



The BLUEGRASS GUARD

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131 graduate from KMA

Annual training was fruitful for the Kentucky Military Academy in June, with graduation ceremonies recognizing 30 newly-commissioned second lieutenants, 36 Advanced NCO course graduates, and 65 Guardsmen who completed Basic NCO training.

Congressman Larry Hopkins, of Kentucky's sixth district, spoke to the OCS graduates June 20 and emphasized their importance as leaders. He noted that, "War is the worst way to settle anything, but we must be ready for that action."

The congressman, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, said, "We live in a hair trigger nuclear world ... This country needs you and we need each other."

Several of the new officers earned special recognition at the ceremony, con-

ducted in the Capitol rotunda. 2nd Lt. Robert Trahan received both the National Guard Association of Kentucky Award for the highest academic average and the Erickson Trophy, which is given for the highest standing in leadership, academics and the commandant's evaluation.

2nd Lt. Charles Flynn earned the Association of the U.S. Army Plaque for the highest standard of leadership, while 2nd Lt. Patricia Fore received the Commandant's Award for the greatest self-improvement.

Others earning the gold bars included: Roger Alexander, Anthony Analla, Jack Baldwin, Gregory Brazeal, William Clark Jr., Virgil Elliot Jr., Douglas Fulcher, Dalvin Fuller, George Green, Roderic Hewlett, Lloyd Hoover, Charles Jones, Steven Jones;

Sharon Joseph, William Kyly, Larry Lucas, Randall Lane, William Martin, Richard Pate Jr., Charles Phipps, Joseph Richie, Kenneth Scott Jr., David Shirley, George Smith III, Glynn Tucker, Edgar Wilhite and Charles Winter.

Following the ceremony, many from the overflow crowd travelled to a reception hosted by Lt. Gov. Martha Layne Collins at her official residence.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Bailey spoke to graduates of the NCO courses during a Fort Knox ceremony June 19. He noted that the NCOs had worked for two weeks to develop leadership and training skills and he encouraged them to return to their units and put their knowledge into action.

He also reminded them of the key role they play in the success of their units.

"Officers come and go," he said, "but NCOs are there year after year. Most of you are in the same unit you enlisted in and it's you who provide the stability and the continuity."

Col. James Daniel, KMA commandant, and Brig. Gen. Robert Cundiff, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, also had words of praise for the NCOs. They both expressed pride in the achievements of the graduates and confidence that their knowledge will be of great benefit to their units.

Several NCOs were also recognized for excellence. In the Basic course, Sgt. Robert Yontz and Sgt. James Brown tied for top academic honors and both received the Enlisted Association, National Guard of Kentucky, Plaque. Sgt. Michael Bogie received the Association of the U.S. Army Plaque and Spec. 5 Gregory Moss earned the Commandant's Award. The Adjutant General's Trophy was awarded to Sgt. Ronnie Jones.

Sgt. 1st Class Noland Benton II earned two of three awards made to graduates of the Advanced course. He received both the AUSA Plaque and the Adjutant General's Trophy. Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Duvall took the Commandant's Award.



IT'S A TOSS-UP — It would be hard to decide which of the 131 Kentucky Military Academy graduates was happiest on graduation day June 20 as they gave their hats an upward fling. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Murphy)

NGAKy conducts special meeting

The Executive Council of the National Guard Association of Kentucky conducted a special meeting in Frankfort March 26 to discuss the insurance program for the upcoming year and the possibility of constructing an Association Office Building in Frankfort.

The Council received a report from the Committee on Insurance that the yearly earning of the program for 1981 would increase from \$4,000 to \$50,000. This figure was projected based on past performance.

The Committee on Insurance reported that in its meeting with the Insurance Company in Birmingham, an agreement had been made that the Company would loan the NGAKy Program \$300,000 providing that the NGAKy put up \$100,000 of insurance money.

The Insurance Subcommittee on Site Selection has located property in Frankfort for the construction of an Association Office Building. The Committee on Site Selection negotiated the price of the

property, reducing the price from the original \$165,000 to \$147,500.

