

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

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Cover photo by Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Active Duty Soldiers from the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based at Fort Knox, deployed from the Kentucky Air National Guard Base Jan. 27 in support of Operation Unified Response. Read more about Kentucky's participation on page 9.



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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FROM THE FIELD

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Find out who your Unit Public Affairs Representative is and give them story ideas to help fill our pages.



Hooah!

Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson, editor

Change of Address

Don't miss an issue!

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

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

Letters to the editor

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.

Could your postings on social media sites warrant UCMJ action?



By Lt. Col. Kirk Hilbrecht

kirk.hilbrecht@us.army.mil

The Facebook pictures of you in your duty uniform, guzzling several beer bong while surrounded by a sea of half-naked co-eds definitely enhanced your Facebook profile ... and, directly contributed to your military discharge.

A servicemember may be discharged from the military for engaging in behavior that dishonors,

discredits or embarrasses the military. Servicemembers exhibiting “bad behavior” and “poor judgment” in a public setting, to included online venues such as Facebook, risk adverse administrative action, or even conviction.

Facebook is a great innovation with more than 350 million active users who express their humanity through photos, personal interests and private or public messages. Users may be unaware that the content they post for free on Facebook belongs to Facebook and may be used at the discretion of Facebook.

Users may be equally unaware that the distinction between public and private on Facebook – and the Internet in general – is minuscule. This attribute can lead to separation of servicemembers from their military careers.

Servicemembers may think when they leave their military work place and take their uniforms off, they are no longer responsible to the military, its rules, regulations or codes of ethics.

“I expect all Soldiers and Airmen to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, both in and out of the uniform,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Armstrong, state command sergeant major.

He stated that today’s operational tempo has servicemembers working around the clock, seven days per week and that any Kentucky Guardsmen could be called up to perform a mission at any time.

“Each Kentucky Guardsman is an ambassador for the Commonwealth and should start each day with that in mind,” he said. “Our citizens look to us for what ‘right’ looks like. We all need to remember that.”

Servicemembers may believe that what they do in the privacy of their own homes – in private – does not concern the military and is off-limits as far as the Uniform Code of Military Justice is concerned.

According to Lt. Col. Dylan Seitz, staff judge advocate and legal counsel for the Kentucky National

Guard, conduct that occurs in a private setting can be made public at a later date, triggering potential violation of the UCMJ.

“There is no such thing as private or personal conduct or communications in the realm of social media. Whether it is video, photos or the written word, if it is recorded in electrons and entered into a social media network, it is public,” Seitz said, “regardless of an individual’s intention to control or limit the dissemination.”

Many Facebook users believe that their profile settings will limit the viewers who can see specific Facebook pages by making their Facebook profile private.

Due to the open and collaborative nature of Facebook, the opt-in protocol for friending a Facebook member allows both benign and unscrupulous users to easily bypass this security feature. A user’s friend network can inadvertently grant access to your Facebook profile through the friending process.

In signing up for Facebook’s free service, the user also relinquishes all rights to the user’s content, images and intellectual property. This inherently makes any private content potentially public.

According to Facebook’s Statement of Rights and Responsibilities Policy, “For content that is covered by intellectual property rights, like photos and videos (IP content), you specifically give us the following permission, subject to your privacy and application settings: you grant us a non-exclusive, transferable, sub-licensable, royalty-free, worldwide license to use any IP content that you post on or in connection with Facebook (IP License).”

Translation: once you post content on Facebook, the content belongs to Facebook, at the discretion and pleasure of Facebook.

The world is online. We are connected in ways that the founders of Facebook, YouTube, MySpace and Google never could have predicted. Legal policies, social norms and group etiquettes struggle to keep up with the exponential growth of online communities. Online adventurers must apply their own civility and acceptable conduct to the Web.

When utilizing powerful and global tools like Facebook, use common sense. Your actions, pictures and profiles speak louder than words and online postings are forever.

By the virtue of your military service, you are granted a degree of respect that places you above the average citizen. Your profile and messages WILL BE read ... often by those you least wish to read them. 🐞

Hero recognized by Gov., TAG



Photo by Rank Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler/KYARNG

Kentucky National Guardsmen receives Medal of Valor for saving woman's life

Staff Report

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Gov. Steve Beshear, along with Kentucky Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, presented the Kentucky Medal of Valor to 2nd Lt. John L. McMahan Feb. 13 during the National Guard Association of Kentucky conference.

McMahan was recognized for his heroic actions of Jan. 27, when he rendered aid to a woman trapped in an overturned vehicle in Lotts Creek, Ky., located in Perry County. McMahan stood in freezing water for more than half an hour until firefighters arrived to extricate the woman from her automobile. He then assisted in bringing her to safety.

The Kentucky Medal for Valor is the highest state decoration which can be awarded to members of the Kentucky National Guard.

