

# Bluegrass Guard



Vol. 22, Issue 1 - June 2019

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

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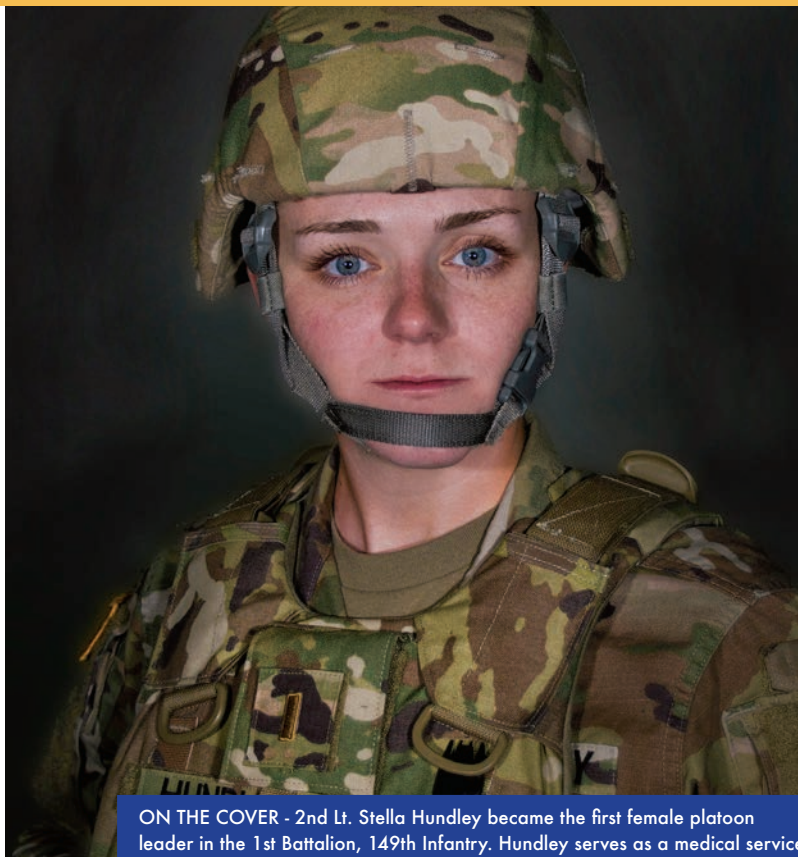
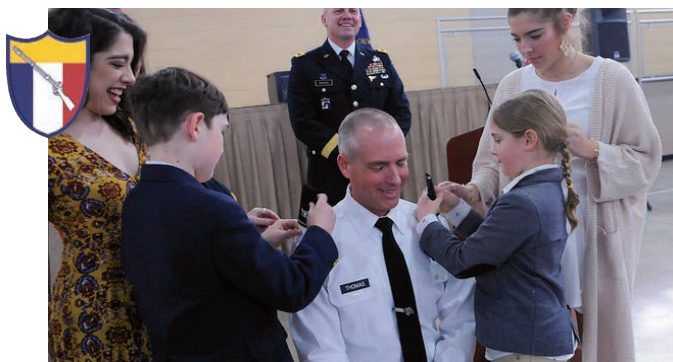
**ACFT Prep:  
Learn the Leg Tuck**

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# AROUND THE GUARD

## AND IN OUR PAGES



ON THE COVER - 2nd Lt. Stella Hundley became the first female platoon leader in the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry. Hundley serves as a medical service officer in the battalion while working full-time managing personnel and logistics for the 75th Troop Command. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Scott Raymond



**JFHQ** - Lt. Col. Scott Thomas, newly appointed director of Military & Family Support, is promoted to the rank of colonel by his family during a ceremony April 12 in Frankfort.



**123rd AW** - More than two dozen employers spent the day with Airmen of the 123rd March 15 for a Bosslift. The Kentucky Employer Support for the Guard & Reserve (ESGR) sponsored event included a tour of the air base in Louisville and a flight to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.





**238th RTI** - Instructors at the 238th hosted members of the Djibouti military, April 13-14 at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, and incorporated them into training with OCS candidates.



**138th FAB** - Lt. Col. Ronnie Barnes, commander of the 138th is promoted to the rank of colonel by his wife and father during a ceremony in Frankfort April 5.



**75th TC** - Col. David Reed relinquished command of the 75th to Col. Douglas Clay during a change of command ceremony at Fort Knox April 14.



**63rd TAB** - Kentucky Guard Soldiers and ROTC cadets from Eastern Kentucky University took part in the third annual G1 SHARP 5K race hosted this year by the 63rd TAB in order to raise awareness of sexual assault prevention April 24 in Frankfort.



**149th MEB** - Soldiers with the 2061st Multi-Role Bridge Company assist in the evacuation of local residents from flood waters and deliver supplies to families isolated by flooded roads in Leslie County March 5.



## 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 [kyng.pao@mail.mil](mailto:kyng.pao@mail.mil).

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# STAY GUARD

By Col. Douglas Clay, Director of Personnel,  
75th Troop Command commander

The 2012 University of Kentucky & 2013 University of Louisville basketball teams won national championships with a mix of both experienced veterans teamed with a young group of talented newcomers. These teams were able to “retain” a core of veteran players to combine with an extremely talented yet inexperienced class of freshmen in order to become the nation’s most elite college basketball teams. The Kentucky National Guard is no different.

Retention of our experienced and seasoned Soldiers and Airmen is absolutely critical to the success of our organization. Our Recruiting and Retention teams are enlisting Five Star talent all throughout the Commonwealth; but we must also ensure that we have tested and proven veteran leadership among our ranks. We need those who are capable of helping our younger troops weather the storms they will encounter during their career. Our relevancy depends on our strength in numbers and a competent core of seasoned leaders who have stood the test of time to lead us into the next generation.

Lastly, retention of the Service Member isn’t an individual event. Keeping our best and brightest in uniform is a family affair. The career paths of our Soldiers and Airmen are also impacted by families and loved ones who commit to the organization just as the Service Member does. The sacrifices of the loved ones cannot be overlooked and our retention of them is just as important as the troops themselves.

As we continue to strive for excellence, we must not take for granted the experience that we have within our formations. We must continue to grow future generations of our Guard by capitalizing on the absolute professional leaders that have served our team well for many years. Thanks for all that you do and continue to do.

***Fight as Kentuckians!***



## LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

*The Bluegrass Guard values opinions*

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

Mail The Bluegrass Guard  
KYNG Public Affairs  
100 Minuteman Parkway  
Frankfort, KY 40601

E-Mail [kyng.pao@mail.mil](mailto:kyng.pao@mail.mil)

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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 the Kentucky National Guard Personnel Services Branch at 502-607-1497.

