



The Bluegrass Guard

Volume Nine, Issue Two/Three

serving the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kentucky National Guard

Nov./Dec. 2004



Got Spirit? KYNG seeks chaplains

The Global War on Terrorism is taking its toll on the Kentucky Guard Chaplain Corps along with everyone else. A wise commander does not want to be in the zone of imminent danger without a chaplain to minister to the spiritual needs of the troops. A good commander knows that peace within oneself is the foundation of courage under fire, and the military chaplain brings the assurance of peace in challenging times. However, the commanders being served by Kentucky chaplains are not necessarily from Kentucky. The National Guard Bureau has had to reach out to several states to cross level chaplains to battalions who do not have assigned chaplains. The Army Chief of Chaplains has committed the Corps to filling all chaplain slots of all units deploying to the combat zones.

MG Donald Storm has committed the Kentucky Guard to meeting the needs of our troops being deployed along with their families and the stay behind forces. This means that the tasks of the Kentucky Guard Chaplain Corps has intensified. We will continue to conduct Mobilization Briefings and Reunion Briefings as well as work to meet other transition needs of returning units and their families. Already this summer, Kentucky Guard chaplains pulled additional Annual Training assignments to assure coverage to as many units as possible.

Two more chaplains are deploying at the end of September, two have gone



to active duty and one has come on board leaving us currently three slots vacant and two slots left empty during the deployment. We also have one chaplain in school until July of 2005.

However, there is some good news. I've been fortunate enough to be assigned to the full-time support slot. My primary jobs is relating to headquarters issues and responding to state wide issues. We have a couple of Civil Air Patrol chaplains who volunteer to give coverage to three units and this helps tremendously in the short run. Our commitment is to do what is needed to do the job for the troops and families of the Kentucky Guard.

We could use your help in recruiting new chaplains. To fully support our troops we have to have flesh and blood people in uniform serving as chaplains.

Who do you know that fits the criteria? An ordained clergy person who is duly recognized by his or her religious governing body in good standing, under age 34 without prior active duty service, (age can be adjusted based on time of active service), able to pass the induction physical, has a seminary degree or 90 hours of graduate level theological studies, meets the weight/height standards, and has a desire to minister to people in a military environment. The military chaplaincy is not for everyone; but for the few who qualify it is the best ministry they will ever be a part of.

If you have a lead, please call me at 502-607-1729 or Chaplain Dill at 502-3673-0493 or cell 502-802-2585. Email contacts:

William.Draper@ky.ngb.army.mil or roger.dill@us.army.mil.

There is a slogan being tossed around of late that says, "Too Blessed to be Stressed."

The Kentucky Chaplain Corps, Army and Air, is indeed blessed to be working with some of the best people in the military, but it is the stress that gives your Kentucky Guard Chaplains the edge to bring God to Soldiers and Airmen, and Soldiers and Airmen to God.

William C. Draper

CPT Bill Draper
Chaplain, KyARNG

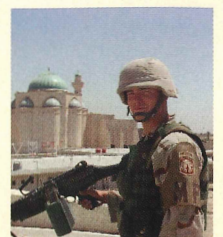
The Bluegrass Guard

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COVER: SGT Buddy Ladd of the 1103rd MP Det. provides security on top of the Democracy Building in Al Hillah, Iraq during a visit to that location by Ambassador Paul Bremer.



State Command Sergeant Major selected as 8th ARNG CSM

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, has announced the selection of Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe as the 8th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard. Gipe is currently Command Sergeant Major of the Kentucky Army National Guard. He will report for duty in January 2005, first deploying to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, then assuming his new responsibilities on about Aug. 1, 2005.

Incumbent Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III has held the position since January 2001.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Gipe’s background and experiences have prepared him well for this level of responsibility, and I’m confident that he is fully prepared to follow Frank Lever as our next Command Sergeant Major,” said Schultz.

As Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, Gipe will serve as the Director’s personal advisor on all enlisted matters, with special emphasis on quality of life and training. He will also act as a representative and advocate for the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia to the Army leadership and Congress.

Gipe will spend the majority of his tour visiting some of the more than 348,000 Army National Guard Soldiers deployed around the world, observing training and visiting schools. He will sit on several councils and boards that make decisions affecting Soldiers, units and families. His interaction with other United States and foreign military services will provide insight into joint and combined operations.

Gipe graduated from high school in Madison, Ind., and has attended Western Kentucky University and Brescia College in Owensboro, Ky. He joined the Kentucky Army National Guard in 1982 as a traditional enlisted Soldier and, over the last 22 years, has held all leadership positions in the noncommissioned officer corps through the rank of command sergeant major. He served with the Kentucky Army National Guard in various positions to include with the 238th Regiment and 2nd Battalion 123rd Armor, culminating as Command Sergeant Major. He has been Kentucky



State Command Sergeant Major since 2002.

Prior to taking on his full-time leadership position with the Kentucky Army National Guard, Gipe was granted a military leave of absence from CSX Railroad in Louisville, Ky., where he worked as a locomotive engineer.

Gipe’s military education includes Air Assault School and various noncommissioned officer courses to include the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal, the Kentucky Merit Ribbon, the Kentucky Commendation Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Assault Badge.

Gipe is a native of Owensboro, Ky., and currently resides in Floyds Knobs, Ind., with his wife, Tony. Gipe’s daughter, Courtney, is a freshman at Western Kentucky University.

Wing's Rosa named top USAF airman

Special tactics troop has made a career out of seeking new challenges

By Capt. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Jon Rosa gazed out the window of the control tower at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., and wondered if life shouldn't offer something more.

The air traffic controller had been thinking about little else for months, and now, in the fall of 1991, he decided it was time to find out.

After an accomplished 10-year career directing air traffic for the Air Force, Sergeant Rosa filed for a discharge from active duty and prepared to enter the uncharted waters of the civilian workforce.

Fatefully enough, his journey would bring him right back to a full-time job with the U.S. military just a few years later, and in 2004 the Kentucky Air Guard combat controller would be named one of the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

But back in 1991, Sergeant Rosa needed a new challenge. He relished air traffic control — especially the opportunity it offered to see exotic aircraft and travel the world on short-tour exercises, including assignments in Germany, Honduras, Korea and Panama.

