

SPECIAL RE-ENLISTMENT ISSUE

The Bluegrass Guard

Vol. 18, Issue 2 - June, 2015

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

4-Star Treatment

NGB Chief witness to Unbridled Service

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BENEFITS OF TH



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

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Soldiers are getting huge bonuses! Do you know if you're eligible? New incentive options are out there. See if you qualify.

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

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ON THE COVER

Gen. Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau tells Kentucky Citizen-Soldiers, the Guard is exactly what the Nation needs today.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond)

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

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THE GUARD

CHECK THEM OUT IN OUR PAGES



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

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The Bluegrass Guard

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

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

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Look for us on your favorite social media and follow us on:



Letters to the Editor Policy

The Bluegrass Guard values opinions

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

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

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

Change of Address

Don't miss an issue

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

Army Retiree address changes should be made through Sgt. Darrick Gilbert at the Kentucky National Guard Personnel Services Branch. He can be reached at 502-607-1497 or darrick.l.gilbert.mil@mail.mil

Air Retirees should request changes through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at jturpin@fewpb.net.

From the CSM's desk: *Stay in the Guard, you deserve it*

By Command Sgt. Maj. David Munden

Fort Knox Warrior Transition Battalion
Command Sergeant Major



To Kentucky's finest, greetings! It's an honor to speak with you on a matter that is important to all of us, and that is retaining our best and brightest in uniform. Please give me a moment of your time, and I promise I won't put you to sleep!

Retention of the best Soldiers in our National Guard is a matter of national security. We need you in uniform continuing to serve as a deterrent against any enemy who wishes to do our country harm. It is also a matter of security for our commonwealth, as the National Guard is the Force of Choice to mobilize and deploy for incidents of natural disaster.

There is no doubt our world is a more dangerous place than it was several years ago. Although the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in which many of you served with honor have slowed down somewhat, they remain places where we could be called again to defend our allies and push back against forces whose goal is the elimination of freedom and democracy. As well, there are many other places in the world where our country's honorable intentions to promote a better way of life are being challenged.

Your experience, knowledge and warfighting skills are needed now, just as much as they were 10 years ago. Your sense of adventure, your acceptance of taking up a challenge, and your devotion to helping your fellow man are also needed, just as before. Your willingness to step into the breach, and say, "I got this!" is needed, just as before.

Because that's who we are. We are that group of people who willingly accept the call to advance and go forward in the face of uncertainty. We are the ones who run to the sound of the guns. And we do it with a sense of honor and determination.

Throughout my years of service, I have had many

opportunities to speak with former Soldiers, and many Soldiers who re-entered the National Guard after initially leaving. For the former, I asked them, what do you miss about serving? For the latter, I ask, why did you come back?

The vast majority respond to both questions with the same answer: Friends.


I know that you can look back on your time in service, and see what great friends and connections you have made. Friends that you served with shoulder to shoulder, in the tough times. On patrol somewhere

downrange. On state active duty. In the field on drill weekend.

Friends that have the same goals and desires as you. Friends that understand where you are coming from, and that will always be there for you. Friends that you will forever share a special bond and brotherhood.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the great benefits that are associated with staying Guard. Of course, if you have spent any time around me, you would have heard me speak about the importance of education and career. Our state education benefits are second to none.

Health insurance for you and your family is a really big deal. Your service in the National Guard allows you to access TriCare health insurance at a premium that is very competitive with the open market, and provides coverage better than most plans. The Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, has recently said that TriCare was found to be as good or better than the majority of health care plans available to Soldiers, in terms of cost and coverage.

In closing, thanks for reading. Your service to our country has been invaluable, and you deserve all the benefits and honors pertaining. I ask that you continue to serve on our team, with that same sense of honor and distinction. 