Air Retirees should request changes through retired Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin at [jturpin1945@gmail.com](mailto:jturpin1945@gmail.com).



Kentucky Guard



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# GUARDSMEN DEPLOY OVERSEAS



## 1103rd MPs to patrol Afghanistan

By Maj. Gus LaFontaine

The Law and Order Detachment of the 1103rd Military Police gathered in Ft. Knox April 13 to conduct a departure ceremony for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The unit will deploy for the third time since Sept. 11, 2001. Approximately 20 members of the Kentucky unit will conduct law enforcement missions, criminal investigations, traffic accident investigations and customs duties during the deployment.

Capt. Chris McGhee, commander of the Ft. Knox-based unit, spoke about the unit's greatest strength. "Our strongest quality is that we're small so we're very close. We

treat everything we do as a family. We've got great senior leadership that works with our Soldiers."

McGhee spoke about the readiness of the 1103rd. "We're ready to go. By the end of our training exercises, we were working as a strong, cohesive unit. It makes me feel that we are right where we need to be to complete this mission."

Maj. Gen. Stephen Hogan recognized family and friends in attendance by acknowledging that they likely feel a tremendous loss as they say goodbye to their Soldiers. Hogan said, "That feeling

is counterbalanced by the pride that you may feel as your loved ones stand in the gap between the American way of life and chaos."

He added, "We've got a professional unit that's going to represent the Army, is going to represent the Guard, is going to represent Kentucky exceptionally well. This is the right unit for the right purpose."

McGhee displayed confidence that the detachment can measure up to the trust of Hogan.

"We will do everything to help our Soldiers be successful."



## 2/147th Aviation to the skies of the Middle East

Staff Report

Governor Matt Bevin and leadership from the Kentucky National Guard joined friends and family Feb. 16, to say farewell to nearly 60 members of the Kentucky Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Air Assault Regiment who are deploying to the Middle East for the next year.

"The level of gratitude I have for the Soldiers in this room is immense," said Gov. Bevin. "You are serving the men and

women of the United States of America and upholding the very principles of our freedom."

Based in Frankfort, Bravo Co., 2-147 is composed of UH-60M Blackhawk helicopters and associated personnel. The unit will be charged with providing Air Assault and transport capabilities throughout the U.S. Army Central Command's theater of operations.

Capt. Terrell McClard is the commander

of Bravo Company and has been in charge of the unit for the last 18 months in preparation for the deployment.

"We must remember our families during this time, you're serving as well, just not in uniform," said Capt. McClard. "Your sacrifice cannot be overstated."

"The unit cohesion and the esprit-de-corps for this unit is very special. I'm incredibly confident that we're prepared for the mission ahead of us," said McClard.



# THE LEG TUCK

How's and why's with Sgt. Zachary Casey



The fifth ACFT event happens on a pull-up bar, but it's definitely not just a pull-up.

On the command "GO," the Soldier will flex at the elbows, knees, hips, and waist to lift the knees. Flexing the elbows assists with this movement. The right and left knees or thighs must touch the right and left elbows, respectively. The grader must observe both knees (or thighs) in contact with both elbows for the Soldier to receive credit for the repetition.

Small, inconsequential, or passive movement of the body and twisting of the trunk is permitted. Deliberately swinging the trunk and legs to assist with lifting the knees is not permitted and will cause the subsequent repetition to not count.

**PRO TIPS:** Lean back slightly and engage your core and pull from your scapulars and lats rather than relying on your biceps to do all the pulling. A few exercises to help train for this event are: Banded Pull a Parts, Lat Pull Downs, Alternating Grip Chin Ups, Planks (regular & side), Static Hold at the top of the pull up, and Negative Pull Ups are just a few exercises to help prepare for the Leg Tuck.

-One of the primary limiters on the Leg Tuck exercise is the ability to do a strict pullup. Work on pullup strength by using a spotter to hold your feet and complete 5 sets of 5 reps 2-3 times per week.

-Another limiter is grip strength. Work on this by completing farmers carries, deadlifts, (both of which will help you elsewhere on the ACFT) and dead hangs from a pullup bar. Try to achieve at least one minute unbroken hang from a pullup bar.

-If you have the ability to do pullups and adequate grip strength, it's time to work on your core strength. You can do several exercise to build core strength, but I would recommend a mix of plank holds, ab mat situps, and hanging knee raises.

## "WHY THE LEG TUCK"

It engages the muscles used when we are surmounting obstacles, climbing over walls, rope climbing and descending or traversing while navigating through whatever mission is in front of us. I'll leave you with this...

**"HOW YOU DO ANTHING, IS HOW YOU DO EVERYTHING."**







# ALL EYES ON THE PRIZE

## SOLDIERS BATTLE FOR BEST WARRIOR TITLE

By *Spc. Alan Royalty*  
*133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Through rain, wind, sand, and a whole lot of mud, Kentucky Army National Guardsmen competed for the honor of winning the annual Best Warrior Competition at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Ky., Oct. 24-27, 2018.

After three days of consistent competition, where State Command Sgt. Maj. David Munden called a true example of “Warrior Spirit,” Kentucky’s top Soldiers were named. Spc. Tyler Reckner with the 2113th Transportation Company took home Soldier of the Year. Staff Sgt. Jesse Mascoe of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry earned NCO of the Year. Sgt. 1st Class Donnie Saunders from the 299th Chemical Company was named Senior NCO of the Year.

“Just knowing that you’re competing against the best Soldiers in the Kentucky National Guard is a great experience,” said Saunders. “I did this to show my Soldiers how to lead by example. You put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.”

Soldiers from brigades throughout the state congregated to shoot, ruck, run, jump and run some more while celebrating their competitive spirit and camaraderie. Guardsmen motivated each other throughout each phase of the competition, transforming what would have been a tense atmosphere of opposition into one reflective of the



Kentucky Army National Guard’s values.

“Even though we are competitors, we still come together and lift each other up where we can,” said Staff Sgt. William Pauley with the 1st Battalion, 238th Regional Training Institute, and Non-commissioned Officer of the Year competitor. “As Soldiers, we all want to see one another succeed. That’s the entire esprit de corps of the National Guard.”

The Soldiers awoke early on the fourth morning to conduct a day/night land navigation course followed by a tactical shooting drill and combat run, a race including different tactical elements. During the combat run, Soldiers were required to stop in a designated “hot zone” and quickly don their gas masks before sprinting to the finish.

“Anytime that you’re doing something challenging, especially with a group of people, you grow,” said Bradshaw. “You suffer together; you grow together.”

