

The Bluegrass Guard

Vol. 19, Issue 2 - Feb. 2016

Serving the Men of Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard

WALKING THE LINE

Kentucky general follows path to the top



Kentucky schools
top nation in
ROTC scholarships

14

10

Could a commission
be in your future?

AROUND THE



JFHQ- Sgt. Josh Kemp with the 2nd Battalion, 75th Recruiting and Retention Command was honored by the National Guard Bureau for his graphic design work in support of the Department of Defense's Safe Helpline number. Kemp was presented the 2015 Sexual Assault Prevention Innovation Award for his contribution Oct. 23.



63rd TAB - 1st Sgt. Chris Delaney with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 63rd TAB finishes a Kentucky stencil on a brand new UH-60M Blackhawk Oct. 2. Kentucky was among the first to receive the updated Blackhawk models.



75th TC - Lt. Col. Thomas Black receives the colors of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry during a change of command ceremony in Barbourville, Ky., Oct. 3. Black took charge from Lt. Col. Joseph Lear who led the battalion since 2013.



138th FAB - Members of the 138th provide the cannon salute over downtown Frankfort for the Gubernatorial Inauguration, Dec. 8.

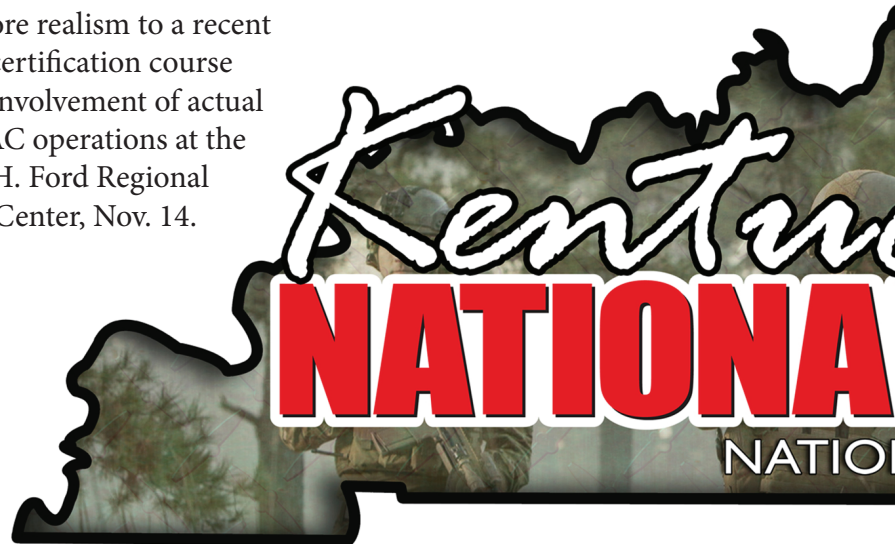


238th RTI - RTI Instructors added more realism to a recent medic recertification course with the involvement of actual MEDEVAC operations at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, Nov. 14.



On the Cover:

Brig. Gen. Stephen R. Hogan, Kentucky's adjutant general walks in the Inaugural parade in Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 8, 2015. Hogan was selected by newly-elected Governor Matt Bevin to lead the Kentucky National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond)



KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD

AND IN OUR PAGES



123rd AW - Col. Robert Hamm (left), commander of the 123rd Operations Group, passes the 165th Airlift Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Dave Flynn during a change-of-command ceremony at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 17.



149th MEB - The 441st Survey & Design Team was honored at a departure ceremony on Oct. 31 at the Kentucky National Guard Armory in Springfield, Ky. They deployed to the Middle East and are overseeing construction projects in the region.



The Bluegrass Guard

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

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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Letters to the Editor Policy

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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.

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8 years of pride and honor

From Retired Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini



I cannot emphasize enough how proud I am of all that my fellow Kentucky Guardsmen have accomplished during my eight year tenure... from Ice storms, tornadoes and floods... to worldwide deployments, awards medals – national and international accolades.

I have journeyed many times to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Qatar, Djibouti, and Kosovo to support Airman and Soldiers deployed in combat and in many other countries during training. I was always told that Kentuckians are the best prepared on the battlefield.

I've travelled all over the world in the past eight years --- and have consistently heard the same thing... "Kentucky leads the way." "Kentucky Gets It."

I cannot adequately express how much of a difference each and every one of you have made. You've 'done your organization proud'. You've done me proud, but most importantly, you've done yourself proud.

I know you all are ready for whatever challenge is thrown in front of you. You all answer our Governor's or Nation's call in their time of need every time... I've learned in my tenure as Guardsman and TAG that you're not alone, nor will you EVER be alone in our Guard family.

Your Leadership supports you. Your Troops will support you. The mantle of responsibility is upon you...and it's real. I'm challenging you today to be the "outside-the-box" thinkers that we so desperately need in these chaotic times.

We have a mission to accomplish. I'm counting on you to make this happen. It may be a hard road and you may be frustrated – but you will persevere. I know you can do it.

As your Adjutant General, I truly am proud of what you've done with your units and for our organization. Continue to strive to be the 'best version of yourselves' as you can. Take care of each other and yourselves. I pledge my best to take care of each of you in any way possible going forward.

It's been an honor and a privilege to have served alongside you. May God bless you and your families, may God bless this great state we serve and may God bless the United States of America.



Edward W. Tonini
Maj. Gen. (Retired)





Photo by Walt Leamont/Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Sgt. Caleb Simmons with the 940th Military Police Company salutes a passing Color Guard during the Gubernatorial Inauguration parade in Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 8.