The Council authorized the Committee on Insurance to purchase the property in the name of the Association and to incur a debt of \$100,000. The Committee on Insurance will be responsible for the operation, maintenance and financing of the property.

Constitutional appointments highlighted the regular meeting of the NGAKy held April 30 in Lexington. Capt. Jasper Carpenter and Col. Jerry W. Heaton were reappointed secretary-treasurer and executive director, respectively.

Named to the Committee on Continuity were Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joe Kiesler, Maj. Louis Sabel and Capt. Charles Suter, chairman.

The Committee on Insurance comprises Lt. Col. Joe Kottak, Capts. Tracy Hord and George Wilson, Command Sgt. Maj. Scotty VanArsdale and Capt. Ed Taylor, chairman.

Appointed to the Committee on Legis-

lation are Lt. Col. Larry Barker, chairman, and Capt. Gerald Howard.

Named to the Committee on Resolutions are Col. David Fleming, chairman, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joe Wilkins and Lt. Col. Tom Mooney.

The Committee on Nominations comprises Lt. Col. Joe Kottak, chairman, Lt. Col. Jack Crowner and Capt. Bruce Pieratt.

Other appointments include Capt. Steve Bolton as Judge Advocate General for the Association and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Edwin Birdwhistell as chairman of a special committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws.

The Council approved the General Fund Budget for FY 1982 with a projected income of \$16,000 and expenditures of \$14,165.

Also announced at the April meeting is an increase in active life membership dues to \$250, effective July 1, 1981. This membership fee is the same as that of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Open House featured

Armed Forces Awareness Week planned

Kentucky Air National Guard is planning an Armed Forces Awareness Week in the Louisville area during the third week of September designed to generate public support for the Kentucky National Guard.

The precision aerial demonstration team, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, will make public appearances in Louisville Tuesday before a show at Ft. Knox Wednesday night. The impressive Thunderbirds' show will be open to the general public, and more than 100,000 visitors are expected to attend.

At 8:30 a.m. Sept. 27, a Military Challenge race for Hemophilia will be run by

several thousand amateur athletes. This event will feature teams from all branches of the armed services, both Guard/Reserve and active duty.

By noon, the Air National Guard Base off Old Grade Lane will be swarming with visitors to see the Air Guard's fifth annual Open House. As with last year when more than 40,000 people visited the Air Guard, the equipment on display will represent all major branches of the military.

The 1980 open house had 64 separate kinds of aircraft on display, not only the F-14, F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft, but also the immense C-5A transport.

"We are going to try to make this one

even better," said Brig. Gen. William P. Gast, overall chairman of the show.

The run for the benefit of the National Hemophilia Foundation is a first, Gast pointed out. Individual entry fees of \$7 will go directly to the Kentucky chapter of the foundation.

"There will be some outstanding prizes awarded for the Hemophilia run," he said.

Entry forms for the race will be available by contacting Lt. Col. Richard Jett, administrative support officer for the Air Guard at the Boone National Guard Center at Frankfort. His phone number is (502) 564-8490.

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Sen. Baker resigns, accepts Washington post

Lt. Col. Walter A. Baker, 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing Legal Officer, has accepted a post in Washington, D.C., as Associate General Counsel (Intelligence, International and Investigative Program) for the Department of Defense.

Colonel Baker resigned his seat in the Kentucky Senate on June 15 to accept his new position.

A resident of Glasgow, the colonel is a graduate of Harvard Law School and has been a Kentucky Air National Guard member since 1961.

He won his Senate seat in 1972 after two terms in the House of Representatives. The 44-year-old attorney has served as minority caucus chairman during the last three sessions of the State Legislature.

He is married to the former Jane Stark Helm, a Louisville native, and they have two children.

Colonel Baker says that his new job does not mean a permanent departure from his home state. "Nevertheless, I will miss very much the service in the State Senate and the association with my many friends here in Kentucky."

