

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

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

Volume Twelve, Issue Seven
August 2008



INSIDE:

Bosses experience day in the life
Mountain

IN EACH ISSUE

- 5 ACCOLADES**
Paducah Boy Scout gives to Guard children
- 11 INTO THE BLUE**
CRG participates in national exercise
- 15 AROUND KENTUCKY**
Field Artillery rocks Fort Knox with live fire

FEATURES



12

INFANTRYMEN AWARDED

Four Mountain Warriors receive EIB



13

ALWAYS READY

41st CST invades Keeneland for exercise

THE COVER

Photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff, KYARNG

Soldiers train at a firing range at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in July.





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 Arflack

Assistant Adjutant General, Air

Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt

Chief of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters

Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush

State Command Chief Warrant Officer

Command Chief Warrant Officer 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

Maj. David Page

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Dale Greer

Editor

Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson

Assistant Editors

1st Lt. Andi Hahn
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

Why is the rank wrong?

I just received the July 2008 edition of The Bluegrass Guard. I'm wondering why every Army NG Soldier in this edition has their military rank abbreviated incorrectly?

Thanks,
Master Sgt. Garland J. Mattingly

EDITORS NOTE: The Bluegrass Guard is published under guidance from the Department of Defense and AR 360-1. Per AR 360-1, the appropriate writing style for military publications is the Associated Press Stylebook. The Abbreviations used in this magazine reflect the AP style.

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.

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

Due to an error at the printshop, the story on page 6 was cut off.

Due to a reporter's error, Staff Sgt. John Bartram was misidentified in the story on page 12.

Due to an error at the printshop, the incorrect photo ran on page 13. The photo that should have printed is:



Please report any corrections to:
The Bluegrass Guard
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
or: gina.vaile@us.army.mil

Safety on the roadways a must for Soldiers

By Col. Rondal L. Turner
Joint Chief of Staff

I just attended the funeral visitation of a young Kentucky Army National Guard Soldier. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom who served with distinction and honor, he was loved by his troops and adored by his Family and his friends. He's gone now, killed not in battle, not in some land far away, but here at home ... in a traffic accident.

It is frustrating to me to think of all the hardship this young man had been through, to train, deploy and survive a war zone only to be killed in the very place he risked his life trying to make safe. Since 2001, the Kentucky Army National Guard has lost 22 good people due to traffic accidents. Five have died this year alone.

In recent years I've been to more military funerals and visitations than I care to think about. Each one represents a catastrophic loss, not just for the victim's immediate Family, but for the entire Kentucky National Guard family. To give your life in service to your nation, or to save the lives of your teammates is one thing. To die needlessly in a moment of carelessness or mechanical failure or just plain "bad luck" ... that is the greatest tragedy of all.

My first reaction is to put a call through the chain of command to take action and bring greater safety awareness to the troops and as many of you know I have

done just that. And now I am personally challenging everyone – from the senior commanders and NCOs to most junior enlisted – to take on the role of safety officer, just as you would in a war zone.

There are so many little things you can do that can make a difference. Ask yourself a couple of questions when you get in the car tomorrow morning, like "How much of a hurry am I in, anyway?" or "Is this really a good idea?" Think before passing that car, check your speed and don't take a "calculated risk." And above all else, make sure your vehicle is in good working condition.

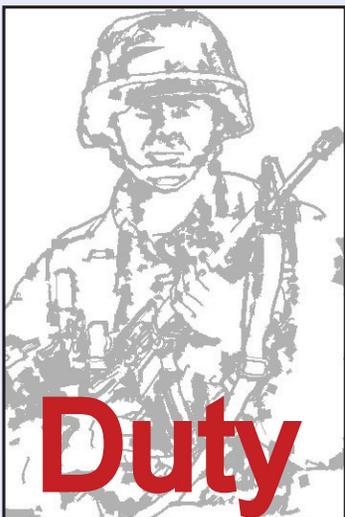
One other thing: from driving while drinking, talking on the cell phone, speeding or just fussing with the kids, we're all guilty of bad judgment at one time or another. If you see your buddy doing something careless, don't keep silent. Help him out. If he's had "one too many," volunteer to be the designated driver. If she's drowsy, offer to take the wheel for a while. And if you've got a motorcycle and you're not wearing your helmet, don't let me find out about it.

Folks, this is a case where we all have to "do the right thing." Not just for yourself, but for your Families and for your fellow Soldiers and Airmen. After all, we are all brothers in arms, and in peace – as in war – we should watch each other's back. Take this for what it is ... a call out to save our most valuable resource...YOU.



