

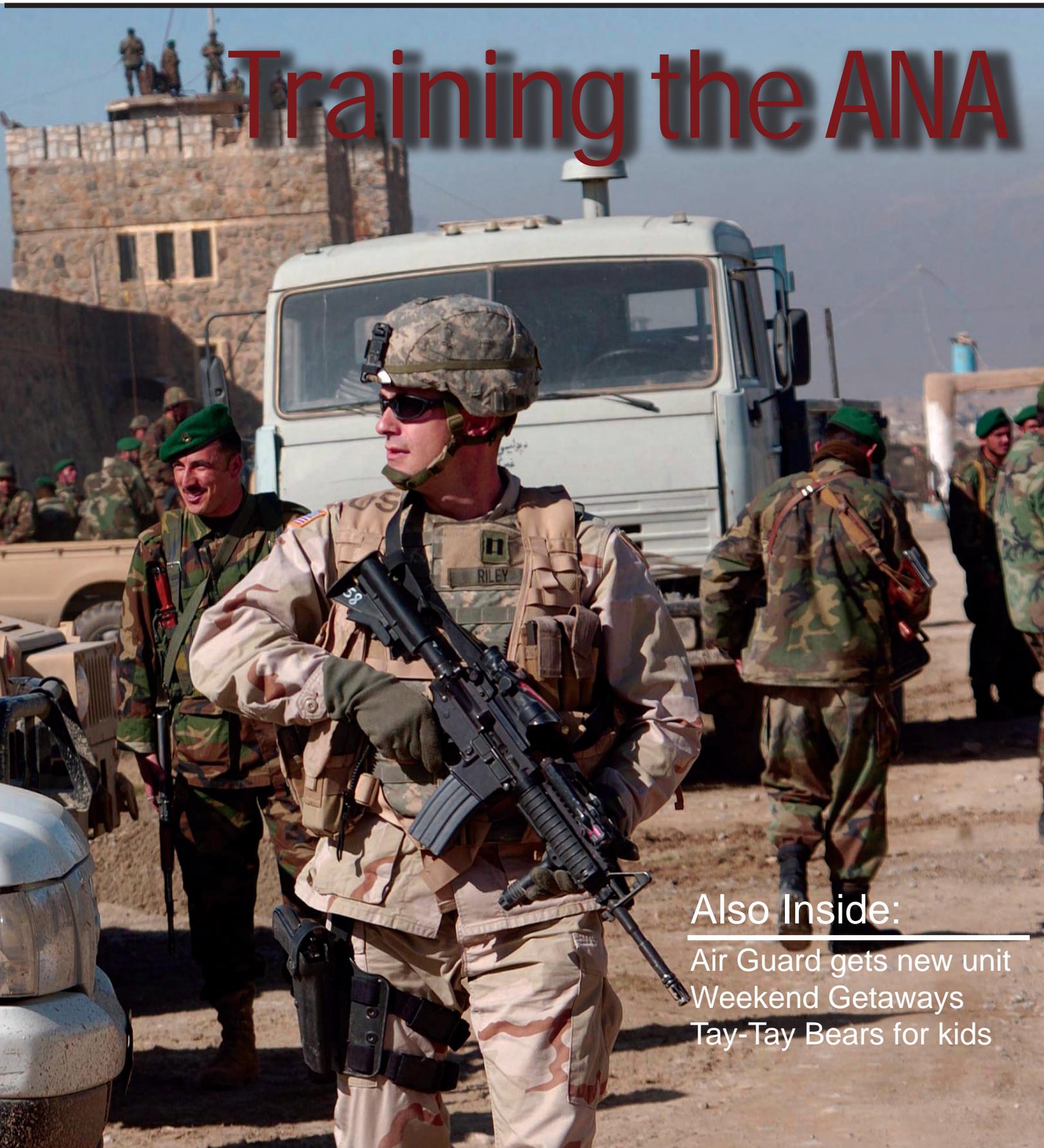
THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

Serving the men and women of Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard

Volume Eleven, Issue One

December 2006

Training the ANA



Also Inside:

Air Guard gets new unit
Weekend Getaways
Tay-Tay Bears for kids

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New unit for Kentucky Air Guard





Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, Kentucky Adjutant General; McCracken County Judge Executive Danny Orazine; Paducah Mayor William Paxton and other distinguished guests broke ground Nov. 27 on the new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Paducah.

The Paducah Readiness Center is a \$16 million project that will accommodate the 2113th Transportation Company, units of the United States Army Reserve, Civil Air Patrol and Kentucky Emergency Management. The project is part of a federal initiative under the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2006 to modernize and consolidate facilities in order to reduce maintenance and utility costs, as well as provide a facility more suited for today's reserve military role.



Kentucky National Guard Capt. Eldern Riley III patrols with the Afghan National Army. Read more on page 32.

Fletcher family sends greetings

Christmas and the holiday season are times spent with friends and family in joy and celebration. During this special time — and throughout the year — Glenna and I send our thoughts and prayers to the men and women of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard.

Our holiday wishes extend to their families. Staying behind when a family member is overseas is a difficult burden to bear, particularly at Christmastime. We thank you for your sacrifice and your support of those Guard members in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.



As Kentuckians gather to celebrate the holidays, we ask that each person across the Commonwealth pray for our military families and ask for the protection and safe return of their loved ones.

In this issue of *The Bluegrass Guard* you can read about the great things the guard is doing in Kentucky and beyond. In these pages, families who must move while a spouse is overseas can learn about the services available through the Kentucky Patriot Guard. This issue also includes an article relaying how Kentucky Guard members support hospitals in Afghanistan during their off-duty hours and an update on the 149th Brigade Combat Team's mission in Tikrit.

Glenna and I are proud of each member of the Kentucky Guard who are keeping our nation safe and defending our freedoms around the world. Whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or helping their neighbors in Kentucky, the members of the Guard honorably serve our nation and Commonwealth. We are grateful for their courage and commitment. We also express appreciation to Kentucky's veterans and remember the heroic Kentuckians who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

At Christmas, we give thanks for the blessings we experience each day of the year. As the New Year approaches, let us be reminded of our obligation to share these blessings with others.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Ernie and Glenna Fletcher
Governor and First Lady



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain Bluegrass Guard readers. Send submissions, photos and correspondence to gina.vaile@us.army.mil. Payment will not be made for contributions. Paid advertising will not be accepted.

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FROM THE FIELD

The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

To comment, keep remarks under 150 words, include your name, rank and address and send them to:

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We reserve the right to edit letters for tone, length, clarity and factual accuracy.

Corrections

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or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

Change of Address

Report change of address at the unit level.

Team Warrior Iraq bound



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Team Warrior, 1st Battalion 149th Infantry, comprised of 80 soldiers departed London, Ky. Nov. 13 for Camp Shelby, for pre-deployment training.

The soldiers will join nearly 500 members of 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry already in Iraq to assist with the security forces mission there.

Preventative and diagnostic services with no deductible

Courtesy of TRICARE

Early diagnosis and prevention of dental disease is key to good health. The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TDRP) provides the coverage necessary to help enrollees maintain good oral health and often prevent the need for major dental treatment down the road.

Benefits available to TDRP enrollees include diagnostic and preventative care such as regular oral exams and X-rays, routine cleanings and fluoride treatments.

Coverage for preventive and diagnostic services with no deductibles or maximum gives enrollees the incentive to take good care of one of their most valuable assets: their smile. And when enrollees need more than just the basics to maintain their smile, the TDRP offers coverage for major services like crowns, bridges, partial and full dentures, and even braces for children and adults.

Visit www.trdp.org for complete details, or call Delta Dental of California at 1-888-838-8737.

NOTE

National Guard and Reserve personnel who elect to enroll in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) within 120 days after retirement are eligible to skip the 12-month waiting period normally required for certain TDRP benefits (such as crowns, bridges and braces). All new enrollees seeking to obtain a waiver for eligibility should submit a copy of their retirement orders along with their enrollment application.

