

The Bluegrass Guard



Volume Eight, Issue Nine

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

July 2004



**Taking on
“Task Force Grizzly”**

Training the Kentucky Warfighter

Since September 11, 2001, we have experienced some tremendous changes in the way we train, mission and deploy Soldiers and Airmen. I suspect that we will see even more changes in the next several years as the Army and Air Force transform themselves to build the capabilities that our nation will need in the future. I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on transformation and change.

It is important to remember that change is inevitable. The world has changed. It is not the same place as it was twenty years ago. Naturally, as our environment changes, our armed forces must adapt to the changed threat. Our failure to do so could have disastrous consequences for the nation. Even though our Army and Air Force and our National Guard are changing, we must never forget that our purpose -- to protect and defend our Commonwealth and our nation -- will not change, and in fact has never been more important. This is a mission that the Kentucky National Guard has done since 1792 and regardless of the type equipment and aircraft that we have, or the types of units and specialties that we are assigned, the citizens of Kentucky and our nation will continue to depend on us.

With all that is changing, it is important to focus on those fundamental things that are the foundation of all good units. First, we must build and maintain ready units that are at or above 100 percent available strength.



Soldiers and Airmen will continue to be our most important asset and we must not forget that strength is the foundation of readiness. Of course, you can't have ready units without qualified people. Leaders at all levels must insure that every Soldier or Airman is MOS/AFSC qualified.

Second, our training plans must focus more on those basic soldier skills required by the current operating environment. Tasks such as individual and crew-served weapons proficiency, first-aid, communications, land navigation, patrolling, check point operations, convoy

defense, etc., all of which are trained under realistic and challenging conditions must receive a greater emphasis by all units.

Finally, we must continue to develop leaders, especially our junior officers and junior non-commissioned officers. They are the ones that hold the keys to our future success.

If we will do these things, we will help the Kentucky National Guard remain a great organization – one that is relevant, ready, and focused on the future.

"Fight as Kentuckians!"

Freddie R. Waggoner
COL, GS, KYARNG
Deputy J3, JFHQ-KY

The Bluegrass Guard

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Shaving off the side of a mountain to widen a narrow road, with a track hoe, was just one of the missions for the 130th Combat Heavy Engineer Company during Task Force Grizzly. See story on page 6.

Photo by CW3 Dewey Pope,
KYARNG Visual Information
Specialist



The Ky Guard -- truly a family affair

Story by Sgt. Jon Wilke
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Family, service; these two words describe just a few of the values upheld by many members of the Kentucky Army National Guard. These words also shed light on the motives behind the dual enlistment of Kelly Drew and his 18-year-old stepson, Bradley Copeland.

Drew, a sergeant with the Graves County Sheriff's Office, and Copeland, a 2004 Graves County High School graduate, recently enlisted with the 438th Military Police Company in Murray.

For many years, Drew has dreamed of



Kelly Drew (right), a 33-year-old sergeant with the Graves County Sheriff's Office answers a call while on duty May 18, 2004. (photo by Sgt. Jon Wilke)

joining the Guard, but to him, things always seemed to get in the way. Family illness, injuries and other things kept him from signing up. In just the last few months, after Copeland began showing interest in a military career, Drew decided it was time to carry on a fourth-generation family tradition in a new way.

"Bradley has been talking about (enlisting in the military) for a while, so I told him to go see what all the others had to offer," said the 33-year-old Drew. Soon after, this father and son duo signed up on the buddy system with the Guard. "I just figured it was time to take care of business," Drew said.

These Mayfield natives are scheduled to leave August 24, for nearly six months of Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Copeland says he is not worried about the physical fitness requirements of Basic Training and looks forward to AIT. "I've been lifting weights since my freshman year



Bradley Copeland (left) and his stepfather, Kelly Drew (middle), were sworn into the Kentucky National Guard by Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, the Adjutant General. (Photo by Capt. David Page)

in high school, and I plan on starting to run about a month before we leave."

Copeland eventually wants to be in the FBI. "I figured being an MP in the Guard would help me get started down the right path," Copeland said. After returning from training, Copeland plans to attend Murray State University using the 100 percent tuition benefit and earn his bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Drew also plans on using the 100 percent tuition benefit to help him finish off a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. With that degree, Drew said he would like to advance in rank and even attempt to become an officer.

With seven years as a police officer, Drew feels that many of his civilian skills will

help him adjust to Army's Military Police Corps requirements and the Kentucky Army National Guard. In addition, one of Drew's fellow officers is in the 438th MP Company.