Kentucky welcomes new Governor

Story by Staff Sgt. David Bolton

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Out in full force, the Kentucky National Guard celebrated with fellow Kentuckians as Gov. Matt Bevin was publicly sworn in Dec. 8, in Frankfort. Also sworn in was Army Brig. Gen. Stephen R. Hogan, the Kentucky Guard's 52nd adjutant general.

"This is really the one big event we get to do every four years to really support the Commonwealth and let them know we have a band," said Sgt. Shari Kinslow, a musician assigned to the 202nd Army Band.

"For us, this is the time of year where we get to be compared to some of the active duty bands up in D.C.," she said.

The 202nd played several events for the inaugural celebration, including the private swearing-in ceremony, the parade and the public swearing in.

The inaugural events were special for Kinslow since this was her last performance before retirement. She served 20 years with the Kentucky Guard.

"I'll miss this, it's more like a family than just a unit," she said.

More than 150 Soldiers and Airmen were on duty in a variety of roles in and around the downtown area.

If the event patrons didn't know the Kentucky Guard has a band, the 19-round artillery salute proved the Kentucky Guard has artillery. Getting the 105mm Howitzers and personnel in place took special planning and coordination.

"You have to know how many people it will take to fire the guns, and coordinate the transportation of the artillery pieces from Lexington to Frankfort," said Master Sgt. Joseph Mattingly, intelligence non-commissioned officer, 138th Field Artillery Brigade. "You have to draw ammo from Fort Knox, make sure everyone knows what's going on, and run through rehearsals."

As the liaison officer between color guard and artillery salute, Mattingly said the hardest part of the event was making sure he could reach everybody and keeping everyone on a timeline. The duty, he said, was fulfilling.

"It's always an honor every time you do something like this," said Mattingly.

Spc. Josh Goldener, said the honor of serving and protecting the attendees of the inauguration is a memory that will last with him a lifetime.

"It's a huge honor to get to be a part of both the new governor and TAG's first day," said Goldener. "I mean, this is history. I'm standing here getting to serve in something that happens every four or eight years. It's very cool to be able to say I was a part of this and someday I can tell my kids or grandkids I was part of this event."

■ **More** - Read full story and see more photos at KentuckyGuard.com



Photo by Walt Leamont/Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Gov. Matt Bevin greets spectators at the gubernatorial inauguration in Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 8, 2015.

DESERT STORM

25th ANNIVERSARY



Staff Report

Kentucky National Guard

It's been 25 years since the United States first went to war in the Persian Gulf.

On Jan. 17, 1991, Americans at home watched as Operation Desert Shield turned into a desert storm. A six-week air campaign preceded what came to be known as "The One-Hundred Hour War," leading to the swift liberation of Kuwait.

Once again Kentuckians found themselves on the forefront of the assault. Because of the size and intensity of the planned offensive, reserve components from all over Kentucky were called to duty, performing such diverse missions as ensuring the transportation and accountability of equipment and supplies, providing direct fire support, battlefield medical support and refugee relief, water purification, film and video documentation of military actions, security and handling of prisoners of war. Some reservists served as replacements for active duty units called to action.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Nearly 400 National Guard units were activated with nearly 40,000 Guardsmen serving in theater.

1,078 Kentucky Guardsmen served overseas

Kentucky Guard Units

137th Transportation Detachment

217th Quartermaster Detachment

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

475th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH)

2123rd Transportation Company

223rd Military Police Company

438th Military Police Company

1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery

Earning the title “Best Warrior”

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kentucky National Guard has named the 2016 Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer and Senior NCO of the year for the commonwealth as follows: Soldier of the Year Spc. Jacob Heath, a medic assigned to Detachment 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry; NCO of the Year Sgt. Christopher Jones, an infantryman assigned to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry; and Senior NCO of the Year 1st Sgt. Josh Baker, first sergeant with the 299th Chemical Company.

The three Guardsmen received ribbons and trophies in a brief awards ceremony Nov. 8, at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Kentucky, following the competition.

“So many times we get caught up in the day-to-day, conducting the Guard business, all the mandatory training, that it is easy to lose sight, sometimes, of what a privilege it is to stand shoulder to shoulder with these guys,” said Baker. “The caliber of Soldiers who were here, I’m just speechless of the caliber of competition.”

Warriors were tested on their military knowledge and military history; completed an Army Physical Fitness Test; conducted weapons qualification on the M4 rifle and 9 mm pistol; were physically and mentally strained on a stress-shoot obstacle course; ran land navigation and 5-mile ruck march and completed numerous Warrior Task skills before appearing before boards.

“I’ve had a 17-year career in the Guard, I’ve seen a lot of what right looks like,” Baker said. “Now I want to do that for my Soldiers. I want to impart everything I’ve learned here on my Soldiers.” Kentucky’s six brigades sent their best and brightest representatives for the annual Best Warrior competition held Nov. 5-7. The three-day competition pushed each of the 15 competitors to their mental and physical limits. The competition is designed to prepare the three winners to represent the commonwealth at the regional and national level competitions. “When you came in on Thursday night, I asked you one thing,” he said. “While you’re driving home, can you look within yourself and say I left it all out there. I did everything I could do, to do as well as I can. And I

hope that you did.

“I hope you go home with a satisfied mind and a satisfied soul,” he said.

Kentucky’s Soldier and NCO of the Year will continue to train with senior leadership to compete in the regional competition in Spring 2016.

For Jones, he’s well aware of how difficult the regionals can be. In 2015, he represented Kentucky as the Soldier of the Year at regionals. After learning from his experience there and competing as a NCO for 2016, Jones said he has one goal.