It is important not note that as with all new retirees, the 120-day period during which a “gray area” retired Guard or Reserve member can enroll in the TDRP to qualify for the 12-month waiting period waiver begins with the retirement effective date.

Eligible retirees and their family members can find answers to their questions about the program at www.trdp.org or at 1-888-838-8737.



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

Aviators celebrate 60 years

By Maj. Don E. Peters
 JFHQs Public Affairs Officer

Sixty years after the Kentucky Army National Guard received its first aircraft, aviators from across the state joined in Frankfort Sept. 23 to celebrate the occasion.

The event, held in conjunction with Aviation Days at the Capital City Airport, included a reception and reunion of current and former Kentucky aviators.

“We have a long and distinguished past to look back on,” Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky said. “You were the pioneers for us, and you did so well, you made the job look easy.”

Along with various speakers and a proclamation from Gov. Ernie Fletcher, four retired Kentucky National Guard aviators received Kentucky Aviation Pioneer certificates. Maj. Ephraim Berry, Chief Warrant Officer Harold Canon, Command Sgt. Maj. Kelly Barker and Staff Sgt. Leonard Shouse were each awarded.

“It’s important to have these ceremonies,” said Berry, who holds the distinction of being one of the first pilots in the Kentucky Guard. “It lets people know just how much aviation has changed since we first started.”

Col. Benjamin Adams, the 63rd Aviation Brigade commander and State Aviation Officer, gave high praise to the forerunners of the current KYNG fixed-wing aviation units.

“It is so vital to remember our history,” he said. “We owe so much to those who came before us. These events help to link all of us aviators.”

Since receiving its first aircraft in 1946, the Kentucky National Guard has flown a variety of different planes. Today, the Kentucky Guard fixed-wing aviation fleet boasts two of the most deployed units in the nation - Detachment 11 Operation Support Airlift (OSA), and Detachment 3, Company H, 171st Aviation Regiment.



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt, Maj. Ephraim Berry and Col. Benjamin Adams cut the cake celebrating 60 years of fixed-wing aviation in the Kentucky National Guard. Current and former aviators joined in Frankfort to celebrate in September.

Cheney lands at Air Base



Photo by Sgt. Gina Valle/KYARNG

In the wind and rain, Kentucky National Guard officials greet Vice President Dick Cheney as he steps off Air Force Two at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base. Cheney visited Fort Campbell to rally support for the troops before stopping in Louisville Oct. 17 for a political fundraiser.

Milburn promoted to CW5



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Dewey Pope/KYARNG

Command Chief Warrant Officer Ken Masters presents recently promoted Chief Warrant Officer Roger Milburn with a Minuteman paperweight after the ceremony.

Chief Warrant Officer Roger Milburn was promoted Nov. 6 by State Command Chief Warrant Officer Ken Masters.

Milburn enlisted in 1966 and has served 40 years with the Kentucky National Guard.

He is a Desert Shield veteran and deployed in 2003 to Fort Campbell in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

He and his wife Sally reside in Frankfort and have two children and two grandchildren.

Marksmen compete in Nationals

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

Steady control as you peer through the sights, finding the target and focus on it. Releasing the last breath from the depths of your lungs as you squeeze the trigger back then release. Objective achieved.

For members of the Kentucky National Guard Marksmen team, it's an art. Something each member has practiced to perfection. After all, their very slot on the team depends on it.

"They have to shoot their way into it," coach Sgt. 1st Class Charles Reed said of the state marksmen team. "Membership is by invite only and our team members have been invited for a reason -- they shoot well."

Each April, a state competition is held to determine the members of the Kentucky National Guard Rifle and Pistol teams. Once the 12-man team is selected, it's game on.

"We practice once a month, and even though we are allowed to practice in a drilling status, it's usually on a volunteer basis," Reed said. "Most of the team members have important positions in their unit so not only do they drill with the unit, but they take their own time to practice with the team. They are very dedicated."

Reed said there are many benefits to shooting with Kentucky's best.

"You get to rub elbows with some of the best shooters in the nation when you attend the regional and national competitions. All of the techniques learned from those shooters, our shooters are able to take back to their units,"



Photo Submitted

Members of the Kentucky National Guard Rifle Team captured first place in the regional competition at Camp Butner, N.C.. Pictured are Master Sgt. John Se bert, Tech Sgt. Travis Kheener and Sgt. Jeffrey Ice with coach Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Reed. Master Sgt. Brian Taylor is not pictured.

he said.

It's also a perk to shoot up ammo.

"Where else do you go where you're handed a weapon, and handed the ammo and allowed to shoot until you can't shoot anymore?" Reed said, "We're really lucky."

In addition to shooting up targets, the members of the Kentucky team are out for the same things other shooters from the 50 states are after ... bragging rights and a slot on the All Guard Squad.

"There are 30 soldiers invited to the All Guard Squad after the Nationals competition," Reed said. "That team travels the world, shooting against the best around the globe."

It's not just about making the team either. Many of the expert shots have their eyes set on a higher goal. Obtaining the Distinguished Marksmanship Badge.

With over 100 years of history behind it, the gold badge is obtained by only top-notch shooters. Currently three Kentucky National Guard soldiers hold the badge. Reed is one, followed by Master Sgt. Brian Taylor and Chief Warrant Officer Charles Green.

"The Distinguished Badge is a goal," Reed said. "Once you obtain it, you're part of a select few who have one."

The rifle team placed first at the regional competition and the pistol team finished second. Nationals was held in Arkansas in November. At press time, results were not available. Reed says the teams hoped to place in the top 10 percent in Arkansas.



Photo Submitted

The Kentucky National Guard Pistol Team placed second in regional competition. Pictured are Staff Sgt. Steve Baker, 1st Sgt. John Black, Master Sgt. Darryl Loafman and Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Reed.



Movin' right along

Kentucky Patriot Guard offers services to National Guard families

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

You'll find them riding on steel horses, with flags and heavy hearts paying tribute to fallen Kentucky soldiers around the state.

"We saw what a difference it made when we'd ride in for a funeral to show our support," said Don Woodrick, member of the Kentucky Patriot Guard.

"We hope that the funerals will end soon," he said. "But our support [for the troops] will not. We wanted to do something more."

The group began collecting items for wounded soldiers and rallying support for troops at homecomings and farewells.

But it was an Army wife from Fort Campbell who helped the KPG find another way to assist. Her husband was in Iraq, she just received word that on post housing was available and had no way to move her belongings from a storage facility to her new house.

Brooks and Debbie Armstrong, KPG members, offered to donate his truck, trailer, fuel and labor to move the Fort Campbell wife.

"And from there, we've grown to be known as the KPG Hillbilly Movers," Woodrick said.

"Our troops and their families deserve so much more than what we can do for them," said Janette Temple, a KPG member and mother of Sgt. Johnathan and Pvt. Joshua Temple of Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery in Glasgow, Ky.

Moving is "just one way that we can let them know we care," she said. "The Kentucky Patriot



Photo by Janette Temple/KPG

Kentucky Patriot Guard members Brooks Armstrong and John McCuen unload a heavy chest for a deployed soldier.

Guard is honored to be able to assist any military family."

According to Woodrick, the KPG is ready to help any Kentucky soldier, airmen, marine or sailor with a move. Woodrick said there is a need for the services as the group helped five families between September and October and the word keeps spreading.

"There is definitely a need. Especially for the wife or spouse who finds it difficult to accomplish a move while their loved one is overseas. Even if it's helping fix a leaky pipe or a flat tire, we'll be there," Woodrick said.

In late October, the KPG assisted a Fort Campbell soldier during a cross-country move from California to Clarksville, Tenn. "We'll find some way to help if a soldier needs it. We'll make it happen," Woodrick said.

For more information about the KPG, visit www.kypatriotguard.org or call Don Woodrick at 270-804-6190.