Reckner and Mascoe continued on together competing in the National Guard Region III Best Warrior Competition, May 14-18 in North Carolina.



READ FULL STORY AT [KENTUCKYGUARD.DODLIVE.MIL](http://KENTUCKYGUARD.DODLIVE.MIL)





# FAMILY FOCUS

*Story by Stacy Floden*

Late last year, the Kentucky National Guard decided to split the G1 into two supporting directorates. Kentucky will continue with the traditional G1, but has now established G9, a Military and Families Support Directorate, effective October 1, 2018.

The newly created G9 will provide guidance and implement long-lasting solutions to the needs of our Guard members and families. Some of its many programs include the chaplain, family assistance centers, youth programs, family readiness council, yellow ribbon events, transition assistance advisors, personal and family counseling, financial counseling, military funeral honors, and the Army Survivor Outreach services.

“We are a diverse group of professionals with distinctive skill sets that form the center of gravity to enhance our Guard families’ circle of life,” said Col. Scott Thomas, G9 Military and Family Support director. “We are dedicated to providing guidance and direct actions that will produce healthy life choices and promote resiliency within our Guard family.”

The G1 will consist of the Personnel Service Branch which includes OPM, EPM and awards. It will also include health services, behavioral health and industrial hygiene, the System Interface Branch, education and incentives, mobilization/operations and the recruiting and retention battalion.

G9 Military and Family Support Deputy Director Major Daniel Cooper stated the intent for the G9 is the continuation of providing proper support to our Soldiers and their families. “It makes sense to me. Consolidating all of these programs in the G9 makes perfect sense. G9 is military and family support. It is support for our Soldiers and families, it involves a lot of liaison with community resources and organizations.”

The G9 mission offers resources and programs to increase Soldier and family resilience, personal readiness, Soldier life cycle management, community involvement and provides Kentucky leadership with greater situational awareness.

“The special thing about now having a G9 is that it gives us an opportunity to focus our time, our energy and staff on what is super important, our Soldiers and their families,” said Cooper. “It allows the Kentucky Army National Guard to focus on a much more detailed approach for these programs that support our families.”

Several states have created a G9 across the country. Thomas visited Tennessee to see how they ran their G9 and if it would be a good fit for Kentucky.

“Tennessee established its G9 Directorate ten years ago, so they are a wealth of knowledge and experience on what works and does work in this arena,” stated Thomas. “They are a close resource which I plan to use to help transition our new Directorate successfully.”

Each individual needs to be resilient and the Guard wants their families to be resilient as well. Soldiers deal with a lot of stuff as human beings in society so G9 is here for the Soldier and their family.

What does that Soldier really need to be resilient? Sometimes its help, sometimes it is knowing who to talk to and sometimes it is just knowing that someone is out there being an advocate. To reach G9 Military and Family Support, please contact 1-800-372-7601, option 1.

G9 is here to focus on military and family support. If you need help, get a hold of us. We want to be here to help you with what you need. 🇺🇸

**To reach G9 Military and Family Support,  
please contact 1-800-372-7601, option 1.**



**Did you know?**

 Kentucky Guard families get discounts on summer vacations and theme parks

Visit: <https://kentuckyguard.dodlive.mil/family-programs/family-assistance-center>



# TROOPS SET STANDARD FOR EXCELLENCE

## Air(wo)men of the Year

*By Staff Sgt. Joshua Horton,  
123rd Airlift Wing*

Senior Airman Brianna Cook, Staff Sgt. Danielle Blankenship and Master Sgt. Brittany Ingram have been selected as the Kentucky Air National Guard's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2019.

The three Airmen were chosen by the KyANG Chief's Council based on leadership, job performance in their primary duties and qualities of the "Whole Airman Concept," said Chief Master Sgt. Shane LaGrone, 123rd Airlift Wing command chief.

Cook, winner of the Airman category, currently serves here as senior controller for the Kentucky Air Guard Base Defense Operations Center, 123rd Security Forces Squadron. She ensures detailed, concise command and control of all installation force protection and security forces functions while on duty. She also performs duties as entry controller and flight armorer for the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

"Brianna rose above her peers in all levels," Myers said of her performance during the past year. "She was a senior airman doing, at times, tech sergeant-level jobs and excelling. NCOs and some of the SNCOs would actually go to her to solve programmatic issues.

"I can think of no better representation of an Airman, a security forces member or an Air Force member than Brianna Cook," he added. "She embodies all of the core values. She has the work ethic, the drive and the desire to be the best."

Blankenship, winner of the non-commissioned officer category, is a logistics plans journeyman for the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron here. She serves as the overall manager for development, evaluation, planning and documentation of all logistics plans processes and activities.



Blankenship has deployed in support of operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve. While mobilized last year, the NCO was hand-selected as the top enlisted member of an expeditionary Readiness Action Team that redeployed 4,500 troops with zero errors. She also single-handedly created a new format for the management of force deployment data, reducing

rejection rates 15 percent below the average for units across U.S. Air Forces Central Command.

"She possesses all the traits that it takes to become an expert logistician," said Master Sgt. Duane Wariner, logistics plans superintendent for the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron. "She's very driven, detail-oriented and meticulous. Everything you give her, she takes and improves upon. Every program she's taken over at our wing has gotten exponentially better.

"In our job, we don't get a lot of recognition," Wariner added. "We're kind of the puppet masters behind the scenes. If everything goes smoothly — everybody gets there on time — we're kind of lost in the shuffle. That's kind of how we like it. So the fact that she's getting this recognition for doing an outstanding job is well deserved and overdue."

Ingram, winner of the senior non-commissioned officer category, serves as information manager and administrator for the 123rd Airlift Wing command staff here. She coordinates daily operations involving the wing commander, vice wing commander and wing command chief, including meetings, staff visits and travel. She also serves as the resource manager, unit fitness program manager, functional area records manager, Defense Travel Systems certifier and the Air Reserve Orders Writing System clerk.

In Kentucky, Ingram provided expert leadership as vice president of the Enlisted Association, National Guard of Kentucky.

"Master Sgt. Ingram is a powerhouse that drives results for not only the wing staff, but on programs that affect the entire wing," Wilkinson said. "She cares about every Airman that she works with, she's very conscientious, and she makes sure she's taking care of everybody she touches."

"Her impact across her most recent deployment was tremendous in addition to the efforts she provided at the wing before deployment, helping everybody prepare to go on their deployments and making sure her programs were handed over properly and sustained in her absence."