Things were, however, becoming a little too routine. Sergeant Rosa enlisted as an airman basic right out of high school, and he steadily advanced through the ranks until he'd fully mastered his job. Now, Sergeant Rosa was beginning to assume more management responsibilities — writing airmen's performance reports and serving as a team leader — which signaled an increase in paperwork and a decrease in operational engagement.



Stephen P. Condon, president of the Air Force Association, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray present Senior Master Sgt. Rosa with his Airman of the Year Award in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 13. (Photo by Larry McTighe/USAF)

"I had risen to a seven-level, I was a watch supervisor, and I was starting to get into management," Sergeant Rosa recalled. "But it just wasn't enough. I needed something more exciting."

And so he left the world of BDUs to seek a new challenge from an alphabet soup of federal agencies, applying to the CIA, DEA, FBI, FAA, U.S. Customs and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

In the meantime, he got a job managing a private airport in Key Largo, Fla., near Homestead. He also heard about an Air Force Reserve pararescue unit there that seemed to offer the kind of challenge and excitement he was seeking.

Sergeant Rosa took and passed the unit's mandatory Physical Ability and Stamina Test, or PAST, a kind of pre-screening for special tactics candidates, and he completed a flight physical before being told he would have to wait for funding to send him through the pararescue training course.

Then an old friend told him about the Kentucky Air Guard's relatively new

123rd Special Tactics Flight, which was home to the only combat control unit in the Air National Guard.

Combat controllers deploy into austere environments, establish and manage forward-deployed airfields, and guide munitions onto enemy targets — a job description that certainly appealed to Sergeant Rosa.

He wasted no time phoning up the unit and asking the training manager about possible vacancies.

"He gave me the line that he undoubtedly said so many times before: 'It takes a lot of training, and you're going to have to take the PAST test,'" Sergeant Rosa recalled.

"And I said, 'Well, I've already taken it.' I faxed it to him, and he said, 'That's Great!'"

"Then I told him I was already an air traffic controller, so I wouldn't have to get qualified. He said, 'Great! Fax me that, too!'"

"Then I said I already had a class-three flight physical. He said, 'Great!' again. So I faxed him that!"

And just like that, by early 1994

(cont'd to page 5)

(cont'd from page 4)

Sergeant Rosa was back in the military — this time as a Kentucky Air Guardsman — and on his way through the combat control “pipeline,” a year-and-a-half-long series of specialized training courses that included Airborne School, Special Forces SCUBA school, USAF Survival School and high-altitude parachute training.

The most difficult part, however, might have been the first component, a three-month “selection course” designed to push candidates to their limits with constant mental and physical stress.

Sergeant Rosa described the experience as “12 weeks of heinous pain and agony to see if (the candidates) have the intestinal fortitude to do these jobs.”

The training is so difficult, in fact, that between 80 and 90 percent of the candidates wash out before graduation — the highest rate of any of the Special Operations schools, Sergeant Rosa said.

Such a high attrition rate rightfully concerned him, but Sergeant Rosa thrives on facing new challenges — a mindset he developed in part by competing aggressively in track and field events as a high school athlete in West Palm Beach, Fla.

“I was concerned about it, but the only way to allay my fears was to be in the best shape that I could be,” Sergeant Rosa said. “I had a very structured training program, based on the recommendations of other combat controllers, and that helped me prepare for the experience.

“The whole time I was in the pipeline, I never failed any of the running, swimming or physical events.

“I just took each day as an individual challenge. I told myself: Today, I’m going to do the best that I can on whatever task I have before me.”

That attitude got Sergeant Rosa through the combat control pipeline, and it has served him well in the nine years since.

He accepted a full-time position with the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Special Tactics Flight in 1995 (the unit is now a squadron) and hasn’t looked back.

During that time, he’s participated in scores of classified missions and deployed to dozens of countries around the world, including sites on every continent save Antarctica.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began to gear up in 2003, Sergeant Rosa deployed to Northern Iraq to train Kurdish rebels as part of an Army Green Beret team. He arrived just days before fighting began and was in direct contact with the Iraqi military, taking enemy mortar fire while controlling more than 40 close-air support sorties.

Sergeant Rosa was credited with 110 confirmed enemy kills before being redeployed to Afghanistan two months later as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

While in Afghanistan, Sergeant Rosa was assigned to protect the life of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Because of an earlier assassination attempt by Karzai’s Afghan bodyguards, the president’s security detail was now staffed entirely by Americans, and Sergeant Rosa was the only military member

on the force.

As a combat controller, he assisted with counter-terrorism measures and coordinated medevac resources in a hostile environment, ultimately earning a bronze star for his actions.

Maj. Jeremy Shoop, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, said Sergeant Rosa’s selection for the detail speaks volumes about his performance and the skills that combat controllers bring to the table.

“That was an immense statement of faith in Jon’s ability, as well as a real shot in the arm for the reputation of the 123rd STS and all combat control personnel across the Air Force,” he said.

Rosa, now a senior master sergeant, was further recognized earlier this year when he was named one of the U.S. Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year — an honor that he said “humbled” him.

“I never thought I possessed a collection of attributes that sets me apart,” Sergeant Rosa said. “I work with a bunch of people who always excel, every day in everything they do. That ethos is prevalent throughout our unit.”

Major Shoop agreed about the quality of his troops, but he has no doubt that Sergeant Rosa earned his title.

“He has a never-say-die attitude, a dedication to the mission, a dedication to the profession of arms and a warrior spirit,” Major Shoop said.

“These are all things that make him a good operator, a good leader and a good role model. He’s a sterling performer.”



Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa talks on a satellite radio to Bagram Air Base during Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa/KyANG)

Morrow selected as assistant to NORAD commander

Cargo Courier Staff Report

FRANKFORT, KY — Brig. Gen. Henry C. Morrow has been selected as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, located at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, announced Sept. 28.

General Morrow leaves his former position as the assistant adjutant general for Air for the Kentucky National Guard to become the senior National Guard officer at NORAD.

He will advise the commander and his staff on wartime and peacetime operational capabilities of the National Guard.

"Gen. Morrow is a fine officer and well deserving of this position," General Storm said. "His contributions have helped transform the Kentucky National Guard into a viable force in the face of the War on Terror and no doubt will represent the National Guard well in this new position."

