

# THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

Volume Thirteen, Issue Four  
March · April 2009

ALL GAVE SOME  
AND  
SOME GAVE ALL



DEDICATED BY  
B BTRY 2/138TH FA  
FAMILY READINESS GROUP

Field Artillery Honors  
OIF Veterans with  
medal ceremony

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## THE COVER

Cover Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG

A light dusting of snow covers the memorial honoring Staff Sgt. Delmar White and Pvt. 1st Class Sammie Phillips outside the Carlisle, Ky., armory. Six other Soldiers from Bravo Battery 2/138th Field Artillery were awarded medals in December for their acts of heroism during deployment. Read more on page 9.



**Kentucky NATIONAL GUARD**  
Unbridled Service

## THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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## FROM THE FIELD

### Ice Storm Correction

In regards to Alex Brackin's Web request "Thank You," page 2 of the January/February issue, Charlie Battery, 1/623rd Field Artillery, based in Monticello, Ky., and elements of the Louisville-based 41st Chemical Support Team were assigned to assist Carlisle County. Bravo Battery 1/623 was assigned to Ballard County.

Thanks for your outstanding coverage of the winter storm.

Capt. Jimmie Warinner  
Commander, Battery C 1/623

### 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  
KG-133 MPAD  
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or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

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

### Thank You

My Family and I would like to take a minute and thank you for your service to our nation. All too often the men and women of our National Guard are forgotten about during troubled times at home when headlines change from saluting our heroes and calls of patriotism to bailouts for banks and the auto industry.

My wife Diana and I, having never served in the military, are so very inspired by the fact that National Guard is an all volunteer force. Knowing that at any moment they could be called upon to pay the ultimate price for freedom they still proudly serve. We can find no words to express, as ordinary Americans, how grateful and appreciative we are for all of OUR Soldiers who have volunteered to take on such a daunting task ...

Yours has to be one of the most difficult and demanding jobs in the world. We can't imagine the decisions you have to make on a daily basis and the hardships you face ...

Diana and I thank you for your willingness to stand and make the difficult decisions that must be made in times like these. We pray God will ease the burdens that are placed upon you and bless you with peace and confidence.

Please know that we are grateful we have people like you and our prayers are always with you.

Steve & Diana Rogge  
- via Web request

### Change of Address

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

Army retiree address changes should be made through Staff Sgt. Debbie Devine at the Kentucky National Guard Personnel Services Branch. She can be reached at 502-607-1497 or deborah.devine@ky.ngb.army.mil.

Air retiree address changes should be made through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at jturpin@fewpb.net.

### Corrections:



Due to a reporter's error, Sgt. Christopher Wooden was misidentified in a photo on page 6 of the last issue.

# SCSM: Take pride in your Guard; honor your NCOs by nominating them for project

**By Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Armstrong**  
*State Command Sergeant Major*

Everyone will remember the winter storm of 2009 for years to come. The January ice storm crippled 102 Kentucky counties which lead to the largest Kentucky Guard mobilization in our Commonwealth's history.

Our Airmen and Soldiers worked side by side supporting emergency operations seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The irony of the 2009 Ice Storm was most of the mobilized Guardsmen themselves had neither heat nor utilities in their own homes. However, our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen never waived in support of this cause. During this disaster, many heroic events unfolded and our Soldiers and Airmen considered these deeds "just doing our job."

The heroic men and women who continuously answer the call from our state and country deserve more than just a pat on the back.

With that said, 2009 has officially been proclaimed The Year of the NCO; an Army-wide recognition pronounced Oct. 6, 2008 by Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren. The Honorable John Marsh made a similar designation in 1989.

Throughout this year, the Army will honor non-commissioned officers through different initiatives and events. The goal is to enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership.

This is our year to recognize the most distinguished NCOs in the Kentucky Army National Guard. We have all

experienced many profound changes in the Guard in our day-to-day operations and the large-scale mobilizations we have supported since Sept. 11. I ask that you reflect on the many deployments and sacrifices our NCOs have made serving our country as Citizen-Soldiers.

Most of our NCOs, grades E-5 through E-9, are spouses, parents, and civilian employers. Most have been deployed to a combat zone or showed tremendous support of the Global War on Terror. From Guantanamo Bay to Afghanistan, our NCOs performed their missions admirably.

Now is the time for various individuals including enlisted, officers, civilians, employers and spouses to nominate several of these great NCOs. The object is to present a showcase of some very deserving, distinguished and professional NCOs.

As your new State Command Sergeant Major, I ask you to join me in celebrating the Year of the NCO. I am excited about this endeavor and trust that each command in the Kentucky Army National Guard will also contribute several success stories for publication and nomination to the Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs Office. These stories will be highlighted in our own Bluegrass Guard, the Department of Military Affairs Web site, as well as submitted to the National Guard Bureau for public recognition.

Nominate or identify someone special who made a profound impact on your life or the lives of others. Tell their story...let others know.

For submissions, please correspond with 1st Lt. Andrea Hahn, [andrea.hahn@us.army.mil](mailto:andrea.hahn@us.army.mil) or visit the Department of Military Affairs Web site, [www.ky.dma.gov](http://www.ky.dma.gov).



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## CoS: Speeding continues to be problem on BNGC - slow to 25 mph



**By Col. Rondal Turner**  
*Chief of Staff*

Speeding continues to be a problem here on BNGC and is a serious safety issue.

We have tried to mitigate this with speed bumps, a sign trailer and the friendly reminder of the speed limit

to the employees from our safety personnel.

Even with all this, people continue to ignore the posted warning signs.

Non-judicial punishment remains an option for repeat offenders, and the possibility of bringing law enforcement personnel onto BNGC to write tickets has been explored.

I ask that each of you be responsible and slow down.



