

Bluegrass Guard



Vol. 20, Issue 3 - September, 2017

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



AFRICAN LION

Air Guard showcases interoperability

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Honorable
Engineer
mission

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State Partnership celebrates 2 years

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AROUND TH



JFHQ - Brig. Gen. Retired Norman Arflack received the Distinguished Service Medal for his 38 years of service to the nation and the commonwealth during a ceremony in Frankfort, Ky., June 10.



63rd TAB - Col. Michael Stephens relinquishes command of the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade to Lt. Col. Dewayne Lewis during a change of command ceremony held in Frankfort, Ky., May 20.



75th TC - Lt. Col. David Reed is promoted to the rank of colonel by Brig. Gen. Scott Campbell, Aug. 11, two months after taking command of the 75th, June 3.



138th FAB - Staff Sgt. Jarred Turner with the 2123rd Transportation Company ensures that the cannons are in sync while other 138th Field Artillery Brigade Soldiers closed out Thunder Over Louisville with a barrage of cannon fire, April 23.

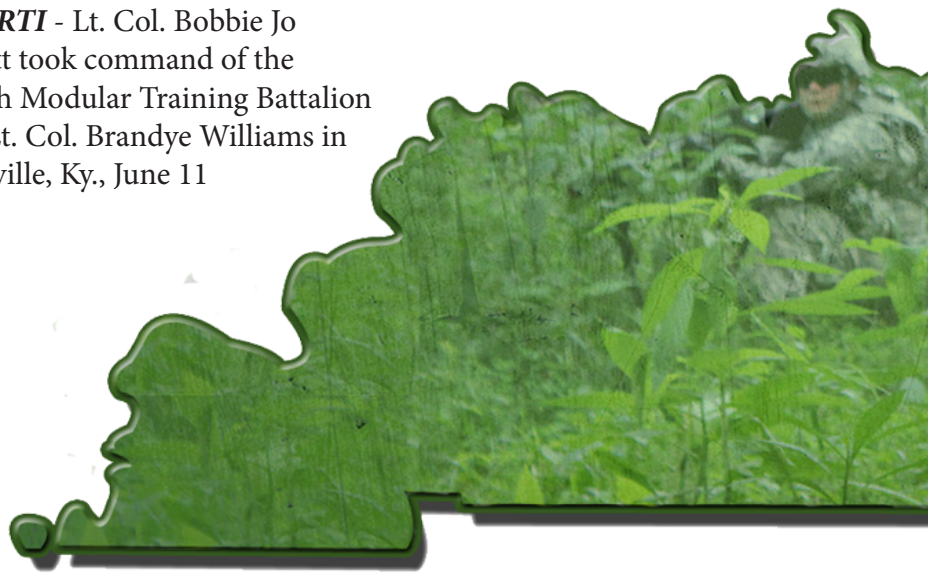


238th RTI - Lt. Col. Bobbie Jo Badgett took command of the 2/238th Modular Training Battalion from Lt. Col. Brandye Williams in Greenville, Ky., June 11



On the Cover:

Two Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 Hercules fly over the coast of North Africa April 25, 2017. Various units from the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and the Kentucky and Utah Air National Guards conducted multilateral and stability operations training with units from the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces in the Kingdom of Morocco. This combined multilateral exercise is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures while demonstrating the strong bond between the nation's militaries. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Phil Speck)



THE GUARD



123rd AW - The 123rd Services Flight received the Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Disney Award of Excellence at the Military Foodservice Awards banquet in Chicago, May 19.

149th MEB - 2113th Transportation Co. led the way for Operation Task Force Hauling Freedom. Soldiers with the 2113th logged hundreds of miles daily in various missions from KY to the Carolinas to Oklahoma for their annual training.



Bluegrass Guard

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123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

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COMMAND PHOTO

Governor Matt Bevin and Maj. Gen. Stephen Hogan, along with members of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron arrive at the Kentucky Speedway via SPIES (Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction System) from a UH-60 Blackhawk to deliver the green flag for the Quaker State 400 NASCAR race in Sparta, Ky., July 8, 2017.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond



Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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Air Retirees should request changes through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at jturpin1945@gmail.com.

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KY MET BOLSTERS ARMY MISSION IN MIDDLE EAST



By Capt. Desiree Dillehay
149th Military Engagement Team

The Soldiers of the 149th Military Engagement Team reached the midpoint of their overseas deployment in April 2017 after spending the last five months working with partner nation military members throughout the Arabian Peninsula, the Greater Levant, and Central and South Asia.

“The 149th MET’s impact from the command team’s point of view is substantial,” said MET Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Withers. “We have directly seen and heard the relationships that have been built with key and senior leaders of our partner nations. These relationships are the key to the success of our partner nations and our mutually beneficial objectives of regional stability and security.”

So far, members of the MET have conducted engagements and participated in exercises in Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, with plans to add Egypt, Uzbekistan and Pakistan to the list.

These engagements and exercises have put the team’s robust set of military and civilian skills to use by including a variety of topics, such as logistics, communications, Infantry tactics, staff operations, engineering, military police operations and professional development.

The ability to speak on a variety of engagement topics is a testament to not just the 149th MET’s success, but also to the effectiveness of National Guard units that fill the role of military engagement team in the U.S. Army Central area of responsibility.

“The diversity of the 149th MET team is critical to its success,” said Withers. “This diversity of military and civilian skills allows the MET to be flexible and adaptive during engagements and build stronger relationships with our partners. We don’t come to an engagement being one-dimensional and 100 percent adherent to an agenda. Our team can speak on a wide range of subjects.”

The 149th MET is the eighth military engagement team to serve under USARCENT, and the Soldiers have used their skills to build upon the success of the previous teams, as well as to find common ground with soldiers from partner nations.

“The 149th MET has displayed an excellent ability to remain flexible and adaptable to an ever changing engagement landscape. (They’ve) displayed mindfulness when facing any problem and come through in delivering a quality engagement to our partners,” Withers said.

“Now after being on multiple engagements I understand how important the MET is to the overall success of the U.S. Army Central mission,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Dornbusch, supply sergeant for the 149th MET. “With a small amount of Soldiers the MET has successfully maneuvered around a vast area of responsibility, has continuously developed relationships and remains to build partnerships with every engagement. This is through long hours of coordination and planning. Every MET Soldier has contributed to the overall success of this mission.”

These engagements aren’t just about exchanging information though, it’s also about connecting with the soldiers and experiencing the cultures of the nations they’ve visited. Every member of the MET agrees that the relationships are the most rewarding aspect of their mission.

