85.80 a month depending on grade at time of entry on active duty. The \$50 monthly pay applies only during the time that the Army reservist is doing his six months training. As an active reservist, he draws full pay for grade for each drill or training period.

As those who undergo the six months' training are not considered as members of the active forces, they are not eligible for the same benefits received by members of the active forces. They will not be eligible for National Service Life Insurance, Civil Service veterans' preference, GI Bill benefits, or mustering out pay. Nor can they make allotments of pay.

They will, however, be eligible for re-employment rights, hospital and dental care, servicemen's indemnity payments, disability retirement, death gratuity, Veterans Administration compensation or pension, payment for accrued leave, and Federal employees' compensation.

**WHY THE STATE OF KENTUCKY NEEDS ADDITIONAL ARMORIES.** It is obvious that the provisions of the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 impose a mandatory military obligation upon the young men of our State. It is further obvious that the intent of Congress was to have a large Reserve force to provide for an emergency. This problem then becomes a matter of concern for every community in our State. Young men with a military obligation must be provided opportunities to enlist in the Army and Air National Guard, and adequate facilities must be available for training and administration.

A general analysis and inventory of the facilities available to the National Guard in the State of Kentucky indicate a minimum of 14 Armories are required, to give the youths of Kentucky an opportunity to fulfill their military obligation.

Financially the implementation of a program to provide these Armories would cost the State of Kentucky approxi-

mately \$517,000.00 with \$1,713,000.00 being furnished by the Federal government.

The Congress of the United States, through enactment of a public law, provides Federal funds to cover 75% of the construction cost of National Guard Armories. The Commonwealth of Kentucky having the requirement for 14 National Guard Armories is eligible to receive 75% of the construction cost from the Federal government providing that the remaining 25% of the construction cost is made available from State funds.

At the present time a Bill is being introduced in the Legislature that if passed will appropriate from the State Property and Building Commission out of the General Expenditure Fund in the State Treasury the sum of \$571,000. These funds would be made available immediately and could be expended before the close of the Fiscal Year 57 - 58. On the pages that follow the locations for an emergency requirements for National Guard Armories are discussed on an individual basis.

Passage of this Bill would not only provide adequate facilities for military training but would also represent an asset to the Community and the State at large. These armories are practically self-sustaining and contribute to the health, welfare and morals of the community. These Armories are permanent type construction with an indefinite period of utility and represent a nominal investment that becomes a focal point of community activities.

In conclusion, the justification for the construction of new Armories within the State may be summarized very briefly in these four points:

a. All the young men of our State have a military obligation to fulfill to be prepared to help defend our country in the event of war or national emergency.

b. Adequate facilities must be available for housing, training and administration of Army and Air National Guard units.

c. Comprehensive planning and an adequate training program require a sufficient number of Armories located in a systematic geographical pattern throughout the State.

d. These Armories when built are practically self-sustaining and contribute to the general welfare of the community and materially assist in prevention of delinquency. Further, these Armories may be utilized as community centers and are invaluable when the community is faced with localized disaster or catastrophe.



## LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

UNIT: 452d Armored Field Artillery Battalion

Back in 1839, on January 21st, the Louisville Legion was formed--Descendents of this Legion multiplied and up to this date continuity has prevailed. This Battalion officially claims the Legion as their ancestor. On 17 May 1846 the Louisville Legion became the 1st Regiment of Foot, the Kentucky Volunteers, and served one (1) year in Federal Service during the Mexican War. After participating in the Battle of Monterey they were released in May 1847, and the Louisville Legion again organized. On 7 May 1860 the Legion had grown, and in recognition of their efforts was reorganized as the Louisville Battalion of the 1st Infantry Regiment, Kentucky State Guard. Never again to be known as the Legion. Reorganization came about again, in July 1861 it became the 3d Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. On 9 September 1861, the old Legion was mustered in the Federal Service once again for service in the Civil War, participating in the Battles of Shiloh, Murfreesborough, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Atlanta. Known in this conflict as the 5th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry (The old Louisville Legion). Initially stationed at Camp Joe Holt, Indiana, the muster out came on 14 September 1864, at Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1878 the old familiar phrase "Reorganization" was upon us again, we became the 1st Battalion (Old Louisville Legion), of the 1st Regiment of Infantry, Kentucky State Guard. The Battalion grew up and in 1884 became the 1st Regiment of Infantry. In June 1898 Federal Service again The Spanish-American War, and we mustered in at Lexington, Kentucky as the 1st Kentucky Infantry US Volunteers. After participating in the Puerto Rico Battle, the muster out came in 1899 at Louisville. Mobilization came again in 1916, World War I. And on 9 October 1919 we were converted and redesignated as the 138th Field Artillery Regiment, and assigned to the 38th Infantry Division. Demobilization came at Camp Taylor, Kentucky on 8 January 1919.

In 1921 and 1922 we were reconstituted at Louisville and Federally Recognized on 30 June 1922. Nineteen years later 1941. January 17th - the call again, World War II. Mustered in at Louisville and moved on to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. A sizable change was inevitable. Units were broken up and changed. Our History took on a new look--we became Company A, 638th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Constituted on 3 December 1941, the activation came on 15 December 1941 with the redesignation of Antiaircraft and Anti-Tank Platoons, and with the Headquarters Batteries of the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 138th Field Artillery Regiment. Following participation in the Battles of Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe, demobilization came about at Fort Benning, Georgia on 7 November 1945. Co A, 638th Tank Destroyer Battalion (A part of the old Louisville Legion) was expanded and redesignated the 452d Field Artillery Battalion on 5 August 1946. And on 4 November 1947 Federally Recognized at Louisville, Ky. Time marched on, and on 1 September 1949 the latest change--Redesignation as the 452d Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Our present name.

With the event of the Korean conflict, more Active Service. On 21 September 1950--Mustered in at Louisville, and movements to Camp Rucker, Ala, to Camp Polk, La, and later to Europe. Most of the personnel were released

during the Spring and Fall of 1952; and on 21 September 1952 at Louisville--Reorganization came again--the 452d Armored Field Artillery Battalion (NGUS). For the 1st time in history, a unit was in active service and on NG state service at the same time. On 17 January 1955, the 452d Armored Field Artillery Battalion reverted to full State Duty.

**CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:**

An Armory for this unit, as such, does not exist at this time. A portion of the Bowman Field Area in Louisville, leased for the Kentucky National Guard in the Louisville area in 1947, is occupied by this battalion, together with two (2) other Battalion size units, two (2) Battery size units and the USP & FO for Kentucky.

The buildings situated in the leased area are all of the cantonment type structure (temporarily constructed in 1942-43); and are inadequate for use as armories for numerous reasons, some of which are as follows:

Construction of buildings not adapted for use as drill floor or classrooms, (barracks type buildings). Despite renovations made, ample storage space is neither practical nor possible for equipment and materiel issued. Constant maintenance is required to prevent exposure of interior to the elements. Heating plants are inadequate, and due to age constantly give trouble. This Battalion uses portions of five (5) buildings, each of which require minimum utilities.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost.....

Rent, lights, heat and water costs are under expenditures from the office of the USP & FO for Kentucky, and the Adjutant General's Office; and partly administered by the Office of the Base Commander. Repair costs are major. Much time and monies are spent in the repairs to the temporary buildings to realized the minimum usage. Roofs are leaking on many buildings, after being repaired several times.

Due to the lease arrangement a period of one (1) year has elapsed, since a transformer, required to heat the drill hall and classroom area, burned out and has not as yet been replaced.

It is believed that an appropriate area for the new Armory

for this unit could be obtained without cost to the State or Federal Governments, if plans for such an Armory were more concrete.

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for the 452d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Louisville, Kentucky.



#### BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY

UNIT: 241st Tank Battalion (120 MM Gun)

There were many militia companies organized in Knox County following the Revolutionary War. The entire Forty-Ninth Regiment was furnished by Knox County during the Civil War and was commanded by Col John G. Eve. Also there were many men from Knox County in the Seventh and Eleventh Regiments which were made up of Kentucky men. Over half of the present members are descendants of these veterans.

During the Spanish-American War Knox County furnished Troop "A" under the command of Captain U. S. G. Perkins. Between the Spanish-American War and 1916 the unit was designated Co B of the Second Kentucky Infantry. In 1916 the unit was changed to Co M of the First Kentucky Infantry and saw service on the Mexican Border. During World War I the unit was designated Co C 113th Ammunition Train, 38th Division and saw service in France.

After World War I the unit was reorganized by Captain Ray C. Newitt and Captain Ben C. Herndon on May 4, 1921 and was designated Co G Second Battalion 149th Infantry. In 1928 the unit was redesignated Co C First Battalion 149th Infantry.



On January 17, 1941 Co C 149th Infantry, under the command of Capt Ben C. Herndon, was ordered into Federal Service. The unit was training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi when the United States entered World War II, Later the unit went overseas and there the Regiment earned the name of "Avengers of Bataan."

On December 19, 1946 the unit was reorganized by Captain Carl J. Helton and redesignated Headquarters Company First Battalion 149th Infantry Regimental Combat Team. On September 1, 1955 the unit was converted to Armor and designated Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Company, 241st Tank Battalion . (120 mm Gun).

#### CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:

The building being used as an armory was designed for Motor Vehicle Storage, and as such is not adaptable to Unit administration and training.

The size of the building is not adequate for the number of personnel assigned the Unit. There are no classrooms, and training is severely hampered by the extremely crowded conditions. As many as seven (7) classes are conducted simultaneously in the drill hall, adjacent to the confusion of vehicles being washed, tires being repaired, and other completely foreign activities.

Administrative space is not available for proper functioning. Training, conferences, maintenance of records, and discussions are of necessity carried on at the same time in the same area.

In general, the environment is detrimental to the morale of the Unit and prevents efficient operations.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... \$1,052.00

A suitable armory site is available in an excellent location with sufficient parking space.

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for the 241st Tank Battalion Unit, at Barbourville, Kentucky.





**BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY**  
**UNIT: 113th Ordnance Company**

Organized and Federally recognized, 22 June 1936, as part of the 38th Division, Kentucky National Guard.

Inducted into Federal Service 17 January 1941. Inactivated 25 January 1946 on Luzon, Phillipine Islands.

Reorganized and federally recognized 26 September 1946 at Bardstown.

Ordered into active federal service 23 January 1951, during the Korean War.

Released from federal active service 20 January 1955.

**CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:**

The Bardstown Armory is located at 206 W. Broadway, Bardstown, Kentucky. General condition of the building is poor. It is settling on one corner, with resulting cracks running from ceiling to floor.

The entire roof is in very poor condition with many leaks.

Heating plant is in such a condition that the entire unit should be replaced. Supply room and locker room are not heated at all due to lack of ducting and heaters.

Plumbing, wiring, doors and windows, floors, walls and plaster are all in very poor condition.

Security is not adequate for small arms, supplies and equipment. Building requires interior and exterior painting.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... \$690.00

A suitable armory site is available on the lot adjacent to Motor Storage building approximately 1 mile north of Bardstown, on Highway 31E. This lot consists of two (2) acres and is presently owned by the State of Kentucky.

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for the 113th Ordnance Company at Bardstown, Kentucky.



**BRANDENBURG, KENTUCKY**

**UNIT: Battery "C", 198th Field Artillery**

The Unit was organized and granted Federal Recognition on 1 Nov 1953.

Present strength, approximately 70 men and 3 officers.

**CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:**

Building being utilized as an armory is a barn like structure, 30 feet wide and 70 feet long. Inside there is one office, one small arms vault, and one rest room.

Heat is furnished by one coal stove. Drinking water is not available inside or outside the building. Heating facilities completely inadequate.

There are no classrooms, and two field artillery pieces must be stored inside the building. A small building of corrugated tin, thirty feet square is used for a supply room, locker room and maintenance shop. This building is not heated.

Vehicles are packed on the outside.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... \$2,000.00

The City of Brandenburg has land available which it will donate to the State of Kentucky. The School Board also is willing to give a tract of land, and the Farm Bureau will donate a plot on the edge of town for armory construction.