McMahan is the 47th Kentucky Guardsman to be awarded the Kentucky Medal for Valor. 🇺🇸

Unbridle your inner journalist ...

The Bluegrass Guard Staff is looking for all those closet story tellers out there ... Every unit has a story and we want to make sure it gets told.

If we don't run it in the magazine, we may use it on our blog: www.kentuckyguard.wordpress.com. So what are you waiting for? Send us your stories and high-resolution jpeg photos to: paoky@ky.ngb.army.mil.

Unbridled Giving



Staff Sgt. Travis Dugan shakes the hands of children at the Dar Al Salem Widow's Camp in December. The children received clothing, food and toys from the Kentucky Guardsmen.

301st Soldiers visit Iraqi widows and children at Dar Al Salem

Story and photos by **Sgt. Fernando Ochoa**
222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment

BAGHDAD – Using their own funds, Soldiers in the Kentucky National Guard's 301st Chemical Company, 2nd Platoon, Personal Security Detail, delivered food, toys and clothes to the Dar Al Salem Widow's Camp, in the Kadhimiya District of Baghdad in December.

The 301st has the primary mission of being the PSD for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, but went above and beyond the call of duty to carry out their season of giving humanitarian mission. The Soldiers willingly went into the Red Zone to deliver much needed supplies to the less fortunate.

"I have a bittersweet feeling about this camp and I wish circumstances like these didn't exist," said Staff Sgt. Travis Dugan, 34, from Maysville,

Ky. "I just feel grateful that I can bring a smile to these deserving faces."

From Forward Operating Base Prosperity, the 301st drove their MRAP convoy through a high risk district where recent bombings have left hundreds dead. Weaving in and out of traffic, the gunners kept lookout for any unusual behavior.



Spc. John Wayne Hall, 301st Chemical Co., 2nd Platoon, PSD, holds one of the dozens of children who received humanitarian aid at the Dar Al Salem Widow's Camp.

The Dar Al Salem Widow's Camp is refuge to as many as 150 families. Established more than two years ago, it takes in women and children of Soldiers and Policemen who have been killed or kidnapped, never to be seen again.

The violence that has rocked Iraq for almost two decades has left these widows the burden of running the families. The struggle to survive and support their families is enormous at a time when not much help comes from the international community. According to Iraq's Ministry of Women's Affairs, it is estimated that there are at least 300,000 widows in Baghdad alone.

"I feel like I'm a small part of something bigger," said Staff Sgt. Jonathon Smith, 31, convoy commander, from Flemingsburg, Ky.

“Maybe if everyone does their part, then we may be able to accomplish our mission.” Many members of the 301st feel the same way. “I hope the Iraqis use our example to do their part too,” said Smith.

As the convoy pulled into the small complex of prefabricated housing, the children came running up to the Soldiers. With smiles on their faces, laughs and giggles filled the air with excitement. After the Soldiers went into security mode, the crowd of children began to make lines in anticipation of the gifts that had arrived.

Soldiers like Spc. John Wayne Hall began to greet the children, showing them attention and compassion, and trying help as much as he could.

“Once we realized that we were coming, we gathered up everything we could,” said Hall. “When we help these people we help ourselves and if we have to give of ourselves, then count me in.”

When it came time to hand out the gifts, a surge of children came forward and began grabbing and carrying away the toys, clothing and food. The sparse conditions in this refugee camp have made its inhabitants weary and deserving of this mission. At times, there is no water and electricity, and many of the widows have no income at all. These conditions moved many of the Soldiers.

“When I see these kids and how they have to struggle, I try not to get emotional,” said Spc. Kelly Goode, 39, from Louisville, Ky. “I have kids at home and when I look into these children eyes I see my own.”

Soccer balls were the hot item. In fact, Smith held one until the end so that he could give it to the winner of a relay race. And, the winner of the race had the biggest smile of all. 🐾



Greek soldiers board a Kentucky National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a training exercise at Camp Rigas Fereos in Kosovo.



Aviators train with Greek forces

Story and photos by Sgt. Jill Fischer
116th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP RIGAS FEREOS, Kosovo – Members of the 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation offered up their time and helicopters recently to help train peacekeeping partners from Greece here in Kosovo.



The Frankfort-based aviators, provided two UH-60 Blackhawk lift helicopters, one medevac chopper and pilots for the aircraft so the Greek’s quick reaction force could complete hot and cold-load training.

“This training is to help both our and their teams become familiar with each other, our communication and equipment and learn to work together,” said Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Brown, Lawrenceburg, Ky., pilot and commander of the mission.

The Kentucky Soldiers and the Greece contingent are part of Kosovo Forces Multi-National Task Force-East, the U.S.-led sector of NATO’s peacekeeping force in Kosovo. The Greeks, known as

“Task Force Hellas,” along with the U.S., Poland, Ukraine and Romania make up the force structure of MNTF-E.

