

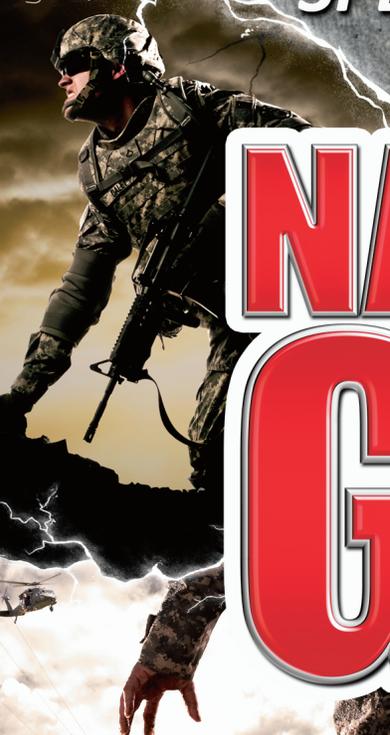


# The Bluegrass Guard

Vol. 17, Issue 1 - May 2014

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

**SPECIAL RE-ENLISTMENT ISSUE**



# NATIONAL GUARD



# UNBRIDLED SERVICE

# AROUND TH



If you are in the market for a new job, coming home from a deployment, or just want a change in the routine of your current position, ESGR has the tools to help you find that next career step.

-- PAGE 14



Interested in knowing what's going on in your Guard and what's available to you? Check out which sites are most popular and how they can benefit you.

-- PAGE 5



## ON THE COVER

Being in the Kentucky Guard is about more than just being all you can be. It is a mindset and way of life that can set you head and shoulders above the rest.

You know what the Kentucky National Guard can do for you, but what about your family? Find out what family support programs are available for Service members.

-- PAGE 6

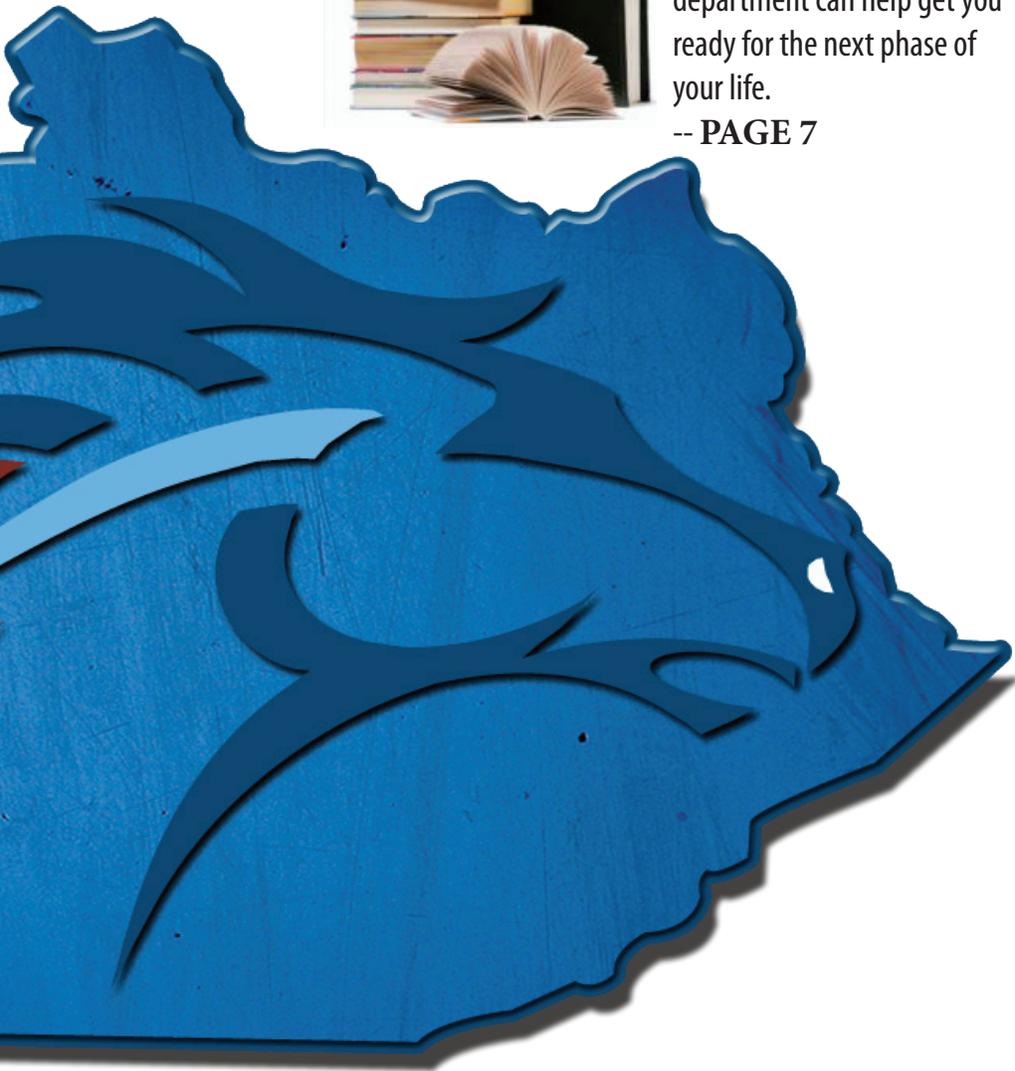
# E GUARD

AND IN OUR PAGES



Looking for ways to get your education underway? See how the state education department can help get you ready for the next phase of your life.