Copeland said two of his graduating classmates also joined the same MP unit. "Knowing people at the unit also helps us feel welcome," said Copeland.

Both agree that these friendship-type connections they have with their Guard unit, their deep, personal commitment to one another and their desire to be Soldiers will help them through many of the tough obstacles they are likely to face.

"My employer has been really supportive too," said Drew. "They have been OK with me coming in here and telling them I'll be gone for about six months."

201st Engineers conduct Freedom Salute

Staff Sgt. Wilbur Gross and his wife, Joy, were honored last month along with their daughters Jazlynn, Whitney and Tawny at a Freedom Salute ceremony conducted by Company C, 201st Engineers in Cynthiana. Also honored was Staff Sgt. Early's employer, Cynthiana Police Chief Tony Frazier. Co. C was mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle from August 2002 to August of 2003.



Maintenance group receives top NGB honor

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Maintenance Group was recognized for exceptional performance last month when it was named the 2003 Air National Guard Outstanding Medium Aircraft Maintenance Unit of the Year.

The group also was selected as the National Guard Bureau's nominee for the 2003 Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award for medium-sized aircraft.

The unit, commanded by Col. Howard Hunt, distinguished itself by providing superior aircraft maintenance at home and abroad from Oct. 1, 2002 through Sept. 30, 2003.

During this period, the 123rd Maintenance Group was federally activated in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, just months after completing a yearlong mobilization in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

In bestowing the award during a ceremony held on base May 15, the National Guard Bureau's Col. Elliot Worcester called the 123rd "one of this nation's best Air National Guard Units."

"The presentations this morning reflect the services and the sacrifices that you have all made in order to protect our freedom and to bring that freedom to others around the world," he told the crowd of about 500 unit members who gathered for the ceremony in the Fuel Cell Hangar.

"The efforts put forth by the members of the maintenance group in support of this wing's operational mission are noteworthy. From ensuring full mission accomplishment in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom to supporting the community with programs like the

Combined Federal Campaign and Special Olympics, you've proven yourselves to be warriors and patriots.

"Col. Hunt provided command leadership and an expeditionary maintenance group, and the maintainers of the 123rd Maintenance Group performed the highest

quality of maintenance in deployed locations and at home. You have proven that you have a winning attitude, and I congratulate all of you for winning this outstanding aircraft maintenance unit award," said Colonel Worcester, who is director of logistics for the Air National Guard.

During the award period, the 123rd Maintenance Group deployed 51 personnel and associated equipment to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in support of four C-130s. It also deployed 113 troops and equipment to the Central Command Area of Responsibility in support of six C-130s. Meanwhile, the group's remaining personnel supported Air Mobility Command missions from Louisville.

The combined operations resulted in the generation of 3,196 sorties and 7,821 hours of flight, according to the award citation.

Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, also congratulated the members of the 123rd Maintenance Group,

and he expressed his appreciation for the hard work of everyone in the wing.

The colonel, who recently returned from a five-month deployment to Kuwait, told the audience that his experiences there commanding the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing have only reinforced his belief that "nobody does airlift any better than the 123rd."

"I've always been proud to be a part of this wing," he continued, "but the things we've done over the past couple of years and the way we stack up against other units makes me even more proud."



Senior Airman Lee Stanley and Tech. Sgt. Carl Shaffer, both members of the 123rd Maintenance Group, replace a nutplate on a C-130 Hercules here. (Photo by Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG)

19 Kentucky airmen receive medals in May

Rosa presented with Bronze Star for service in OEF

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

Hundreds of members of the 123rd Airlift Wing packed into the Fuel Cell Hangar on May 15 to see 19 fellow Guardsmen receive medals for their service to their country, state and community.

Among the recipients was Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa, a combat controller from the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, who was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, adjutant general of the Kentucky National Guard.

Sergeant Rosa was honored for his service in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, where he was directly responsible for the safety and security of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

His duties included orchestrating 26 close-air support sorties for overhead security of the president's motorcade and air travel.

Sergeant Rosa's aviation expertise and leadership set the standard for all special tactics troops in country, according to his award citation.

Being selected for the security detail was quite an honor, said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"It's a testament to his technical expertise and professionalism," Col. Kraus said.

"While certainly a reflection on Jon and his ability, on a wider scope it also reflects on all the accomplishments of the special tactics squadron and their unique role in the war on terror.

"If you ask any of those folks, including Sergeant Rosa, they'd just say they were doing their job, but it's more than that."