**Recommendation:** A new armory be constructed for the 198th Field Artillery at Brandenburg, Kentucky



## CARROLLTON, KENTUCKY

UNIT: Company "A", 201st Engineer Battalion

Company "A" 201st Eng Bn. was organized in Carrollton 15 Dec 1949. An old storage warehouse was utilized as an armory from 15 Dec 49 until the unit was activated into Federal Service on 1 May 1951. The unit remained on active Federal Service from 1 May 1951 until 2 December 1952. The unit returned to Inactive National Guard status on 2 Dec 1952 and remained as such until 22 Sept 1953. On 22 Sept 1953 Co "A" 201st Engr was reorganized in Carrollton and this time an old abandoned garage was cleaned, painted, and utilized as an armory as it was the only available building. This old garage still serves as the armory for Co "A" but it is by no means adequate as far as space and facilities is concerned.

### CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:

The building being used as an armory is not acceptable in any sense. The entire structure is in a sad state of repair, with such major hazards as poor wiring, roof leaking, and the second floor is weak. Motor parking area and the drill hall are one and the same.

Classroom and supply space is practically non-existent, with very poor security afforded. Lighting is poor, and the heating unit is totally inadequate.

Estimated cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... \$2100.00

The Local War Memorial Board has agreed to donate a suitable site for erection of an armory, with no expense to the State for the land.

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for the 201st Engineer Bn, at Carrollton, Kentucky.



**GLASGOW, KENTUCKY**

**UNIT:** Headquarters Battery, 623d Field Artillery Battalion

Band 123d Cavalry recognized 1 April 1929. Disbanded 1 Dec 1940. Headquarters Troop 123d Cav recognized 1 Apr 1929. Redesignated as a unit of 106 CA CAA Bn 1 Dec 1940. Entered active service 23 February 1941. Reorganized as Headquarters Btry 623d FA Bn in 1946. Entered active duty in the Korean emergency on 23 Jan 1951. Reactivated 23 Jan 1953.

**CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:**

This unit occupies a State owned armory constructed in the late 20's. It is inadequate for the present storage and training needs of the unit.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... Not Available

**Recommendation:** A new armory be constructed for Headquarters Battery, 623d Field Artillery Battalion, Glasgow, Kentucky.



## HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

UNIT: Company B, 243d Tank Battalion

Prior to World War I, D Company of 3rd Kentucky Infantry. After World War I Hopkinsville had three units. 125th Wagon Co, 38th Division QM Train recognized 1 October 1922. Entered active duty 17 January 1941. The second unit was Med Det 2d Squadron 123d Cavalry. Recognized 15 April 1922, entered active service 23 February 1941. The third unit was recognized as Troop C 54 Machine Gun Squadron Cav, 10 February 1922. Redesignated MG Troop 123d Cav, 1 Apr 1929. Redesignated as a unit of 106th CA CAA Bn, 1 December 1940. Entered active service 23 Feb 1941. After World War II, Tank Co 149th Inf was organized in 1946. Redesignated as Co B 243d Tank Battalion, 1 Sep 1955. This unit has been full authorized strength for about 3 years.

### CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:

This unit occupies a portion of a building owned by the City and the State. It is several years old. It is inadequate for the present storage and training needs of the units.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... Not Available

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for Company B, 243d Tank Battalion, Hopkinsville, Kentucky

## Mechanics Creed

Upon my honor I swear that I shall hold in sacred trust the rights and privileges conferred upon me as a certified mechanic. Knowing full well that the safety and lives of others are dependent upon my skill and judgment, I shall never knowingly subject others to risks which I would not be willing to assume for myself, or for those dear to me.

In discharging this trust, I pledge myself never to undertake work or approve work which I believe to be beyond the limits of my knowledge; nor shall I allow any superior to persuade me to approve aircraft or equipment as airworthy against my better judgment; nor shall I permit my judgment to be influenced by money or other personal gain; nor shall I pass as airworthy aircraft or equipment about which I am in doubt, either as a result of direct inspection or uncertainty regarding the ability of others who have worked on it to accomplish their work satisfactorily.

I realize the grave responsibility which is mine as a certified mechanic, to exercise my judgment on the airworthiness of aircraft and equipment. I, therefore, pledge unyielding adherence to these precepts for the advancement of aviation and for the dignity of my vocation.





Armory Facilities Adequate



Facilities Under Construction or Contract



Facilities Required





*Annual Conference*

of the

**NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION  
OF KENTUCKY**

Inc.

**SEELBACH HOTEL**

Louisville, Kentucky

**FEBRUARY 11, 1956**

THE FRIEDMAN CO.

Extends  
a cordial invitation to Ken-  
tucky National Guardsman to  
visit our store while attend-  
ing the(meeting - convention)  
here. Our complete stock of  
Army and Air Force uniforms  
equipment and accessories;  
for officers and enlisted men  
await your inspection. Our  
competent staff will be happy  
to serve you.

THE FRIEDMAN CO. 213-219 So. 3rd. St.

1 hour free parking..Morris Garage..423 So. 3rd. St.

\*\*\*\*\*

WEAR " WEARBEST " CLOTHES

Louisville's original and still leading, " Low Overhead Store. "  
Save \$10.00 or more on each suit or topcoat that you buy by  
buying at,...THE WEARBEST CLOTHING CO. INC.  
302 W. Market St. Louisville 2, Ky.

One hour free parking, Liberty Parking Lot  
North side of Market between 1st. and 2nd.



**JACKSON, KENTUCKY**

**UNIT: Service Battery, 242d Field Artillery Battalion**

First unit recognized as 38th MP Co, 38th Division Special Troops 19 December 1921. Disbanded 17 April 1922, re-recognized 38th MP Co 38th Div Special Troops, 10 July 1922. Called to active duty 17 January 1941. Served during World War II in the Phillipine Campaign. Organized as 917th Med Co (Amb) (Sep) in 1946. Called to active duty January 23, 1951 for Korean emergency. Reactivated 23 January 1953. Redesignated as Service Battery 242d FA Bn, 1 Sep 1955.

**CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:**

This unit occupies rented facilities, several years old, which were constructed primarily for a retail store building. It does not afford adequate space for storage of supplies and equipment or for training needs.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... Not Available

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for Service Battery, 242d Field Artillery Battalion, Jackson, Kentucky.



**MARION, KENTUCKY**

**UNIT: Battery C, 640th Field Artillery Battalion (Obs)**

Before World War I, Marion had a company of the 3rd Kentucky Infantry, from about 1901 to about 1909. This unit was disbanded after having completed almost two years of State duty during the "Night Rider" disturbances.

Co C 149th Infantry organized 9 March 1925, and redesignated Co I 149th Infantry 1 June 1926. Entered active federal service 17 January 1941, and served in the Phillipine Campaign. Organized Btry C 640th FA Bn (Obs) 26 June 1955. This community has a long record of successfully supporting a National Guard unit.

**CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:**

Unit presently occupies a new building built expressly for rental to the State as an armory. Building is small (only 48'x 94') and does not provide adequate storage and training space for units future needs. It is not feasible to enlarge this building to meet requirements.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... Not Available

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for Battery C, 640th Field Artillery Battalion (Obs), Marion, Kentucky.

## MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY

UNIT: 916th Medical Company, Ambulance

Middlesboro's National Guard unit, the 916th Med Motor Amb Co (Sep) was federally recognized on November 12, 1947. The unit was called to active duty on September 11, 1950 and ordered to Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. On February 9, 1955, the NGUS company was deactivated and on February 10, the 916th Med Co Amb (Sep) was returned from active duty and designated as the 916th Med Co Amb (Sep) KYNG with Middlesboro as its organization headquarters. Capt Austin Redmon was assigned as CO of the organization and remains in command.

### CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:

Middlesboro does not have a National Guard armory worthy of the name. Small, ill-equipped and poorly-designed, the present training building (the only building) is suitable only for vehicle storage.

Unit training consists of a minimum of seven classes to be conducted at the same time. This woeful lack of classroom space interferes to such an extent that training efficiency is greatly reduced. A tiny 11'x17' room has been designated as the orderly room. It accommodates the Unit CO, the 1st Sgt, the Co Clerk and the unit library. There can be very little order in such an orderly room.

A principal feature of the overall unsuitability of the present armory is the makeshift heating plant, a fuel oil furnace. During winter months, when the furnace is functioning properly the maximum temperature is 65 degrees. The motor storage area has a coal heater for a room measuring 60x120'. The Armory Advisor checked the temperature in this room during one class period and recorded a mercury reading of 22 degrees. Plumbing facilities are also completely inadequate. The Armory is situated on land which is not suited for use of a septic tank and bathroom facilities are generally inoperative. There are now no sewerage lines on the street

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... \$1000.00

A suitable tract of land is available for armory construction and the Chamber of Commerce has pledged full support to this project.

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for the 916th Medical Company, Ambulance, Kentucky National Guard.

## MONTICELLO, KENTUCKY

UNIT: Battery "C", 623d Field Artillery

The local unit, Battery "C" 623d FA Bn dates back to 1921 when the first unit was organized here as Troop B 54th MG Squad. Also at that time the Hq Detach of the 54th was also organized here. In 1929 the two units were combined into Troop K of the 123rd Cav and remained such until WW II when the unit was activated and turned into an AA outfit. After WW II the unit was reactivated as "C" Btry 623d FA and remained such until this present day, excluding approximately two years Federal Service during the Korean conflict. The present armory in use at this time was constructed in 1926 and dedicated in 1927. At the time of its construction it was either the first or second armory constructed in the state, the other armory being Denhardt Hall in Bowling Green. The armory here in Monticello has been in continuous use by the above mentioned units except while the units were on Federal Service during WW II and the Korean conflict. During WW II while the unit was absent, a local unit of the Kentucky Militia was active in this armory building.

## CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:

The Armory buiding is definitely in an undesirable condition at this time, posing a very definite hardship on the unit for the following reasons.

a. Location. The location of the armory building on a very small tract of land near the city center poses a parking problem and distinct traffic problem on drill nights. Also being on the gringe of the residential section has resulted in the City of Monticello passing an ordinance restricting our activities in and near the building which has taken away our means of self support. Also the State is in the process of constructing a new highway thru the city which means that either part of the Armory be moved or the highway would be within inches of the side of the building.

b. Heating. The heating plant for this armory building, as is known in Frankfort, is completely ready for the junk pile. It will not, in spite of anything that can be done to it in its present condition, heat this building. Many occasions last winter and preceeding winters the building has been absolutely too cold to have training with any degree of proficiency. According to the engineers from Frankfort nothing can be done to the present system to aid in any way.

c. Space. Adequate classroom space is not available in this building. The space being used for classrooms was originally designed, and was used for 15 or 20 years as living quarters. Locker room space has to be utilized as training space on many occasions. The drill hall is too small to accomodate a unit of this size for normal formations.

d. Lighting. The lighting system was installed in this building in 1921 and very little has been done to improve it since that time.

e. Basement. There is a full basement to this armory building with a floor to ceiling height of barely six feet, some places less. The floor of this basement is dirt.

f. Walls and Windows. When this unit reactivated in 1953, the Battery Commander, conducted a donation campaign, plus what little finances were earned thru rentals etc. and spent approximately \$300 patching holes in plaster on walls and ceiling and painted the inside of the building and replaced most of the broken windows. The plaster is start-

ing to fall again, windows are continuously being broken by vandalism, but this time there is no money nor earning power to do anything about it.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... Not Available

A suitable tract of ground is available for construction of a new armory. The present site could be sold and a new site purchased.

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for the Battery "C" 623d Field Artillery Unit at Monticello, Kentucky

#### OLIVE HILL, KENTUCKY

UNIT: Company C, 242d Tank Battalion

First unit was recognized as a part of 149th Infantry, 8 Nov-1921. Disbanded 3 March 1925. Recognized as Hq Co 3rd Bn 149th Inf, 15 April 1925. Redesignated Hq Co 1st Bn 149th Inf, 1 June 1926. Disbanded 15 October 1927, re-recognized Hq Co 1st Bn 149th Inf 10 November 1927. Redesignated Co E 149th Inf, 16 February 1928. Called to active duty 17 January 1941. Served in the Phillipine campaign. Reactivated early in 1946. Redesignated Co C 242d Tank Battalion, 1 September 1955.

#### CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:

This unit occupies rented facilities which were not constructed for armory use. The building is several years old, and does not afford adequate space for storage of supplies and equipment, or for training needs.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... Not Available

Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for Co C, 242d Tank Battalion, Olive Hill, Kentucky



## TOMPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

UNIT: Battery A, 623d Field Artillery Battalion

The unit was organized in July 1948, and was extended Federal Recognition on 12th Oct 1948. Unit was housed in a rented feed warehouse until the latter part of 1950, and at that time moved into a newly constructed motor storage building built by the state. On the 23d of January 1951 the unit was called into Federal Service and was sent to Ft Bragg and later to Korea. Unit was again organized and extended Federal recognition on the 23d of January 1953 in Tompkinsville. The unit at present has an assigned strength of 2 officers and 65 enlisted men.

### CONDITION OF ARMORY OR TRAINING FACILITIES:

The motor storage building which we now occupy is inadequate in many ways but training facilities is our biggest concern at the present. There is only one small classroom available to conduct classes. All other classes must be conducted in the drill hall or out-side in the summer time. In cold weather classes cannot be presented in the drill hall because of the lack of heat. There is one coal stove in this part of the building and because of the high roof and draft from the large doors it is impossible to heat the building to a comfortable temperature. The unit vehicles and 155mm Howitzer are also stored in the drill hall, and vehicles must be moved outside in order for unit to have formation and inspections. All equipment is stored either in the signal room or the supply room. The strong room is so small, 7'x9' that weapons cannot be stored properly. Coal for the stove is in one corner of the drill hall because there is no other place to put it.

Estimate of cost of rehabilitation: Not Practical

Annual Operating Cost..... Not Available

Available ground for construction of a new armory is available without expense to the State or Federal Government.  
Recommendation: A new armory be constructed for the Battery A, 623d Field Artillery Battalion, Tompkinsville, Kentucky.



## KENTUCKY'S AIR NATIONAL GUARD AS ORGANIZED TODAY

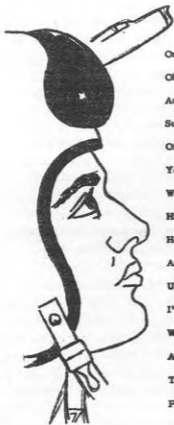
Kentucky Air Guard's units do not date back to 1909 when Air Guard units pioneered military aviation but its history is none the less illustrious; for the designation 123d dates back to the old horse cavalry militia of Daniel Boone's time.

The 123d's units were authorized activation back on 24 May 1946 and with the help of the then Adjutant General, Brigadier General Gustavus H. May with assistance from Henry Meigs and Norman Watts the Air Force was requested to send in initial complement of Air Force Instructors-- Colonel Herbert A. Bott and Major James Doyle. Lt Colonels Philip P. Ardery and Stanley I. Hand were selected as most outstanding well qualified men in the state of Kentucky and were assigned as the Fighter Group Commander and Executive.

In September of 1946 four Air Technicians were hired-- M Sgt Clay W. Alexander, M/Sgt Jack E. Gowan, M/Sgt Lester Parks and M/Sgt Douglas J. McGill and office space was obtained temporarily in Building T-29 (Capt Jack Smith's USP&DO - supply building) at Bowman Field.

By the 1st of February of 1947 - temporary right of entry had been obtained in the wooden hangar at Standiford Field and when the initial twenty per cent officer and enlisted strength had been obtained the following units were activated on 16 February 1947:

- Hq 123d Fighter Group
- 165th Fighter Squadron (Single Engine)
- Det "A" 223d Air Service Group
- 165th Utility Flight
- 165th Weather Station (Type A)



## HIGHT FLIGHT

By John Magee, Jr.

Oh! I've slipped the surly horn  
Oh! I've slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings.  
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds and done a hundred things  
You've not dreamed of . . .  
Wheeled and soared and swung,  
High in the sunlit silence.  
Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along  
And flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up along delirious burning blue,  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or eaven eagle flew.  
And while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

The 123d Fighter Group was commanded by Lt. Col. Philip P. Ardery, the 165th Fighter Squadron by Major Robert W. Moore and Det "A" 223d Air Service Group by Captain Lloyd G. L. Calhoun.

\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*

The 165th Fighter Squadron was formerly the 368th Fighter Squadron activated 15 January 1943 at Westover Field, Massachusetts. The 368th Fighter Squadron departed New York Port of Embarkation 8 October 1943, and arrived in England 17 October 1943.

The 368th Fighter Squadron was awarded a Presidential Unit citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in Germany for 11 September 1944, per WD GO 66, 1945. The unit was further awarded the following battle participation credits:

- Air Offensive Europe
- Normandy Campaign
- Northern France Campaign
- Ardennes Campaign
- Central Europe Campaign
- Rhineland Campaign

The 368th Fighter Squadron departed England 4 November 1945 and arrived New York pier 9 November 1945, and was inactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey effective 10 November 1945. The 368th Fighter Squadron was redesignated as 165th Fighter Squadron and allotted to the Air National Guard for Kentucky, being entitled to the history, battle honors and any colors earned by unit during any previous active service.

\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*

Twenty-five F-51D's, 4 B-26's, 2 C-47's and 6 T-6's were assigned in initial year of activation and although the units did not attend Field Training in 1947 all initial organization was accomplished and assigned strength began to grow. By the middle of 1947 Hq and Hq Squadron 223d Air Service Group was activated and Lt Colonel William D. Ott was assigned as Commander.

All units were approximately 70% manned by middle 1948 and the Air Guard attended its first summer field training

at the then Atterbury Army Air Field, Columbus, Indiana. The initial Fighter Squadron Commander had resigned by this time and Captain Lee J. Merkel had been appointed to replace him. The units were personally commended by the Commander of 1st Air Force - Brigadier General Robert Oliver at this field training--- Review day came around and General Oliver took the ground review, as the two squadrons each of 5 - four ship elements in diamond formation passed over in perfect formation, General Oliver exclaimed, "That's my, Air Force", a perfect tribute for a job well done.