Spreading holiday cheer



Family Assistance Center staffers Genny Robinson, Kristen Arnett and Sonia Roach share a little Christmas excitement with Julie Ice and Mike Payne of Humana Military

Organizations donate 600 Christmas toys to Family Assistance Center

By Dave Altom
Editor

Saint Nicholas had a little help this Christmas in the form of the good people at Humana Military Healthcare Services based in Louisville. More than 600 toys were donated to the Kentucky National Guard's Family Assistance Center as part of an effort between Humana, the Armed Services YMCA, Mattel Toys and Woman's Day Magazine.

"Because we handle TRICARE accounts for the National Guard, we deal with soldiers and their families every day of the week," said Julie Ice, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for Humana Military. "As a result, our employees couldn't help but develop an understanding of what these families are going through, especially during the holidays. We wanted to do something that would make a difference."

Humana Military Healthcare Services, Armed Services YMCA, Mattel Toys and Woman's Day Magazine are conducting similar programs for National Guard families in eleven southern states. More than one third of Humana Military Healthcare Services employees are either military veterans or have family members connected with the armed forces.



Buildings dedicated to former leaders

By Maj. Don Peters and Capt. Dale Greer

JFHQs PAO, 123d Wing PAO

The Kentucky National Guard honored three former leaders with a dedication ceremony renaming two Boone National Guard Center buildings and the Headquarters of the Air Guard Base.

On Oct. 21 Maj. Gen. Richard Frymire, the only Air National Guard officer to serve as Adjutant General (1971-1977), had his name posted on the Emergency Operations Center, while the Frankfort Headquarters Armory was renamed after Maj. Gen. Billy Wellman, who was the state's top officer from 1977-1987 – the longest such stretch in modern Kentucky history.

Both buildings were built during Frymire's tenure.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, who was in attendance along with former Gov. Brereton Jones and several former Kentucky Adjutants General, had high praise for both of the honorees.

"It's right and fitting that we honor them this way," Fletcher said. "They both provided tremendous amount of leadership and growth to the Kentucky National Guard.

"I have many responsibilities as governor, but the best responsibility is working with the adjutants general and the National Guard," he added, saying, "(Frymire and Wellman) laid the foundation to bring us now to a 21st century force. They helped build one of the greatest National Guard organizations this country has ever seen."

Col. John Heltzel, Joint Force Headquarters Deputy Commander, also had high praise for the two.

"Major General Frymire was instrumental in revising the state emergency management system," Heltzel said. He went on to call Wellman a "dynamo" of public service who, "put Kentucky on the road to national prominence."

Both Frymire and Wellman had distinguished careers, not only in the Guard but in other public service positions as well. Frymire served eight years in the Kentucky General Assembly while Wellman served twice as Secretary of the Justice Cabinet.

"To serve as the Adjutant General for six years was a tremendous honor to me," Frymire told the crowd.

"I'm grateful for the recognition, but more grateful for being allowed to serve," Wellman said, adding "I was better prepared for the jobs that lay ahead by working with Maj. Gen. Frymire."

The Kentucky Air National Guard dedicated its Headquarters Building to Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway during a ceremony Oct. 22.

Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm called Conaway a "great patriot" who "laid a tremendous foundation" for the Kentucky National Guard.

During his remarks, Conway expressed his appreciation for the unit's ongoing role at the forefront of world events.

"You make me proud of what you have done with the C-130s and the mission you have," he said. "You do good for America; you do good for the commonwealth."

Each of the honorees received a plaque commemorating the dedication, and a framed photograph of the building with their name on it.



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Dewey Pope/KYARNG



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Frymire accepts a plaque from Gov. Ernie Fletcher commemorating the EOC dedication.



Photo by Spec. Vernis Phipps/KYARNG

Retired Maj. Gen. Billy Wellman accepts his plaque from Gov. Ernie Fletcher commemorating the renaming of the Frankfort Armory.



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Dewey Pope/KYARNG



Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KYANG

Retired Lt. Gen. John Conway accepts his plaque from Maj. Gen. Donald Storm commemorating the dedication of the Air Guard Headquarters.

DEPLOYMENTS

Field Artillery leaves for two fronts

First combat deployment since Vietnam for units

Stories and photos by Sgt. Gina Vaile

Editor

Soldiers of Charlie and Alpha Batteries of the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery deployed in October for two fronts of the Global War on Terror.

The 167 men of Charlie Battery, located in Bardstown, will be tasked with providing convoy security and force protection while stationed in Iraq.

During the farewell ceremony, held at the Nelson County High School Gymnasium Oct. 5, Charlie Battery veterans of the Vietnam War stood out wearing their white Charlie Battery ball caps. The unit lost nine men during a June 1969 attack by North Vietnamese at Tomahawk Hill. The North Vietnamese retreated after two hours of fighting. There were five residents of Bardstown killed in the battle and another 37 in the unit were wounded.

"Charlie Battery has a long history," Gov. Ernie Fletcher told the crowd, noting that the battery maintains the reputation.

Immediately following the farewell, Spec. Charles Cobb took care of some personal business.

"He said he didn't want to leave a fiancee behind, but a wife," said Laura Anne Piper. "Everyone made me feel like part of the (Charlie Battery) family, but now I really am."

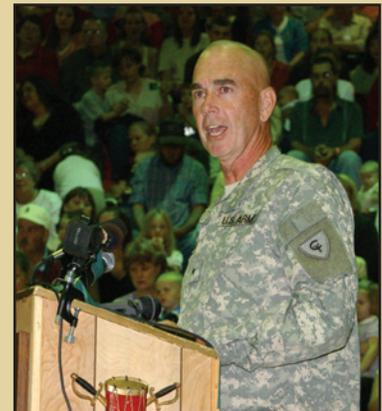
Lt. Col. Johnnie Toby presided over the wedding of Cobb and Piper as family and friends gathered in a tight circle surrounded by television cameras while the couple said "I do."



▲ Soldiers of Charlie Battery 2nd Battalion 138th Field Artillery stand ready to deploy to Iraq.

➤ Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver speaks to the crowd in Bardstown, assuring families that the Kentucky Guard will support them during the deployment.

▼ Spec. Charles Cobb kisses his wife Laura Anne Piper after saying "I do." The two were married immediately following the departure ceremony.





- ▲ Soldiers of Alpha Battery 2nd Battalion 138th Field Artillery are honored during the farewell ceremony at Carroll County High School
- ▲ First Sgt. Roger Calvert kisses his wife Beverly after honoring her with a white rose for her support of his military career.
- Staff Sgt. Jeff Seivers, Sgt. 1st Class Rodger Thacker and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Presley pose for family to take a momento photo before the ceremony.

The family members of soldiers in Alpha Battery 2nd Battalion 138th Field Artillery said goodbye to their soldiers Oct. 14 at the Carroll County High School.

“Alpha Battery would like to thank our families and our community for all the support they’ve shown as we embark on this deployment,” said Commander Capt. Shaune Jones.

While the farewell was sad for Beverly Calvert, she said she remained supportive.

“First Sergeant Roger Calvert is my hero, and I am so proud of him,” she said. “I’m proud of all the men who are going, and those who have already been.”

The 167 soldiers headed to Fort Dix, N.J. before deploying to Afghanistan to support convoy security and force protection.

“We’ve been training for this mission since early May,” Jones said. “We’re trained and ready.”

The unit deployed in 2003 to Fort Campbell as part of Operation Noble Eagle, providing post security after Sept. 11. The last deployment for the entire battery was in the late 1960s when the unit deployed to Vietnam where it served a year-long tour providing artillery fire support for U.S. combat operations.

FUTURE LEADERSHIP

Skills at drills

Murray State Cadet finds SMP beneficial to finding leadership style

By Cadet Zack Northington
Murray State University ROTC

It has been three years since the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) returned to the Murray State campus. Enrollment has exceeded initial expectations this school year.

The Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) through the Kentucky National Guard is proving successful at Murray as well. The last three lieutenants commissioned from the Murray State program were SMP cadets.

For Cadet Jeremy Harper, a member of the 130th Combat Engineer Company in Madisonville, Ky., the SMP program has helped him immensely in the field. Harper recently returned from the five-week Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Washington.