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# AT HOME IN THE GUARD



## Officer becomes first female platoon leader in infantry unit

*By Pfc. Harrison Moore  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

It was not just another routine Parris Island graduation ceremony in October of 2013. Newly formed Marines proudly marched indoors to find their families after a ceremonial formation. It was at that moment when Stella Hundley, now an up and coming second lieutenant in the Kentucky National Guard, realized she wanted to serve her country.

She recalls the moment when she locked eyes with her brother. They found each other and she raced down the bleachers to embrace him.

"A few years ago my brother graduated Marine Corps boot camp and I had the opportunity to go and watch, which was incredible, and I think I probably made my decision at that point that I wanted to serve," she said.

Hundley briefly spoke with a recruiter and decided to enlist in 2015 and then soon found herself in Army basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, not too far from where her brother once was. In March of 2016, she began Officer Candidate School in hopes of becoming an even better Army leader.

With an undergraduate degree in biology already under her belt and basic combat training, Hundley went into OCS as a specialist and left a freshly minted second lieutenant. She is now a qualified Medical Service Officer.

Hundley works full time for the 75th Troop Command in Louisville, Kentucky, managing personnel and logistics. On drill weekends, she serves as the first female platoon leader in the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry.

"When Officer Candidate Hundley found out that she would be going to the Infantry Battalion as the Medical Platoon Leader she knew that

she was in for a challenge," said Maj. Jason Partin, current Operations Officer with the 1/149 IN and Hundley's Platoon Trainer at OCS.

"My advice to her at the time was to prepare for a physically demanding environment and that she did. In October 2018 she competed in the annual Mountain Warrior Assessment Program and did extremely well. We are excited to have a great young leader in the Infantry Battalion," Partin added.

Although Hundley could succeed in any area of life, she has found her niche within the familiar ranks of the National Guard and its' endless opportunities.

"You will meet some of the best people in the Kentucky Guard and they will help you thrive," said Hundley. "The Guard is unique because you can serve with the same people almost your whole career and really form lasting relationships."

Hundley said she stays involved in her unit and her brigade as she participates in combatives exercises multiple times a week. She practices on the mats with members of the 20th Special Forces Group to stay in shape and have fun. Both the 1/149th and 20th Group fall under the 75th.

"Another great perk of being in the Guard is being able to make connections that lead to opportunities like learning combatives," said Hundley.

Hundley has been in the armed services for four years and she is scheduled to be promoted to first lieutenant this spring. She has worked closely with several mentors and leaders as she has progressed in her career. One of those is Lt. Col. Tim Starke, Administrative Officer for the



75th.

"She identifies problems and finds ways to overcome," said Starke. "She is also proficient in the fundamentals of being a Soldier as she is tactically sound and physically fit."

Hundley realizes all of the opportunities the Guard offers its' members. As an officer in the Guard, there are numerous leadership opportunities throughout the state for qualified officers.

"She would excel wherever she went, but she is totally committed to the community that is unique to the Guard," said Starke.

One experience that makes her grateful to put on the uniform everyday occurred during a summer Annual Training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Hundley said they had just finished a long mission and troops were packing gear for the return home.

"One of my Soldiers and I just talked about life. Moments like that I truly enjoy. We talked about his decision to reenlist or to get out of the Guard and it was great having that conversation."

The Soldier she spoke with is a medic who she doesn't see very often, as he is attached to a line company, but what happened next is what she remembered the most. Hundley said the Soldier told her that he was hungry. Then she reached into her rucksack and asked if he wanted her to make him the best chicken burrito he's ever had. He agreed and she provided what she promised. He enjoyed the burrito and she enjoyed being able to connect with her subordinates reminding them they are all members of one team. The Soldier decided to re-enlist.

Something that sets Hundley apart is she goes out of her way to let everyone on her team know she cares.

"One thing I knew when I was a Joe is I liked when people just talked to me, like I was a human," she said.

Hundley currently serves as the Medical Operations Officer for the 1/149th. She is not the first female to serve in the battalion, but she is the first to lead a platoon. She tries to set an example for all Soldiers in the unit by actively living the Army Values and focuses on the mission at hand and being a good Soldier, regardless of gender.

"I just try to be the best I can be. It doesn't matter if I am female or not. I just want to be the best leader I can be for my Soldiers."

Hundley even has a first place trophy from the 2018 Army Ten-Miler to help prove her motivation. Hundley and five other Soldiers, "Team Mountain Warrior" were the first National Guard team to cross the finish line last year in Washington, D.C.

It is her drive and determination that has brought her this far in her career and she advises anyone thinking about getting out of the Guard to really reconsider their options.

"Obviously education and healthcare benefits are a great reason to stay, but the biggest benefit to me is all of the opportunities to learn and better yourself," she said. "I just feel like I

have never been in another organization where if you come prepared to better yourself, people will find a way to make it happen."



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# COURAGE

## Guardsman battles cancer, commissions as warrant officer

*By Sgt. 1st Class Scott Raymond  
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs*

In late March of 2018, Natalie Wamsley was finishing up warrant officer candidate school (WOCS), maxing her last Army Physical Fitness Test and taking another successful step in her 16-year military career. On April 6, she learned she had cancer.

While at WOCS, she felt a lump, but disregarded it as muscle soreness from the intense physical fitness. A couple weeks after she returned home, and many sleepless nights, she went to her doctor. After an ultrasound and a biopsy, she was called into her doctor's office.

"I knew immediately what that meant," she said. "All they would tell me was I had cancer, not how bad, how big, nothing like that. When you don't know facts, your mind tends to spin out of control."

What Natalie did know was how torturous the week was before speaking with a surgeon. She was told she had an aggressive form of cancer that had spread to her lymph nodes and that it had developed three months prior.

Shock set in.

"I thought 'I am too young for this.' I have a lot more life to live. I have a husband and two very small children. I have a lot to live for," she said. "But he said I was curable, so I continued to stay positive."

Thanks to recent developments in science, doctors said she had a fighting chance. And fight she did.

Natalie enlisted in the Guard while she was still in high school in 2003. She joined because of her grandfather's military service and her involvement in Junior ROTC. She comes from a long line of Veterans, but was the first female to join. She served as a human resources specialist at the company and brigade level including a deployment to Iraq in 2011.

When she took a job at the state's personnel office (G1), she met and was quickly mentored by Chief Warrant Officer Larry Arnett. Arnett told her she would make a great warrant officer. She already knew about warrant officers as her husband, Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Wamsley serves as a network engineer with the state information and technology office (J6). And he knew she would make a successful warrant officer.

"She was already looked upon as an expert in her field," he said. "She has excellent PT scores and shows good leadership skills."