-- PAGE 7



## The Bluegrass Guard

100 Minuteman Parkway  
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The Bluegrass Guard is distributed free to all members of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard, retirees of the Kentucky National Guard and to other interested persons by request.

Guardmembers and their Families are encouraged to submit articles meant to inform, educate or entertain Bluegrass Guard readers.

Articles should be submitted in Word format, 10-point arial font and include the writer's name, unit and contact information. Photos should be in .JPEG format with captions submitted via Word document, 10-point Arial font. Send submissions, photos and correspondence to kypao@ng.army.mil.

Payment will not be made for contributions. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Please report any corrections to:

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## Letters to the Editor Policy

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  
KYNG Public Affairs  
100 Minuteman Parkway  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
or: PAO@kentuckyguard.com

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

## Change of Address

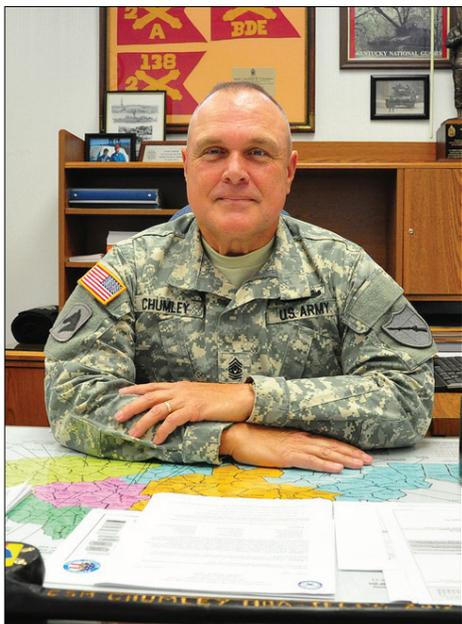
Don't miss an issue

All change of address requests should be made by the unit clerk using RCAS for all current Army or Air National Guardsmen. The Bluegrass Guard is mailed out via alert roster addresses at the unit level.

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.a.devine4.mil@mail.mil](mailto:deborah.a.devine4.mil@mail.mil)

Air Retirees should request changes through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at [jturpin@fewpb.net](mailto:jturpin@fewpb.net).

# From the State CSM's desk:



## “Check roger” on re-enlistment, reintegration, re-investment opportunities for KY troops

By Thomas Chumley Jr.

Kentucky National Guard State Command Sergeant Major

As the State Command Sergeant Major, let me tell you, it's an honor and a privilege to work for the finest Soldiers and Airmen in the military and Kentucky National Guard. HOOAH!

care of business and being accountable in a garrison environment. During the past 11 years, we have focused on deployments and mobilizations. We must re-engage our Soldiers and Airmen and prepare them for home station activities, stress the importance of continuing their military education, define a clear, attainable career path, make them aware of how important their families are to this organization, and keep them informed of all benefits and entitlements as they become available.

This edition of the Bluegrass Guard will cover many of the benefits and entitlements available to you and your families. Read it and take advantage of these benefits, you have earned them. They're here for you and if we don't use them now, they may go away.

There's a few things I would like to share with you, specifically to my noncommissioned officers, the NCO Corps:

- NCOs, YOU are the backbone of this great organization, and you are the ones, from Sergeant and Staff Sergeant to Sergeant Major and Command Chief Master Sergeant, to make it happen. This has been proven over and over again. We need to re-focus and get back to assuming our roles by exercising our authority and ensuring all Soldiers and Airmen are aware of their benefits, and the best way to take advantage of all available opportunities.

- We need to bridge the culture of NCOs taking

- At every training assembly, when you are with your crew, squad or section, take advantage of these opportunities and sit down with them, get to know them and mentor them. With the right leadership and trust, they will follow you anywhere. When you care, prepare and train, you can change the course of your entire unit by making these investments. Have you asked: Where do they work? How's their family life? What are their career goals and how do they get there? NCOs must know their Soldiers and Airmen inside and out to include their weaknesses and strengths.

- We'll retain our best when we start identifying and investing in our best.

- We're the strongest we've ever been as an organization and operational force. Let's keep it that way. Demand the most out of your troops and out of yourself.

“Kentucky Strong!” 