“By joining the National



Photo by MSU ROTC

ROTC Cadets from Murray State University pose for a photo at the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Wash. this summer. SMP Cadet Jeremy Harper credited skills obtained by the SMP program to his success at LDAC.

Guard before attending LDAC, I was able to gain a better understanding of the Army,” he said.

LDAC, also known as Warrior Forge is “the most important training event for an Army ROTC cadet or National Guard Officer Candidate,” according to the Western Region Cadet Command Web site.

The 33-day training event is designed to develop and evaluate leadership ability while

challenging cadets both mentally and physically.

“By attending basic, I already knew what military life was about and how important it is to build strong camaraderie with your fellow soldiers to ensure performance as an element,” he said. “Overall, by joining as an SMP, I was better equipped with the necessary skills that not only made me a more effective soldier, but a more effective leader.”

Colonel's Battalion, Ranger Pride

By Cadet John Adkins

Eastern Kentucky University ROTC

FORT KNOX, Ky. - ROTC Cadets from Kentucky and Ohio converged on Victory Field Oct. 21 for the 2006 Ranger Challenge. It was a cold and damp morning when the Eastern Kentucky University Cannonade team started the day with a roar from the cannon.

Designed after the "Best Ranger" competition held each year at Fort Benning, Ga., Ranger Challenge is an event held every year for ROTC Cadets to compete against each other and themselves. Cadets compete in the Army Physical Fitness Tests; one rope bridge; orienteering; patrolling; Basic Rifle Marksmanship; weapons assembly; HGAC; and a 10-kilometer ruck run.

Two teams competed from EKU. Fifteen of the 20 cadets who represented EKU were Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) cadets with the Kentucky Army National Guard. Team 1: Cadets Johnathan Davis, Joshua Bailey, Colin Rector, Ben TARRIER, Tyler Chapman, Joshua Cole, Taylor Oney, Kyle Cox, Micheal Meade and Josh Dusing. Team 2: Stephen Strack, Ross McClure, Lee Canafax, Jason Partin, Joseph Kornhoff, Nicholas Cory, Mark Donovan, Daniel Stamper, Gilberto DeLeon and Luke Hudson.

EKU's Ranger Challenge team members started training on the second week of school this year, and continued

training five days a week from 0545 to 0745, in preparation for this event. The cadets had to compete against each other in order to be in one of the two competing teams. The Cadets, under the training of Master Sgt. Richard Sirry and Maj. Douglas Clay, trained hard to ensure their complete edge in each event. It paid off with EKU placing sixth out of thirty teams over all and first among all Kentucky schools.

EKU also received recognition for placing first on the Hand Grenade Assault Course and Basic Rifle Marksmanship. Cadet Joseph Kornhoff was also recognized for earning the highest BRM score by shooting forty out of forty targets. EKU attributed their success at BRM to the training they received at the Eastern Kentucky Training Site in Artemus, Kentucky. For the overall event, Ohio State University took first place, followed by Xavier and Central State.

The cadets and cadre at EKU would especially like to show their appreciation to the staff at the Eastern Kentucky Training Site at Artemus, Ky. Sgt 1st Class Bob Middleton and his staff were critical to the success of this years team.



Photos submitted by EKU ROTC

TRAVEL



Photo by Tom Fusco/State Parks



Eagle Watch Weekends



During January and February, four state resort parks will participate in "Eagle Watch Weekends," a chance to see the American Bald Eagle in the wild.

The tours offer travelers a chance to view the eagles from land and water. Experts are also available to offer information about these birds and their habitat through a cooperative program with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Tours take place on an excursion yacht, barges, pontoon boats and by van, depending upon the location and tour. Ticket prices for the tours range from \$20 to \$50 a person.

The parks, phone numbers and dates for the Eagle Watch Weekends are:

Dale Hollow State Resort Park (800-325-2282): **Jan. 19-21, Jan. 26-28, Feb. 16-17.**

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park (800-325-0146): **Jan. 19-21.**

Lake Barkley State Resort Park (800-325-1708): **Jan. 26-28.**

Kenlake State Resort Park (800-325-0143): **Feb. 2-4.**

Guests should bring warm clothes, rain gear and binoculars. These trips can take place under extreme weather conditions.

These resorts offer lodges, cottages, and restaurants. Registration is required for the Eagle Watch Weekends.

Call the parks for details and fee information.

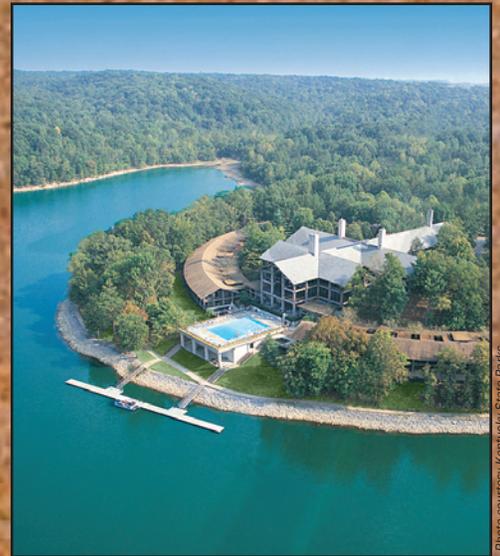


Photo courtesy Kentucky State Parks



ADVENTURES



Photo courtesy Kentucky State Parks

Date _____ Hour _____
 To **KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS**
WHILE YOU WERE OUT
 M _____
 Of **KENTUCKY STATE PARKS**
 Phone Area Code Phone # **1-800-255-PARKS**
 FAX Area Code Phone # _____

Telephoned	Returned Call	Left Package
Please Call <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Was In	Please See Me
Will Call Again	Will Return	Important

Message [Did you know there are 52 unique State Parks in Kentucky and 17 of those parks are resorts? If you are looking for a weekend getaway, check out what is located in your own backyard. Visit the Kentucky State Parks Web site at <http://parks.ky.gov/index.htm> for more information. Many of the 17 resorts will offer a Valentine's package. Call a park or log on today!](#)

Signed _____

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USA Military Pass

From Nov. 1 thru March 31, 2007, active and retired members of the military, members of the National Guard and Reserves and veterans can take advantage of discounted rates with the Kentucky State parks "USA Military Pass" program. Proof of military service is required.

With the USA Military Pass, lodge rooms are available for \$44.95 a night; one bedroom cottages for \$69.95 a night; two bedroom cottages for \$79.95 a night and three bedroom cottages for \$89.95 a night. Tax is not included in these rates.

Kentucky State Parks has 17 resorts that offer golf, fishing and other activities and full service restaurants. Many resorts are near or include historic sites and museums and offer programs during the fall and winter such as elk tours, entertainment, and nature programs. This offer is not good in conjunction with other special discounts or packages. The discount is based on availability. For more information, go to www.parks.ky.gov or call 1-800-255-7275. (Please use USA for the promotional code.)

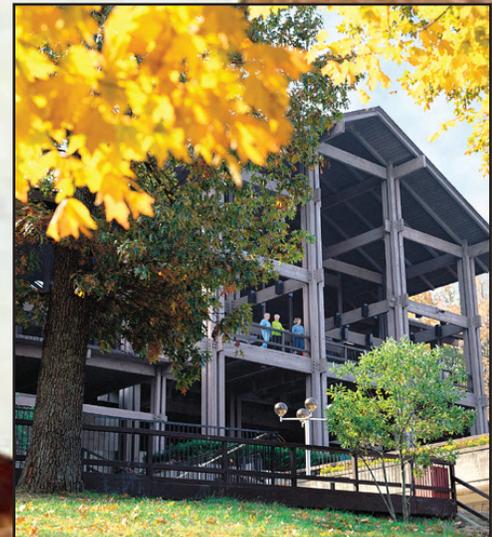


Photo courtesy Kentucky State Parks



Photo courtesy Kentucky State Parks

Making the rounds

Deployed MPs support hospitals in humanitarian efforts



◀ First Lt. Jerry Durham passes out donated items to Afghan children such as this young girl.

