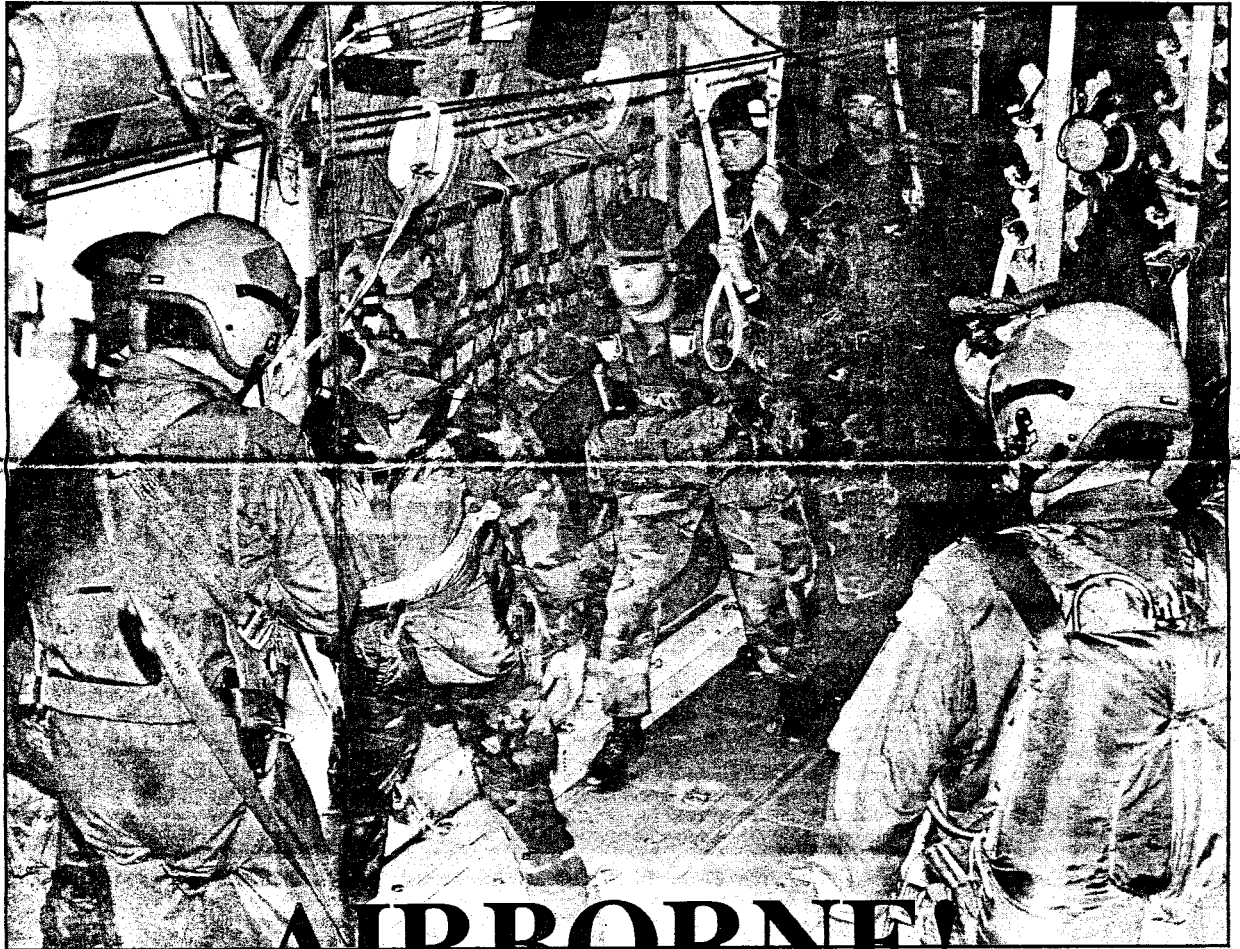

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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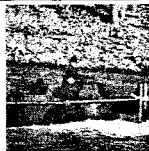
AIRBORNE!

