

The Bluegrass Guard



Volume Eight, Issue Three

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

January 2004



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The Kentucky National Guard has a new Adjutant General

Governor Ernie Fletcher appointed Donald C. Storm as the 51st Adjutant General of Kentucky at 12:12 a.m., Dec. 9. After affirming his oath of office, Storm was promoted to the rank of Major General. Gov. Fletcher and Monica Storm, Storm's wife, each pinned two silver stars on Storm's uniform.

As the new Adjutant General, Storm has a dual role as head of both the Kentucky National Guard and the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. He commands the 7,400 men and women of the Kentucky National Guard, and is responsible for ensuring a trained, prepared and ready force to both state and national emergencies. Additionally, he directs the activities of Kentucky Division of Emergency Management.

Storm began his military career in 1970 as an enlisted soldier, serving with Military Assistance Command Vietnam. After leaving active duty in 1972, he enlisted in the Kentucky Army National Guard and has been employed by the Guard since 1974.

Since he was commissioned as an Infantry officer in 1981, Storm has commanded and served in staff officer positions at the company, battalion, brigade, and state headquarters level.



photo by Creative Services

Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert administers the oath of office to Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm

His senior-level leadership assignments include: Director of Army Personnel; State Surface Maintenance Manager, Director of Plans, Operations and Training; and State Counter-Drug Coordinator. Storm has served as the Kentucky Army Guard's Chief of Staff since October 2001.

"We are proud to have such a highly experienced military leader join our team," Governor-Elect Ernie Fletcher says. "I'm confident he will bring the Kentucky National Guard to the next level."

"Storm is as strong as new rope," adds Lieutenant-Governor Steve

Pence. "It is a great honor to have him on board."

Storm is a native of Laurel County, Kentucky and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance, as well as a master's degree in strategic studies from the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

"I'm deeply honored," Storm said, "I am soldier's soldier, and I will lead from the front."

"It's God, family and country," he said. "And that's what I'm all about."

The Bluegrass Guard

Commander-in-Chief	Governor Ernie Fletcher	133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det. Commander	Maj. Ben Singleton
Adjutant General	Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm	123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer	Capt. Dale Greer
Deputy Adjutant General	Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack	Editor	Capt. David Page
Assistant Adjutant General, Air	Brig. Gen. Henry Morrow	Contributing Editors.....	Staff Sgt. David Altom
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Inauguration 2003



photo by Creative Services

After taking the oath of office at 12:12 a.m., Dec 9, Maj. Gen. Storm is pinned with two stars by Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Storm's wife, Monica.



photo by David W. Altom

The 202nd Army Band entertains the crowd prior to the inauguration on the morning of Dec. 9



photo by David W. Altom

Gov. Fletcher and his wife, Glenna, are cheered by the crowd during the parade.



photo by David W. Altom

Maj. Gen. Storm and Monica Storm watch the parade from the reviewing stand with other government officials and their families.



photo by Creative Services

Lt. Gov. Steve Pence makes his remarks to the Inaugural crowd during the ceremony held the afternoon of Dec. 9.

Spc. Greg Jones, 940th MP Co., along with Air Guard Security Forces and State Troopers, monitored inaugural activities to ensure the safety of the crowd.

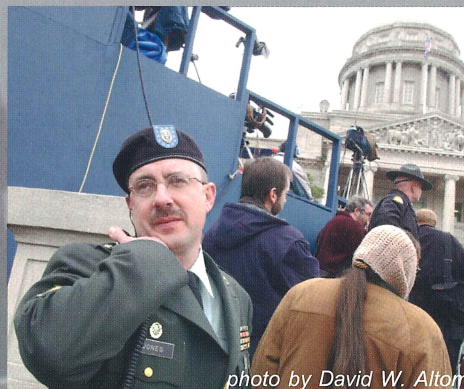


photo by David W. Altom



photo by Creative Services

Welcome home, 223rd Military Police Company!