▼ Chaplain Capt. Bill Draper and Lt. Col. Charles Schneider sit with a young child in a hospital in Afghanistan. Members of the 198th Military Police Company visit the hospitals each week.



Photos submitted by 198th MP Co

By Dave Altom

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

In keeping with the Kentucky National Guard's reputation as a "dual mission" organization, the men and women of the 198th Military Police Battalion stationed at Bagram Air Field Base, Afghanistan, have taken on a secondary purpose in addition to their responsibilities a detainment center for the allied forces there.

"We've teamed up with active duty service members from Fort Campbell Kentucky, the Air Force, and the Army Reserve and the Air National Guard to make this happen," said Capt. Bill Draper, the battalion chaplain. "There is certainly enough opportunity for everyone to make a significant contribution.

"Our troops visit both the Egyptian and American hospitals each week to deliver toys and candy to the children," he said. "We also do a larger humanitarian mission through the Egyptian hospital providing clothing, shoes and toys to the Afghanistan citizens who come through the hospital."

Draper explained that both hospitals treat up to 300 Afghanistan people on a daily basis. "I can tell you that the soldiers who participate in these missions feel good about what they are doing. We want the locals to know what the American people and Kentuckians in particular are all about. This supports the broader mission of winning the hearts and minds of the Afghanistan people."

STRENGTH AND HONOR

149th Brigade Combat Team becomes “lifeblood” of COB Speicher

By Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
Task Force Lightning Public Affairs Office

TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers residing at Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher enjoy some of arguably the best living conditions of any of the various COBs, forward operating bases (FOBs) or camps in Iraq.

This is largely due to the diligence of a relatively small group of dedicated and passionate Soldiers in a unit that’s been around quite a while.

The 149th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), a National Guard unit home-based in Louisville, Ky., is the ‘life blood’ of COB Speicher.

The brigade is responsible for all garrison functions such as force protection, infrastructure, official mail management, life support, expansion and base defense – with one goal – “To provide a safe and secure environment to enable Task Force Lightning to do their mission outside the fence,” said Col. Charles T. Jones, commander, 149th IBCT, and native of London, Ky.

Since assuming command of COB Speicher’s garrison functions June 1, the unit has prided itself on providing Soldiers with the highest possible standards of living.

Although they have only been here a few months, according to Jones, a 29-year veteran himself, experience is not an issue. Only about 500 of approximately 3,500 troops under Jones’ command haven’t deployed before. He also has Soldiers serving in Multi-National Division Baghdad as well as two battalions in Kentucky and three in Alabama.

The unit seems to draw its pride from their rich history and the garrison command’s Soldiers take an enthusiastic approach to their challenging multitude of tasks.

“My job is to make sure everybody that lives on [COB] Speicher is successful,” said Jones in a thick Kentucky accent. “If you’re worrying about me doing my job you ain’t got time to focus on yours right?”

Jones’ dedication to his enormous responsibilities and confidence seems to be infectious and his attitude trickles down through his staff.

It has not been an easy task though for the 22 Soldiers here. Each Soldier has faced his or her own difficulties



Photo by Task Force Lightning PAO

Kentucky Guard Staff Sgt. Joe Boccuzzi monitors Pvt. 1st Class Carols Guitierrez and Spec. Jeffery Frasher review protocol for searching visitors at one of COB Speicher’s checkpoints.

in executing their mission.

“We’re a 22-person team executing several missions,” said Maj. Tamara M. Hurst, COB Speicher’s force protection officer and native of Frankfort, Ky. “We didn’t come with any equipment, transportation or anything like that.

“We’re just a group of Soldiers with a heart for service,” she said.

Generally, most Soldiers are trained to be flexible and adaptive. For the members of 149th IBCT, it’s the norm and they enjoy the duality of the National Guard.

“We’re utilizing our civilian skills and bringing them to the military sector,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Boccuzzi, Range NCOIC for COB Speicher.

Other Soldiers in the unit had to adjust to conducting garrison operations.

“I’ve always been in a [combat] unit,” said 1st Sgt. William W. Hayes, first sergeant for Headquarters, and Headquarters Company (HHC), 149th IBCT. “Out of my 22 years, 18 of those were in a line unit.”

With the 149th IBCT’s disciplined approach to their mission, COB Speicher won’t have to worry about lack of motivation or service.

“We’re team players ... don’t worry about the horse – load the wagon,” said Jones. “We’ll tell you when we can’t pull it anymore.”

INTO THE BLUE

RED FLAG

Wing completes historic exercise

First Guard unit to lead group ops hails from Kentucky

By Cpt. Dale Greer
123d Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

The Kentucky Air National Guard made history this summer when 31 of its members deployed to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, to provide the expeditionary group command for a multinational training exercise called Cooperative Cope Thunder 06-03.

The exercise, also known as Red Flag Alaska, marked the first time that a Guard unit had taken such a lead role, said Col. Greg Nelson, Kentucky's executive support staff officer and the commander of Elmendorf's 35th Air Expeditionary Group during Red Flag.

"As the group command element, the Kentucky Air National Guard provided everything from personnel reception and bed down to maintenance supervision, airlift planning, intel

support and first sergeant functions," Nelson said.

About 250 troops fell under his command during the exercise, including active-duty personnel from Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea and The Netherlands.

Nelson described Red Flag Alaska, which ran from July 24 to Aug. 4, as a one of the largest coalition-based air-combat exercises in the Pacific theater.

The event centered around a scenario in which multinational expeditionary forces based at Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, enter combat to defend a neutral neighbor from a simulated aggressor.

Nelson said Red Flag Alaska offered a superior environment in which to train for the scope and complexity real-world missions.

"The airspace up there — the Pacific-Alaska Range Complex, or PARC — is the largest open airspace anywhere in the world," he said. "It gives the flyer a tremendous opportunity to fly and fight in a huge atmosphere.

"Red Flag Alaska also provides one of the only exercise opportunities in which aircrews get to incorporate inputs outside their normal area of



Photo by Senior Airman Garret Hothan/USAF

Col. Mutsumi Fukushima (left), commander of the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force element, Col. Greg Nelson, Red Flag Alaska Air Expeditionary Group commander, and Col. Jeongkyu Woo, commander of the Republic of Korea Air Force element, discuss operations during the multinational exercise.



Photo by Senior Airman Garrett Hothorn/USAF



Photo by Senior Airman Garrett Hothorn/USAF

▲ Soldiers from Army Alaska’s 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) jump from a U.S. C-130 during red Flag Alaska.

▲ Master Sgt. Jinkoo Kim of the Korean Air Force works on the landing gear of a Korean C-130 during Red Flag Alaska.

operations.

“For example, it’s not just fighters going against fighters. Instead, the fighters launch, take on fuel, escort airlift, work with ground controllers and coordinate through AWACS. It’s a true, complete aerospace exercise.”

And this year, for the first time, the Kentucky Air Guard’s command role added another unique element.

“The guys from NATO and Korea and Japan got to see a Reserve Component of the United States Air Force take command of active-duty U.S. and multinational forces,” Nelson said.

If they had any reservations going in, they certainly didn’t have them once the exercise got underway.

“Everybody was extremely pleased with the operation,” Colonel Nelson said.

Capt. Jaekyong Seo, an F-16 pilot from the Republic of Korea, agreed, calling Red Flag Alaska “an excellent training opportunity to work with the Americans and the other countries to plan and execute a wartime mission.”

The Kentucky element was responsible for a broad range of aircraft, including four active-duty U.S. Air Force C-130s from Yakota Air Base, Japan; a Korean Air Force Special Operations C-130; two German C-160s; and a NATO E-3 AWACS from The Netherlands.

Overall, the entire exercise employed about 1,300 participants from such varied countries as Australia, Sweden, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Russia, Mexico and Mongolia, said Lt. Col. Reggie Smith, operations officer for Red Flag Alaska at Elmendorf.

Information for this article also was contributed by Master Sgt. Debra Clayton, Red Flag Alaska public affairs.