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.



“In doing what we ought we deserve no praise,
because it is our duty.”
- Joseph Addison

Duty means fulfill your obligations. It begins with everything required of you by law, regulation, and orders; but it includes much more than that. As professionals do your work not just to the minimum standard, but to the very best of your ability. Commit to excellence in all aspects of your professional responsibility so that when the job is done they can look back and say, "I couldn't have given any more."

Post 9-11 GI Bill offered to Soldiers

The Post 9-11 GI Bill will provide educational assistance to Guard and Reservists who served at least 90 consecutive days on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces since Sept. 11, 2001. Are you eligible?



Who is eligible to receive the Post 9-11 GI Bill?

Soldiers who served a minimum of 90 consecutive days on active duty after September 10, 2001 are eligible.

In addition, Soldiers who are no longer in the military, but who received an honorable discharge or who were released under honorable conditions are also eligible. This also includes Soldiers who are still on active duty status.

Am I eligible for this GI Bill if I'm eligible for chapter 30, 1606 or 1607?

A Soldier may elect to receive benefits under the Post 9-11 GI Bill if, on Aug. 1, 2009 the Soldier is eligible for chapter 30, 1606 or 1607, or is currently serving in the Armed Forces.

How many months of assistance, and how much money will I get?

Generally the number of months entitlement is 36 months. Eligible individuals will receive a percentage as determined by length of credible active duty service. The amount of tuition and fees must not exceed the most expensive in-state public institution; monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing amount payable to E-5 with dependents in same zip code as the school; yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000 and a one-time payment of \$500 may be payable to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

If I need more information, who should I ask?

Contact 1st Lt. Michael B. Sharp at 502-607-1520 for more information, or via e-mail at: michael.b.sharp@us.army.mil or visit the GI Bill Web page at www.gibill.va.gov.

Boy Scout gives to Guard

Paducah's Josh Tucker collects backpacks for Kentucky children

By Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson
Editor

Children with parents in the Kentucky Army National Guard's 201st Engineers will receive Hero Packs, backpacks filled with goodies, thanks to Josh Tucker, a 17-year-old Boy Scout from Paducah.

As part of a project to become an Eagle Scout, Tucker collected 209 backpacks to donate to the Kentucky Guard through the Operation Military Kids program.

"OMK was behind on collecting backpacks," explained Cindy Culver, the state youth coordinator for the Guard.

"Without Josh's contribution, we wouldn't have had enough backpacks to hand out to the children," she said.

Tucker started out with a goal to donate 75 backpacks to OMK, but after soliciting donations from church and businesses in the Paducah area, Tucker surpassed that goal.

"It made me feel a lot better to know more children



Photo Submitted

Steve Tucker of the Boy Scouts of America, Cindy Culver, state youth coordinator, Joe Wiley of Operation Military Kids and Boy Scout Josh Tucker display four of the 209 backpacks that Josh Tucker collected to donate to the Kentucky National Guard as part of his Eagle Scout project. Known as Hero Packs, the backpacks will be given to Kentucky National Guard children of deployed Soldiers. Tucker presented the bags to Cindy Culver Aug. 8 at BNGC.

would get backpacks," Tucker said. "I was glad to help so many kids, the more the better. This way, nobody would feel left out."

OMK provides the backpacks to children of deployed Soldiers with the goal of helping the child cope with the deployment. OMK Hero Packs are filled with various items donated by other organizations such as the 4-H Club and other contributors.

Tucker's backpacks contain stationary, pens and a one-time-use camera, so that the children of the 201st can stay in contact with their deployed parent.

NEXT ISSUE



238th Regiment's female drill sergeant



SOY/OAOY Banquet Coverage



SF participates in Leapfest '08

GOT TRAINING?

The 133rd MPAD is putting together a mission calendar for FY 2009. If you have a training event you would like covered in The Bluegrass Guard, contact SSG Gina Vaile-Nelson at 502-607-5091 or gina.vaile@us.army.mil.

Mess Section competes for best chow in NG

By Travis Huber
Bourbon Co. High School

Army chow is much more than MRE's and a canteen of water and at high-noon, June 23 at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, Soldiers from the 301st Chemical Co. proved just that during a competition to recognize the best chow in the National Guard.



Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Hayter/Battalion Commander
Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Stacey receives recognition for participation in Regional Competition for the Philip A. Connelly Award. Stacey and other Soldiers in the 301st Chemical Co., were tested June 23.