# 2009: Year of the NCO

## Spotlight on Staff Sgt. Birgit Corriveau

**AGE:** 45

**POSITION:** Admin and Protocol NCO,  
Secretary to the General's Staff

**UNIT:** Joint Forces Headquarters

**LOCATION:** Frankfort, Ky.

**HOMETOWN:** Thessaloniki, Greece

**YEARS OF SERVICE:** 20

**COLLEGE:** Anderson College, SC

Story by **Spc. Michael Pfaff**  
*133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

**H**er brilliant smile. Her vivid personality. Her charming demeanor.

Staff Sgt. Birgit I. Corriveau beams with charisma – even if you get her name wrong.

“That’s ‘ber-gitt’ not ‘bridge-it,’” Corriveau joked from behind her neatly organized desk. “Most people get that wrong. My mother was German.”

It’s hard to believe that Corriveau has been in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years, been to Iraq and back, and yet retains her vitality and spirit. It’s even harder to believe that she does so when she is part of a two-person team that single handedly coordinates all the administration efforts for the Kentucky National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Command Staff.

That’s a lot of flight-planning, logistical support, trip booking, speech writing and anything else the Kentucky National Guard’s five general officers including Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general, needs.

If non-commissioned officers are considered the backbone of the Army, Corriveau should be considered the backbone of the JFHQs Command Staff. After her deployment to Baghdad, this job is her proudest moment in her military career.

Corriveau began her military career while in college, enlisting with a friend. She served nine years on active duty, traveling from Germany to Ft. Knox, Ky., until the birth of her son Ty.

A single mother, Corriveau found that Ty became the most important thing in her life and she decided to take a



six-year hiatus from the Army to raise him. During that time, she befriended a neighbor in the National Guard. After some thought, she decided to give it a shot.

“I missed that military family,” she said. “It’s hard to explain, but in the military everyone just has each other’s back and it’s like a family to me.”

Corriveau signed up and because of her experience on active duty, was thrust into leadership and promoted to sergeant with the 617th Military Police Co. To her, becoming an NCO was a natural step in her return to the Army, and she embraced it. She deployed to Iraq with the 617th MPs where she flexed her NCO muscles taking care of nearly 150 Soldiers as a clerk.

From there, she continued developing her military career and eventually landed the job she has now.

“I never thought I could get a job like this,” Corriveau humbly admits. “I love this job. I love working for the command staff. This is my dream job.”

Despite her modesty, Corriveau has become an essential asset to the Joint Force Headquarters.

“She is at the top of her game every day,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush, one of the general officers at JFHQ who Corriveau supports day-in and day-out. “It starts with a big, broad smile, ends with an extended day that goes for however long it needs to go to get the job done, and it is punctuated effectively and efficiently with her devotion.”

# Airmen deploy in support of OEF

By Capt. Dale Greer  
123rd Air Wing Public Affairs Officer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The first 34 of approximately 200 Kentucky Air National Guardsmen departed the Louisville Air Guard Base March 18, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Airmen, assigned to the 123rd Airlift Wing, departed for Afghanistan aboard a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

Deploying personnel include pilots, navigators, loadmasters, maintenance personnel and various support troops.

Once in Afghanistan, they will join an advance team of Kentucky Airmen already in place to fly airlift missions in the Central Command Area of Operations, which includes Afghanistan, Iraq and Northern Africa.

Additional Kentucky Airmen and aircraft deployed through March 30.

About a dozen Airmen from other wings will participate in the operation, including members of Air National Guard units in West Virginia, Tennessee and Idaho.

The Kentucky Air Guard is expected to complete its participation in the airlift mission in May.

“The men and women of the Kentucky Air Guard continue to demonstrate their desire to go anywhere in the world they’re needed, and do whatever job our nation asks of them,” said Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

“I could not be more proud of our troops and their dedication to the mission.”

Since Sept. 11, more than 10,000 members of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard have deployed worldwide in



Photo by Capt. Dale Greer/KyANG

Kentucky Air Guardsmen board a C-130 en route to Afghanistan on March 18. The Louisville, Ky.-based Airmen will provide airlift services as part of Operation Enduring Freedom through May.

the Global War on Terror.

This latest mission marks the 123rd Airlift Wing’s second major deployment to Afghanistan since 2007 and its fourth major deployment to CENTCOM since 2003. Previous missions sent hundreds of Kentucky Air Guard forces to multiple locations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

During the 2007 deployment, Kentucky Air Guard troops airlifted thousands of personnel and thousands of tons of cargo to locations across CENTCOM, often airdropping vital supplies to troops who were in direct contact with the enemy while navigating over some of the most rugged, high-altitude terrain anywhere in the world. While major deployments like these comprise the majority of the wing’s contributions to the Global War on Terror, smaller numbers of Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard have served on active duty almost continually since Sept. 11, performing a wide variety of overseas missions nearly every day of the year.

# Brown Book now available online

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force officials here recently revised Air Force instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure, also known as "The Little Brown Book," and the electronic version is available now with hardcopies expected to be available in May.

The guide has long been a staple of establishing expectations and standards for enlisted Airmen. The last version was published in December 2004, so several changes and updates were needed, said Joseph M. McDade Jr., the director of force development.

"The guide spells out the baseline standards for every enlisted Airman, from E-1 to E-9, so everyone understands what is expected of them," McDade said.

"It also defines special senior noncommissioned officer positions and standardizes enlisted duty titles."

Among the changes to the book is a table of contents, the addition of the Airmen's Creed and an introduction to the Air Force institutional competencies.

"The institutional competencies are capabilities expected of all Airmen, enlisted, officers and civilians with varying levels of proficiency based on rank and position," McDade explained. "They, along with our core values, form the framework for force development in the Air Force."

The institutional competencies are: employing military capabilities; enterprise perspective; embodying Air Force culture; leading people; managing organizations and resources; strategic thinking and fostering collaborative relationships.

These eight competencies further break down into 24 sub-competencies so they can be better understood and applied to life in the Air Force. For example, "communicating" is about the importance of speaking well and good writing skills, but also covers 'active listening' as a method to improving discussions and mentoring as well as settling disputes, McDade said.

Another important change has been in naming the three

enlisted tiers. E-1s through E-4s are now in the "Junior Enlisted Airman" tier.