General Morrow will remain affiliated with the Kentucky National Guard but will be assigned to NORAD in Colorado. On an interim basis, Col. Robert Yapple will assume Morrow's former duties while a nationwide search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

The general received his Air Force commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Clemson University in South Carolina in 1977.

He continued his education in Europe at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, completing a master's degree in Aeronautical Science in 1984. An outstanding graduate of undergraduate pilot training, General Morrow has served as an F-111 and F-16 instructor pilot.

His flying assignments include two tours in Europe — one in the F-111F, and one in the F-16.



Brig. Gen. Henry C. Morrow

After completing the USAF F-16 Fighter Weapons School in 1985, he was assigned to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and served as both a squadron and wing weapons officer.

General Morrow's assignments have included time with the Texas Air National Guard as the 182nd Fighter Squadron Commander; 149th Fighter Wing Operations Group commander; director of operations, Headquarters, Texas Air National Guard; vice commander, 147th Fighter Wing, Houston; and wing commander, 149th Fighter Wing, San Antonio.

He joined the Kentucky Air National Guard in March 2002 and previously served as the chief of staff, Headquarters, KyANG.

The general is a combat veteran and command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in trainer and fighter aircraft.

Weather suspends Oak airlift

By Capt. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

Bad weather forced KyANG officials to temporarily suspend Coronet Oak flying operations in Puerto Rico from Sept. 14 to 16 while Tropical Storm Jeanne passed through.

Jeanne, which was later upgraded to a hurricane and caused more than 1,000 deaths in Haiti, buffeted Puerto Rico with winds in excess of 70 miles per hour, said Maj. Jeff Harrison, a pilot in the 165th Airlift Squadron and the mission commander in Puerto Rico during the storm.

All C-130 aircraft were evacuated to Florida on Sept. 14 and returned on Sept. 16, the day after Jeanne made landfall on the island commonwealth.

About 30 Kentucky maintenance troops and support staff stayed behind in Puerto Rico during the storm, including Major Harrison.

Island officials cut off all power the morning of Sept. 15 and didn't restore electricity until Sept. 18, he said. In the meantime, people survived on non-perishable food.

"It was like Survivor," he said. "We had no power in our hotel rooms, and there wasn't a lot to eat."

Major Harrison, who was in his hotel room when Jeanne hit, described a storm typified by extremely heavy rain, low clouds and strong winds.

"Standing on the balcony was like riding in your car with the window down at 70 miles per hour," he said.

Coronet Oak is an airlift mission that supports U.S. military operations and govern-

ment agencies in the Southern Command Area of Responsibility.

The wing is providing airlift for the mission through January 2005.

Kraus named commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing

By Capt. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

Col. Mark R. Kraus has been named commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing, effective Nov. 15.

Colonel Kraus has served as an RF-4C weapon systems officer and C-130 navigator, and has held a variety of leadership positions including chief of standardization/evaluation, flight commander, operations officer, squadron commander and group commander.

His military career spans more than 30 years, including six years of enlisted service prior to his commissioning as an officer through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1979.

During his Kentucky Air Guard career, Colonel Kraus has participated in Operations Provide Promise, Restore Hope, Joint Forge, Coronet Oak, Bright Star and Red Flag.



He also was mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

As wing commander, Colonel Kraus provides leadership of the flying unit, supervising manpower, equipment and training.

His major awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

I Didn't Know Army One Source Could Help with That?

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Editor's notes:

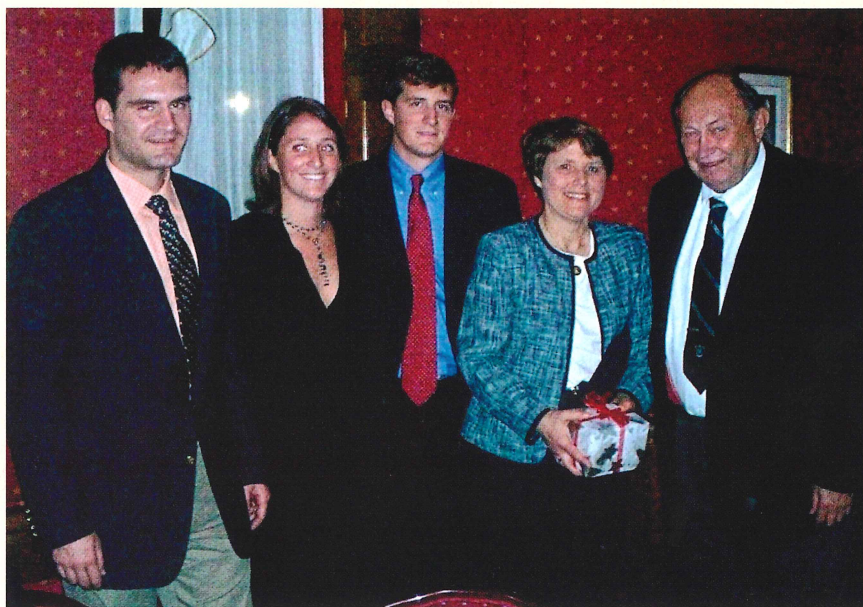
In the October edition of the Bluegrass Guard, Charlie Battery of the 623rd Field Artillery was inadvertently excluded from the list of units deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom in the coming months in the page three article titled "KyARNG units...". Also, the October edition was distributed later than normal due to a printer error.

Former Adjutant General honored

LTG Richard Trefry, USA-RET presented Barbara Groves with the US Army War College Alumni Association's "Outstanding Alumnus" award conferred posthumously to her late husband, Major General John Russell Groves during a ceremony October 30th at the Army-Navy Club in Washington, DC.

The former Kentucky Adjutant General was recognized for his many academic contributions to the Army's Senior Service College where he served as both adjunct faculty and as a member of the school's Board of Visitors.

Accompanying Mrs. Groves were her children, John Marshall Groves, Elise Groves, and Matthew Groves. (Photo by Carol Czirr)



Briefly News...

Scholarships for military children program enters fifth year

The fifth year of Scholarships for Military Children is now underway. Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries, the program has awarded over \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of active duty service members, Guard and Reserve members, and military retirees. Applications for the 2005 program are available at commissaries or online: <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Marathon team seeking members

The Kentucky National Guard is looking for new members to run on the 2005 Marathon Team in Lincoln, Neb.

