

The Kentucky GUARDSMAN

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FLOOD: the Guard was there

By 1st Lt. Tom Little

By all rules of journalism, this should be an objective report of the Kentucky National Guard's flood-relief efforts in the southeastern part of the state, but it can't be. And it won't be.

Rather, it will be a highly subjective look at the people in muddy green fatigues and rumpled flight suits who expended so much effort to help thousands of flood victims during the first weeks of April.

I was there—not as one doing the hard and dirty work—but as an observer. And I will never forget what I saw.

Nearly 1,000 men and women were there at the height of the activity and every one I saw was glad to be able to help. They were tired. They were dirty beyond discription. But they were enthusiastic.

Naturally, there were problems, as in any operation of such magnitude. Mostly they stemmed from too few people or not enough equipment to meet the awesome demand. But spirits were high as the tired

Guardsmen discussed what they had done and what they would do tomorrow.

Those tasks ranged from cleaning books and shelves in the Pikeville Library to helping the elderly and handicapped clean their homes. They included hauling water to people unable to travel to pick it up.

There were unusual tasks, such as flying 3,000 donated McDonald's hamburgers on the "Big Mac Express" to Prestonsburg, Pineville, and Pikeville. And there were crucial tasks, such as transporting seriously ill patients by air to medical centers in Lexington and elsewhere.

There are statistics that give an idea of the enormity of the Guard accomplishment.

For example, the Guard hauled about 250 tons of supplies into the 15 counties declared major disaster areas. Guard aviators provided the only link some small communities had with the outside world during the early days of the crisis. During a 10-day period, aviators transported 95

tons of general supplies, 8,500 pounds of medical supplies, and more than 109,000 pounds of food and water, while logging 580 hours of flight time.

Medical evacuation by UH-1 helicopters undoubtedly saved lives. Fifteen people were flown to hospitals and 19 more were transferred from area hospitals to other medical centers where more sophisticated care was available.

Guard aviators also rescued at least 50 trapped by the rising water in Pineville, Pikeville and other areas.

Even though those numbers are impressive, they don't begin to tell the story of the work that was done. They don't mention, for example, that many of those flying hours were at night, sometimes in snow and ice.

They don't tell how many hours the truck drivers kept going to deliver badly-needed food and water. And they don't tell how hard the people worked to move

(see "Flood" on page 4)



REBUILDING—Members of the 201st Engineer Battalion work to replace a bridge in Pike County following the flood that resulted in the declaration of 15 counties as "disaster areas." Nearly 1,000 Kentucky Guardsmen were

called to active duty to make repairs, deliver food, medicine, and other supplies, provide security, and remove debris. (Photo by SFC Keith Kappes)

Guard...at a glance

Disney Tour

The Recreation Center at Fort Knox is sponsoring a six-day tour to Walt Disney World in Florida and they're inviting Kentucky Guardsmen and their families to go along. The trip begins June 14 and costs \$210 for adults and \$100 for children under 12. For complete details, write the Information, Tour, and Travel Office, Copple Recreation Center, Building 6590, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121, or call (502) 624-5030.

Spelling Bee

The 307th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company in Central City has found an interesting way to show that it is vitally interested in the community. A \$25 U.S. Savings Bond was awarded by the unit to the winners of spelling bees in school competition in Muhlenberg County, Greenville, and Central City recently.

Uniform Change

The summer uniform is to be worn from the first Monday in May (May 2) through the third Monday in October (Oct. 17.)

VA Benefit

The Veterans Administration offers many benefits to Guard members, including compensation to Guardsmen who are injured during actual training or while traveling to and from training locations. Other VA benefits include guarantees against loss of employment, accrued vacation time and certain employment

Gov. adds \$25,000 to tuition fund

Gov. Julian Carroll has authorized an additional \$25,000 for the Kentucky National Guard Educational Encouragement Fund, bringing the year's total authorization to \$50,000.

Another \$25,000 become available July 1, ensuring the continued success of the program.