# Staying Connected

Here are just a few examples of how you can stay up-to-date on what's going on in your Kentucky Guard:

Who ever thought Psy's "Gangnam Style" would be the most watched YouTube video in the world? You never know what will be the next viral video trend. However, who's to say it couldn't be you doing some high-speed National Guard training or mission. Either way, honey badger don't care. [youtube.com/kyngpao](http://youtube.com/kyngpao)



Need to know what's going on without reading long articles or posts? With 140 characters, Twitter can provide you with quick, easy access to Guard highlights. [twitter.com/kentucky\\_guard](http://twitter.com/kentucky_guard)



Want to connect with fellow Guardsmen around the state

without having to leave the comfort of home? Facebook offers the opportunity to connect with Guard members and programs to keep you in the loop on issues important to you. [facebook.com/kentuckyguard](http://facebook.com/kentuckyguard) OR [facebook.com/kyguard](http://facebook.com/kyguard)



Ever wonder what people are saying about you? The Kentucky Guard's website tells your

family, friends, community, state and the nation, just how great of a job you are doing for those you swore to protect. With more than 1,300 individual stories about Kentucky Guardsmen and the hard work you are putting into your service, it's no wonder why you are part of the greatest force the world has ever known! [kentuckyguard.com](http://kentuckyguard.com)



Thousands of photos from hundreds of Kentucky National Guard events are at your finger tips

with just a few clicks. Flickr lets you see what is going on around the Guard; from family programs, to ESGR job fairs to brigade functions. Don't miss your opportunity to see what it's like to be in the Kentucky National Guard. [flickr.com/kyngpao](http://flickr.com/kyngpao)

# Kentucky National Guard Family Programs

Where Service members and families can turn for support

The Family Assistance Center (FAC) **provides services on:**

- Legal
- Financial
- TRICARE
- ID/Deers
- Crisis intervention

The FAC also monitors the 24/7 phone line to support Service members and their families.

1-800-372-7601 OR [www.kentuckyguard.com](http://www.kentuckyguard.com)

Community outreach opportunities **support Service members and their families by:**

- Offering free admission to state-wide college sporting events including UK, U of L and other major universities
- Promoting Military Appreciation day at Churchill Downs, Keeneland and Kentucky Kingdom which includes free or reduced admission
- Memorial Concert Series with free admission to all active or veteran Service members  
[facebook.com/kyngfamily](https://www.facebook.com/kyngfamily)

For more information regarding any of the topics on this page, contact the state Family Assistance Center hotline:

▶ 1-800-372-7601



6 <http://www.kentuckyguard.com>

The Kentucky Guard **Child and Youth Services Programs are designed to:**

- Foster positive youth development
- Support the strengths and challenges of National Guard children
- Enhance resilience by assisting children reach their full potential as the next generation of leaders

Linda Jones, 502-607-1593, [linda.s.jones.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:linda.s.jones.ctr@mail.mil)

Cindy Culver, 502-607-1751, [cynthia.r.culver.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:cynthia.r.culver.ctr@mail.mil)

CYS **offer a variety of activities and events** for children of Service members including:

- 4H Military Youth Camp
- Life After High School
- Operation Military Kids Camps
- Yellow Ribbon Child Activities
- Month of the Military Child
- Operation Military Cheer

Military One Source

Military One Source **gives comprehensive information on military life** (good for new members) and access to free 24/7 confidential support for deployment, reunion, relationships and parenting.

Kathy Huck, 502-632-2249



# Education Benefits

How furthering your schooling can benefit your life

You've probably been told numerous times you need to get an education. But what's in it for you? You might be surprised to find out just what can be in store for your life. Here are just a few benefits of having your degree.

## 1 MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Let's face it, having more education under your belt will give you advantages in life you otherwise might not have. This doesn't just mean opportunities for employment. Having an education can help open doors to your life goals.

## 2 SELF-CONFIDENCE

Being able to give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done is important mentally. Knowing you were able to achieve your education goals can give you the boost of confidence you may need to get started on other aspects of life.

## 3 GAIN PERSPECTIVE

Education is the gateway to understanding not only the world around us, but also the people who inhabit it. Learning about new things can help you gain an appreciation for other perspectives, not just your own.

## 5 NETWORKING

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. Building relationships through your education classes can help you later in life; whether you are looking for that professional reference or when you need that second considered opinion about a tough decision that has to be made, networking can be an invaluable asset to your toolbox of resources.

## 4 KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The only stupid question is the one that isn't asked. The more questions you are able to ask, the more information and knowledge you are able to gain. With the knowledge you gain from an education, you can be a more productive, problem-solving and contributing member of your community and country. Having a degree will put you in a position where people will come to you for answers, and that is powerful.

## 6 SHOWCASE YOUR WORK ETHIC

When you are able to complete your degree or advanced degree, it automatically tells potential employers a lot about you. It shows you can work independently, you are ambitious, and you are able to learn and develop new skill sets. These are the traits employers and hiring managers are looking for in their workforce. Get your degree and show off your talents!