Anywhere World

Here are just a few examples of how you can stay up-to-date on what's going on in your Kentucky Guard, no matter your location:



Ever wonder what people are saying about you? The Kentucky Guard's website tells your family, friends, community, state and the nation, just how great of a job you are doing for those you swore to protect. With more than 1,300 individual stories about Kentucky Guardsmen and the hard work you are putting into your service, it's no wonder why you are part of the greatest force the world has ever known! kentuckyguard.com



Need to know what's going on without reading long articles or posts? With 140 characters, Twitter can provide you with quick, easy access to Guard highlights. twitter.com/kentucky_guard



Want to connect with fellow Guardsmen around the state without having to leave the comfort of home? Facebook offers the opportunity to connect with Guard members and programs to keep you in the loop on important issues. facebook.com/kentuckyguard



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



Thousands of photos from hundreds of Kentucky National Guard events are at your finger tips with just a few clicks. Flickr lets you see what is going on around the Guard; from family programs, to ESGR job fairs to brigade functions. Don't miss your opportunity to see what it's like to be in the Kentucky National Guard. flickr.com/kyngpao

Kentucky National Guard Family Programs

Where Service members and families can turn for support



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

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

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

1-800-372-7601 OR www.kentuckyguard.com

Community outreach opportunities **support Service members and their**

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

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

▶ 1-800-372-7601



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

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

Linda Jones, 502-607-1593, linda.s.jones.ctr@mail.mil

Cindy Culver, 502-607-1751, cynthia.r.culver.ctr@mail.mil

Child & Youth Services **offer a variety of activities and events** for children of Service members

- Kentucky National Guard 4-H Camp
- Operation Military Kids Camps
- Yellow Ribbon Child Activities
- Month of the Military Child
- American Legion Operation Military Cheer

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.mil

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

Kathy Huck, 502-632-2249

Military DISCOUNTS

Keep in mind the deals, travel benefits and discounts you can take advantage of as a member of the National Guard. From shopping at the Exchange to **FREE** admission to Busch Gardens or Sea World; these opportunities are only for those with government IDs. So keep yours, by staying in.

Fly Space-A

Shop tax-free

Visit National Parks for free

Get additional rebates on a car

Save with government rates at hotels

Save on:

tickets to Disney World

sporting events

vacation resorts

car insurance

shoes and apparel

...and the list goes on and on



EXCHANGE

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

Military
OneSource



THRIFT
SAVINGS
PLAN



**ARMED FORCES
VACATION CLUB®**

by Endless Vacation Rentals®



Marriott®
HOTELS · RESORTS · SUITES



AIR FORCE INNS
USAF SERVICES



TOYOTA



**ARMY
HOTELS**

SeaWorld®

CHAMPS
SPORTS®

UNDER ARMOUR



FEATURING

Do your research and get the best deal you deserve!

WE KNOW GAME

LOWE'S
Home Improvement Warehouse

Hilton
The Spirit of Hospitality®

**CANDLEWOOD
SUITES**

"The Guard experience is something you can't get anywhere else."

SGT Duncan Wooster

68W - Combat Medic

1163rd Area Support Medical Company

What does an established airline pilot need with part-time work as a medic in the National Guard? For Sgt. Duncan Wooster, it was about life-long goals and new life skills. He joined the Kentucky National Guard at age 34. Five years later, Wooster is growing confident in emergency medicine, comfortable with a back-up job and preparing for his first deployment. He has made the most of his time in uniform, and uses his maturity and experience to serve his community and country.

Why did you join the Kentucky National Guard?

I joined the National Guard to serve my community and my country. I am the third generation of Wooster to voluntarily enlist in the Army during a time of war. My grandpa served in WWII, my dad in Vietnam and now it's my turn. Serving was a goal I set early in my life, but I started flying and had a family, and I put my military goals away for a while. When I was 30, my brother became an Army aviator and it sparked me to enlist. I'm a full-time airline pilot, but have found emergency medicine a new passion and am very excited about my role as a medic with the 1163rd.

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

With a sluggish economy in 2009, when I joined, I was flying, but wasn't sure of my future. I enlisted as a back-up plan in case I was left without a job. Being a medic in the Guard gave me a second job and the opportunity to learn a new skill. Also being an EMT is a great life skill. There have been times a passenger on a flight needed medical attention and I felt confident enough to step in and assist in making decisions for the health of the passenger.

What would you tell younger Soldiers about re-enlisting?

The Guard experience is something you can't get anywhere else. While there may be difficult times, there are so many life experiences you cannot get without serving. There are other Soldiers with various backgrounds you can learn from. Use that to your advantage to help find a career for the future. There are so many opportunities and benefits, use them to better yourself. And take pride in the life-long honor of wearing the uniform.