“Hopefully to win it all this year and take the national,” he said.

Jones said one of his downfalls in 2015 was tackling the state and regional competition as if it was meant for infantrymen, and not encompassing the whole Soldier concept.

“This isn’t infantry of the year, this is Soldier of the Year,” he said.

That same sentiment is what Heath said kept him going through the competition.

“I serve in a platoon of medics; it goes to show that there’s no limits, nothing there to stop you,” said Heath.

Heath said that his preconceived idea that the Best Warrior competition was only for an infantryman is something he wants to ensure other Soldiers don’t think.

“I’ve got motivation to make my peers better Soldiers and better competitors,” he said.

Kentucky State Command Sgt. Maj. David Munden said he was not only proud of the winners, but also of the spirit and resiliency the other competitors exuded.

“These (15) are the best and the brightest of what the Kentucky National Guard has to offer,” he said.

He also thanked the competitors for staying motivated and pushing each other through the stress.

This year’s runners up included:

Soldier of the Year Runner Up Spc. Michael Miller, a paralegal assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 149th Brigade Support Battalion; NCO of the Year Runner Up Sgt. Justin Gottke, an engineer assigned to WHFRTC; and Senior NCO of the Year Runner Up Sgt. 1st Class Lance Warmath, automated logistics specialist, Joint Force Headquarters.



The Kentucky National Guard winners of the Best Warrior Competition were named during a ceremony Nov. 8, at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Kentucky. Winners from left to right: Spc. Jacob Heath, Soldier of the Year; Sgt. Christopher Jones, NCO of the Year; and 1st Sgt. Josh Baker, Senior NCO of the Year.



Flight Medic Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lowe with the 2nd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment consults with a medic team as they prepare to load a simulated casualty aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk MEDEVAC helicopter for transportation to a field hospital located at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Ky., Nov. 14.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Hiler/133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kentucky training school setting bar for medic recertification

Staff Report

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

When things go wrong in the field, Soldiers turn to the so-called “Angels of the Battlefield.” These highly-trained combat medics are there for when the worst case scenario unfolds, whether on the field of battle or during training exercises, whenever Soldiers are injured or wounded.

In order to stay up-to-date on the best trauma practices, medics receive refresher training every two years. Luckily for medics of the Kentucky National Guard, the refresher training is offered at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville.

“This class provides the medics with all of the continuing education units required to re-certify,” said Staff Sgt. Donald King, a combat medic instructor for the 238th Regional Training Institute.

“This course also gives them additional training that they cannot get in their units or elsewhere.”

Following the completion of the course, Soldiers received familiarization training on medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) flight operations. The RTI coordinated with aviation assets from Kentucky’s 2nd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment to provide MEDEVAC helicopter support as a culminating event to the course.

“The purpose of this exercise is to give these medics experience with aviation flight medics and MEDEVAC

aircrews so they are better prepared to evacuate patients to the next level of medical care,” said Sgt. Daniel Diehl, combat medic instructor. “This is training that they would otherwise only receive when deploying overseas.”

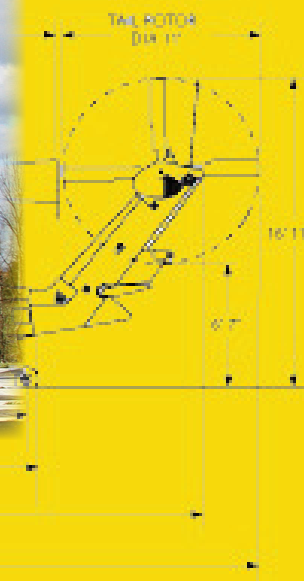
The medics performed triage on simulated casualties at a field aid station and called in nine-line MEDEVAC requests. From that point a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter arrived to transport their patients to a field hospital.

Soldiers and trainers at Kentucky’s RTI are used to thinking outside the box and developing methods to improve training and bring attention to the possibilities at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. Training coordinator, Sgt. 1st Class John Riggi said this medic course was just one example of that type of thinking.

“It’s rare to have a portion of this kind of training include actual medical evacuation by aircraft. Thankfully we were able to coordinate with our aviation assets in the state to make it happen,” said Riggi. “And I believe it was certainly a highlight of the course and a critical piece of training that will make these medics better.”

“This is the best medic training I’ve ever received,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kirby Jones. Jones, a recruiter for the Kentucky Recruiting & Retention Battalion, took the course to re-certify his combat medic status.

New birds for Kentucky's Army Aviation



With the arrival of the newest model of the blackhawk, along with the new LUH-72 Lakotas, the Kentucky Guard's Army Aviation is among the most updated and capable units in the country.

THE SIKORSKY UH-60M BLACKHAWK

Number of Engines= 2

Engine Type= T700-GE-701D

Maximum Take Off= 3,988 shp

Shaft horsepower= 1,940 shp

Maximum Gross Weight= 22,000 lbs

Maximum Cruise Speed= 151 kts

Maximum Service Ceiling= 15,180 ft

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Hiler/133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

"I've been to four previous medic refresher courses at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell and other locations," he said. "This class has been better by far because of the level of interaction with the instructors and the shared experiences of the other medics. No 'death by PowerPoint' here."

The training also benefited the aviation Soldiers of Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 2/238th. Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lowe, Flight Medic Standardization NCO for the unit said the training opportunity provided the crew a chance to test their own response and how they work with ground medics in such situations.

"This assists our mission by saving precious time correcting mistakes in patient packaging during an actual lifesaving mission," said Lowe. "The medics that were involved in this training performed admirably, they were given difficult scenarios in very different environments than they were used to working in. I was very impressed by their hard work."