### THE FURTHER YOU GO, THE MORE YOU'LL MAKE

Getting through high school is just the beginning. Using your Guard benefits to further your education can pay off in the long run, literally! See how much money you could be earning per year based on your degree. ➤

No High School \$24,544

High School/GED \$33,852

Some College \$37,804

Associates Degree \$40,404

Bachelors Degree \$57,616

Masters Degree \$69,108

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Re-up, you're crazy?

By David Altom

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs Office

**A**n immigrant from the South American nation of Guyana, 1st Lt. Anna Farro joined the Kentucky National Guard at age 32. She is in her fourth year of a Counseling Ph.D. program at the University of Kentucky and taking part in graduate studies at Eastern State Hospital, and teaches part time at Eastern Kentucky University. She is also a 70B-Medical Service Corps officer with the Kentucky National Guard's 1163rd Area Support Medical Company.

## Why did you join the Kentucky National Guard?

I joined the Kentucky National Guard to be a Soldier, because I have wanted to be one for many years. Being a "Guardswoman" allows me the opportunity to be a Citizen-Soldier, and to reap the benefits of both worlds. I immersed myself in the culture out of desire and out of the need to know what problems face our Soldiers daily. Hopefully, somewhere down the road, I can extend a helping hand from a place of understanding and solidarity.

## What would you tell younger Soldiers about re-enlisting?

I'm very pro-education. If a younger Soldier still had not received a Bachelor's degree, I would tell them re-enlisting is the way to go – it would be the difference between attending school and making the most out of the college experience. Financial assistance through tuition assistance, coupled with programs such as ROTC, make college more exciting and create the discipline and participation in extracurriculars it takes to succeed.

## How has the Guard benefited you, your family and/or your regular job?

Perhaps the greatest benefit to my family has been a sense of pride. I'm one of very few in a massive extended family to join the military. My husband exudes pride and support for all my endeavors and together, the family I rely on so heavily as my guide and my beacon, all shine support and unconditional love when it comes to my military pursuits and endeavors.

## Describe one or two of your most memorable moments in uniform.

One moment that comes to mind was receiving the title of Distinguished Honor Graduate for AIT-CBRNE at Fort Leonardwood. I led the entire graduating class in the Soldier's Creed, and was filled with a sense of excitement and achievement.

Another moment that comes to mind was going against a 6-foot-4-inch former Marine in a match during combatives level 1 certification at BOLC at Fort Sam Houston. It was one of the only times in my life I have ever felt true fear.

## What would you tell those interested in joining the Guard?

I am constantly recruiting! Everywhere I go, to family, friends, and strangers, I share my experiences. I would tell someone who is interested it is the best way to serve your country. You truly are a Citizen-Soldier, able to exist comfortably in both worlds, and use the knowledge and skills that you possess between worlds. In addition, the pay and benefits are great! The Guard provides you with avenues to help with school, to help further education at any level, to help qualify someone in jobs from engineering to administration to medical to aviation, and the list goes on and on.

## What do your family and friends think of your service in the Guard?

My mother and father pinned me during commissioning, and were there for graduation from Basic Training. I saw a different kind of pride in their eyes. My friends range in reaction from concern about deployments to supportive to telling me they are not sure how I get it all done. The truth is, being in the Guard provides me with a balance that helps with everything else in my life. 🦋



# Getting the most education for your service

## Montgomery

Provides education and training benefits to eligible members of the Selected Reserve and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.

Before you can obtain your benefits, you have to qualify. Here's what you need to get your MGIB-1606:

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation. For some types of training, it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after Sept. 30, 1990.
- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT).
- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement.
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB-SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.

For more information on Montgomery GI Bill benefits check out:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib\\_sr.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.asp)  
<http://www.military.com/education/gi-bill>

## How the GI bills differ and what that means to you



Enrollment Status	Monthly Rate
Full Time	\$362
3/4 Time	\$270
1/2 Time	\$179
< 1/2 Time	\$90.50

## Post-9/11

If you have at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001, and are still on active duty, or if you are an honorably discharged Veteran or were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, you may be eligible for this VA-administered program.

For more information on Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits check out:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911\\_gibill.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp)  
<http://www.military.com/education/gi-bill>

Post-9/11 Active-Duty Service	% of max amount payable
36 months	100
30 days	100
30 months	90
24 months	80
18 months	70
12 months	60
6 months	50
90 days	40

For approved programs, the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. Institutions of higher learning participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program may make additional funds available for your education program without an additional charge to your GI Bill entitlement. The following payments may also be available:

- Monthly housing allowance
- Annual books and supplies stipend
- One-time rural benefit payment

The transferability option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows Service members to transfer all or some unused benefits to their spouse or dependent children.

