

# THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

Volume Twelve, Issue Four  
March · April 2008



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**Change of Command Ceremonies for Kentucky Guard Units**

**Guard sponsors Kentucky ATV racer**

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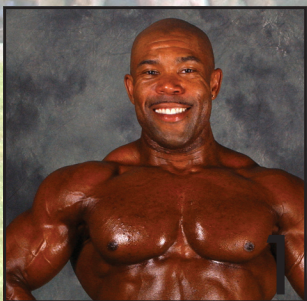
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Capt. Evan Naylor, a Louisville, Ky., native, walks down the streets of Sadr City handing out copies of Baghdad Now newspaper. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott/4th Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office)







## FROM THE FIELD

### Change of Address?

If you are planning a move, make sure your Bluegrass Guard magazine follows you to your new home.

Current Soldiers and Airmen need to submit change of address through the unit clerk in the RCAS system.

See below for retiree information!

Thanks,  
Sgt. Gina Vaile, Editor

#### Change of Address

All change of address should be made at the unit level by the unit clerk.

Army retiree address changes should be made through Staff Sgt. Jason Pettitt at the Kentucky National Guard Personnel Services Branch. He can be reached at 502-607-1613 or [jason.pettitt@ky.ngb.army.mil](mailto:jason.pettitt@ky.ngb.army.mil).

Air retiree address changes should be made through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at [jturpin@fewpb.net](mailto:jturpin@fewpb.net).

#### Corrections

Please report any corrections to:  
The Bluegrass Guard  
100 Minuteman Parkway  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
or: [gina.vaile@us.army.mil](mailto:gina.vaile@us.army.mil)

#### The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

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

The Bluegrass Guard  
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100 Minuteman Parkway  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
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We reserve the right to edit letters for tone, length, clarity and factual accuracy.

## 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](mailto:gina.vaile@us.army.mil). Payment will not be made for contributions. Paid advertising will not be accepted.

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Background photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff/KYARNG



# Warrant Officer Corps looking to fill ranks

By **Chief Warrant Officer Paul Beane**  
*Command Chief Warrant Officer*

The role of the warrant officer is an important one. To paraphrase from the regulation, we are your highly specialized experts and trainers who operate, maintain, administer, and manage the Army's equipment, support activities, or technical systems. We can and do command units, detachments and activities, as well as lead, coach, train, and counsel subordinates. As leaders and technical experts, we provide valuable skills, guidance, and expertise to commanders and organizations in their particular fields.

It is my duty – and pleasure – to serve as the command chief warrant officer for the Kentucky Army National Guard. In this role, I am an advisor to the adjutant general, managing the military aspects of all full time and tradi-

tional Army National Guard warrant officers. I also manage and speak on the policies and standards related to readiness, performance, education and other aspects of all warrant officers.

I am also coordinating the warrant officer recruiting program. We currently have nearly 50 warrant positions available. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a warrant officer to contact either Warrant Officer Ryan Turner, the warrant officer recruiter or myself. And, of course, I am always available to answer questions about becoming a warrant officer.

For more information contact:

Turner, 502-607-1576,  
 cell 502-320-3653

Beane, 502-607-1055.

To learn more about the warrant officer recruiting program, visit [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant).



## NEXT ISSUE

1-149 IN Recalls Combat Training Mission

The last of the M1 Abrams Tanks leaving Kentucky

Photo Contest

## GOT NEWS?

**The Bluegrass Guard wants your photos, news stories and upcoming events to publicize in our pages and on the Web. Call 1st Lt. Stephen Martin at 502-607-1898 for more information.**

**CHECK US OUT  
 ONLINE CHECK**

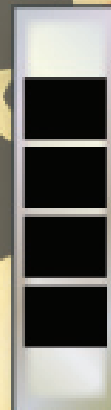
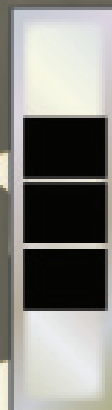
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# WARRANT OFFICER CORPS!