Natalie said that mentorship and the desire to be a better version of herself drove her to the warrant officer path.



"I hope that I can be a role model for my children one day and show them they can do anything if you work hard and have the right people to guide you."

That aggressive nature runs through Natalie in all she does. Less than two weeks after learning she had cancer, she started chemotherapy. A high dose chemo.

But after six rounds, the doctors were not satisfied, so a more intense regimen began.

Then eight more rounds. Then surgery

"I was told I had a 'stubborn' cancer, and the surgery didn't get it all," she said. "So they decided on more rounds of chemo."

There were good days and not so good ones. Laughs and cries. Mentally she remained strong, but physically, she said was a different story. Days when she couldn't pick her children up broke her heart, but not her determination.

"I was so scared I would lose her," Ronald said. "But we focused on one thing at a time. She made things so much easier by being so resilient."

"She would apologize to me because she was too sick to help with the kids, but I said 'Don't worry about it, I got this.' When she lost her hair, it didn't even phase her. She still went to work and didn't even cover up her hair loss.



# DEFINED



She always maintained a positive attitude.”

Natalie was then prescribed radiation therapy which she is currently receiving five days a week. All while preparing to still be commissioned as a warrant officer.

“I was unsure how my appointment would go. I kept telling myself, if it is not my time, it’s not my time. There will be other opportunities,” she said. “But working out throughout my treatments helped my spirit, along with the strength and love of my husband, children and my Guard family.”

Natalie came off chemotherapy Jan. 30, and immediately came off profile early in order to take an APFT to commission. She passed, impressing herself with her score. She was commissioned March 19 in front of a large crowd of friends and colleagues, all inspired by the woman standing in front of them.

She was pinned by Ronald who said he had never been more proud to be her husband. Together they are the only warrant officer husband-wife pair

in the Kentucky Guard. Both remain so grateful for the support they both have received from their Guard family.

When you ask those friends, Guardsmen and civilians, you get “hero,” “fighter,” or “inspiration,” as immediate words describing Natalie Wamsley. Ronald called her a beast for her consistently solid PT scores. She doesn’t see or think of herself as a hero at all and said, “Everyone has their battles, this is just part of my fight and my story.”

Lt. Col. Travis Carpenter, deputy director of personnel for the Kentucky National Guard said a hero is someone who you wish to emulate and someone who has attributes you wish you had, like super powers.

“Everyone has their idea of a hero,” he said. “Sgt. Wamsley is a personal hero of mine.”

“She’s gone through a lot of adversity lately, but comes to work every day with a smile on her face. She not only succeeded in a time of adversity, she excelled in a time that others may not.”

Chief Warrant Officer Jennifer Maggard works with Natalie in the G1. Natalie said she has looked up to Maggard as a mentor and as one of the few female warrant officers in Kentucky. But it is Maggard who said Natalie is the role model.

“One word to describe Warrant Officer Wamsley would be inspiration,” Maggard said. “She has always been an inspiration even before the battle with cancer. She is a natural leader who always goes above and beyond with

**“Your illness does not  
define you, your strength  
and courage does.”**

her no quit, no excuse attitude. She inspires me to be better every single day in every part of life.”

Natalie said her mantra during treatment became, “Your illness does not define you, your strength and courage does.”

“Everyone has their own fight, it’s how you come out of the fight. I hope that I am a better person going through this and I hope through my story I can encourage someone to fight, because this life it worth living.”



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# PATRIOT SOUTH

*By Staff Sgt. Alexa Becerra, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Approximately 60 Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers from Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 238th Aviation MEDEVAC participated for the first time in the National Guard Bureau Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) exercise in Savannah, Georgia, March 4-7.

The exercise, Patriot South 19, tests units' abilities to support response operations during natural disasters utilizing simulated emergency scenarios and is accredited by the Joint National Training Capability (JNTC). Some of the key tasks performed by the MEDEVAC during the exercise were mass casualty evacuations, rescue hoist operations, patient transport, point of injury care, and enroute care.

"Repetition in executing our mission sets and the flight medics being able to perform multiple iterations of enroute and patient care ranging from routine to urgent surgical levels of treatment was very beneficial," said Capt. Jonathon Strayer, UH-60 pilot and commander of the MEDEVAC.

The unit received valuable training by conducting a strategic airlift of two UH-60L Blackhawks from Louisville, Ky., to Savannah, Ga.

"Having to load out all of our equipment, to include our aircraft and fuel truck, and deploy forward to provide MEDEVAC support was a great exercise and helped us determine our strengths and what we can improve on when we are called to mobilize," said Strayer. "Once in place we not only learned how to integrate and work with other agencies, but experienced working joint operations with another branch of the military."

The MEDEVAC has an interagency dynamic amongst its ranks, with civilian experience of their Soldiers ranging from critical care paramedics, police officers, to airline pilots.

"At the fire department, we are involved in critical care transfers that can last 3-4 hours at times as well as 911 response," said Sgt. Ryan Stull, critical care flight paramedic for the Guard and a civilian firefighter and critical care paramedic with the Hopkinsville Fire Department. "Personally, I think the fact that most of our flight medics are actively working on the civilian side greatly contributes to the level of care we are able to provide."

Despite the considerable amount of civilian first response experience in the unit, the Soldiers expressed the advantage of participating in this exercise.



"The Patriot South exercise showed the importance of interagency communication when working toward common strategic goals," said Stull.

The shift to working in a joint-interagency environment was beneficial for the support personnel as well.

"Working in operations at our home station flight facility, I have a rhythm that I go by day in and day out and I am knowledgeable on the mission at hand," said Spc. Adam Wilson, flight operations specialist. "Falling in during the Patriot South Exercise, I was able to leverage my knowledge of our mission back home with their needs in order to support the overall mission."

According to Wilson, whose job includes tracking flight hours and missions, the MEDEVAC conducted 39 hoist missions, transported 60 patients and flew 40.5 hours during the Patriot South exercise.

"Our unit has done aeromedical evacuations and search and rescue in the past from ice storms in our own state, to hurricane relief in the Virgin Islands," said Staff Sgt. Shaun Morris, UH-60 crew chief and standardization instructor.

Although the unit has responded to real-world disaster relief missions, the opportunity to train with new entities and in new environments is always welcome.

"Any opportunity to practice honing our skills in an interagency environment that mimics real-life scenarios only makes us better at helping people in need, which is the sole mission of the MEDEVAC," said Morris.