Col. Kraus also expressed his appreciation for the exceptional performance of 18 other members of Kentucky Air Guard who were presented with medals during the ceremony. Most of the 18 airmen were honored for their service in either Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or both.

The other medal recipients:



Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, adjutant general of the Kentucky National Guard, pins the Bronze Star Medal on Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa here May 15 for his service in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. Senior Master Sgt. Rosa served as a bodyguard to the country's president, Hamid Karzai, for three months in 2003. (Photo by Senior Airman Phillip Speck/KyANG)

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Neil Mullaney
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.

Air Medal

Staff Sgt. Joshua Haney
123rd Special Tactics Sq.

Air Force Commendation Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Howard Rutledge
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.
(First oak leaf cluster)
Master Sgt. John Bowling
123rd Maintenance Sq.
Master Sgt. Troy Ciukaj
123rd Maintenance Sq.
Master Sgt. Gary Dunlap
123rd Maintenance Sq.
Master Sgt. Don Fox
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
Master Sgt. Tim Holaday
123rd Maintenance Sq.
Master Sgt. Donald Overstreet
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
Master Sgt. Anthony Pickman
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.

Master Sgt. Pete Rendon
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
Tech. Sgt. Morgan Bramer
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
(First oak leaf cluster)
Tech. Sgt. Curtis Hall
123rd Maintenance Sq.
Tech. Sgt. Steve Hatfield
123rd Maintenance Sq.
(First oak leaf cluster)
Tech. Sgt. Ron Thomas
123rd Maintenance Sq.
Staff Sgt. Larry Burba
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
Staff Sergeant Tracy Willen
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.
Senior Airman Jeremie Wheatley
123rd Maintenance Sq.

Kentucky's Combat Engineers tackle "Task Force Grizzly"



Story and photos by CW4 Dewey Pope
KYARNG Visual Information Specialist,
KG-DCISM

On October 1, 1997, Task Force Grizzly was created to plan, coordinate and facilitate border construction projects to aid the US Border Patrol and other agencies facing the problems of both illegal drug and alien traffic on our southern border with Mexico. Most recently the Kentucky Guard's 201st Engineer Battalion and 130th Combat Heavy Engineer Company deployed on an annual training exercise to support this effort, sending one of the largest groups so far. It turned out that this mission was made to order for these Kentucky soldiers.

"I think this is a good way to show the versatility of engineers," said 201st Battalion Commander, Maj. Steven King. "We came off an NTC Blue force rotation where we provided support to the 278th ACR and immediately following that we were mobilized for homeland defense. Now we are rolling over into a general engineering type of mission which is important, I

Moving and leveling dirt to raise a mountain roadbed was no problem for Kentucky Army Guard combat engineers utilizing heavy equipment ranging from dozers, front-end loaders, road graders, track hoes and dump trucks.

think, because it shows the various spectrums in which they are capable of operating in."

In addition to training and learning to operate the issued equipment, the engineers had to adjust to the hot temperatures of working in a desert environment. The rugged desert terrain of endless rocky plateaus, knolls and mountains constantly presented natural barriers and obstacles to the engineers. Other common environmental hazards to contend with were local dwellers consisting of lizards, scorpions, venomous spiders and rattlesnakes. There was also the constant threat of harassment from locals on the opposite side of the border. The barriers themselves are built directly on the border, sometimes just a few feet away from dwellings or curious onlookers. In many places, there was a constant serenading of local music which added to the reality of working so close to a foreign country.

The engineers were assigned eight work sites spread out over approximately twenty miles along the border with the 201st having five and the 130th with three. Each of these sites were given code names and had a specific type of construction for the engineers to work on.

"One of the big problems we have is the locals coming out at night and removing our survey stakes," said Capt. James Richmond, commander of Charlie Company. He explained that this particular site was right beside an area where a Mexican farmer had both a clay mine and a rodeo arena.

"Actually he was pretty pleasant to us," Capt. Richmond said. "He came down to talk to us more out of curiosity of what we were doing than anything else."

A few miles up the border, Bravo Company constructed a low water bridge in a valley that contained the most shade trees of anywhere else on



Members of the 201st Battalion Maintenance Group take a break from their duties supporting Task Force Grizzly along the U.S./Mexican border.

Sgt. Derek Stephens sights through transit at the low water bridge site.



the assigned sector. After surveying and staking out the bridge site, the engineers had the footer trenches dug and ready for concrete to be poured by the second day on the job.