Air Guard responds to September floods

Special tactics unit stands up; Airmen ready to assist with relief

By Cpt. Dale Greer

123d Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

Almost 100 members of the Kentucky Air National Guard stepped forward Sept. 23 to volunteer for disaster-recovery missions after a series of violent storms drenched the state with near-record rainfall.

The rains began pelting the commonwealth on the evening of Sept. 22 and didn't let up until the following afternoon, soaking Louisville with eight inches of rain in a 20-hour period and causing flash floods across the state that claimed at least 10 lives, according to the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management.

Within two hours of a request by government officials to stand by for assistance, the Kentucky Air Guard had scores of Airmen awaiting the call for help, said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

These included 19 pararescuemen and combat controllers from the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, which rapidly marshaled enough rescue gear and Airmen to staff eight Zodiac rescue boats, said Chief Master Sgt. Pat Malone, superintendent of the unit's pararescue section.

Two of the boat crews were prepared to convert to helicopter-based, swift-water rescue missions if necessary, he added.

The 123rd Operations Group also was prepared to assist, with 16 personnel, four four-wheel-drive vehicles, three flat-bed trucks, a wrecker and multiple generators standing by.

Although the city of Louisville evacuated several neighborhoods because of rising flood waters, additional expected rainfall never materialized, and the Air Guardsmen were told to stand down on Sept. 24.

"Thankfully, the floodwaters receded, and our help was not required," Kraus said. "But our response showed that we were ready to go, and I couldn't be more proud of our Airmen's response to others in need. Helping to protect and serve the citizens of Kentucky when disasters threaten is one of the great benefits to being a member of the National Guard. Nobody does it better."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KYANG

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron prepare Zodiac motorboats and other rescue gear in preparation for assisting with flood relief in Jefferson County Sept. 23.

GOT NEWS?

The Bluegrass Guard wants your photos, news stories and upcoming events to publicize in our pages and on the Web. Call Sgt. Gina Vaile at 502-607-1186.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE

<http://www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs>



Brig. Gen. Robert Yaple



Brig. Gen. Howard P. Hunt III



Col. Michael J. Dornbush

Air Guard announces appointments

Yaple retires, Hunt named Assistant Adjutant General for Air

By Dave Altom

Editor

Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky, announced the appointment of Brig. Gen. Howard P. Hunt III to the position of Assistant Adjutant General for Air. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom with more than 32 years of military service, Hunt assumes his new position effective immediately.

Storm also announced, effective Friday, Dec. 1, the appointment of Col. Michael J. Dornbush to the dual positions of Chief of Staff for the Kentucky Air National Guard and the Kentucky Guard's Joint Forces Air Component Commander. Commissioned in 1984, Dornbush is also a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

These appointments follow the retirement of Brig. Gen. Robert Yaple from the Kentucky Air National Guard. A 26-year veteran of the National Guard, Yaple steps down after serving more than three years as Assistant Adjutant General for Air.

"It is a pleasure to work with such talented leadership in the Kentucky Air National Guard," Storm said. "We have been so fortunate to have people with the skill sets and the years of service as Brigadier General Hunt and Colonel Dornbush. Their addition to our staff will help build on the great team we have in our new Joint Force Headquarters. This is a great step forward for the Kentucky National Guard and a great day for the citizens of Kentucky."

Storm also praised Yaple for his contributions to the Kentucky Guard.

"Brigadier General Yaple made outstanding contributions in combining the Army and Air elements of the Kentucky Guard to form our Joint Force Headquarters. An outstanding leader and a great American, he is a true patriot who has gone above and beyond in serving not just his nation, but the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

EVERYDAY SOLDIERS

Two graduate Warrant School

By Sgt. Gina Vaile

Editor

Two Kentucky National Guard Soldiers have graduated from Warrant Officer School.

Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Turner and Sgt. 1st Class Bryan McCoy have graduated and are awaiting Warrant Officer slots.

McCoy, who enrolled for a more challenging career and deeper responsibility said Warrant Officer School was a challenge but very beneficial.

"I learned the importance of being a team," he said, "and having the responsibility to make decisions and accept the results."

McCoy and Turner took distance learning courses, attended five months of drill weekends and one two-week Annual Training period at Camp Atterbury to graduate from the program. The two soldiers endured hours of classroom time as well as physical training to graduate from the program.

"Physically the course was much like basic training," Turner said. "But the most challenging aspect of the course was the academics."

McCoy and Turner will further their training when slots become available.



LEFT: Bryan McCoy is pinned by Chief Warrant Officer Ken Masters and his daughter Lynsey. (photo submitted)



RIGHT: Ryan Turner shakes hands with Chief Warrant Officer Ken Masters after graduating from Warrant Officer School. (photo submitted)

For more information on becoming a warrant officer in the Kentucky National Guard, visit www.1800goguard.com/warrantofficer/ or contact Chief Warrant Officer Ken Masters at 502-607-1304.

Kaldy receives award



Kentucky National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Kaldy was awarded the Regimental Transportation Corps Warrant Officer of the Year for the Reserve Component Category for 2005.

"I'm proud and honored to be a member of the Kentucky Army National Guard," Kaldy said. "I appreciate the mentoring by both the enlisted soldiers and officers that enabled me to receive this prestigious award."

Kaldy was presented by the Chief of Transportation, Brig. Gen. Mark E. Scheid at Fort Eustis, Va. On July 27.

A former Marine captain, Kaldy enlisted into the Kentucky National Guard in 1993. He was promoted to warrant officer in 2002, and made the rank of chief warrant officer in 2004.

Kaldy, a Covington native lives with his wife Lou Ann in Frankfort.

21-RUN SALUTE

Kentucky Soldiers run in marathon, honor fallen soldiers

Staff Report

Twenty-one Soldiers from the Kentucky Army National Guard competed in the 22nd Annual Army 10-Miler race in Washington, DC on Oct. 8, to honor the fallen comrades of the Kentucky Guard. Simultaneously, several deployed soldiers in Iraq also completed a 10-mile race in remembrance of their commitment and sacrifice as well.

The Kentucky team held a Fallen Soldier Service at the Pentagon. Second Lt. Kyle Key, of Elizabethtown, organized the memorial dedication and ran in the race. "This team of 21 soldiers was a symbolic representation of the 21-gun salute, the nation's highest honor rendered to fallen soldiers," Key said. "We ran the race to honor the memories and sacrifices of our brothers in arms who gave their lives to advance the cause of liberty and freedom."

Command Sgt. Maj. of the Army National Guard John Gipe attended the service and accepted team shirts on behalf of Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The shirts were designed with the inverted rifle, helmet, ID tags and boots as well as the names of the Kentucky soldiers who died.

Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky, said this team effort is a testament to Kentucky's sacrifice while fighting the Global War on Terror.

"The Kentucky National Guard has paid a high price in defending our way of life," said Storm. "This group of fine soldiers represents the steeped tradition of honoring and remembering the ultimate sacrifice of the men and women in our armed forces. We must keep alive the memory of those who have paid the ultimate price, so that future

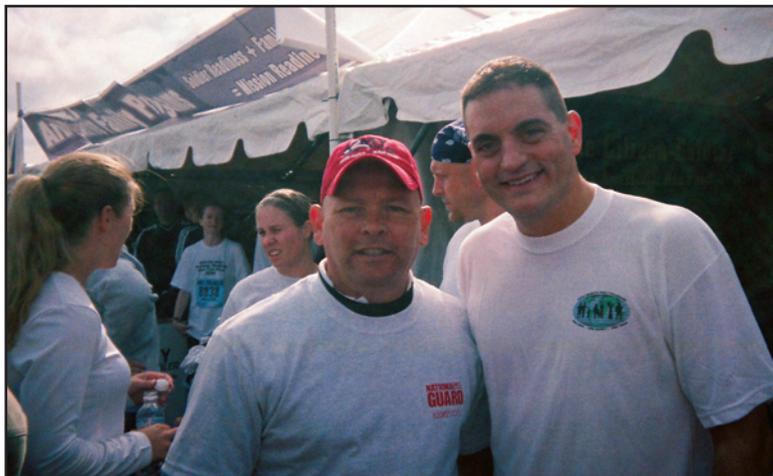


Photo submitted

Command Sgt. Maj. of National Guard John Gipe attended a memorial service organized by 2nd Lt. Kyle Key prior to the 22nd Annual Army 10- Miler in Washington D.C. Oct. 8. Twenty-one soldiers from the Kentucky Guard ran the race.

generations will remember and appreciate their legacy of freedom."

