



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

Volume Twelve, Issue Four
March · April 2008

Standing ready for Kentucky

ALSO INSIDE:

Howitzer becomes
landmark at Camp Taji

IN EACH ISSUE

4 DID YOU KNOW?

Chaplains Corps provides assistance to Soldiers and Airmen

5 A PAGE IN HISTORY

Sword comes back to Kentucky for display

13 INTO THE BLUE

Air Guard deploys to Yemen

FEATURES



7

FROM FRONT LINES

Field Artillery creates landmark at Camp Taji



11

AROUND KENTUCKY

Guard Responds to tornadoes

THE COVER

By 1st Sgt. John Kibler

Kentucky National Guard provides humanitarian relief to Ecuador during largest disaster exercise in history. Read on pages 9 and 15.





THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
phone: 502-607-5091/1898/1562/1556
fax: 502-607-1468
www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

State Commander-in-Chief
Gov. Steve Beshear

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini

Deputy Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Lonnie Culver

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Norman Arfack

Assistant Adjutant General, Air
Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt

Chief of the Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters
Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush

State Command Chief Warrant Officer
Command Chief Warrant Paul E. Beane

State Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip Gearlds

State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air
Command Chief Master Sgt. John M. Grant

BLUEGRASS GUARD STAFF

State Public Affairs Officer
Col. Phil Miller

Deputy State Public Affairs Officer
1st Lt. Stephen Martin

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det. Commander
Capt. David Page

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Dale Greer

Editor
Sgt. Gina Vaile

Assistant Editors
1st Lt. Stephen Martin
First Sgt. John W. Kibler
Dave Altom

Contributors
ANG Multimedia Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

The Bluegrass Guard is an authorized publication for members of the Kentucky National Guard. The contents of The Bluegrass Guard are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Departments of the Army and Air Force, or the Adjutant General of Kentucky.

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

Guardmembers and their Families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain Bluegrass Guard readers. Send submissions, photos and correspondence to gina.vaile@us.army.mil. Payment will not be made for contributions. Paid advertising will not be accepted.

Circulation: 11,500

FROM THE FIELD

Change of Address?

If you are planning a move, make sure your Bluegrass Guard magazine follows you to your new home.

Current Soldiers and Airmen need to submit change of address through the unit clerk in the RCAS system.

See below for retiree information!

Thanks,
Sgt. Gina Vaile, Editor

Change of Address

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

Army retiree address changes should be made through Staff Sgt. Jason Pettitt at the Kentucky National Guard Personnel Services Branch. He can be reached at 502-607-1613 or jason.pettitt@ky.ngb.army.mil.

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

Corrections

Please report any corrections to:

The Bluegrass Guard
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

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

The Bluegrass Guard
KG-133 MPAD
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601

or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

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

Troops needed to tell the Guard's story

By John Trowbridge

Command Historian

Since September 11, 2001 the Kentucky National Guard has deployed nearly 10,000 men and women to fight the Global War on Terror. You're probably one of them. If you're not, you're either a Family member or a friend of one of those who have deployed.

As a part of the Kentucky National Guard Family, you have no doubt heard all sorts of stories and tales of what happened during the deployment of a particular unit. You probably have some stories of your own. You might even wonder, "I read about other units and what they did overseas. How come nobody knows about what we did?"

Well, there is a mechanism in place to make that happen. It's your Unit Historian/Unit Public Affairs Representative. And it's probably one of the best kept secrets in the Kentucky National Guard.

Every unit in the Kentucky Guard should have a UH/UPAR program. Some are more active than others. Training has been available in the past and is being considered for the future.

Not trained but interested in helping out? Not a problem. All it takes is the desire to preserve your unit's

history and get its story told... Desire and a little bit of time.

If you don't know who your UH/UPAR is, find out and see what you can do to help get your story told and archived. If you are higher up on the chain of command, get with your UH/UPAR and see what you can do to help.

Across the globe, our troops have done some remarkable things these past several years. It is essential that their story is told and preserved for the coming generation. It's not just for the public, but more for you, your friends and Family, and most important, it's for those future Soldiers and Airmen.

From the Battle of Blue Licks to Salman Pak, from Daniel Boone to Keary Miller, the Kentucky Guard's history is still being written. All it needs is you.

