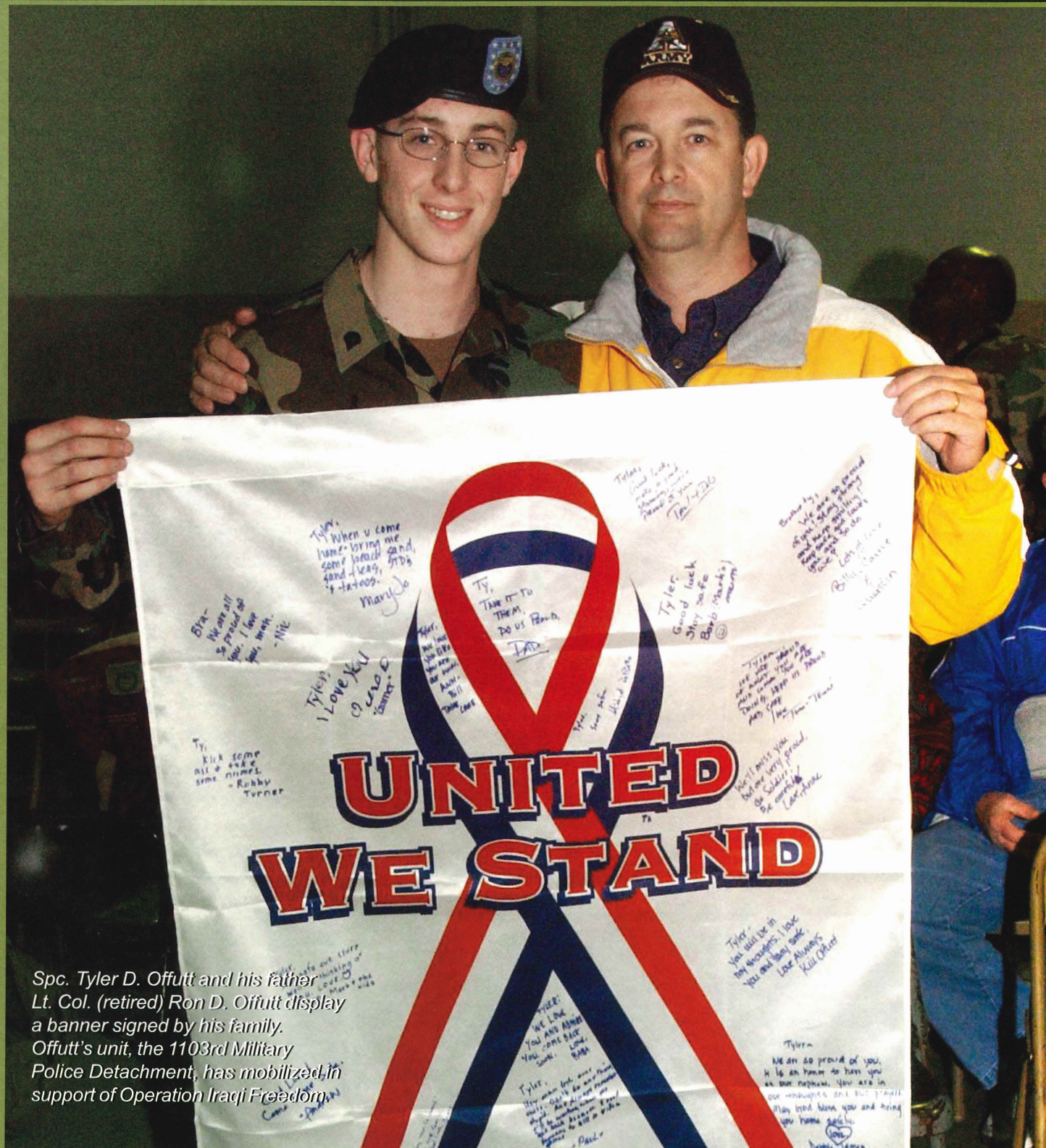


The Bluegrass Guard

Volume Eight, Issue Four

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

February 2004



Spc. Tyler D. Offutt and his father, Lt. Col. (retired) Ron D. Offutt display a banner signed by his family. Offutt's unit, the 1103rd Military Police Detachment, has mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Recruiting tops Adjutant General priorities

Taking care of airmen, soldiers essential to Guard's success!