On Nov. 25, the months of waiting for their soldiers to return finally became reality. The members of the 223rd MP Company stepped off a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 and into the arms of family, friends and loved ones.



Members of the 223rd paused to remember their fallen brother, Sgt. Darren Potter. Potter was killed on Sept. 29 when his vehicle overturned in a canal while responding to hostile fire near the western edge of Baghdad.



Maj. Gen. Youngman awarded Brenda Mau the Commander's Award for Public Service for her dedicated service as the 223rd MP Company Family Readiness group leader.



KyANG dedicates memorial to retirees

By Capt. Kirk Hilbrecht
KyANG State Headquarters PAO

The Kentucky Air National Guard dedicated five memorial plaques to the unit's 725 retirees during a ceremony here Nov. 14.

The plaques, which list the names of every individual who retired from the unit between 1960 and 2002, were unveiled in front of a crowd of more than 400.

"This is a great way of publicly recognizing and thanking those who have sacrificed and served in the Kentucky Air National Guard," said Chief Master Sgt. James Turpin, a board member of the 50th Static Group, which was created to honor individuals who represent the collective heritage of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

The memorial is, he said, a fitting tribute to the airmen who served the Commonwealth and their country 20 years or more, sacrificing time away from their families and civilian jobs. Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, agreed.

"This memorial is a visible and permanent way to recognize the airmen who made this a great organization over the years ... those airmen who went before us and selflessly served the Kentucky Air National Guard," Harden told the crowd just prior to the unveiling.

"This day is a culmination of a process started over six years ago when Gen. (Verna) Fairchild and I decided that we needed a way to recognize the accomplishments of not only the unit as a whole but also its individual members who turn the wrenches, fly the jets, cook the meals, publish the orders, pay the bills



photo by Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Guests view the names of the 725 retirees listed on the plaques. Four of the five plaques were donated by the 50th Static Group, while the other plaque was donated by Louisville Monument Co.

and do all of the millions of other things necessary to make the unit great."

Four of the plaques were donated by the 50th Static Group, whose membership includes current Kentucky Guardsmen and retirees.

The other plaque was donated by the Louisville Monument Co., which created all five of the etched, black granite memorials.

Names of subsequent retirees will be added to the plaques each year.

Members of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron load a C-130 Hercules aircraft Dec. 12, as about 20 members of the Kentucky Air Guard prepare to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The aircraft also transported more than 100 care packages from unit family members to their deployed loved ones, who will remain overseas during the holidays.



Photo by Phil Speck/KyANG

2123rd Transportation Company departs...