What would you tell those interested in joining the Guard?

I speak with a lot of people about the military. I get the 'what's the difference between the Guard and Reserves?' question a lot. I have been able to help friends, co-workers and my children's friends with answers about enlisting and whether it's a good decision for them. I ask them about their goals and tell them to let the military work for you. There are so many MOSs offered in the Guard, there is something for everyone. Let the Guard train you in a life skill you can use forever.

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

There are so many, but competing in and winning the Kentucky Soldier of the year my first year is something I'll never forget. My best six weeks in uniform was attending flight medic school at Fort Rucker. Graduating that class was a memorable day.

But the biggest honor I've had was serving as the NCO for a military funeral. It was my first and only one. The slow salutes, Taps and ceremoniously folding the flag made for a very moving moment in my life.





“There are so many MOSs offered in the Guard, there is something for everyone. Let the Guard train you in a life skill you can use forever.”

*--Sgt. Duncan Wooster,
airline pilot in civilian
life,
combat medic in the
National Guard.*



Getting the most education for your service

Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve

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

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

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation.
- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT).
- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate
- Remain in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB-SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.

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

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>
<http://www.nationalguard.com/education>

Or contact the KYNG Education Office at 502.607.1138

How the GI bills differ and what that means to you



Enrollment Status	Monthly Rate
Full Time	\$367
3/4 Time	\$270
1/2 Time	\$179
< 1/2 Time	\$90.50

Post-9/11

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

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

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

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

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

FAQ

**Options?
Incentives?
Career changes?
Retirement?**

What to know before raising your hand

What should I consider before extending?

Re-enlistment is a commitment. So make sure ready for another three or six years in uniform. Consider your options, maybe another field, maybe more money for school. Whatever the answer, be sure you and your family are comfortable with your decision.

Are there incentives for extending?

Yes. Offers include up to \$4,000 bonus for a 2-year extension and up to \$12,000 for a 6-year extension. A 6-year extension also can include an education kicker of \$200 per month for full-time students.

Can I re-enlist under a different MOS?

Yes you can, provided there is an open slot for the MOS and you meet the skill and training requirements for that MOS.

What about the student loans I'm still carrying?

The National Guard can help you pay them off with the Student Loan Repayment Plan: This bonus can be used to pay off up to \$50,000 in existing student loan debt.

What about health insurance for me and my family?

As a member of the National Guard, most Soldiers and Airmen are eligible for Tri-Care. Tri-Care provides quality health insurance at a price lower than other forms of insurance.

What about my retirement pension?

Re-enlisting is a great way to keep your retirement benefits going strong. Not only will you rack up points and years toward your retirement, but you will be able to secure your pension plan from the military.

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

“The National Guard is exactly



By Lt. Col. Kirk Hilbrecht, Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Gen. Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, met with Kentucky Guardsmen during his first command visit to the Commonwealth April 17, 2015. As the CNGB, Gen. Grass intends to visit Guard troops in all the 54 states, territories and District of Colombia. While in Kentucky, Gen. Grass spoke to Kentucky Troops supporting Louisville’s Thunder Over Louisville.

“Each day Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen like you here from Kentucky are serving the nation, whether overseas and or here at home,” Gen. Grass stated. “Like your fellow brothers and sister Guardmembers, you all do three things extraordinarily well: fight America’s wars, protect the homeland, and build global and domestic partnerships.”

During Gen. Grass’ command visit, he visited troops

from the 1163rd during pre-deployment training at the Wendell H. Ford Training Center, attended a retirement ceremony at the 123rd Airlift Wing, led a mass reenlistment ceremony for 20 Kentucky Guardsmen, visited Guardsmen supporting Thunder Over Louisville and attended a Kentucky Guard family celebration at Keeneland Horse Park.

Senior Airman Lindsey Horton of the 123rd Force Support Squadron, said it was a great honor to be sworn in by the nation’s top National Guard officer on live television.

“Serving in the Air National Guard is something that I take a lot of pride in,” Horton said. “I’ve really taken the Air Force Core Values of service, integrity and excellence to heart, so being able to reaffirm my commitment to them with Gen. Grass was a great experience.”