"It was previously called the 'Airman' tier, which is a bit misleading, because every civilian, enlisted and officer in the Air Force is an Airman," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, who contributed heavily to the redesign.

"The book focuses more on leadership and development," the chief said.

"We've better defined what it means to have tactical expertise, operational competence and strategic vision.

"As I travel the Air Force, I see this book in constant use," McKinley said. "Our Airmen refer to this book often, and many of them keep this book within arms reach for quick reference."

The revised AFI also tackles government computer use, substance abuse, post-combat stress and concepts related to Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century.

The Little Brown Book will be part of the curriculum in professional military education courses and introduced to new Airmen as they arrive for Basic Military Training.

"This AFI is the values statement for enlisted Airmen -- it's critical in enlisted force development and ensuring responsibilities and expectations are clearly defined," McDade said.

"If it's in a book small enough to fit in your pocket or sit on your desk, it's easily and handily available," he said.

"If you're enlisted, it's important to know what people expect from you; for officers and civilians, it's crucial to know what enlisted Airmen are capable of achieving. It's all in the book."

The Little Brown Book is available on the Air Force Portal through "MyEDP"-- My Enlisted Development Plan -- or through the Air Force Publications site: [www.e-publishing.af.mil/](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/), then entering 36-2618 in the search bar. Hardcopies can be ordered through the Air Force Publishing Distribution Center Warehouse at 410-687-3373 or DSN 584-4729.

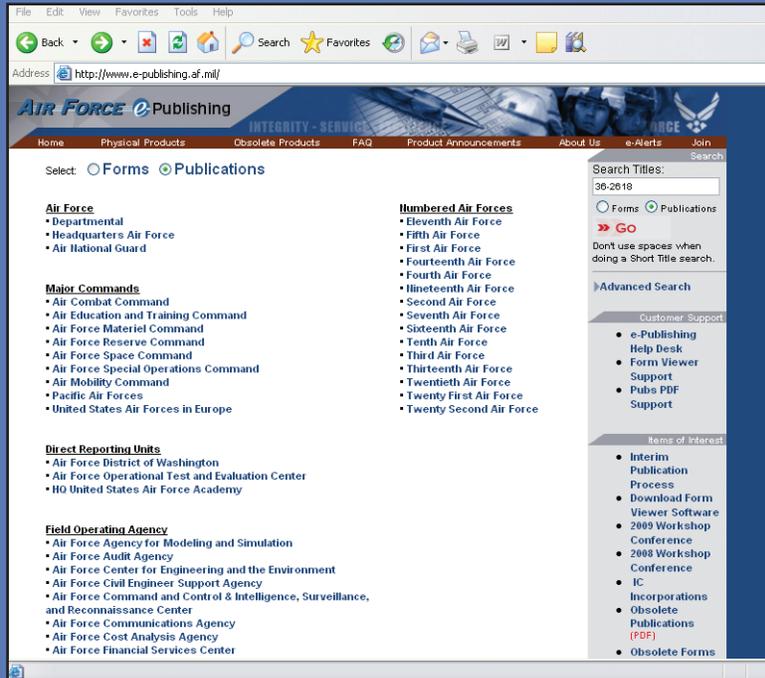


Photo Illustration by Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson

Airmen can download the newest version of "The Little Brown Book" by visiting the official Air Force Publications Web site at [www.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil).

# Saying goodbye to an icon

## Remembering retired Col. Armando J. Alfaro 1927-2009

*Editors Note: the following is the eulogy given by Staff Sgt. Jim Wallace, 202nd Army Band, at Col. Alfaro's funeral Feb. 25.*

Midnight had long passed and we were two hours into a two-and-a-half hour road trip from Ashland, Ky. to Frankfort. It had been a wonderful day. The 202nd Army Band celebrated its 60th anniversary with a reunion banquet and concert in Ashland, Ky. — a project conceived of by Colonel Al. The journey back that night was equally enjoyable. First, you never had to worry about what to say because Al always took care of the conversation. Second, because I gained an even greater appreciation for and understanding of a man that I already admired, respected, and treasured.

Did you know him as a Soldier? That's how I first encountered him in the late 1970s. He had been assigned as the band liaison officer for the 202nd Army Band, my unit. It was Col. Alfaro who in the mid-1970s conceived of the idea of using the band as a recruiting, retention, and publicity tool for the Kentucky National Guard. He originated the annual statewide concert tours that the 202nd has been doing ever since 1974-1975. Using his marketing skills he helped promote those tours and even after retirement attended as many concerts as possible, often bringing the audience with him. It was Col. Alfaro who saw the need for the Kentucky National Guard to have an official march and at his instigation the song Kentucky's Guardians was composed by Sgt. Stephen Thompson and debuted in the fall of 2007 in a performance at Kentucky State University. Bandmen of the 202nd considered him our Godfather as he regularly sponsored our annual Family Day event and our unit picnic. He was often the guest of honor at those events.

Did you know him as a philanthropist? I am a fundraiser for the Kentucky Historical Society's Foundation and I can honestly say that I have encountered few people as selfless and generous as Al Alfaro. Of the \$40,000 that he raised from the sale of his publications, all of those funds were donated to charitable causes. He lived at Ashwood Place and when a resident of Ashwood Place who was prior service, or whose spouse had been in the military, passed away, Al would purchase a commemorative engraved brick in their honor and have it installed at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. He purchased 39 of those bricks. As a member of the Kentucky Military History Museum advisory board Al underwrote the cost of publication of a commemorative booklet that will tell the story of the 1850 Old State Arsenal building. He joined the Abraham Lincoln Society of the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation, our major donor