“Relationship building ... is the most challenging and rewarding part of the deployment,” said Dornbusch. “Even with language barriers and cultural differences we have found common ground among the Soldiers of each nation. We share a lot of the same experiences. We train, we deploy, we spend time away from our families, and we have pride for our God and country.”

Soldiers that are tasked with liaison officer duties at several embassies have had opportunities to build relationships with members of a single partner nation day in and day out.

“The most rewarding part of interacting with Omani soldiers has been getting to know a culture of people that is genuinely friendly, willing to listen to other viewpoints, and accepting of the differences of other cultures,” said Maj. James Schmitz, 149th MET liaison officer to Oman.

Schmitz has had two previous deployments, one of which he served on an Agribusiness Development Team, and said that his National Guard experiences have set him up to successfully operate with and understand different cultures.

Lt. Col. Joe Warren, chief liaison officer for the 149th MET, seconded Schmitz’s statement, adding that it’s about “getting to know real people and make friends.”

The 149th MET will continue to make these great strides in building relationships and interoperability throughout the region as they finish out their tour, and set their replacements, the Georgia National Guard’s 648th MET, up for continued success.

RUNNING IS THE KEY

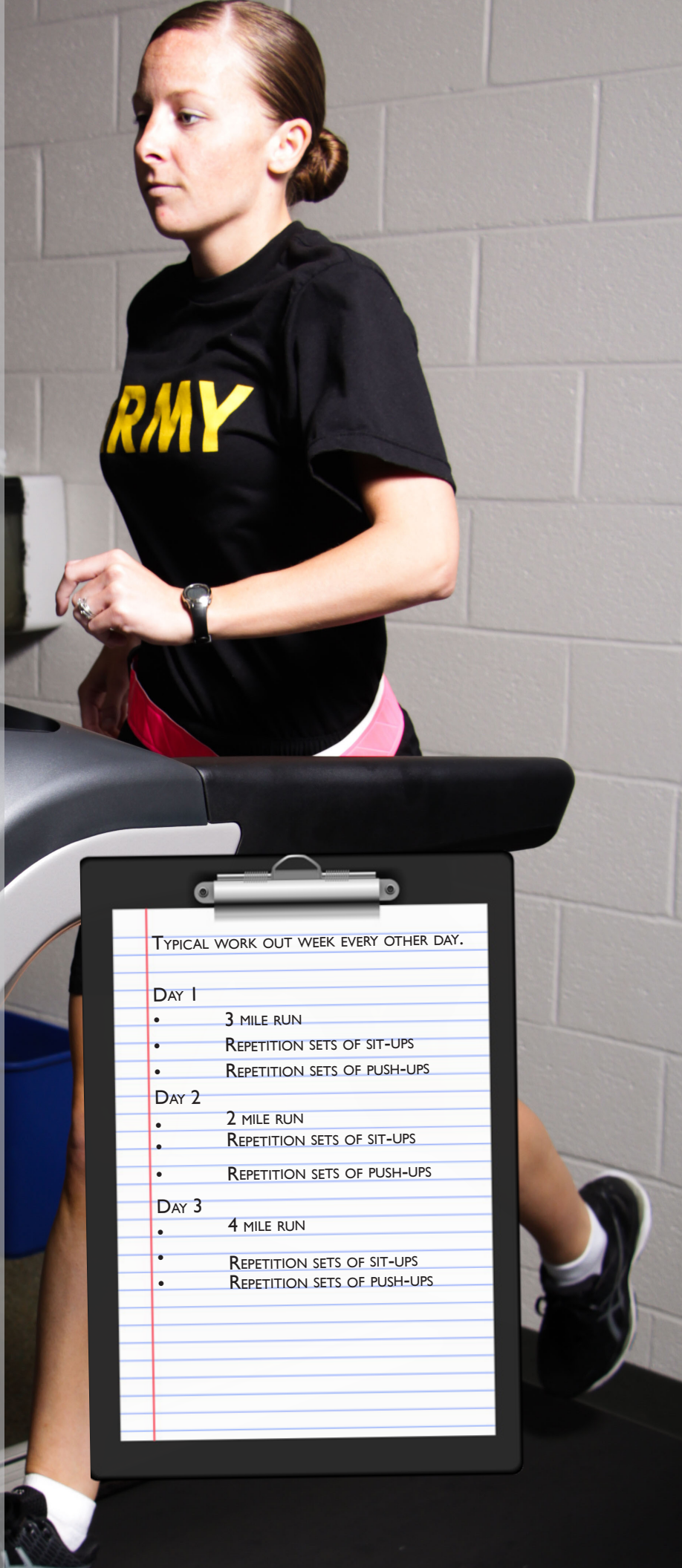
Sgt. Cynthia Ulshafer with the 138th Field Artillery Brigade feels that maintaining physical fitness can be obtained by building a good cardiovascular work out. Juggling her two children and being an ICU nurse in her civilian life she has limited time to work out. On the dates she is not completing a 12-hour shift, she finds time to work out.

“Running is key,” said Ulshafer, when asked what is the best way to maintain physical fitness. “I suggest running three miles in preparation for the APFT to build endurance for your two mile run. However, give yourself variations so your body won’t plateau.”

Healthy meals with high protein, or a high carb meal the night before the APFT will be a big factor for success.

“Some good food suggestions are Salmon or Tuna with vegetables and for carbs, pasta or pizza are really good as long as it’s not before a physical fitness test,” said Ulshafer.

However, Ulshafer believes that one can’t make a positive effort in their physical fitness journey until they make a mental commitment. “You have to be motivated, determined, and dedicated,” said Ulshafer, “physical fitness is hard and it takes a lot to build a routine.” Ulshafer usually maintains a 300 APFT and helps conduct remedial physical training for Soldiers who need improvement.



TYPICAL WORK OUT WEEK EVERY OTHER DAY.

DAY 1

- 3 MILE RUN
- REPETITION SETS OF SIT-UPS
- REPETITION SETS OF PUSH-UPS

DAY 2

- 2 MILE RUN
- REPETITION SETS OF SIT-UPS
- REPETITION SETS OF PUSH-UPS

DAY 3

- 4 MILE RUN
- REPETITION SETS OF SIT-UPS
- REPETITION SETS OF PUSH-UPS

LEADERS IN MECHANICS, DIVERSITY



By Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

“It’s really an exciting time for women in the military,” said Staff Sgt. Kathleen Braithwaite. “The perception has changed a lot in my time in uniform. It’s no longer just little boys that grow up to be Soldiers, little girls have that dream too.”