A variety of courses are taught at the training site which has become not only a convenience for Kentucky Soldiers but a very cost-effective benefit for the state. With the addition of a realistic MEDEVAC exercise with aircraft, the course garnered the attention of Fort Sam Houston, home of the U.S. Army's combat medic school.

"A representative from the Army's Emergency Medical Service program was here to see how we do things in Kentucky, and I believe he was impressed," said Riggi. "The more unique and high-quality training we can conduct here, the more people will notice what the RTI can do. And that could lead to even more training opportunities and benefits for the Kentucky Guard."



Sgt. Orlando Gonzalez, Kentucky Recruiting and Retention Battalion, reviews a simulated casualty's status with a doctor at a field hospital during a practical exercise conducted as part of Combat Medic Sustainment training at the Kentucky National Guard's Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Kentucky, Nov. 14.

COMMISSION

From high school through college, The Reserve Officer Training Corps is in place to help guide future leaders of the Armed Forces into successful careers in the military.

Here's Your Options...

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- No older than 27 years old
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- Enroll in a ROTC affiliated school as a full-time student

"I chose state OCS in order to develop leadership skills, to be a part of Kentucky's team and to accomplish something few people are able to do."

*2nd Lt. Sean Embry
149th BSB*

"Joining ROTC was the best decision I ever made in my career. I've built lifelong friendships and the basis for a lifetime of networking across the country."

*2nd Lt. Bryan Sager II,
201st EN BN*

State Officer Candidate School

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- High school diploma or GED
- Pass APFT and meet height/weight requirements
- 90 semester hours or a bachelor's degree or higher
- Commission by your 42nd birthday

YOUR FUTURE

Federal Officer Candidate School

- U.S. Citizen
- GT score of 110+
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- Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited university
- Must not have more than 6 years of Active Federal service upon arrival at OCS

Warrant Officer Candidate School

- U.S. Citizen
- GT score of 110+
- Meet WO MOS requirements
- Possess Secret or Top Secret security clearance
- Pass commissioning physical
- Must Have 12 months left on enlistment contract
- High school diploma or GED

"Becoming a warrant officer has been a life-long dream. On this journey, I have found that to be successful, one should be ready mentally and physically, and always do the right thing. You never know when the opportunity to succeed will find you in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing."

Warrant Officer Terry Roark
2/75th R&R

TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR CAREER

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for more information and to pursue any of these options

ONE STEP AT A TIME FOR

Story by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

A favorite quote amongst members of the Kentucky Guard goes like this, “There’s something in the very air of Kentucky which makes a man a Soldier.”

That’s also how you could sum up Brig. Gen. Stephen R. Hogan, Kentucky’s newest adjutant general.

After a 30-year career in an Army uniform, Hogan returned from retirement in December to assume the role as the commonwealth’s 52nd adjutant general.

Hogan inherits a Kentucky National Guard that is in his mind “the best it’s ever been.” It’s now his job to keep it there.

“Every day in uniform is a blessing. Being a Soldier is all I’ve wanted to do since I was five-years-old, and this position offers me a challenge I have not seen before,” he said. “It’s good to be back. Good to be back amongst friends. It’s good to be back amongst people who live this culture.”

“I derive satisfaction from being around the Soldier and being a part of this team. The willingness to serve something

bigger than self is the cost of admission for this organization.”

After three decades in service, Hogan will rely on his Soldier’s perspective to lead Kentucky’s Soldiers and Airmen. That strong frame of reference for operations across the spectrum must serve him well as the Guard continues to be called upon at a moment’s notice in a variety of ways.

“We’ve become comfortable with unpredictability in an ambiguous environment,” he said. “So the same thing that the Pfc. faces is essentially what I’m going to face, just with a requirement of me being a little more forward thinking.”

Kentucky’s newest adjutant general said the Guard needs to remind itself of its role, and the reoccurring themes of flexibility and expertise in a great deal of areas.

“I think any unit needs to be orchestrated as a team and there is no point in a Guardsman’s career from E-2 to a two-star that the standards aren’t important.”

On his first day in the Guard in 1993, Hogan received what he calls the keys to leadership at the most simplistic, basic level.



Gov. Matt Bevin congratulates Brig. Gen. Stephen Hogan following a swearing-in ceremony in Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 8.
Photo by Marvin Young

NEW ADJUTANT GENERAL

“Retired Col. Bill Clark summed it up like this; ‘You must be a subject matter expert in your field, and whatever your troops are required to do, you are required to do.’”

Hogan said he hasn’t forgotten those words and that ideal. He said they’ve helped carry him through his career as an officer. Military education and experience have taught him more, but not as much as that original to-the-point conversation.

Hogan’s father was the only direct family member that served in the military. Even though he was drafted into the Army in the 1950s, Hogan said his father was very proud of his service because he understood the concept of sense of self.

After commissioning through Morehead State University’s ROTC program in 1985, Hogan served eight years on active duty with the 101st Airborne Division and 6th Infantry Division.

June 2, 1993 was Hogan’s first day as a Kentucky Guardsman. He became a tactical officer with the 138th Field Artillery Brigade, followed by stints with the 149th Armor and Kentucky’s Officer Candidate School.

But it would be his time in command of Kentucky’s Joint Support Operations, the drug-eradication task force, that would define the leader that now commands the Kentucky Guard.

As the former commander of the hand-picked unit, Hogan said he has seen some of the finest Soldiers Kentucky has to offer serving the commonwealth.

