

The Bluegrass Guard



Volume Eight, Issue Six

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

April 2004



A helping hand

Soldiers from the 1163rd Medical Company conduct a blood test procedure on a local citizen while on deployment to Afghanistan.
Photo by Lt. Col. Karen Likins

Kentucky Air Guard State Command Chief emphasizes teamwork, pride in service

Let me start with a brief introduction, I am Chief Master Sgt. Mark Grant, State Command Chief for the Kentucky National Guard. My counterpart in the Army Guard with whom most of you are familiar is State Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe. He and I are tasked with ensuring the quality of life and retention issues affecting the enlisted forces of the Kentucky National Guard receive the highest priority and attention.

Recently, as most of you are aware, the Kentucky National Guard combined Headquarters elements of the Army and Air Guard to form the new Joint Forces Headquarters. As a matter of fact, Kentucky is leading the way for other states in implementing a true joint structure. This exciting change will allow for unprecedented cooperation at the command level but also the possibility of joint ventures between personnel and units in the Army and Air Guard.

Why are these changes so important? Well, in this time of shrinking budgets and proposed cutbacks in personnel it makes sense to consolidate our position for self-preservation and efficiency. The joint forces environment also provides the Commanding General with a broad range of options



and stronger command and control elements for dealing with regional and local issues as they arise. A perfect example is the recent Heartland Response exercise combining the Army and Air Guard as one team to support the state and region in case of a major earthquake.

Although the planned exercise was a large joint initiative, there are always opportunities for cooperation on a smaller scale. Recently, the E-9s from Kentucky's Army and Air Guard gathered for a two-day conference to learn and discuss issues affecting the National Guard and current operations.

Another milestone of the conference was the first annual joint induction ceremony for the recently promoted Sergeants Major and Chiefs in the Kentucky National Guard. Everyone agreed the conference was a great success!

The joint conference is just the beginning as Command Sgt. Maj. Gipe and I search for beneficial ways the Army and Air Guard can work together. Our goals are very similar, to train, equip and retain our war fighters while also maintaining a state of readiness.

In closing please accept my gratitude for the sacrifices each of you have made on behalf of a thankful Nation and Commonwealth. The record proves the men and women in the Kentucky National Guard answered the call and continues to do so in record numbers! We are truly blessed to live in the USA!

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The Bluegrass Guard

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Printed in cooperation with the Defense Automated Printing Service

circulation approximately 8,500

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KYARNG mourns the loss of a brother in arms

On Friday, March 12, a Soldier in Company B, 206th Engineer Battalion, was killed while conducting a convoy to a training facility in Artemus near Barbourville.

Sgt. Glenn Stanfill of Hazard died when the humvee he was driving west from Hazard on Hal Rogers Parkway was struck by a coal truck traveling in the opposite direction.

His son, 18-year-old Private Joshua Stanfill, also a member of the Kentucky Army National Guard, was a passenger in the humvee. He was taken to Memorial Hospital in Manchester and later airlifted to University of Kentucky Medical Center. Joshua underwent surgery to treat his injuries and was released from the hospital.

Glenn Stanfill was posthumously promoted from the rank of Specialist to Sergeant and was awarded the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal. He was laid to rest on March 20 at the Engle Cemetery in Hindman, Ky.



Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm receives the flag from 2nd Lt. John A. Ritchie, a former member of Company B, 206th Eng. Maj. Gen. Storm presented a flag to Stanfill's wife and father during the committal ceremony.

Glenn Stanfill joined the Kentucky National Guard in 1995, and Joshua Stanfill began serving in January of this year.

Youth Camp applications due April 16

The Kentucky National Guard Family Program is pleased to announce the second annual Youth Development Week, 20-26 June 2004, at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

The Youth Development Week is targeted for children of Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen between the ages of 9 and 14. A maximum of 125 young people will be able to participate in the Youth Development Week this year. We also will accept applications for grandchildren of Guardsmen. Grandchildren will be selected to attend in the event if the slots are not filled with children of Guardsmen. Selections will be made on a first come, first serve basis. Registration fees for Youth Week are \$75.00 per child, which includes room, food, and activities for the week.

The youth will be participating in a variety of activities during the week to include: fishing, archery, gun safety, skating, swimming, bowling, flag etiquette, drill and ceremony, team building exercises, rappelling, land navigation, first aid, drug and alcohol abuse awareness, and sessions dealing with any issues of being a Guard Youth and deployment stress. Of course there will be much more to fill up each day!