Her feelings are not unique. More than 1,000 women wear the uniform in the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard, with roughly 15% of the U.S. military and many will share the same such ideas of bygone stereotypes. Braithwaite works full-time as a wheeled vehicle mechanic at the Field Maintenance Shop (FMS) #5 in Frankfort. She is one of two females in the shop. She said she no longer considers the thought of ‘predominantly male environments’.

“The Guard has always treated me as an equal. It is about being a Soldier, your gender doesn’t really matter. If you work hard and you want to learn, you will succeed,” she said. “My first squad leader was also a female and she was fantastic. She is very passionate about her job and she has risen to become a chief warrant officer now and runs an FMS shop. I was the only female for a long time in my current position and the guys there treated me as an equal from the very beginning.”

Pfc. Meghan Aube serves as one of only two female helicopter mechanics in the Kentucky Guard. Just like Braithwaite, Aube enlisted into a primarily male-dominated occupation, something neither of them thought too much about before swearing in.

“Being one of a select few females in my job, I don’t feel any different,” said Aube. “If you go out there and do your job and complete it as well as any of the guys do, there is no difference.” They treat you the same as anybody else and it’s been that way the whole way through for me, through basic training, through AIT. If you do your job, there is no male or female, you’re a Soldier, and that’s just how it is.”

Both Soldiers enlisted to challenge themselves, but neither originally considered becoming mechanics. Braithwaite said she couldn’t even change her own oil in her car, now she’s training other Soldiers how to maintain millions of dollars’ worth of U.S. military equipment.

“No one in my family knew much about vehicles and I remember spending time on the side of the road when on ours broke down. Now my family calls me when they’re having problems with their cars,” she said. “I wanted a challenge when I enlisted, something I didn’t know much about. Learning about mechanics has presented me with great challenges and I thoroughly enjoy it.”

While they have only served a few years, Braithwaite and Aube have solid advice for other females considering the military. “My advice to women is to just get in there and do it. It was the best decision of my life,” said Braithwaite.

“There are so many opportunities for women today, a complete 180 from when I was little,” said Aube. “There’s more jobs open, all of them now, you can stay enlisted, become a warrant officer or commission as an officer, if you set your mind to it, you can do anything you want to do.”

Col. Michael Stephens commands the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade, which Aube’s unit falls under. He said there’s more than 70 females serving in his brigade. He has seen many step up in a variety of roles and represent women in uniform with the utmost distinction.

“I never sit and think of the Soldiers in my command as whether they are male or female,” he said. “I have hundreds of great Soldiers, aviators, mechanics, personnel specialists, logisticians, etc.; and oh, yeah, many of them are female. They do their job and duty, and do it well. We should stop making a distinction with regard to their gender, and focus more on what they have accomplished as great human beings, who just happen to be female.”

Women continue to break through the barriers of military service. It’s been nearly two years since the Pentagon announced that all combat jobs are opened to women. With the additions of the first female Rangers and even the first females in the artillery and armor branches, strides are being made to level the playing field and allow female Soldiers to become the newest trendsetters in the military.

■ **More** , Read full story at KentuckyGuard.com

FIRST FEMALE CW5 IN KENTUCKY GUARD

Story and Photo By Capt. Rob Cooley

63rd Theater Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Stephanie Motley, a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5, in Frankfort, Kentucky May 21, becoming the first female to attain the highest warrant officer rank.

“The promotion of Chief Stephanie Motley is not only a significant accomplishment for her personally, but as the first female W5 in the Kentucky Army National Guard it is a significant milestone for the entire Warrant Officer Cohort – particularly the 10 female warrant officers that are an integral part of our force,” said Command Chief Warrant Officer Dean Stoops.

“Her accomplishment is especially rewarding to me because I remember the day she returned from flight school and warrant officer basic course. Since then I have watched her mature from a basic Army Aviator to an accomplished, full-time, Senior Helicopter Instructor Pilot, Tactical Operations Officer, and combat veteran. It is very rewarding to have seen this progression over the years and to know that our Warrant Officer Cohort is being led by such shining examples,” Stoops added.

Motley enlisted in the Kentucky Army National Guard at the age of 17. During her first several years, she advanced through the aviation enlisted community, first as a Blackhawk helicopter mechanic, later as a UH-60 crewchief, until attending Warrant Officer Candidate School in 1995 and completing the UH-60 qualification course in 1996. For Motley, becoming a pilot was a dream come true.

“I have wanted to fly since I was seven,” she said. “In high school, my JROTC instructor was a retired helicopter pilot who served in Vietnam, I loved to hear his stories and am grateful for his mentorship.”

Eventually, that teacher arranged for an orientation flight

with the Kentucky Army National Guard; my path was set. With the support of my parents, I joined as soon as I was old enough.”

Her tenure as a pilot, which spans over two decades, has found her in many interesting places. Ecuador, El Salvador, Korea, and deployments to both Iraq and Kosovo, just to name a few. A consummate professional, Motley is most proud of the growth of our organization.

“The value and necessity of the National Guard has changed over the years,” states Motley, comparing the pre and post 9-11 National Guard conditions. “We have proven to be a highly skilled and powerful asset in the protection of our nation, and our soldiers are as capable, if not more, than that of our active component counterparts. I am proud of what we represent and the respect that we have earned.”

True to the nature of a caring and intuitive Instructor, Motley’s advice to other female Aviators is tailor made and perfectly timed for subordinates and future peers.

“Hopefully I have set an example for other females that gender does not define your limits, my achievement of rank is a reflection of hard work, dedication, and the earned trust of the leaders that I work



for.”

Other Kentucky aviators like CW2 Stefanie Hall, also a Blackhawk pilot, draw inspiration from Motley’s accomplishment. Like Motley, Hall climbed the ranks from mechanic, crew chief, to her current assignment as an aviator.

“Ms. Motley is definitely someone I look up to,” said Hall. “She’s an excellent mentor and her promotion directly impacts me as she has paved the way for myself and other female aviators in regards to closing the gender gap.”

“Although I know her gender has nothing to do with her amazing achievement, it does give me confidence in the organization to know that even though I am female, I have the support to achieve any goal I set my mind to,” Hall said. “Like Ms. Motley, my future is based on my drive, motivation and hard work. Maybe one day I will have the opportunity to follow in her footsteps with the Kentucky Guard.”