# ANOTHER TIME AROUND

What are your options for re-enlistment? Whether it's your first time to sign on the dotted line again or your fourth, it is always good to know what choices and benefits you get from your commitment.

## Can I re-enlist under a different MOS?

Yes you can re-enlist under a different MOS, provided there is a slot open for the MOS you want and you meet the skill and training requirements for having that MOS.

## Am I eligible for a re-enlistment bonus?

Yes. Potentially. The bonuses include cash for choosing a high-demand military occupational specialty (MOS), for selecting a specific date to begin basic training, for being willing to leave for boot camp within 45 days (Quick Ship), for advanced civilian skills and more.

## Are there incentives for extending?

For those who are interested in extending their contracts, the National Guard will give you a \$5,000 bonus for a three-year extension, and a \$10,000 bonus for a six-year extension. If you decide to extend for six years, there is also an education kicker of \$200 per month for full-time students.

## What if I'm prior service from another branch?

No problem. The Kentucky National Guard is always looking for motivated individuals who can use prior experience to further enhance the mission and members of this organization.

## What should I consider as I make my decision?

First things first. Re-enlistment is a commitment. Once the documentation is filed, there is no going back. So make sure you are ready for another three or six year contractual obligation to the government before re-enlisting. Consider your options for re-enlistment. Maybe you want to go into a different field; maybe you want to get more money for school. Whatever the reason, be sure you are comfortable with it.

## What about my retirement pension?

No problem. The Kentucky National Guard is always looking for motivated individuals who can use prior experience to further enhance the mission and members of this organization.

## What could you be making?

*Here is a quick summary of the current Army National Guard Cash Bonus:*

National Guard Non-Prior Service Enlistment Bonuses – up to \$20,000  
Non-Prior Service Quick Ship or Off-Peak Bonus – \$5,000 (each)  
Prior Service Affiliation Bonus – up to \$20,000  
Civilian Acquired Skills Program (CASP) Bonus – \$10,000

*\*Bonuses will not exceed \$20,000*

## Still have student loans?

*The National Guard can help you pay for your education with the Student Loan Repayment Plan:*

Student Loan Repayment (SLRP): This bonus can be used to pay off up to \$50,000 in existing student debt. Applicants must score 50 or better on the AFQT (ASVAB) to qualify.

▶ **For more information about your options for re-enlistment, contact your unit readiness or retention NCO.**



# A new beginning

By Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs Office

**S**gt. Anthony Crank understands what it means to start over. After dropping out of high school, he obtained his GED, joined the Kentucky National Guard and began a successful horse-boarding farm. Crank has served as an artilleryman with the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery for seven years, recently deploying to the Horn of Africa as part of Task Force Longrifle in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Why did you join the Kentucky National Guard?

Ever since I was a little kid growing up watching movies about Soldiers and playing with toy guns with friends, I wanted to be a Soldier. I was so fascinated with it. 9/11 angered me more than I could imagine. Since that day, I wanted to do my part to help protect my family and my country. I went to an active Army recruiter and they would not accept me because I had quit school. 2006 came around, I had a really good friend who also has a GED tell me he was joining the Kentucky Army National Guard. I was so excited when I heard the news. I told my parents about it and they encouraged me to go for what I wanted to do as long as I was happy. I went to a Guard recruiter and they accepted me. I chose field artillery because that is what my grandfather did in the Army in Korea. I have been in for a little over seven years and I have enjoyed every minute of my years in the Guard.

## What do your family and friends think of your service in the Guard?

My family has always honored my service in the Guard. They have always acknowledged my accomplishments, my sacrifices. They never have anything negative to say. My parents tell me they are proud of me for what I have become. My wife worries a little but I guess that comes with the territory. My friends, who are not in the Guard, tell me all the time they wish they could have joined and I always tell them it's not to late. I know they are all proud of me and my service.

## What would you tell younger Soldiers about re-enlisting?

It is absolutely worth staying in the Guard, especially if they are in school. Education is one of the most important things in life. They can land better jobs and without the Guard, college would be expensive. The debt that arises from going to college for civilians versus the Guard paying for your education, is second to none. Also, staying in the Guard improves your way of life by molding you into being a positive, sharp and well-rounded person.

## What would you tell those interested in joining the Guard?

I would tell them that it is a chance of a lifetime. The Guard becomes your family. They are always there for you when you need them. The experiences you have, the people you meet, the places you see will always be in your mind. You learn job skills you thought you would never be able to do, and most of it is all hands-on. That to me is the best way to learn.

There's a great sense of pride knowing you're serving your country and your community. Wearing the uniform makes you feel proud of being a part of the world's strongest Army.

## Describe one or two of your most memorable moments in uniform.

One of my most memorable moments in uniform was the ice storm of 2009. Serving my community and other counties in Kentucky was one of my proudest moments in the Guard. Helping people with no means of getting out, getting food or supplies, with no power or heat was a very hard time for everyone. I think the Kentucky Guard made a huge impact on helping people getting the stuff they needed. We even got urgently needed medical supplies to the elderly that they needed to live and transported sick or injured people to the hospital.