A spokesman for the Board that administers the fund said that checks are now being written that will bring the first-year expenditure to about \$35,000 through the spring semester.

The spokesman also noted new policies that require new applications each semester and that dictate that only applications submitted prior to or during a semester will be considered.

rights. To keep employment benefit protection the Guardsman must return to his job the first scheduled working day after annual training ends.

Good Shows

Two of the military's most exciting demonstration teams will be in Lexington in coming months. The Air Force team, the Thunderbirds, will perform at Blue Grass Field June 12, while the Army's Golden Knights will appear at the same site July 19-21.

Photo Contest

The 12th annual photo contest, sponsored jointly by National Guard Bureau and the National Guard Association of the U.S., is now accepting entries. Entry deadline is Aug. 1. Four cash awards of \$150 and four more of \$75 will be given for the best photos taken between July 1, 1976 and Aug. 1, 1977. Contest rules and entry blanks will soon be sent to each unit.

Bosses Night

The Combat Support Company of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mech) recently hosted a "Bosses Night" at the Somerset armory to recognize local employers of Guardsmen. Twenty-four employers attended the dinner and heard 1st Lt. Harlan Judd, the unit commander, and Lt. Col. Armando Alfaro, state recruiting and retention officer, discuss the Guard programs and the benefits to both employers and members.

Secretary's Support

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown recently demonstrated his support of the Reserve components by proposing that National Guard and Reserve troops be prepared to replace two regular infantry brigades. According to an Associated Press story, Brown sent the Army a memo stating that the "affiliation" concept is a success and that its expansion seems feasible. Kentucky has several units operating under that concept.

Easter Seals drive nets record total

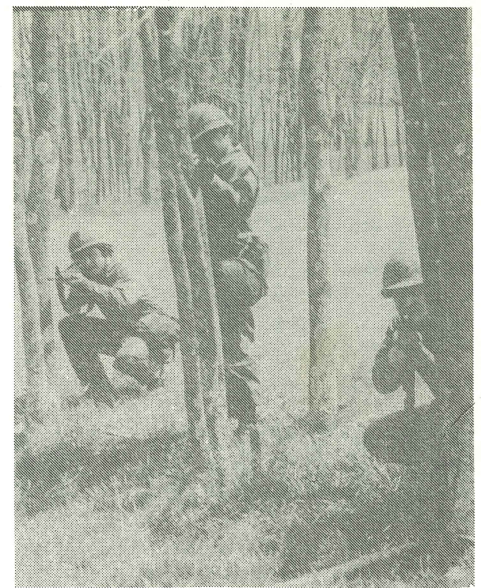
The 1977 Easter Seals fund drive topped all previous records, according to Col. Edward H. Milburn, the project officer.

Guardsmen collected \$125,300 to aid the society for crippled children, besting the previous high of \$118,000 set in 1975.

The 130th Light Equipment Maintenance Company recorded the best totals, collecting \$14,500. That amount was raised by only 68 people working in northern Kentucky.

June Davis, and Easter Seal Society official, also had high praise for the 2113th Transportation Company. Twenty-six members of that unit collected \$5,603.

Davis was also very complimentary of other units across the state, noting that donations were significantly higher this year, even though there were fewer Guardsmen collecting in the 1977 drive.



FTX-Members of Danville's 303d General Supply Company take part in a recent exercise at Lexington's Bluegrass Army Depot that included all elements of the 103d Supply and Service Battalion. From left are SP4 Don Woosley, SP5 Leon Farley, and SFC Lenville Taylor. (Photo by Sgt. Dave Cobb)

D. C. gets Conaway; Black moves up

The Kentucky Air Guard has seen two important changes with the selection of John B. Conaway, former wing vice commander, to become Deputy Director of the Air National Guard at the Pentagon, with a promotion to brigadier general.

Col. Carl D. Black replaces General Conaway as wing vice commander and as Air Commander, the senior technician position.