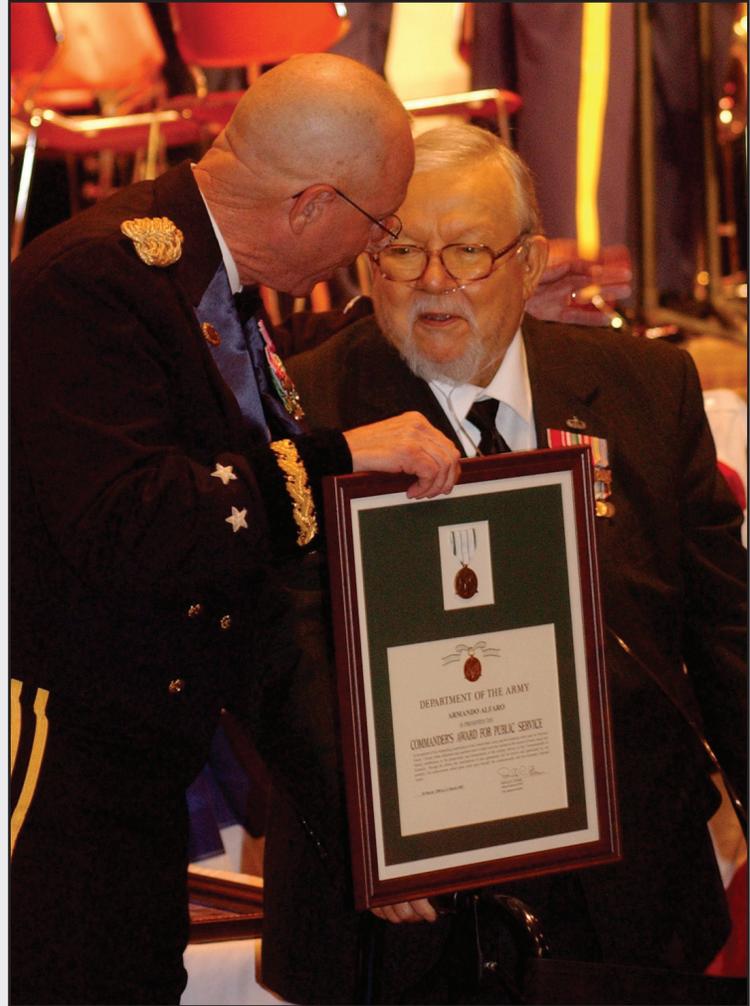


Photo by Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson/KVARRNG

Former Adjutant General, retired Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm presents retired Col. Armando Alfaro with the Commander's Award for Public Service Nov. 3, 2007 at the 60th Anniversary of the 202nd Army Band in Frankfort.

recognition club. Most recently, he contributed funds to take museum theatre presentations, original plays based on incidents in Kentucky history, to schools throughout Franklin County, Ky. He loved the joy of giving, of connecting to something greater than himself, of helping others realize worthy dreams. In a last act of generosity he bequeathed his genealogical research, a lifetime of work, to the Kentucky Historical Society for use by other researchers.

Did you know him as a historian and genealogist? He authored four works of military history and family genealogy. He loved "history while it's hot." *Read Boots in Country: The Story of the Kentucky National Guard and the Global War on Terror.* You will encounter the voices of the young Soldiers fighting that war—narratives gathered by Al while these

# Annual Aviation Ball provides fun, fellowship

**1st Lt. Stephen Martin**  
Public Affairs Office

The 63rd Theatre Aviation Brigade hosted its' annual Aviation Ball March 7 at the Four Points Sheraton in Lexington, Ky.

Congressman Geoff Davis, (R-Ky.), was the honored guest and spoke to the audience about proposed changes for Army Aviation.

Other guests of honor included Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky and retired Brig. Gen Tom Konitzer, former president of the Army Aviation Association of America.

Several awards were presented by the Bluegrass Chapter of AAAA. Chief Warrant Officer Rick Kimberlin was awarded the Army Aviator of the Year, Sgt. Ron Stafford received the Crewmember of the Year award, Sgt. Nate Keach received the Aviation Support Person of the Year and the Soldier of the Year went to Spc. Dennis Cantrell.

Also honored were Retired Chief Warrant Officers Bill Cannon and Willoughby 'Sandi' Goin III, as well as Chief Warrant Officers Delynn Gibson and Dale Chrisenberry and Staff Sgt. Troy Logsdon who received AAAA's Order of St. Michael award.

Patricia Davis (Congressman Davis' wife), Cindy Arflack (Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack's wife) and Sheri E Lewis (Maj Dwayne Lewis' wife) also received AAAA's Order of Our Lady of Loreto.

All recipients were recognized for the leadership and support to Kentucky's Army Aviation community.



Brig. Gen. Joseph Ritchie, Col. Robert Cannon (Texas National Guard), Retired Lt. Col. Dick Stoops, Col. Ron Turner and Lt. Col. Todd Thursby, all Field Artillery officers, drink 'aviator fuel' from the grog bowl for not wearing their "Field Artillery Red" socks to the Aviation Ball.



← Capt. Gabe Spicer presents a unit award to 1st Lt. Jimmy Caniff for flying more hours than any other pilot though still not meeting his semi-annual flight minimums.

- Photos by David Altom/KYARNG

A young Armando Alfaro in jump boots.

troops were still in country, still engaged in combat. He loved military history and his service on the Kentucky Military History Museum board.

His establishment of the William R. Buster Award for

Kentucky Military History, and his role as Kentucky National Guard Historian Emeritus demonstrated that passion.

Most important, I knew him as a friend and a mentor. I was Jim Turpin to his Verna Fairchild—his aid de camp, chauffeur, co-conspirator. As Sgt. Russell Moody, a graphics artist and 202nd Band member, can attest, a phone call from Colonel Al always included the joke of the day and a half a dozen assignments that we were to undertake on his behalf. I will miss those phone calls. Al Alfaro was an entrepreneur, a meticulous planner, a marketing guru, a talented genealogist and historian, and a selfless philanthropist.

Bottom line—he was a fine Soldier and a fine human being.

He was my dear friend, whom I loved and respected. I will leave you with two quotes reflective of Al's philosophy on life:

1. You never take "No" from someone who cannot give you "Yes."

2. Every Friday he would call and if he sensed I was down he would say, "Just remember, Jim, today is 'POETS' Day."

## NEXT ISSUE

Ecuador State Partnership Program

149th Infantry in Japan

Army suicide rates on the rise



# Field Artillery Soldiers honored for bravery on battlefield

By Sgt. 1st Class Clint Wood  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Six true American heroes and members of Kentucky Army National Guard's Bravo Battery, 2/138th Field Artillery were recognized Dec. 6 in the small armory located in Carlisle, Ky.