MNTF-E teams often work together on emergency evacuations. The U.S. helicopters provide a means for the Greeks’ quick reaction force to respond to any type of emergency, typically on very short

notice.

“It is crucial that they know how to load a casualty for those times when medevac and quick reaction teams are called out,” Brown said.

U.S. and Greek Soldiers will continue to train together to become more proficient at their jobs while in Kosovo.

“Multi-national partners are the key to our success in Multi-National Task Force-East, as well as for the overall KFOR mission,” said Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann, MNTF-E commander. “It’s essential that we continue to work together so that we can complete our missions, save lives and accomplish our goal of maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.” 🐾

Curry says goodbye to base

By Tech Sgt. D. Clare
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When Tom Curry was a young man, his ambition was to be an Air Force pilot. But a spiritual calling at age 16 took precedence.

When he came to Louisville in 1984 to be a pastor at a local church, he met Lt. Col. Bob Williams, the former 123rd Tactical Fighter Wing chaplain, who saw a military future for the young man from Louisiana.

“Brig. Gen. John L. Smith put me in the front seat of an F-4 jet as part of the interview,” recalled now-Lt. Col. Tom Curry of his initial interview with the former Kentucky Air Guard commander. “I realized then that God had brought together my childhood dream with his plan. I have lived both dreams ever since.”

With 23 years of traditional military service under his belt -- most of which has been spent as wing chaplain here -- Colonel Curry’s future will take a new turn now as he has been selected to advise the Air Mobility Command chaplain on Air National Guard issues.

“While we will certainly miss Colonel Curry’s ready presence at the 123rd Airlift Wing, it’s comforting to know that his talent for serving Airmen will find a wider audience,” said



Photo by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare/KyANG

Lt. Col. Tom Curry, 123rd Airlift Wing Chaplain, recently accepted a position as advisor to the Air Mobility Command, and will leave the Kentucky Air Guard for a new position at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, the Kentucky National Guard’s assistant adjutant general for Air. “I’m proud of him, grateful to have served closely with him and wish him the very best as he advances forward.”

Wing leaders said the colonel has been a source of support for countless Kentucky Airmen through numerous deployments and natural disasters -- in good times and in the face of tragedy.

In February 1992, when an entire aircrew was killed in an aircraft mishap, the colonel was a source of strength for an organization in mourning. He presided over the base-

wide memorial service honoring the five fallen Airmen.

“It was one of the saddest and most exhausting times in my ministry -- but it was also a defining moment,” Colonel Curry recalled. “Chaplains are called upon to do their duty. We offer hope and comfort for all of our members and their families.”

“In 2003, when we were getting ready to deploy (for Operation Iraqi Freedom), that man was all over the base,” recalled retired Col. Mike Harden, a former wing commander.

“There was a lot of turmoil. We had a member

commit suicide around that time, and he was instrumental in helping us deal with that.

“Without Tommy, things during that time would have been a lot different. He kept me advised. He exemplifies what a military chaplain should be. He’s in touch with the morale of the wing, and he’s a tremendous advisor.”

In 2005, the chaplain deployed to Southwest Asia where he ministered to Airmen supporting the Global War on Terror. “War is not good,” he recently recalled. “But (deploying) was one of the highlights of my career.”

The colonel presided

over the last memorial service of his tenure as wing chaplain in December, honoring Command Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs Jr.

According to Dave Rooney, wing family support coordinator, Chaplain Curry showed the breadth of his experience and leadership as preparations were made to honor the wing's senior enlisted advisor.

"He has a quiet calm about him that demands respect," Mr. Rooney said. "He was a refuge in the storm. He focused the group and reminded us of what was truly important -- to honor Chief Downs' life and ensure the family was receiving the care and support they needed emotionally and spiritually."

Though the chaplain will be missed, he leaves behind a legacy with the team he built and shaped.

"We have three of the best chaplains the Air National Guard has ever had ready to go here," Colonel Curry said. "They provide world-class ministry. They are as good as we've ever had in Kentucky."

A husband of 30 years and the father of two sons -- both of whom are ministers -- Colonel Curry's new position will now take him away from the civilian congregation he's served since moving to Kentucky.

The Air Mobility Command is headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., while his church -- Parkland Baptist -- is in Louisville.

"They have always been a very patriotic and supporting congregation," Colonel Curry said. "The word out on the street is that their pastor is going to be a full-bird colonel, and they're very proud of that." 🇺🇸

Get that boom boom



Photo by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare/KyANG

Sergeant Andy Squier, an Indiana State Police hazardous devices technician, and Senior Master Sgt. Lou Comer, Kentucky Air National Guard Explosive Ordnance Disposal superintendent, discuss an X-ray of a 90mm high explosive shell at the Camp Atterbury Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range, Camp Atterbury, Ind. The shell, which was turned in to the Indiana State Police and detonated by Kentucky and Indiana EOD technicians, could have caused serious harm if it had exploded in a residential environment.