He said leading a group of driven Soldiers with such camaraderie and dedication to service remains a highlight of his career. It was core principles that he believes made and continues to make JSO such a quality unit. An idea he sees as essential for the Guard to thrive.

“We’re going to emphasize core fundamentals and competencies for Soldiers and Airmen. We’ve proven what we can do and how well we’ve done it, but I would like to see some forward movement in all aspects of how we do our jobs.”

“I would like to see the organization return to those core competencies and become an even more professional institution.”



Hogan understands he now has a unit of 8,500 under him to supervise and represent. It’s time for him to become a subject matter expert in a new job, for which he knows he has work to do. And his success will be measured on the success of his troops.

“If I don’t push myself, the organization pushes me, and requires me to be the best version of myself as we go forward in order to earn my part on the team.” 🇺🇸

Excellence Achieved

Kentucky schools top nation in ROTC scholarships

Story by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

The Minuteman Scholarship hasn't been around long. It was created to allow ROTC cadets the option to self-identify as future officers in the National Guard and Army Reserves.

The pressure of the competitive selection process for active and reserve slots would no longer affect those Cadets chosen to receive the Minuteman Scholarship. Maj. Gen. Peggy Combs, commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command instituted a new idea in 2015, allowing schools to award more than their assigned scholarships.

Following that initiative Kentucky's ROTC schools awarded more Minuteman Scholarships than any other state.

"The reality is, the state of Kentucky took care of a lot of deserving young leaders that are now in school and are looking at becoming officers in the United States Army," said Col. M. Blaine Hedges, commander of Cadet Command's 7th Brigade.

Hedges, a Kentucky-native, said his brigade, which encompasses Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee expected to award 20-30 scholarships. But with a "powerful performance" from professors of military science and the support from leadership of the Kentucky Guard, the numbers exceeded those expectations.

"Seventh Brigade ended up with 92 Minuteman Scholarships that we gave out. Of that, 85 were National Guard Soldiers and 30 of those came from the state of Kentucky, and 16 came from Morehead State, who led the Nation."

Lt. Col. Robert Hilton Jr., senior military instructor at Morehead, said thanks to the school's recruiting operations officer, Farley Purvis and on-campus recruiter, Sgt. 1st Class Johnnie Parton, Morehead has now set a standard for future Minuteman Scholarship campaigns.

"This opportunity has helped our ROTC fulfill a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) mission," said Hil-

ton. "To have numerous cadets actively drilling in local units provides a much needed skill set that comes back to the Cadet Corps through real-life experiences from interaction with members of the Kentucky National Guard."

Kentucky's Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Stephen Hogan, commissioned through Morehead's program in 1983. He believes the school has always been one of the most military-friendly institutions.

"The majority of the challenge of getting through ROTC is the commitment to the selfless service and the military culture on the other side; and because of the outstanding location, quality staff and great community support, Morehead will continue to be successful."

Hedges said the key to any success with the scholarships is education which is the number one priority. His guidance to cadets or future cadets is to "focus on academics, the ROTC curriculum will just reinforce that and we will posture them for a solid future as officers in the military."

"It's an honor to lay the foundation for the future leaders of America's Army for potentially the next 30-50 years, and those Minuteman Scholarship recipients *are* the future leaders of America for the next several decades."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond/Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

There are five primary ROTC programs in the commonwealth with several satellite schools under them. Lt. Col. Brent Hulse, commander of the Kentucky Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion said his Soldiers continue to assist each school with recruiting efforts that will benefit the ROTC program, the Kentucky

Guard and the Army.

"Putting motivated and qualified men and women into these programs is among our top priorities," he said.

"Through interaction with our OCS program and with our recruiters in the schools, the Kentucky Guard is proud to be a partner with the great ROTC programs in helping to identify and develop future officers to lead our Guard and the Army."

Two uniforms of service

Story by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

The Kentucky State Police Academy presented diplomas to 45 new troopers at ceremonies held in Frankfort, Oct. 29. Their addition to the force brings the agency's strength to a total of 880 troopers serving the citizens of the commonwealth. Of those 45 new troopers, three are all too familiar with wearing a common uniform and standing for something bigger than themselves. They are Kentucky National Guardsmen.

Staff Sgt. Jordan Carter with the 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, 1st Lt. Jacobe Farmer with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry and Sgt. Michael Jacobs from the 2123rd Transportation Company each accepted a new role and responsibility to the commonwealth.

"The National Guard had taught me numerous skills and values that helped me as a Soldier," said Jacobs. "However, I wanted a new challenge with similar interests that would help me adapt to a civilian career that I would enjoy."

"I always wanted to be a Trooper. I figured that joining the Guard would help me obtain that goal," said Carter. "Plus I like helping people so it provided a great opportunity."

The new troopers are part of the agency's 93rd cadet class. They reported for duty on May 24, 2015 in a class that consisted of 70 cadets.

The training included more than 1,000 hours of classroom and field study in subjects such as constitutional law, juvenile and traffic law, use of force, weapons training, defensive tactics, first aid, high speed vehicle pursuit, criminal investigation, computer literacy, hostage negotiations, evidence collection, radio procedures, search and seizure, crash investigation, drug identification, traffic control, crowd control, armed robbery response, land navigation, electronic crimes, sex crimes, hate crimes, domestic violence, bomb threats and

hazardous materials.

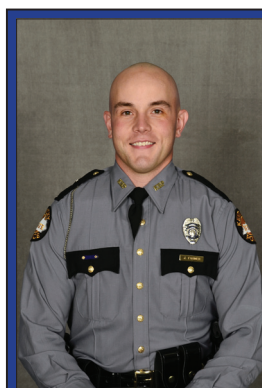
Each Guardsman expressed a true desire to help others, the same thought that inspired them to join the military.