1st Lt. R.J. Hill, Sgt. Michael Cepeda and Spc. John Netherton were presented the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for their combat actions during their unit's deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom. When awarded with "V" device for valor and bravery in combat, the Bronze Star Medal is the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Staff Sgt. Justin Jones and Sgt. Eric Conkright were presented the Soldier's Medal that is awarded by the Army for acts of heroism in the risking of one's life to save another in a non-combat action. Less than 10 of these medals have been awarded to Kentucky Guard members and less than 110 have been awarded to Guard Soldiers nationwide (Colin Powell is among the recipients of this award and an unprecedented 28 Servicemembers were awarded this medal after the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon).

Sgt. Rodney Trussel received the Purple Heart for wounds he received in April 2008 when the truck he was riding in was struck by an anti-tank grenade.

"We've got examples of true Kentucky heroes out there today, guys who sacrificed themselves to save members of



their unit," said presenter Brig. Gen. John Heltzel, deputy commander, Joint Forces Headquarters.

"And to be able to recognize them in front of their Families for the contributions to what they've done for the state and the nation, it is an awesome ability to be able to do that. Everyone of those guys deserves the awards they got today."

Hill, Cepeda and Netherton were recognized for their bravery when a roadside bomb hit the lead Armored Security Vehicle during a convoy escort mission. Hill was the convoy commander riding in a vehicle behind the lead vehicle. Cepeda was the driver of the ASV that got hit and Netherton was a passenger in that vehicle.

Hill said he couldn't remember much about that night, but noted, "we saw the flames off in a distance and saw movement in the vehicle and so we were able to get our Soldiers treated and medevaced out."

That is just half of the brave acts of this officer who has been in the Guard for only four years though.

These include Hill leaving the safety of his vehicle to assist the wounded from the burning ASV under small

***"We've got examples of true Kentucky heroes out there today, guys who sacrificed themselves to save members of their unit."***

- Brig. Gen. John W. Heltzel

# Honoring Heroes



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG

- ▲ Brig. Gen. John W. Heltzel presents Sgt. Eric Conkright with the Soldier's Medal Dec. 6.
- ▲ Soldiers of Bravo Battery 2/138th Field Artillery stand at attention before receiving awards from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

arms fire from a nearby building and climbing atop the vehicle in an attempt to extract the seriously wounded truck commander. He had to withdraw though because the vehicle was becoming a cauldron from the intense heat punctuated by the explosions of the ammunition, including 40 mm grenades.

"I really didn't have time to think and basically reverted back to our training," he said. "We had a defensive posture and we were trying to be swift and get through it. It wasn't expected. I don't really think any kind of training can mentally prepare you for that but the training that we did receive kind of kicked in after the initial shock."

Cepeda couldn't react to the "initial shock." He was knocked unconscious by the blast momentarily.

Once he regained consciousness, he attempted to reach his higher headquarters on the truck's radio and assessed the situation.

"I thought it was over with," he said. "I was going to jump out of the top hatch but I didn't know if we were being shot at the time or not. I jumped out of the vehicle at the absolute last second."

He said when he reached the other side of the truck

that the blast hit; with assistance he moved two of the other three Soldiers in the vehicle to safety. One of those was Netherton.

Netherton had already extinguished the fire in the gunner's compartment (a cylinder cage-like apparatus) and removed the gunner from the vehicle.

"It was immediate, put the fire out get out of the truck and help my buddy out," said Netherton of his actions. "Everything just like fell into place. There really wasn't any hesitation."

The latter statement takes on a whole different meaning considering too that Netherton sustained two broken knees, burns and cuts to his face and shrapnel to his forearm.

Cepeda's bravery acts included applying a tourniquet to the gunner's severely injured legs and rendering medical aid to Netherton. His actions helped save both of their lives and he too was injured.

"I remember my lieutenant saying we need to get them in the vehicle, when I was treating (the gunner)," he said. "And I just picked him up and threw him on my back and just ran to whatever vehicle we were going to put him in."

See *Soldier's Medal*, page 11

# 201st Medics: medical miracle workers

Maj. William J. Meadors observes 201st Engineer, Sgt. Lee Sanders, work on an injured child in Afghanistan. The two Soldiers have deployed three times together.

According to Maj. Scott Thomas, 201st Engineer Battalion operations officer, the battalion medical staff and route clearance platoon medics were usually the first on site and forced to experience what most Soldiers hope they never have to be exposed to.

“The aftermath of a firefight or IED explosion is nothing to take for granted,” he said via e-mail, “especially if it involves a local national child accidentally wounded by an IED blast. Given the remote location of our FOB, this site is usually where wounded are taken first for treatment, before moving them on to a bigger hospital.

“Not only do our medical professionals care for U.S. and Coalition Soldiers, they also tend to the needs of local nationals that live near the FOB,” he said.

“Given the third world setting, you can imagine the medical capabilities of the Afghan surroundings,” he said, “it’s not much.”

Thomas said the child was very happy to have his picture taken, given his circumstance.

“To all our medical personnel, a special ‘thank you’ is well deserved for your dedicated service,” he said.



Photo Submitted by Maj. Scott Thomas

Continued from page 10

## SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Jones and Conkright are two Soldiers credited with saving the lives of two of their fellow Soldiers from a burning, overturned ASV in a v-shaped ditch.

Conkright and Jones were the first on the scene and used every fire extinguisher available in an attempt to knock down the flames that witnesses said could be observed 1,500 meters away.

The pair ignored the exploding ammunition from inside the ASV and continued to move back and forth from nearby trucks to the accident site bringing all the fire extinguishers they could find.

Unknown to them, the two Soldiers who they later rescued had incapacitating injuries. One had contusions on his head and a back injury and the other had a broken back and several cuts.