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OUR COVER

Members of the KyANG's Combat Control Team prepare to make a "vigorous exit" from a Kentucky Guard C-130 Hercules into a Fort Campbell drop zone. On pages 4 and 5 you will find more pictures of this one-of-a-kind unit's recent airborne training, as well as their "star" jumpmaster. (Photo by 1LT Phil Miller, 133d PAD)

AT EASE

The *Bluegrass Guard* serves as the official newspaper for both the Kentucky Air and Army National Guard. That's why you've been noticing more Air Guard stories in recent editions. This month, you will notice the "blue suit" side has made a large contribution to the pages of the paper, including stories about the cooperation of the Air and Army sides. That's the way it needs to be in times of budget restraints and the way you'll be seeing it in your Guard newspaper.

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THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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Army Guard Major Appointed Judge

By MAJ Keith Kappes
KySTARC PAO

When Gov. Wallace Wilkinson recently picked Army Guard MAJ Gary D. Payne of Lexington to become Kentucky's first black judge outside of Jefferson County, he found a person ready for the challenge.

Payne, chief legal officer for the 138th FA Brigade, already had the distinction of being the state's first black field grade officer. In fact, the Paducah native says he learned the self-discipline and confidence in the military that would help him prepare to be a district judge on the first and busiest rung of Kentucky's judicial ladder.

The 41-year-old officer, who now is among three judges in the Kentucky Army Guard, also is a part-time professor in the College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky.

But hard work was no stranger in the Payne household in Paducah where William and Sara Payne loved and reared five future college graduates on a small farm with the wages of a railroad laborer.

"All of us were encouraged to work hard if we wanted to be successful and my wife and I are trying to instill those values in our three children," says Judge Payne, a 1978 UK law school graduate. He earned his undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University while serving a hitch in the Marine Corps.

Married to the former Diane Pullen of Brookport, Illinois, the state's newest jurist is a graduate of Paducah St. Mary's High School and also attended St. Mary's Seminary before teaching for a year in Central City.

Following the Marines and law school, he passed the bar exam in 1979 and began learning the legal ropes as a law clerk for State Chief Justice John Palmore, as an estate and gift tax attorney for the IRS, as a private practice lawyer in Lexington and part-time staff counsel for the secretary of state and later



MAJ Gary D. Payne

as a part-time and then full-time assistant county attorney and then as general counsel for the state Corrections Cabinet.

Named to an unexpired term, Payne plans to run this year for a full term. Does he feel pressure to be successful as a black judge?

"The pressure on any judge is to be fair and decisive and to uphold our system of justice for all of the citizens. In the final analysis, being a black judge is not as important as being a good judge.

21st AF Commander Visits KyANG

By TSGT Jenny Montgomery
123d TAW Public Affairs

The commander of the Military Airlift Command's Twenty-First Air Force, Major General Donald A. Logeais visited the Kentucky Air National Guard January 25.

General Logeais received a briefing from BG John L. Smith, 123d Tactical Airlift Wing commander, and the wing's deputy commanders, on the status of the unit's conversion to the airlift mission. The KyANG is now under the control of MAC and the Twenty-First Air Force.

"From being supported, now you have to think in terms of supporting other people and that's a monumental change," said General Logeais. Once the conversion is completed and the unit is combat ready it will fit into the typical MAC mission. "In tactical airlift, which is what 130's fly, it's more of a theatre kind of mission, supporting generally the maneuver of the army on the battlefield," he said.

As commander of the Twenty-First Air Force, headquartered at McGuire AFB, New Jersey, General Logeais' area of responsibility extends eastward through Canada, Greenland, Iceland, NATO Europe, Africa and the Middle East to the eastern boundaries of Iran and the Arabian peninsula and southward to the Caribbean and South America. This includes more than 34,000 MAC people and 280 airlift

aircraft operating from more than 50 locations.

"The facts are when there is something going on in the world, a MAC airplane, generally speaking, will be there to do something, very much unlike a fighter outfit or a B-52 outfit," said General Logeais. "Now this being a Reserve outfit you won't be doing as much of this, but on the other hand, from time to time you will get into the system and can be put into action." An example of this given by General Logeais was the earthquake in Soviet Armenia. The Jackson unit, who were already in the area, "were directed to go in on one of the first missions in there."

When there is trouble like last year in Honduras, "very quickly we put together an airdrop and an airlift flow that put 3,200 people in the air down there very quickly, almost overnight. There were Reserve outfits that flew in on that."