The mess section from the 301st Chemical Co., based in Morehead, Ky., competed against other state winners for the annual Philip A. Connelly Award.

The annual recognition is co-sponsored by the Department of the Army and the International Food Service Executives Association. Evaluators from IFSEA and the Army Center of Excellence Subsistence travel around the world to judge food service specialists at work during dining facility and field-kitchen operations.

The program's goal is twofold: stimulate excellence in preparing and serving food to Soldiers and provide added incentive for improved food service operations through unit recognition.

The evaluation process was completed by a three-member team from an independent contracting agency. The team used a 1000 point system to look at all aspects of the field-feeding operation.

The evaluators arrived at WHFRTC early and conducted a briefing over the evaluation process with the mess section and company leadership. At 7:30 a.m. the team arrived at the MKT site and began to scrutinize every aspect. By noon, Soldiers from the 301st Chemical Co., began to move through the chow line in a silent tactical manner. The evaluators took photographs of each plate of food that came off the MKT so they could accurately judge presentation of the meal and serving portions for each Soldier.

By 1 p.m., the team completed its collection of data and conducted a short out-brief and ceremony to recognize the hard work and dedication which lead the mess section to this level of excellence.

The winners and runners-up of the 2009 competition will be honored at a ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel in Atlanta, Ga., April 2-5, 2009. The winners will receive a sterling silver bowl and a scholarship to a prestigious culinary school in Denver, Colo.



Photo by Dave Altom/KG-PAO

103rd welcomes new commander

Staff Report

The Kentucky Army National Guard's 103rd Brigade Support Battalion based out of Harrodsburg, Ky. has a new commander.

Lt. Col. Jim Covany received the flag of command from Col. Billy Jack West in a ceremony conducted at the Harrodsburg armory on July 13, 2008. Covany takes over for outgoing commander Lt. Col. Virgil Elliot, a Harrodsburg native.

Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Elliot and Covany served together overseas training the Afghan National Army. Elliot has nearly 40 years in the Kentucky Army National Guard. Covany, a resident of Frankfort, has been in the Kentucky Guard since 1988.

Bosses take flight with the Guard

2008 Civic Leader Flight shows employers a day-in-the-life in the KYNG

Photos and story by Spc. Michael Pfaff
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kentucky National Guard hosted a day with civic leaders from Kentucky and southern Indiana at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center July 17.

The 41 civic leaders and employers of Soldiers and Airmen spent the day with members of the Army and Air National Guard learning the ins and outs of training the Guard undergoes in order to prepare for missions at home and abroad.

“This is a great opportunity for them to see what Guardsmen actually do when they train,” said Col. Steven P. Bullard, the director of joint doctrine training for the Air National Guard and Crestwood, Ky., resident. “And, that allows employers and civic leaders a better appreciation for why they need to give our Airmen and Soldiers the time off to make sure we can serve our country and our state in the best manner possible.”

Days like today help civilian leaders and employers understand the technical and sophisticated training Soldiers and Airmen do when they take time off from work for their drill and annual training, Bullard said.

“It’s easy to imagine the Kentucky National Guard going to a summer camp,” said Rick Bubenhofer, the director of public relations at Brown-Forman in Louisville, Ky., and an employer of an Army Kentucky National Guard Soldier. “It’s another thing entirely to come out here in the 95 degree weather and see these Soldiers training, and witness their dedication and commitment.”

The day was cooler when the civic leaders first showed up at the Air National Guard Base in



Senior Airman Jared Cain, from Georgetown, Ky., shows Doug Roberts, system budget director for KCT during the 2008 Kentucky National Guard Civic Leader Flight. Commonly known as the “boss lift,” the day is a taste of what Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen do during their “one weekend-a-month.”

Louisville, Ky. Once there, officers from the 123rd Airlift Wing briefed the civic leaders on their day-to-day operations.

“I had driven by the Air National Guard base before, but I had no idea what their mission was,” said Maria G. Hampton, the vice president and senior executive of the Louisville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. “I was impressed by the number of people employed and the 55 million dollar impact the base brings to the community.”

After the briefing, the civic leaders took a short walk to the flight line where a C-130 airplane waited to be boarded to take them to Madisonville, Ky.

Once in Madisonville, they were transferred to a bus and escorted to the Wendell H. Ford Regional

Training Center where the rest of the day would be spent.