“The flames were going up so quick, we were just fighting the fire more than anything,” said Jones.

Conkright crawled down in a confined area beneath the ASV estimated to be only two feet high and pulled the two Soldiers out of the vehicle. Jones assisted him in moving the two Soldiers to safety and a military ambulance. They also provided first aid to these Soldiers until a medical evacuation helicopter arrived on scene.

Conkright administered intravenous (IV) fluids into both Soldiers. He also contacted the medical evacuation helicopter and supervised the handoff of the casualties.

Jones summed up this special day the best. “It’s a good feeling but also mixed to be recognized for something that somebody else would have done for me. It was just something I felt I had to do.”

## DID YOU KNOW?

Bravo Battery, 2/138 FA deployed to Taji, Iraq in June 2007. It returned May 2008. The Soldiers performed convoy security for the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the largest battalion in theater.



# Bravo Battery awards KSP

**1st Lt. Andi Hahn**  
Assistant Editor

Capt. Robert Mattingly, Bravo Battery, 2/138th Fires Brigade, presented Sgt. David Decker, Kentucky State Police, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriotic Employer award Feb. 27 at KSP Post 12 in Frankfort, Ky.

The award is designed to recognize employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve force while practicing leadership and personnel policies.

National Guard Sgt. Brian Stafford, a Soldier with B Battery, said he nominated Decker because “he is always supportive of my membership in the Guard, especially during my deployment, making sure my family knew they had additional support if needed.”

Decker, a 23-year veteran of the KSP, has been the investigative sergeant at the post for eight years and resides with his family in Shelbyville, Ky.

If you would like to nominate your employer for an ESGR Patriotic Employer award, visit [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) and pull up the Patriot Award application in the right-hand navigation bar on the page.

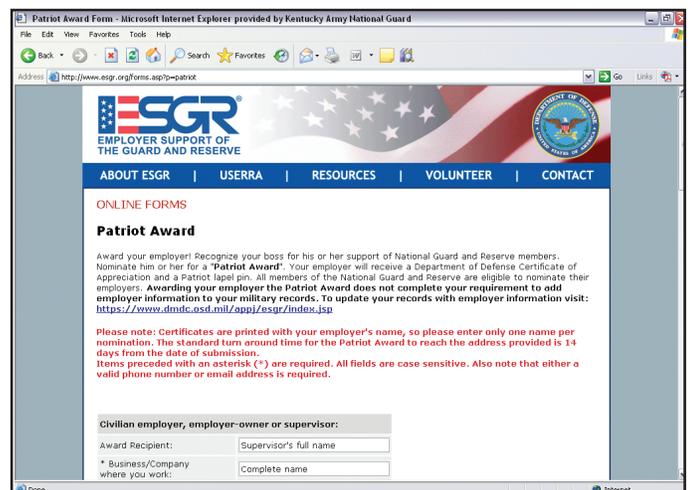


Photo Illustration by Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson/KYARNG

Does your employer support your participation in the Kentucky National Guard? Nominate them for a Patriot Award by visiting [www.esgr.org/forms.asp?p=patriot](http://www.esgr.org/forms.asp?p=patriot), and filling out the necessary information. Awards take up to 14 days to process.



Photo by LS

# GRIDIRON GLORY

## *Guard-sponsored border war plays out with Kentucky victorious*

**By Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler**  
*133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. — Nominated by their high school coaches, 110 top high school football players from Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee showcased their talents Jan. 17, in a final face-off known as the Border Bowl.

The Kentucky team was victorious in the battle, winning 26-20 over the Tennessee rivals.

The Border Bowl, sponsored by the Kentucky National Guard, is the final opportunity for chosen athletes to showcase their talents for college football recruiters, and vie for athletic

scholarships.

“It’s that extra above and beyond, something greater than self-attitude that leads us, and these athletes, to put on the uniform, go the extra mile and do extra training on weekends when we could otherwise be at home taking care of ourselves,” said Maj. Tamara M. Hurst, commander of the 2/75th Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

“Being out there on the football field is a commitment that not everyone would make,” she said. “We wanted to encourage that attitude of selflessness.”

Border Bowl founder, Andy Croley of Williamsburg, Ky., teamed up

with Williamsburg businessmen and the National Guard to bring the rival states together for the all-star game.

“I’m a long-time fan of football,” he said. “Both sides are stacked with outstanding players and outstanding young men,” he said.

But it wasn’t just the players who were honored during the event.

During halftime, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general of Kentucky, administered the Oath of Office to 25 new recruits from Eastern Kentucky. More than 4,500 fans attended the game and Border Bowl activities, and many of them witnessed the swearing-in of these



Photo by Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler/KYARNG



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler/KYARNG



Photo by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG



Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG

future Soldiers.

“What better way to honor these young warriors,” Tonini said, “than to bring them in front of their community, the people who they will serve in the Kentucky National Guard, and administer to them the Oath of Office!”

“This allows our communities to put a face on the Kentucky National Guard, and it allows the citizens to see their future heroes.”

In addition to the football game, spectators were treated to displays of Kentucky National Guard equipment including a Blackhawk flyover and the Kentucky Guard hot air balloon.

Players were honored during a banquet

and William Yokley, a Kentucky resident and the National Guard’s professional ATV team driver was on hand for the event.

Freddie Maggard, head of community relations for the Kentucky Guard and Border Bowl committee member, said the program will expand next year with more events.

“There will be a band competition, a cheerleading competition, and an academic essay writing contest,” Maggard said.

“These will stress the importance the National Guard places on academics and extracurricular activities in addition to the athletic events.”

- ▲ Kentucky National Guard dignitaries pose for a team photo with Kentucky high school all-stars at the 2009 Border Bowl.
- ▲ Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini greets Tennessee all-stars before the coin toss, wishing them the best on the field.
- ▲ Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini tosses the ceremonial coin to start the 2009 Border Bowl between Kentucky and Tennessee high school all-stars.
- ◆ New Recruits from the Williamsburg, Ky., area swear in to the Kentucky National Guard during halftime at the Border Bowl.