“Our Kentucky Guard is truly exceptional. You all

what this nation needs today.”

Gen. Frank J. Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau

ought to be proud of all that you do for Kentucky and our nation,” Gen. Grass addressed the newly reenlisted Kentucky Troops.

During an on camera interview at Keeneland Horse Park, Gen. Grass stated, “Kentucky and our National Guard are accessible, operational and so experienced that our Soldiers and Airmen can fall in on any mission and hit the ground running. It’s also the healthiest I’ve seen in the 46 years since I enlisted. And it’s exactly what our nation needs right now. National Guard members want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, and it’s inspiring to hear the feedback from our Troops here in Kentucky and across the globe.”

Gen. Grass also expressed his appreciation to the families of Kentucky Troops at the Military Appreciation venue at the horse park. “I want to personally thank the families of our Troops, for supporting your service members who defend our nation at home and overseas every day!”

“I am exceptionally pleased with the Gen. Grass’ Kentucky visit,” stated Kentucky Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini. “As we continue to fight for defense dollars to keep our Guard as tactically and technically proficient as our nation expects us to be, we need a strong leader in Washington like Gen. Grass. I am glad he had a chance to see our Kentucky Unbridled Service in the field and on mission; from pre-mob train up to domestic operations here with our civic leaders.”

During Gen. Grass’ visit to the Commonwealth, he also acknowledged Kentucky’s selection as the National Guard State Partner for the Republic of Djibouti.

“The globalization of our societies has made our world smaller and borders are now blurred by our ever-changing world,” said Gen. Grass. “The National Guard and states like Kentucky continue to build close and lasting personal relationships with our partner nations around the world, like Djibouti.”

Through the State Partnership Program, the Kentucky Guard will conduct military-to-military engagements in support of defense security cooperation goals. The program also works to strengthen partner nation’s domestic response capabilities.

“Kentucky and our National Guard are accessible, operational and so experienced that our Soldiers and Airmen can fall in on any mission and hit the ground running. It’s also the healthiest I’ve seen in the 46 years since I enlisted.”

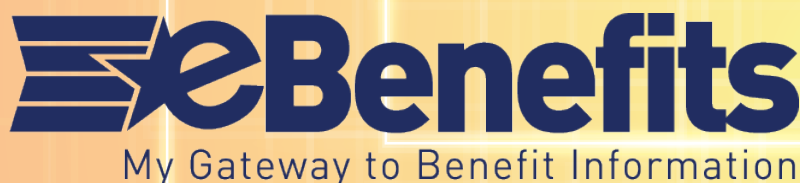


THE ONE STOP SHOP FOR JOBS, EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The program relies heavily on employer partners notifying ESGR of employment opportunities. These are broadcast to Guard and Reserve personnel and families via email, through social media and Family Readiness Groups across the state.

Check out their Facebook page at facebook.com/KYESGR to find



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

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

Become an ESGR Volunteer!

Our dedicated volunteers come from all walks of life. We are business executives, civic leaders, and patriotic citizens. Some of our volunteer activities include the following:

Employer Outreach: Develop relationships with employers to promote advocacy for service in the National Guard and Reserve.

Ombudsman: Assist in preventing, reducing, or resolving employer or service member misunderstandings regarding employment rights and responsibilities.

Public Affairs: ESGR Public Affairs volunteers work with military and civilian media organizations to promote public understanding of the ESGR mission.

Military Unit Representative: Inform and educate members of the National Guard and Reserve regarding their employment rights and responsibilities under USERRA.

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

Kelli Carter, 502-607-1302, kelli.f.carter2.ctr@mail.mil



Should you have a life-changing event such as: Divorce, re-marriage or a child etc., you have one year to make that change to your Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP).



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

Hanging it up?

What to expect from your Guard Retirement



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



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



Remember that retirement is not automatic. You have to apply for it. To apply for your retirement benefits you will need to submit a retirement application packet. **For information on what documents you need, contact SGT Derrick Gilbert 502-607-1497**

1 PENSION PLAN

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

2 DUAL INCOME

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

3 DUAL CAREERS

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

4 CONTINUED BENEFITS

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

5 FAMILY BENEFITS

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

6 RELAXATION

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

“This is a great place to be and a wonderful brotherhood to be a part of.”