General Conaway served with the Kentucky Guard since 1962. In his new position, he will work in both policy and program areas affecting all Air Guard units.

Colonel Black, a command pilot with nearly 5,000 hours of flying time in a 21-year career, has been with the Kentucky Guard since 1961. He has previously served as Deputy Commander for Operations and Commander of the 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Group.

Correction

Several lines were dropped from a story in the last edition of the GUARDSMAN, resulting in incorrect identification of one man and non-recognition of another. Finalists in competition for "Outstanding Enlisted Guardsman" of the year should properly have included Sgt. Joseph M. Fowler, of the 614th MP Co. and SSgt. Luther J. Peters, of HHC, 1st Bn., 149th Infantry (Mech). The GUARDSMAN regrets the error.

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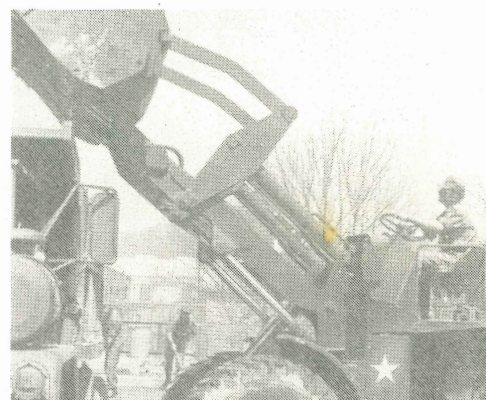


MED EVAC -- (Dr.) Brack Bivens helps a woman put her infant into a 441st Medical Detachment helicopter to transport them from Pikeville to a Lexington hospital.

The mission was one of many performed following the flood as medical facilities and emergency transportation were affected. (Photo by SP5 Jim Evans)



UNLOADING--Members of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mech) work with Pineville volunteers to unload food for distribution. More than 250 tons of supplies were transported into the flooded area. (Photo by Lt. Scotty McFadden)

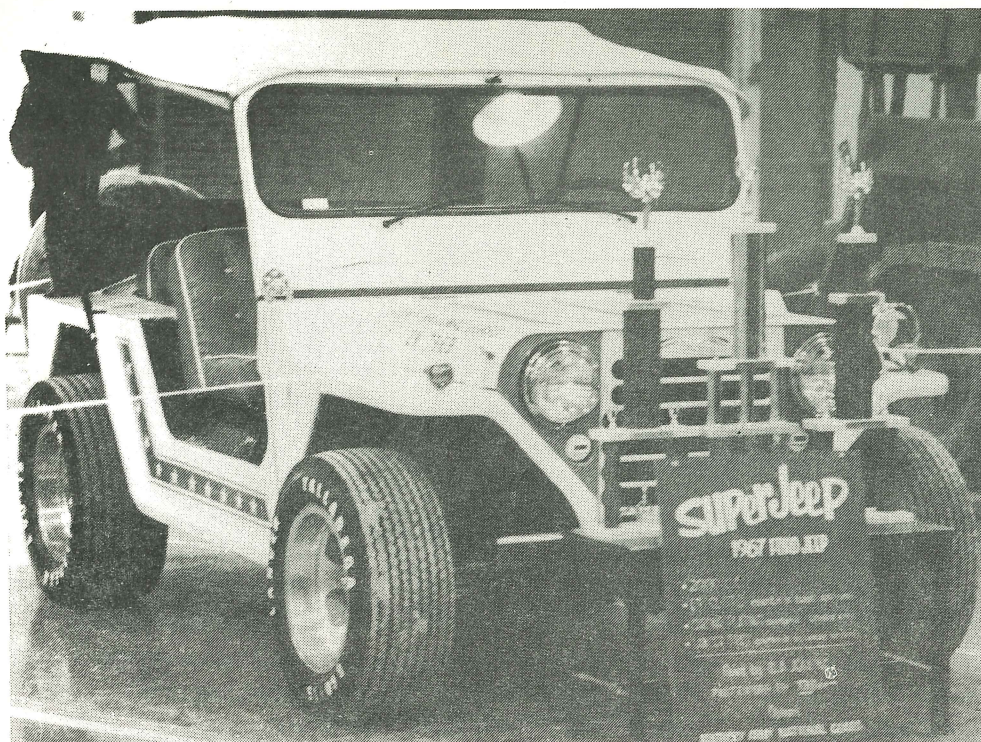


DEBRIS -- This equipment, belonging to the 201st Engineer Battalion, was part of the force that removed tons of debris in southeastern Kentucky. (Photo by SFC Keith Kappes)