The warrant officer is the highly specialized expert and trainer that requires great skill in a specific occupational specialty, but it doesn't stop there. As an Army warrant officer, you must demonstrate leadership abilities, and have the desire and dedication to perfect your technical proficiency through professional development, training, and education. Every warrant officer MOS has specific mandatory requirements outlined by the proponent. Below is a list of what Kentucky is needing:

- Mobility Warrant Officer (MOS: 882A)
- Food Service Warrant Officer (MOS: 922A)
- Supply Systems Warrant Officer (MOS: 920B)
- Field Artillery Targeting Warrant Officer (MOS: 131A)
- Information Systems Warrant Officer (MOS: 251A)
- Network Management Warrant Officer (MOS: 250N)



*What do I need to become a warrant officer?*

Applicants applying for warrant officer fields must have an appointment physical qualifying them, a GT score of 110 or higher, be between the ages of 18 and 46, and be rank of SGT or higher.

*Are there any bonuses?*

There is a \$10,000 commissioning bonus.

*Who do I contact?*

CW2 Ryan Turner

Cell: 502.320.3653

Office: 502.607.6200

E-mail: [ryan.turner2@usarec.army.mil](mailto:ryan.turner2@usarec.army.mil)



# Armor unit Change of Command

## Lieutenant Col. Wendell L. Calhoun takes on Armor Battalion

By Spc. Cassandra Groce  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A new commander took charge of the 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor April 27 at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, marking the end of a historical chapter for the Kentucky National Guard.

Lt. Col. Wendell L. Calhoun took charge from outgoing commander Lt. Col. D. Mike Farley closing the last remaining armor unit in the state of Kentucky.

Effective October 2008, the unit will redesignated the 149th Brigade Support Battalion. Despite the changing name and role, Calhoun hopes to continue the battalion's excellent tradition and history.

"In the next year we hope to have the unit transitioned to a brigade support battalion that is ready to fight in combat," Calhoun said.

One positive to the transition is that the battalion can now recruit female Soldiers, which will broaden its diversity and capabilities.

"I think the change from an armor battalion to a support battalion improves the National Guard from the standpoint that it provides more assets for state emergencies," Calhoun explained. "It also opens the battalion up so we have a larger recruiting base. As an armor unit we were closed to females, but now we are open to recruiting female Soldiers.

This provides us with an increased recruiting base to pull from which is definitely to the benefit to our battalion."

The unit's new role will also be more beneficial in the combat arena. A support battalion is designed to be plugged into supporting roles where needed in the war front and at home, providing quicker deployment and increased capabilities.

For those who hold armor close to heart, the changing atmosphere is bittersweet.

"It's kind of sad, because Kentucky is the home of the armor, and armor has been in the state of Kentucky and in the national guard for close to a 100 years," Farley said. "We've played a major role in several battles in defending America, so to see it go from Kentucky is hard."

However, the outgoing commander added, "Sometimes you have to move on to bigger and better things though."

The 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor will continue its historical tradition of achievement, regardless of its role. Most recently, the battalion has served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with deployments in March 2005, March 2006 and July 2006. Additionally, Soldiers were sent to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in April 2005.



KYARNG Photo by Spc. Cassandra Groce

Lt. Col. Calhoun passes the colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Wilson confirming his total commitment to the men and women he now serves.



# Harrodsburg honors heroes

## WW II Light Tank Battalion, Bataan Death March soldiers commemorated

By Spc. Michael Pfaff  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The townsfolk of Harrodsburg, Ky. spent an entire day commemorating a World War II era Kentucky National Guard unit, the Harrodsburg Tankers, April 26.

The Harrodsburg Tankers, Company D, 192<sup>nd</sup> Light Tank Battalion, were deployed to the Philippines prior to the start of the war and eventually taken captive as prisoners of war by the Japanese. Many of them endured the infamous “Bataan Death March.”

“Those boys gave a sacrifice to their town and country that marks them as true heroes of Harrodsburg,” said Lonnie Campbell, the mayor of Harrodsburg. “We are going to make this an annual event from this day forward.”

The day’s activities included a Bataan Tankers 5k Run/Walk, a Boy Scouts 10-Mile March, a recognition ceremony, a Historian’s



The Harrodsburg Tankers pose for a photo before the war began.

Roundtable and the World Premiere of “BATAAN – The Harrodsburg Tankers: A Time for Courage... A Time for Heroes.”