All three are also grateful for the training they have received in the Guard, which helped them through the Kentucky State Police Academy. "Joining the Guard prepared me in numerous ways and instilled in me the seven Army values which should be something that everyone lives by," said Carter. "Being a Trooper involves so much and the seven Army values aren't just 'valued' by the Army. They are incorporated in the daily life of a Trooper as well."

"Multi-tasking and attention to detail go hand in hand with what I have picked up from being in the Guard and my military training towards my career field in law enforcement," said Farmer. "As a Trooper I will deal with a variety of events and at times they will be one after another and/or all together and for me to be able to handle many tasks at once while not leaving out important details is essential in my field."

Lt. Col. L. Allen Joiner, commander of the 1/623rd said the unit is proud of Carter and his decision of selfless service in multiple uniforms, a benefit he has seen first hand.

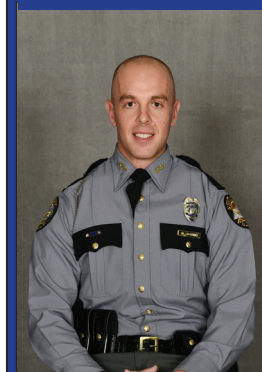
"Serving both on the State Police force and in the Kentucky National Guard, these individuals are able to acquire knowledge and experience that saves lives during Kentucky natural disasters and emergencies when these organizations are working side by side," said Joiner. "An example is during the 2009 ice storm, one of our Soldiers, who was also a State Police officer was able to use his civilian position resources to provide current road conditions to our military units across Western Kentucky."



1st Lt. Jacobe Farmer
Bravo Company
1st Battalion 149th Infantry



Staff Sgt. Jordan Carter
1st Battalion 623rd Field Artillery



Sgt. Michael Jacobs
2123rd Transportation Company

"I always wanted to be a Trooper. I figured that joining the Guard would help me obtain that goal. Plus I like helping people, so it provided a great opportunity."

Staff Sgt. Jordan Carter
Kentucky State Trooper



Senior Airman Randy Roberts, a Fire Team leader from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron, directs efforts to recover a simulated downed pilot inside a mock Afghan Village at Fort Knox, Ky.

Air Guard Security Forces enhance combat



A Fire Team member from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron provides cover as his teammates search for a simulated downed pilot inside a mock Afghan Village at Fort Knox, Ky.



A Fire Team member from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron provides cover as his teammates search for a simulated downed pilot inside a mock Afghan Village at Fort Knox, Ky.

skills at Fort Knox

Photo Essay by Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Fire Team members from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron conducted a field training exercise at Fort Knox, Ky., Oct. 20 that was designed to enhance their ability to operate in a combat environment.

Unit members were evaluated on their ability to extract a downed pilot from a simulated Afghan village and defend a military outpost in the Afghan countryside.



Fire Team members from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron move as a team while conducting training to recover a simulated downed pilot inside a mock Afghan Village at Fort Knox, Ky.



Tech. Sgt. Julien Borchert, a squad leader for the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron, shouts commands during a field training exercise at Ft. Knox, Ky.



Photo by Sgt. Lerone Simmons/133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Retired Chief Warrant Officer William H. Canon, former shop foreman assigned to the 2113th Transportation Aircraft Maintenance Company, poses with a new UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter after a ribbon cutting ceremony for Kentucky's new Army Aviation Support Facility and introduction of a new fleet of UH-60Ms at the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort, Ky., Oct. 14, 2015.



Photo courtesy Chief Warrant Officer(R) Harold Canon

Capt. Yancey York (left) confers with SPEC5 William H. Canon as he prepares for a flight in an OH-13E, circa 1960.

Aviation: Past, Present, Future

Former shop foreman proud of Guard's progress

Story by Sgt. Lerone Simmons

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sitting in a new multi-million dollar facility, retired Chief Warrant Officer William Canon Jr., reminisced about providing maintenance to the Kentucky National Guard's aircraft in high winds, pouring rain, freezing cold and summer heat.

"When I first joined, our pilots had recently flown in World War II," he said. "Our equipment was old and we didn't have adequate places to work.

"We had to park trucks around the helicopters to make sure the wind didn't hit them directly," said Canon. "The elements are one of the worst things when it comes to properly maintaining aircraft." Canon enlisted in the Army in 1950 and retired in 1990. He would join a fledgling aviation program in 1955.

In 1959, the Kentucky aviation assets found a new home in Frankfort, Kentucky, at the Capital City Airport. Then, 18-or-so-years later in 1971, Canon witnessed a state-of-the-art facility erected at Boone National Guard Center – the Army Aviation Support Facility, a hangar for the helicopters assigned to Kentucky. During his tenure, Canon rose to the level of shop foreman, assigned to the 2113th Transportation Aircraft Maintenance Company, and retired out of the old AASF.

But on Oct. 14, he joined hundreds of other current and former Kentucky National Guardsmen as the ribbon was cut, ceremoniously showing off the Kentucky National Guard's newest AASF at Boone National Guard Center. He also got to view, sit in, and touch the new UH-60M, the Army's newest in the Blackhawk fleet.

The new AASF is 126,000 square feet and uses geo-thermal

heating and cooling, solar power, 80 kilowatts photovoltaic solar power, high efficiency lighting, daylight harvesting technology, and radiant floor heating. It holds several offices for staff, classrooms, a gym and plenty of space.

"We come from a time where we didn't always have a climate controlled area or lots of space," said Canon's old company commander, retired Lt. Col. Willoughby S. Goin III, a former pilot with 12,000 flying hours.

"This will help allow the Guard to be able to deploy troops to any affected areas in a timely manner," he said, "at times when ice storms, tornados and floods can destroy roads, the Guard can then utilize the air from this facility."

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky and other special guests honored Canon during the building's dedication ceremony. The Kentucky Guard's aviation safety record was also bragged upon during the remarks.

Kentucky hasn't had any major accidents or loss of life for the span of the last 250,000 flying hours, which Tonini said boils down to a huge feat of great maintenance and outstanding flying. He added that the Kentucky Guard has flown at least 15 missions over the commonwealth during times of disaster, also while supporting the Joint Support Operations counterdrug efforts and overseas contingency operations.

For the many aviation retirees and current Guardsmen who maintain the Commonwealth's air assets, the day was a reunion and a celebration of moving forward.

"What I've seen is outstanding," said Canon. "I'm proud of the progress we've made."

Kentucky Guard cuts ribbon on two new facilities

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond

Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

To begin the new fiscal year, the Kentucky National Guard opened two new facilities Oct. 14, in its continued effort to support the commonwealth and the nation.

Gov. Steve Beshear joined Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky in cutting the ribbon on a new Army Aviation Support Facility in Frankfort, Ky. The new \$26 million facility has nearly 126,000 square feet of combined space to house UH-60 Blackhawk and LUH-72 Lakota helicopters.

The new hangars and office space provide the latest in cost-savings technology and energy efficiency. It will replace the aging AASF built in 1971.

"The courageous men and women who constitute the Kentucky National Guard embody the words 'service' and 'sacrifice,'" said Governor Steve Beshear. "It has been with the utmost confidence that I have called upon them in Kentucky's time of need during an impressive number of federally declared disasters. This new Army Aviation Support Facility we're dedicating today will only increase the effectiveness of the Kentucky National Guard as its members perform an already wide array of capabilities. With the best equipment and the best people, there's not much we in Kentucky won't be able to handle."

Tonini then cut the ribbon on the Bowman Readiness Center in Louisville later that afternoon.

The Butler Reserve Center was acquired by the Kentucky Na-

tional Guard in the fall of 2013 as a result of the 2005 Defense Base and Realignment and Closure law. Kentucky invested \$4 million to renovate the facility. This center will support operations of the commonwealth's National Guard units.

"Events like these show the relevance of what we do to serve our metro, our commonwealth and our nation," said Tonini of the Bowman Center. "Make no mistake about it, this is a Kentucky National Guard facility. Not only will we honor the

military legacy of the Soldiers walking through this building, we will enhance it and continue the tradition with Kentucky Guardsmen."

With the newest construction projects ongoing at the same time, Col. Steve King, director of facilities for the Kentucky Guard, said it was a demanding undertaking, but a beneficial move in the

right direction for the Guard.

"The Kentucky National Guard and Department of Military Affairs routinely manage between 30 to 40 projects at any given time," said King. "These projects range from minor renovations and maintenance of readiness centers or armories, to major military construction. When managing large scale projects simultaneously, it's important to note the teamwork involved between all agency personnel. Most of these projects have federal funding, but all have to be worked through the

Finance Cabinet for design and execution. This relationship is key to the successful execution of all these projects."



Kentucky National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility, Frankfort



Bowman Readiness Center, Louisville



Chief Master Sgt. Brian Pritt (left), air transportation manager for the 130th Logistics Readiness Squadron, presents the Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs award to Senior Airman Cory Corbin, an air transportation journeyman in the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, during a ceremony at the Kentucky Air Guard Base in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 13, 2015.

Photo by Senior Airman Joshua Horton/KYANG

Kentucky Airman named top aerial porter

Story by Master Sgt. Phil Speck

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Cory Corbin was presented with the Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs Award for Excellence in Aerial Port Operations during a ceremony at the 123rd Airlift Wing in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 16, recognizing him as the top Air Transportation Journeyman in the Air National Guard for 2015.

Senior Master Sgt. Larry Burba, superintendent of the wing's aerial port, says that Corbin is a highly motivated Airman and is always the first to volunteer for mission taskings.

"He's involved in all areas that a Guardsman could participate in," Burba said. "He's part of stateside operations and part of federal war-fight operations. He is the all-around Kentucky Guardsman, and a great example of what that would be -- someone who is always first to raise their hand and volunteer."

Corbin has deployed several times, including a tour at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, where he led the movement of 23,700 tons of cargo and 36,000 passengers during 2,600 missions. He was also a key player in the "Kuwait 500," an immediate base-closing effort in which he helped redeploy 737 tons of rolling stock in 30 days.

Most recently, Corbin deployed with the 123rd Contingency Response Group to Dakar, Senegal, where the unit supported the U.S. military's response to the largest Ebola outbreak in history, supervising the movement of 469 passengers and 1,198 tons of cargo on 193 missions into affected areas.

He also eradicated over 445,000 marijuana plants as part of an elite Joint Service Operation within the state of Kentucky, preventing the use and sale of more than \$900,000 worth of illegal drugs.