Qualifying times need to be turned in no later the 1st of FEBRUARY 2005. Any active member (unless on Title 10) for the Kentucky Army or Air Force Guard is allowed as long as they make the times.

Qualifying times are as followed (these times are for a full marathon run in between May 1, 2004 and Feb. 1, 2005):

MEN 17-40: under 4 hours

MEN OVER 40: under 4 hours and 30 minutes

WOMEN ALL AGES: under 4 hours and 30 minutes

The team will be picked by qualifying times and number of seats available.

If you are interested in running on or have any question about the Kentucky National Guard Marathon please call SSG Mortenson at 502-607-1164.

Hire Vets First campaign benefits employers and vets

Kentucky employers have a new federal resource when they are searching for qualified job applicants - the Hire Vets First Web site at <http://hirevetsfirst.gov>.

In addition to the new Web site, One-Stop Career Centers are being emphasized in the Hire Vets First national campaign as the location where employers can connect with veterans transitioning from the military to a civilian career. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the President's National Hire Veterans Committee has initiated the campaign to make employers aware of the benefits of hiring veterans.

Determining how many service members will apply for civilian jobs within Kentucky is difficult; however, about 9,000 service members transition through Fort Knox and Fort Campbell each year. The One-Stop Career Centers are a good place for these veterans to find help and information. To find the nearest One-Stop Career Center, go to <http://www.servicelocator.org> or call DOL's toll-free help line at 1-877-US2-JOBS or 1-877-872-5627 (TTY: 1-877-889-5627).

Learn more about the Office of Employment and Training, an agency of the Department for Workforce Investment in the Education Cabinet at www.workforce.ky.gov <http://www.workforce.ky.gov>.

The Kentucky Education Cabinet coordinates learning programs from P-16, and manages and supports training and employment functions in the Department for Workforce Investment. For more information about our programs, visit www.educationcabinet.ky.gov <http://www.educationcabinet.ky.gov> or www.workforce.ky.gov <http://www.workforce.ky.gov>, or call 502-564-6606.

The month of December in farewells

With so many troops mobilizing for Operation Iraqi Freedom, we wanted to share some special moments with our readers. *(clockwise, starting at the top right)*

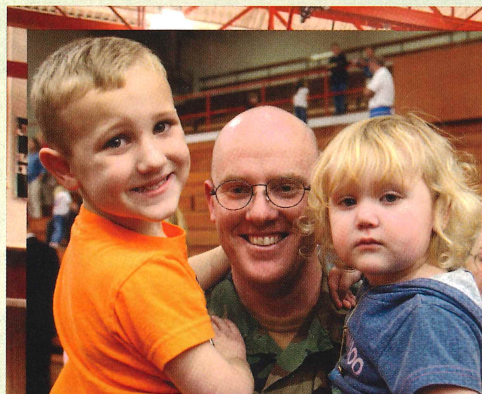
MG Donald Storm thanks the family of SPC Joseph Shabazz following the departure ceremony at Campbellsville.

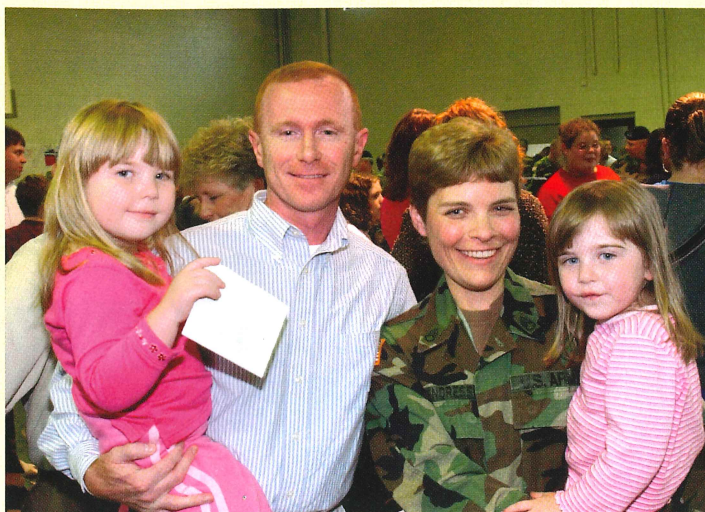
Hunter and Lindsey Bell were at the Walton Armory to show their support for the 940th Military Police Company.

SGT Joseph Hiatt, 301st Chemical Company, spends some precious time with his son, Joseph Andrew.

In Wayne County they filled the local high school gym to honor the Soldiers of the Battery B, 1-623rd FA.

SPC Jason Crowe holds what's precious to him, his son, Dawson, and his daughter, Madison.





(clockwise, starting above)

SSG Jennifer Latendresse, HHC 206th EN, shows off her family, LTC Ray Latendresse and their children, Emily and Erika. **SFC William Thompson** and his son PV2 Gary Thompson are deploying with Co. B, 206th EN based in Hazard. William's son, Dylan, looks on as MG Storm holds grandson Darren.

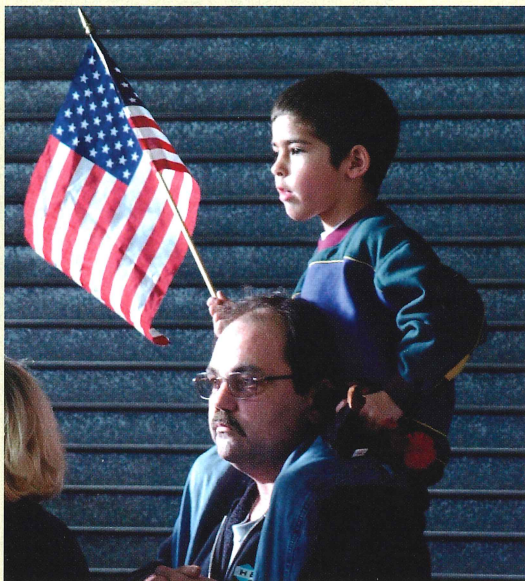
State CSM John Gipe gives some guidance to PFC Justin Halvorsen following the Morehead departure ceremony. Halvorsen is the son of MSG Kip Halvorsen and his wife, Chrisie, herself a former KYARNG member.