The team was invited by the Sentinels of the 3rd Infantry "Old Guard" for a personal tour of the Tomb of the Unknowns barracks at Arlington National Cemetery. The team also visited the "Faces of the Fallen" memorial, a compelling exhibit of more than 1300 portraits of service men and women who died while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq prior to Veterans Day, November 11, 2004. Personal items such as notes, bracelets, coins and flags were left at the portraits of Kentuckians Sgt. Darrin Potter, Sgt. Gene Vance, Jr. and 1st Lt. Robert L. Henderson.

The 2006 Army 10-Miler was the country's largest ten mile race attracting 24,000 military and civilian runners from around the world. The team started and finished at the Pentagon and passed national landmarks as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and the Capitol. The team was sponsored by US Cavalry in Radcliff and KOOL 103.5 & 105.5 The Big Cat radio stations in Elizabethtown and Louisville.

Kentucky Guardsmen, active or retired, wishing to participate in the 23rd Army 10-Miler in October 2007 should e-mail 2nd Lt. Kyle Key at: kyle.key@us.army.mil for more information.

To visit an online version of Faces of the Fallen memorial, log on to www.facesofthefallen.org.



Photo submitted

Kentucky National Guard soldiers (pictured in the front) Spec. James "Monti" Montgomery, Spec. James "Schack" Schackelford and Maj. James T. "Tim" Culver prepare to run the Peachtree Baghdad 10-Miler in honor of fallen Kentucky soldiers. The 149th Brigade Combat Team Forward 4 members viewed the race as a challenge.

WELCOME HOME!

This Holiday Season is a special one for the families of the 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and the 130th Combat Heavy Engineers. Both units returned home this fall to the loving arms of family and friends.

Twenty soldiers of the 133rd MPAD supported elements of the 101st Airborne Division and the 4th Infantry Division throughout Iraq. During the deployment, the 133rd MPAD produced more than 1,000 print and video media products which were accessed more than 1,500 times by local, national and international news media.

Fifty-six 130th Combat Heavy Engineers deployed to Tikrit, Iraq and were tasked with performing construction for U.S. Army bases in the region. In Baygi, engineers built a berm around the town in 72 hours. Soldiers then were tasked with emplacing barriers for protection of the oil pipeline in the Rhiyad Canal. The pipeline stores 40 percent of Iraq's oil reserve supply.



Photo by Capt. Dave Page/KYARNG

- Sgt. Scott Taylor of the 130th Combat Engineer Battalion holds his sons Silas and Canaan during a welcome home ceremony Nov. 22.
- Spec. Emily Slusher gives Mackenzie Kibler a birthday hug at the 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment welcome home ceremony Oct. 13.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG



Photo by Capt. Dave Page/KYARNG



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

- Members from the 130th Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion arrived in Louisville Nov. 22 after a year-long deployment to Iraq.
- Spec. Marvin Cornell greets his family and friends at the 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment homecoming Oct. 13.

Change of Command

Three ceremonies begin new generation for three Kentucky units



The 1st Battalion 623rd Field Artillery, based in Glasgow, welcomed Lt. Col. John P. Dooley as its new commander Nov. 4.

Dooley joined the Kentucky Guard in 1989 as a platoon leader for the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 623rd.

"I've been involved with this unit for many years," he said, "and it has been a very successful experience."

Col. Billy J. West assumed command of the 138th Fires Brigade Nov. 5 in Lexington. West gave thanks to Maj. Gen. Donald Storm "for placing me in command of this fine unit and thanks to all the NCOs that have helped me through my career."

West went on to call the soldiers of the 138th Fires Brigade heroes, saying he is confident the Brigade will uphold the success and tradition of years past.



"I'm honored to be in command of this great team," Maj. Mike Gilkey told the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion 138th Fires Support as he assumed command Nov. 5 in Lexington.

Tay-Tay Bears comfort Guard kids



Soldier's daughter makes bears for children of deployed troops

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

Taylor Pace likes planes ... she wants to be a pilot when she grows up. She enjoys talking on the phone with her friends like most average 10-year-olds do and she's fascinated with WLEX 18, a Lexington television station.

One morning while watching the News at Sunrise, Taylor saw reporter Steve Collier making bears at a Lexington craft store.

"That's it!" she told her mom.

"That's what she wanted to do to take up the time while her dad would be on deployment," said Taylor's mom, Michelle Pace. "She wanted to make bears for the

kids of our National Guard soldiers."

Now, 700 bears later, she's still doing it.

"When my daddy left the first time, the girls didn't get anything to make them feel better," Taylor said. "I want to give all the kids something so they don't have to feel as bad as I did."

Taylor's dad, Sgt. Henry Pace, got orders this fall and deployed in October with Alpha Battery 2nd Battalion 138th Field Artillery. Before the unit even had their farewell ceremony, Taylor was busy making her Tay-Tay Buddy Bears.

"My favorite bear was made from fabric that looked like all the states (on a map), but it was in red white and blue," she said.

“My grandma gave me scraps and I only had enough to make two bears. I gave one away but kept the other.”

Michelle and her mother-in-law assist Taylor by cutting out the bears and using a sewing machine to sew the body together. “Then Taylor flips them inside out, stuffs them and hand sews it together. She really does all the hard labor,” Michelle said.

Michelle said her daughter is constantly giving. When she noticed the box for the toys-for-tots at the Aviation Museum in Lexington was empty, Taylor used her allowance to purchase toys, and her mother has matched the \$50 Taylor has spent on the toys.

Taylor also used her allowance to purchase the material to start making her Tay-Tay Bears. She sells them for \$2 a piece and for each bear she sells, she makes one for a soldier’s child and attaches a note of encouragement with the bear.

“She is one fine little lady with a big heart,” said Maj. Gen. Donald Storm after naming Taylor an Honorary Guardsman at the Alpha Company farewell ceremony.

“You are a hero to the children of the Kentucky National Guard,” he told her after the ceremony.

“When we left Carrollton (at the farewell) there was a line a mile long of kids who wanted my bears,” she said. “That makes me happy. And, I’m happy to be a Guardsman like my daddy.”

Her family members have sold the bears at church, her teacher bought bears for her classmates on the first day of school and other people in the neighborhood have donated to the cause. After making her first 300 bears, Taylor donated the \$163 she received from the sales to the Aviation Museum in Lexington. She spends her weekends there, looking at the planes and guiding other children around to teach them about the facility.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Nine-year-old Taylor Pace was named an honorary Guardsman Oct. 14 during the farewell ceremony for members of her father’s unit.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Capt. Shaune Jones present Taylor Pace with an honorary Guardsman certificate. She is the daughter of Sgt. Henry and Michelle Pace of Winchester.

When Taylor’s dad lands in Iraq this January she says she will miss him a lot. Taylor has plans to send him care packages with items donated by her classmates. Taylor’s been through the drill before, “He’ll need foot powder, Tylenol, medicine stuff and band-aids.”

She might even throw in a Tay-Tay bear.

Afghan National Army



Kentucky National Guard trains soldiers for success

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

In 2004, 96 Kentucky National Guard soldiers from around the state volunteered for Task Force Cumberland, a deployment to Afghanistan. The mission – to train the newly formed Afghan National Army (ANA).

“We thought we’d be drill instructors or drill sergeants,” said Capt. William Burdett. “Then we got there and didn’t know on a daily basis if we’d even come home or not. We all agreed that we’d tell our families we were sitting at a desk.”

Once they arrived, boots on ground, the Kentucky delegation was split and dispersed throughout the country. Teams were formed and the Kentucky soldiers were thrust into their mission of training the Afghan Army. For most of the Kentucky soldiers, it wasn’t what they had expected.