According to Staff Sgt. Howard "Cuz" Johnson, "When finished, the bridge will have four three-foot tile in it and then we'll cap it with it another foot of concrete. The bridge will definitely help to keep the road in service, especially if there is flash flood conditions."

Alpha Company received a mission to construct barrier fencing on part of the Pacific Crest Trail sector which was one of the most remote

areas from the rest of the group.

"We haven't seen anyone out here, with no one but the Border Patrol coming by," said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Lewis. "Our mission is to remove the spoil and big rocks from the border side to the opposite side of the road and also to put up some fence."

"The troops, having been through the NTC, are in real good shape and have been through a lot hotter weather. We've seen a few snakes, especially around the rocks and underbrush, but usually when you start making some noise, they go away".

For an operation this large, a tremendous amount of equipment and vehicles, both military and civilian contracted, had to be drawn and maintained. Maintaining this equipment fell under the responsibility of the 201st Battalion Maintenance

Officer, CW2 Charles Prater. "We support the civilian contractors that work on the civilian vehicles that we've drawn, and we also work on Task Force Grizzly 'Green' equipment, which is the military equipment, and help them to maintain what they have on site for the border construction projects. We track all the equipment and maintain the dispatches during the exercises."

Work continued on into the second week with concrete pours, fence panels installed and roads widened and scraped smooth. By the end, the 201st and 130th had definitely accomplished their missions of adding more fencing, moving and relocating dirt, huge rocks and boulders, widening and building up road beds, and finally building a low water bridge.

Brig. Gen. Michael Curtain expressed satisfaction during his visit with the Kentucky combat engineers, saying "This is a great training exercise for our engineers. They get to do a real world mission on strange territory with equipment that they fall in on. Not only do they do something productive to learn and work in their MOS, but they also get to work with other government agencies such as the U.S. Border Patrol and the California National Guard and all those folks that run Task Force Grizzly. It's been a tremendous training opportunity for our Soldiers."

Pfc. Daniel Westfal and Sgt. Jason Earley level posts prior to installing the barrier fence.



207th Maintenance Company AT

The 207th Maintenance Company, based at Fort Knox, and its detachments from Frankfort, Brandenburg, and Central City, participated in a two-week annual training from May 15-29. The first week of training was spent working on tactics and leader development at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center and the last week working at various maintenance shops throughout the Kentucky Army National Guard. (Photos by Capt. David B. Page)

Sgt. Mark A Walker and Spc. Brandon Wainscott, both from Det. 1, 207th Maint. Co., help fix a flat tire at the Frankfort Organizational Maintenance Shop.



Cpl. Shawn P. Ferrell takes first place in a friendly race through the Wendell Ford obstacle course among the detachments.

A group of Soldiers from the 207th MC conduct quartering party operations to make the area safe for the rest of the company to occupy.



Company C, 206th Engineer Battalion departs for Kosovo

Ninety-five members of Company C, 206th Engineer Battalion move to Camp Atterbury, Ind. following the departure ceremony on June 1st at the Prestonsburg Armory for additional training prior to their departure to the eastern European nation of Kosovo.

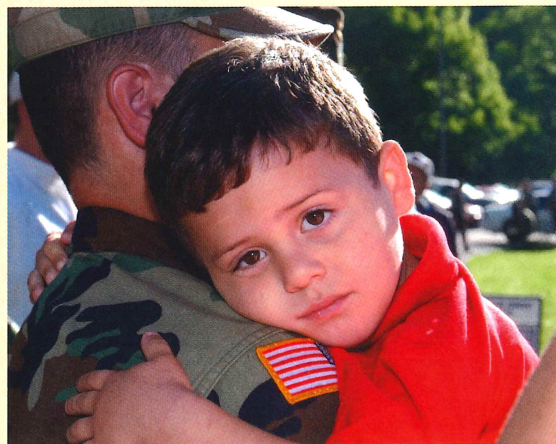
While in Kosovo the combat engineers will support Operation Joint Guardian, the ongoing peace-keeping mission that began in 1999. The

mobilization is expected to last approximately nine months.

Commanded by Capt. Scott Thomas, Co. C, 206th Engineer Battalion has the primary battlefield mission of employing demolitions to clear minefields and other obstacles. The Kosovo mission will require the combat engineers to take part in patrols and similar light-infantry duties.



Megan Goble, left, moved Soldiers, families and friends with her rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner."



Paul Ethan, son of Sgt. Paul Edward Varney, takes comfort in his father's arms just prior to the unit's departure.

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