The people of Morehead held an impressive ceremony complete with holiday trimmings.

CPT Derek Eades, commander, Co. B, 206th EN, speaks to his troops at the departure ceremony at the Jackson Armory.

Brendon McCormick gets a little help cheering for his father, SSG Todd McCormick, 940th Military Police Company.

(Photos by CPT David Page and SSG David Altom)



Ky engineers help town in Kosovo

Story by CPT David Page

Photo by 1LT John B. Barger

In July, members of Company C, 206th Engineers loaded their bags and kissed family and friends goodbye as they departed Prestonsburg for a rotation to Kosovo.

After conducting a couple of weeks of additional training at the company's mobilization station, Camp Atterbury, Ind., the unit departed the United States as part of Task Force Shield and arrived in Kosovo on Aug. 15.

Kosovo is a Province of Serbia-Montenegro, which has roughly 89 percent population of Kosovo-Albanians, 10 percent Kosovo-Serbians, and one percent Roma (known as Gypsies in Europe).

Until 1989, the region enjoyed a high degree of autonomy within the former Yugoslavia, when Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic altered the status of the region, removing its autonomy and bringing it under the direct control of Belgrade, the Serbian capital.

The conditions for all non-Serbian people became so bad in the 1990s that refugees began migrating into the bordering countries. The United Nations stepped in and created KFOR (NATO forces) to stop the violence between the Albanians and Serbians. Kosovo is now separated from Serbia by what is referred to as the Administrative Boundary Line.

As part of Task Force Shield,



SGT Greg Skeens (left) directing a local Albanian operator on route clearing procedures.

Company C, 206th Engineers is attached to the 1-148th Infantry Battalion from the Ohio National Guard, and is stationed at Camp Monteith, Kosovo. 1LT John B. Barger, the company executive officer, stated he noticed upon arriving in Kosovo that the terrain was mountainous, with a lot of rolling hills, not unlike Eastern Kentucky but on a larger scale.

The unit has primarily assumed an infantry role for this mission.

"Each platoon (in the company) is responsible for its own area of responsibility, and conducts mounted and dismounted patrols as a show of presence," said Barger.

He also said the unit has conducted operations to interdict illegal smuggling across the Administrative Boundary Line, as well done searches for illegal weapons and other contraband.

The unit was recently tasked with their first engineer construction project to eliminate a severe water drainage problem in the nearby town of Kololec, as well as rebuild the town square and the roads running into the town.

"We are widening two roads that lead into the town and redirecting water runoff into existing drainage ditches," said Barger. "This town has been waiting for years for this project."

Barger said the first day of construction was rough because recent rains left the ground very saturated and the mud caused great difficulty, but the weather was now cooperating and they were making progress.

Barger said the unit is working cooperatively with the residents of the town to complete the projects.

"Our operators are teaching

(cont'd to page 13)

(cont'd from page 12)

the locals to operate the equipment so they can continue the work after we are gone," said Barger.

The unit already has another construction project lined up after they finish with this town.

"Our next project is going to be a bridge in the Multi-National Brigade's southwest area of Kosovo, which is German section of Kosovo," said Barger.

The only thing that concerns Barger about future construction projects during the stretch between Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King's birthday is last year Kosovo reportedly experienced seven feet of snow.

Company C, 206th Engineers are expected to return to the United States in early spring.

149th BCT returns from Bosnia

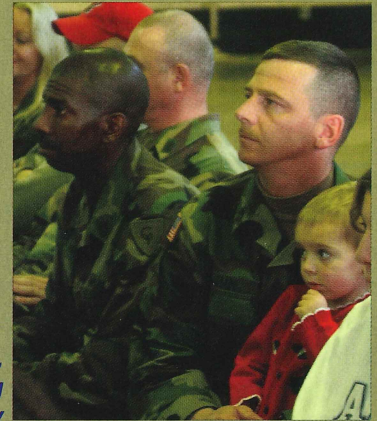
The 149th Brigade Combat Team (Heavy), returned home after an eleven-month deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina on Dec. 7.

This detachment from the 149th BCT deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in February 2004 as members of the Multinational Peacekeeping Mission in the Balkans during Stabilization Force Rotation 15.

While in Bosnia, the unit helped lay the ground work for the transition of the stabilization mission to the European Union. Six members of the unit volunteered to remain in Bosnia until the transition of power is complete.



CPT David Reed (above) stands with his wife, Amy, son, Adam, and daughter, Audrey following a welcome home ceremony at the unit's armory in Louisville on Dec. 7. SFC Jerry V. Quinn (right), sits with his daughter, Katie, during the ceremony. (photos by CPT David B. Page, Deputy PAO)



Authorization Act Funds 3.5 percent troop pay raise

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 2004 — Money contained within the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act will fund a 3.5 percent troop pay raise and eliminate servicemembers' out-of-pocket costs for family housing, DoD's top military personnel official noted.

The January troop pay raise will be applied across the board to all servicemembers and won't feature pay hikes targeted to specific ranks as in past years, David S. C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said during a recent Pentagon interview.

The targeted raises issued to mid-level officers and noncommissioned officers over the past two years, Chu explained, "have fixed," for now, most pay-disparity issues involving those ranks.

The act also contains three special pay and bonus authorities, Chu noted. For example, the bill makes permanent the increase to military family separation pay to \$250 a month and likewise hostile fire/imminent danger pay at \$225 a month.

The bill also provides "a much stronger set" of enlistment bonuses for Guard and Reserve members.

Chu said the '05 NDAA ensures that troops in the field receive the equipment and other material they require to successfully prosecute the global war against terrorism.

The bill also provides extended health coverage for some reservists, Chu noted, as well as better Montgomery GI. Bill benefits.

Another change contained in the '05 NDAA enables reservists to be called up for training before possible overseas deployment. This, Chu pointed out, is a more efficient means of force management.

A major highlight of military personnel management during his tenure, Chu observed, involves successive increases in troop compensation.

"The president has been willing to carry the torch for us to argue for significant pay increases," Chu noted, as well as to reduce and eventually eliminate servicemembers' out-of-pocket costs for military housing.

C-23 Sherpa: 'The aircraft that can' in Iraq

This article features a number of Kentucky National Guard Soldiers from Det. 3 Co. H, 171st Aviation.