For more information on the Unit Historian/Unit Public Affairs Representative program contact:

John Trowbridge, 502-607-6301 email: john.m.trowbridge@us.army.mil / 1LT Stephen Martin, 502-607-1898 or email: stephen.d.martin1@us.army.mil

To learn more about Kentucky's rich military history, visit www.kynghistory.ky.gov.



NEXT ISSUE



Soldier and Airman of the Year coverage



Guard Soldier accepts command of Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Campbell



Kentucky ATV rider gets National Guard Sponsorship

GOT NEWS?

The Bluegrass Guard wants your photos, news stories and upcoming events to publicize in our pages and on the Web. Call 1st Lt. Stephen Martin at 502-607-1898 for more information.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE

<http://www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs>

THE KENTUCKY CHAPLAINS CORPS ?

The Kentucky National Guard Chaplains Corps provides religious support to Soldiers and Airmen and their Families. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Kentucky National Guard Chaplains have responded and supported homeland security, combat and humanitarian missions. Read more on how the Chaplains Corps can serve you:



What kind of services does the Chaplains Corps offer?

Chaplains perform and provide religious support to Soldiers and Airmen and their Families. This can include chapel services, counseling, weddings and funerals. Chaplains also present lectures at PREP Marraige Retreats, and provide the bendictions at going away and homecoming ceremonies.



Do Chaplains Deploy?

Chaplains go where Kentucky's Soldiers and Airmen go, whether it is deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Ecuador, the Southwest Border or stateside mobilized to assist in natural disasters.

How do I find my Chaplain?

Every company commander and first sergeant should have the home and cell phone numbers of their battalion chaplain -- contact your unit Readiness NCO to obtain the number. If you can't find your chaplain's number, you can contact the the Family Assistance Center at 1-800-372-7601, press option one and advise the person who answers that you need to speak with a chaplain.

Adjutant General's sword returns to Kentucky museum

By **David Altom**
Assistant Editor

A presentation sword belonging to Kentucky's tenth adjutant general has returned to Kentucky.

The sword, once belonging to Col. Frank L. Wolford of the 1st Kentucky Cavalry, was purchased by the Kentucky Historical Society in an auction for \$27,600.

Wolford served as Kentucky's adjutant general from 1867 to 1870.

"This is a great addition to our collection," said John Trowbridge, Kentucky National Guard Command Historian. "Artifacts like this are getting harder to find and for us to get something as significant as the personal sword of a 19th century adjutant general, that's as good as gold."

"The fact that Wolford was a colorful character in our history



Photo Submitted by Kentucky Historical Society

This sword was presented to Col. Frank Wolford in the late 1800s by the citizens of Garrard County. The sword was recently purchased by the Kentucky Historical Society at an auction.

doesn't hurt," Trowbridge added.

Wolford was well-known as a fierce brigade commander. However, during the presentation of the sword on March 10, 1864, controversy ensued as Wolford publicly denounced Lincoln's mandate to draft African American soldiers in his acceptance speech. Shortly after, he was arrested and later dismissed from the army. Unwilling to let the incident keep him down, Wolford went on to become a three-time Kentucky Congressman.

Trowbridge is working with the Kentucky Historical Society on plans to display the sword. It will eventually be put on exhibit at the Kentucky Military History Museum.

According to the auction company, the sword descended directly from Wolford's family. It features a 32" blade marked "Clauberg" with etched panels of "E.Plumius Unum" and "U.S." and standing flags. Brass knuckle bow, eagle quillon and pommel that once had an amethyst surrounded by garnets. Silver handle, metal scabbard with ornate fittings and inscription at the throat of scabbard. "Presented to Col. Frank Wolford 1st Ky Cavalry by the Loyal Citizens of Garrard, Kentucky."



Archive photo

Adjutant General Frank Wolford served from 1867 to 1870.

Guard history efforts garner two awards

Staff Report

Two Kentucky National Guard history projects have been recognized by the Kentucky Historical Society and Historical Confederation of Kentucky.

An Award of Merit was presented in the Publication - Local or State History category to two Kentucky National Guard efforts:

- Kentucky National Guard - 60th Anniversary Celebration of Kentucky National Guard's 202nd Army Band
- Kentucky National Guard - A Brief History of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Both publications are available to view on the Kentucky National Guard History eMuseum Web site at <http://kynghistory.ky.gov/publications/>.



Photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile/KYARNG

Eric Brooks, president of HCK, presents two history awards to John Trowbridge, Command Historian for the Kentucky National Guard

VALUE OF THE MONTH

Each month The Bluegrass Guard will explore a different Army Value and how to use that value in your daily life.



The Army Values remind us all and tell the rest of the world who we are and what we stand for.

Our Values are the fundamental building blocks that enable us to discern right from wrong in any situation.

When you abide by the Army Values, you show the world that you are a true leader ... that you are an AMERICAN SOLDIER.

Field Artillery leaves mark

By Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

In John Deere Green, on a hot Iraqi night, Soldiers from B-Battery, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery painted an old Iraqi howitzer, to everyone's delight.

"It's a landmark here at Camp Taji," said Master Sgt. James Bandy. "We put a seat from an anti-aircraft gun on it so that people can sit down and take a picture. We have people come from all over post to take their picture sittin' on our cannon, from colonels on down. It's a real morale booster."

In a land of sand, and tan colored everything, the bright green howitzer has become a reference point for Soldiers. When giving directions, Bandy says he often hears Soldiers explain how to get somewhere by 'turning left at the John Deere cannon.'

Why John Deere?

"Because we thought New Holland Blue would rust!" joked company commander Capt. Robert S. Mattingly.

"It's kind of like a 'Man Law'," he added. "For example, you either like Chevy or Ford, Cats or Cards, it's just part of our make up. John Deere is one of those things you have to side with, it's just classic, it's very distinctly country and it reminds us of home."

Mattingly said the cannon reminds his Soldiers of their dreams of owning their own piece of the Bluegrass.

"We have several people that either own small farms or dream of owning a small farm," Mattingly said. "You can't help but live in a place as beautiful as Kentucky and not want to own a slice of it yourself. (The howitzer) keeps that dream alive."

Mattingly said his unit has banded together after the deaths of Pvt. 1st Class Sammy Phillips and Staff Sgt. Delmar White last fall.

"We have several things that we try to do to build pride around our unit, our battalion and the Kentucky National Guard – and of course, just being a



Kentuckian," Mattingly said, noting that the cannon is just feet from an Unbridled Spirit banner.

The Idea

Exactly which Soldier came up with the bright idea to paint the howitzer is up for debate, but one thing is certain, without the generous donation of paint and decals from Rex Koenig, the cannon would still look like everything else ... tan.

"It was the least we could do," Koenig said. "All the glory needs to go to those guys over there – not us just because we sent some paint and some decals."

"Those guys have left their Families and put their lives on the line for us. This was just a small way of saying



thanks,” he said.

The Koenig family has owned and operated eight John Deere dealerships in Ohio since 1904. Also a family tradition – service. It began with Rex Koenig’s father serving in World War II, and continues today with his nephew, Staff Sgt. Michael Martin, who serves with Bravo Battery.

“Michael called and asked if we could send some paint and decals for a project they were working on to boost morale,” he said. “We were more than happy to send it over for them.

“The pictures he sent of the finished product are great,” Koenig said. “He asked if we had any tires – I’m not sure if that was a joke or not!”

“I was pretty much just the middle man in all of this,” Martin said. “When I heard John Deere mentioned, I let them know I could possibly help since my uncle has some dealerships.

“The rest is history,” he said.

Martin sent John Deere photos of the cannon and the company sent hats and t-shirts to Bravo Battery Soldiers.

It took five Soldiers a week’s worth of nights to finish painting the cannon.

“Mission comes first, so we put the cannon on the back burner for a while,” Bandy said. “But whenever we had some down time we would work for a couple hours cleaning, painting and putting on the decals.”

Bandy said he would like to someday see the cannon sitting outside the Carlisle Armory.

“We’re going to try to bring it back with us, but there’s a lot of paperwork involved. If nothing else, we know that it will remind a lot of people of home,” Bandy said.

Guard provides relief to Ecuador

Air Guard lifts supplies to flood ravaged areas during disaster exercise

By Col. Philip K. Miller
Public Affairs Officer

Louisville, Ky. -- In the midst of the largest disaster exercise ever conducted by the National Guard in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Air Guard sent one of its C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft on an actual humanitarian relief mission to Ecuador in South America.