The Air Guard by early 1949 had obtained its practice Air - to - Ground gunnery range at Fort Knox and the combat ready capability increased tremendously in this year. All pilot vacancies had been filled and former fighter pilots accepted reductions in rank even from grade of Major to First Lieutenant to obtain entrance in the tactical squadron. Such a situation shows the prestige that this outfit had obtained in the state -- 1949 also found the units manned at over 80% authorized strength participating in summer training at Wilmington, Delaware, seven hundred and fifty (750) ground miles from home base.... Here the units were able to fire Air - to - Air Gunnery and reach full combat capability..... The Fighter Group Executive had resigned in 1948 and prior to field training the then Major Lee J. Merkel replaced him in this position with the former Fighter Squadron Operations Officer---Major Albert W. Clements being appointed as 165th Squadron Commander.

The year 1950 proved eventful for the 123d Group and its units - emphasis had been placed on full combat readiness and intensive Air - to - Ground Gunnery was conducted. Field Training was held at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Columbus, Ohio and the 165th Fighter Squadron was awarded the Spaatz Trophy for the outstanding fighter-squadron of the then 55th Wing (a wing composed of three fighter groups with (8) eight fighter squadrons)..... The Korean Conflict broke out in June 1950 and because of its high state of training the 123d Group, the 165th Squadron and all support units were called into federal service as one of the original four state units called.

The Air Guard units of Kentucky, West Virginia and North Carolina were all called on the same date 10 October 1950 and sent to Godman Air Force Base, Fort Knox, Kentucky where these units were converted on 26 October 1950 into the new Air Force "Wing Base Plan" type organization which resulted in activation of the 123d Fighter Bomber Wing Headquarters and other units as follows:

- Hq 123d Air Base Group
- 123d Installation Squadron
- 123d Food Service Squadron
- 123d Air Police Squadron
- 123d Communications Squadron
- Hq 123d Maintenance and Supply Group
- 123d Maintenance Squadron
- 123d Supply Squadron
- 123d Motor Vehicle Squadron
- Hq 123d Medical Group

The old Hq 123d Fighter Group became the 123d Fighter Bomber Group and the squadrons from all three states 165th Kentucky, 156th North Carolina and 167th West Virginia were all redesignated to Fighter-Bomber Squadrons.

After initial organizational and conversion problems were dealt with Godman Air Force Base began to hum with training activity. Three hundred and seven people of the regular establishment and recalled reservist were absorbed from inactivation of the 4417th Base Compliment Squadron and the Wing was at approximate full strength by middle 1951.

Prior to this time and during period of intensive conversion 26 November 1950 to 10 December 1950 all three squadrons participated in Air to - Air Gunnery training at Eglin Auxiliary Air Field #2 at Eglin, Florida.

With the situation in Korea becoming increasingly worse with the cold war scare in Europe reaching alarming proportions - the 123d Wing was scheduled to and did participate in Exercise "Southern Pines" at Maxtox AFB, North Carolina during period 13 August 1951, through 27 August 1951 in an all out maneuver to prepare Ground and Air units for immediate use if necessary.

Warning Orders were received from USAF Headquarters on 1 September 1951 indicating the 123d Wing and all units were scheduled to replace the 12th Fighter-Escort Wing (SAC) at Manston RAF Station, Manston Kent England---Advance Detachment Officers - Major Lee J. Merkel and Major Ralph Cowgill were sent to Manston, England on 6 September 1950 to prepare for and make plans for orderly arrival of the 123d Wing.

The Advance Detachment composed of 140 officers and arimen departed by C-124 on 6 November 1951 and arrived at Manston on 10 November 1951--all units had arrived at Manston by 10 December 1951.

Prior to departure from the U. S. the Wing requisitioned and received over three hundred filler replacements to fill postions vacated by Air Guard officers and enlisted personnel with insufficient retainability to be taken to England.

Faced with problem of three hundred new members the training problems were greatly increased by fact that all pilots had to be transitioned into Jet F-84E aircraft that the Wing took over from 12th Fighter-Escort Wing. Maintenance personnel were confronted with ninety percent of all aircraft AOC-----out of commission-----and with no spares were available as the SAC outfit had flown in all

spares from the U. S.

Despite all these hampering factors all tactical pilots were transitioned into F-84E aircraft and participated in Air - to - Air Gunnery at Wheelers AFB, Tripoli, North Africa.

In June 1951 despite all problems enumerated all units were subjected to Readiness Inspection Test by the Inspector General USAf and rated satisfactory-----Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory were only ratings given.

In July 1952 the unit designations were returned to the State of Kentucky (less personnel and equipment) and the USAF authorized reforming of these units on a state status.

From an assigned strength of 278 in July 1952 (individuals returned to state control after required 21 month period of federal service terminated) the Wing was pushed to a strength of over five hundred and attended Field Train-

ing at McNamara Air Field, Grayling, Michigan in July 1953. Colonel Ardery and four other officers were returned from Federal Service during period September 1952 March 1953 to aid in this reorganization.

The units grew to a strength of over 600 in 1954 and attended Field Training at their Permanent Field Training Site - Travis Field, Savannah, Georgia. During this period also the Hq 123d Air Base Group and its allied squadrons were shifted from Kentucky to North Carolina to aid in more rapid reorganization. Also during this time numerous commanders and staff officers were changed.

The Wing reached an assigned strength of 760 officers and airmen during 1955 and attended Field Training in August again at Travis Field, Georgia. Colonel Ardery the over 80% authorized strength participating in summer training. Wing Commander was promoted to Brigadier General during this period and the Wing received its first two T-33 Jet Aircraft. On 1 July 1955 the Wing received the new mission of Air Defense of the Continental U.S. and all units were redesignated to Fighter-Interceptor units under Air Defense Command.