Article and photos by Juliana Gittler. Reprinted with permission from Stars and Stripes, a Department of Defense publication. © 2004 Stars and Stripes

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Fourteen hours before takeoff, the operations center of the 171st Aviation Regiment, owner of the C-23 Sherpa, gets a call that absentee ballots must absolutely, positively get to an airfield southwest of Mosul.

Can it do it? Of course.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Jackson, operations officer, adds an extra stop on a planned flight to Mosul.

Throughout the evening, he'll continue to change the cargo list: adding a needed box of blood for one stop and a crew of F-16 mechanics to another. Each time the phone rings, the mission can change.

"The Sherpa is the aircraft that can," said Lt. Col. Steven Campfield, commander of the 6th Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, which includes the Sherpa company. "I would say the Sherpa has been the workhorse in this theater."

It moves critical supplies such as blood, repair parts and ammunition to anywhere with an airstrip.

For safety, pilots fly low and fast, racing along at 200 miles per hour, 100 feet above ground or occasionally lower.

"We dodge power lines," said pilot Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dave Smith. "We're down there with the helicopters for the most part."

Danger in a tin can

Back in the States, Sherpas have the same mission, moving small groups



Boxy and utilitarian C-23 Sherpas at Balad air base wait to carry cargo and people to airstrips around Iraq.

of people and medium-size cargo loads.

"All we really did was lift up, change the scenery and add the threat," said Maj. John D. Boyer, company commander.

The threats, surface-to-air missiles, small-arms and indirect fire, force pilots to fly in a safety zone barely off the ground, a place many pilots have flown before.

"A lot of [flying] tactics are determined from reaching back in our brains to our helicopter days. Although you're moving a lot faster than a helicopter, it's not very different," Boyer said.

At a low altitude, pilots use vision, not instruments, to navigate. Pilots and crew stand constant watch for wires, towers, hapless birds and anything suspicious on the ground.

"When we first got here, everything was out of the ordinary," said Sgt. Eric Muse, flight engineer. "That was kind of unnerving."

Very few Sherpas have been

attacked and none have been hit. The speed and low flights mean that by the time the enemy sees the plane, it's gone.

"You always worry about it, but you get used to it," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ken Long.

It's often the more banal obstacles that are a concern.

"When you're going 200 miles an hour, a 3-pound bird can have a huge impact," Smith said.

"All of us have hit birds," Jackson added. "I've seen some birds do some really bad things. Large flocks of small birds, they look just like a big cloud in front of you."

It's low enough to see rocks and shrubs, and smiles—or not—on people's faces.

"You can see their expressions, it's great," Muse said.

Pilots say flying low isn't necessarily difficult but requires intense concentration and can tire out a crew quickly.

"It's demanding at low altitude,"

(Cont'd to page 9)



From the cockpit of the C-23 Sherpa, the view over Iraq is crisp and clear — probably because it's 100 feet or less to the ground. The pilots, including Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ken Long, pictured, keep the Sherpa low and fast to reduce exposure to attacks.

(Cont'd from page 9)

Smith said. "It's physically demanding."

And unlike during higher-elevation flights, crews can never take a breather and rely on autopilot.

On hot days, the cockpit can reach 130 degrees and the heat causes greater turbulence.

Out of the sky

Sherpas belong to the Army National Guard. They've been in use in the States for more than a decade but are now proving their mettle.

The aircraft came to the Army unexpectedly, said Dale Chisenberry, company maintenance officer.

In the 1980s, Congress bought 12 from a company in Northern Ireland. The Army tried using them, then handed them to the National Guard. Congress bought a total of 44 for the Guard after they proved effective in moving people and cargo in the United States.

They served a limited role in the Persian Gulf War, moving cargo in the rear. For Operation Iraqi Freedom, they were brought in to Kuwait to take some burden off other means of transportation, Chisenberry said.

To cut flying time and distance, the unit moved this year to Balad, a more central city in the country. From the hub

there, pilots circle out to local airstrips, from Mosul in the north to Kuwait in the south.

The C-23 can move quickly around the theater and provide similar supply capabilities as the CH-47 Chinook.

"They needed something in the theater that could do what the Chinook does but with less down time for maintenance," Chisenberry said. "There's nothing in the middle but the C-23."

Sherpas move about a half million tons of cargo a month and have ferried 9,000 people in six months, Campbell said.

"We can move 200 pounds of

blood to Mosul in two hours," he said.

In July, with a day's notice, the company raced blood and ammunition to Fallujah to replenish Marines fighting there.

Not built for looks

Most people are surprised when they see the boxy prop.

"That's one thing we're actually kidded about," Chisenberry said. "It looks like an antique."

The planes, all about 20 years old, are made of aluminum boxes welded together. Inside, the ceiling is 6 feet high. They're made cheap and are perfect for cargo.

"It's a very durable aircraft. It's not built for looks," Chisenberry said.

For passengers, the ride can be uncomfortable, particularly in summer when turbulent air builds at low levels, giving it more of a roller coaster ride than a cruising plane.

"It's a trickledown effect," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jerry Baker. "Once one person goes, several go."

The ride might be exhilarating or dreadful, depending on your constitution, but the aircraft is certainly memorable. So, too, is its function.

And it's likely to play a role in the Army's future inner-theater, midsize transportation plan.

"What we're doing here is proof of concept," said Boyer. "This is definitely going to change Army aviation indefinitely."



Sgt. Eric Muse, flight engineer with the 171st Aviation Regiment, Co. H, at Balad, Iraq, looks out the rear door before takeoff in the C-23 Sherpa.

1103rd MPs making a difference in Iraq

Story by LTC Bob Snyder and SSG David Altom
Photos by LTC Bob Snyder

Operating from the ruins of ancient Babylon since last February, the 1103rd Military Police Detachment has transformed itself into a multi-tasked battalion headquarters of the first degree.