Applications will also be accepted for those wishing to be counselors for the younger kids. Counselors must be between the ages of 15 and 21 and must be the child of a Kentucky National Guardsman or be a Guardsman themselves.

Youth and counselors will be placed in a platoon type setting with adult supervision 24 hours per day. Youth are always in a platoon/group mode and are never left alone.

Would you like to volunteer your time to help with the Youth Week? Adult volunteers are needed to help with games and activities, kitchen help, fishing, archery, night supervision/security, and lots and lots of other duties. We promise you will have a fun week and come away with a wonderful feeling of satisfaction! If you think you might be like to help please complete a volunteer application that was distributed with camper applications.

Applications have been sent to every unit in the state and to all Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leaders. Get your applications from your unit, your FRG Leader, or by email at Catherine.Griffith@ky.ngb.army.mil or call the State Family Program office for information at 800-372-7601 and press "2" anytime during the message.

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

by Lt. Col. Karen Likins and Maj. Jesse Huff, 1163rd Medical Company

The 1163rd Medical Company arrived in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan on August 27, 2003. The main body of the unit is in Uzbekistan with a treatment team supporting the Combat Support Hospital in Afghanistan.

Since our arrival here we have not only provided medical support to the troops assigned here but we have taken the initiative to become an asset to the total community. We have provided educational classes, sponsored smoking cessation programs, stress management teaching, health assessment and much more. This unit has demonstrated an enormous range of expertise outside the expected medical skills.

The Soldiers of the 1163rd have traveled to remote regions of each country providing medical care and briefings, such as the embassy staff at Tashkent, the Jordanian Hospital in Mazar-I-Sharif, as well as the hospitals at Slermo, Kandahar, Kabul, Jalalabad and Bagram. The most recent request made to this unit was for our assistance in conducting screening of the detainees at the Sheberghan prison compound to evaluate injuries and general health conditions of these Afghanistan men.

One of our orthopedic surgeons traveled to a university in Afghanistan to provide some classes for the medical students on the most recent surgical techniques in orthopedic injuries. Our X-ray technician demonstrated techniques in radiology to one of the physicians working at the hospital in Tashkent.

During a recent tragedy our dental section assisted in the identification of remains of victims of the Uzbek airplane crash on January 13, 2004.

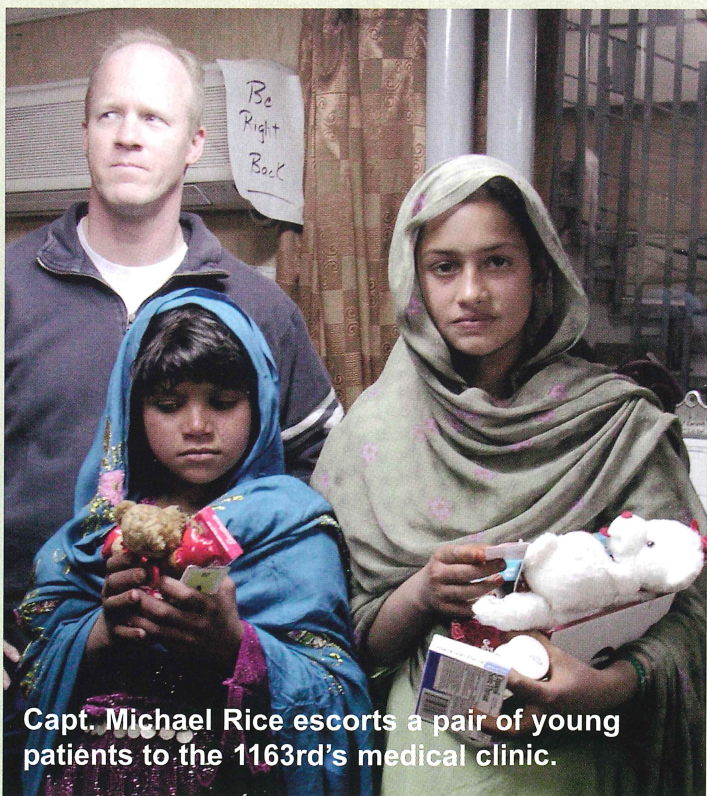
Our impact on Operation Enduring Freedom is more than it appears on the surface. The Soldiers have performed their duties with a very high standard and have saved several lives with the initial care performed. The missions have all varied from medical support and emergency care to educational classes for local nationals. We not only provide medical care to the troops assigned here, we have become ambassadors for our nation and our Commonwealth, improving relations with the citizens of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. It is difficult to measure the impact we're having on health care in this region as it is



Surgery in a tent: Sgt. Daniel Collier, Col. Michael Gavin and Col. Joseph Dobner

designed to go on long after our departure.