"In MAC I like to say that 40 percent of my force is deployed all the time, we're often employed in the field some place," said the general. For the aircrews and others in the 123d TAW, this means there may be opportunities to get into "many different countries and get to visit a lot of places you wouldn't get to see otherwise," added General Logeais.

"The same kind of discipline and training that carried you so well before is certainly the key to doing it in this new airplane and new mission."



MG Donald Logeais discusses the KyANG conversion with 123d TAW Cdr. BG John Smith. (Photo by SMSGT Dave Tinsley)

Guard Called Out After Storm Hits Franklin

Story and Photos by 1LT Phil Miller, 133d PAD

Kentucky Army Guard MP's were directing traffic and protecting property within hours after a severe storm whipped through Franklin on Saturday, January 7, destroying or damaging 50 homes and businesses, and causing an estimated \$2 million in damage.

For four days, twenty-one MP's drawn from units of the Louisville-based 198th MP Battalion were assigned to traffic control in the downtown area and security details in several of the south central Kentucky city's hard-hit subdivisions.

Additional security was provided at a medical complex housing doctors' offices and a pharmacy where high winds demolished the building's second floor and knocked down outer walls.



SECURITY — SSG Will Thomas and SGT Patrick Overall of the 438th MP Company, Louisville, stand guard near the wreckage of a pharmacy and doctor's office complex.



TRAFFIC CONTROL — KyARNG MP's controlled traffic at major intersections throughout the city of Franklin while workers cleaned up downed trees and power lines.



IN-CHARGE — 2LT Terry Orange, OIC for the MP mission, briefs State Military Support Officer LTC Elmo Head, Governor's Cabinet Secretary Richard "Smitty" Taylor and Adjutant General Michael Davidson on the use of MP patrols in neighborhoods where homes were damaged by the storm.

Afghan Freedom Fighter Visits KyARNG Units

By SGT Rick Baker
133d PAD

Matulla Safi took his first helicopter ride recently, when he flew from Fort Knox to Bowling Green to speak to members of the 2d Battalion, 123d Armor. But Mati, as he is more commonly known, is no stranger to helicopters.

Mati is a "freedom fighter" from Afghanistan who, for the last three-and-a-half years, has been part of the resistance movement to the Soviet occupation of his country. During that time, he has become used to the sound of Soviet helicopters and planes as they attacked rebel positions.

Mati is currently in Louisville, undergoing a series of surgical procedures at Jewish Hospital to restore partial use of his injured left hand. After arriving in November through the efforts of State Rep. Tom Riner of Louisville, Mati has been staying with the family of CPT Kelly Byrd. Byrd works for Rep. Riner and is press relations officer for the 133d Public Affairs Detachment, KyARNG.

Recently, the Afghan fighter has been visiting several Kentucky National Guard units and, with the help of interpreters, has been answering questions about the Afghan war and Soviet activities there. He has explained what weapons are used by both

sides and how the rebels are able to remain an effective force in spite of superior Soviet weaponry.

The battle to regain his country has been costly to Mati's family. When they first invaded the country, the Soviets destroyed the family's farm and stole their crops. Mati and several other members of his family joined the rebel movement. In one attack, a Russian mortar attack killed his father, grandfather and four uncles. This makes the young Afghan the oldest surviving male

in his family and the head of the household.

Mati has been wounded three times himself — once in the leg and twice on the wrist. A former machine gunner, Mati lost partial use of his wrist in a mortar attack. Since he still had movement in his thumb, he was retrained in Pakistan to use a grenade launcher, which can be used with one hand.

During later action against Soviet tanks, Mati suffered another injury to the same wrist, leaving his left hand useless. After

a 10-day trip to Pakistan, he was told by Pakistani doctor's it would have to be amputated. But an American doctor who was there felt the hand could be saved and arranged through a support organization to have Mati flown to Kentucky to see if he could be helped here.

Some movement of the fingers and thumb have been restored in Mati's hand by reconnecting the severed tendons and nerves. He hopes that in late spring he will be able to return to Pakistan and stay with his mother, and his wife and four-year-old son before returning to the fighting. Under Islamic law, Mati inherited his uncles' wives when the men were killed.

After a 17-month mourning period, the women must decide if they will become wives to head of the family or return to live with their parents. The three older women decided to live with their parents, but the 19-year-old wife of his youngest uncle and her son remained with Mati.