Shortly after assuming command of the Kentucky National Guard in mid-December, I had a chance to speak to the senior leadership about my command philosophies. I would like to take this opportunity to express a synopsis of those philosophies to you as well.

RECRUITING AND RETENTION

Recruiting and retention of good soldiers and airmen is our number one priority. The Kentucky National Guard is looking for soldiers and airmen who are willing to serve their nation, their commonwealth and local community.

As an organization, it is important for us to seek out and retain good quality people who want to serve and make a contribution to something greater.

Currently, the Kentucky National Guard is at approximately 95 percent of its end-strength goal. This is great, but we need to maintain that focus and ensure we are doing our part to provide our nation and commonwealth with a manned force, ready to answer the call.

TRAINING

Having a manned force is important, but making sure that force is trained and ready is just as critical. Leaders -- it is your responsible to make sure you are developing realistic



training opportunities for your soldiers and airmen.

The Kentucky National Guard has few precious days a year to train, so it is incredibly important not to waste time, especially during drill weekends.

Drill weekends should be so full of great training opportunities that soldiers and airmen go home exhausted, but saying on the way out the door what a great weekend it was. This type of training will help us retain good, quality members for our ranks. Plus, if our soldiers and airmen are excited about the training, they will tell others. You have my assurance that I will do

everything I can to resource that kind of training.

EDUCATION

It is important for soldiers and airmen at all levels to seek out educational opportunities to better themselves on both the military and civilian sides. We are fortunate our governor and our legislators are on board with us to fund our tuition assistance program.

I want our members to take advantage of all educational opportunities available to them.

The last thing I want to leave you with is this -- Remember we are members of a service organization. Our primary focus is answering the call of our nation, commonwealth and communities when they need us. But, we also have an obligation to one another. If you are an NCO or officer you need to be personally involved in your soldiers' or airmen's lives. Our soldiers and airmen are our number one resource -- take care of them!

Donald C. Storm
Major General
The Adjutant General

The Bluegrass Guard

Commander-in-Chief Governor Ernie Fletcher
Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm
Deputy Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack
Assistant Adjutant General, Air Brig. Gen. Henry Morrow
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State transforms headquarters

New structure creates joint environment

Story by Capt. David B. Page
State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Effective Oct. 1, 2003, Kentucky, along with the rest of the states, realigned its National Guard commands under one joint force chain of command.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, directed the reorganization to streamline each state's Guard force.

The target is become more efficient and capable to operate in accordance with joint doctrine and to provide a more accessible force for combat commanders as well as provide better coordination between governmental agencies.

Before this reorganization, the Kentucky National Guard operated three separate headquarters elements, one Army, one Air and a State Area Command, said Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Kentucky's Adjutant General.

Under this new structure, the Army and Air Guard will no longer operate separate headquarters elements, instead uniting under a new structure called Joint Forces Headquarters Kentucky.

"This new structure is very beneficial for us because it merges all three headquarters elements,

allowing us to respond as a team to better serve the citizens of our commonwealth, and our nation if we are called to federal service," said Storm.

"The Joint Force Headquarters allows us to train like we are going to fight, allowing us to merge staffs and mass our resources at the proper time and place. This (transformation) is not about cutting

consolidate our resources and be familiar with working together as a joint force to be able to counter the threats to our nation," said Storm.

"Lt. Gen. Blum has imposed a goal of 24 months for each state's provisional JFHQ to be fully integrated, but if anything, that time span needs to be narrowed. It is in our best interest to come together sooner because our combined

efforts allow us to be responsive to a broader spectrum of missions, therefore making us more effective as a whole."

In order to complete the full integration of the joint doctrine, the Joint Forces Headquarters is expected to add

Joint Forces Headquarters Kentucky's seven directorates:

Personnel (J-1)

· ARMY Lt. Col. Judy Greene-Baker

Plans and interoperability (J-5/7)

· AIR Col. Mike Dornbush

Intelligence and security (J-2)

· AIR Col. Bill Ketterer

Communications (J-6)

· ARMY Lt. Col. Ray LaTendresse

Operations (J-3)

· AIR Brig. Gen. Hank Morrow

Comptroller/U.S. property fiscal officer (J-8)

· ARMY Col. Mike Jones

Logistics (J-4)

· ARMY Lt. Col. Mike Sutton

positions, but it is about expanding our capabilities to respond to the needs of our nation."