Unbridled Response



123rd CRG among first National Guard units to assist in Haiti

By Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson

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The hum of the U.S. Air Force over the skies of Haiti was a welcome sound to victims of the Jan. 12, earthquake that devastated the impoverished nation.

As supplies and aid fell from the first military C-17 airdrop Jan. 19, behind the scenes were two Kentucky Air National Guardsmen, augmenting the Special Tactics Team from the Florida-based 720th ST Group, controlling the drop.

“The professionalism and dedication of our combat controllers, and their ability to ensure relief reached even the most remote areas illustrates the Unbridled Service that the world comes to expect from Kentucky National Guardsmen,” said Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky.

Days following the first airdrop efforts, 45 Airmen from the Kentucky National Guard’s 123rd Contingency Response Group deployed with three



▲ Supplies from a U.S. Air Force C-17 parachute into a landing zone in a rural area in Haiti Jan. 17. The drop of relief supplies was coordinated by Kentucky Air National Guard Special Tactics operators. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.)

◀ Two Puerto Rico Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters prepare for a relief mission at an air field in Barahona, Dominican Republic Jan. 25, as a U.S. Air Force C-17 awaits clearance for takeoff. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora, Kentucky Air National Guard)

◀ Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing, briefs members of the Louisville news media Jan. 22, about the unit's deployment to the Dominican Republic to provide relief for victims of the Haiti Earthquake. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Dale Greer, Kentucky Air National Guard)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KYANG

Crew from the 123rd CRG load lifesaving plasma onto a flatbed truck at the Barahona Air Field, Dominican Republic, for transport to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Earmarked for the urgent care of Haiti's wounded, each container had a 24-hour life span. After the Kentucky Airmen offloaded the cargo from an aircraft, and put it on the ground transportation truck, security forces from the active duty Air Force escorted it into Haiti.

Kentucky C-130 Hercules aircraft to support Operation Unified Response, joining Puerto Rico and Florida in becoming one of the first National Guard units to mobilize in support of the world-wide effort to provide humanitarian relief.

Described as an "airbase in a box," the 123rd CRG has all the personnel, training and equipment needed to deploy to a remote site, open a runway and establish airfield operations.

Charged with setting up the supply checkpoint for aid going in to Haiti, the Airmen of the 123rd controlled the airspace and organized supplies and aid workers going in to the affected areas. The crew manned 24-hour operations at the airfield in Barahona, Dominican Republic.

Tasked with processing cargo and passengers, the crew enforced an Engine Running Offload process, in which the aircraft kept engines running as Kentucky Airmen offloaded the supplies.

"Having the engines running allowed us to download as quickly as possible so the aircraft could be put back in service to fly other missions; whether it be additional supply routes or picking up injured Haitians," said Kentucky Air Guardsmen Tech Sgt. Matthew Skeens, 123rd CRG.

Once the Kentucky Airmen found their groove, crews were able to offload a fully-loaded C-130 or C-17 in roughly six to eight minutes. After the unit's first 24-hours on ground, they

dispatched more than 160,000 pounds of humanitarian relief materials into Haiti.

The quickness of the crew proved essential when a shipment of lifesaving plasma arrived. Earmarked for the urgent care of Haiti's wounded, each container had a 24-hour life span.

"Every second counts ... and thousands are counting on us," said Lt. Col. David Mounkes, 123rd Global Mobility Squadron commander. "This is what we do – and we do it quite well, if I say so myself."

Despite being removed from the horrors of the devastated Haiti countryside, the 123rd CRG Guardsmen still were able to witness the difference they made.

"We are making a difference here everyday," Skeens said, describing a scene where Haitian children were evacuated to Barahona for post-operation care following amputations.

"We saw first hand what difference (the supplies we are sending downrange) is making," he said. "Water, food, medical supplies ... things that are making a real difference every day in the lives of the Haitians."

Skeens described the Airmen supporting Operation Unified Response as patriots. "All of them are true militiamen," he said.

"We're National Guardsmen," he said. "But we're also professional Airmen." 🦅

Louisville Air Guard Base site for joint relief efforts

Active Duty Soldiers, Air Reservists and National Guardsmen from three states stage deployment from Base

Maj. Dale Greer
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Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron processed more than 90 tons of cargo and about 40 U.S. Army Soldiers for deployment Jan. 27, to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as part of the U.S. military's response to the Jan. 12 earthquake.

The Soldiers, who departed from the Kentucky Air National Guard Base at about 8 p.m. aboard three U.S. Air Force C-17s, will form the nucleus of a Joint Logistics Task Force.

They are assigned to the Fort Knox, Ky.-based 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), whose mission is to "provide logistics expertise through sustainment and distribution management, anywhere, any time, in any environment," said Army Col. Marvin Whitaker, the 3rd ESC's chief of staff.