"ATTACK"--Employees of McDonald's help load a Kentucky Guard helicopter with some of the more than 3,000 hamburgers donated by Jerry Healy, owner of several stores in eastern Kentucky, for the flood victims. The "Big

Mac Express" flew the badly-needed food into several cities. (Photo by Jack Bobbitt, Ky. Dept. of Public Information)



TROPHY WINNER -- "Super Jeep" stands on display after winning another major trophy at the Louisville Rod and Custom Car Show.

Super Jeep earns top show honors

The Kentucky Army National Guard's display vehicle, "Super Jeep," was a big winner again at the 16th annual Rod and Custom Car Show at the Louisville Fairgrounds Feb. 25-27.

The white jeep, which is prepared and maintained by members of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, XXIII Corps Artillery and the 306th Maintenance Company, took first place in the "Recreational Vehicle" class. It was the second such award in as many showings.

The recruiting display set up around the jeep also earned an "Outstanding Commercial Award."

Individuals who worked on the award-winning project included MSgt. Kenny Bruner, Sgt. Marvin Gaddie, Sgt. Clifton E. Jenkins, Sgt. Tommy Wilson, and SFC Clifton A. Jenkins.

Flood relief

(continued from page 1)

water and set up water purification systems.

The honor roll is long. Guardsmen came from Ashland, Barbourville, Williamsburg, Harlan, Middlesboro, London, Prestonsburg, Ravenna, Richmond, Somerset, Olive Hill, Jackson, Carlisle, Cynthiana, Harrodsburg, Frankfort, and Louisville.

And, as most of the Guard forces finally withdrew to turn the clean-up over to others after more than a week on active duty, the 207th Engineer Company and members of the 198th Military Police Battalion, both from Louisville, remained in eastern Pike County on annual training status.

Praise for the Guardsmen was universal and summarized well in an editorial that appeared in the Ashland "Independent." It said, "The plight of the victims would have been much more grim, however, had the National Guard not been there to help. That assistance, so professionally and humanitarily rendered, should earn them the gratitude and respect of victims and non-victims alike."

I was, and remain, proud to be a member of the Kentucky National Guard.

Louisville units offer basic orientation

By SFC Donald R. Lauyans
When an individual without prior service

Cities grant benefits

Merchants in two more cities have demonstrated their support of the Kentucky National Guard by granting discounts to Guard members.

In Greenville, 16 merchants are participating, giving Guardsmen an average 10 per cent discount on all merchandise. A photographer heads the list by offering 20 per cent off of his normal charges.

In Central City, 13 retail merchants offer discounts, ranging from five to 15 per cent. Three auto parts stores grant dealer discounts to Guard members.

In both cities, the merchants cover a wide range of products and services, including hardware, clothing, printing, office equipment and supplies, appliances, shoes, and food.

joins a Louisville unit of the Kentucky Army National Guard, he will normally find himself well prepared for basic training before he leaves, thanks to a program initiated by 1st Lt. Larry Wadley, of the 198th Military Police Battalion.

Instructors provided by the MP unit and the 207th U.S. Army Reserve offer a 32-hour course to familiarize the recruits with the Army and the initial phases of active duty training.

A training cycle that began in November recently concluded with a trip to the reception station at Fort Knox. All but one unit in Louisville participated in the program.

When each trainee completes the program, he receives a diploma and certificate of completion, which is also recorded in the individual's personnel folder.

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