Lt. Gen. Blum's guidance about how each state was to compose its JFHQ was very flexible, Storm said. "Blum gave the states a lot of leeway in determining the force structure but he did ask each state to look at ways to maximize resources and improve efficiencies under the Joint Force structure."

"Becoming JFHQ Kentucky is an incredibly positive thing because, at this date and time, we need to

members from every branch of the reserve component – Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard.

"In the future, we need to bring these services under one umbrella to continue to develop our capabilities as a JFHQ," said Storm.

However, the primary focus in this early stage is to continue to refine techniques, tactics and procedures among the Army and Air National Guard to work more effectively together, Storm said.

CES state maintenance personnel send packages to deployed Kentucky troops

By Capt. Kirk Hilbrecht
KyANG State Headquarters PAO

When Kentucky Air Guard troops packed their bags and headed overseas for Operation Iraqi Freedom last year, members of the base civil engineers' state maintenance group decided they wanted to help.

Two of these state employees, Teresa Downey and Diane Jones, quickly launched a campaign to ship care packages to the deployed airmen, ultimately collecting nearly 2,500 pounds of items like snack foods and games to help boost the morale and welfare of the troops.

The idea began when Downey and Jones received an e-mail from Master Sgt. Tommy Miller, a deployed loadmaster with the 165th Airlift Squadron who also is a state maintenance employee when he's not serving on active duty.

"Tommy wrote back that living conditions were poor and that they were 'eating junk,'" Downey said.

"Tommy was one of us. Teresa and I sat down that afternoon and wondered, 'What can we do to help?'" Jones said.

"Food? Care packages? We needed to send snacks and items of home to our airman abroad," Downey explained.

"We wanted to do our part for the contingency overseas. We wanted to do something."

Both women began to solicit snack vendors, sundry producers and civic organizations for small items that might be sent to the deployed Kentucky airmen in the desert.

"We called on Frito-Lay. We called on churches. The response was



Photo by Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

State maintenance personnel collected and shipped nearly 2,500 pounds of care packages to deployed Kentucky Air Guardsmen last year during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

overwhelming!" Jones said.

"Soon word got out of what we were doing for our airmen in the desert. When we would call on people, they would say, 'I'm so glad you called. I didn't know what I could do for the troops and airmen overseas,'" Downey said.

Downey and Jones soon collected more than 240 boxes of sundries, snacks and games for the Kentucky troops.

"Our full-time mission became calling, collecting, boxing and shipping all these items," Downey said. "We would come in at 6 a.m. and leave at 6:30 p.m. just to get our normal daily tasks done."

"The rest of the CE staff, as well as the base personnel, all helped out, especially in the boxing and the shipping of the items," Jones said.

"We boxed up over 2,400

pounds of care-package goods!

"Then we wondered, 'How can we ship all these boxes?' So, we thought of who might have (the resources), and we called on (local car dealer) Neil Huffman," Jones said.

"Thirty minutes later, Mr. Huffman had a check for us to pay for shipping."

"It was a wonderful experience, and we are glad we could do our part to help raise the morale of our airmen in the Persian Gulf," Downey said.

"It was an exhaustive, tiring, fun and rewarding mission," Jones added. "I'm glad we could support our deployed airmen. 'Support' is what we do."

Lt. Col. Phillip Howard of the wing's civil engineers squadron also was pleased with the campaign.

"This effort really shows that this is one team, one fight," Howard said.

Ky. airmen receive Bronze Stars

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

Four members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing received Bronze Stars from Gen. John Handy, commander of the U.S. Transportation and Air Mobility commands, during a ceremony at the Base Annex Nov. 25.

The medals honor Col. Howard Hunt, Lt. Col. Ken Ellis, Maj. Kevin Morris and Senior Master Sgt. Frank Green for their heroism and meritorious achievements during combat operations in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan regions.

Hunt, commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group here, commanded a 1,400-person maintenance team in the Persian Gulf region during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The other three airmen, all from the 123rd Airlift Control Flight, provided command and control of military aircraft operating in the Afghanistan area during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, said he is extremely proud the performance of the four men.