1st Lt. Amy Sutter, Sgt. 1st Class Karla Eck-Best, Spc. Heather Carrier and Spc. Claudia Rector hand out stuffed animals to local Iraqi children during Camp Bucca's Visitor's Day.

# 1163rd - more than medics

## Staff Report

Soldiers from the Kentucky National Guard's 1163rd Medical Company continue to make a difference at Camp Bucca, Iraq.

Under the command of the 115th Combat Support Hospital, the medics take care of sick Soldiers at the Troop Medical Clinic; provide medical care to detainees at the Theater Internment Facility; and emergency work at the TIF Hospital to include X-rays, dental and immunizations.

Besides their medical work, Soldiers also take care of their administrative daily tasks, vehicle maintenance and supply.

The Soldiers from the 1163rd are also winning the hearts and minds of the local Iraqis.

In their off time, Soldiers deliver stuffed animals and school supplies to Iraqi families visiting Camp Bucca. Recipients are more than willing to stop and pose for a quick picture with our Soldiers.

Several 1163rd Soldiers distribute the goods on a weekly basis. More and more 1163rd Soldiers have been able to make time in their busy schedules to go down and work with the locals.

The 1163rd personnel have stepped up to meet a new



Spc. Pete Hernandez takes a blood sample from Sgt. Kitty Wu in the Troop Medical Clinic as part of routine testing for Soldier's health in Camp Bucca, Iraq.

challenge. These acts show how willing all the Soldiers in 1163rd are to do anything they can to help build a better Iraq. The stories are numerous, the friendships are never-ending, and the camaraderie is lifelong.



Spc. John Chapman, Sgt. Michael Blackburn, Sgt. Michael Caudill and Spc. Tyler Ward, all of Charlie Company 206th Engineers, returned from a year-long deployment March 5.



▲ Caitlin Ferguson, along with her cousins Emily and Brandon Newsome anxiously await the return of Lt. Col. Michael Ferguson, Caitlin's father, at the homecoming ceremony March 5, in Ashland, Ky.

▲ Danielle Spencer welcomes home her husband, Staff Sgt. Bryan Spencer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 201st Engineers, at the homecoming ceremony March 5, in Ashland, Ky.

# Happy Homecoming

201st Engineers return from year-long deployment supporting OEF

**Staff Report**  
*Photos by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn*

**M**ore than four hundred Kentucky National Guard Soldiers from the 201st Engineer Battalion were welcomed home from Afghanistan March 5, at the Boyd County Middle School in Ashland, Ky. Commanded by Lt. Col. Michael Ferguson, the 201st Engineer Battalion, consisting of units from Ashland, Olive Hill, Cynthiana and Prestonsburg, deployed in March 2008.

The 201st's primary mission was route clearance and construction, removing obstacles and ensuring main supply routes remained open.

Engineers covered nine different provinces, clearing hundreds of acres of mine fields and destroying more than 14,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance.

"No matter what you did in Afghanistan, or where you did it, the 201st always went in first," said Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general of Kentucky. "They were a well-known commodity there and everyone knew the 201st and the nature of their job."

This is the second time the 201st has deployed in the Global War on Terror. Members of the 201st were activated in 2003 for Operation Noble Eagle, a stateside deployment to provide security at military bases around the United States.

One Soldier, Spc. Daniel Wallace of Dry Ridge, Ky., was killed Oct. 13 when his unit was attacked during a route clearance mission in the West Paktika Province of Afghanistan.



Gov. Steve Beshear and Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, along with Family members of the 201st Engineer Battalion, welcome home their Soldiers after a year-long deployment in Afghanistan.

# Paducah opens \$14.7 million Readiness Center

## Staff Report

Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, along with other dignitaries, cut a ribbon marking the opening of the new Armed Forces Readiness Center in Paducah Dec. 17.

Primarily designed to provide the Kentucky Army National Guard, the Army Reserves and the Civil Air Patrol a regional base of operations, the \$14.7 million federally-funded facility consists of 63,000 square-feet of administrative offices, storage facilities, classrooms and a drill hall.

It also houses a 10,000 square-foot maintenance shop.

Located at the Barkley Regional Airport, the site was chosen because of its ready access for overseas deployments and natural disasters.

The readiness center can also be used to conduct training for federal, state and local civilian authorities as well as provide a rapid response facility for search and rescue missions in conjunction with the Civil Air Patrol and other emergency agencies.



Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky Adjutant General, along with Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, Commander of the 81st Regional Support Command, join dignitaries from Paducah to cut the ribbon on the new Paducah Armed Forces Readiness Center Dec. 17.



Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Martin/KYARNG



To submit a name to TAPS, please visit [www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs](http://www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs) and file a Web Request with the subject: TAPS. Please include the date of birth and the date of death.

# TAPS

*A final salute to those Soldiers, Airmen and Retirees who have lost their lives in recent months:*

## JANUARY

Jan. 6  
Retired Col. John I. Faulkenberry  
1915 - 2009

## FEBRUARY

Feb. 5  
Officer Candidate Robbie Mullins  
1978-2009

Feb. 22  
Retired Col. Armando J. Alfaro  
1927-2009

## MARCH

March 8  
Retired Sgt. 1st Class Alfred A. Kaelin  
1946-2009

March 26  
Retired Master Sgt. Randall D. Wise  
1946-2009

# Guard's role in '37 flood

*Guard answered State's call then, again 72 years later for ice storm*

By Martha Martin and Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson  
Genealogical Historian/133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

January 1937: a weeks-worth of rain saturated the Bluegrass causing the Kentucky and Ohio Rivers to rise.

Houses, businesses and streets overflowed with water; people evacuated their homes, roads were shut down and people were stranded in the middle of swirling waters with no way to get to dry land.

"It was the scariest time," said Virginia L. Monroe, a Louisville resident who survived the flood.

"When the flood was over, my Mother pointed to Crescent Hill and told my Daddy that's where he better move us."

Her sister, Evelyn Greenwell, also a Louisville resident, said the flood totally destroyed their house.