On a final note, the family support group for the 1163rd has been outstanding. The group became very strong after we were mobilized and has not slowed down. Knowing our families are working together to care for each other has taken a lot of worries off of the deployed soldiers.



Capt. Michael Rice escorts a pair of young patients to the 1163rd's medical clinic.

More airmen receive bronze stars

By Tech Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Three members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron received Bronze Star medals from Brig. Gen. Hank Morrow, the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, during a ceremony here Feb. 7.

The recipients, Maj. Jeffrey Wilkinson, Senior Master Sgt. Thomas DeSchane and Tech. Sgt. Ryan Novakovsky, were honored for their service during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 and 2002.

While deployed, Captain Wilkinson served as director of operations, Special Tactics Operation Center, and as a special tactics team leader in Uzbekistan.

During the deployment Wilkinson led the planning and mission execution for the first special operations troops who entered Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

He also led the largest strategic

redeployment of special tactics troops in history.

Sergeant DeSchane was the noncommissioned officer in charge of airfield operations at Bagram, Afghanistan during the deployment.

He contributed to the establishment and operation of the first major airhead in

the country and to the successful completion of 1,700 combat and base-sustainment sorties.

Sergeant Novakovsky, who served as a team leader and combat control operator while deployed, engaged in ground operations against the enemy at an undisclosed location in the region.

On March 4, 2002, Sergeant



(from left to right) Brig. Gen. Hank Morrow, the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, presents special tactics members Maj. Jeffrey Wilkinson, Senior Master Sgt. Thomas DeSchane and Tech. Sgt. Ryan Novakovsky with Bronze Stars Feb. 7.

Novakovsky and his team repelled enemy attacks and were responsible for saving an airfield from hostile forces.

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, said he is extremely proud of the work these Kentucky-based combat controllers did while deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom.

"These three individuals typify the concepts of duty that made this country and this unit great," he said.

"Our nation called and they responded with honor, courage and skill. Every member of the Thoroughbred Express should be extremely proud to serve with these heroes. I know that I am."

Other Kentucky Air Guard members who have received Bronze Stars for their actions since 2001 include Col. Howard Hunt, Lt. Col. Ken Ellis, Maj. Kevin Morris, Chief Master Sgt. Joel Hicks and Senior Master Sgt. Frank Green.

The Bronze Star is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

History project seeks veterans to record histories

Cargo Courier Staff Report

The Veterans History Project is seeking to interview veterans - including current and retired members of the Kentucky Air Guard - so that their oral histories can be preserved.

Any combat veteran from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict or Desert Storm is eligible to tell his or her story, regardless of position.

Tech. Sgt. Tim Gagnon, who is directing the initiative at the 123rd Airlift Wing, said it is important to ensure that veterans' stories are not forgotten.

"Their stories are important to future generations," he said.

The wing will be conducting some of the interviews on base in order to encourage more participation, Sergeant Gagnon said.

"We feel that some vets who may have been hesitate to talk may now feel more at ease talking with someone in uniform."

For more information, contact Sergeant Gagnon at (513) 305-4039 or C130loadm@msn.com

Kentucky chaplain answers the call to service in Iraq

Story and Photo by Capt. Kevin D. Randle
234th Signal Battalion PAO

Capt. Jay Padgett, a chaplain with the Kentucky National Guard, is now serving with the Iowa-based 234th Signal Battalion of the Iowa National Guard, at the Baghdad International Airport, known locally as BIAP by the soldiers. Before that he was one of the few Kentucky chaplains who had not been mobilized since September 11.

Padgett said, in an interview conducted in the small house he shares with four other captains, "At the end of February, 2003, Chaplain (Col.) Roger Dill forwarded me an email from the National Guard Bureau. It said there was a shortage of chaplains and units were being deployed without religious support. On April 2, I flew to Fort Riley, Kansas to join the 234th. My battalion is made up of five companies, three from Iowa, one each from Michigan and Illinois. There is also a small contingent from Minnesota and one chaplain from Kentucky. Me."

From Fort Riley, the battalion moved to Kuwait and finally on to Iraq. The trip by convoy from Kuwait to Baghdad took forty-eight hours during some of the hottest days of the year. Most of the trip was along six lane highways that could have been built in the United States, but there were long stretches where the road disintegrated and the dust was so thick that it blocked out the sun.