## How has the Guard benefited you, your family and/or your regular job?

The benefits in the Guard are endless. I have learned how to take on more responsibility and to be a better man to my family. Since enlisting, I got married to the love of my life, got a farm with a beautiful home and barn, which started one of my greatest passions in life, horses! I would not trade it for the world. Without the Guard making me the person I am today, I don't think this dream would have been possible. My wife tells me everyday how proud she is of me for being in the Guard and without it, how everything we have would not be possible. 

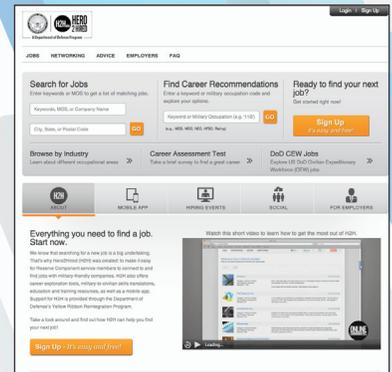


EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

The program relies heavily on employer partners notifying ESGR of employment opportunities. These are broadcast to Guard and Reserve personnel and families via email, through social media and Family Readiness Groups across the state. Check out their Facebook page at [facebook.com/kyngeducation](https://facebook.com/kyngeducation) to find out more!



Hero2Hired.com allows you to enter your military occupation code, and the military skills translator will convert your specific skill set into a comparable civilian job. From there, job seekers can search for employment opportunities by location or interest. H2H also has resume writing tips, career counseling and interview technique assistance Service members can use to land that perfect job.



In addition to the Hero2Hired website, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear has established the “Hiring Our Heroes” initiative which matches veteran job seekers with employers in order to retain a critical, high-quality talent pool. This program allows veterans to put their talents to work for Kentucky’s businesses. To find out what resources are available to you, go to: [governor.ky.gov/hiringkyheroes](http://governor.ky.gov/hiringkyheroes)

The following web tools, although not affiliated with the Kentucky National Guard ESGR Program, offer some valuable resources on finding information regarding employment opportunities.



G.I. Jobs provides education, transition assistance and job opportunities for military transitioners looking for careers and employment. G.I. Jobs also provides Virtual Career Fairs and Virtual College Fairs for users to use. New and veteran Service members can check out G.I. Jobs for advice and tools to help them find the right jobs, education and vocational training during and after leaving the military.



O\*NET OnLine is an application that was created for the general public to provide broad access to the O\*NET database of occupational information. O\*NET OnLine offers a variety of search options and occupational data for students and job seekers. Job seekers can find out which jobs fit with their interests, skills and experience; explore growth career profiles using the latest available labor market data and research what it takes to get their dream job.



For more information regarding ESGR, job fairs, counseling and professional development, contact:

Kelli Carter, 502-607-1302, [kelli.f.carter2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:kelli.f.carter2.ctr@mail.mil)

# The last bugle call

## What you can look forward to after retirement from the Guard

Looking down the barrel of two decades worth of service may seem daunting, but the rewards of your hard work, perseverance and dedication to America's first and finest military organization are well worth it. Whether you are new to the Kentucky National Guard, have a few years until retirement eligibility, or are already qualified for retirement, keeping your benefits in mind is important.

### 1 PENSION PLAN

One of the biggest advantages of serving 20 years in the Kentucky National Guard is the promise of having income long after you separate from the organization. Your pension plan will have the added advantage of being inflation-adjusted by the time you turn 60.

### 2 DUAL INCOME

One of the wonderful things about being a Citizen-Soldier is the ability to serve your weekend and annual AT duty assignments which go toward your retirement. On top of this, you may also have a civilian career(s) with their own retirement benefits. Upon reaching your retirement eligibility, you will be qualified to have several resources of cash flow.

### 3 DUAL CAREERS

If you join the Kentucky National Guard at 18, you could potentially be eligible for retirement at 38. At this age, you would still have plenty of time to begin a second career utilizing the skills and abilities you acquired during your time spent in the service. Having the option for a secondary career, or even going back to school, can be a productive way to invest yourself.

### 4 CONTINUED BENEFITS

So you may be wondering if once you retire from the military, will you still be able to enjoy some of the perks you have come to know. Things like being able to shop at a local commissary or PX, having the option of gaining access to military posts' theaters, gas stations, gyms, or booking Space-A flights. All of these services will still be afforded to you even after you retire from the National Guard.

### 5 FAMILY BENEFITS

Upon receipt of your 20-year letter, you have 90 days to elect Reserve Component Survivor Benefits. RCSBP allows retirement eligible members to elect to provide up to 55% of their retired pay to an eligible survivor upon the member's death.