The aircraft left Louisville on March 5, arriving at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., to pick up the supplies. On Thursday, the aircraft flew under the operational direction of U.S. Southern Command to Manta, Ecuador, carrying 162 flood clean-up kits and related equipment. The supplies will be provided to local disaster relief officials charged with cleaning items contaminated by mud, sewage, mold and mildew as the flood waters in the country's western and central provinces recede.



Photo by 1st Sgt. John Kibler/KYARNG

Members of the Ecuador Red Cross separate supplies from pallets delivered by Kentucky Air National Guardsmen March 5. The Kentucky Guard airlifted 162 flood clean-up kits and related equipment after the area was devastated by flooding.

The kits, donated by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance through the Centers for Disease Control, each contain five-gallon buckets with lids, two sets of respirators, two sets of coveralls, two sets of heavy latex gloves, two pairs of goggles, two boot covers, a scrub brush and non-hazardous germicidal wipes.

"Though these supplies may not help with the initial lifesaving mission, they will definitely help with the cleanup and recovery efforts and help get people back in their homes," said John Zavales of the Office of Foreign Disaster for USAID.

He added that this effort would not have been possible without the Centers for Disease Control's donation of supplies from their stockpiles and the airlift of the supplies to Ecuador by the Kentucky



A Kentucky Airman prepares a C-130 Hercules to accept a pallet of supplies for the Ecuador flood relief mission March 5.

Photo by 1st Sgt. John Kibler/KYARNG



Photo by 1st Sgt. John Kibler/KYARNG

National Guard.

U.S. Southern Command assistance to ongoing flood recovery efforts in Ecuador began last month after Ecuadorian officials declared a national emergency and formally requested assistance from the international community to overcome the impact of persistent rains and flooding near the country's Pacific coast.

On Feb. 21, U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador, Linda Jewell, issued a disaster declaration paving the way for U.S. government assistance to the South American nation.

The Kentucky National Guard was specifically requested to fly the mission due to its 12-year-old State Partnership Program relationship with Ecuador.

"This is a terrific opportunity to support our partners in Ecuador," said Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky's Adjutant General. "When

you consider the multiple operations impacting the Kentucky Guard just this week - the largest disaster drill we've ever attempted here at home, combined with the fact we currently

have 1,500 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and eastern Europe - our ability to respond on short notice to fly this vital humanitarian mission absolutely underscores our commitment to our State Partnership Program."



Photo by 1st Sgt. John Kibler/KYARNG

Guardsmen stand ready during

Soldiers respond after tornadoes rip through Western Kentucky

Coverage by Spc. Cassandra Groce in Monroe County;
Spc. Michelle Waters and Pvt. 1st Class Brandon Cornell
in Muhlenberg County

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A series of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes created a path of destruction throughout the South in the late evening and early morning hours of Jan. 5 and 6. Seven people were killed after more than 14 confirmed tornadoes touched down in 11 counties in the Commonwealth, causing tremendous damage to property throughout Western and South Central Kentucky.

"It was a horrible situation," said Gov. Steve Beshear. "The widespread storm damage left death and devastation in its path.

Beshear responded quickly, monitoring the weather throughout the night and declaring a State of Emergency for those areas hardest hit.

Guard responds to Muhlenberg County

Tornadoes ripped through Greenville, Powderly and Central City, Ky., late in the evening of Feb. 5, resulting in power outages at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center where Soldiers from the 223rd Military Police Company were conducting pre-mobilization training.

Within 30 minutes, Soldiers in the second platoon were on ground in the nearby city of Powderly to assist city and Muhlenberg County officials with providing security to neighborhoods devastated by the tornado.

"My platoon was tasked to assist the local police in securing the areas," said 2nd Lt. John Holliday, of the 223rd Military Police Company.

Holliday said the damage didn't appear to be that wide-spread or devastating until the sun began to rise.



"As the sun came up, you could see the path where the tornadoes ripped through. We went to work with the State Police and Central City Police, and helped them to secure the areas that sustained the most damage," he said.

Thirty-five members of the Central-City based 307th Maintenance Company relieved the Soldiers of the 223rd in the early morning hours Feb. 6.

The Soldiers organized into teams, controlling traffic coming in and out of devastated neighborhoods.