"One of the first things I did when we reached Baghdad was shower. The convoy was really hot and nasty."

Once at Baghdad, Padgett established his church in a octagonal building that had an open roof so that a huge tree could see the sun, and he began regular Sunday services. He worked with other chaplains on BIAP to reach out to the people of Iraq. The first project was to help rebuild a small school near what is called Airport Village.

"They needed everything," said Padgett. "Pencils, pens, paper, and even shelves for the books."

The headmistress, who introduced herself as Zelda, said, "Big damage to our school. We start from zero."



Chaplain Jay Padgett surrounded by children of the Airport School in Baghdad.

Capt. Greg Nibaur, a battle captain with the 234th from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, wanted to help. He visited the school twice along with Padgett. "This allows us a more direct action that impacts the locals," Nibaur said.

None of the Iraqi teachers were ashamed to ask for help or supplies. One of them said, "We need school supplies. We need books. We need computers."

The school is situated at the northern end of the international airport, not all that far from the runways. The village is poor, a few of the houses looking as if they were built by the owners, some of whom weren't very skilled. Fences are made from bamboo or discarded metal plating.

The school teaches both boys and girls from kindergarten to the sixth grade. The classes are separated with boys going to school in the mornings of one week and in the afternoon the next. The girls have the opposite schedule.

Of the Iraqis, Nibaur said, "I found them hardworking, friendly and thankful for everything we were doing for them."

That trip had not taken the soldiers off the BIAP complex, but there were other trips that did. One of them produced what Padgett thought of as a scary moment. He said, "I was in a small convoy going to visit some of our troops north of Baghdad. As we headed out of the city, we took a wrong turn and ended up in the heart of downtown, into a

bazaar, a farmer's market type of place. People lined the streets just looking at us as if we landed from outer space. It was disconcerting at first but a friendly wave and a smile from Iraqi children and adults went a long way to calming us."

On another trip, Padgett had the chance to travel south to Babylon, near the cradle of civilization. He traveled as part of convoy arranged by another chaplain so that soldiers in the Babylon area could receive religious guidance.

"Going there is a once in a lifetime experience," said Padgett. "This is the kind of stuff you hear about in long boring lectures but now it comes to life. They might not know exactly where things happened, but it was all here. It was inspiring to be in the throne room and see where Daniel saw the writing on the wall."

Padgett conducts two Sunday services and then a Wednesday evening devotion or Bible study. He participates with a men's vocal ensemble that recently performed for the top general in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez. They have been requested to perform for other visiting dignitaries.

If that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he has baptized soldiers. In Iraq he used a baptistery constructed out of quarter inch plywood. He said, "The Tigris and Euphrates are out of the question because of the pollution. There are some swimming pools available. If nothing else we dig a hole and use the Army's field baptism liner."

Padgett said that the toughest moment for him was leaving his family, passing through the metal detector and then walking down the concourse to the airplane that would take him to Fort Riley.

"I didn't know a single soul and I was doing it all alone. The toughest thing about being in Iraq is missing my family and church. But every soldier is dealing with that so I'm not that special."

The soldiers with the 234th might disagree with that. They believe that Chaplain Padgett is someone special and they all feel lucky to have such a man serving with them.

Two battalions pass unit colors



Col. Lonnie Culver (right) passes the colors of 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery to Lt. Col. Emmanuel Belt during a recent change of command. Belt replaces Lt. Col. Rondal Turner as battalion commander. When he isn't commanding the troops Belt is helping outfit them in his civilian role as manager of the Fort Knox Military Clothing Sales store.



Lt. Col. Hunter Mathews (left) passes the colors of 1st Battalion, 238th Regiment, to Command Sgt. Maj. George Thompson during a change of command ceremony. Mathews replaces Lt. Col. Judy Greene-Baker as commander of the battalion. Greene-Baker is now the J-1 (Personnel Director) for Joint Force Headquarters, Kentucky.

News Briefs

Army deploys lighter, faster AKO

Since Army Knowledge Online accounts are **mandatory** for all Soldiers, AKO now offers a stripped-down version that loads up to 10 times faster than the regular service.

AKO Lite was developed in response to concerns of deployed Soldiers in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom that AKO took too long to access and use, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Blakely, chief of AKO.

State Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe re-emphasized the need for every Soldier to have an AKO account.

"In the future, AKO will provide the only way for Soldiers to access their records," said Gipe. "Plus, we put out a lot of information about policies and opportunities directly affecting Soldiers, and they will not know about these things if they don't have an account."