Two in the Guard 'for better or for worse'

by Capt. Tom Little

One Frankfort man says he doesn't have to salute his wife in the morning, though he probably should. The wife says her husband is constantly checking the shine on her boots and the length of her hair.

A strange marriage? Not for John and Shirley Semones, for they're both members of the Kentucky Army National Guard.

John, a sergeant first class, has served with the Guard for 16 years and is the senior instructor with the Kentucky Military Academy's non-commissioned officer school at Fort Knox.

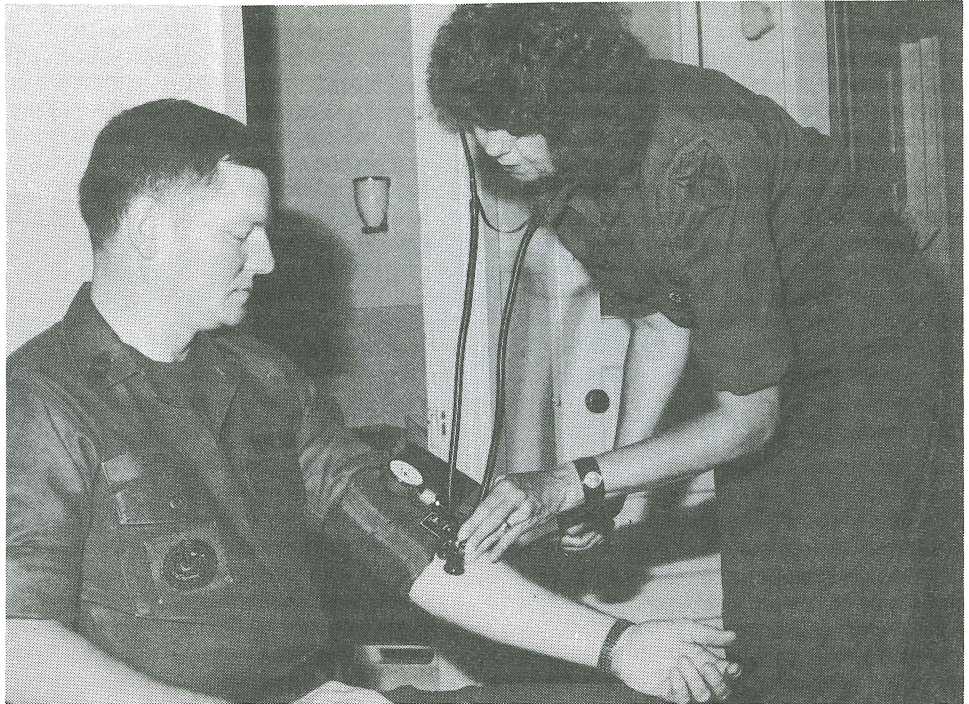
Shirley has been with the Guard only a year, but holds the rank of captain. As a nurse, her professional skills qualified her for an immediate commission as an officer.

"The Guard has been great for me," the captain said. "I joined to gain experience in acute medical care that I haven't gotten in my seven years as a nurse."

She is also eligible to have the Guard pay half of her tuition at Eastern Kentucky University, where she's a full-time student working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Shirley is assigned to the 475th Combat Support Hospital, where she now spends most of her time training medics assigned to the unit. They train and offer support one weekend per month at King's Daughters Hospital.

John is a shipping supervisor for National Distilleries in civilian life, and



A "COUPLE" OF GUARDMEMBERS — It's no coincidence that St. 1st Class John Semones shares the same last name as Capt. (nurse) Shirley Semones; the two have been married nearly 25 years. (Photo by Capt. Tom Little)

Shirley also works part-time at Lexington's VA hospital.

John says his friends kid him a lot about being out-ranked by his wife, but he obviously enjoys the situation.

Shirley says she's really gained a lot,

including a better understanding of what her husband has been doing in the Guard for the past 16 years.

They've been married nearly 25 years and have four children, including 21-year-old triplets.