Sergeant 1st Class David L. Swan of the 307th said it is unfortunate that his unit has had so much experience

A Gamaliel resident points to where a barn behind his property was completely flattened by a tornado that ripped through parts of South Central Kentucky Tuesday night. Soldiers of the Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery supported emergency personnell with traffic control and security.

Photo by Spc. Cassandra Groce/KYARNG

State of Emergency



Photo by Spc. Michelle Waters/KYARNG
Tornadoes ripped through Western Kentucky February 5, causing severe damage to the town of Powderly, Ky. National Guard troops responded to the area.

dealing with natural disasters.

"We responded to Katrina, but this is here. This is at home," Swan said.

"This is personal and it gives our troops a lot of pride knowing that they are helping their own community," he said. "We go out and help others in a time of need, but this time we are helping ourselves. We are helping our mothers, fathers and our community at large."

The unit is providing vehicles, a military wrecker, and a bus to support local and state agencies with security details in and around the area.

Field Artillery Assists in Monroe County

Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery Soldiers were called in to help emergency personnel control traffic and provide security from looters.

"Our mission was to support local EMS director Ricky Richardson," 1st Sgt. Larry Gearlds said. "He gave us four areas he wanted us to patrol and secure - to reduce the amount of traffic flow and to keep gawkers and looters from the area."

Gearlds alerted Soldiers in the 623rd at midnight Tuesday, asking for volunteers to help residents in Monroe County.

"I initially asked for volunteers and had very few who said they couldn't do it," he said.

"I was happy. This morning some had actually beat me here to the armory. By 7:30 (a.m.) we had people out on the



roads. It worked well."

About 25 Soldiers worked to maintain traffic points as well as check on residents who may have needed assistance in the area. Some of the Soldiers knew the families affected by the storms and stopped to offer comfort or help.

"This is our Soldier's hometown," Operations Sgt. Maj. Joey D. Simpson said. "Obviously, if they get an opportunity to work and help the people in their community, then that's great. These are the people they grew up with, so if they get a chance to help out it is rewarding."



Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Brandon Cornell/KYARNG

Kentucky National Guard 307th Maintenance Soldiers assist the Kentucky State police with directing traffic after a tornado ripped through Powderly, Ky.

Squadron assists Yemeni Air Force

Kentucky maintenance unit evaluates republics C-130 airlift operations

By Tech Sgt. Diane Stinnett
123rd Airlift Wing

A team of Kentucky Air National Guardsmen from the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deployed to Sena, Yemen, recently to help the Yemeni Air Force improve maintenance operations on C-130 aircraft.

The six-person team, which was deployed in country from Nov. 2 to Nov. 6, included experts on aircraft engines, electronics, communications equipment and navigation gear, said Lt. Col. Barry Gorter, commander of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

While there, the Kentucky Airmen evaluated all aspects of the Yemeni maintenance operation and offered advice on ways to improve efficiency, using Kentucky's operations as a benchmark, Lt. Col. Gorter said.

The Yemenis were "very receptive" to the input, he added.

"They really had open arms to what we had to say. We went there basically just saying this is the way the United States Air Force does C-130 operations, and they wanted every bit of information they could get.

"They are a group of people working very hard to try to establish better operations. Unfortunately they have much less resources to draw from."

The Yemen Air Force operates with two C-130 H models, one of which was undergoing major maintenance during the deployment.

This is not the first time that Kentucky has been called upon to assess the operations of a foreign ally.

"Earlier in the year we were in Kuwait, and I have been to Ecuador on the same type of mission," said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Noel, who also went on the Yemen deployment. "I think it is more or less a goodwill gesture for these countries."

The deployment also provided an opportunity to interact with the Yemenis outside of working hours, Colonel Gorter said.

"The last day we were there, they took us out for a traditional Yemeni dinner. It was really interesting — there was one long table with probably 30 people around it with all these different dishes. There were no utensils, so everyone was eating with their fingers, which is the traditional Yemeni way. It was fun. It was interesting, everyone sharing finger food essentially at a big banquet table."

Second Lt. James Embry, an aircraft maintenance officer with the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said the deployment was a success.

"I would love to have the opportunity to go back after some of the changes hopefully are made and they get some of the equipment and technical data and things that they need.

"We weren't really sure how much good we would do by going there and having them look a little bit at how we do business, as well by interacting with them, but by the time the trip was over, we felt like we made some headway."