### 6 RELAXATION

After your retirement from the National Guard, you will be able to enjoy having time to pursue your favorite hobbies, build even stronger bonds with friends and family, and simply enjoy the fruits of your 20 years of dedicated service.



Remember that retirement is not automatic. You have to apply for it. To apply for your retirement benefits you will need to submit a retirement application packet. For information on what documents you need, contact Staff Sgt. Devine at 502-607-1497 or Sgt. Knuckles at 502-607-1613.



Should you have a life-changing event such as:

- Divorce
  - Remarriage
  - Child
- etc., you have one year to make that change to your Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP).



Keep in mind that Soldiers meeting the eligibility criteria are eligible for reduced retirement below 60 years by three months for each aggregate of 90 days, not consecutive days, performed in any fiscal year after 28 January 2008.



When you receive your 20 year letter, you have 90 days to elect a Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP). If you do not elect an RCSBP, it will default to immediate coverage.



Want to know just how much you could be making per month when you retire? Go to: [hrc.army.mil/Calculators/RetirementCalc.aspx](http://hrc.army.mil/Calculators/RetirementCalc.aspx) to find out.

# Going the distance

By David Altom

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs Office

**F**or Command Sgt. Maj. William Cox, being in the Kentucky National Guard is a family affair. His wife, Libbi, is a regional manager in the National Guard's Family Readiness Support Assistant program and two of their sons are combat veterans. A veteran of the Persian Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Cox is now responsible for the training, welfare and morale of the NCOs and enlisted troops in the 138th Fires Brigade.

## Why did you join the Kentucky National Guard?

In October 1979, I actually joined the Guard on a dare between myself and a cousin. At 17 years old, and during the fall of my senior year, I did not realize the impact the decision would have on my life. After almost 35 years, it's still a decision with no regrets.

## How has the Guard benefited you, your family and/or your regular job?

For me personally, understanding and commitment to the Army Values has provided a foundational structure for life. I've had opportunities to learn to lead and grow and strengthen leadership skills from assistant platoon sergeant in basic to friendship and camaraderie.

Also, Guard income has always supplemented my civilian income to support our family. I've taken advantage of additional duty opportunities from supporting community and state activities. Today, TRICARE Reserve Select insurance provides my family with the best insurance investment option.

## What do your family and friends think of your service in the Guard?

They appreciate and understand the service and the sacrifices required by the entire family. We understand that the entire family serves in some way. Our service has had a positive influence on our sons, Winston and Kyle, who chose to serve as a U.S. Marine and an Army Ranger.

## What would you tell those interested in joining the Guard?

Benefits from education to medical are huge financial benefits. For example, Post-911 benefits not only paid for education for my daughter, but were a great savings for post graduate plans.

## What would you tell younger Soldiers about re-enlisting?

In today's world, the benefits of the Guard are worth considering. Research the benefits, consider your personal situation and make the best decision for this time in your life. There's not too many 'part-time' jobs that provide a retirement and medical insurance.

## Describe one or two of your most memorable moments in uniform.

Thanksgiving 2005: During my deployment to Iraq, I spent Thanksgiving Day in Fallujah with my son, Winston. His deployment as a Marine had been very difficult, and as a father and Soldier, I understood the situation from a unique perspective. One of the hardest things that I ever had to do was to tell my son goodbye in a war zone.

December 2013, Change of Responsibility: I looked forward to becoming the brigade command sergeant major and wanted to share that with my family. My son, Kyle, an Army Ranger, returned from a challenging deployment in Afghanistan early that morning to be part of the ceremony and pass the sword to me. That was one of my most memorable moments in uniform. 



COX

U.S. ARMY



# One man, two missions

By Capt. Stephen Martin

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs Office

**S**enior Airman TJ Bothur joined the Kentucky Air National Guard at the age of 21 when a lot of his friends were doing other things. He is a third-generation Service member following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Bothur, just one of approximately 1,000 Airmen serving in the Kentucky Air National Guard, works as a technician with the 123rd Medical Operations Chemical Enhanced Response Force Package and part time as a volunteer firefighter at Oldham County EMS.

## Why did you join the Kentucky National Guard?

I joined the Air National Guard to be able to help in times of need. I wanted to be an expert in my field and be able to better myself and my community.

## How has the Guard benefited you, your family and/or your regular job?

Joining the Guard has been the best decision that I have made. I have been able to attend countless trainings and exercises that have made me a better EMT and firefighter. No one has training like the military, and the experiences have been very rewarding. I have also been able to travel all over the U.S. and meet new people and learn new ways of doing things. The Guard pays for my college which will benefit my military career and also further my civilian career as a firefighter/EMT.

## What would you tell those interested in joining the Guard?

DO IT! The military, like any job, has its ups and downs, but there are so many benefits to being a member of the Guard that the ups tremendously outweigh the downs. The training and education is top notch, the places we see are amazing, and the camaraderie is unmatched anywhere else.