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# THE DJIBOUTIAN WAY TAKING SHAPE

By Capt. Eric Barton, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Djibouti, a nation I didn't know much about. Honestly, before traveling here, I couldn't have placed it on the map. However, I have found its significance far exceeds its relevant size and distance from the United States. With a centuries-old strategic advantage, this country, this land, is vital and many major world powers desire influence here. Long controlled by France, Djibouti is a rather young country having

the commanders in charge. It became abundantly clear that the common need fell to curriculum and instructor development. We returned home where 1st Sgt. Kennedy, Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Bradfield, and I began drafting a way ahead to support our Djiboutian partners in developing "the Djiboutian way."

Three years and four engagements later, we're still at it. We have hosted instructors

the new commander. Hungry for success and improvement of his school house, Commandant Kayad has taken examples of course management and has drastically improved his student to instructor ratio, his course structure, quality assurance elements, and overall training site discipline.

"The spirit here is incredible," noted Bradfield. "The students coming in from a long hot day at the range, calling cadence,



gained its independence in 1977.

I've been traveling here since 2017, with a team of instructors from the 238th Regional Training Institute, working with the State Partnership Program and sponsored by the African Military Education Program. With each engagement, each trip, Djibouti reveals yet another layer of its rich culture leaving us wanting more. Our mission, is to support the Djiboutian Military Forces in developing professional education practices, or as we have summed it up with our Djiboutian partners, developing "the Djiboutian way." Much like America at forty two years old, Djibouti is proactively collecting best practices from their foreign military allies working with their country. Add a little Djiboutian flavor to the mix, and voila, you have "the Djiboutian way."

Our efforts began in July 2017 with our first engagement in Djibouti. The country was an unknown land to us. We toured the country, visiting various training centers, and discussing the needs and desires of

and key leaders from Djibouti at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in August 2018 and our 238th Djiboutian Engagement Team traveled back to Hol Hol in November 2018. And now here we are in Hol Hol again, in February 2019.

"To put it simply, I was impressed. From our first time visiting Hol Hol in 2017, to our second trip six months ago, I was surprised to see the grounds at the training site to be manicured, the food quality greatly improved, and found personnel who truly wanted to learn and improve in their trade," said Kennedy.

He attributes the renewed spirit and driving direction of the newly-developed NCO Academy at Hol Hol to its new commander, Commandant Kayad. Within five months of taking command, Commandant Kayad was able to bring electricity, internet, a new gym, and plans to build a cinema for his cadre. But that hasn't been enough for

and challenging their fellow platoons in competitive motivation shows that the students truly buy in to the dedication to excellence that their instructors have instilled in them."

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Peel, a member of the 238th Quality Assurance team, commented, "I'm impressed with the quality of instructors here at Hol Hol and their professional growth. Specifically, how the instructors explained a task to the students, demonstrated how to execute a task, evaluated students individually, and retrained students as necessary; truly they are becoming a professional staff."

The State Partnership Program plans to hold at least another three events between the 238th RTI and the Djiboutian military in 2019 alone. "I'm excited to see 'the Djiboutian Way' take on a life of its own."



# CERFP REALISM

*By Sgt. Taylor Tribble, 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade*

The Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), sent more than 200 Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to Camp Blanding, Fla., Jan. 7-10, 2019 for their certification evaluation.

The CERFP was tasked with responding to a ten kilo-ton nuclear explosion, establishing a support zone, searching the hot zone for victims, extracting the victims from the hot zone, decontaminating the victims and providing medical assistance. Once the Search and Extraction team goes in they assess the area and mark areas that specialty teams, including breach and break, lift and haul, and ropes, will be needed to extract certain victims.

“What I enjoy about CERFP is it’s local. I get to help my neighbors and people in the community,” said Spc. William Scaggs, CERFP Decontamination Specialist. The CERFP responds to situations within the United States

and, many times, in the communities Soldiers live in.

Camp Blanding, located 35 miles southeast of Jacksonville, Florida is a 73,000 acre training center home to training sites for both Florida Army and Air National Guard. Kentucky CERFP Guardsmen used a portion of the training site to simulate the disaster as part of the unit’s exercise evaluation (EXEVAL) which is required every three years.

Sgt. Johnathan Harris, assistant team leader to the ropes team, emphasized the importance of safety when assisting victims in this type of situation. “As important as it is to help everyone you can, you also need to make sure you take care of yourself and your team.”

Once extracted, victims are sorted into ambulatory and non-ambulatory and sent through the decontamination lines. Once washed and decontaminated, victims are greeted by the Air National Guard medical teams to be

assessed and treated.

On evaluation day, there were live role players as well as mannequins that were staged in the hot zone and around the rubble pile, which simulated a fallen structure. This gave the CERFP a realistic mission and made them think on their feet. Each live role player had a simulated injury and a story line they were supposed to follow.

“I think it’s important as a first responder to know how to respond to different cultures, different needs, and different individuals,” said Jennifer Tozzo, a victim roll player and civilian first responder. “Being a role player also helps the victims to be able to respond better to medical personnel should something happen.” Tozzo brought her service dog with her to train the decontamination line on how to react to that type of situation. She also knows sign language and used that in one of the scenarios.

**“Our EXEVAL couldn’t have gone better,” said Lt. Col. Jessicah Garrett, CERFP Commander. “We were successful because of the dedication of our Soldiers and Airmen have to Kentucky and to the mission. I am so proud of each individual on our team.”**





# DON'T LET ME DOWN

## RETENTION BY THE NUMBERS

When Kentucky National Guard Soldiers approach their Expiration of Term of Service (ETS), they attend Final Formation. This event serves as an outprocessing paperwork gateway for Soldiers who do not wish to renew their contracts or are unsure of their future in the Kentucky Guard.

The following graphics highlight some of the most telling statistics of Soldiers who attended the recent Final Formation on April 14, 2019.

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The majority of Soldiers, **62.2%**, claimed the discussions that had the most influence on their decision to reenlist came from their **SQUAD AND PLATOON** leaders.

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# A WWII WELCOME HOME

*By Master Sgt. Phil Speck  
123rd Airlift Wing*

A P-51 Mustang arrived back on the flight line of the Kentucky Air National Guard Base here April 12, more than six decades after departing.

The Mustang, serial number of 44-74202, was once assigned to the unit as a military fighter aircraft from 1953 to 1956. Now, it was returning home as a fully restored civilian warbird to fly in the 2019 Thunder Over Louisville air show.

The P-51's new owners, R.T. Dickson Jr. and his father, R.T. Dickson Sr., purchased the Mustang in 2012 after more than 50 years of storage and restoration.

The younger Dickson has been flying aircraft since the age of 3, when his father let him take the stick of a Globe Swift. He's piloted a multitude of aircraft ever since, but the South Carolina resident said he was especially pleased to be flying the Mustang in Thunder.