The deployment was a true joint-service effort, with one aircraft and aircrews provided by the 729th Airlift Squadron, an Air Force Reserve unit from March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; and two aircraft and aircrews provided by the Mississippi Air Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing and the Alaska Air Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron. Airmen from the Kentucky Air Guard provided passenger and air cargo services, working expeditiously to get the three flights loaded and airborne in the shortest time possible.

"The first cargo didn't start arriving until 1 p.m., and more cargo and passengers continued to arrive until about 6 p.m.," said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Nagel, air cargo superintendent for the 123rd LRS

"We had the first flight loaded and on its way within seven hours, which is a pretty impressive accomplishment.

"It's always a pleasure to support our sister services," he added. 🐦



Photo by Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Tech. Sgt. Cecil Dickerson, a loadmaster from the Alaska Air National Guard's 294th Airlift Squadron, directs and Army Humvee onto a Mississippi Air National Guard C-17 aircraft at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Ky., Jan. 27. The Humvee, along with 90 tons of other equipment and about 40 Soldiers from the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), deployed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for earthquake relief efforts as part of the Operation Unified Response. The Fort Knox, Ky.-based unit is expected to stay in Haiti for up to six months.



“Every second counts ... and thousands of people are counting on us.”

Lt. Col. David Mounkes, 123rd Global Mobility Squadron commander



Best of the Bluegrass

*Staley, Creech
named outstanding
Soldier, NCO of year*

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler
aaron.hiler@us.army.mil



Spc. Michael Staley, recently named Kentucky's Outstanding Soldier of the Year, and Sgt. Ryan Creech, Outstanding NCO of the Year, stand with Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Wilson, 75th Troop Command, following an awards ceremony Jan. 17. Ten Soldiers competed in the 2010 SOY/NOY competition held at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

GREENVILLE, Ky. — Ten of the finest Kentucky National Guardsmen converged on the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center to battle it out for title of Kentucky's finest.

After two days of intense competition and testing, the 2010 Outstanding Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year have been named.

Kentucky's Outstanding Soldier of the Year goes to Spc. Michael Staley, assigned to Det. 1, Alpha Co., 206th Engineers.

Kentucky's Outstanding NCO is Sgt. Ryan Creech, assigned to Det. 2, Kentucky Medical Command.

"I have no doubt that Spc. Staley and Sgt. Creech will represent the Commonwealth with distinction at both the region three and National Guard Bureau competitions," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Armstrong.

"These Soldiers, as well as the other competitors, are of the highest caliber and bring credit to their major commands and the Kentucky National Guard."

Competing warriors were pushed to the limits both mentally and physically during the three-day competition. They were evaluated on their basic Soldiering abilities during Army Warrior Task testing, Individual Weapons Qualification and the Army Physical Fitness Test. In addition, the Soldiers also appeared before a board which tested their Army knowledge.

"It seems to me that the quality of Soldiers and NCOs we've seen over the past couple of years is getting better and better," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Wilson, the Command Sgt. Maj. for the 75th Troop Command. "This year's competitors have shown themselves to be outstanding, a tribute to their units."

Also recognized was Master Sgt. John Hazlett, 238th Regiment (Combat Arms), as Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year.



Spc. Joseph R. Shabazz, assigned to Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 623 Field Artillery, checks plots against grid coordinates during the land navigation portion of the 2010 Soldier of the Year Competition Jan. 18, at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

2010 SOY/NOY Competitors:

Sgt. Paul Brooks

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Duguay

Staff Sgt. Martin Goldey

Sgt. Verne Hockney

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Ochs

Spc. Ryan Richter

Spc. Tyler Robbins

Spc. Joseph Shabazz

High quality H2O



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Scotty Williams/KYARNG

Army Spc. David Valentine, assigned to the Kentucky National Guard's 103rd Brigade Support Battalion, monitors a space heater that was used to keep water warm during the purification process Jan. 13. The 103rd BSB purified more than 100,000 gallons of water for Buckhorn, Ky., residents after the city's water supply failed due to cold temperatures in early January.

Workhorse Battalion no stranger to relief efforts



Maj. James Richmond
201st Engineer Battalion PAO

Kentucky's Workhorse Battalion stands ready to assist the Commonwealth during any type of disaster, as was the case Dec. 19 when the engineers of the 201st Engineer Battalion responded to the snow-covered portions of Eastern Kentucky.

Approximately 80 Soldiers worked until Dec. 23, clearing routes, transporting food and water and providing generators in the wake of the heavy snow in Pike, Perry, Breathitt, Knott, Magoffin, Letcher and Wolfe Counties.

"This is some of the best duty a Soldier can have," said Sgt. Derek Sizemore of 201st Headquarters Support Company, "I get a real feeling of satisfaction by helping people in this kind of mission."

During the 4 day mission, the engineers cleared roughly 120 miles of roadway laden with fallen trees and transported more than 2,500 gallons of drinking water to relief centers all throughout Southeast Kentucky.



