



The Kentucky GUARDSMAN

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GOVERNOR FORD SIGNS

GUARD BILLS INTO LAW

Governor Wendall Ford is shown signing into law the National Guard legislation which was passed by the recently completed 1974 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. As reported in last month's issue of THE GUARDSMAN the legislation consisted of measures ranging from providing a \$150 uniform allowance for newly commissioned officers to one permitting females to serve in the active militia.

KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD REORGANIZATION

by Tony White

The Kentucky Army National Guard underwent a reorganization in May according to LTC. B. G. Wellman of the Kentucky Guard Headquarters in Frankfort.

The reorganization is based upon a need for additional strength says Wellman. The additional troops will enable the Guard to make a more significant contribution in event of mobilization.

In some cases there will be a need for a retraining program. In such instances, the affected individuals will be able to attend the specific Army Service School or retrain at the weekend drills. All non-prior service individuals to join the Guard will take their six months training as usual.

The great advantage of this reorganization is that it will put the Kentucky Guard on levels comparable to units in neighboring states. It will put the Kentucky Guard in a position to be more likely to grow into a brigade or even a division, rather than just a conglomeration of smaller random units.

The cost of the reorganization has been kept to a minimum by means of reshuffling equipment in as many cases as possible. Only the Mechanized Infantry units will require new equipment such as tracked vehicles like the APC (Armored Personnel Carrier). This cost can be offset to some degree by the significant input the Kentucky economy will receive from the reorganization.

Three towns added to those in the state that have armories. These include Prestonsburg, the

home of Det. 1, Company B, 1st Battalion of the 149th Mechanized Infantry. Det. 1, Co. D, 201st Engineer Battalion at Cynthiana and the 307th HEM (Heavy Equipment Maintenance) Company at Central City.

Other changes include Battery A (SLT), 138 FA in Louisville converted to the 207 Engineer Company. The 5th Target Acquisition Bn. of the 138 FA became MPs. The present MP units in southeastern Kentucky become the 1st Bn. of the 149 Mech. Inf.

In Somerset, D Company, 201st Eng. Bn. became the Support Company of the 149th Mech. Inf.

Det. 1, Company C, 201st Eng. Bn. in Ravenna became Company C, 1st Bn. of the 149th Mech. Inf. The 23rd and 38th Signal Platoons of Bowling Green became the 2123 Truck Company. Det. 1, Company B, 201st Eng. Bn. became Det. 1, Company C, 149th Mech. Inf.

NGAUS GIVES \$10,000 STATE ASSOCIATION PLEDGES \$500 TO AID THE EIGHT KENT STATE DEFENDANTS

Although the State of Ohio has reversed an earlier decision not to provide legal defense for the former National Guardsmen indicted for the Kent State incident, private contributions to defray their expenses are being accepted by the Ohio National Guard Assistance Fund.

Following a move by the National Guard Association of the United States in contributing \$10,000 to the fund, the Executive Council of the National Guard Association of Kentucky voted to give the state President the authority to expend up to \$500 if required "to insure that no former Guardsman involved in the case has to suffer any loss of wages, cost of travel expense or other incidental costs which might be incurred by the defendants."

In contributing \$10,000, Major General Henry W. McMillan, President of NGAUS said, "We feel a moral responsibility to help insure a competent defense for the defendants in the controversial case, which has been investigated, deliberated and highly publicized over a period of four years. 'The Guardsmen at Kent State were under official orders to restore order in extremely violent and tense student riots,' he said. 'They are entitled to financial assistance that will assure them the best possible legal defense.'"

EASTER SEAL DRIVE NETS OVER \$103,000

"An outstanding effort", says Colonel Edward H. Milburn commenting on the Kentucky National Guard's work in raising in excess of \$103,000 for the National Easter Seal Society. Col. Milburn served as the state project officer for the Guard. The \$103,000 figure is not the final total for this year as some units have yet to report their final totals. Already this year's figure has surpassed last year's total of \$101,194.18.

To obtain such commendable results, 100 per cent of the units of the Guard participated in manning operation collection points at street

intersections and in shopping centers across the state. Most of the work was done on the weekend of March 30-31.

Mr. W. T. Issac, Director of the Kentucky Easter Seal Organization, is quoted as saying "We in Kentucky, on behalf of the National Easter Seal Society are tickled to death with the results of the Guard's fine work. We are looking forward to working with them again in the future."

Upon receipt of the final figures, letters of commendation will be forwarded to all unit commanders.



MILBURN TAKES NEW POSITION

Colonel Edward H. Milburn, former Chief of Staff of the Kentucky National Guard, has been named the new state USPFO replacing Col. Willis R. Hodges, who retired after holding that assignment since 1957. Nominated by Governor Ford and Adjutant General Frymire, Milburn assumed his new position after clearance from the Pentagon on February 11.