The Afghan rebel says he has enjoyed his stay in the U.S. and is especially appreciative to the organization that arranged for him to receive the medical treatment in Kentucky — Healing the Children.

For Matulla Safi — battle-scarred war veteran, husband, father and head of his family — is 15 years old.



Interpreter Abdul Ghafur, a Lexington pharmacist, translates for Mati Safi, right, during the Afghan rebel's visit to HQ, 1/149th INF, in Barbourville. (Photo by CPT E. Kelly Byrd, 133d PAD)

Stand Up! Hook Up! Shuffle to the Door!

Air Guard Combat Control Team--A



Photo by ILT Phil Miller, 133d PAD

Star Jumpmaster



Photo by ILT Phil Miller, 133d PAD

In-Flight Advice

By ILT Phil M
133d PAD

On Thursday, January 26, seven members of the team made their way into the history books when they strapped on para C-130 Hercules onto Ft. Benning's Fryar Field Drop Zone. They were the first Air Guard Combat Control Team in the nation to graduate.

One week later the team scored yet another first, dropping into a Drop Zone with Brigadier General Michael W. Davidson, the Adjutant General of the 10th Air Force.

"It was sure muddy and windy," said CCT member John Smith. "We hit the ground with about a 15 mph wind and before we could collapse our chutes. I don't know how much thrill and 50 percent terror . . . but once you get it, it's a real thrill."

"Having General Davidson as our jumpmaster was a real honor. It shows the type of command support we're getting. General John Smith (123d Tactical Airlift Wing) was here at Ft. Benning, and then General Davidson jumped with us. . . we're getting a lot of high level support, and it's off well."

The next challenge for the KyANG CCT -- 10th Air Force Base, North Carolina -- is a combination of unit tactics and demolition training -- then it's airborne training at the Army Free Fall Parachute School.



Pre-Jump T

Army Jump School Grads

ntucky Air Guard literally jumped
ates and jumped from a 123d TAW
'one to become the first Air Guard
on the Army Airborne School.

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son in his first jump since becom-

Senior Master Sergeant Bill Smith.
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ow to describe it. It's 50 percent
, it's great.

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think this team is going to come

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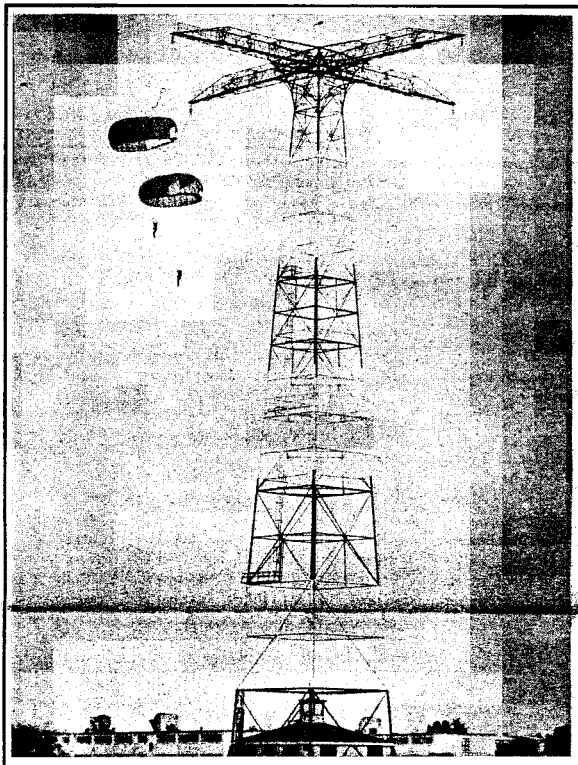


Photo by SrA Dennis Robinson, 123d TAW

Jump School



Photo by 1LT Phil Miller, 133d PAD

ning



Photo by SrA Dennis Robinson, 123d TAW

"All Aboard!"



Early morning boaters at Cave Run Lake near Morehead were startled to see this camouflaged, oddly-shaped boat racing across the water at full throttle in its operational tests. (National Guard Photos by SFC Steve Wright, 133d PAD)



With cab and mast removed for highway clearance purposes, two of the "combat support boats" are launched for operational tests at Cave Run Lake. The craft can be launched and retrieved much faster than previous boats.