COL. YONG CHO, STATE CHAPLAIN FOR THE KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD IS PROMOTED BY HIS WIFE, LYDIA AND BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN ADAMS III DURING A CEREMONY IN FRANKFORT, KY., SEPT. 3, 2014. PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SCOTT RAYMOND



DIVERSITY for COMMON GOOD

Story by Stacy Floden

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

He was born in Busan, Republic of Korea and lived in Seoul from elementary school through college. His father first came to America on his own for seminary, and it was his father's decision to move his family to America for the educational opportunities. In 1979, Yong Cho immigrated to America with his parents and three sisters at the age of 20. Col. Cho, the first Asian American State Chaplain in the Kentucky National Guard, represents the people, history and heritage of Asians and Pacific Islanders who live in this country and abroad.

He has served 30 years in the Active Army, Reserve and National Guard. Cho has been in the Kentucky Guard since 1996 as a traditional Guardsmen and was named state chaplain in October of 2013. He is also a full time pastor at his church in Radcliff and currently serves as a faculty member teaching courses in the Old Testament and Archaeology at undergraduate and graduate level institutions.

"They say that America is the land of freedom and opportunity. On a personal level, America gave me the opportunity to serve my country and contribute to society – all while staying true to who I am," said Cho. "It's amazing to experience the Soldiers and leaders in the Kentucky National Guard who have accepted me and who encourage me to preserve my heritage."

Lt. Col. Bill Draper has worked full-time as a support chaplain since 2004. With his duties, he works closely with Cho. "Col. Cho has a shepherd's heart in caring for the religious health of the organization. As the senior Army chaplain for the Kentucky National Guard, he works diligently to ensure all Soldiers are treated with respect regardless of their religious or non-religious affiliation. It is a pleasure to work alongside Cho as he provides direction and leadership to our corps."

Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders serving in the U.S. military make up a small percentage of the U. S. population. "You probably don't see many Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders in the military, I didn't really think about the possibility of seeing an Asian American in a high-level position, much less myself taking on that role," said Cho. "For me, it would have been impossible to rise in rank from private to colonel without the support of other Soldiers, NCOs, commanders and fellow chaplains and chaplain assistants in the Kentucky National Guard."

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the transcontinental railroad completion on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks of that nation-unifying railway were Chinese immigrants.

"Even in times of hardship and prejudice, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders endured and continued to help strengthen our nation. I don't think all common folks understand the role Asian American and Pacific Islanders have played in the U.S. Military," stated Cho. "Today, it's not hard to find that many dedicated Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are serving in various military occupations, and they are vital to the success of our military and security of our nation."

As the state chaplain, Cho is responsible for supervising the religious programs for the Kentucky National Guard, evaluating the recruiting and training of the state's chaplains and chaplain's assistants, and other matters related to the Kentucky's Chaplain Corps. He advises the adjutant general on the morale of the Kentucky Guard as well.



Guardsmen earn coveted infantry badge

By Staff Sgt. Lerone Simmons
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kentucky Guardsmen assigned to the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, Kentucky National Guard, earned the Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) at Fort Pickett, Va., after completing the rigorous test Aug. 5-10.

Spc. Adam Dunn, Capt. James Murray, and Maj. Jason Mendez, all assigned to the 1/149th "Mountain Warriors" completed the EIB as the Kentucky contingent.

"This was one of the hardest things I've been a part of, and it definitely feels like I've earned it," said Dunn.

Soldiers from the Kentucky Guard, the Virginia National Guard's 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 82nd Airborne Division and the British Army's Princess of Wales Royal Regiment participated in the EIB. More than 250 candidates started on day one but only 33 were awarded the badge.

The Mountain Warriors began training for the EIB three months prior to arriving at Fort Pickett, and were able to get some additional training from the instruction and knowledge of the cadre and fellow candidates.

Planning was also an incredible feat as well. According to 1st Lt. Chris Galvan, the planning officer for the 1/149th, who earned his EIB in 2000, seeing everything come together was something to be proud of.

"This time seeing the overall event put together was very informational. This took six to eight months of planning and it turned out well," said Galvan. "A representative came out from Ft. Benning to ensure the standards were implemented and followed correctly."

The first day of testing required everyone to pass the Army physical fitness test with at least 80 percent in each event for their specific age group. This was followed by day and night

land navigation on the second day.

Each day the tasks became more mentally challenging which led to fatigue and stress taking their toll on a majority of the candidates.

The third day involved various medical tasks from providing first aid for an open head wound to controlling bleeding. The fourth day consisted of patrol testing, including moving under direct fire, employing hand grenades and using visual signaling techniques. Weapons testing occurred on the fifth day. Soldiers were expected to be proficient on a variety of standard military weapons systems.

On the final day, Soldiers completed a 12-mile foot march in less than three hours, and assessed and transported a casualty to earn the EIB.

For Dunn, testing on weapon's day was his largest obstacle, but his preparation allowed him to excel.

"Testing on the AT-4 was intimidating, the sequence and the time constraints were challenging, but with the amount of time we invested earlier in training, I was able to complete it," he said.

Being one of three definitely separated Dunn from his peers, but when asked how his success compared to his peers he said, "Any of these guys could have been up there with me, they are all squared away. I'm sure if it weren't for them, I wouldn't be here, because if one was strong at something, he helped everyone else get a better understanding of it. It was a team effort."

"Kentuckians will be back for the next EIB, and they'll be hungry," said Dunn.

123RD AIRLIFT WING PILOT RECEIVES HIGHEST AWARD FOR AVIATION SAFETY



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Marvin R. Preston

Story by Capt. James Killen
123rd Airlift Public Affairs Office

The United States Air Force presented its highest award for aviation safety to Maj. John T. Hourigan, a C-130 pilot in the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Operations Support Squadron, during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., May 18.

Hourigan earned the 2016 Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy for preventing a catastrophic, in-flight mishap that would have resulted in the loss of aircraft and crew if not for his decisive action on July 15, 2016. According to the citation, Hourigan's aircraft began vibrating so violently that crewmembers could not read the instruments or engine gauges. In addition, the sound from the vibration prevented crewmembers from talking to one another through the in-flight communications system.

To make matters worse, Hourigan and his flight crew were executing a maneuver that had them positioned in a 60-degree bank and only 500 feet above the ground.

"It was the first time I have ever been truly scared in the aircraft," Hourigan said. "I would describe it as a moment of shock." Col. David Mounkes, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing, praised Hourigan for his decisive action during the event.