207th commander honored by employer

The commander of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 207th Engineer Company, headquartered in Jackson, has been named "Citizen of the Year" by his employer, Falcon Coal Company. The company is one of the largest mining firms in Eastern Kentucky.

Maj. Ervin Allen, a five year veteran of the Kentucky Guard, is a land agent and trucking coordinator for the company, which is a subsidiary of Diamond Shamrock.

Allen said that the firm appreciated the service he gave to the community through the Guard and that it undoubtedly played a major role in his selection. He explained that he has gained strong community support for the Guard because he emphasized community relations projects. He has commanded the unit since November 1979.

In addition to his full-time job and his service to the Guard, Allen manages to coach Pee Wee and Little League baseball

teams. He is also president of the Lees College Alumni Association and is a charter member of Citizens for Lees, which promotes the growth of the college. He also participates in civil fund-raising drives for a variety of organizations and is his company's representative to the Breathitt County Honey Festival. That four-day event annually draws about 50,000 people.

As a mark of appreciation, Falcon Coal

donated \$200 to the Diabetes Association in his name, while Diamond Shamrock gave \$300 to the American Cancer Society. Allen explained that he selected these organizations because members of his family have been affected by the diseases.

Allen and his wife will also receive an expense-paid trip to Dallas to meet with top officials of Diamond Shamrock at the firm's corporate headquarters.

Retention Hotline opens communications lines

The inevitable has happened. Emphasis has finally been placed on the Retention side of Recruiting and Retention.

In an effort to open communications lines throughout the state, the National Guard Bureau has authorized the installation of a toll-free Retention Hotline to be in operation 24 hours-a-day within the state.

During normal duty hours, a specialist

will be available to respond to calls. After hours, a recording device will accept messages and calls will be returned as rapidly as possible.

Any suggestions or ideas that would help build a better Kentucky Guard or questions about a Guard-related problem that hasn't been or can't be resolved through the chain of command, can be dealt with through the Retention Hotline. The number is 1-800-372-7601.

Machinegun, rifle teams in matches

The Kentucky National Guard has been represented twice this year in national and regional shooting matches.

Two teams from the Kentucky National Guard competed in the Annual Forces Command (FORSCOM) Central Region Rifle, Pistol and Machinegun Championship Matches held at Ft. Riley, Kan., March 15-20.

Kentucky was represented at the matches by a pistol team from the 438th Military Police Company in Louisville and a machinegun team from HHC, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry in Eastern Kentucky.

The machinegun team also competed in the 1981 U.S. Army Rifle, Pistol and Machinegun Championship Matches at Ft. Benning, Ga., May 13-23, earning third place in aggregate scores.

At the FORSCOM matches, Staff Sgt. Will Thomas Jr., representing the pistol team, placed third in the Individual Excellence in Competition (Leg) Match Combat. Shooters earn credit toward their distinguished pistol shooters badges in the leg matches.

Winner of the Individual M-60 Light Machinegun Match at FORSCOM was Staff Sgt. Ray E. Patterson, Somerset.

At the FORSCOM matches, Kentucky's machinegun team placed first in M-60 Light Machinegun Team Aggregate scores, with scores of first and second in two matches.

Members of the machinegun team are: Spec. 5 Lawrence L. Rigney, Williamsburg; Sgt. Bobby P. Middleton, Barbourville; Pfc. Paul M. Frost, Middlesboro and Patterson.

Pistol team members competing in the FORSCOM matches are: Platoon Sgt. Robin L. McGuire and Richard W. Webb; Sgt. Steven L. King; Specs. 4 Richard L. Privett and Michael B. Jones; Pfc. William M. Conner II and Paul R. Schweizer and Thomas.



PREPARING TO FIRE — ROTC Candidate Randy Thompson operates a loader rammer on an M110 howitzer during annual training at Fort Campbell in June. Thompson, a student at Western Kentucky University, was training with the 623rd Field Artillery of Campbellsville. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Hayden)

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