The ceremony recognized the 66 Kentucky Guard members of the Harrodsburg Tankers and the sacrifice they made.

Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky, spoke on behalf of the Kentucky Guard and compared the Harrodsburg Tanker’s sacrifice to Kentucky National Guardsmen serving overseas today.

Tracy Durham was one of those family members.

Her uncle, Ralph Stine, was one of the brave men who survived the “Death March” and returned home.

“This ceremony was wonderful; just wonderful,” she said. “It was long overdue. I have a godson in Iraq and it’s good to see our heroes recognized.”



Photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff/KYARNG

Maj. Gen. Tonini, Mercer County Judge Executive John Trisler, Harrodsburg Mayor Lonnie Campbell, members of the state cabinet, clergy and Lt. Col. Virgil Elliott bow their heads in remembrance of fallen soldiers.



Photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff/KYARNG

Crosses with names of fallen soldiers past and present were displayed in the grass.



# Family Readiness workshop

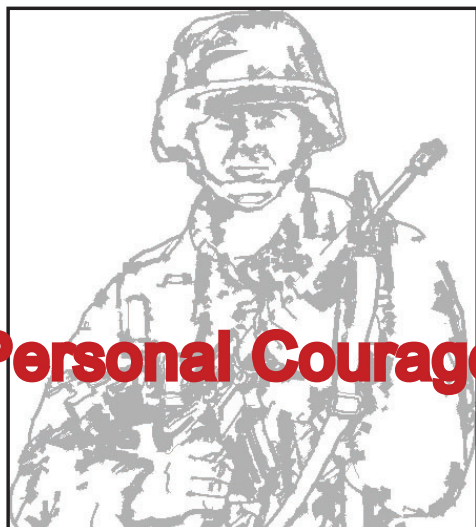


Photo by Dave Atoney Public Affairs Office

Deven Mau helps Alana Underwood, a Family Readiness Group Assistant, draw names for prizes during a recent workshop in Louisville. Deven is the grandson of Jim Mau, a retired Kentucky Guard Soldier and Brenda Mau, Family Programs State Council President. For more information on the Kentucky National Guard's family programs, call 800-372-7601, option #1.

## 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.*



### Personal Courage

**P**ersonal Courage is the foundation on which all other Army Values stand. It is overcoming fears of bodily harm while performing your duty. It is not compromising your professional ethics or your individual values and moral principles.

“All men are frightened... The courageous man is the man who forces himself, in spite of his fear, to carry on.”

Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.



# Yokley Racing takes Nation by Storm

By 1st Sgt. John Kibler  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The National Guard gained a new Kentucky recruit on June 1, and this recruit will never even see basic training....

The National Guard is now the official sponsor of Grand National Cross Country series ATV racer William Yokley of Tompkinsville, Ky.

“On a personal and professional level, it’s an honor to be sponsored by someone such as the National Guard,” said Yokley. “I never dreamed of having a branch of the military as my main sponsor. I’ve always been proud of all the men and women that protect our country and I just want to make them proud of me in return,” he said.

Yokley has been racing professionally at the age of 15 and is a Multi-Time Pro and Pro Production GNCC Winner. “My friends and family have always been behind me and when they found out that I was sponsored by the Guard, it’s made everything a lot more exciting for everyone,” he said. “It gives me a lot more motivation when I’m working hard, both on and off the track, to make it happen. “It seems like everyone can relate to riding an ATV or motorcycle, so it makes it more fun for everyone.” Yokley will be racing in several areas in the southeast and invites all Guardsmen to come and see his races.



William Yokley (right), with team rider Mark Notman and Tompkinsville recruiting officer Sgt. 1st Class Joe Pettet, poses with racing machines for a local appearance in a shopping area April 14.



Yokley takes a jump at a photo shoot in California February 2008.

June 21-22	Elka Yadkin Valley, Yadkinville, NC
July 5-6	Geico Mountain Ridge, Somerset, PA
Sept.	13-14 Moose Snowshoe, Snowshoe, WV
Sept. 27-28	Can-Am Unadilla, New Berlin, NY
Oct. 11-12	ITP Power Line Park St., Clairsville, OH
Oct. 25-26	Klotz Ironman, Crawfordsville, IN



# 149th Change of Command

By Staff. Sgt. Aaron Hiller

149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Public Affairs Representative

The 149<sup>th</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade conducted a change of command ceremony at Brooks Field Sunday May 18 at Fort Knox.