"I'm very excited about it," Dickson said on the tarmac of the Kentucky Air Guard Base, recalling how his appearance in the show came to be.

He met the Kentucky Air Guard's Maj.

Josh Ketterer, a C-130 Hercules pilot, in December 2018 during an air show planning conference that Ketterer was attending as a Thunder coordinator. Dickson noticed the Kentucky patch on Ketterer's flight suit, and the two struck up a conversation. Dickson told Ketterer how his restored Mustang, now known as "Swamp Fox," had once belonged to the Kentucky Air Guard.

"We started talking about the airframe, and Josh said, 'You should come up for Thunder,'" Dickson recalled.

They both loved the idea of giving the aircraft a "homecoming," and Ketterer talked to wing leadership about bringing this piece of aviation history back to Kentucky.

Tail no. 44-74202 was manufactured by North American Aviation and delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force on May 7, 1945. It was first assigned to 445th Fighter Squadron at Bakersfield Army Air Field, California, before being transferred to more than a half-dozen units in California, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Texas. It arrived at the Kentucky Air Guard in July 1953 and remained here until October 1956, when it was moved to McClellan


Air Force Base, California. The following year, it was declared surplus property.

Dickson has now traveled around the nation with Swamp Fox, which has given him an opportunity to learn more about the history of the P-51. While in Louisville, he stopped by the Kentucky Air Guard's "Heritage Hall" and saw photos of his aircraft when it was assigned here.

"The most awe-inspiring thing that has come out of (owning this aircraft) is meeting the men and women that flew them," he said.

"It's a very visceral experience to fly. It's loud, it vibrates, and it has smells — the fuel, the oil and the hydraulics. It's a neat experience to convey to people that haven't been inside something like this."

Ketterer finds inspiration in the Swamp Fox, too.

"As a Guard unit, we have a lot of family legacies around," he said. "Having a legacy aircraft here that our families worked on is pretty special. We're delighted about R.T.'s generosity of sharing his plane with us and bringing it back to its roots." 



# SOLDIERING ON IN THE SNOW

*By Sgt. 1st Class Scott Raymond  
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs*

Kentuckians are normally not used to snow skis, or so much snow, but the team is proud of how far they have come in a short five years.

“Biathlon is one of the hardest things I have ever done,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joel Ray Campbell with the 41st Civil Support Team, who’s been with the team since 2015. “We’re still learning, but we have come such a long way as a team and have really improved as biathletes.”

Five challenging days of competition kept the team busy improving their skiing, tightening up their shot groups and preparing themselves for the rigors of the competition. All while battling sub-zero temperatures and gusty, wintry winds.

The biathlon competition included a 10 km sprint race, a 12.5 km pursuit race, a 7.5 km relay race and finally a 15 km patrol race. Overall, the skiers put in roughly 45 km of racing through the snow trails of the Green Mountains.

After placing in the regional competition a month earlier, the Kentuckians were denied top spots on the national leader boards. Each team member agrees the learning curve remains steep, but they maintain their motivation to keep trying and prepare for next year.

Those other teams are always ready and willing to help teach and guide the novice teams. The biathlon community is tightly

knit and it is taking them all working together to grow the sport, rally more interest and keep states returning to competitions.

“It is great seeing teams like Kentucky come back every year. A victory for them is not to medal, but to just get better each year,” said Staff Sgt. Erik Burmeister with the Rhode Island National Guard. “In National Guard biathlon, it’s all about having the heart to keep coming back

requires a lot of skill and dedication to be good at. Athletes are physically fit, they can shoot well, and that improves the readiness and lethality of these Soldiers and the force.”


Training for the Kentucky team has been difficult without consistent snow in the commonwealth. Summer skate skis and year-round shooting with the biathlon rifles are always on the training agenda when the

team members can fit in into their regular schedule. Capt. Josh Daugherty with the 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment has seen the benefits of biathlon training in a variety of ways.

“I could go on and on with the benefits of training for and competing in biathlons,” he said. “The physical gains of biathlon training make the APFT a breeze. It’s a full body workout. We are reminded of attention to detail as we wax our skis, evaluating weather and the effects on equipment, personal

accountability and coordination to get the team packed, to the event and to compete in each event.”

“In a lot of ways, doing biathlon is making me a better Soldier.”

Expanded workout regimes and dedication to the team and the sport, along with some marksmanship, are the building blocks for Kentucky’s biathlon team. As they departed Vermont, the discussion for 2020 had already begun. They understand to find success, you have to keep showing up. 



and suffering through these races. The Kentucky team may have the most heart of them all.”

The ability to move on skis, shoot under pressure and work as a team are common threads in the Army profession. Camp Ethan Allen sits in the same mountains that are the setting for the Army Mountain Warfare School, so while biathlon is a sport, it takes on extra meaning for the Soldiers that ski through the area. These attributes place a significant relevance to the sport in the eyes of senior leadership.

“This sport builds ‘shoot, move and communicate’ ideals,” said Capt. Matthew Hefner, coordinator for National Guard Biathlon. “Biathlon is an incredibly aerobic sport that



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By Master Sgt. Phil Speck  
123rd Airlift Wing

# AIRMEN FLY IN 75TH D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

In commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, the Kentucky Air National Guard will fly two C-130 Hercules aircraft over Normandy, France, next month, airdropping scores of U.S. Army paratroopers. The wing had previously supported the 70th Anniversary of D-Day back in 2014 by airlifting the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne and joint terminal attack controllers to Europe.

Though the C-47 was the primary aircraft for troop transport and paratroopers on D-Day, the C-130 will be the current military airframe of choice this year — and the Kentucky Air Guard's C-130s will be the only Air National Guard aircraft participating. The C-130s will perform a couple of flyovers for various ceremonies between June 4 and 8, and then will be dropping paratroopers along with more than 40 other aircraft on the big day of June 9.

For Lt. Col. Randall Hood, commander of Kentucky's 123rd Operations Support Squadron, World War II has special significance.

While attending planning conferences for the 75th anniversary, Hood and Capt. Nick Reinke saw some of the historic Allied striping that was applied to other aircraft participating this year's event and decided the Kentucky Air Guard needed to do the same. They talked with wing leadership to see if they could make it happen, and Airmen from the 123rd Maintenance Group

stepped up to get it done in a matter of days.

Hood believes the stripes bring authenticity to the experience.

"The stripes just add that little something extra, the weight of what you're about to be a part of," he said. "When you carry those stripes, you're a part of something that is much, much bigger than what you are."