CW2 Jacob Lewis

Construction Engineering Technician

149th Vertical Construction Company

Enlisting in 2002 as a combat engineer, Jacob Lewis has spent his entire time in uniform in the Kentucky Guard. A decision based upon his family's history of service and a desire to serve. In 2012 Lewis decided to make the transition from NCO to warrant officer. With the confidence he had garnered as an enlisted Soldier, Lewis felt his abilities could take him further. It has paid off. Lewis was named the 2014 Most Outstanding Engineer Warrant Officer in the National Guard.

Why did you join the Kentucky National Guard?

I joined the National Guard because I wanted to make a difference in my life and be a part of an extraordinary team of individuals that fight for this nation's freedoms.

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

The most memorable moment for me has to be becoming a warrant officer. Second would be receiving the “Order of the Combat Spur” from the commander of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division while we were deployed in Afghanistan. We received the prestigious award for an outstanding construction job we completed for the 2/1 Cavalry. It's a pretty big deal, especially because we are engineers that are now honorary members of the cavalry community.

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

My friends and family have supported me throughout my career and hold a high respect for what this uniform means and for those who wear it.

What would you tell those interested in joining the Guard?

I would tell those interested in joining that serving in the Guard has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and a very rewarding one. Nothing can hold you back from success but yourself.

What would you tell younger Soldiers about re-enlisting?

This opportunity doesn't come often and why wouldn't you want to stay in and earn more money and gain skills the outside world doesn't offer in an everyday job. It can't be replicated.

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

The Guard has benefited me by helping me continue my education and supporting my family throughout my deployments, be it by finding someone to fix a car or even someone to watch our dog. My education and the support of my family are very important to me and I have been blessed to have been the recipient of such benefits.





Sometimes we are faced with challenges and it's how you as an individual handle those challenges that make each of us different."

--Chief Warrant Officer Jacob Lewis,
Combat Veteran and 2014 Outstanding
Engineer Warrant Officer.



BONUS\$ TIME

got all the right pieces?

Have less than 13 years time in service at ETS

E7 or below

Cannot hold an AGR or Tech position

Must be in a deployable unit

May only extend with ONE incentive - Bonus, SLRP or Kicker

What could I be making?

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

National Guard Non-Prior Service Enlistment Bonuses – up to **\$20,000**

Prior Service Enlistment Bonus – up to **\$30,000**

Enlisted Affiliation Bonus - up to **\$20,000**

Reenlistment/Extension Bonus - up to **\$12,000** (6yrs) - **\$4,000** (2yrs)

Civilian Acquired Skills Program (CASP) Bonus – **\$10,000**

MOS Conversion Bonus - **\$4,000** for certain excess Soldiers to reclass and serve 3 years