At present the Wing is manned by 778 officers and airmen and runway extension at Standiford (to be completed by August 1956) will enable the Wing to in fact carry out its mission of Air Defense of U.S. The Wing has assigned 25-F-51's, 2-T-33'(Jet Trainers) and has been promised one to four F-86 Sabre Jets for use in next two to three months.

### PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Air Guard has advised that they have a unique pilot training program which enables a young man between 19 and 26 1/2 with a high school education to go through the United States Air Force pilot training cycle and this individual will be allowed to return to his home to pursue schooling or employment opportunities immediately after graduation -- net gain -- Second Lieutenant's commission -- rating as a pilot with practically all requirements for commercial, private pilot's licence -- opportunity to fly the jet aircraft assigned to the 165th Air Guard squadron at Standiford Field.



Here is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for a civilian position as an air line pilot while at the same time satisfying Reserve obligation. This program is not new. It has been in effect for over two years and the squadron at Standiford has already received six pilot officers as a result of it -- 2nd Lt. Robert L. Linzay, 2nd Lt. Edwin C. Holt, 2nd Lt. Norvin F. Green Jr, 1st Lt. Thomas Childers, 2nd Lt. Owen W. Turner and 2nd Lt. Alvin R. Byrd. This opportunity is available to all members of the National Guard both Ground and Air who meet above qualifications, can pass mental and physical examination. For further information about this program contact M/Sgt Dunlevy at Emerson 6-4886 or Emerson 3-4463 or write to the Commander, Headquarters, 123d Fighter Interceptor Wing (ANG), P. O. Box 64, Camp Taylor Branch, Standiford Field, Louisville, Kentucky.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL FACILITIES:

In February 1948, a Lease was entered into between the United States Government and the Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board, which was to run for twenty-five years, and make available for use of the Kentucky Air National Guard an area comprising approximately 10 acres and portions of the buildings that had been built for the Vultee Modification Center during World War II.

Rent for the term was \$1.00 which was to expire in June 1972.

The agreement provided for exclusive use of one half of the wooden hangar and four small buildings in the area which have been used for Base Supply, the Motor Pool, Communications, Ammunition Storage, and related activities.

For parking of aircraft an exclusive ramp area was furnished, with joint and concurrent use of landing areas, runways, taxi strips, fuel storage, and other operational features as required for flight.

Maximum number of based aircraft was limited to seventy.

The Lease further provided that a Service Contract would be entered into between the State of Kentucky and The Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board, whereby heat and

utilities, sewage disposal and certain maintenance functions would be provided by the Air Board.

In April of 1948, a Service Contract was entered into between the Military Department of Kentucky and the Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board. For and in consideration of fifteen hundred (\$1500) a month, the Air Board agreed to furnish the State, heat, lights, water, toilet facilities, sewage disposal, and certain maintenance services.

Under the provisions of the Lease the Federal Government is responsible for a proportionate share of the maintenance and service as outlined in the Service Contract between the Military Department and the Air Board. The annual cost for utilities and maintenance at Standiford Field for the Kentucky Air National Guard is \$18,000.00 a year, of which the Military Department pays \$4500.00 or 25%.

In addition, telephone service and security guards are provided for the Air National Guard on the same basis, with the Federal Government paying 75% and the Commonwealth of Kentucky paying the remaining 25%.

#### NECESSITY FOR NEW FACILITIES FOR THE KENTUCKY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Since 1947 two events have occurred that impose a requirement for new facilities for the Kentucky Air National Guard:

a. The area and buildings presently utilized by the Air National Guard are not adequate for the size and operational requirement of the units, and more urgent, buildings presently occupied temporary structures erected during World War II with a life expectancy of five years. As a result of deterioration the cost of rehabilitation is estimated to run in excess of one half million, with a requirement for a high annual maintenance budget.

(1) The Hangar, for instance is 600 feet long, and 150 feet wide, constructed entirely of wood. Over the period of years, the truss beams are sagging, doors are out of alignment, the roof is rotting out, and the hazards of fire is so great the insurance rate is becoming prohibitive. Plans call

for razing of the building in the near future.

b. As a result of design improvement and general development, linked with the requirement for Continental Defense of the United States, the World War II fighter presently assigned the Air National Guard became obsolete in 1952.

(1) With the almost exclusive use of Jet Aircraft by our own Air Force and Russia. The Defense Department, thru the Air Division of the National Guard Bureau, was confronted with the problem of expansion of airfields and conversion of units to jet fighters.

(2) Standiford Field, home of the Kentucky Air National Guard, has three runways, all five thousand feet in length. To operate jet aircraft from Standiford Field a survey was conducted, and it was determined that one runway must be lengthened by 2800 feet, based upon elevation and criteria for an effective length of 7500 feet.

(3) Unfortunately, the necessary ground for this extension was partially owned by interests other than the Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board. Since 1952, the availability of this land has been in litigation, and that period the controversy involved commercial aviation, the military, and the community.

(4) Fortunately, as a result of the intervention of the Mayor of Louisville and the Judge of Jefferson County, this controversy was resolved by mutual agreement between concerned parties, and the ground required for extension was acquired by the Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board during 1955.

#### **RUNWAY TO BE EXTENDED**

With the resolution of the difficulties obstructing conversion to Jet Aircraft, the Air Division of the National Guard Bureau presently has in the hands of the Corps of Engineers a directive to prepare plans and specifications for the extension of the primary runway at Standiford Field to 7800 feet, which will permit the Air National Guard of Kentucky to be assigned and operate F-86A, Sabre Jets.

At the same time, a new Lease is being drawn which will make available a new tract of land on Standiford Field for construction of an entirely new facility for the Air Guard.

This will be composed of ramps, Administration Buildings, a Hangar, Fuel Storage, Base Supply and a Motor Pool. (Land for this facility furnished at no expense to the State).

The runway is programmed to be constructed first, with the new facility to be started during the secondary phase.