"These individuals represent the best of the Thoroughbred Express," Harden said.

"They went to war, did their job and returned with honor. No commander can ask for more, and we should all take pride in knowing that this wing is filled with folks like these."



Photo by Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Col. Howard Hunt, Lt. Col. Ken Ellis, Maj. Kevin Morris and Senior Master Sgt. Frank Green received Bronze Stars for their actions in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan regions.

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.

KyANG family deploys to BIAP together

By Capt. Carrie Clear
447th Air Expeditionary Group PA Office

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - It's been said that a family who prays together, stays together. But what about the family that deploys together?

A family here at Camp Sather, might be able to answer that question.

Chief Master Sgt. Glenn Farquhar and his daughter, Airman First Class Desiree Farquhar, both belong to the expeditionary civil engineering squadron.

Glenn is a member of the readiness office and Desiree works in the supply section.

The Farquhars are a Guard family from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron. Glenn's wife recently retired from the Kentucky Air Guard and they have another daughter, who also served with the same unit.

They also have twin boys, 13, and another daughter. "I tell them there's no pressure to join," said Glenn. "There's been a Farquhar in the Kentucky Guard for 50 years."

Not only is this the first time father and daughter have deployed together, this is Desiree first TDY.



447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron/USAF

Chief Master Glenn Farquhar and his daughter, Airman 1st Class Desiree Farquhar, perform during a candle light service in December.

"I like having dad here, except when the sirens go off and I have to worry where he is," she said. "Mom likes it a lot, and I'm not as homesick with him here."

"It's a little bit of home being together," Glenn said. "I worry less about her because I'm here."

New Relief Act Provisions Protect Service Members

Courtesy American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 2004 - A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 will provide military personnel — especially those deployed or called to active duty — greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said here. President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19.

"The focus of the SCRA is the same as under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"The SCRA is a significant law,

because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," he said.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment.

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that service members are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he added.

What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an

automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. In the past, according to Lindemann, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The SCRA also makes it clear that the six percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and that any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expands the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, service members and their dependents who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. The SCRA increased that maximum lease amount to \$2,400 and added an annual adjustment for inflation. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465. Lindemann said this will increase the number of service members entitled to this protection.

The SCRA also gives the service member who has received permanent-change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Prior to this service members could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant provisions in the SCRA that did not exist in the SSCRA, Lindemann said, was an added protection for service members who have motor vehicle leases. Any active duty service member who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for not less than 180 days, may terminate a motor vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

AAFES announces "Best Price" pledge

DALLAS - Shoppers around the world now enjoy the lowest price at Army & Air Force Exchange facilities thanks to their "Best Price" pledge.

AAFES' "Best Price" pledge works in two ways. If customers see a price differential of less than \$5 they can tell the cashier who will match it on the spot. Customers who report a price difference of greater than \$5 dollars need only to bring a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price. In either case the competitor's item, of course, must be identical to the item in the AAFES store.

Quite simply, AAFES will match prices on identical merchandise from any competitor. In addition to this same-day pledge, AAFES also offers a 30-day price guarantee on any item originally purchased from AAFES and subsequently sold at a lower price by AAFES, or any local competitor.

Since AAFES does have a dual mission to provide quality merchandise and services at uniformly low prices and generate reasonable earnings to supplement Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, there are exceptions to the "Best Price" program. Stores will not accept challenges from any website or catalog, including the All Services Exchange Mail Order Catalog. Other exclusions include "gimmick" promotions, special order automotive parts, gasoline, automotive labor/service, double and triple coupons, clearance items, flat percentage off items and vending items.

Tom Eustace, manager of the Post Exchange at the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort, said the pledge is good for both customer and store alike.

"The Best Price pledge helps make the PX more competitive with the local market, which in turn ensures the service member and their family get the best deal possible."

Eustace reminds us that the item in question must be identical to what the PX carries. "The brand names have to be the same in order for us to honor the pledge."

AKO introduces new e-Learning System

Story by Spc. Dionne D. Short
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In this technological age, a competitive edge is more important than ever before. Now, thanks to Army Knowledge Online, maintaining that edge has become a little easier for the soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard.