Kentucky Guard "Navy" Gets New "Fleet"

By MAJ Keith Kappes
KySTARC PAO

If you didn't know that the Kentucky Army National Guard has its own "navy," then you also may be interested to learn that we have become only the second Guard state to get a new "fleet" of 12 fast and powerful "combat support boats."

The new watercraft, with a total value of nearly \$2 million, recently were delivered to Morehead's Company E, 206th Engineer Battalion, 35th Infantry Division. Following operational tests on nearby Cave Run Lake, the new hydrojet-propelled, aluminum-hulled boats became part of the inventory of the Kentucky Guard's only

"ribbon bridge" engineer company.

"The new boat undoubtedly is the best thing to happen to our training program since the unit was formed two years ago," said 1SGT Dan Stewart of Morehead. "Now that our bridge platoons have enough mission-capable boats, we can establish and maintain the integrity of our bridge sections and train under more realistic conditions."

CPT George Green, the unit commander, described the delivery of the new boats, formerly identified as "bridge erection boats," as "an exciting weekend and a great morale builder for our young soldiers who trained on this modern equip-

ment at the engineer school."

Powered by two diesel engines with a total of 414 horsepower, the "combat support boat" is 27 feet long and carries a crew of three. Designed especially for "ribbon bridge" units, the craft is capable of maneuvering floating bridge components and rafts and can carry 15 fully-equipped combat troops. It also can be used to support diving operations, assist in maritime construction projects, carry cargo and to patrol inland waters.

Fully transportable, the boat can maneuver in any direction and has a top speed of about 35 knots. It is the newest watercraft in the Army inventory and, ac-

ording to 1SGT Stewart, "handles beautifully in the water."

The boat's cab and mast are removable for transportation purposes and its new "cradle" easily adapted to the unit's existing "bridge transporters" (trucks).

"This boat will make a dramatic improvement in our readiness and training program," Stewart added. "We expect to cross-train most of our bridge specialists as operators and I anticipate that our training exercises at Cave Run Lake will draw a lot more attention and that certainly could help our recruiting."

"Getting state-of-the-art equipment like this can only make a good unit better."

201st Engineers Get Military Tour of Frankfort

By SGT Robert W. Pillow
133d PAD

SPC James Tolle wasn't up for the January drill with his unit, Company D, 201st Engineers, of Carlisle.

But when he got to drill on the morning of January 21, things began to pick up.

In fact, Tolle and 13 other unit members were picked up by a Blackhawk helicopter and flown to Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort to visit with Headquarters, State Area Command.

Tolle, his friends and 14 members of the 201st's Company C in Cynthiana were invited to see STARC and other facilities on the center.

They were briefed on the Guard's mission, assets and impact on the local economy. They also got a chance to see the Kentucky Military Museum, the Ken-

tucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial and rapel from a tower, which some of the 201st engineers constructed last year.

"It's good for a change," Tolle said of the visit after rapelling from the tower. "It makes me feel a little more proud of the Guard. I didn't realize how big the Guard is and how involved it is."

The engineers owe the pleasure of this visit to a program started by state Adjutant General Michael Davidson to acquaint E-4s through E-6s in the Guard with the operations of Headquarters, STARC and the sights of Kentucky's capital city.

Members of every unit in the state will have a chance for this tour. The engineers were chosen to be the first visitors because their units have helped construct many of the facilities on the center, according to COL Larry Barker, the Guard's chief of staff.

One of the reasons for the program is to show the troops that they are appreciated, Barker told the visitors during their briefing about the Guard.

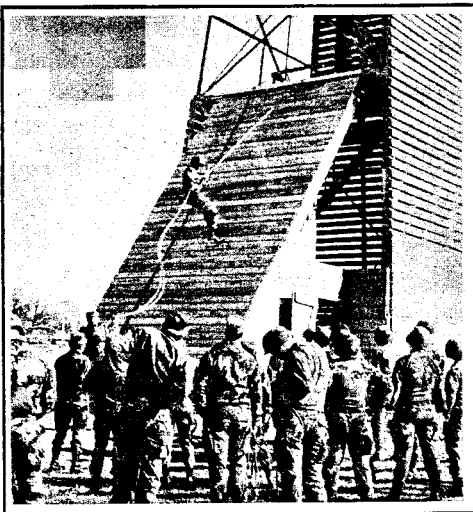
The visit accomplished that goal for January's guests.