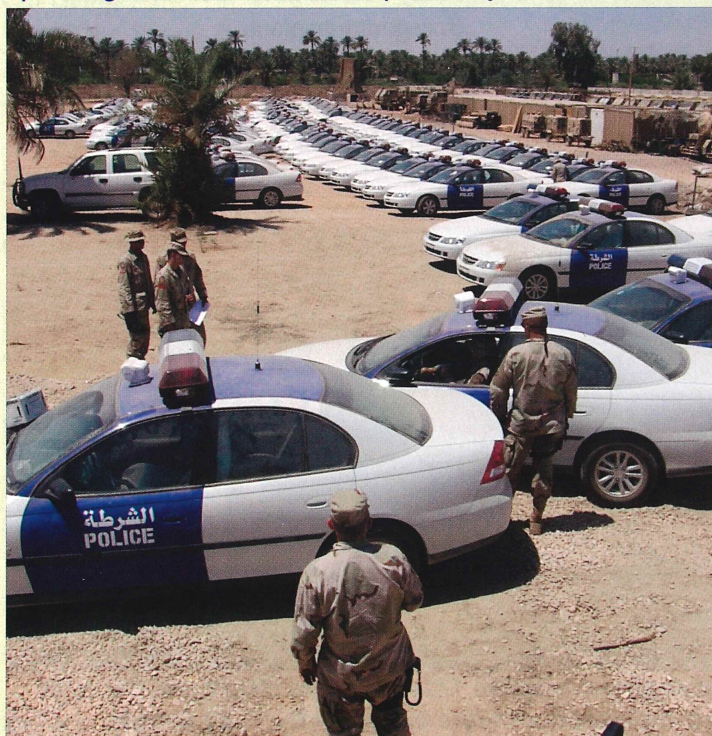
With 43 Soldiers on its roster, the 1103rd's primary responsibility is to assess, mentor, train and equip the Iraqi Police Service in an area that covers land from the Saudi Arabian border to the Iranian border and includes five of the country's eighteen provinces. In November the first graduating class of 94 Iraqi Police cadets and plans to increase the number of recruits to 300 are in place.

In heat as high as 140 degrees Kentucky Soldiers area also taking care of logistical needs such as maintaining communications equipment and equipping the local police. To date more than 300 police cars, 12,000 small arms and a hundred of thousand uniforms and accessories have been issued.

"We have had our ups and downs, but everyone has pulled together and made this deployment a great success," said LTC Bob Snyder, commander of the 1103rd.

"One of our proudest moments during this deployment occurred when each of our soldiers was presented with combat patches from the 16th MP Brigade and the 2nd ACR."

Equipping the Iraqi Police Service with patrol cars is one of the primary responsibilities of the 1103d MP Detachment. So far the unit has distributed over 300 patrol cars to the police operating in the unit's area of responsibility.



Members of the 1103d MP Battalion (Provisional) provide security in downtown Al Hillah after the explosion of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).



SPC Shannon Richey with an Iraqi friend near Baghdad.

The 1103d Personal Security Detail and the unit's interpreters distribute toys to children near the city of An Najaf, Iraq. The unit affectionately calls this area "the baby factory" since it has hundreds of children that line the dirt road each time the unit goes past.



Kentucky Army National Guard Soldier wins marathon event in Iraq



FRANKFORT—October 29, 2004— Corporal Curtis Persinger has brought national attention to the Kentucky Army National Guard by winning the 10-mile Army Marathon held at LSA Anaconda in Balad, Iraq. The marathon was held in conjunction with the Army's annual 10-mile event held in Washington, D.C.

Persinger's unit is the Kentucky Army National Guard's 1103rd Military Police Detachment, based in Harrodsburg. A native of Bloomington, Indiana, Persinger completed the 10 mile run in 56 minutes, defeating 1300 other runners, including several relay teams. The closest runner after him was 3/4 of a mile back, coming in 6 minutes later.

Persinger arrived to Anaconda the day before by convoy from Camp Babylon, three hours south through some of the most dangerous roads in Iraq.

"We had to draw ammo today [in Anaconda] so it worked out well," he said. Hours after the race, he was back on the road heading home with members of his unit.

DA approves Sapper tab

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

Shoulder tabs signify the Army's vanguard; those accomplishing elite training such as Ranger and Special Forces school. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker approved in late June the wear of the "Sapper" tab which was approved by the Department of the Army Headquarters Sept. 27.

The long-awaited tab is now authorized for wear by combat engineer soldiers who complete the 28-day Sapper Leader Course. Army officials said the award is retroactive back to the first graduates of the SLC on June 14, 1985. The regulations governing wear of the tab will appear in the next updates of Army Regulations 600-80-22 and AR 670-1. The tab is to be worn below Special Forces and Ranger tabs for soldiers possessing multiple tabs.

The SLC, located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, warns that soldiers must receive authorization prior to wearing the tab.

The SLC is broken into two phases, each lasting 14 days. During Phase I engineers focus on patrolling techniques and battle drills that hone leadership skills. General subjects include: medical treatment, conventional and expedient demolitions and land mine familiarization.

Phase II reiterates the skills learned in the previous phase with additional emphasis on urban operations, patrolling, and

reconnaissance/ambush tactics. The second phase culminates with a three-day Situational Training Exercise followed by a five-day Field Training Exercise. During the STX and FTX, SLC candidates apply all the skills they have learned throughout the course while conducting a 60/40 mix of engineer and infantry missions, ranging from demolitions to obstacle breaching.

"The Sapper Leader Course trains selected combat engineer unit leaders in leadership skills, combat engineer and infantry battle drills, and the specialized engineer and infantry techniques," said Corps of Engineers officials. "The course is also designed to build cohesion and esprit de corps."

Officials said that leadership positions are rotated daily during the first phase and during the second phase the squad leader position is rotated daily. This assures each candidate is evaluated twice during the patrolling phase.

Because of the psychological and physiological demands of the course, only enlisted soldiers rank of specialist or higher, and engineer officers of captain's rank or below, can attend the course.

Soldiers interested in learning more about SLC and how to prepare for the course can obtain more information at <http://www.wood.army.mil/sapper/>.