Travel took up most of the morning and it was lunchtime by the time the civic leaders arrived. After a short briefing, they were given a class on the Meal-Ready-To-Eat, or MRE, and treated to an authentic MRE of their choosing, just like troops in the field eat.

After eating lunch, the civic leaders were given a helicopter ride aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk, from which they could see an aerial view of the training facilities located on the base.

“What can I say about the Black Hawk helicopter,” Hampton said. “It was just incredible. The crew member that was awarded the Silver Star probably impressed me even more. But, maybe that’s what it’s all about.”

A more up close tour of the site was given after the Black Hawk rides. The civic leaders were shown firing ranges, close quarters marksmanship training sites, a simulations center and a mock encampment much like Guardsmen make their home in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When the day was over, the civic leaders headed back to Louisville, Ky., where their day first began. The bus and flight home was filled with chatter about the day’s events.

Bubenhofer said he and many of the civic leaders left with a clearer picture of what Kentucky National Guardsmen do when they trade in their civilian clothing for a set of combat uniforms.

“More than anything else, what impresses me is the professionalism here,” said Bubenhofer. “I have to keep reminding myself that these people are actually citizen-Soldiers. I just wish more people could come out and see what the Guard does.”



CS, the view from a C-130 Hercules
ay allowed civilian employers to get a



Two civic leaders try to make sense of the cooking instructions for their military Meal-Ready-to-Eat. MRE’s are self-contained, individual field rations in lightweight packaging procured by the United States military for its service-members for use in combat or other field conditions where organized food facilities are not available.

Air Wing takes 'triple crown'

Kentucky Air Guard scores three 'excellent' ratings in inspections

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The 123rd Airlift Wing scored a triple crown of sorts last month when it completed three higher-headquarters inspections by logging prestigious "excellent" ratings in each.

The Wing successfully completed an Air Mobility Command Inspector General Unit Compliance Inspection, a U.S. Air Force Health Services Inspection and a Logistics Standardization Evaluation Team Inspection. The trio of evaluations rated the wing's overall program compliance, medical operations and aircraft maintenance and logistic support, respectively.

The hat trick is especially noteworthy because it came in the midst of one of the busiest times in the unit's 61-year history, said Col. Mark Kraus, Wing commander.

"I could not be more proud of you for your record of accomplishments," Kraus told the Wing's 1,200 members during a commander's call held in the Fuel Cell Hangar June 8.

"With the schedule we've been keeping, we don't have time to stop and smell the roses, but we ought to slow down and get a whiff of them as we go by," Kraus said.

"If you will remember, it was just about this time last year that you-the 123rd Airlift Wing-were awarded the Curtis N. 'Rusty' Metcalf Trophy as the No. 1 airlift unit in the National Guard. From that time to this time, you have set about to validate that selection.

"Last summer, you deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan for AEFs 7 and 8 to work and fly combat missions in the most challenging environment in the world. We rolled off of that and, in November, you started a five-month solid commitment to Germany to support Operation Joint Enterprise. You even picked up a shortfall rotation over the holidays, and you never missed a mission."



Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, praised unit members for their dedication to excellence during a commander's call June 8 in the base Fuel Cell hangar.

Photo by Capt. Dale Greer, KYANG

While Kentucky Airmen were maintaining their commitments abroad, they also stepped up back home, Kraus said, pledging more than \$35,000 in charitable giving to the Combined Federal Campaign-a 27 percent increase over the previous year's figure.

Meanwhile, the Wing earned its 13th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award- no other Air Guard unit has more-and completed a successful Joint Forces Headquarters disaster-response exercise that tested the teamwork of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard.

The wing also successfully completed an Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and attained the highest level of deployment readiness training in four years, averaging 98 percent for all training currencies across the wing.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the legacy of excellence is alive and well and prospering today," Kraus said. "Please, keep up the great work."

ESGR honors Jeffersonville business



Photo by Tech Sgt. Phil Speck

Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air, presents an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award to Vicky and John Denney. The Denneys own PIP Printing and Document Services In Jeffersonville, Ind., and employ Tech. Sgt. Diane Stinnett (second from right) as a graphic artist. Stinnett is a combat correspondent in the 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs.

Printer receives award from Brig. Gen. Hunt for support of Guard

Staff Report

The owners of a Jeffersonville, Ind., printing company were honored May 13 with an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award presented by Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air.

The award recognizes Vicky and John Denney, owners of PIP Printing and Document Services, for their support of employee Diane Stinnett, a technical sergeant in the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing.

