



The BLUEGRASS GUARD

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SPEC. 5 LAWRENCE RIGNEY, of the Middlesboro unit of the Kentucky Army Guard, displays his form with the M-60 light machine gun. Rigney has set a National Guard accuracy record and earned top honors in the novice class against marksmen in all branches of U. S. military service. (Photo by Capt. Tom Little)

AT '80: near the finish line

Nearly all Kentucky Army National Guard units have completed their two weeks of annual training this year.

The only remaining camp is the 1/123rd Armor at Fort Knox to begin Aug. 23.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, visited the units and praised them for their dedication and training successes. He noted that morale at most camps was good despite the intense heat and the adjustment to in-state camps.

Not all camps were within the Commonwealth. The 475th Combat Support Hospital suffered under 107 degree temperatures at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Other out-of-state camps included the 198th Military Police Battalion at Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Headquarters, 138th Artillery Group and the 2123rd Transportation Company in West Germany.

*See inside pages
for AT '80 photographs.*

Lifesaving effort earns highest award

Sgt. James R. Rhodes disregarded his own safety to save the life of a fellow member of the Kentucky Army National Guard and earned the state's highest award in recognition of that effort.

Rhodes, a member of Louisville's 223rd Military Police Company, was taking part in a tactical training exercise at Fort Knox

when the incident occurred. Sgt. Robert J. Harris, also of the 223rd, had just finished briefing Rhodes and several other unit members of the approach they would take upon encountering the expected

*See "Lifesaving ..."
Back page*

Marksmen give state new title

Kentucky has long been known for having the finest thoroughbred racehorses and the best bourbon in the world. Now, thanks to four members of the Kentucky Army National Guard, Kentucky can claim a much more unusual title as "M-60 light machine gun marksmanship capital of the world."

Four southeastern Kentucky Guardsmen recently won high honors, including the top individual championship, at the U. S. Army matches at Ft. Benning, Ga.

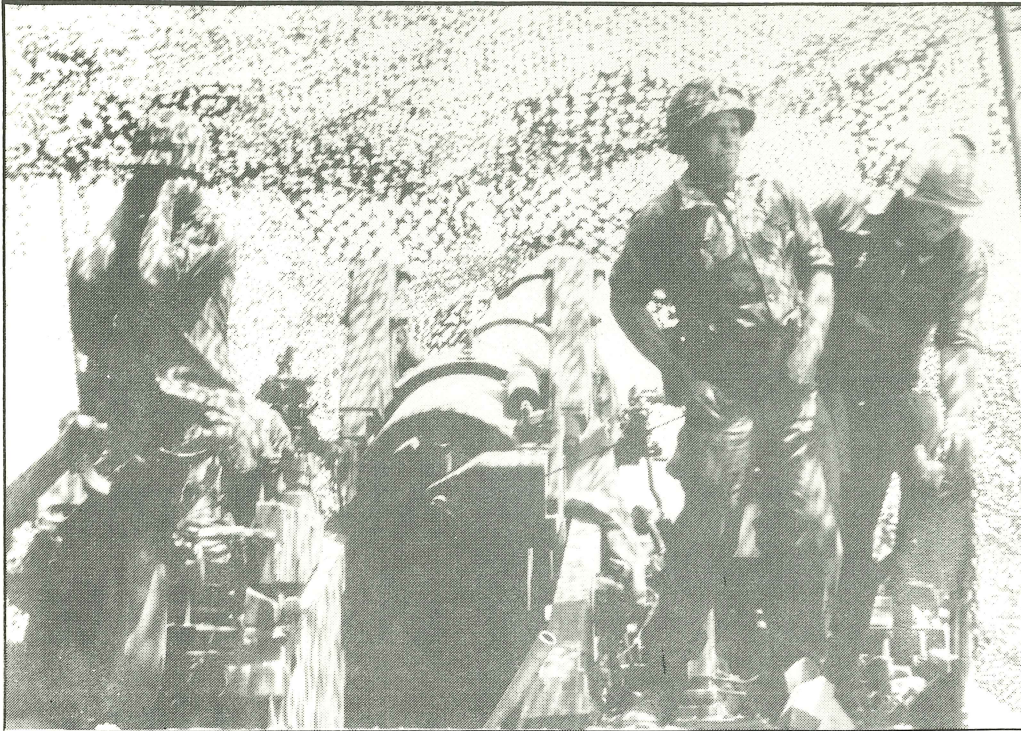
The competition included teams from the active Army, Army Reserve, Marine Corps, and Army National Guard from the U. S. and overseas. More than 800 marksmen took part in the final competition, which represented the third level of elimination. The Kentucky team placed second overall.