"There is not a single pilot in the world who does not dread the type of malfunction J.T. and his crew faced," Mounkes said. "The quick thinking, skill and situational awareness of J.T. and his crew saved lives, and we could not be more proud of them."

In a matter of moments, Hourigan and his crew were able to diagnose the malfunction, take the number-two engine offline, and request to execute an emergency "engine out" landing at Owensboro-Davies Airport, in Owensboro, Kentucky.

"When we got the number-two shut down and pulled out of the problem, I asked the crew if they were okay, and my flight engineer said, 'Just climb,'" Hourigan said. "I looked down and we were only 250 feet off the ground."

The Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy is awarded for outstanding airmanship by an aircrew member who exhibits extraordinary skill, alertness, ingenuity or proficiency in averting or minimizing the seriousness of a flight mishap.

The citation said Hourigan "relied on extraordinary airmanship and resource-management skills, ingenuity and a deep knowledge of the airframe to quickly determine the source of the crippling vibration, implement corrective action and execute an engine-out landing that saved the lives of all six crewmembers and helped identify a previously unknown propeller issue that affects the airworthiness of C-130H aircraft worldwide."

The incident sparked a world-wide safety investigation and resulted in changes that will reduce the possibility of the same failure impacting another C-130H.

"For the 60th time, we are privileged to attend this ceremony and recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding pilot," said Koren Kolligian II, the nephew of the Airman for whom the honor is named, during the award presentation in Washington.

"Every year we meet remarkable pilots, spend time with them and their families, sharing stories and creating memories."

The award was established in 1958 in the name of 1st Lt. Koren Kolligian Jr., an Air Force pilot declared missing in the line of duty when his T-33 Shooting Star disappeared off the California coast in 1955. It has been awarded to only 59 other airmen.

AFRICAN LION

Air Guard part of massive multi-national exercise

By Master Sgt. Phil Speck,
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office

More than 75 Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard deployed to Spain and Morocco this spring for African Lion, a multinational exercise that tested the interoperability of military troops from 11 countries.

Members of the 123rd Airlift Wing and three of the unit's C-130 aircraft joined forces with Airmen from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command, Air Forces Africa joint tactical air controllers, the Utah Air National Guard, the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces and troops from nine other nations.

"Multinational exercises give us an opportunity to train together, allow us to support joint and total forces and strengthen our skills for future operations," said Lt. Col. Jason Johnson, U.S. Air Force lead commander for the exercise, which ran from April 19 to 28.

The U.S. Air Force's participation in the U.S. Marine Corps-led exercise provided several joint training opportunities for U.S. military branches and Moroccan forces, according to Capt. Tristan Stonger, 123rd Airlift Wing exercise project officer. It also provided an opportunity to reinforce lessons learned from past African Lion exercises and helped build upon a foundation for future military cooperation and engagements.

"Working in a new environment with other U.S. military branches and the Moroccans gives us the opportunity to hone and refine our skills and enhances our professional relationships, allowing us to support the interoperability of forces," Stonger said.

In addition to building relationships between the branches of the military and the Kingdom of Morocco, the wing was able to perform several different training scenarios to prepare for future deployments, including low-level air drops and low-level navigation through the mountains of North Africa.

"This type of training helps keep our aircrews current and fully prepared and trained for any type of airlift operation that our nation calls for," said Maj. Penn Brown, a pilot for Kentucky's 165th Airlift Squadron.

This annually scheduled, combined multilateral exercise aims to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures while demonstrating the strong bond between the nations' militaries. In addition to forces from the United States and Morocco, other participating nations were Germany, Senegal, Mauritania, Canada, France, Spain, Great Britain, Mali and Tunisia.



By Capt. James Killen
123rd Airlift Public Affairs Office



Moore retires, Dawson becomes 7th Command Chief

After more than 35 years of service to the Kentucky Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Moore was retired in a ceremony in Louisville, Ky., May 20.

Moore, the outgoing command chief master sergeant for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, received the Legion of Merit during the ceremony.

The nation's seventh highest military honor reflects the dedication and service devoted by Moore during his more than three decades in uniform, said Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Hogan, Kentucky's adjutant general.

"With 35 years of membership on a winning team of this variety, serving in Just Cause, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, I think he has a little sign on his campaign ribbon that says, 'continued on next uniform,'" Hogan told the audience.

Moore enlisted in the Air Force in 1982 and soon began working on the then-classified F-117 Nighthawk program as a munitions expert. He continued his active-duty career for 18 years before joining the Kentucky Air National Guard in 2000.

Recognizing Moore for his direct nature, Hogan said, "Thank you, chief. Thank you for your input and unwashed opinion that was always correct. If you don't want to hear what the man thinks, do not ask him — because he's going to tell you, and he knew he had the freedom to tell me I was wrong.

"I think one of the things that I've appreciated most about the man is how he handled his charges and how he handled the individuals around him," Hogan continued.

"When we say goodbye to someone who has meant so much

to the organization, it's bittersweet, and to say we will miss you is an understatement. But the point of fact is that we won't miss you, because this organization is reflective of the job you have done and the man that you are, and everything we do right from this point forward we will be looking at the reflection of your memory."

Moore took the podium after being presented with numerous awards and gifts from the units and people he has influenced during his long career. He gave a tribute to his wife and thanked his family for their sacrifices during his career, then addressed the Kentucky Air National Guard and the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"I know you all have heard how great this wing is, but March 20, 2000, was my best assignment — I was assigned to the 123rd," Moore said. "You've heard where I've been: 18 years' active duty, I've worked with them all, and you all are the best there is."

Moore went on to praise the efforts of the 123rd's Airmen and their activities around the globe before introducing his successor to the audience.

"As the state command chief I've been here three years," Moore said. "You've got a great new chief in Ray Dawson. He's going to take this place to a whole new level."

Moore capped off his retirement ceremony with a video presentation that reflected his career, and Hogan concluded with one last thank you.

"Thank you, sir. Not only on behalf of myself, but this organization and a grateful nation, thank you so very much."

2112th Transportation Company Sizzles the Competition

Story by Stacy Floden

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

After cooking up the competition at the state and regional levels, the 2112th Transportation Company from Burlington participated in the National Culinary competition in March and placed 2nd in the nation.

The 49th Annual Department of Army Phillip A. Connelly Program (PACP) included finalist representing Military Garrison, Active Army Field, Army National Guard Field and Army Reserve Field. The 17 finalists represented the “Best of the Best” in Army Garrison and field feeding excellence.

The competition is a three year process with the state contest in 2015, the regionals in 2016 and the national competition wrapping up earlier this year in March. For winning Region 3, the 2112th received \$10,000 for food service equipment. For placing second in the national competition, Kentucky received \$15,000. The winnings provide an additional 68% in funding for food service equipment.

“It means everything to this section, especially since we went from such a large group of 15 down to five and we still made a large impact,” stated Sgt. 1st Class Chad Applegate, culinary management NCO. “I attribute the winning to the closeness of this section. They know what to do. For a section to get rewarded the way they have and now to see the accolades through winning regionals, this is great. They get to prove and show their skills.”

The PACP is a competition that provides recognition, promotes professionalism and excellence throughout the Army food service corps. The cooks are critiqued on their appearance as well as proper food preparation procedures. The dining facility is evaluated on sanitation and overall appearance. The evaluators also graded the unit on the maintenance of the equipment and records, licensing as well as knowledge of tactical operations.

“We cook and prepare meals on a daily basis but not at this caliber. The scrutiny during the competition is more in depth than just feeding the troops,” stated Applegate. “Your attitude and willingness to work as a group is so important. You have to work extremely close in small spaces to produce quality food.”

The 2112th stood up in February of last year. The unit was formally the 1204th Aviation Support. The cooks won the state Phillip A. Connelly award as part of the 1204th ASB. They originally had 15 personnel, but due to the reorganization, there are only five now. Some of the original 1204th cooks have reclassified and have been serving as kitchen police and participating on the field sanitation team for the regional and national competi-



tions. The team was allowed to continue on to the regional competition because all of the cooks competed while with the 1204th.

“It was a surprise that we were able to place first when we had only been a unit for about four months when we competed in the regionals,” said 1st Sgt. Stephen Leasang. “We will have around 15-20 soldiers that will be directly involved in the competition, but it has taken the effort of our whole Company and Battalion to plan and execute.”

The Philip A. Connelly Program was established March 23, 1968 to recognize excellence in Army Food Service. The program is named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former president the International Food Service Executives Association. (IFSEA).

Partnership celebrates 2 years, future

By Maj. Stephen Martin

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs



Kentucky National Guard senior leadership travelled overseas in June to help celebrate Djibouti's 40th independence day anniversary and to recognize two years of partnership between the organizations. Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Adams III, Kentucky National Guard's Land Component commander, and State Command Sgt. Major David Munden visited Djibouti June 23-28 to participate in several military to military engagements and help honor the country during the annual independence day parade. "I was honored to join senior leaders from across the world in helping celebrate Djibouti's independence on this great day," said Adams. "

This celebration is incredibly significant and we're fortunate to have the opportunity for our military to partner with Djibouti's government." The Kentucky National Guard partnered with the Djiboutian Armed Forces (FAD) in June of 2015 and the mutually-beneficial relationship has provided opportunities for both nations to share best practices in the areas of counter narcotics operations, border and port security, health, academia, cooperative training and exercises. Adams and Munden met with both Col. Mohamed Ali Obsieh, the Director General de l'Academie Militaire InterArmees for the Djiboutian Military and Col. Zakaria of the Gendarmerie Police Force as part of the military engagements between the two forces.



In discussing the partnership with Adams, Col. Obsieh remarked, "We do things different, yet together. Our culture, our weather and our people are different, but yet we will move forward together and grow stronger in this partnership." Kentucky leadership discussed ways to assist in the development of the Djiboutian training academy as well as ways to partner with the Gendarmerie police force in urban combat environments among other opportunities throughout the country. The Gendarmerie also provided a demonstration of their unique riot capabilities as they closed out the annual observance of Ramadan. The members of the Kentucky delegation then helped break the fast with the leadership of the Gendarmerie.



The State partnership program provide opportunities to access a broad range of resources and expertise for both countries participating. It also exposes Kentucky Guardsmen to different skills and mindsets that challenge traditional methods and spur innovation. "This long term relationship is a great opportunity to work together and identify challenges that we both need to find solutions to," said Adams. "We can share talent and personnel to pass on our knowledge and grow collectively."

Djibouti is a key regional partner with the U.S., and is engaged in humanitarian and counter-terrorism operations throughout East Africa. The FAD has a growing relationship with both the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program.

COMBINED FORCES at CYBER SHIELD '17



By Maj. Carla A. Raisler

Joint Forces Headquarters Defensive Cyber Operations Element

Members of the Kentucky and Alabama National and Air National Guard combined forces for the Cyber Shield '17 National Level exercise at Utah National Guard Readiness Center at Camp Williams, for two weeks of cyber security training, April 23 through May 5. The combined team included members from both states' Defense Cyber Operations Element and Cyber Protection teams.

Each of the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia have a DCO-E and many states are now standing up CPTs. These teams consist of Soldiers and Airmen with skills in both traditional signal and emerging cyber security. The combination of these skill-sets brings together diverse teams that are able to quickly respond to an array of offensive and defensive measure to protect both government and civilian computer networks.

Chief Warrant Officer 3, Harold Brandenburg, Senior Information System Technician with the Kentucky National Guard Defensive Cyber Operations Element, has been working to maintain and defend computer networks for 30 Years.

"I started working as a mainframe computer operator with the Airforce in 1985," said Brandenburg. "After that, I went on to college, joined the Kentucky National Guard, and am currently a network administrator for Archer Daniels Midland Company." The exercise gives Brandenburg the opportunity to combine his civilian and military experiences.

"The best thing about the exercise is the training and how it directly applies to what we would see in real world incidents," said Brandenburg. "Cyber security is a growing concern and the more I know the better I can protect my civilian employer's network." Every member of the DCO-E and CPT are traditional Guard Soldiers with civilian jobs. Capt. Jason Baum, Flight Commander Operations Flight, 232nd Combat Communications Squadron, who works as Security Information Analysts at Auburn University was the Battle Captain for the exercise.

"As the Battle Captain, I make sure everyone has direction, assignments, and stays on task," said Baum. "It can become very chaotic and stressful when the team is responding to active network attacks. So it's my job to set the tone and help direct the team towards mission success."

For the majority of participants, the exercise directly relates to their civilian career. For Baum, the exercise provides him the experience of conducting blue team response actives in a training environment which apply directly to his job at Auburn "This exercise trains our team in current day threat analysis, which is exactly what I need to know for my civilian job," said Baum.

For many members of the combined KY/AL team, this was their first year attending the event. Staff Sgt. Andrew Spafford, Information Technology Specialist, Joint Force Headquarters DCO-E Alabama National Guard, spent a week training on tools of the trade.