"PIP is a small company," said Stinnett, a graphic artist at PIP who serves as a combat correspondent in the wing's Public Affairs Office.

"Whenever anyone is not here, it makes it hard on everyone. Vicky and John have always been very supportive of the fact that I have an obligation to the military."

That kind of support is vital to the Guard and Reserve, General Hunt said.

"Without the support of employers like John and Vicky Denney, Diane and thousands of others like her could not do their jobs for our nation," he said.

"This is a shared experience where we in the National Guard benefit from Diane's commitment to her



- ▲ A C-17 aircraft, handled by the 123d Contingency Response Group, prepares for take-off at the Municipal Airport in Salinas, Calif., during the HYDRA '08 exercise July 11-18. In the background is the unit's "tent village," where they lived during the exercise.
- ◀ A team of 123d CRG Airmen, led by Master Sgt. Daniel Dillion and Chief Master Sgt. Ray Dawson, finish the metal framework of an Alaska tent, which became their home at the Salinas Airport during the HYDRA '08 exercise.

National exercise successful for CRG

Story and photos by Col. Phil Miller
State Public Affairs Officer

More than 80 members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group (CRG) traveled to Salinas, Calif., July 11-18 for Exercise HYDRA '08, where the U.S. Air Force showcased its emergency airlift capabilities in the only major contingency response exercise to be held on the West Coast this year.

Focused on humanitarian relief operations following a simulated 8.2 earthquake in the mythical country of Califon, HYDRA '08 involved more than 1,000 Airmen, Soldiers, and Marines and 20 aircraft operating out of five airfields throughout central California, including Salinas, Travis Air Force Base, Schoonover Field in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles Municipal Airport and Castle Field in Merced.

In Salinas, 116 Airmen from the Louisville-based 123rd CRG and the Travis-based 572nd CRG lived in a tent city erected at the airport. There, the Airmen provided air and ground support for

the C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft participating in the exercise.

The Airmen trained in communications, command and control, aircraft maintenance, civil engineering, meteorological support, force protection security and aerial port operations. Additionally, two Kentucky C-130's and four air crews provided airlift for the CRG deployment and supported several of the exercise's humanitarian relief scenarios.

Though the 'quake and Califon were fictional, and the operations were part of a drill, there was nothing artificial about the training exercise for members of the 123rd CRG, due in large part to their experience in real disasters and first-hand knowledge of the importance of staying ready.

"It is important to stay current," said Master Sgt. Larry Burba, who worked with a team of Airmen building the tent city.

"This training helps us know what to do in case of an emergency, which could



Photo by Tyson V. Rininger

Members of the 123rd Contingency Response group pause their round-the-clock operations for this group photo on the ramp at Salinas Municipal Airport prior to striking camp for the return flight to Kentucky.

potentially save lives," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by the unit's commander, Col. Warren Hurst, a veteran of combat and relief operations in Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda and Iraq, as well as disasters closer to home such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Hurst said each of HYDRA '08's scenarios was designed to yield valuable lessons.

"Katrina was a real learning experience," Hurst said. "It created such a widespread area of disaster. We found out we needed better communication with local and other military authorities.

"There was a lot of duplication of effort. Part of this exercise is to make us work better together," he said.

Hurst was also enthusiastic about the performance of the Kentucky Airmen in tackling the training challenges of HYDRA '08. He credited their individual versatility, diverse civilian employment backgrounds and the unit's inherent camaraderie as major contributing factors in accomplishing all assigned missions.

"There's a real sense of esprit de corps," Hurst said. "We've got airline pilots, police officers, electricians, general contractors, an attorney and corporate executives. These folks don't ask for anything. They just do their jobs. There's nothing else like it."

"Besides," he said, "humanitarian relief is always more rewarding than any other mission."



▲ Aerial port personnel load vehicles and equipment on a 123d Airlift Wing C-130 during Hydra '08 in Salinas, Calif., in July.

149th awards expert infantrymen

Badges given to outstanding Soldiers during AT

By Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile
Editor

Four Mountain Warriors from the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry were awarded the Expert Infantry Badge June 7 at the Harold L. Disney Training Center at Artemus, Ky.

Sgt. Timothy Lewis, Pvt. 1st Class David Olszewski, Spc. William Rehtin and Spc. Raney Wiseman, were pinned by Lt. Col. Scott Campbell, Brigade Commander.

Twenty-nine Mountain Warriors tested for the EIB, which measures Infantry Soldier's physical fitness and ability to perform standards of excellence in a broad spectrum of critical infantry skills. The test takes three grueling days, which Soldiers completed during their annual training in June.