The USPFO is charged with the task of being both the representative responsible for all federal property charged to the Kentucky National Guard and the fiscal comptroller of all federal funds used by the Army and Air Guard units in the state. In addition, Colonel Milburn serves as purchasing and contracting officer for the federal government in Kentucky.

In an interview for THE GUARDSMAN, Milburn said that his duties include being "a watchdog for all kinds of property from typewriters to tanks". He indicated it would be impossible to put a dollar figure on the property involved, however it would run into millions and millions.

Milburn's new job requires his close coordination of the work of all of the company commanders in the state, the Department of Army Supply Agency and the Comptroller of the U.S. National Guard Bureau in identifying the needs for federal property and seeing that it is distributed properly and promptly.

A member of the National Guard since 1948, Colonel Milburn, has over the years served in about every staff position that can be named.

COMPLETES BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Units competing in the Louisville National Guard Basketball League completed their 15-game schedule recently with Battery C, 5th TAB, being crowned league champion, compiling a 14-1 overall record. Second place, with a 9-6 record went to Battery A, SLT, 138th Artillery.

High scoring honors during the regular season went to Jim French of HHB/th TAB, with a 17.9 point per game average.

In a playoff following the season, Battery A, 5th TAB won their opening game against the league champions and went on to claim the single elimination tournament, defeating HHB/XXIII CA in the championship game.

ENLISTMENTS ON INCREASE

The Kentucky Army National Guard is presently experiencing the best year ever in recruiting and retention according to Colonel Armando Alfaro, the head of the Guard R and R group.

The retention rate, or the number of guardsmen staying rather than getting out at the end of their enlistment, is presently 63 per cent. In this years' final tabulated average an even higher rate is expected as in the past five months the extensions have outnumbered the discharges.

Alfaro attributes this primarily to two reasons. One, the monthly pay system, and the other, the fact that the Guard is a good part time job, pay-wise.

"Try One", the name given to the National Guard enlistment option whereby prior service personnel can join the Guard for one year to see if they like it, is providing a good input of already trained personnel into the Guard.

Last month (March) there were 192 new enlistments. This was the largest monthly enlistment quota ever including the periods at the height of the Viet Nam War. Alfaro stated that now that the nation is in a zero draft environment,

the people joining the Guard are doing so because they desire to help the Guard without being labeled as a draft-dodger.

Throughout the state there are ten full-time Guard recruiters plus a number of part-timers. These recruiters seek new members for all units in the state and are available to units that need help recruiting upon request.

The Guard also has a Membership Award Program whereby Kentucky Guardsmen can get awards for their efforts in recruiting for the Guard.

The Kentucky National Guard is making great strides in minority recruiting. There are presently 135 Black Guardsmen in the state. This is compared to January 1972 when there were only 32 throughout the state. There are two Black officers and another in the upcoming OCS Class.

Females are also being actively recruited by the Guard. There are 15 Guardswomen in Kentucky and there are slots open to them at nearly all Battalion level Headquarters.

The statewide strength, now at 103 percent is expected to climb to 106 per cent. After the May reorganization, this will leave the troop strength at the desired 100 per cent.



IN MEMORIAL

A special memorial service in memory of all the deceased men of the 2113th Transportation Company, of the Kentucky Army National Guard was held Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Frankfort. Paying tribute to the men were the members of the unit, under the command of MAJ Douglas P. Searcy. Special music for the service was provided by the 202nd Army National Guard Band. Special guests for the occasion were the families of the deceased.

SLIDE PRESENTATION ON INSURANCE PREPARED

May I insure my dependents under the NGAky Insurance program? Once you sign up for insurance, can you increase your coverage later?

Questions such as those are all answered in a new "sound on slide" presentation which is being recorded and filmed by the National Guard Association of Kentucky Insurance Program.

The presentation consisting of 36 slides with a recorded voice discussion on each, will soon be ready for use during scheduled assemblies of the Guard.

A special projector will be used with the slide package and can be borrowed for weekend use by contacting the insurance administrator of the Association.



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NATIONAL GUARD COMMENDED FOR SERVICE IN THE TORNADO DISASTER

Text and Photographs by 2LT Thomas D. Riddell

FRANKFORT, KY. - Gov. Wendell Ford of Kentucky had nothing but words of praise and thanks for the Kentucky National Guard units that moved into the disaster areas almost minutes after tornadoes leveled parts of Kentucky. In a statement issued by Gov. Ford, April 11, he said, "Despite adverse conditions, the members of the Guard responded quickly and efficiently to help protect the disaster areas from looters and to assist in traffic control and rescue operations. Many people across the state have told me how grateful they are for the National Guardsmen who were activated during this terrible tragedy."

Gov. Ford went on to say, "The recent disaster has proven again the importance of maintaining proficient National Guard units, and I am thankful that our state's units are among the finest in the nation."

The total number of Guardsmen called into duty April 3 through April 12 were 1,500. They have been dispatched to every section of the state to supervise, clean-up, and reconstruct the areas hardest hit.

For some National Guardsmen the disaster was more intimate. Men such as SFC Carlos Almodovar, 413th HEM CO, Frankfort, saw his mobile home whisked away by relentless winds. Another, SFC Billy Joe Pearson, 103d Supply & Service, Richmond, and his wife were two of the 73 fatalities listed statewide.

SFC Carlos Almodovar tells his story with emotion. Obviously thankful for his life, still excited by the wrath and fury with which his home was destroyed:

"I saw a cloud on the horizon. I thought it was a tornado, but it didn't look like one. Then I heard this noise that sounded like a freight train. It was about 6 minutes until 6:00 p.m. The tornado hit at exactly 4 minutes till. So, when I heard that, I grabbed my wife and I grabbed my dog and I said, 'Let's go hit the ditch.' She said no, she was going to the car, but I told her that she wouldn't be saved in the car and that she had to go to the ditch. I forced her into the ditch and at the same



POINTS TO DITCH

"It seemed like three months in that ditch," said SFC Carlos Almodovar, Frankfort, Kentucky. Almodovar sheltered 12 people from the tornado in the ditch to which he points.

time I stood up and yelled as hard as I could, 'Get out of the trailers and get into the ditches, get out of the trailers and get into the ditches!' At that particular time most of the people were in the trailers because they knew nothing about it. They started coming out and we got all together here in this ditch."

The tornado hit at exactly 5:56 p.m. Almodovar described what it was like: "First time it went by, I thought it was over and when I got up I looked to my back and here it came again. It seemed like three months lying in that ditch when really, I guess it was about 60 seconds. I looked to my trailer and it was still up, but the second time the wind picked it up and blew it against the other trailers. That's when most of the damage was done."

After the storm passed Almodovar and the other men took the women and children to shelter and immediately returned to the damaged area to look for possible victims. They found one woman

pinned under wreckage and freed her. Within minutes, help arrived but Almodovar stayed on the scene to help. He commented that the National Guard was there first to render aid.

Adjutant General Richard Frymire said, "In some of the areas that were in the dark, due to the destruction of electrical facilities, the presence of the uniformed National Guardsmen was a security for these people. Not only for their property, but also for their frame of mind."

The terrifying night of April 3 is now history. Kentuckians are beginning to pick up the pieces left and start again. There won't be anything good for these people to remember about that night except perhaps an unknown face of a young Guardsman who was there in the night to lend a hand and a small piece of assurance the world would see a better day.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Dick:

Please extend my deepest appreciation to all of your personnel who worked so diligently and tirelessly to bring quick relief to the many victims of the recent tornado disasters.

Words cannot adequately express how grateful I am for the aid and comfort you have given the thousands of Kentuckians who suffered injury and loss during this tragedy. Countless Kentuckians affected by the tornadoes are thankful for your dedication above the normal call of duty during this time of need.

I want to personally commend you and your agency for the initiative and leadership you displayed.

Sincerely,

Wendell H. Ford



WALKS PATH OF DESTRUCTION

Walking a desolate path through the crumbled city of Brandenburg, Kentucky this Guardsman can find no end to the destruction as he passes through the deserted streets.

RESIGNATION AFFECTS NEW OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION

Association members elected a slate of officers for fiscal year 1975 but two out of the three didn't serve long in the office they won.

Originally elected at the 43d annual conference in Louisville, March 2d, were LTC Arthur P. Tesner, Louisville, to be the new President. Tesner was the former Vice President for Air. Also elected was CPT Thomas G. Mooney, Louisville, a former executive Council member who was chosen for the post of Vice President for Air. MAJ Larry C. Barker, Frankfort, the former Secretary-Treasurer, was elected Vice President for Army.

WINS NATIONAL HONOR

MSgt. Donald Durbin walked away with top honors in individual shooting in the All Air Force Championships at Lackland AFB, Texas. His score was 2268 out of a possible 2400 in winning the competition. Sergeant Durbin was also a member of the nine-man team which placed second in overall competition, based upon a first in any-sight firing and a second place in metallic sight competition. Durbin is assigned to the base supply section here.

Metro Policemen vs National Guardsmen

Relating civilian occupation with Kentucky Army National Guard Service, Lexington Police Lieutenant John Paul McFadden says. "It's like we're one unit."