Army Guardsmen now have the ability to register for and complete certified courses online.

The Department of the Army's Chief Information Officer has contracted with SkillSoft Corporation to provide online courses in three areas: information technology (IT), business skills, and personal development.

With more than 1,500 online classes to choose from, Guardsmen

can take advantage of the e-Learning System 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

These online courses allow soldiers to obtain college credits, promotion points, completion certificates and certification preparation.

The IT curriculum includes courses ranging from basic internet skills to the more advanced applications such as Dreamweaver MX and Fireworks.

The business and interpersonal skills courses enable students to learn business strategies and operations, finance, human resources and administration, management and leadership, professional and project effectiveness, sales and customer skills and e-learning curriculum.

The requirements to use the

system are internet access and an AKO account and password.

With the multitude of course options, this online training system is ideal for the beginner, advanced users and aficionado.

How To Use The Army e-Learning System

1. Log on to Army Knowledge Online (www.us.army.mil)
2. Click on the MY EDUCATION page (left sidebar, in the Self Service section)
3. Click on the link to the ARMY E-LEARNING AKO PORTAL PAGE
4. Click on the link to SMART FORCE LOGIN or REGISTER FOR SMARTFORCE.

Operation Joint Forge...

Twenty-nine members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 149th Armor Brigade will join more than 800 National Guard soldiers from four other states to support the NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This mission, typically referred to as SFOR (Stabilization Force), is the 15th and final rotation of American forces supporting this peacekeeping operation.

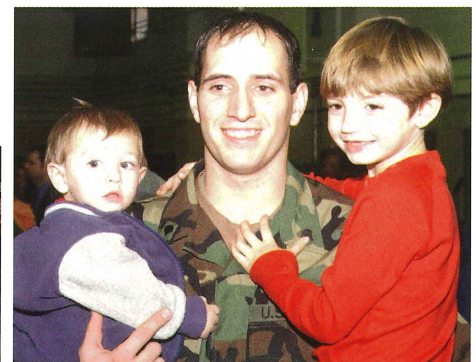
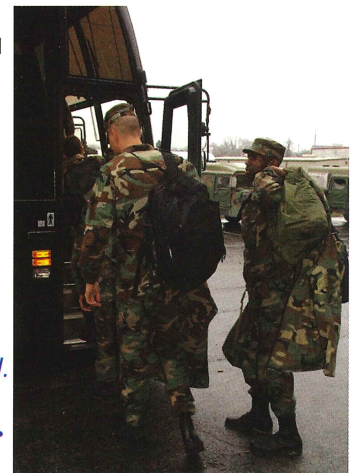


Members of HHC 149th Armor Brigade listen to Gov. Ernie Fletcher and other dignitaries speak during a departure ceremony on Jan. 2.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm shake hands with the troops at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Deploying unit members boarded a bus on Jan. 2 bound for their mobilization station, Camp Atterbury, Ind.



Spc. Chadd Barton with his son, Bryce (left) and daughter, Whitney (right).

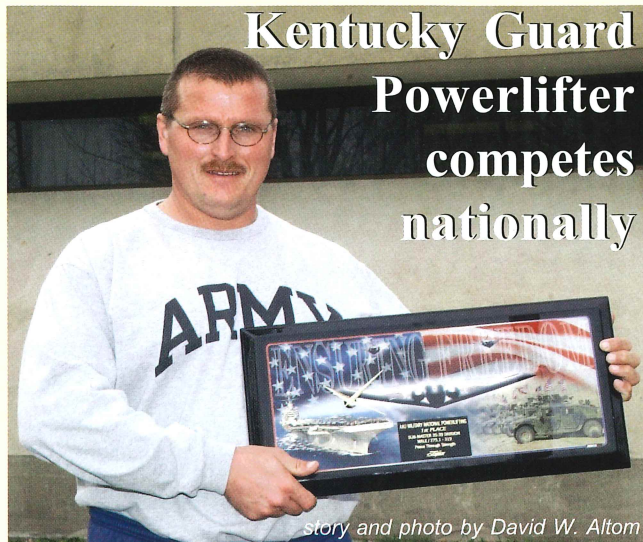
Sgt. 1st Class Billy Bowen is the kind of guy who is happy to carry more than his share of the load. A platoon sergeant with Co. C, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry, Bowen is a nationally recognized powerlifting champion, setting records and winning awards and enjoying life while he's at it.