The test included an Army Physical Fitness Test, a 12-mile road march, qualification on an M4 or M16 rifle range and day and night land navigation just as pre-requisites.

In addition to the first phase of testing, Soldiers must complete 38 individual infantry tasks before they can receive the EIB.

"Every Soldier who competes for the EIB volunteers," said Maj. Jeffrey D. Cole, Training Officer for the 149th.

"The training they receive in the EIB program is the core of what infantry Soldiers do," he said. "These are basic, but very important skills that challenge an Infantryman's physical fitness and endurance, mental toughness and technical and tactical proficiency.

"If Soldiers are trained in this manner,



Brigade Commander, Lt. Col. Scott Campbell, proudly pins the Expert Infantry Badges on four 1/149th Mountain Warriors who completed all tasks to receive the title of Expert Infantrymen June 7. Recipients of the badge are: Sgt. Timothy Lewis, Pvt. 1st Class David Olszewski, Spc. William Rehtin and Spc. Raney Wiseman.

then they can survive and win on the battlefield," he said.

The history of the EIB dates back to WWII when America's top generals looked for ways to improve morale among the infantry ranks.

"The present war has demonstrated the importance of highly proficient, tough, hard, and aggressive Infantry, which can be obtained only by developing a high degree of individual all-around proficiency on the part of every Infantryman. As a means of attaining the high standards desired and to foster esprit de corps in the Infantry units, the Expert Infantryman and Combat Infantryman Badges are established for Infantry personnel," is an excerpt from the 1943 War Department Circular, outlining the guidelines and details of the EIB and CIB. Though written in 1943, it is just as relevant today.

Civil Support Team searches for WMD's

Story and photos by Spc. Emily Slusher
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

With an hour of oxygen strapped to their backs and completely encapsulated in airtight protective suits, Soldiers from the Kentucky Army National Guard's 41st Civil Support Team battled the searing heat in search for biological and chemical agents around Keene Barn at Keeneland Race Track July 15 in Lexington, Ky.

The crisis simulation tested the ability of the 21-man, full-time unit, based out of Louisville, to respond rapidly, analyze hazardous exposure sufficiently and provide expert advice on weapons of mass destruction to state and federal military response assets.

"We had a practice exercise similar to this one a few weeks ago and were given a two week window where we knew something like this was going to take place," said Maj. John Cline, the 41st CST Deputy Commander. "However, this surprise attack came to us over the phone at four in the morning."

Jerzell Black, the Department of the Army Civilian Observer Control Trainer and Evaluator, said the scenario the team was evaluated on was based around people attending a party at Keene Barn when they heard an explosion and ran out of the building. The 41st CST was then called in.

"The first team scouts out the building and takes radiation readings, which they report back to the rear for guidance," said Black. "The second team then enters the building, continues the readings and acts accordingly."

Lt. Col. Stephen C. Davis, 41st CST Commander, said the exercise was an absolute success.

"We received 12 out of 12 T's from the evaluators and they had positive comments about the team," he said. "However, there is always room for improvement



Members from the 41st CST observe readings of a "dirty bomb" from a simulated radiation dispersion device July 15 at Keeneland's Keene Barn in Lexington. The Soldiers participated in a mock disaster exercise at the track.

and we seek to improve our mobility, hopefully being able to deploy by fixed-wing aircraft or boat when necessary."

The 41st CST will provide services at the 2008 Ryder Cup in September and the Bluegrass Army Depot in October.



Soldiers with the 41st Civil Support Team take radiation readings inside the Keeneland's Keene Barn July 15 during a mock disaster exercise. The team walks around in a Level A Suit, completely encapsulated from anything harmful in the air.



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Chapman of the 2113th Transportation Company gives a backbrief to the convoy commander, Warrant Officer Thomas Goodsell, on "actions on contact" during a mission to Forward Operating Base Miami during annual training at the National Training Center July 21.

Transportation unit trains at NTC

Story and photos by Spc. Michelle Waters
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the Kentucky National Guard's 2113th Transportation Company simulated convoy missions during the unit's Annual Training at the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif., in July.

The 21 day exercise was conducted in the grueling heat of the Mohave Desert, and gave the Paducah-based Soldiers a real-world taste of scenarios they may encounter while deployed overseas.

"The best part of this training is the heat and knowing how far you can push your body in this type of weather," said Staff Sgt. Charles O'Malley, training non-commissioned officer in charge for the 2113th TC.