Black and white stripes were painted on Allied aircraft during World War II to reduce the chance they would be attacked by friendly forces during Operation Overlord, the formal name of the invasion. The stripes in 1944 were mostly painted by Allied troops using brushes and whatever else they could find, because orders to paint them weren't issued until just a few days before the invasion to keep it a secret from the German Luftwaffe.

The Airmen decided painting would take too long, and determined that vinyl decals would be the right course of action. An exception-to-policy letter had to be created, signed off by the wing commander and then sent to the National Guard Bureau. Once approved, the maintainers had to order the materials to complete the project.

After hours of studying the stripes from reference materials, the Kentucky Airmen designed and printed the vinyl decals. Eight members from three different maintenance sections — Structures, Non-Destructive

Inspection and Metals — then came together to apply the stripes, stars and a USAF logo. After three days of meticulous work, the aircraft was finished and ready for flight.

"This is probably the biggest vinyl project ever done on these aircraft," Stanley said.

In addition to approximately 20 personnel from the Kentucky Air Guard's 165th Airlift Squadron and 123rd Maintenance Squadron who are deploying for D-Day 75, the wing's 123rd Contingency Response Group will be providing 12 Airmen for ground support of units flying in the event.

According to Master Sgt. Adam Keller, Mission Planning Cell loadmaster for the 123rd CRG, the unit will provide command and control personnel to send up situational reports to higher headquarters. Finally, the unit will provide aerial porters to perform joint inspection of cargo to redeploy all units back to their home stations from Évreux.

"I'm very proud to be part of this momentous reenactment," Keller said. "We're very excited to be the only Air Guard contingency response unit on the ground in France, and to honor those who fought and paid the ultimate price 75 years ago."

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# FROM THE FIELD



## CHAPLAIN INSPIRED BY VETERAN GRANDPARENTS

*Story by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Crane*

In a ceremony held Nov 13, Eliot Handziak took the oath of office to become an officer in the Kentucky National Guard, and a military chaplain.

Self-described as a passionate and compassionate person, he says he goes ‘all in’ no matter what it is he is doing. The 45-year-old, Evansville, Indiana native currently serves as a priest in the Anglican Church in North America and had served as a pastor for 14 years, and as a hospital chaplain for four years.

He credits his grandparents, who were there at his commissioning into the Guard, both at the age of 95, for a lot of the choices he has made in his life. They are both World War II Veterans, who met while in training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and have set the example for Handziak to follow.

“I came from a family with a history of serving in the military. My grandfather served in the Army during WWII, earning two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. My grandmother was a Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), and my other grandfather was in the Navy during WWII. I had other uncles and relatives who served. It was instilled in me that it is an honor to do so, and that a citizen should give back in that way.”

• • • •

## KENTUCKY GUARDSMAN USES MARTIAL ARTS TO STAY FIT

*Story by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Crane*



With the National Guard focus on Soldier fitness, and with the anticipation of the new Army fitness test about to start being implemented, staying in shape is at an all time high.

For the G6 infrastructure manager, using kicks and punches or breaking cinder blocks is his way to keep in shape.

But it didn’t start out with fitness being the main motivation. It was his two young daughters who were taking karate classes and kept asking their father if they were using correct form and he didn’t know the answers.

“They came home over Christmas break asking me questions about their form,” said Lt. Col. Kevin M. Jones. “And I looked at their form and went, well I don’t know what right looks like, so I started taking it.”

He has continued taking those karate lessons, specifically Taekwondo, for the past eight years despite his daughters stopping and

moving on to other sports. He is a third degree black belt and he keeps going with it since it has helped him excel on his Army physical fitness tests.

“I’ve had personal records on pushups and sit-ups since I started doing it (Taekwondo),” said Jones. “I’ve always been a runner so by contrast, the run has always been easy for me and sit-ups have always been the hardest for me. But now I am doing 50 to 60 reps so that is well above my average.”

• • • •

## ANOTHER GENERATION OF SERVICE FOR GUARD FAMILY

*Story by Stacy Floden*

Every month the Kentucky National Guard hosts a patching ceremony welcoming the newest Soldiers to the team. January was no different, but for Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Perkins it sure had a special meaning as he patched his daughter, Pfc. Taylor Perkins.

“I am handing the torch to my child to carry on the burden that we carry as Citizen-Soldiers. It’s an overwhelming feeling,” said Ronald.

“I’ve met so many people in the Guard, they are my family,” Taylor said. “I talked to my dad, he kind of knew I wanted to join, but with my mom, I was nervous at first talking to her about joining, I’m her oldest kid. I think she knew I was going to go in, but I think she was hoping it was a phase.”

Dad and daughter will actually serve in the same unit, the Louisville-based, 75th Troop Command. Taylor will be a unit supply specialist, a job her dad once had and Ronald currently a brigade personnel NCO. He said he is really trying to make sure he maintains his distance to allow her to set her own path. “While I want to be there to help her open the door, I want to make sure she is able to walk through the door on her own two feet.”



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# HONORING THE LEGACY



*By Maj. Stephen Martin  
Director of Public Affairs*

In 1962, Maj. Gen. Arthur Lloyd, Kentucky's Adjutant General, announced Frankfort's National Guard Center be named after Col. Daniel Boone of the Kentucky Militia. Boone was a defender of Kentucky's frontier, serving in Virginia's Kentucky County Militia in 1777. Boone was not only one of the earliest explorers of Kentucky and guided settlers into the area, he founded Fort Boonesborough, protected it during the siege in 1777, and fought the Shawnee again at the Battle of Blue Licks; which was the last battle of the Revolutionary War. This early militia eventually evolved into today's Kentucky National Guard.

Daniel Boone is the embodiment of the Kentucky Guardsman and our Guard's history is peppered with his memory. From the Boone National Guard Center to the old Boone Raider Course of the Kentucky Military Academy to his statue at our Kentucky National Guard Memorial honoring our fallen, we recognize his influence as a warrior and a pioneer. With 20 years of

service in the Guard, I can tell you our organization has never been stronger or more resilient. From Pikeville to Paducah, the Kentucky Guard is filled with Soldiers and Airmen who are proud to serve and who want to better themselves, their units, and their communities.

To further this endeavor, our leadership has put a renewed focus on our combat readiness, our physical fitness and, ultimately, our ability to take the fight to the enemy and win – both at home and abroad. Our 34th President, General Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely." This remains true about those who wish us harm and we owe it to ourselves and to our Soldiers and Airmen to our left and right to prepare ourselves for tonight's fight as well as the next. Our roots are firmly entrenched in Daniel Boone's legacy and it's his tough, determined spirit that continues to define us and our battle cry to 'Fight as Kentuckians.'





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