As of mid-January, AKO had more than 1.6 million registered users.

DoD introduces Global War on Terrorism Medals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 2004 - Military members serving at home and abroad in the war on terrorism will now be recognized for that service. Defense officials announced today the final approval of two new medals and their criteria.

Individuals who have deployed to operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom will be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to those who served in airport security operations in the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks or who supported operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom.

To be awarded the expeditionary medal, individuals must have been deployed outside the United States for OEF or OIF for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. The time requirement is not needed if the individual engaged in combat, was wounded or killed in action, or was medically evacuated for any reason, officials said.

The area of eligibility encompasses the U.S. Central Command area, excluding the lower Horn of Africa; Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas, according to the release.

Each day aircrew members fly sorties into designated areas counts as one day of deployment toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

Individuals engaged in actual combat may be eligible for battle stars on the expeditionary medal. Only a combatant commander can initiate a request for a battle star, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for them, the release states.

Personnel eligible to receive the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal must have participated or support operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Service medal eligibility dates run from Sept. 27, 2001, until May 31, 2002, for individuals who served in airport security operations.

The same 30- or 60-day requirements apply to the service medal as to the expeditionary medal.



Sgt. Jeremy S. Wurm (a.k.a. Mongoose), a member of Joint Force Headquarters Kentucky, and Sgt. Jad A. Davis (a.k.a. Jad T. Lungini), a member of F Co. 135th Aviation, also are members of the Central Kentucky Wrestling Association. "Mongoose" and "Jad T. Lungini" have been wrestling for more than three years. "Mongoose" is the current 13-time Heavyweight Champ and "Jad T. Lungini" has won multiple Heavyweight Championships and Tag Team Championships. Wurm and Davis wrestle twice a month in Alton, Ky. The two say their toughest competition is each other.

or current resident

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Flag patch approved for wear on uniforms

Story and photo by Capt. David B. Page
Kentucky National Guard Deputy PAO

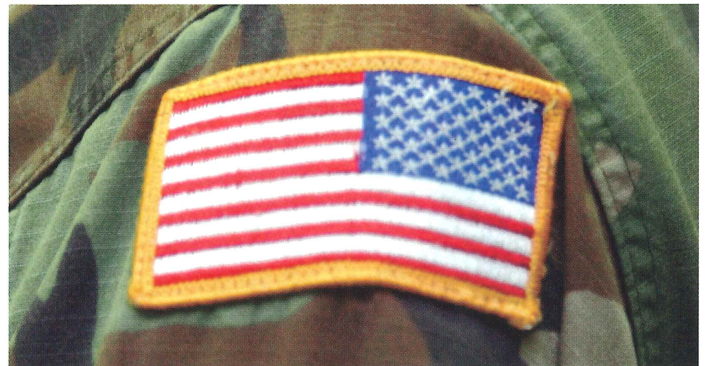
Flag Day takes on an even more special meaning this year. Soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard will have until June 14, Flag Day, to have the U.S. Flag insignia sewn on the right shoulder of their battle dress uniform. The insignia is to serve as a continued reminder that the Army is engaged in a war at home and abroad.

In a memorandum dated April 1, Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe outlined the logistical procedures for units to acquire and sew on the U.S. Flag insignia.

According to the memorandum, AGR personnel and officers are responsible for the cost of both the insignia and sewing. All others Soldiers will be provided the patches and sewing at no cost to them.

"The flag has been worn for years to identify deploying troops. Now based on the Army's joint expeditionary mindset, the flag represents our commitment to fight the war on terror for the foreseeable future," said Sgt. Maj. Walter Morales, the uniform policy chief for G1.

The Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker approved the uniform item Feb. 11, and all Soldiers have until Oct. 1, 2005 to get the insignia sewn on their uniforms, but Command Sgt. Maj. Gipe feels the Kentucky Army National Guard should adopt this uniform change sooner rather than later.



When purchasing the flag, the only ones authorized for wear on the uniform are the reverse field flag in red, white and blue. Subdued flags and those in other colors are in violation of U.S. code. The Department of Defense (DoD) has advised that individuals should comply with Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of the Army Uniform and Insignia.

"Nothing has changed regarding the placement of the flag. It is sewn 1/2 inch below the shoulder seam. If a combat patch is also placed on the right shoulder, the flag is sewn 1/8 inch below the combat patch," said Command Sgt. Maj. Morales. "The flag is worn on the right shoulder to give the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward. This will serve as a vivid reminder that our nation is at war."