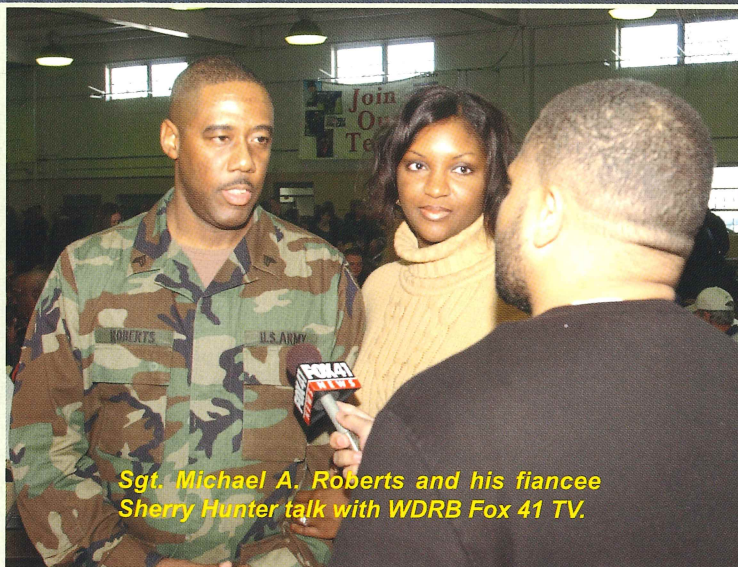
photos by Capt. David B. Page

CONVOY FOLLOWS

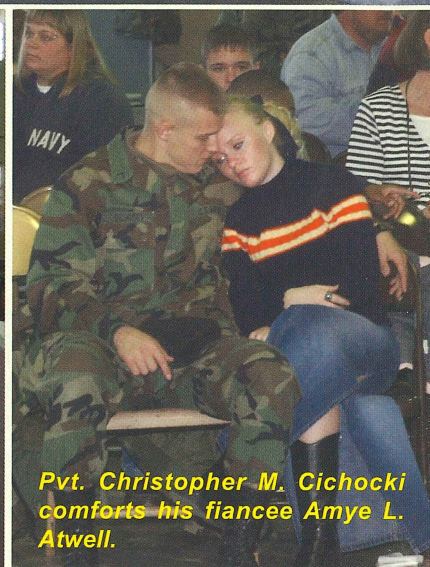
On a cold November weekend, members of the 2123rd Transportation Company lined up their equipment, kissed their families goodbye, and began their journey to Iraq.



Spec. Cynthia M. Edwards holds her son, William, prior to the departure ceremony for 4th platoon.



Sgt. Michael A. Roberts and his fiancée Sherry Hunter talk with WDRB Fox 41 TV.



Pvt. Christopher M. Cichocki comforts his fiancée Amye L. Atwell.

Father, wife and daughter will serve together in Iraq

By KIMBERLY HEFLING

Associated Press

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GREENVILLE, Ky. — Staff Sgt. Thomas Beck won't be leaving all his family behind when he deploys to Iraq. His wife and oldest daughter are going too.

The three — known as Mom Beck, Dad Beck and Daughter Beck — are part of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 2123rd Transportation Company. They drive the massive, 54-ton trucks used to haul large equipment such as tanks.

"I'm glad both of them are going with me," said Beck, a 40-year-old construction worker from Benton. "We don't want to be split up."

The three reported recently to a Greenville training center for preparation to deploy at an undisclosed time.

Beck and his wife, Sgt. Geraldine Beck, 33, are veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

They met when she was assigned to him for training. She thought he was arrogant at first, but soon warmed up to him. They married four years ago and have a 3-year-old.



Sgt. Krissy Beck, 21, left; her stepmother, Sgt. Geraldine Beck, 33; and her father, Staff Sgt. Thomas Beck, 40, were recently activated. AP Photo.

Thomas Beck's daughter, Sgt. Krissy Beck, 21, of Bowling Green, joined the Guard when she was 17. She felt it would give her a life purpose and help pay her tuition at Western Kentucky University.

She chose to join her dad and stepmother's unit because of the family atmosphere.

"I just grew up with all the soldiers," Krissy Beck said. "They're kind of like dads to me."

The three say the deployment orders are no surprise. Because of their unit's specialty, they said they've been expecting the call-up since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Immediately after, they packed their bags with plenty of toiletries, baby wipes and toilet paper.

The Becks say they are looking forward to serving together. It is not uncommon for husbands and wives to serve together in Iraq, but a husband, wife and daughter team is unusual.

"We just figure freedom isn't free and we have to give a little bit," Krissy Beck said.

The three say they are aware of the possibility of seeing one of their own injured or killed, but it isn't something they've discussed.

Krissy Beck admits she is a little bit worried. The slow-moving trucks can be desirable targets to insurgents wanting to disrupt supply lines.

"It's kind of scary, I guess, because a lot of transportation units ... are getting hit," she

(cont'd bottom of page 7)

ROTC Reinstated at Murray State, Kentucky Army Guard Takes the Lead

Story by Pfc. Charles L. Westmoreland
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

At a press conference Dec. 2nd at Murray State University, MSU President Dr. F. King Alexander announced the reinstatement of the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

At the conference a memorandum of agreement was signed between the Kentucky Army National Guard, U.S. Army Cadet Command, Western Kentucky University, and Murray State University. WKU will play an integral role in assisting MSU to rebuild its program by acting as MSU's higher headquarters for the next few years.