Photo courtesy of 123rd AWS

Lt. Col. Barry Gorter, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, deployed to Sena, Yemen, with five other Kentucky Airmen in November to provide advice to the Yemeni Air Force.

HARRODSBURG TANKERS BATAAN MEMORIAL DAY



Saturday, April 26, 2008

5K Run / Walk 7 a.m. Registration 8 a.m. Start - Fort Harrod State Park, Harrodsburg Preregistration \$12 / Day of \$15 - 18 and under \$5 - POC: CPT John Holmes - 502-607- 6120

Boy Scouts March 7 a.m. Registration 8 a.m. Start Fort Harrod State Park, Harrodsburg - POC: MAJ Todd Ewing 502-607-1200

Ceremony 10 a.m. Fort Harrod State Park, Harrodsburg with remarks by state and local officials

Historians Roundtable 1:00 p.m. James Harrod Conference Center, Harrodsburg Panel Discussion of History of the Harrodsburg Tankers with Audience Participation.

Light Refreshments & Music 6:00 p.m. Norton Center for the Arts, Centre College, Danville featuring a quartet from the 202nd Army Band, KYARNG

DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE



BATAAN

**"THE HARRODSBURG TANKERS
A TIME FOR COURAGE ... A TIME FOR HEROES."**

6:45 p.m. Norton Center for the Arts, Centre College, Danville. Features extensive footage of survivors recounting their experiences.



KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Before World War II, the Harrodsburg Tankers, were the 38th Tank Company of the Kentucky Army National Guard. They were among the first Kentuckians called to active duty in preparation for World War II. When they went on federal active duty they became Company D, 192nd Light Tank Battalion. On Thanksgiving Day, 1941, they landed in the Philippines. On 7 December 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and only hours later they began an attack on the Philippines. The Harrodsburg Tankers, along with the allied forces, fought the Japanese valiantly without reinforcements or resupply until ordered by their superiors to surrender in April 1942. Those who could not escape to Corregidor were in the infamous "Bataan Death March." They were all eventually taken prisoner of war. Only 37 of the original 66 Kentucky Guard Members from Harrodsburg survived Japanese captivity.

Earthquake Response Exercise 2008

Response Exercise deemed a Success

In conjunction with state, local and federal agencies, the Kentucky National Guard conducted its largest disaster response exercise in history, March 1-6, 2008.

"This is a significant event because as the commonwealth's National Guard, we are not only warfighters, but we are Kentucky's '911' service.," said Brig. Gen. John W. Heltzel, who headed the exercise.

"We are the friends and neighbors that come to your aid in time of natural disaster and emergency."

More than 300 Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the exercise that tested Kentucky's capability to respond to an earthquake of 7.0 magnitude on the Richter Scale.

The week's activities included preparing Soldiers for mobilization, testing communications capabilities and packaging, tracking and delivering supplies via C-130 Hercules, UH-60 Blackhawk and Army trucks.

"The Kentucky National Guard works long and hard at protecting the people of the commonwealth, as well as the nation," Heltzel said. "The men and women of the Kentucky Guard are experienced at disaster relief, from the Floods of '76 and '97, to the winter storms of 2003.

"Our troops were among the first into New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and they've supported the border patrol mission in the Southwest United States. We don't rest on our laurels, however, and as we concluded from our success during this exercise, we work hard to improve our abilities to serve the people of Kentucky and the United States of America," he said.





Photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff/KYARNG



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler/KYARNG

Earthquake Response Exercise 2008



Photo by Sgt. Chris Smith/PA/AFMAG



Photo by Sgt. Michael Paff/PA/AFMAG



Photo by Sgt. Chris Smith/PA/AFMAG



Photo by Sgt. Chris Smith/PA/AFMAG



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Groce/WVANG



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Groce/WVANG



Photo by Capt. Dale Green/WVANG

Engineers deploy to Afghanistan



Photo by 1st Lt. Stephen Martin/KYARNG

More than 480 Soldiers of the 201st Engineer Battalion were honored during a departure ceremony March 1, in Ashland, Ky. The Soldiers will deploy to Afghanistan after pre-mobilization training at Fort McCoy, Wisc.



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
phone: 502-607-
1898/1562/1556/5091
fax: 502-607-1468
www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs