

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD



Congressman Larry J. Hopkins (right) congratulates Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Butler (center), and wife Lillie, of Middlesboro, on being named Kentucky's National Guardsman of the year during the 55th Annual Conference of the Kentucky National Guard Officers Association held in Lexington. Butler is a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mechanized), in Middlesboro. (photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

OFFICERS FAIL CHALLENGES IN EDUCATION

Thirty percent of the officers in the Kentucky Army National Guard do not now meet civilian education requirements, according to a report given recently to Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman.

Capt. John Roth, Civilian Education Program Manager, said that although some officers face some real challenges to meet their requirements by Oct. 1, 1989, several avenues of assistance are available.

According to the report, 321, or 52.8 percent of the Army Guard's 608 officers, have at least a bachelor's degree. All officers commissioned after Sept. 30, 1983 must have a bachelor's degree before promotion to major and must have at least 60 hours of college credit by Oct. 1, 1989.

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PLAN BENEFITS GUARD FAMILY

By SGT Robert Pillow

How can you take care of your loved ones if you die after you retire from the Guard?

The Survivors Benefit Plan allows every Reservist and Guardsman to allot a portion of his retirement check to his spouse, dependent children or beneficiaries.

The plan, approved by Congress, permits retired members of the guard and Reserve and the active armed forces to give their surviving spouses or dependent children up to 55 percent of their gross retirement pay.

SBP replaced the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, which had two major faults: high monthly premiums and no built-in cost of living increases.

SBP has low-cost premiums and cost-of-living increases go into effect when retired pay raises are approved.

SBP also has other features, including one to allow the individual to make the

allotments, called monthly annuities, to children only.

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Clean-up operations in Lexington brought out members of Company D, 201st Engineer Battalion from Carlisle. Sgt. Jon R. Tedder (left) and SP4 Edwin Purvis remove debris from the backyard of a home damaged by the severe weather. (photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

BENEFICIARIES HELPED

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The plan works like this:

When a Guard member gets his 20 years service in, he will automatically be covered if he is married, unless he declines, in writing, to join.

If he is married or has dependent children, he will automatically be covered at the maximum level unless he decides against the coverage or chooses one of the plan's options.

One of the options has a feature which permits the survivor's annuity, if he dies before age 60, to be payable on what would have been his 60th birthday. Another option makes it payable the day after he dies regardless of whether or not he was 60.

If the Guard member decides not to join, his military department is required by law to notify his spouse.

Although he may have 55 percent of his gross pay given to his survivors, it's not mandatory.

If his gross retired pay is more than \$300, he can choose a smaller base. Regardless of the base size, the annuity will always be 55 percent of the base figure.

The premium is figured at 2.5 percent of the first \$300 of the annuity for the spouse and 10 percent on the remainder.

The annuity may be assigned to an insured beneficiary if the guardsman has no spouse or surviving children. But the premium is much higher — 10 percent of gross retired pay, plus an additional five percent for each full five years in age the SBP beneficiary is younger than the retiree.

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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What makes the Kentucky Air Guard good? Practice, practice, and more practice. Col. Stew Byrne and Maj. Don Goley of the 123rd Tactical Recon. Wing prepare for take off on a training mission from the Louisville Base. (photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly.)

AR 670-1 BRINGS UNIFORM CHANGES

Several changes in uniform and appearance policy for Army National guardsmen have been approved under AR 670-1.

Many of the changes affect the wearing of the utility or fatigue uniform. The new regulation requires "U.S. Army" tapes and nametapes to extend from end to end above the pockets, while 4½-inch tapes will also be authorized for wear. The olive green "baseball" cap is no longer authorized for wear with the utility uniform. The BDU cap must now be worn with all fatigue uniforms. The olive green undershirt and field jacket now have a wearout date of Sept. 30, 1986.

Utility and organizational uniforms will not be worn off post except when traveling between home and duty station, except when approved by installation commanders and state adjutant generals.

Commissioned and warrant officers, including chaplains, must now wear non-subdued insignia on the BDU and organizational berets in a garrison environment. Enlisted personnel will continue wear subdued insignia in garrison and in the field.

The regulation also authorizes gloss and nongloss nameplates to be worn

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SEE UNIFORM



The hand is quicker than the eye as Sgt. Jackie D. Inman of Det. 1, 1155th Trans. Co. busses tables at the annual Bean Soup Feast held in Frankfort. Inman was one of over 75 volunteers that participated in the one-day event sponsored by the Kentucky National Guard to support youth activities for underprivileged children. (photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly.)

E.G. ADAMS REAPPOINTED AID TO SECRETARY

E.G. Adams, president and director of Pennyryle Citizens Bank & Trust Company in Hopkinsville, has been reappointed to his third term as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the Commonwealth of Kentucky by Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr. Adams was first selected in 1982.

As one of 67 Civilian Aides from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, Adams is an adviser to the Secretary of the Army, the Army Chief of Staff, and the Continental U.S. Army commander in whose area he lives. Civilian Aides are selected for two-year terms on the basis of their patriotism, leadership and ability to increase public understanding of the Army. They serve without pay.

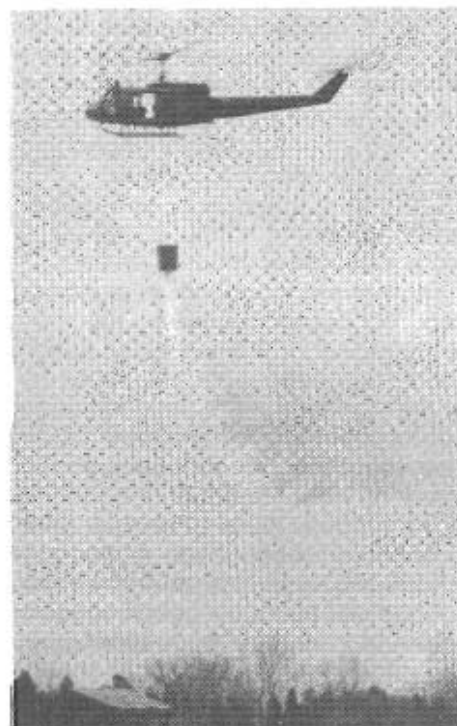
Adams is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, serving as president in 1982 and as director for several years and as a member of the Military Affairs Committee, the Rotary Club, and the Association of the United States Army.



Sgt. John D. Gipe from Owensboro receives the Distinguished Graduate award from Col. William I. Fox Jr., Commandant of the Kentucky Military Academy, during graduation ceremonies held at Fort Knox for the Primary Leadership Development Course. Gipe was one of over two hundred guardsmen from four classes that participated in the combined graduation. (photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

LOW COST FHA LOANS

Members of the Guard and Reserve can get Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans with lower than normal down payments. To qualify, you must have performed 90 days of continuous Active Duty for Training. To apply, pick up a copy of VA Form 26-8261. Request for Certificate of Veterans Status, from your local Veterans Administration office. Once the certificate is obtained, you can apply through an FHA-approved lender. (article from Army Families, Winter 1986)



Air crews from Company C, 42nd Aviation Battalion, and instructors from the Aviation Support Facility, both of Frankfort, practice water bucket procedures in preparation for their support of the Department of Forestry in fighting forest fires in Eastern Kentucky. (photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)



Stressing the importance of physical fitness Major General Billy G. Wellman points to the Adjutant General's Physical Fitness Trophy during his speech before the members of the Kentucky National Guard Officers Association meeting held in Lexington (photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)



EDUCATION CHALLENGE FOR FUTURE

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Currently, 190 officers have a 60 hour requirement, and 105 have met it. Of the 85 who have not reached the standard, 17 have completed 30 hours; 68 have only a high school diploma or GED certificate; and three face mandatory removal before the 1989 date.

There are 97 more officers who must complete the bachelor's degree by Oct. 1, 1989 to qualify for promotion to major. Of those, three have four years of college but have not graduated; 24 have completed three years of college; 44 have half of the degree earned; and 19 have only one year finished.

There are many ways to earn college credits, according to Roth, and financial aid is available to almost everyone.

For example, federal tuition assistance can be made available for correspondence, "independent study" courses at Western Kentucky University or the University of Kentucky. Kentucky Educational Television offers many courses and can provide information by phone at 1-800-432-0970.

The American Council on Education Guide recommends credit for military schools and some state universities and colleges may recognize specific resident or correspondence programs based upon this guide.

Some schools also grant credit for "work-life experiences", while many also recognize results of College Level Examination Program or DANTES. Tests may be taken free at Fort Knox or Fort Campbell, but the officer should check with the college of choice to see what might be accepted. The Fort Knox center can be reached at 1-800-633-8645, ext. 4136 and Fort Campbell can be reached at 502-798-5110.

Officers can often gain military science credit through schools offering ROTC programs, and virtually all major colleges and universities offer night courses.

Financial aid programs are usually available through the Army Continuing Education System Tuition Assistance, New Reserve Component GI Bill, and State Tuition Assistance.

For more details, officers should contact their unit education officer or Roth at 502-564-8550.

UNIFORM CHANGES IN NEW REGULATION

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service, dress, hospital duty and food service uniforms. Conservative prescription glasses and sunglasses are authorized for wear, while conservative prescription and non-prescription are authorized for wear in garrison except in formation.

Several changes also affect the wearing of the maternity uniform by female personnel. The Army green maternity uniform may now be worn as a dress uniform at social functions, or appropriate civilian attire may also be worn. Headgear will not be required in these situations if the uniform is worn with the white shirt.

Lipstick and nail polish may be worn by female soldiers with all uniforms as

long as the color is conservative and compliments the uniform. Extreme shades such as purple, gold, blue and white will not be worn.

The distinctive unit insignia (DUI) is no longer authorized for wear with the olive green field jacket, enlisted dress blues and all white dress uniforms. The DUI can only be worn on organizationally issued uniforms and other distinctive uniforms worn by bands, honor guards and other ceremonial units when approved by the local commander.

The black cardigan sweater is no longer authorized for wear by hospital duty personnel outside of medical facilities.

A NEW LOOK AT LADY LIBERTY

The old saying, "She's not getting older, she's getting better," will never be more evident than during this fourth of July weekend in New York Harbor. That's when President Ronald Reagan will unveil the renovated Statue of Liberty and relight her torch.

Those wishing to travel to New York for the festivities are advised to make their plans as soon as possible. An official of the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau said that as of the middle of February, a few hotels were already booked solid. However, the official pointed out that there are more than 100,000 hotel rooms in New York City, so accommodations could be found for those who act soon.

Whether you travel to New York for the unveiling or choose to wait until later when the crowds are smaller, there are some interesting facts about Lady Liberty that you can dazzle your friends and family with.

For instance, did you know that the Statue of Liberty stands on the outer perimeter of an old Army fort? Fort Eleazer Wood was originally built in 1803 on the southern tip of Liberty Island in response to the threat of war with Great Britain. Eleazer Wood was a West Point graduate and Corps of Engineers officer who had assisted in building the defenses at nearby Governor's Island. He was a hero who was killed in the Battle of Erie in September 1814.

"Many a man gets to the top of the ladder, and then finds out it has been leaning against the wrong wall."

—Laurence J. Peter,
author of "The Peter Principle"



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