Officer Accession Bonus - up to **\$10,000**

**Policies are subject to change.
Certain requirements must be
met for eligibility.**

For more information, contact the
KYNG Incentives Office at 502.607.1342

Education Benefits

How furthering your schooling can benefit your life

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

1 MORE OPPORTUNITIES

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

2 SELF-CONFIDENCE

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

3 GAIN PERSPECTIVE

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

5 NETWORKING

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

6 SHOWCASE YOUR WORK ETHIC

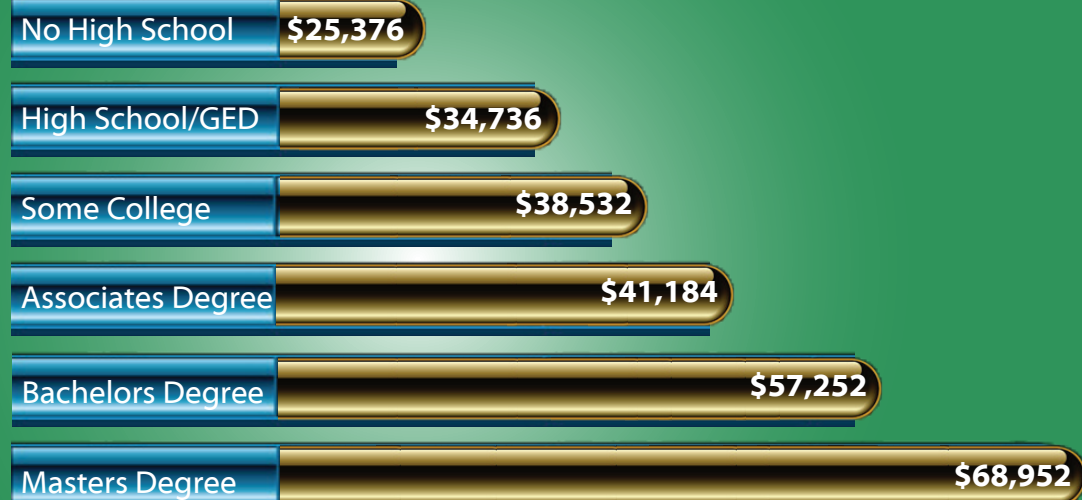
When you are able to complete your degree or advanced degree, it automatically tells potential employers a lot about you. It shows you can work independently, you are ambitious, and you are able to learn and develop new skill sets. These are the traits employers and hiring managers are looking for in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

4 KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

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

THE FURTHER YOU GO, THE MORE YOU'LL MAKE

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

RANK UP

with Structured Self Development



SSD 3 + ALC-CC

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR
RECOMMENDATION TO SERGEANT 1ST CLASS



SSD 4 + SMC

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENT FOR
RECOMMENDATION TO
SERGEANT MAJOR



WLC

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR
RECOMMENDATION TO STAFF SERGEANT



SSD 4 + SLC

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENT FOR
RECOMMENDATION TO
MASTER SERGEANT



SSD1

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR
RECOMMENDATION TO SERGEANT

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

INTERESTED IN MAKING SOME EXTRA MONEY OVER THE WEEKEND?

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

E1 (<2 YEARS)



E2 (> 2 YEARS)



E3 (2-3 YEARS)



E4 (2-6 YEARS)



E5 (2-10 YEARS)



E6 (2-16 YEARS)

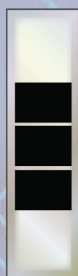
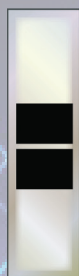


E7 (2-26 YEARS)



Rates are effective as of FY 2015

THE WARRANT OFFICER CORPS



PUT YOUR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO WORK!

DEFINITION

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

REQUIREMENTS

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

APPLICATION

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



LEADER...TRAINER...MENTOR

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

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



O.C.S.

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

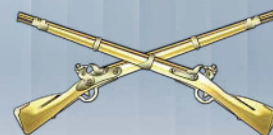


Commissioned officers in all of the National Guard's career fields hold positions of tremendous authority. They are proven leaders, willing to accept challenges, make important decisions and take on great responsibility.



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

**For more information contact MAJ Jason Aliff
502-607-1153 or jason.l.aliff.mil@mail.mil**



EXPLORE THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD



Biathlon Team

contact Lt. Col. Brian Demers
@ 502.607.1487 or
email brian.s.demers.mil@mail.mil



Marathon Team

contact Maj. Varinka Ensinger @
varinka.t.ensinger.mil@mail.mil



Military Reserve Exchange Program

Information available at www.ra.defense.gov/Programs



Marksmanship Team

contact Sgt. 1st Class Eric Dean @ 502.640.1869
or email jamesericdean@yahoo.com

LEARN ABOUT KENTUCKY
NATIONAL GUARD TEAMS
AND PROGRAMS,
AND BECOME
A BETTER ATHLETE,
MARKSMAN, LEADER,
SOLDIER.

STAY GUARD

FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

**SEE YOUR RECRUITING AND
RETENTION NCO TODAY
DON'T LET THESE VALUABLE BENEFITS SLIP AWAY!**

-TUITION ASSISTANCE

-GI BILL

-REENLISTMENT BONUS

-LIFE / HEALTH INSURANCE

-MONTHLY PAYCHECK

-FAMILY PROGRAMS

**-MILITARY FAMILY LIFE
CONSULTANTS**

**-FINANCIAL COUNSELING
FAMILY SUPPORT
(FRG/FAC/FRSA)**

-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

-MILITARY ONESOURCE

-EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS

-RESILIENCE TRAINING

-PLUS MANY MORE BENEFITS!

