



THE PHANTOM'S EYE



123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing
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ANG MOVES INTO THIRD PLACE: A significant downturn for Naval Reserve forces has resulted in the guard's blue suiters taking over the number three spot in total strength figures for the very first time, according to a National Guard Bureau spokesman.

Brig. Gen. John B. Conaway, NGB deputy director for Air, told Ky ANG members attending the Ky Guard Association meeting last weekend that this recent development, coupled with a better retention rate for October to January FY 79 compared to the previous year is noteworthy.

During a special briefing for ANG members, Gen. Conaway, a former 123d Vice Wing Commander, also related some new trends in training requirements, ANG troop authorizations, enlistment incentives, NCO promotions, officer effectiveness reports, militarization of the guard, and potential JP-4 gasoline price problems.

The number one and two spots for guard-reserve forces are held by the Army Guard and Army Reserve. The ANG force structure is setting at an approximate 91,650 personnel level, a little bit below the authorized ceiling of 92,900. But Gen. Conaway feels, "We will probably be pretty close to the ceiling before the end of the fiscal year (1 Oct.)." He said, "Training requirements will soon be coming down and the ANG will be back on track with what we should be doing."

The General explained that the enlistment packages are zeroing in on reenlistments for security policemen, weapons systems loaders and individuals who have nuclear related AFSCs. He was also pleased to report about the change in promotion opportunities for technical and staff sergeants and the removal of controls for the OERs.

In a side note Gen. Conaway remarked the new bids for wholesale gasoline prices for the Air Force and other DOD flying units could put budget analysts in a real bind. Back in 1972, when he was vice wing commander at Standiford Field, gas was \$.10 a gallon compared to this year's price of \$.42 to \$.46. Bids were opened for the next cycle with the lowest bid being \$.82 a gallon. These prices aren't final yet, but it does indicate that such an increase could significantly alter the budget throughout DOD, Gen. Conaway explained.

EIGHT KENTUCKY AIR GUARDSMEN COMPLETE NCO-ACADEMY: "Congratulations, you have just crossed one of the most challenging, inspirational and educational hurdles of your military career." With these words eight Kentuckians became graduates of the prestigious NCO Academy on March 1st. The eight NCOs were MSgts Paul Bell, Jack Dunn, Charles Benedict, Michael Menting and TSgts Howard Rutledge, Roy Smartwood, Johnny Evans and Richard Wilson. MSgt Michael Menting was further honored during graduation ceremonies at the IG Brown, Air National Guard Professional Military Education Center by being named an honor graduate. The units that these men return to will greatly benefit from leadership abilities, knowledge and experience of this elite corps of Non-Commissioned Officers.

ANG/AFR PANEL GETS RESULTS: The first results of the recently organized Ky Air National Guard Advisory Panel for NCOs and Airmen have surfaced according to panel members. The board has met seven times since it was organized in August 1978. The panel has made two recommendations to the Air Force Reserve Personnel Center with one item receiving a definite response and another still under consideration, reports CMSgt Walter Carter. The group strongly urged ARPC to initiate procedures which would expedite security clearance approval. A slow down in security clearance process resulted in some NCOs and Airmen missing out in promotion opportunities or in obtaining an AFSC. Chief Carter pointed out, a change in the basic regulations are now forthcoming which would require security clearance requests going from the TAG office in Frankfort directly to the Defense Investigative Service. The current procedure calls for the applications to be sent to the numbered air force or the major command before action is taken. The panel's second recommendation dealt with tuition assistance. Presently these individuals in the guard who seek tuition assistance are considered based on their current AFSC. Persons who reside in one state and attend guard in another are not receiving state assistance. This means the only place where they can receive tuition assistance is from DOD sources. However, Chief Carter maintains that DOD is using the vast majority of these funds as recruitment incentives for enlistees. The panel has sought a better balance of these funds for individuals who are already serving in a guard capacity. The January meeting for the ANG/AFRES resulted with this item being forwarded to the Director of ANG and Chief of AFRES for further consideration. A final verdict on the items has not been determined yet. But, as TSgt Donald L. McDonald, a panel member pointed out, this demonstrates that the system works if people will bring these gripes to our attention through using AGO Ky Form 20-1 and by contacting one of the following panel members: CMS Walter Carter, Hq; SMS Samuel M. Duncan, 123d Comm Flt; TSG Donald L. McDonald, 123d Cmbt Spt Gp; SSG Frank J. Anderson III, 123d CAM Sq; SGT Michael T. Loftus, 123d Weather Flt; AMN Patricia A. Abell, 123d Cmbt Spt Gp, and TSG James Gavin, 123d TACRON.

KyANG CLUB BUILDING FUND RAFFLE: Have you always envisioned yourself sitting on a self-propelled riding mower, sipping on your favorite cold drink in July, instead of pushing that old clunker of a lawn mower? Well bunky, your moment may have arrived. The KyANG Club is conducting a raffle at \$1 per chance to just such a machine. It's an Allis-Chalmers 405 Deluxe rider with a free-floating 26" blade designed for non-scalping mowing. Value of the unit is \$879. Proceeds of the raffle go to the club building fund. Chances will be available at the snack bar, the club, where the mower is on display, or from any officer of the organization beginning March 16. The drawing will be held Sunday of the May drill.

STOP THE PRESSES: Government offices will stop using 8 X 10½ inch stationery effective Jan. 1, 1980. The new standard size letter sheet will be 8½ by 11 inches, which many private firms use. The size regulation was adopted by the Joint Committee on Printing. The new larger paper will also apply to the military. What all this means, a government spokesman says, is that there will be 15 percent more room for additional words on each piece of paper Uncle Sam cranks out.

RECALL ROSTERS DUE: A recall roster is needed to include all personnel assigned to the Wing. This roster is to be submitted to the Wing Orderly Room, Room 163, O&T Building prior to the end of this UTA.

KyANG SPRING FISHING TOURNAMENT: The KyANG Fishing Tournament has changed from Barren River Reservoir to Nolin Reservoir. The date be Sunday, 1 April. Interested persons should contact Roger Hamilton OB 79 or John Hourigan OB 82.

AIR FORCE VEHICLES LIGHT BLUE: Newly acquired general purpose Air Force vehicles will be light blue. The switch from dark blue will make the vehicles easier to see, easier to keep clean and project a more modern image. The Air Force currently has some 40,000 such general purpose vehicles.

WEAR OF MATERNITY UNIFORM AUTHORIZED: With the maternity uniform now readily available, Air Force officials have authorized its wear by pregnant women who can no longer wear their normal duty uniform. Enlisted members who need the maternity uniform will receive it through a supplemental clothing allowance. Officers must purchase their own uniforms. A change to Air Force regulation 35-10, "Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel," states that pregnant women should continue to wear their normal uniform only as long as it fits and meets the standards of military image. Maternity uniform items consist of a tunic, and skirt or slacks with expansion panel. The tunic, plus slacks or skirt, is to be worn with the standard or optional longer-length overblouse. Name tags, badges and ribbons will be worn on the tunic in the same relative positions as required or authorized on the overblouse.

Enlisted women will continue to wear three-inch chevrons on the overblouse sleeves, while officers must wear miniature rank insignia on the overblouse collar. For complete wear instructions for the maternity uniform, consult AFR 35-10.

THE 123D AIR EXPLORER POST is conducting a paper drive each drill weekend to raise money to rebuild an Aero Commander Darter. Anyone wishing to contribute, please bring your newspapers to Don Redmon, Avionics Building, OB 75.

F-4 PHANTOM UNDERGOES "BOUNCE" TESTS: An F-4E from the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing here soon will undergo tests to determine how much roughness the aircraft can tolerate during taxi, takeoff and landing on rapidly repaired, bomb-damaged airstrips. The aircraft currently is being modified for the Have Bounce tests by the Aircraft Modification Center.

The F-4 has been equipped with strain gauges, accelerometers and other monitors that will record the aircraft's "bounce" during ground tests this summer at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, Calif. Preliminary tests have been completed at AFFIC. Tests will involve taxiing the aircraft over aluminum AM-2 bomb-damage repair mats. Test data will be stored in a magnetic recording system aboard the F-4 and transmitted to a computer station on the ground. This information will be used by engineers in Air Force Systems Command's Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson to evaluate the effect of the mats on the F-4's dynamic response (bounce).

IDEA PAYS OFF IN CASH: A Guardsman in Alabama received \$15,914 for a suggestion that saved millions of dollars and will continue to save money every year. TSgt Spencer T. Hayes, Alabama ANG, developed a low-cost modification for tactical radar systems which provide an automatic radar tracking capability. His suggestion allowed the Air Force to cancel more than \$13 million worth of equipment, and will continue to benefit the Air Force on a yearly basis.

Besides the money, Hayes received national recognition and praise, including a letter of congratulations from Maj Gen John R. Guice, director of the ANG. When put into writing, some ideas pay off!

FOR SALE: 1979 Thunderbird, midnight blue, 18,000 miles, loaded with extras. No down-payment, just assume the existing loan. Contact Ralph Sweatman at OB 99 or at 538-7674 in Mount Washington.

KY GUARD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS SELECTED: Bruce Pieratt, an Army Guard captain from Lexington was elected president of the Kentucky Guard Association during its annual meeting last weekend in Lexington. Lt. Col. Joseph Kottak, Ky ANG, of Louisville was chosen as president-elect. This is the first time that the guard association will have a president-elect position. Other officers elected were Major Charles Hillard of Frankfort, vice president for Army and Capt. John Oswald of Louisville, vice president for Air. The outgoing president was Lt. Col. Maurice Farmer of Henderson.

KYANG CLUB ANNUAL MEETING: The annual general membership meeting of the KYANG Club will be held on Thursday, March 29 at 4:30 P.M. All club members are invited and encouraged to attend. There will be free beer and brats after the meeting.

BOISE STARTS WING'S RED FLAG PARTICIPATION: The 124th Tactical Reconnaissance Group from Boise, Idaho sent 4 RF-4Cs to the Red Flag Exercise which began Feb. 10 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Red Flag is Tactical Air Command's readiness program that provides tactical air and maintenance crews with a realistic training environment that simulates the threats they would encounter in combat. Other subordinate units of the 123d TRW are scheduled to take part in later Red Flags, including the 165 TRS in late summer 1979.

BEER, WINE TEST ON MAC CHARTER FLIGHTS: Service members and dependents traveling on Military Airlift Command civilian contract flights may now purchase beer and wine with their meals.

Gen. William G. Moore Jr., commander in chief of the Military Airlift Command, in approving a six-month test, said: "MAC is a service organization and, as such, should respond to the needs and desires of our customers within the bounds of prudent resource management and common sense."

The new service applies to category-B contract flights which move 75 percent of the Defense Department's passengers. Most other passengers travel aboard regularly scheduled commercial flights which already offer airline beverage service.

The contract carriers will charge regular commercial rates for the beverages. The carriers' normal rules concerning age and sobriety will apply.

MAC, as single manager for airlift service within the Department of Defense, negotiates contracts with commercial airlines to fill Department of Defense logistical requirements.

NEED A ROOMMATE? SSgt Bill Rice is looking for someone to share the expenses of his two-story home in Eastern Louisville. Rice says the home is in a nice neighborhood. Those interested should contact him in the Wing Orderly Room or on base extension 46.

NEW AMS GRADUATES: The Kentucky Air National Guard has three new officers who just graduated from the ANG Academy of Military Science (AMS) McGhee-Tyson ANG Base, Alcoa, Tenn. They are 1st Lt. Glenn D. Adair and Ray L. Lammlein and 2nd Lt. Gregory J. Lebre.

WANTED: Happy home for a LOVABLE MUTTI Ginger is a 4½ year-old, 30 pound, beagle-shepherd mixed breed dog. She is house broken, spayed, and very friendly. If you would like to take her home with you, please call Elaine George at OB 46 or at home 897-3747.