"This is great," SGT Emery Fryman of Cynthiana. "I could handle a weekend like this every weekend."

SPC Mark Gross said he really enjoyed the visit to the museum. "I learned a whole lot about battles and weapons, especially about rifles."

For PFC Wayne Ward of Cynthiana, the rapelling made his day. His trips down the tower were the first since he finished basic training two years ago.

"I feel a lot better about the Guard," he said. "Getting out and doing something like this is having fun."



For members of Company C and D of the 201st Engineers, rapelling was the highlight of their tour of Boone National Guard Center and Frankfort in January. (Photo by CDT Dwayne Bruny, 133d PAD)

KyANG Engineers Spend First Mission in Honduras



FIRST MISSION — SSGT James P. Bobbit, a site developer, 123d CES, determines elevation at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, with a transit. Bobbit was one of fifty-seven members of the 123d Civil Engineering Squadron to deploy to Honduras in the KyANG's first mission as a tactical airlift wing. (Photo by SSGT Jeff Sansbury, 123d TAW)

By SSGT Jeff Sansbury
123d TAW Public Affairs

Just one day after becoming a tactical airlift wing, the Kentucky Air National Guard received its first real-world mission by deploying to Central America.

Fifty-seven members of the 123d Civil Engineering Squadron arrived in Honduras January 9 to lend a hand to U.S. forces and their active-duty counterparts. The two-week mission took the Kentuckians nearly 2,000 miles and placed them far from the usual setting. The air was thin, and the view stretched for miles across a desolate mountain range and one of the country's largest air bases, Soto Cano.

"This is the last place I thought we'd end up," said SSGT Phillip Elery, a water and waste specialist for the unit.

The mission was to construct new shower and toilet facilities for U.S. troops there. It was a challenge, most will agree.

"I'll admit," SGT Elery added, "Guardsmen don't usually take these kinds of assignments. I was a bit surprised."

Twelve-hour days were routine for the men and women, and some found the heat an obstacle. Dehydration and sun-

burn resulted, but no one was seriously affected.

In fact, the Kentucky unit arrived in Honduras for perhaps the most ideal working conditions of the year. Occasional rain and 85 degree temperatures are welcomed there in January, in a country that rotates from wet to dry seasons with continual weeks of 100 degrees-plus. At times the civil engineers continued their projects through late-night rain showers and were back at their job sites at seven the next morning.

"Getting the right supplies, at the right time, has been the biggest concern. We're finding that some of the equipment here is different, and so we've learned to adapt," explained MAJ Thomas J. Marks, Jr., commander of the 123d CES. "The austere conditions play a big factor in this type of work, but our men and women seem to like the challenge."

Personnel were housed in 16-man "hootches," a simple, but efficient plywood barracks that offered shade and protection from the volatile, tropical climate.

"It's not so bad. I think everyone has coped well so far," said SSGT Mary Day, the unit's orderly room clerk. "Until we ar-

rived here, all we could do was rely upon television and newspapers to understand the conditions."

The Honduran assignment marks the first time that a Kentucky Air Guard unit has trained in Central America. The 123d CES operates under the Air Force mission known as PRIME BEEF — Base Emergency Engineering Force — a highly skilled team of carpenters, electricians, heavy equipment operators, firefighters and other skilled craftsmen.

Toward the end of their training the Air Guardsmen were visited by BG John L. Smith, 123d TAW commander, and state Adjutant General Michael W. Davidson. The generals reviewed Kentucky's work sites and met personally with the troops.

The one-day visit allowed for UH-1 helicopter tours of army field camps in rural Honduras, and concluded with intelligence briefings by U.S. military personnel.

Aside from the language barrier and the need for a Spanish interpreter, the first real-world mission under a tactical airlift role went smoothly. For members of the 123d CES, memories of their 1989 trip to Honduras will be long lasting.

MAJ Hunt Dons "Purple Suit" to Coordinate Airlift

By Mike Lynch
Dept. of Military Affairs

You say you don't really look forward to a four-day convoy to Colorado or hitting the trail to Texas for annual training? And you think there's got to be a better way? Well, where there's a will, there's a way — or so they say.