“(Upon arriving), we were to embed ourselves with the Afghan soldiers and do whatever they did and go with them where ever they went to mentor and advise them,” said Chief Warrant Officer John Otten.

Otten said the mission was very demanding on the Kentucky troops and the Afghan soldiers.

“We were involved in firefights, rocket attacks, snipers, IED’s, you name it,” he said. “I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I was 40 years old, out there, involved with special forces type missions on a regular basis.”

For the Kentucky soldiers, the mission was anything but routine. Most of the Afghan soldiers had the equivalent of a third or fourth grade education. According to Maj. John Covany, a Task Force Cumberland soldier, the illiteracy



Photo submitted
Lt. Col. Bob Hayter surveys an overwatch point in Kandahar City with the CSS Battalion Executive Officer Fasil, and an interpreter, Sadiq during the elections in September 2005.



Photo submitted
Capt. William Burdett enjoys a moment with Afghan children while on Patrol with the Afghan National Army in August 2005. Burdett said children welcomed the convoys with cheers and smiles, hoping for candy or water.

rate in the ANA was about 85 percent.

“We had to use very basic words, and say exactly what we meant,” said Sgt. 1st Class Todd Smothermon. “And you had to have a really good interpreter.”

Besides the language barrier, Task Force Cumberland troops also had equipment issues to deal with. The mode of transportation for the ANA is a Ford Ranger pickup truck – painted tan – with as many ANA soldiers, toting AK-47s (with the weapon not on safe), as possible crammed into the bed. With little or no supplies, the ANA would load up for missions leaving needed equipment and sensitive items behind.

“They were terrible at basic rifle marksmanship, they didn’t know to take all of their equipment with them, that they needed gas and water; and they didn’t pay their soldiers, we paid them (their salaries),” Smothermon said. “By the time we trained them and were getting ready to rotate out, they were paying their own soldiers and taking all of their equipment with them out of the gates.”

Covany said his troops realized throughout the deployment that they must be patient with the Afghans.

“We learned that we had to take baby steps ... and that the slightest improvement was a success,” he said, noting that improvements were measured on a different scale than that of a US Army unit. “Any improvement was a success.”

The Kentucky soldiers found through their deployment they were not just trainers to the Afghans. Slowly, they were becoming friends.

“We were embedded, we created bonds and became friends with our interpreters and the ANA soldiers,” said Burdett. A vehicle born-IED killed four ANA soldiers that Burdett worked with on a regular basis. The loss, he said, hit him as if it were one of his fellow Kentucky Guard soldiers.

The unit did suffer one loss. Capt. Clayton L. Adamkavicius was killed April 20, 2006 by small arms fire while investigating an anti-coalition weapons cache.

A U.S. Marine administers medication to livestock during a humanitarian mission. Kentucky Guard troops along with the Afghan National Army escorted the coalition forces to areas in need of medical, veterinary and other civil services.



Photo submitted



Photo submitted



Photo submitted

▲ Mode of transportation for ANA soldiers is a basic Ford Ranger truck. Kentucky soldiers trained the ANA from August 2005 to July 2006.

◀ Lt. Col. Alan Klyap of the Florida National Guard confers with Lt. Col. Benny Richardson of Task Force Cumberland while on a mission with the ANA.

Air Guard gains new unit

123rd Contingency Response Group is first Air Guard unit of its kind

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

The Kentucky Air National Guard announced Nov. 28 the formation of the 123rd Contingency Response Group (CRG)— the first Air National Guard unit of its kind in the nation.

“The United States Air Force has always depended on Kentucky to answer the call to duty. Because of that demonstrated dedication and professionalism of the men and women of our Air National Guard, we have been given the opportunity to have such a remarkable unit,” Gov. Ernie Fletcher said.

Designed as a deployable “airbase in a box,” the 123rd CRG will have the capability to provide everything necessary to open a runway, load and unload aircraft, provide security, housing and all the necessities to run an airfield. This capability will be used in a dual mission role supporting both the Global War on Terrorism as well as for Homeland Defense.

Over \$33 million was saved by reorganizing the existing manpower and facilities at the Louisville Air Guard Base.

“The formation of this unit puts us in a great position to be a first responder for emergencies within the United States,” Storm said. “We’ve got a great team and the Air Force has recognized that. This mission truly puts the Kentucky Air Guard at the ‘tip of the spear.’”

Maj. Gen. Charles Ickes, Deputy Director of the Air National Guard told the soldiers and airmen attending the announcement that the



Photo courtesy of Governor's Office

Gov. Ernie Fletcher joins Maj. Gen. Donald Storm and Maj. Gen. Charles Ickes, Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, in announcing the formation of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group at the Air Guard Base in Louisville Nov. 28.

123rd is “vitaly needed by the Air Force and all the war-fighters around the world.

“You’ll bring something to the nation that we need not only in the United States day in and day out,” Ickes said. “... but potentially (use) to deploy overseas in this Global War on Terror.”

The Kentucky Air Guard has personnel experienced in expeditionary command and control as well as medical operations. The airmen assigned to the unit have experience in Afghanistan and Iraq combat operations, and responded to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts last year.

Kentucky will be the primary responder for East Coast and Gulf Coast hurricane response. According to Ickes, the goal of the Air National Guard is to have the 123rd CRG functioning before next year’s hurricane season.

“I know that if anybody can do that, the members of the 123rd will be ready,” he said.

The 123rd CRG will be an associate partner with the 615th Contingency Response Wing out of Travis Air Force Base in California.



Photo courtesy of Governor's Office

Maj. Gen. Charles Ickes said the Kentucky Air Guard was picked to receive the 123rd CRG because the Base is already equipped to handle such a unit.

Kentucky Guard soldier named NGB Public Affairs new Sergeant Major

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

Master Sgt. Paul Mouilleseaux, a Kentucky National Guard soldier, was recently named the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs (NGB-PA) Sergeant Major.

In that capacity, he will be responsible for all the enlisted public affairs professionals in the NGB-PA office, as well as all National Guard enlisted public affairs professionals in the 54 states and territories.

Mouilleseaux entered the Kentucky National Guard in 1985 and served in various positions in many units throughout the state. In 1992 he transferred to the 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Frankfort, Ky. as a broadcast journalist. He has worked at NGB-PA since June 2001 and is a veteran of Operations Iraqi Freedom and the Persian Gulf War.

"I am honored to serve the National Guard Public Affairs Professionals in this new capacity," he said. "... (I) not only thank the leadership at NGB for this opportunity, but all those who I have served with who have mentored me along."

Mouilleseaux is a native of Cadiz, Ky. with a Bachelor's degree in Television Production from Murray State University. He currently lives in Arlington, Va.

"I serve my country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the greatest of pride and distinction," he said. "The sun shines bright and everybody in good ole Kentucky knows the rest of those words."



Photo submitted

Master Sgt. Paul Mouilleseaux was recently named Sergeant Major of National Guard Bureau Public Affairs.

VALUE OF THE MONTH

Each month The Bluegrass Guard will explore a different Army Value and how to use that value in your daily life.



“If I do my full duty, the rest will take care of itself.” - Gen. George S. Patton

Duty is a sense of obligation. It is a moral and lawful adherence to the accomplishment of purpose, mission and objective. Duty requires a willingness to accept full responsibility for your actions and for your subordinate's performance. It requires leaders to take initiative. Duty means accomplishing everything to the best of your ability.

TAY-TAY BEARS

Read about one soldier's daughter making deployments easier for kids on page 29. For more information or to purchase bears, please leave a request on the Public Affairs Web site request link.

GOT NEWS?

The Bluegrass Guard wants your photos, news stories and upcoming events to publicize in our pages and on the Web. Call Sgt. Gina Vaile at 502-607-1186.

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<http://www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs>

In Memory



Sgt. 1st Class Jason Jones
149th Brigade Combat Team
Sept. 20, 2006
Baghdad, Iraq



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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