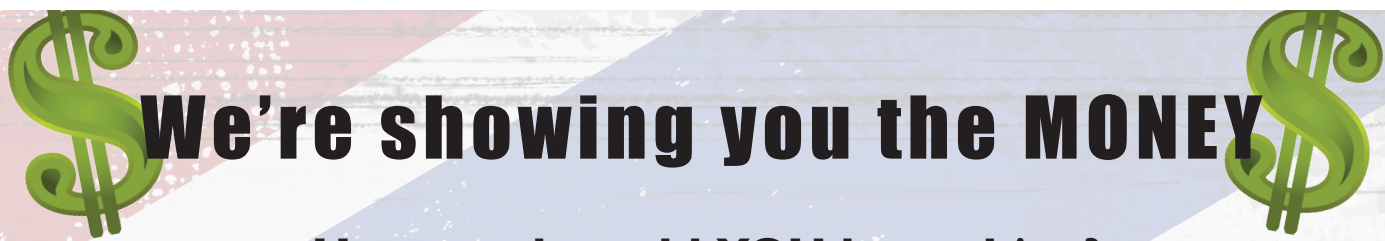
Corbin is a member of the Kentucky Air National Guard's Honor Guard team, a member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, a Medevac litter team member and Ramp Team Chief for the Kentucky Air Guard's Cargo Deployment Function. He also donates funds and volunteers time to the Kentucky State Police for state trooper projects and is pursuing a career with the New Albany Indiana Police Department.

"It was an honor and very humbling to be selected among my peers to receive this award," Corbin said.

The award is named in honor of former 123rd Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Downs, who was an aerial port superintendent before passing away in 2009 after more than three decades of service. The award has been bestowed annually since 2012.

"Command Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs was a true hero who cared for nothing more than the Airmen around him," said Chief Master Sgt. Brian Pritt, air transportation manager for the 130th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "It didn't matter what rank, unit, branch or state they were from, he made sure they had the tools necessary to accomplish the mission and they felt his true compassion and love for the 'Port Dawg'."

"He immediately made you feel that you were a part of the family for which we are known. He defined the true meaning of our core values as far as integrity, service before self and excellence, and everyone who came in contact with him knew that those words were much more than a phrase to him -- it was a way of life."



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Cash Bonuses for Reenlistment:**

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

Prior-Service Enlistment Bonus - up to \$10,000

Enlisted Affiliation Bonus - up to \$10,000

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

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

Officer Accession Bonus - up to \$10,000



Soldiers must have less than 13 years time in service at ETS

Must be E-7 or below

Cannot hold an AGR or TECH position

Must be in a deployable unit

**May only extend with ONE incentive -
Bonus, Student Loan Repayment or Kicker**

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

**For more information, contact
the KYNG Incentives Office at
502.607.1342**

Cased Colors



Lt. Col. Mark Brozak, commander of the 1204th Aviation Support Battalion furls the unit's colors with help from Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Foster during an inactivation ceremony in Burlington, Ky., Jan. 10, 2016. After nearly 10 years of service the unit was inactivated due to changes in the Army's force structure.

Photo by Sgt. David Cox, 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade

Story by Sgt. David Cox
63rd Theater Aviation Brigade

Soldiers of the 1204th Aviation Support Battalion furl their unit colors for the last time during an inactivation ceremony Jan. 10, at the National Guard Readiness Center in Burlington, Ky.

The unit of nearly 300 has been inactivated in accordance with the Army's force structure realignment.

Activated in 2006, the 1204th played a vital role in disaster recovery operations during the 2009 Ice Storm and deployed to Iraq in 2011 in support of Operation New Dawn.

"From 2006 to today, this unit has probably done more as an ASB than the other 12 currently in the force," said Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Adams, III, Chief of the Joint Staff. "Being able to deploy as a battalion to five different countries during a time of war says a great deal about the unit and its personnel."

Lt. Col. Mark Brozak, commander of the 1204th ASB, said "that although the colors are cased, the Soldiers of the unit will continue to serve the nation and the commonwealth of Kentucky."

The 1204th's mess section finished their service to the unit as recipients of the Connelly Award. The award recognizes food

service Soldiers that exceed Army standards and operate at a level that showcases teamwork, professionalism, quality and service.

Soldiers expressed a bittersweet satisfaction with what they accomplished while being a part of the unit's history.

"I've been in almost 18 years and this is home to me," said Staff Sgt. Bill Hyatt, supply noncommissioned officer with Headquarters Support Company, 1204th ASB. "It's going to be a big culture shock to me because aviation is where I've been since I've been in the Kentucky Army National Guard and now I'm going to a transportation company."

"I'm going to be the first person to arrive to the 1204th and the last person to leave."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Raymond/Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 1204th Aviation Support Battalion fold a unit flag prior to an inactivation ceremony in Burlington, Ky., Jan. 9, 2016.

The Burlington Readiness Center, home of the 1204th, will continue to be utilized by the Kentucky Guard. Two new units, the 2061st Multi-Role Bridge Company and the 2112th Transportation Company will be stood up this year to operate out the state-of-the-art armory.



Photo by Sgt. David Cox/63rd Theater Aviation Brigade

“ I’m going to miss my unit. And I’ll never forget my first home in the Guard.

Pfc. Thomas McDaniel

”

FINAL FORMATION



Soldiers preparing for their expiration of term of service or ETS are required to attend the one-day event to either re-up or out-process. This initiative provides a process that enables the Soldiers to out-process from the Kentucky National Guard, for personnel staff to work issues, and an opportunity for the senior leadership to affect a Soldier’s decision to reenlist.

SEE YOUR READINESS NCO FOR MORE INFO.

“We absolutely want to retain every good qualified Soldier, no doubt. But for those who have honorably served, whether it was one term or 30 years, we also want to ensure they exit the Kentucky Guard with the same level of detail and care as when they entered.” - Col. Michael Abell, director of personnel



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