The training the 2113th TC Soldiers received at NTC was "world class," according to company commander Capt. John Harvey.

"This training provides leaders and Soldiers the opportunity to work together and learn how to operate as a team, and how to perform the missions we are assigned,"

he said.

Soldiers from the 2113th spent days strapped with Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear that allows them to carry small laser receivers scattered over their bodies, which detect when the soldier has been shined by a firearm's laser. Each laser transmitter is set to mimic the effective range of the weapon on which it is used. When a person is "hit," a medic can use the digital readout to determine which first aid method to practice.

The hot dry climate, much like Iraq, set the backdrop for Soldiers to perform war-time missions in full battle rattle and MILES gear against the Iraqi insurgents, role-played by Iraqi Nationals who work at the training center.

"The 2113th did a great job out here," Harvey said.

"We received nothing but compliments, and I am happy to see what the Soldiers accomplished out here."

The 2113th was mobilized in 2005 and deployed to Iraq for 12 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Members of the 2113th Transportation Company practice running convoys down a dusty California road during their July annual training at NTC.

Guardsmen show off for West Point



Field Artillery holds live-fire exercise at Fort Knox for cadets and others

Story and photos by Spc. Michael Pfaff
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the Kentucky Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery had a chance to display their firepower during their annual training at Fort Knox July 8.

Cadets from the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. watched from afar as the Kentucky Guardsmen launched several fiery rockets across the horizon from their Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, or MLRS.

“As we’ve redefined ourselves over the years, it’s becoming more important to expose people to our capabilities, and let combat commanders know the lethality we bring to the battlefield,” said Lt. Col. John P. Dooley, the battalion commander of 1/623 FA Battalion, and Franklin, Tenn., resident.

As the cadets transition into their careers as officers, ensuring they achieve that exposure is important, Dooley said. One day many of these young officers may need the support of field artillery and knowing the capabilities is crucial.

The West Point cadets weren’t the only ones to get the exposure. Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, the



Spc. Valis L. Snedley lectures the West Point cadets on the Multiple Launch Rocket System during a live-fire demonstration at Fort Knox July 8.

adjutant general of the Kentucky National Guard, and the National Guard sponsored Bluegrass Challenge, an organization designed to help at-risk youths develop discipline and leadership skills, participated in watching the firing during the annual training as well.

“I thought the display was amazing,” said John Lyons, a youth enrolled in the Bluegrass Challenge.

“It’s one of those things you don’t normally get to see in your lifetime.”

Many days of preparation took place before the firing could happen. Charlie Battery of the 1/623rd had to set up a communications tent, as well as several static displays for the visiting guests to peruse.

“This is the culmination of our Soldier’s hard work,” said Sgt. 1st Class Timmy R. Roark, a platoon sergeant with Charlie Battery from Monticello, Ky.

“They feel great after all the training they go through to finally get a chance to do what they love to do, which is fire these rockets off,” Roark said.

The MLRS wasn’t the only weapon system fired off. In addition, active duty units from Ft. Sill, Okla., fired off rockets from the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS.

“It’s important that we work together with the active duty (Soldiers),” Dooley said. “Some of the typical stereotypes of the Guardsman has gone by the wayside since Operation Iraqi Freedom. The level of professional excellence between the organizations has increased so there is a level of respect we bring to the table now. They’ve seen this unit in theater doing convoy security missions right beside their active duty brethren.”

Dooley said the 623rd Field Artillery is currently in a transitioning stage and will eventually begin using the HIMARS as well.



Isgrigg makes Guard history

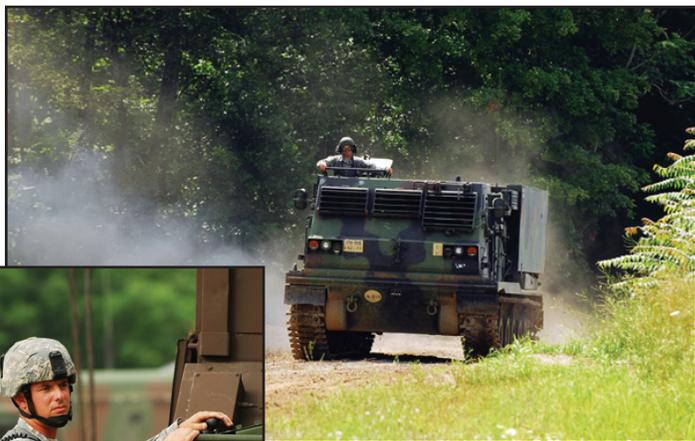
Staff Report

Shauna Isgrigg was promoted April 15 to the rank of command sergeant major at Boone National Guard Center, making her the second woman in Kentucky’s history to achieve such a feat.