The Guardsmen are all members of the 149th Infantry (Mechanized), which is headquartered in Barbourville. Spec. 5 Lawrence Rigney, of Cumberland, earned top honors in the novice class. Other members of the team include: Sgt. James Lawson, of Middlesboro; Sgt. Bobby Middleton, of Barbourville; and Spec. 4 William Willis, of Ravenna.

Previously, during qualifying tournaments, Rigney set the National Guard record for accuracy and the team won top honors at the prestigious Winston P. Wilson Matches.

Rigney, who is a medic in the Guard, works as a coal miner in civilian life. He's been firing the M-60 for only two years and says he has little opportunity to practice.

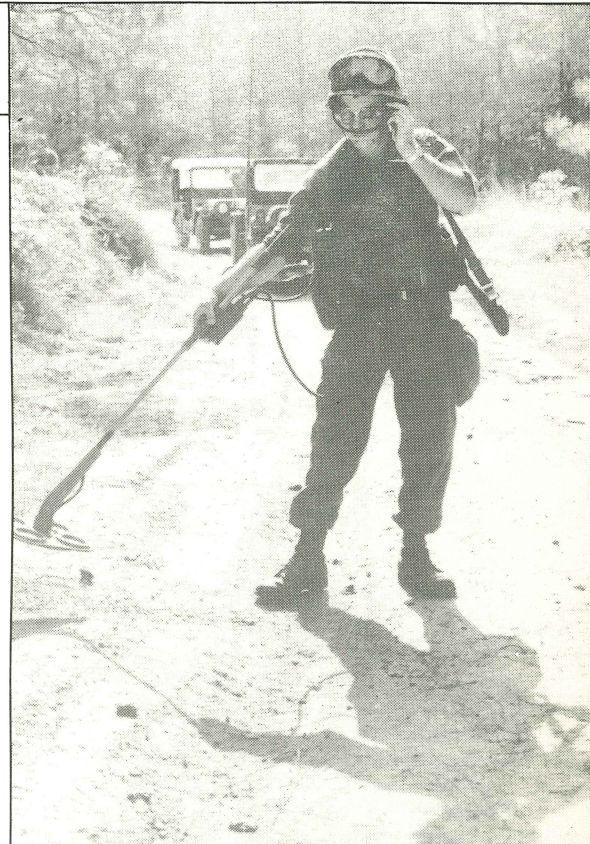
"I can't explain my ability," he said. "I guess it's really just a gift."



"HEAR NO EVIL; SEE NO EVIL; SPEAK NO EVIL" - These three men from the 1/623rd Field Artillery grimace as they anticipate the blast from this eight-inch howitzer. The 1/623rd trained at Fort Campbell.

annual training...

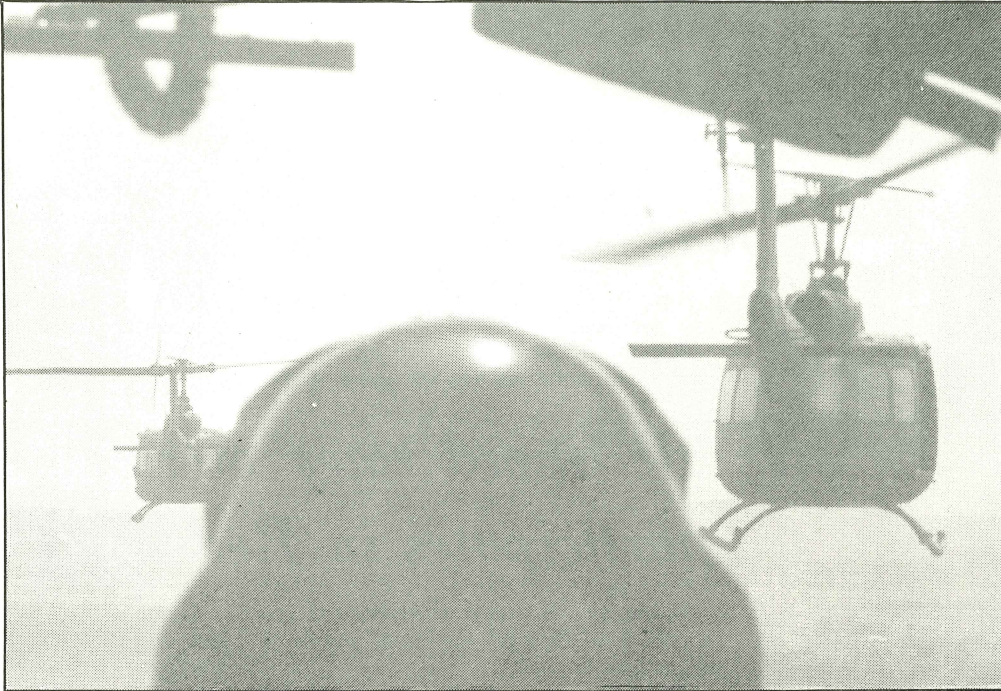
SPEC. 4 MALCOM MOSS sweeps an area at Fort Campbell for possible mines during annual training with the 1/623rd Field Artillery.



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FORMATION FLYING is one of the training exercises of Company C, 42nd Aviation Battalion. The unit was at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

long, hot summer

PHOTO CREDITS: top left, Staff Sgt. Joe Haydon; bottom left, Staff Sgt. Tom Murphy; this page, Staff Sgt. Ron Bayes.

TWO MEMBERS of the 1/149th Mechanized Infantry take to the woods during field maneuvers at Camp Atterbury, Ind.



calendar

OPEN HOUSE -- More than 30 different kinds of military aircraft will be on display at Standiford Field for Open House '80. The event is scheduled for Sept. 14 from 1-5 p.m.

DINING-IN VIII -- Officers and warrant officers of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard are invited to the eighth annual Dining-In at the Ramada Inn at Interstate 64 and Hurstbourne Lane in Louisville. The event is set for September 13, beginning at 6 p.m. Cost will be \$16 and includes dinner, wine and gratuities.

Lifesaving ...

(continued from page 1)

aggressor force. He turned toward the roadway and a flare on his belt somehow ignited, burning his side.

"I was screaming in agony because of the intense burning," Harris wrote in his report, "and I reached with both hands to try to get the flare off my belt, causing second and third degree burns to both hands."

Rhodes quickly moved to help Harris and managed to remove the belt, though he burned his right hand in the process.

Harris was taken to Ireland Army Hospital at Fort Knox, where doctors explained that a few more seconds of exposure to the burn would have undoubtedly been fatal.

Saving a friend's life wasn't enough for Rhodes, according to Harris.

"During my incapacitation in the hospital, Sergeant Rhodes managed to visit me about every other day," he said. "And, after my release from the hospital, he and his wife helped me until I was able to care for myself."

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, presented the Kentucky Medal for Valor to Rhodes and praised him for his heroic efforts.

Museum plans observance

Forty years ago, Kentucky National Guardsmen were called to federal service for World War II.

Now, on the anniversary, the Kentucky Military History Museum in Frankfort will have a special observance of that activation and every Guardsman is invited.

The museum, located on East Main Street, traces the history of Kentuckians involved in all aspects of military warfare.

This particular exhibit will include the actual telegram from the Secretary of War

calling Kentucky Guard units and will include photos of a number of Kentucky units in training and in combat in the Philippines. The uniform of the early 1940s will also be contrasted with the modern uniform and numerous weapons will be on display.

A special reception and open house is set for the opening day of the exhibit, September 20. The exhibit will remain available throughout September and October.

Air Guard rates 'overall excellent'; participates in Red Flag exercise

Kentucky Air Guard activities in recent months have brought significant credit to all parts of the unit.

The unit earned an "overall excellent" rating on its Operational Readiness Inspection, which is among the most comprehensive tests in the Air Force system.

The 12th Air Force Inspector General said, "The professional quality of all unit personnel and their enthusiastic and cooperative attitude reflect the commander's strong leadership. Even during compound exercise disruption, command and control was highly effective because people knew what to do."

Combat support and ability to survive and operate were rated "excellent" while command and control was judged "outstanding."

Over 90 Air Guardsmen and six of the unit's RF-4C Phantoms later participated in the largest Red Flag exercise ever conducted. The operation was based at Nellis AFB, Nev.

During this exercise, crews are exposed to realistic combat conditions. Aggressor aircraft, F-5s, were utilizing tactics and techniques of potential adversaries. More than 150 aircraft took part in the exercise.

Center moves to Military Affairs

The Department of Military Affairs has recently taken over responsibility for the operation of the Center for Veterans Affairs, an organization which provides information and claims processing services for Kentucky's military veterans. The office is headed by retired Kentucky National Guard Colonel Archie O. Taylor.

The center had previously been operated by the Department for Human Resources, which will continue to assist by accepting claims for medical assistance, pensions, educational help and survivors

benefits through local Bureau of Social Services offices across the state.

The center's operations are based in the Federal Building in Louisville. Information can be obtained through a toll-free number: (800) 292-4562. Louisville residents may also call 584-2231, while Lexington residents may call 253-0566.

Taylor also noted that the center will continue to work with various veterans service organizations, such as the American Legion and VFW and that local officers of those groups will maintain many of the claim forms.

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