Incoming commander Lt. Col. Scott Campbell took over the unit from Col. Charles T. Jones and the ceremony was presided over by Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver, the Deputy Adjutant General and Deputy Commander of 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

The ceremony began at the direction of Brigade Adjutant Major Michael Abell calling all units to attention.

The band passed in front of the brigade in a ceremony dating to the Crusades of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century while all commands were given using traditional bugle calls.







Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hillier/KVARNG

Retired Master Sgt. Gary Payne receives the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal from Col. Charles Jones and Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver. Payne was part of the 223rd Military Police Company and served in Desert Storm, Bosnia and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hillier/KVARNG

Commander of Troops, Lt. Col. Charles Schneider, salutes Col. Charles Jones in front of an authentic World War II, 3/4-ton Dodge WC-57 command car. Also in the car is Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver and Lt. Col. Scott Campbell who conducted a review of the troops with the outgoing commander.

Col. Charles Jones hands off the colors to Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver who will then pass them to the incoming commander formally symbolizing the continuity of authority as the command is passed from one individual to another.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hillier/KVARNG





# Aviation Awards Banquet

By **1st Lt. Stephen D. Martin**  
Deputy State Public Affairs Officer



Photo by Dave Altom/Public Affairs Office

From left to right: Col. Ben Adams, Col. Ricky Branscum, retired Lt. Col. Phillip Pitman, wife Connie, Lt. Col. Terry Orange, wife Renae, retired Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, wife Monica, Warrant Officer Matt Willey, wife Maria and Col. Phil Miller.

The 63d Theatre Aviation Brigade hosted their first inaugural aviation dining out at Castle Hill Winery in Versailles, Ky. on March 15 this year.

Retired Maj Gen Donald C. Storm, former adjutant general



Photo by Dave Altom/Public Affairs Office

Warrant Officer's Justin Frye and Steve Knight presided over the grog bowl ceremony. Here, to the delight of the attendees, Frye adds a copious amount of simulated JP8 helicopter fuel to the brew.

for Kentucky served as the keynote speaker and spoke on the enormous impact that Aviation has had on the Kentucky National Guard.

Receiving awards from the Bluegrass Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America were Warrant Officer James L. Chanley for Army Aviator of the Year, Staff Sgt. Cleveland Joyner for Crewmember of the Year, Staff Sgt. Jerry Gootee for Aviation Support Soldier of the Year, and Sgt. 1st Class Merritt Whitelow for Aviation Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Also honored during the ceremony were retired Lt. Col. Phillip Pittman and Lt. Col. Terry Orange. The two were presented

with the AAAA's Order of St. Michael (bronze award).

Additionally, Monica Storm and Maria Willey were presented with AAAA's Our Lady of Loretto award. All four recipients were honored in recognition of their leadership and support to Kentucky's Army aviation community.



Photo by Dave Altom/Public Affairs Office

From left to right: Capt. Adam Kearney, Capt. Gabe Spicer, Warrant Officer Travis Rogers, Capt. Mike Armstrong and dates enjoy dinner.



# Kentucky runners among top finishers

By Maj. Kevin Hynes  
Nebraska Public Affairs

At the National Guard Marathon in Nebraska this year, 1st Lt. Varinka Barbini took first in the women's guard division with a personal-best time of 3:01:45. This time was good enough for her to place twenty fifth overall.

A Lexington, Ky., "rookie" police officer, Barbini said she was ecstatic to do so well at this year's race because her work schedule had made preparing physically for the marathon extremely difficult.

"I was worried about my training and a lack of sleep the last week," she said. "I had some late arrests."



1st Lt. Varinka Barbini was third to cross the finish line overall for females as well as second on her team.

Also on her team was Sgt. 1st Class David Bice who came in third with a time of 2:42:21 and Sgt Michael Embury who came in thirty sixth with a time of 3:07:48.

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## Penix wins Bodybuilding Championship

By 1st Lt. Stephen D. Martin  
Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

In August of 2007, Sgt. 1st Class Marzell Penix was declared the Kentucky State Bodybuilding Champ in Lexington at the Thoroughbred Center.