Lieutenant McFadden is commanding officer of the Identification Department with the Lexington Metropolitan Police Department and Sergeant Major McFadden, operation section Chief, with the 138th Artillery Group at Blue Grass Field.

The 138th Artillery Group, under the command of Colonel John W. Connor, seems to have a traditional link with the Lexington Police Department, and both parties have flourished and grown closer because of it.

There have always been several guardsmen in the Police Department, it appears. "I was in the Guard when I came to the Police Department," McFadden says. "It's like the two jobs are related. If a man is good out there, then he's good here, too."

Major E. Harold Arthur, operations and training officer with the 138th, agrees, "The relationship between this unit and the metropolitan police has been fantastic for years. It's really amazing the amount of co-operation that has taken place on both sides. When I first came to Lexington, in 1956, McFadden and several other Lexington policemen were in the unit then."

Major Arthur added that "90% of the credit goes to assistant Police Chief, Colonel Charles Ransdell."

The drastic change in the Association hierarchy was caused shortly after the conference when LTC Tesner, the President-elect, who is an engineer for the Ford Motor Company in Louisville, was transferred to Detroit. Tesner automatically assumed office on April 1st, but found it necessary to resign at the first meeting of the Executive Council on April 26.

At the April 26th meeting, the Council accepted his resignation and immediately selected CPT Thomas G. Mooney as the new President. They then selected Council Member MAJ Jay V. Paxton, of Anchorage, as the new Vice President for Air, filling the post Mooney vacated.

The Air Guard has since named MAJ William D. Seiber to fill the vacancy on the Council created by the Paxton election. All vacancies were as prescribed by the Association Constitution.

In resigning, LTC Tesner expressed much regret in having to leave Kentucky and his new office. "I wanted to be the one to provide the leadership necessary to make our Association's 44th year one of the most progressive and productive ones in our history," he stated.



In the case of an emergency where a policeman might be called into service as a guardsman where he is already performing police duty, the Police Department has the priority to use the man. However, Major Arthur says that this is rarely a problem and "the police have gone out of their way to make these people available to us."

Major Arthur added that when he attended a civil disturbance school at Fort Gordon, Georgia that it became apparent to him that "We seem to have a better relationship with the police department than anybody I talked with."

There are currently six members of the Lexington Police Department and one auxiliary in the 138th Artillery Group and all live in Lexington.

Lieutenant McFadden, head of the Identification Department with the police, Sergeant Major with the 138th, is one of eight people listed with the State Attorney General as a qualified expert in fingerprinting.

Second Lieutenant Bryon W. Dees, air observer with the 138th, is a specialist in the narcotics division, Police Investigation Unit.

Staff Sergeant Leonard Slusher of the 138th

PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF NGAKY INSURANCE AND SGLI IS NEAR

After sitting on HR 6574 for nearly a year, the Senate passed the bill in April which will provide all Guardsmen full time coverage under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and also the payroll deduction feature for the NGAky Insurance Program.

The Senate did pass the bill, but only after completely revamping the language of the house bill, the main change being the increase of coverage under SGLI from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Another important change is that the bill would also provide survivors' protection for Guardsmen who have qualified for retirement but are under age 60 when actual retirement annuities commence.

Under present law, Guardsmen qualify for retirement after 20 years service but may not draw retirement pay or any other benefit until age 60. Death before that age cancels individual's retirement equity. The revision also clarifies that the state or association using the payroll deduction feature pays the administrative cost of such service.

Since there are differences between the original house bill and the revised bill, the Senate version must now clear a House-Senate conference committee. Prompt action by this committee could make the benefits offered in the bill available to Guardsmen this summer.

is in the Patrol Division of the police department, and assistant to Lt. McFadden.

Patrolman James E. Garnett "is as much on the line as anybody," according to Lt. McFadden. Besides his duty in the Police Tactical Unit, he is also a canine handler, caring for "eight or nine 'mean' dogs," says McFadden. "He has the potential trouble-maker to deal with, as well as the dogs." On drill week-ends, though, he is Staff Sergeant Garnett, fire direction computer.

Patrolman Everett Jones, also on the Tactical Squad, is liaison sergeant on the drill week-ends.

Specialist Fourth Class Lonnie Brock of the 138th communications platoon is a motorcycle patrolman in the upper case police Traffic Division.

Specialist Fifth Class Henry T. Dix, headquarters support with the 138th, is the single county auxiliary Patrolman. Also a legal clerk, he is called into police service in cases of special urgency.

"Some key people with the guard have been in the police department and have been for years," Major Arthur says.

Kentucky Guardsmen perform double duty for their state and as a result the citizens receives double protection.