"I started out with the Scottish Highland games previously, setting state records in Indiana in the late '90s."

A couple of years ago the powerlifting bug hit him and things haven't been the same since.

"I've always been interested in lifting. It is very time consuming."

Bowen competed last summer in the Amateur Athletic Union Military Nationals Powerlifting Champion-



Kentucky Guard Powerlifter competes nationally

story and photo by David W. Altom

ship at Little Rock Air Force Base, taking first place in his class. Competitors from all branches of the US military were in attendance. Bowen was the only member of the Kentucky Guard to participate.

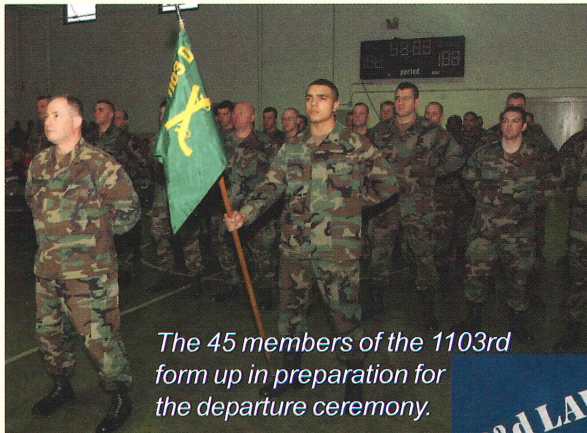
"I'd like to see more statewide participation in the powerlifting sport," he said. "You don't have to have big numbers to compete, just the desire."

"I kid my fellow runners. Anybody can put one foot in front of the other. Lifting 500 pounds is a different feat."

Bowen gives a lot of credit to his wife, Ellen. "She acts as my handler, making sure I put on all my safety equipment, makes sure all the straps are on properly. She watches over me to keep me safe and healthy."

The Bluegrass Guard
KG-PAO
Boone National Guard Center
Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

or current resident



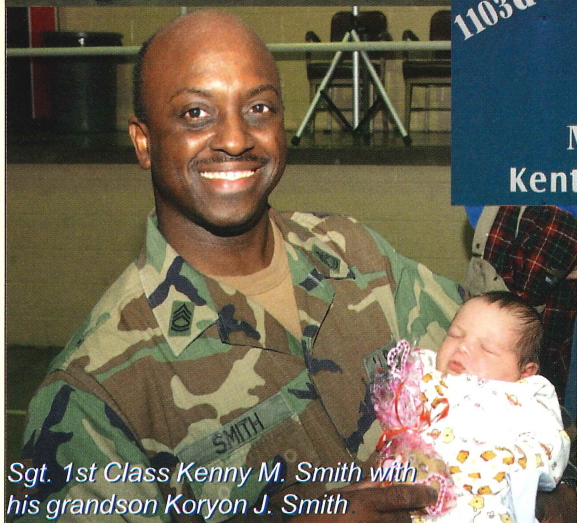
The 45 members of the 1103rd form up in preparation for the departure ceremony.



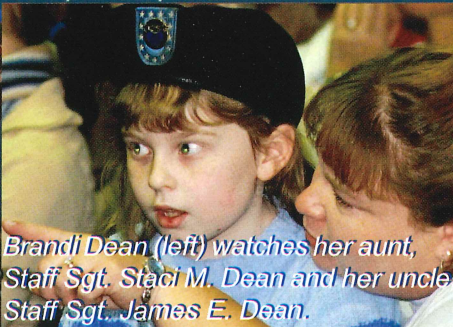
Spc. Caren E. Jones with her niece Jessie Vance

1103rd MP Detachment departs for Operation Iraqi Freedom

photos by Capt. David B. Page



Sgt. 1st Class Kenny M. Smith with his grandson Koryon J. Smith



Brandi Dean (left) watches her aunt, Staff Sgt. Staci M. Dean and her uncle, Staff Sgt. James E. Dean.



Cpl. Douglas Sutton gets a farewell hug from "Young Marine" Allison Sutton, his niece.