The will has come from Adjutant General Davidson, and he's appointed MAJ Howard Hunt III of the Kentucky Air National Guard to find the ways to get more KyARNG soldiers airlifted to training locations.

"Airlift is more time- and cost-effective for the movement of equipment and people," Hunt says. "It's better war-time training to go by air in a mobilization environment, too."

Hunt, a Danville native, has become what is sometimes called a "purple suiter," that is, an Air Guard member working to support Army Guard training. After serving active duty as a personnel officer at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base in Kansas, he joined the Kentucky Air Guard in April, 1975. His previous assignments with the old 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing included wing executive officer and OIC of aircraft maintenance control with the 123d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"The adjutant general's goal," he says, "is to reduce as much as possible those ground AT deployments that are time-consuming, absent of training value and costly."

Yet he's not concentrating on using only the C-130's of the newly-converted 123d Tactical Airlift Wing in Louisville.

"My goal is to support the Kentucky Guard with airlift secured from the total USAF airlift community and to look to the 123d TAW as another member of that community," he adds, "and not to overburden

them with parochial (state) requests."

Hunt travels to Jackson, Mississippi, this month for a semi-annual conference where he will file II Army Guard requests for airlift support this training year. The largest of them involves about 500 troops.

"We are new at this," he says, "but I think the presence of a blue-suiter in this environment will enhance the possibility of getting 'purple' results."

There are three types of airlift support, Hunt explains. The first one, involving about 70 percent of the missions, is called

opportunistic support. That means the schedule or type of Army Guard airlift request coincides with the schedule or training needs of an available airlift unit.

About 15 percent of the missions fall under another category, called JA/ATT, for joint airborne/air transportability training, missions. These missions go a step beyond opportunistic support, involving the use of aircraft to enhance the ground unit's training beyond just "getting them there." For instance, a JA/ATT mission might involve transporting a unit or usable military cargo which will parachute into a training area.

The third type of mission is the SAAM, or special assignment airlift mission, a relatively rare type of mission involving special airlift requests.

Hunt's job will involve prioritizing and coordinating the airlift support requests which come to the Plans, Operations and Training Office at Boone Center in Frankfort.

"The term 'purple suit' is one that's here to stay," Hunt says. "The concept is a good one: Having a blend of the services to achieve useful training purposes."

So hang onto your helmets, some of you will probably be getting to annual training a little faster in the future, giving you more quality time in the field and less wasted time on the road.



MAJ Howard Hunt, right, discusses an airlift request with Deputy Chief of Staff MAJ Allen Youngman. (Photo by Mike Lynch)

BRIEFLY NOTED

SSG Jones Named
"Top 50" Recruiter

SSG Ray G. Jones of Radcliffe has been recognized as one of the nation's top 50 National Guard recruiters.

Lieutenant General Herbert Temple, chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, gave Jones and the other 49 top recruiters across the nation the "Chief's 50" award in December.

Jones, a Vietnam veteran, recruits at Fort Knox and Brandenburg for the 3/123 Armor, the recently created tank battalion equipped with the new M-1 Abrams tank.

Jones credits his success as a recruiter to increased public awareness of the Guard. "People are finding out what the Army National Guard has to offer in salary, education, training and adventure," he said.

Jones and his wife, Delle, have two daughters -- Christina, 11 and Jenny, 9.



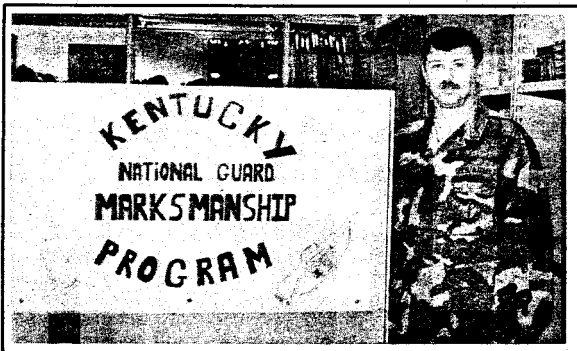
123rd TRW Gets Seventh Outstanding Unit Award

Once again the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing has been recognized for its exceptional mission performance, with the announcement of its seventh Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

"This honor, which is bestowed upon only 10 percent of the eligible Air National Guard units each year, attests to the fact that the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing is one of the best," stated BG Philip G. Killey, Director, Air National Guard in a letter to the Adjutant General of Kentucky.