Isgrigg, battalion command sergeant major for the 75th Troop Command, is the second female Kentucky Army National Guard non-commissioned officer to graduate from the Resident’s Course of the Sergeants Major Academy at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

The nine-month residence course covers topics such as leader transitioning, assigning and utilizing soldiers, boards, retention and unit readiness.

With more than 22 years of military service, Isgrigg has deployed to Guantanamo Bay as well as aided in the relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina.



▲ Soldiers from the 623rd Field Artillery showed off their maneuvers at Fort Knox July 8.

◀ A 623rd Field Artillery Soldier prepares for a demonstration at Fort Knox July 8.



Training for the Fight



Close Quarters Marksmanship training offered at WHFRTC

Photos and Story by Spc. Michael Pfaff
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kentucky National Guard troops are receiving training that may just be the difference between life and death in Iraq and Afghanistan at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training center in Greenville, Ky.

Prior to deploying, nearly every mobilizing Soldier goes through Close Quarters Marksmanship training, a section of the weaponcraft program, which teaches them how to shoot on the move, handle weapons under stress, use proper coverage, mount and dismount vehicles, and execute suppressant fire.

“We open our CQM lowest level (training) with the recognition that regular Army Basic Rifle Marksmanship training, while necessary, prepares a soldier for a close range lethal encounter just as learning to throw a football prepares one to quarterback the Super Bowl,” said Jim R. Higginbotham, the only marksmanship and weaponcraft specialist here. “There is so much more needed to survive the close range encounter because

the enemy does not have to be skilled to inflict mortal damage at close range.”

Higginbotham said that marksmanship is only part of the picture. There is also weapons handling, tactics and, probably most important, mind-set. Part of that mind-set is developing good habits, for example, learning to use your non-firing hand for pulling the charging handle and reloading, he said.

The first big unit to go into Iraq, the 2123rd Transportation Company, went through the CQM course here, and their training was reflected in combat, Higginbotham said.

“In their very first engagement, they inflicted massive casualties defending an attack on their convoy with not one casualty received,” he said. “General Youngman passed on an e-mail from a parent of one of the Soldiers engaged who credited the training here specifically for giving him the skills to respond effectively.”



The CQM course continues to adapt and evolve to respond to the latest tactics and techniques of the enemy. Most of the instructors have deployed overseas, some of them multiple times. They bring home lessons learned, and teach them to new, mobilizing Soldiers.

“I would never want to change the program’s adaptability,” said Higginbotham. “Being a ‘home grown’ program, we can ‘shift on the fly’ when we get feedback that some particular element of training should be changed or added.”

The Soldier-instructors here are some of the best, said Higginbotham. He credits the success of the program with each of the instructors. They undergo a qualification that rivals any in the nation, including the Air Marshals service and the F.B.I., he said.

In addition, other states are adopting the training the Kentucky National Guard is using.

“The Missouri National Guard teaches CQM right out of our manual and their chief instructor is a graduate of our Weaponcraft Instructor Course,” said Higginbotham.

Higginbotham, who helped develop the course, has a laundry list of achievements in marksmanship and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for the success of this program for the Kentucky National Guard.

“I am proudest not of my own trophies and awards but that Soldiers, Law Enforcement Officers and a few armed civilians are alive today because they knew what to do when the time came and that I may have had some small part in that,” Higginbotham said.

Currently, Kentucky National Guard Soldiers receive this training prior to deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan combat zones. Higginbotham said he believes this training is essential to survival there, and would like to see Guardsmen engaging in this training not only when mobilizing, but also during annual and drill training throughout the year.

“It simply saves lives,” Higginbotham said.



ON THE FLY ...

Photo submitted by Maj. Jeffrey Cole, 149th Infantry, KYARNG

A Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry, fast-ropes out of a UH-60 Black Hawk flown by 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation during the unit's Annual Training May 31- June 14 at the Disney Training Center in Eastern Kentucky. The unit also conducted rappelling, air assault, air casualty evacuation and sling-load training during the AT. Read more about Mountain Warriors who received the Expert Infantry Badge during training on page 12.



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601
phone: 502-607-
1186/1893/1562/1556
fax: 502-607-1468
www.dma.ky.gov/publicaffairs