"I was able to take Python, Cisco, Spyder Sense, PowerShell and other classes" said Spafford, "The best part of the training was that we were learning things that are current unlike tactical signal from the 80's. This training was relevant to anyone that has a job working on computers and is applicable to the civilian market."

In addition to uniformed members of the Army and Air National Guard, civilian mission partners were invited to participate in the event to help build relationships with civilian counterparts in the technology industry. Mission partners from across the civilian sector worked directly with the teams to help build cohesive military partnerships that bridged the gap and produced a shared understanding of how the National Guard can assist in incident response.

Most people understand how the National Guard responds to natural disasters. Cyber incidents to state's critical computer network infrastructure can bet disasters too, and the National Guard is uniquely prepared to respond due, in part, to exercises like Cyber Shield.



Engineers meet METL for honorable cause

By Capt. Josh Daugherty

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The noise of engines humming and the beeping sounds from equipment backing up filled the ears. In the distance, dust could be seen as it was stirred up by something big enough to make the ground shake under foot, and the smell of diesel fuel and exhaust floated through the trees.

All signs paying testament to the work being performed as Kentucky Guardsmen with the 206th Engineer Battalion work to improve roads and parking areas at the Active Heroes Retreat in Shepherdsville, Ky.

Active Heroes, a charity for military families, is a participant in the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. The IRT is a program designed to build mutually beneficial partnerships between the military and U.S. communities. These partnerships are crucial to strengthening our force and meeting the myriad of challenges we face in the future.

"This is a real-world mission we would be sent overseas to do," said Cpt. Jayson McDonald, commander of the 130th Engineer Company. "We are definitely hitting our METL (Mission Essential Tasks List)." A unit's METL is a list of tasks the unit is expected to perform while deployed.

Over the course of the unit's annual training, they have cleared debris, created roads, poured concrete pads, built bridges, and set culverts.

Pfc. Garrett Doom, a horizontal construction engineer with the 130th talked about his experience operating a 120M motorized grader.

"Whenever I was in AIT, we had a grade-off and I won the competition over more than 40 other Soldiers. After this annual training, I think I'm going to find a new job that allows me to operate the equipment we have used here, especially the grader, it's my favorite piece of equipment and I've had the

most experience with it. This annual training has been a very good learning experience given the challenging terrain of the Active Heroes retreat."

"Pfc. Doom has really impressed his leadership with his skills on the grader," said company 1st Sgt. Jeff Cooper. "This is a real-world mission building something that's going to last. It is for all military veterans. To know that we can bring our families back here one day and say, 'I helped build this,' is something to be proud of. Morale has been high"

The unit will have spent a total of about 4 weeks working at the site after several different rotations of Soldiers have cycled through. Beyond the 130th Engineers, the 118th Haul Platoon and the 2061st Bridge Company, both of the Kentucky Army National Guard have supported the mission during the year.

Also supporting the mission later this summer will be the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, a U.S. Marine Reserve unit out of Battle Creek, Michigan followed by various components of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

"Getting approved for the IRT program took over 3 years but has proven to be worth all the effort," said Troy Yocum, founder and President of Active Heroes Inc. "I don't even recognize the retreat from day to day because they are doing so much work."

Active Heroes' main mission is to reduce Veteran suicides and everyone that has been involved in this process has helped to do just that."

When it's all said and done, hundreds of Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines will have supported the IRT mission, with an approval chain that extends all the way from Kentucky to the Pentagon. Engineers of the Kentucky National Guard are proud to be leading the way in another ground-breaking endeavor.

SHOT ACROSS THE BLUEGRASS

By Capt. Elizabeth Chamberlain

2/138th Field Artillery

From a field training area of Fort Knox, Maj. Gen. Stephen Hogan picked up the hand mic of a military radio and spoke into it. A few moments later, he heard through the radio's loudspeaker Sgt. James Hall's reply from the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center (WHFRTC) in Greenville, Kentucky. This exchange was proof that the radio retransmission (RETRANS) "shot heard across the Bluegrass" was finally a success.

The RETRANS event, planned and led by Capt. Stephen Young and Sgt. Jackson Gudgel with the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, was a joint engagement including the 138th Signal Company, Hall from the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade and members of a small Kentucky town. The goal was to establish a radio network using SINCGARS (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System) FM radios to link Fort Knox and WHFRTC, roughly 90 miles away. It was the first time Kentucky signal Soldiers achieved such a network. This also marked the longest recorded radio shot using the standard unit-issued radio configuration within Kentucky.

"As signal Soldiers, units rely on us to keep up lines of communication," said Young. "This test was an example of making the most out of what you're given with standard equipment. The components we used are basic, issued to all units. We proved that they work, and that we can even extend their capability beyond what we have in the past."

For many years, the Kentucky National Guard communications and signal community have collectively partnered in efforts to establish an FM radio shot across the divide between Fort Knox and WHFRTC, but until now, that shot had not been achieved. According to Young, these radio systems, while highly useful due to durability and mobility, have limited range, which requires intermediate extension nodes for such a long distance shot.

"Soldiers must have confidence in their equipment before they can have confidence in their skill sets," he said.

Young gathered a team of signal Soldiers from the 138th to attempt the connection during the battalion's annual training June 3-18. The team needed to erect radio antennae in three locations off-post between Fort Knox and WHFRTC in order to accomplish this feat. With point-A in Fort Knox and

point-B at WHFRTC, one of the three RETRANS sites was established in the front yard of a family in Rineyville, Kentucky, with the family's permission.

The day after the successful test, the 2/138 commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Bates, visited the family and presented a battalion coin to homeowner Robert Allen Jones, Sr., as a token of gratitude.

"The Jones family's willingness to let some strangers from the National Guard set up an antenna RETRANS site in their front yard is one of my favorite parts of this accomplishment," said Bates. "It shows the trust between the Kentucky National Guard and local citizens of the commonwealth."

Amazingly, this RETRANS event was not the main training event for the joint team. They also provided signal support in the form of four other redundant communication networks at Fort Knox, which the artillery units of the 2/138 used as they fired their Paladin Howitzers during live-fire exercises.

"The Army is asking us to do more with less", said Young. "Through team members' hard work, leaders' effective planning, joint integration, cooperation, and even friendly support from Kentucky's community members, that is precisely what the team has achieved."