KYNG Launches Kentucky's Future

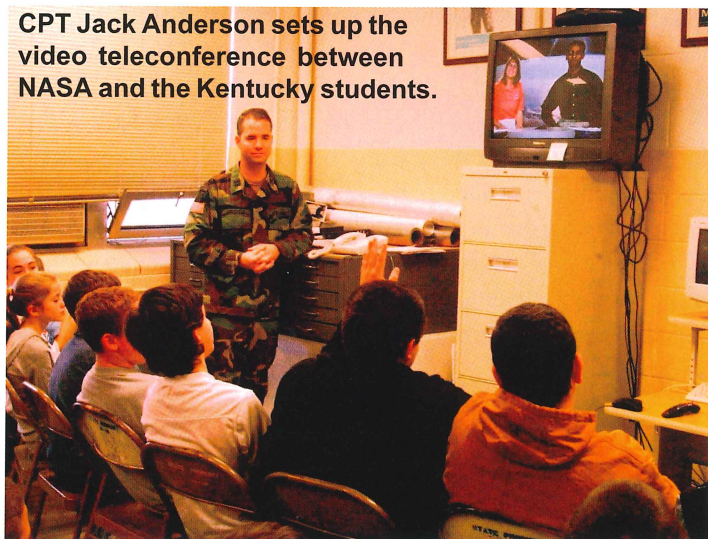


SGT Douglas Bennett releases the first of several student-designed "Mars landers." No eggs were harmed during this event.

More than 50 students from the Bonnieville Middle School got the chance for some face time with instructors from the National Aeronautic and Space Administration last November courtesy of the KYNG information technology staff. Set up by Tom Gavin, DCSIM, and assisted on site by CPT Jack Anderson, 1-623 FA, students travelled to Glasgow where they took part in various games and discussions with NASA officials via video teleconference. The highlight of the day took place when SGT Douglas Bennett served as "launch commander" and dropped experimental "Mars landers" from the armory rooftop.

According to Mrs. Barbara Pierpont the event was a great success. "We have to work together to get our students interested in the world, and the Kentucky National Guard has been a great partner in making that happen," she said.

CPT Jack Anderson sets up the video teleconference between NASA and the Kentucky students.



State CSM John D. Gipe (right) presents COL(ret.) Danny McKnight (left), former commander of the 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment, a Kentucky Colonel following McKnight's speech at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kentucky conference held at Dale Hollow State Resort Oct 22-24. COL McKnight commanded the Ranger Battalion during the Battle of Mogadishu. (photo by CPT David Page, Deputy PAO)

Kentucky Army Guard Aviators return from Afghanistan

Story and photos by SSG David Altom

Seven Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers returned home on October 22 after spending six months in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Their unit, Detachment 11, Operational Support Airlift (OSA), operated and maintained two C-12 fixed wing aircraft during the deployment. The crews put in 655 flight hours during 406 sorties carrying 1,300 passengers throughout Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan. While the primary mission was supporting the command staff, the Kentucky Guard aviators also transported nearly 50,000 lbs. of essential supplies and parts and even served as an occasion air ambulance.

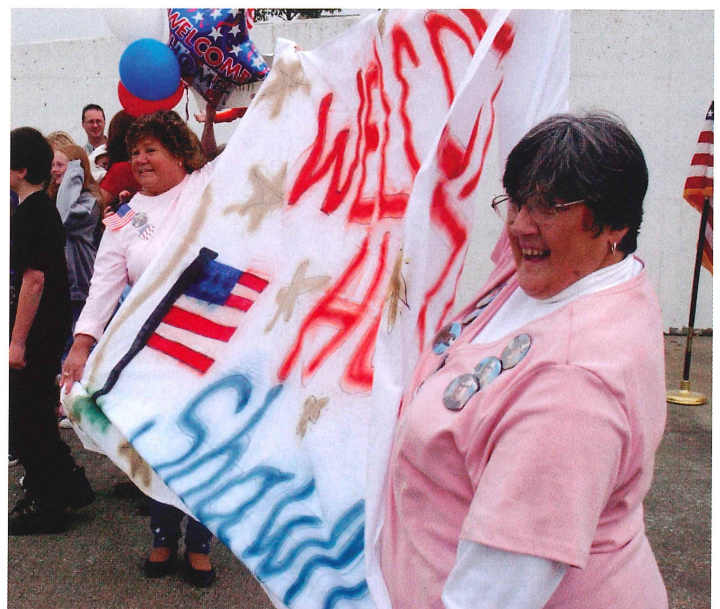
During their deployment Det. 11 was credited with directly enhancing the aviation war fighting capabilities by developing routes that assured clearance in case of engine failure, developing and implementing new tactical maneuvers to decrease the risks of flying.



CW3 Shaun Gabhart and his wife, Christy, lead the way in a motorcycle parade celebrating the return of the Kentucky Guard aviators.

CW4 Gerald Carroll (below left) shares a moment with his parents, Noel and Carroll.

Enthusiastic fans flew flags and banners in anticipation of the Soldiers' return.



Weekend Warriors No More

Courtesy American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8, 2004 - The term "weekend warriors" no longer applies to today's National Guardsmen and reservists, the Defense Department's top reserve affairs official said.

In many cases, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall said in an interview Nov. 4, today's reservists and guardsmen are nearly full-time participants in the war on terror.

Deployment rates for current operations are changing the way the reserve components go about advertising and recruiting. It's all about managing expectations, Hall said.

"You really don't want to set an expectation and then not meet it," he said. "You want to tell people up front that this is what it's all about."

Recruiters today need to create a different expectation among prospective guardsmen and reservists, their families and employers. "That expectation is you're not going to be a weekend warrior," Hall said.

Another key to keeping recruiting and retention numbers up is to keep benefits at an attractive level. The 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Bush Oct. 28, contains a slew of new and increased medical and education benefits for reserve component servicemembers, as well as increases in certain bonuses and allowances.

Benefits and recruiting efforts aside, Hall said he believes what keeps the U.S. military's reserve components stocked with willing and able troops is the dedication, resolve and patriotism of Americans.

The Bluegrass Guard
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Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

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Governor Fletcher visits troops at WHFRTC...

On Dec. 8, Gov. Ernie Fletcher, in his role as Commander-in-Chief, along with MG Donald Storm, the Adjutant General of the Kentucky National Guard, visited troops from B. Co. 206th Engineers and the 2113th Transportation Company (Medium) at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Ky. The Governor took the opportunity to thank the Soldiers for their service and wished them all a happy holiday.

Gov. Fletcher (below) speaks with troops from 2113th at the Mounted Engagement Small Arms Range. Troops from B. Co. 206th EN train on how to react to ambush while the Governor observes (bottom right). The Governor listens to an instructor prior executing close quarters combat drills with an M-16 rifle (right).