Penix, a resident of Danville, trained and dieted for eleven weeks in order to be in a position to win this prestigious event.

Penix has been in the military for 20 years and has been lifting for 15 of those years. He started weightlifting for physical training



Sgt. 1st Class Marzell Penix poses with his prize trophy,

purposes while on active duty.

Penix is with Bravo Company, 103d Brigade Support Battalion and works fulltime as an electronic mechanic for the National Guard.

He is married to wife Theresa, Theresa and has 4 children, Adriana, Marzell II, Trent Strong and Haley Strong

"I am most proud of winning the overall title of Mr. Kentucky," said Penix.

This is Penix's 15th show and fourth weightlifting title.



# LaRue Co. High School sets sights on “88”

*Earnhardt’s National Guard Car visits school to promote CATS testing*

**By Kelly Sandidge and Ruth Sorace**

*LaRue Co. High School*

For many Kentucky high school students, the number “88” may be that grade that guarantees a “B” on their next report card. But, for LaRue County High School students, it is a goal for their high school and one that was recently emphasized even more with a visit from another famous 88. . . Dale Earnhardt, Jr.’s new ride for the 2008 NASCAR season, made possible by the Kentucky National Guard.

LaRue Co. High School is located in Hodgenville, Ky. and has about 750 students in the school. In preparation for the Kentucky Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) “test” in April of 2008, LaRue County High School brainstormed ideas for a slogan or theme for the current school year. “88 in ’08 HAWKS race to proficiency on CATS 100.”

The CATS test involves sophomores and juniors taking tests in such areas as math, science, social studies, humanities, practical living/vocational studies, and reading. The seniors are required to finish their writing portfolio that they have put together over their four years of high school. The goal of the CATS test is to have all Kentucky schools at 100 or proficiency by 2014. In order for LaRue Co. High School to stay on track to reach 100 by 2014, the school needs to score an 88 on the 07-08 CATS test.

Once the slogan was chosen, the school started actively trying to get Dale Jr.’s National Guard car at the school to help kick off the CATS testing in the spring of 2008. With Dale Jr., NASCAR and now the National Guard car being some of the most recognized names today in sports, the administration felt like this was a great way to get a clear focus on what needed to be accomplished this year. Mr. Paul Mullins, L.C.H.S.



Photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff/ KYARNG

LaRue Co. High School students: Caleb Phelps, Christian Cox, Alex Thomas, Allie Perkins, Betsy Durham, Autumn Kidd, Tori Banks, and Hannah Canter pose in front of Dale Earnhardt’s car.

principal, said “We wanted to have a clear focus on our goal of 88 on the CATS test this year and what better way to accomplish this by bringing in Dale Jr.’s car.”

The National Guard car arrived March 17. The students were able to get an up-close look at a real Sprint Cup car. They had a chance to take their own pictures and hear what an actual stock car sounded like as it was fired up several times during the morning.

Keith Blair, LCHS junior who was wearing his #88 hat that day, said “It was really neat getting to see Dale Jr.’s car, and it also helped get me focused on what needs to be done on the CATS test this year.”

Kelly Sandidge, one of two guidance counselors at LCHS, said, “The National Guard representatives were wonderful with our students.”

The cooperative efforts also gave the older students a chance to talk with the representatives about the National Guard.

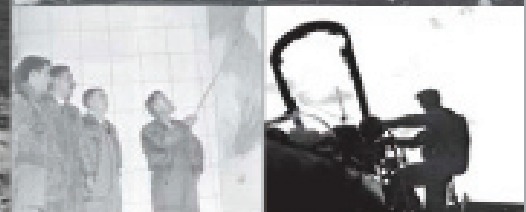


# Kentucky National Guard Day 24 June



40th Anniversary  
Pueblo Call-Up

1968 - 2008



Ceremony at the  
Kentucky Air National Guard Base  
Tuesday, June 24th at 10:00 a.m.





Photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff/ KYARNG

A man searches for fallen comrades on the traveling Vietnam War Memorial in Harrodsburg, Ky. during a recognition ceremony commemorating a Kentucky National Guard tank unit that deployed to the Phillipines during WW II.



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