## What would you tell younger Airmen about re-enlisting?

I have not re-enlisted yet, as my initial term is not up, but I can't wait to re-enlist. I know I want to make a career out of the military, and it is the experience and the knowledge that I have gained so far that has made me want to stay. The family that you have with your fellow Airmen/Soldiers is like no other family. They are always looking out for you and it would be silly to give any of that up.

## Describe one or two of your most memorable moments in uniform.

My most memorable moment in uniform was in West Liberty, Ky. after it was demolished by the tornado outbreak a couple years ago. The look on the people's faces when we came into town was a look of relief and that is why I joined in the first place. The locals were thrilled that we were there to help them and every person that we encountered was glad that we were there.

## What do your family and friends think of your service in the Guard?

My friends and family think the Guard is an amazing opportunity and a few of them have even shown interest in enlisting. There are a lot of former military members from many different branches in my family, and they are proud that there is one more Bothur generation is serving. 

# M<sup>AKING</sup> the gr<sup>AD</sup>e

## Rank up with Structured Self Development



**A word about SSD:** the courses are web-based training that enhances previously acquired skills, knowledge, behaviors and experience and is an important supplement to the Noncommissioned Officer Education System. The courses are not specific for the different specialties and career fields but address issues that are common across the service.

**To access and complete your distance learning material:**

Visit <https://www.us.army.mil>

In the menu bar, select "Self Service," then "My Training"

Click the ALMS (Army Learning Management System) logo in the box in the upper left corner of the page

Click on the course title to access the course



### INTERESTED IN MAKING SOME EXTRA MONEY OVER THE WEEKEND?

Whether you are newly enlisted to the Kentucky National Guard or have more than 20 years of service, staying in and getting promoted can put a little more money in your pocket for whatever you may want to spend it on. ➤

*Rates are effective as of FY 2013*

# THE WARRANT OFFICER CORPS



## PUT YOUR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO WORK!

### DEFINITION

Warrant Officers are highly specialized experts and trainers in their career fields. By gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, these leaders provide valuable guidance to commanders and organizations in their specialty. Warrant Officers remain single-specialty officers with career tracks that progress within their field, unlike their Commissioned Officer counterparts who focus on increased levels of command and staff duty positions.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Rank is usually SGT/E5 or higher
- Must be appointed prior to age 46
- Score 110 or above on the General Technical Area of the ASVAB exam
- High school graduate or pass GED
- Be able to obtain secret security clearance
- Pass all events on the Army Physical Fitness Test
- Be at least 18 at the time of enlistment and not passed 33rd birthday at the time of selection (Aviation specific).
- Complete MOS training
- Documented proficiency in specialty area

### APPLICATION

- Prepare your Predetermination Packet with Warrant Officer mentor
- Be able to fill an existing or projected unit MOS vacancy
- Hold a primary or secondary MOS or applicable area of concentration
- Be able to demonstrate ability to make good decisions under pressure
- Interview with Federal Recognition Board
- Complete WOCS school



# LEADER...TRAINER...MENTOR

CW3 Ryan Turner (502) 607-6200 (office), (502) 320-3635 (cell),  
ryan.c.turner8.mil@mail.mil

<http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant>

# LEAD FROM THE FRONT

## BECOME AN OFFICER IN THE KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD

### THE POSITION

Commissioned officers in all of the National Guard's career fields hold positions of tremendous authority. They are proven leaders, willing to accept challenges, make important decisions and take on great responsibility.

### THE REQUIREMENTS

- You must meet height/weight and PT standards
- You must have a certain number of college credits toward an accredited degree to begin training
- You must be a U.S. citizen
- You must be morally and medically qualified
- If you have no prior military service, you must complete the enlistment process and become a member of the Army National Guard on or before your 35th birthday, and must complete the commissioning process on or before your 42nd birthday.
- If you have prior military service, you must complete the commissioning process on or before your 42nd birthday
- You must have a 110 GT line score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

### THE CAREERS

THESE ARE SOME OF THE FIELDS YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN:

- Infantry
- Field Artillery
- Aviation
- Corps of Engineers
- Chemical Corps
- Military Police Corps
- Military Intelligence
- Supply/Logistics
- Medical Service Corps
- Ordnance Corps
- Quartermaster Corps



**For more information, contact:**  
**Capt. Aaron Isaacs**  
**[aaron.c.isaacs.mil@mail.mil](mailto:aaron.c.isaacs.mil@mail.mil)**

# YOUR KENTUCKY GUARD AT WORK



# STAY GUARD



Call ESGR about upcoming job fair  
502-607-1302



Be sure to register for TRICARE!  
1-800-372-7601



Talk to readiness NCO about re-enlistment options



Go to [us.army.mil](http://us.army.mil) to check status of SSD coursework



Follow KY Guard on Facebook and Twitter



Look into GI Bill education benefits for next semester