Kentucky Army National Guard engineers cut branches from fallen trees during the December 2009 storm that blanketed much of Eastern Kentucky with up to 10 inches snow. (photos by 201st Engineer Bn.)

Un intercambio ideal ..



Photo by Capt. Andi Hahn/KYARNG

▲ Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Stanley presents members of the Ecuador Air Force with Kentucky National Guard baseball caps after a recent exchange trip.

➤ Kentucky National Air and Army Guardsmen pose with members of the Ecuador Air Force during a recent exchange trip.



Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG

Members of the Ecuador armed forces stand with Soldiers at the Boone National Guard Center Combined Service Maintenance Shop Feb. 11.

translation:

An ideal partnership

Either way you say it, SPP equals success for Kentucky and Ecuador

By Capt. Andi Hahn

andrea.hahn@us.army.mil

The Kentucky National Guard State Partnership Program has kicked into high gear in 2010, with exchange trips conducted in Quito, Ecuador and in Frankfort, Ky.

In January, a contingency of Kentucky Air and Army Guardsmen traveled to the third-world country to exchange ideas and knowledge of C-130 Hercules aircraft maintenance. The contingency reported to Base Aerea Mariscal Sucre, where they assisted airmen in the Ala de Transporte No. 11 (11th Transport Wing).

"You have to understand these guys are working on a micro-string budget," said Capt. Nate Maresh, an Air Force maintenance exchange officer and liaison to the Ecuadorians. "The fact they can even get aircraft to fly every day is pretty miraculous."

The Ecuador air force has three C-130s, and at the time of the Kentucky visit, one was deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response, while the other two were grounded for Periodic Depot Maintenance repairs.

The Ecuadorians started the PDM, a 6-to-12-month maintenance process, in October 2009. Because the Ecuadorians had not performed PDM before, the Kentucky

Airmen were able to assist the Ecuadorian airmen with the proper procedures, which involves stripping the C-130 to perform numerous maintenance checks and repairs.

Master Sgt. Michael Shepherd, Kentucky Air Guard maintenance shop supervisor, said although it was the first time the Ecuadorians performed a PDM, the aircraft were in good shape and would be in the air in no time.

"The technicians are very experienced and knowledgeable, they just need to know the procedures and understand they must be done in the right order," he said.

Shepherd, along with Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Stanley, C-130 mechanic, and Maj. Bruce Bancroft, 123rd Contingency Response Group director, were able to share their expertise of the C-130 aircraft with the foreign nationals and assess some of the issues the Ecuadorians have had with their aircraft.

"It is very important to us to have Kentucky Guardsmen visit," said Col. Edison F. Leon, an Ecuadorian air force commander. "To have them here and exchange ideas, it improves our quality assurance and we greatly appreciate it."

In addition to the C-130 maintenance huddle, the Kentucky contingency also visited an Ecuador army maintenance base specialized in fixing Humvees and other army vehicles. The visit was in preparation for the Ecuadorian contingency visit in February.

Miles away from the warmth of South America, members of the Ecuadorian army trekked the snow-covered Boone National Guard Center in February, observing Soldiers at the Combined Surface Maintenance Shop.

The Ecuadorians inspected vehicle parts and were instructed on

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Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG

Signal company receives millions in new equipment

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LEXINGTON, Ky. – Soldiers assigned to the Kentucky National Guard’s 138th Signal Company trained with the new Warfighter Information Network Tactical system at the Lexington Armory Feb. 6.



Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG

Comprised of satellites, self-contained generators, computers and other high-tech equipment, the \$2 million WIN-T system is coined as the Army’s “on-the-move, high-speed, high-capacity backbone communications network,” according to General Dynamics, the company that makes the WIN-T.

Sgt. Nick Anglin prepares the Command Post Node, just one part of the WIN-T, a new system that will allow Signal Soldiers to have complete communications access anywhere in the world.

“It’s so new that we don’t even have an SOP for it,” said 1st Lt. Elizabeth Chamberlan, executive officer of the 138th Signal Company. “We’re basically paving the way with this system.”

The WIN-T provides Soldiers in the field with communications capabilities anywhere in the world. On the battlefield, troops can use the system to link with the Global Information Grid to relay and receive information from higher headquarters.

It allows for internet access, providing Soldiers the ability to send and receive voice, data, video and images across a multi-node, or networked force – all in real time.

“Before the WIN-T, we were still heavily relying on SINCGARS, so it’s a giant leap to be able go from tactical radio traffic to sending emails out in the field. It’s truly very exciting” Chamberlan said.

In the Commonwealth, Soldiers can rapidly mobilize and utilize the equipment during emergencies and disasters similar to the Ice Storm of 2009. Relying on generators and satellites, the system can provide communications when power and grids are down.



Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG





Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG



Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG

Soldiers in the Kentucky National Guard's 2123rd Transportation Company received pre-deployment training at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in January. Although this is the second deployment for many of the Soldiers in the Richmond-based company, this is the first time the unit has deployed to Afghanistan. Soldiers trained to standard in numerous Army Warrior Tasks including marksmanship, grenade training and patrol procedures.

2123rd trains to fight as Kentuckians

Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson

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In preparation for their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Soldiers assigned to the 2123rd Transportation Company spent the month of January drudging through the mud at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

"It was very high-speed training," said Staff Sgt. Michael Smith of Morehead, Ky. "It was almost like being in Basic Training again."

Soldiers trained from sun-up-to-sun-down, running Army Warrior Task exercises until they were trained to standard.

"The training was very battle focused and organized," said Sgt. 1st Class Allen Christie of Floyd Knobs, Ind. "We were able to put focus on our junior Soldiers and give

them an opportunity to experience leadership even at the lowest level."

Among some of the training the Soldiers received were: urban operations, proper execution of throwing a grenade, assembly of claymore mines, how to operate an entry control point and successful completion of the Humvee Egress Assistance Training simulator.

"We approach this training as if this is their last stop before deployment," said Staff Sgt. Jacque Hayes, a trainer with the Kentucky National Guard's Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element.

During the unit's farewell ceremony at the Madison Central High School in Richmond, Ky., Feb. 3, Brig. Gen. Mike Richie, deputy adjutant general for Kentucky, told the deploying Guardsmen that he could "see the confidence in your faces.

"Continue to be dedicated to your mission, continue to keep that battle focus and you will be successful," he said.

Capt. John F. Moore, company commander, told his Soldier's Families that the "2123rd that left last month is not the same as the one in this building today," he said. "We will fight as Kentuckians." 



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson/KYARNG



Technology 101:

How to implement your cyber safety strategy

By Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson

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With the click of a mouse or the scroll of a finger, the latest information is in the hands of anyone ... anywhere.

The hottest news story, the scores of the UK game, and the weather are all available 24/7 for anyone who wants to see it. So are the photos of second platoon during annual training in some very questionable poses, even if you don't want "anyone" to see them.

Thanks to the information superhighway that we all have come to know as the Web, the way we communicate has changed.

Social media sites such as Facebook, MySpace, Flickr and YouTube allow Soldiers to keep friends up-to-date of their deployments; allow children to share the latest school gossip and provide virtually everyone access to what was at one time personal information.

"Personal information doesn't just mean the numbers to your bank account," said Col. Charlie Harris, state security officer.

"The moment you tweet how excited you are about leaving for Florida for your week-long vacation that begins tomorrow, you have invited thieves into your home," he said. "These are things we don't think about until it is too late."

The military and social media

Though the Army and Department of Defense are examining the popularity of blogging and other social media practices, a regulation or policy has yet to be published.

That doesn't mean Soldiers are in the clear to use the Internet as a sounding board for their grievances.

"In accordance with AR 530-1, the operations security policy, all Soldiers who blog and identify their affiliation with the Army, and in our case, the Kentucky National Guard, must let their commander know they are blogging," Harris said.

Though there is not a step-by-step process that directs Soldiers how to blog or begin a profile on a social media site, Harris said there are two things all Soldiers and Airmen must abide by: Operational Security and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"The thing to remember is all Soldiers and Airmen must maintain a professional conduct and military discipline when they identify themselves as a member of our organization as a key aspect of their online profile," he said. "They must present an appropriate picture of Army life."

So what does this mean for Pvt. Smith? Bottom line: conduct yourself as a Soldier or Airman at all times. Once it's on the Internet, it's not coming off, and the photo of you participating in illegal conduct per the UCMJ could find you in hot water with your command staff.

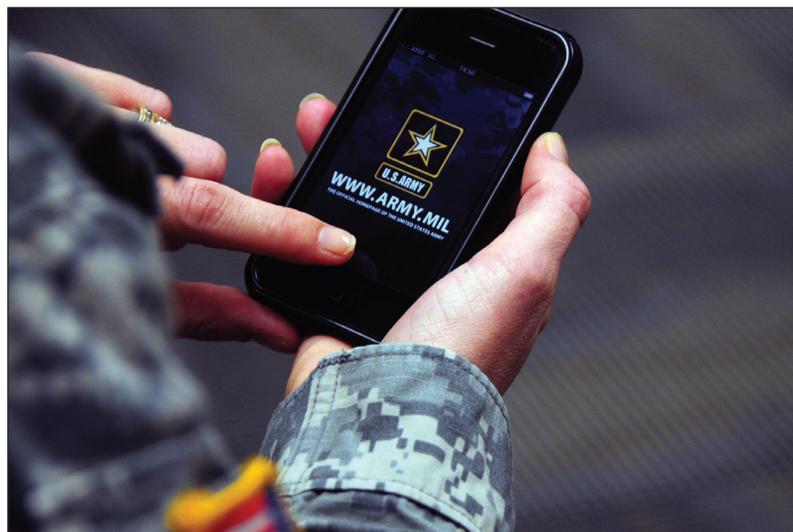


Photo by C. Todd Lopez, U.S. Army

A Soldier checks the U.S. Army application on an iPhone. With the touch of a finger, servicemembers and their Families can have any information they desire at their fingertips, even while on the go. Officials warn for Soldiers to be vigilant on what information they distribute through the World Wide Web.