The KyANG is the only Air National Guard unit to hold the distinction of seven AFOUAs. The last six of these AFOUAs were received consecutively, covering approximately two-year intervals for 12 years from November 1, 1976, to March 31, 1988. The unit received its first AFOUA for its work during the Pueblo Crisis for the period January 26, 1968, through June 8, 1969.

"The enthusiasm, concern for mission accomplishment, and the dedication displayed by these professional Guardsmen are really what has made the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing the outstanding unit that it is," stated General Killey.



Marksmanship Coordinator CPT Bill Hilling

Every Unit in the National Guard
Can Have Its Own Marksmanship Team

Marksmanship Coordinator CPT Bill Hilling says that qualifying Guard personnel can be formed into five-member teams based on their competitive skills. Combat teams can be set up to compete with the M-60 machine gun, M-16 rifle and the .45 automatic pistol. Composite teams would fire matched M-14 rifles and .22 pistols.

"Teams can compete at different levels and eventually go to the State, 2nd Army and the Wilson Matches," said Hilling.

"The idea is to build on existing training that every soldier gets in basic training and expand upon it."

CPT Hilling, who recently moved from Paducah with the 1/123rd, is Marksmanship Coordinator full-time at Boone Center. A shooter himself, Hilling is very enthusiastic about promoting this program.

He can be reached at (502) 564-8454.



An RF-4C Phantom jet sits next to a C-130 Hercules cargo craft at the KyANG base in Louisville.

Last of KyANG's Phantoms Leave

The Kentucky Air National Guard put aside its 31-year photo reconnaissance mission and assumed a military airlift role January 8.

As the 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing began making the historic transition, 57 members were packing for the unit's first real-world mission to Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras. The 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron spent two weeks in Honduras, arriving home January 22.

The final eight RF-4C Phantom II aircraft assigned to the unit made their final departure from Standiford Field January 10. The RF-4s were placed on the Department of Defense excess material sell list last year. The Spanish government purchased the aircraft for \$20.3 million. Aircrews from the KyANG flew the aircraft to Spain.

The 123rd began its photo reconnaissance mission January 15, 1958, with the arrival of the RB-57 Canberra aircraft. Seven years later, the KyANG received the RF-101 "Voodoo" supersonic recon jet.

Then in the spring of 1976, a no-notice conversion to the RF-4C Phantom II was announced from the National Guard Bureau in Washington.

The RF-4C era marked the 123rd's complete transition into the U.S. Air Force Total Force framework. During this period, the KyANG received seven Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, six of them consecutively, for exceptionally meritorious service, setting an Air National Guard record. The unit has also received the coveted Spaatz and Winston P. Wilson trophies singling them out as the outstanding flying component among the 91 ANG flying units.

The 123rd's first real-world mission as a tactical airlift unit, included the airlift of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron to Honduras on the newly assigned C-130B Hercules cargo carrier. The engineers installed shower and toilet facilities and performed other maintenance projects at Soto Cano.

Guard Service Means Some
Income Tax Deductions

If you've decided to file your tax returns early this year, don't be so quick to file that you forget some deductions and credits stemming from Guard service.

Read your federal form to determine which expenses must be filed on Form 2106 (Employee Business Expenses) and which must go on Schedule A (Itemized Deductions). The Kentucky income tax packet has corresponding forms, and all federally-deductible items can be deducted on your state tax filing as well.

Don't forget the extra tax credit on state taxes. You simply add "NG" as one of your credits on top of the form.

The following expenses are among those which are deductible on Form 2106.

The cost of transportation directly between your civilian job and drill or vice versa is deductible, if you aren't required to stay overnight.

Any travel to or from a drill location which is outside the area of the Guard member's primary employment is deductible if the member doesn't stay overnight.

Auto expenses are deductible at 24 cents a mile up to 15,000 miles, and 11 cents a mile above that limit.

If you must stay overnight for training, you may deduct meal, lodging and round-trip transportation in excess of any allowances or reimbursements.

If you use Schedule A (Itemized Deductions), keep the following expenses in mind.

If your uniform does more than replace items required in civilian life, all your costs connected to it are considered deductible.

Any other unreimbursed expenses for required Guard equipment or duties are also deductible.