The principles used throughout this exercise are a powerful case study for the National Guard, Reserves, and Active Duty alike. Even the Active component is

searching for more efficient ways to multitask and effectively conduct concurrent training.

Young gave credit to the members of his team of Citizen-Soldiers for their long hours, skills, enthusiasm, and sacrifice.

"These soldiers are required to work harder than ever before, and they do so without complaint," he said. "This was their accomplishment and they are valued as resources for future signal needs."

This capability can provide Kentucky with another means of communication between key locations in case of emergency. At the same time, the 2/138th Soldiers have showcased their proficiency at extending the communication reach of their unit in training or in combat which lends maneuverability and added strength to forces in the field.





By Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers with the 1123rd Sapper Company joined forces with the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry to test how well they could work together during a combined arms exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., July 15-18.

Side by side the 1123rd and 1/149th conducted an air assault mission to breach an obstacle and assault a target. Aviation assets from the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade complimented the training event.

“These joint operations with State assets makes our battalion a better fighting force and will allow us to retain Soldiers during these challenges facing the National Guard,” said Lt. Col. Eddie Simpson, commander of the 1/149th. “Providing real and effective training is part of our culture in the 1/149th and these live-fire exercises just enhance our combat effectiveness.”

With a possible attachment to a brigade combat team in the future, Simpson said the infantry battalion will face new and challenging assignments, but conducting air assault missions are part of the unit’s current mission-essential tasks to

train for.

From their training area, the teams boarded UH-60 Blackhawks and flew to a landing zone where they met up to follow an infantry scout platoon more than three miles through fields and forest to the objective.

The engineers then led the way to breach the obstacle with explosives allowing the infantry squads to assault the primary target with a bounding overwatch assault.

Maj. Jason Penn, executive officer for the 1/149th said the infantry’s focus was to validate squad movements and how leadership successfully coordinated from the top down.

“The leadership training we conducted not only focused on the leaders on the ground moving troops in squads and platoons, but our battalion staff and company commanders as well. The staff utilized the Military Decision Making Process to generate our tactical situation during AT, company commanders, utilized Troop Leading Procedures and issued



Joint exercise boosts effectiveness for Infantry, Engineer units



OPORDs (Operation Order) to their platoon leaders, who then passed orders down to the squad leaders.”

Staff Sgt. Cody Ashcraft served as one of those squad leaders and said his view from the ground provided a glimpse of a “quality training day.”

“These are the days we look forward to as infantrymen,” he said. “This is our job and when we have the opportunity to put our collective efforts together, work as a team and conduct such an exercise, it’s hard to miss the spike in morale. Testing our skills, relying on each other and throw in a bunch of live rounds, that makes a pretty good day for us.”

Penn added that the combined arms exercise was “icing on the cake” for the annual training (AT) as the two units worked for months to ensure a smooth and successful live-fire exercise.

“To qualify as a CALFX (Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise), we incorporated the 1123rd Sappers and the 63rd TAB, and both provided excellent support to our tactical mission,”

he said. “The 1123rd started training with us in December and continued throughout the year leading into AT 2017. The 1/149 and 1123rd greatly benefited from the presence of one another, learning capabilities and

restrictions of each. In the past we have primarily trained in a vacuum, moving forward with combined arms represents a more realistic environment for us to operate.”

Sappers with the 1123rd also agreed the realism was an invaluable aspect of the training. Capt. Randall Kizzier, commander of the 1123rd said his unit, like the infantry, was also focused on assuring mobility in a combat environment.

“The best training we can get is training that is as real as possible,” said Kizzier. “The great thing about this training was it allowed us as engineers to see first hand the transitions between the steps of the combined arms breach without the infantry part being notional. It was great to be in the field with them and work successfully as a team.”

ARMORY NAMED IN HONOR OF RETIRED ADJUTANT GENERAL



By Pfc. Nasir Stoner
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kentucky National Guard renamed the Owensboro National Guard Readiness Center in honor of Maj. Gen. (Ret) Dean Allen Youngman during a ceremony, Aug. 23 in Owensboro.

Youngman, an Owensboro native and third generation Guardsman, was appointed as the 49th Adjutant General of Kentucky by Governor Paul Patton, leading the Kentucky Guard from 2001-2003.

“National Guard armories play a unique role in the defense of our nation,” said Youngman. “We put down roots and make a commitment to the community and build relationships. The armory is the most visible symbol of the military in the eyes of our community and I’m honored to have this armory named after my family.”

As the adjutant general, Youngman was responsible for the training, readiness, and mobilization of Kentucky’s Army and Air National Guard units during the period following the attacks of 9/11 as well as establishing the Kentucky Office for Homeland Security Coordination.

“When an individual comes into command, he sets an agenda with an end state,” said Maj. Gen. Stephen Hogan, Kentucky’s adjutant general. “General Youngman took command and 30 days later the towers came down.”

“This was the most volatile time in our organization’s history and Maj. Gen. Youngman was at the helm. He was charged with turning us from a strategic reserve to an operational ready reserve and he was just the man to do it. This man was going to teach us how to fight.”

Commissioned through Officer Candidate School in 1970, Youngman served on Active Duty with the 8th Special Forces Group, the

Military Assistance Command, Vietnam and the 101st Airborne Division prior to joining the U.S. Army Reserves in 1974, then the Kentucky Army National Guard in 1983.

A University of Kentucky alumnus, Youngman practiced law in Owensboro and serves as the Executive Director of the Defense Small Arms Advisory Council, a 501 (c) (6) trade association comprised of U.S.-based manufacturers of small arms for the military and law enforcement markets. He is also the State Chairman for Kentucky’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The National Guard has been in Owensboro since 1946 with the first armory completed in 1948. A quality relationship has been in place ever since. The first unit to occupy the armory was the 149th Regimental Combat Team. In 1983, Youngman would command Troop A, 240th Cavalry at the location.

The community support was evident by the number in attendance, including Congressman Brett Guthrie of Kentucky’s 2nd District and Tom Watson, Mayor of Owensboro.

“An old sergeant major once told me, never ask your Soldiers to do anything you wouldn’t do,” said Guthrie. “General Youngman personifies this saying and it’s appropriate to have this facility named after him.”

The Owensboro Readiness Center was constructed in 2012 and is home to the 206th Engineer Battalion. The facility offers a staging area to receive and/or deploy Soldiers and Airmen, and expands the maintenance capability and support of military equipment assigned to units in Western Kentucky. The center also serves as the Regional Emergency Operations Center, and offers Homeland Security support in multiple arenas.

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