### PROJECT 100% FEDERAL FUNDS

The cost of the extension of the runway and erection of the new facilities will be borne entirely by the Federal Government, and not require any proportion of matching State Funds. Cost of construction of the facility and runway extension has been estimated by the Engineers to be approximately 4 million (\$4,000,000.00)

### TIME CRITICAL

With the Air National Guard Conventional Aircraft obsolete and the necessity of meeting the Air Defense requirements, the Kentucky Air National Guard is presently operating Jet Aircraft temporarily at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Plans and actual construction at Standiford Field are understandably related to seasonal construction cycles, and if present factors delaying the project are resolved the runway should be completed by Fall of 1956, and the new facility-completed sometime in 1958.

### DELAY FACTORS

The following problems and factors are delaying the project at Standiford Field:

a. A project Officer within the State structure should be appointed. His responsibilities and duties would involve coordination and liaison between the State, the Air Guard Division, the Corps of Engineers, and the Contractors.

b. The Corps of Engineers are unable to complete plans and specifications as a result of problems relating to the re-routing of Ashbottom Road, which is presently situated at the exact terminal point of the proposed extension. The road

will be re-routed at Federal expense, however, the County has asked the re-routed portion be made fourlane instead of the existing two lane highway. The government is willing to put in two new lanes in addition to preparing the right of way for a four lane road, but feels Jefferson County should pay for the other two lanes. Regardless of the outcome and eventual agreement, this problem must be solved. Plans for Request for Bids to be advertised in March, Contracts let in April, and construction to begin in May are hinged upon this point. Excessive delay could mean loss of one half to one year as regards completion date.

#### AIR GUARD INSURANCE AND AN INDUSTRY

In addition to providing essential air defense measures, the Air National Guard is a small industry within the Community. Not only do the buildings and facilities revert to the State and Community when no longer necessary for use by the Air Guard, the annual pay roll of the Air National Guard in the Louisville area is approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000).


Operational requirements have a further decided impact upon areas of Construction, Transportation, Supplies and Service. The fuel requirement for aircraft alone will be from a million and a half to two million gallons annually.





















Significantly, the Air National Guard furnishes adequate air defense to back up the Regular Air Force on a unit cost basis within the limits that our peacetime economy may stand. To attempt to provide this vital protection in other manners results in a prohibitive cost factor as reflected in taxes and national income.


It must be realized that the 123d Fighter Interceptor Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard has the same number of aircraft and personnel as a Regular Air Force Wing, and that the Pilots assigned to the Wing meet the same requirements as regards flying and training as active duty personnel. Personnel are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the unit has an Air Defense Mission requiring a capability within two hours, day or night.












# I am the Guard

*C*ivilian in Peace, Soldier in War . . . of security and honor, for three centuries  
I have been the custodian, I am the Guard. 

I was with Washington in the dim forests, fought the wily warrior, and watched the dark night bow to the morning.  At Concord's bridge, I fired the fateful shot heard 'round the world.  I bled on Bunker Hill.  My footprints marked the snows at Valley Forge.  I pulled a muffled oar on the barge that bridged the icy Delaware.  I stood with Washington on the sun-drenched heights of Yorktown.  I saw the sword surrendered . . . I am the Guard.  I pulled the trigger that loosed the long rifle's havoc at New Orleans.  These things I knew—I was there!  I saw both sides of the War between the States—I was there!  The hill at San Juan felt the fury of my charge.  The far plains and mountains of the Philippines echoed to my shout . . . On the Mexican border I stood . . . I am the Guard.  The dark forest of the Argonne blazed with my barrage.  Chateau Thierry crumbled to my cannonade.  Under the arches of victory I marched in legion—I was there!  I am the Guard. I bowed briefly on the grim Corregidor, then saw the light of liberation shine on the faces of my comrades.  Through the jungle and on the beaches, I fought the enemy, beat, battered and broke him.  I raised our banner to the serene air on Okinawa—I scrambled over Normandy's beaches—I was there! . . . I am the Guard.  Across the 38th Parallel I made my stand.  I flew MIG Alley—I was there! . . . I am the Guard. 

*S*oldier in war, civilian in peace . . . I am the Guard. 

I was at Johnstown, where the raging waters boomed down the valley.  I cradled the crying child in my arms and saw the terror leave her eyes.  I moved through smoke and flame at Texas City.  The stricken knew the comfort of my skill.  I dropped the food that fed the starving beast on the frozen fields of the west and through the towering drifts I ploughed to rescue the marooned.  I have faced forward to the tornado, the typhoon, and the horror of the hurricane and flood—these things I know—I was there! . . . I am the Guard.  I have brought a more abundant, a fuller, a finer life to our youth.  Wherever a strong arm and valiant spirit must defend the Nation, in peace or war, wherever a child cries, or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand . . . I am the Guard.  For three centuries a soldier in war, a civilian in peace—of security and honor, I am the custodian, now and forever. . . I am the Guard. 

OFFICIAL PROGRAM  
NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION  
OF KENTUCKY  
FEBRUARY 11, 1956

Opening Session - 10:00 A.M.

Invocation by:  
Chaplain (1st Lt) Elmer Palmer.

Call of the Conference by:  
Secretary.

Organization of the Conference.

Appointments.

Presentations.

Welcome Address by:  
The Honorable Mayor Andrew H. Broaddus.

Annual Report of the President:  
Major Willis R. Hodges.

Annual Report of the Secretary-Treasurer:  
Lt Archie O. Taylor, Jr.

Announcements.

Recess:  
Until 1:30 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

Conference Reconvenes.

Presentation of Association Budget for Fiscal Year 1956 by:  
Lt Archie O. Taylor, Jr.

Report of Facilities Available for 1957 National Conference by:  
Mr. Wallace J. Oberlender, Conference Bureau, Louisville  
Chamber of Commerce.

Address by:  
Major General J. J. B. Williams.

Presentation of the National Guard Association Building Fund by:  
Colonel Allan Crist, Executive Secretary, NGAUS.

Report of the State Association Building Fund Program by:  
Lt Joseph R. Craft.

Report of Committee on Resolutions by:  
Lt Colonel Robert R. Goetzman, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Time and Place by:  
Chairman.

Report of Committee on Nominations by:  
Lt Colonel Charles J. Cronan, III, Chairman.

Election of Officers.

Adjournment.

56



**SEELBACH** Hotel

**Feb. 11**