"It washed completely away," she said. "I remember they called the Guard to help move people out of their homes and they restored order in the city.

"My Dad was a police officer and he worked with the Guard," she said. "There was a grocery store up the street that people were trying to rob.

"The Guard stood watch over the store and houses to make sure people weren't breaking in," she said.

The two sisters, like thousands of other Kentuckians, found themselves without food, water and power for weeks.

Under direction of Brig. Gen. George McClain, adjutant general, the Guard was activated by Gov. Albert "Happy" Chandler in January 1937 to assist the state during the natural disaster.

Citing an "impending disaster ... and whereas local relief agencies and police powers are inadequate to cope with the disaster," nearly every Guardsmen who was able reported for duty.

Throughout the Commonwealth, Guard members moved citizens from flooded areas. They preserved peace, prevented looting and enforced sanitation and fire prevention.

The Soldiers worked tirelessly, setting up state-wide



Photo courtesy of Kentucky Historical Society

The Ohio River swelled from her banks in January 1937, causing the worst flooding in Kentucky History. The National Guard was activated to assist local and state officials with rescue operations and restoring order to communities affected by the flood,

radio systems; patrolled the rivers searching for survivors and distributed food and supplies.

In Frankfort, one of the first duties assigned to Guard personnel was to evacuate prisoners at the Kentucky State Prison. Approximately 3,000 men and women were housed at the compound when the flood knocked out power and began filling in cells.

Riots ensued as panicked inmates escaped into the icy waters. Citizens of Frankfort, already in turmoil from the raging waters, had their fears heightened by the rumors of escapees.

Soldiers arrived to set order. Tent camps were set up for the less dangerous criminals while others were transported to other facilities in the state. Martial law was declared.

In a letter to McClain, Louisville Mayor Neville Miller thanked the National Guard for its swift service to his city, stating that the people realize now, as never before, "what the Adjutant General's servicemen means to the State of Kentucky."

He called the Guard "paramount" to the state getting through the tragedy.

It was 72 years to the month that the Commonwealth once again called upon the National Guard to assist during a national disaster.

After ice blanketed most of the state leaving thousands without power, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini said "This mission is nothing new to the Kentucky Guard, we have come to the aid of our fellow Kentuckians on a regular basis for more than two hundred years.

"We are committed to the safety and well-being of our neighbors and we will be on duty until the job is done."



Photo courtesy of Kentucky Historical Society

Members of the Kentucky National Guard, visible in the far left corner of the photo, assisted with moving convicts from the Kentucky State Prison during the 1937 flood.

# Prepare yourself now for AT

*This is the second in a series of articles written by the Kentucky Guard's Health Services department to promote healthy living among Kentucky Guard Soldiers and Families.*

**By Capt. Terry L. McPherson**  
Kentucky National Guard Health Services

Annual Training, also known as the “two weeks a year you signed up for,” is right around the corner. For many traditional Soldiers and Airmen, the AT period causes exhaustion and injuries due to the amount of training conducted in a short time.

All Servicemembers should prepare for AT to ensure your body is ready for the challenge.

Regardless if you are in good physical condition or not, begin preparing now for physical training. Start doing your pushups and sit-ups daily as this is what you will be tested on, not bench pressing 240 pounds.

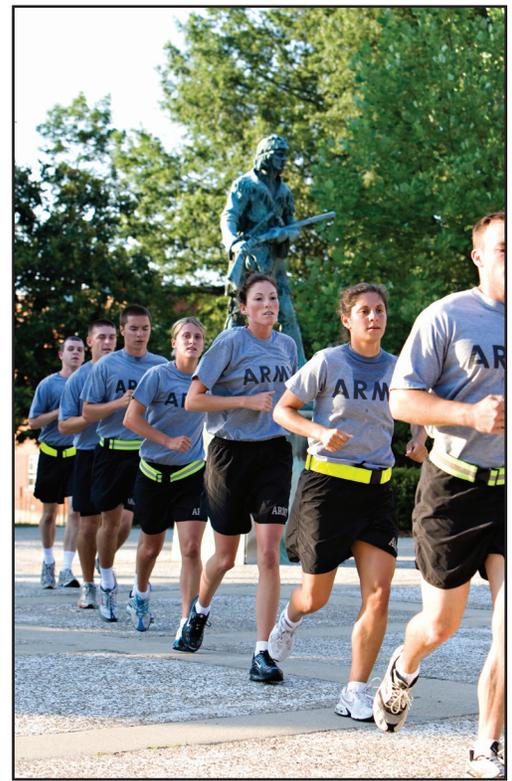
If you can't run on a regular basis, walk at a good pace for at least 30 minutes to get your cardio workout. It also helps you acclimate to the climate change and decrease your chance of becoming a heat casualty.

At least two weeks before you arrive for AT stop drinking carbonated drinks and drink water. This will help prepare you on a physiological basis.

Don't forget to pack tick repellent if you are training in wooded areas; shower shoes for the restrooms and for those of you who will sleep in open-bay barracks, sleep head-to-toe to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

Make sure you always wash your hands, or use a sanitizer, especially when dealing with food.

Lastly, begin now controlling your diet. Stop eating fried foods. Obviously, this has only a positive effect overall on your health, and decreases the risk of having a heart attack or stroke.



File Photo

Preparing now for Annual Training will help prevent injuries and overall exhaustion during physical activities while training.

## VALUE OF THE MONTH: Honor



What is honor? It is a reputation, a privilege and recognition all in the same breath.

Honor holds the Army Values together. It means demonstrating an understanding of what's right and taking pride in the community's acknowledgement of that reputation.

Military ceremonies recognize individual and unit achievements and we wear badges of honor on our uniforms.

In this magazine we recognize one NCO for her tireless work and 30 Air Guardsmen headed to Afghanistan.

Read about six Field Artillery Soldiers honored for their acts of bravery and heroism on the battlefields of Iraq.

And with a sad heart, we honor a legacy of the Kentucky Guard who passed away in February.

Who do you honor?