During Alexander's opening remarks, he stressed the importance of the ROTC program returning to Murray's campus. According to Alexander, MSU has a proud military history dating back to the birth of the University's ROTC program in 1952 but the program was deactivated in 1997 due to military downsizing. The reinstatement of the program is set to begin during the Fall semester of 2004 and more than 30 students have already indicated an interest in joining the program.

The program will offer both two- and four-year programs enabling college undergraduates the opportunity to serve in the military as civilian-soldiers while earning a commission as a second lieutenant in either the U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard, or U.S. Army.

This time around the program will be run differently. Whereas in the past the ROTC cadre were members of the active-component Army, the new cadre consists of all Kentucky Army National Guard soldiers, a push the KYARNG advocated for more than a year. Capt. Richard Palmer, a 1993 MSU ROTC graduate, will return to lead the program. Palmer expressed excitement at the chance to return to his alma mater by providing the same opportunities to students that he was able to take



photo by Capt. David B. Page
Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack (left), MSU President Dr. F. King Alexander (middle), and Lt. Col. John P. Baker, WKU professor of military science (right), sign the memorandum of agreement to officially re-instate the MSU ROTC program.

advantage of nearly a decade ago.

Brig. Gen. Norman Arflack, deputy adjutant general of the KYARNG, said that the agreement between MSU and the Guard is a win-win situation for all involved.

"Murray State will once again have an accredited ROTC program ... providing students an opportunity to serve their country," he said. "We will also be able to expand the Army's exposure to the university, and we will be able to participate in the training and cultivation of officers entering the Guard. I see no losers in this scenario."

All prospective and returning students who would like to learn more about MSU's ROTC program should contact Capt. Richard Palmer at 270-762-5061 or 5063.

(Father, wife... cont'd)

said.

Besides Krissy and his 3-year-old, Thomas Beck also has three teenage children.

Geraldine Beck, a veterinary technician, said she and her husband have taken criticism for preparing to leave their children to serve overseas. The two youngest will stay with her parents, and the other two will live with their mother.

Some say, "One of you needs to stay home," Geraldine Beck said.

But Thomas Beck said they feel driven to serve their country, and are ready to go.

"We volunteered for it a long time ago," he said, adding that the older children have long accepted the idea that all three of them could deploy.

For now, the biggest challenge is getting those helping them with deployment processing to keep them straight as they draw their desert uniforms and get their teeth checked.

"We confuse them when we go over there to get our clothing or do our dental," he said, "They don't like to see us coming."



photo by Capt. David B. Page
Maj. Steven T. King (left) receives the 201st Engineer Battalion colors from Col. James R. Lile (right) during an assumption of command ceremony held at Camp Atterbury Nov. 8. King assumes command from Lt. Col. Bart A. Rigg, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



photo by Capt. David B. Page

Staff Sgt. Chad S. Jones embraces his daughter, Katie, after returning on Dec. 8 from Aghanistan where he and other Kentucky Army National Guard members trained the newly formed Afghan National Army. Other soldiers returning from this deployment were Lt. Col. Billy J. West, Capt. Joseph V. Hudson, Chief Warrant Officer Stanley H. Searcy, Sgt. First Class Andrea K. Spratt and Sgt. Kenneth R. McGrew.

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Reserve and Guard Receive Unlimited Commissary Benefits

Courtesy of DoD News

The Department of Defense announced today that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, National Guard members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

- These benefits apply to all members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

- Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

- Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency.

"Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with

other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until today when the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions eliminating the restrictions.

Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

"I want to thank Congress and the Department of Defense for their efforts in bringing the commissary shopping privilege to the total force," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "The Congress included unlimited commissary benefits in the National Defense Authorization Act thus making full time shopping possible for the men and women who serve their nation in the National Guard and Reserve."

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted decisively and immediately in providing interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.