"Kentucky Guardsmen must remember that when they have the uniform on, or identify themselves as a Kentucky Guardsmen, they become the voice of the Kentucky Guard," said Lt. Col. Kirk Hilbrecht, director of Public Affairs for the Kentucky Guard.

"The general public can misconstrue your opinions as fact based off of a post on your Facebook or blog," he said. "The information you post there should be consistent with your role as a representative of the U.S. Army or Air Force."

Parental roles in cyber safety

Keeping up with children on the Internet is like trying to hold water in your hands – nearly impossible.

Each time your son or daughter sits behind the computer screen a cyber-stalker, child predator or cyber bully may be on the other side.

"Children need to understand

the things they post on MySpace or Facebook can be seen by strangers,” Harris said. “And they need to be aware that who they think they are talking to may not always be who is typing back at them.”

Harris cited the Kentucky Attorney General’s Web site as a good tool for parents seeking help with keeping their children safe on social networks.

“Attorney General Conway has some great points on his page,” Harris said. “It reminds parents to talk to their kids, and educate them about the risks of sharing personal information with online friends.”

To learn more how you can keep your child safe, log on to <http://ag.ky.gov/cybersafety>.

Online security checks



Make sure your social media profiles have the appropriate privacy settings you desire



Don’t make your home address, phone numbers or e-mail address available for everyone to see



Go online with your children and complete the i-SAFE training



Do monitor your children’s time spent online and surf the Web with them to see what they know

source: <http://ag.ky.gov/cybersafety>

Graphic by Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson/KYARNG

Exchange program teaches cultural awareness

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proper use of the fuel injection pump test stand.

“This was the first time the group visited CSMS,” said Chief Warrant Officer James Simms, senior maintenance officer for Joint Forces Headquarters.

“The Ecuadorians are developing their maintenance and operations,” he said. “This tour gave them a chance to look at how we do business, to mold and adopt their practices to ours.

“For our Soldiers, it benefits them to see how other countries work and what skill levels they have,” he said. “To exchange common information about problems of day-to-day operations.”

In addition to their tour of the CSMS, the Soldiers also visited the Army Aviation Support Facility before traveling to the Air National Guard Base where they received additional information about C-130 maintenance.

The State Partnership Program is a National Guard Bureau program directed by the National Security Strategy and Department of Defense that charges NGB to take an active role in shaping the



Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG

Ecuador army Capt. Byron Fuertes sits behind the controls of a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter during a tour of the Army Aviation Support Facility at Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort Feb. 12.

international security environment by strengthening emerging nations, promoting democracy, fostering prosperity and enhancing security.

The program began in 1993, linking states with partner countries to build relations between the partner country and the United States.

“The State Partnership Program is important because it allows us, at the state level, through small-scale events, to accomplish U.S. strategic goals,” said Maj. Matt Groves, SPP coordinator for Kentucky.

“What we gain, aside from the subject matter that we exchange, is a cultural awareness and expanded prospective which we can apply throughout our range of operations,” he said.

Groves said the state plans a larger-scale exchange during the summer of 2010.

Next issue:

2010 Unit Public Affairs Conference winners

Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center goes green

Tonini visits troops

Presents Soldiers with coins prior to deployment

By **1st Lt. Desiree Nicely**

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Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky, and other members of the headquarters staff, visited Kentucky National Guardsmen assigned to the 2113th Transportation Company Feb. 10, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The Soldiers began their mobilization training at the regional training center located at Hattiesburg, Miss., in December. The unit's mission in Iraq will be convoy security.

This is the second deployment for the 2113th TC, which first deployed in 2004.

While on ground with the troops, Tonini presented his coin to Spc. Mark May, who delivered his own daughter in the bathroom of a Motel 6 while on his way to meet the unit for movement to Camp Shelby during Christmas leave.

In addition, Tonini presented coins to the medics of the company for their actions in assisting a Soldier assigned to the Tennessee National Guard's 1/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, who suffered a heart attack.



▲ Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini presents his coin to 2113th medics for their actions in assisting a Tennessee National Guardsmen who suffered a heart attack.

➤ Spc. Mark May was presented a coin for delivering his own child during Christmas leave.

▼ Soldiers prepare for their upcoming Iraq deployment at Camp Shelby, Miss.



Photos by 1st Lt. Desiree Nicely/KYARNG

