

Annual training: year's highlight or inconvenience ?

By Capt. Tom Little

For some Guardsmen, annual training (AT) is the highlight of a training year. For others, it is little more than a colossal inconvenience.

But what should annual training be? Is it meant to be a change from the normal training program, a paid vacation, or something entirely different?

In an interview, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, Kentucky's Adjutant General, expressed his views on the subject. He said that he feels particularly comfortable with the subject, since he has spent a considerable part of his military career in training field.

According to the general, AT is the "climax of the training program."

He said that, if properly conducted, AT is more valuable than all home-station training combined.

Team effort

He emphasized the importance of the opportunity to work as a team, exercising

all elements of the organization. While home training enables the commander to have basic unit training, the field training gives the commander a chance to put all of his assets together and evaluate his readiness posture.

Unit strength has a major impact upon the ability of the unit to train effectively at AT. General Wellman said that the shortage of people not only requires some crews to try to meet their objectives without the necessary manpower, but also brings hardships upon the troops because they have to assume additional duties.

Kentucky units frequently train far away from home, notably at Camp Shelby, Miss.; Fort Hood, Tex.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; and other similar locations. Why does the Kentucky Guard travel so far, when Fort Knox and Fort Campbell are so close?

Consideration

General Wellman said that there are

many considerations, but two factors are of major concern. First, the AT site must have adequate equipment available. For example, he noted that few active Army installations have a sufficient number of howitzers to meet Kentucky's needs. Second, the site must have adequate training facilities, including ranges, training areas, and bivouac areas.

He also explained that it is important to go where Guard units will not be competing for range and training time with active Army, ROTC, school troops, and other units that frequently train during the summer.

The general noted, however, that it is important to rotate training sites as frequently as possible to enhance the interest of the individual attending the camp. He explained that most people express their desire for something different during their annual training, and he will try to comply with request of commanders if they will advise him of their

training needs and desires far enough in advance.

Joint exercise

Participation and joint service exercises have increasingly become a means of performing AT for Kentucky units, and General Wellman foresees a continuation of their trend.

"Exercises give us a chance to show others how capable we are," the general said. "I am proud that we have never had a Kentucky Guard unit that did not do well."

He said that he would continue to request overseas training for units, such as the opportunity given to units at Monticello and Jackson this year.

Important role

The unit commander plays the most important role in the training mission. The challenges he faces are great, and many people are watching him to see if he will be successful. Frequently, units are evaluated by both Kentucky Guard staff members and Army evaluators.

"I don't want commanders to be afraid to make a mistake just because an evaluator is present," General Wellman said. "Everyone must have an opportunity to learn, and we often learn by mistakes."

Most units received high marks during AT, but some did not fare as well. General Wellman said that he was pleased with most units, though he had expected higher performances by some. Those that did not do well, he explained, had obviously not utilized their home station training effectively.

Responsiveness

General Wellman closed his comments by emphasizing the role of "responsiveness." He said that the most distressing thing that he had seen in his visits was the lack of responsiveness by some commanders in solving problems.

"When you recognize that a problem exists," he said, "you have got to move immediately to try to solve the problem. You can't rely on someone else. You have got to effectively use your staff and employ good problem-solving techniques."

Annual training, he said, is the place for unit commanders, individuals, and units as a whole, to demonstrate their responsiveness.



201st Engineers spend AT 'on the road'

By Capt. Keith Kappes

"Six Days On The Road" might have been the theme song at annual training this year for the 201st Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Ashland with subordinate units in Olive Hill, Jackson, Carlisle and Cynthiaana.

Maj. Edward L. Gill led his combat engineer battalion on a 800-mile motor march to Camp Shelby, Miss., a trip which required three days in each direction.

Company C of the 201st, located at Jackson, stayed behind at home station

"Considering the long trip, the heat and the training facilities available to engineers, we were pleased with the battalion's overall performance at annual training," Major Gill stated.

as one of two Kentucky National Guard units selected to train in Germany.

The remaining four companies of the 201st trained at Camp Shelby with more than 500 members. Evaluated by their affiliated Active Army unit, the 326th Engineer Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, the eastern Kentucky Guardsmen turned many a head at Camp Shelby with the blue beret and "Screaming Eagle" patch of their Army counterparts.

Field exercise

Annual training began for the combat engineers with a four-day tactical field training exercise where general engineer missions were assigned from a squad level to the company level under the Army's ARTEP training concept.

"Operating from the field is a real

test of training readiness," said Major Gill. "Managing your resources in that environment is what separates the good units from the other kind."

Later, after returning to garrison, the 201st concentrated on bridging, explosives and demolitions, route and bridge reconnaissance, weapons qualifications and NBC training.

"We scheduled additional work in demolitions this year, including those missions during our FTX, and it apparently paid off in improved proficiency for our demolition specialists," the battalion commander said. "And we also were pleased with each company's safe and sure handling of the Bailey Bridge."

Physical training objective : four miles per hour, survival

"Move 'em out!"

That was the call at 5 a.m. when Kentucky Guardsmen at Camp Shelby, Miss. and other AT sites lined up for the four-mile march. The purpose of the march was the safe and successful completion of the training requirement for all Guardsmen to run or walk four miles within an hour.

Running the four miles brought out considerable enthusiasm on the part of many unit members. For example, competition was so keen in Company C

of the 123rd Armor in Russellville that it resulted in some near record times for running the four miles. SP4 Darrell Skipworth, Russellville, held the top score of 30:10 in the battalion during annual training at Camp Shelby. Reflecting on the accomplishment, Specialist Skipworth said he walked the last mile and could have made even better time if he had a stop watch to gauge his progress.

Although Guardsmen spent time running on their own to prepare for the march, Specialist Skipworth, who is 30 and the father of three, said he hasn't run in 10 years, since he got out of the Regular Army. He contributed his success to mere "hard work on the farm" and as part of his job as a mechanic in Russellville.

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About the cover

PFC Steve Gregory, left, and PFC Jackie Denny, both of the Monticello unit of the Kentucky National Guard, stand watch on guard duty while at annual training in Grafenwohr, Germany. (Photo by SSgt. Joe Haydon)



SP4 Tony Jones, of Morehead, a member of Co. B, 201st Eng Bn, operates a bulldozer on a road-clearing project at Camp Shelby, Miss. The unit performed a variety of engineering activities during the AT period. (Photo by SP5 Jim Evans)



Sgt. Mike Vittitow, of Bardstown, demonstrates the field ingenuity of one artillery unit at annual training at Fort Bragg. (Photo by SSgt. Ron Bayes)

Artillery job: shoot, move, communicate

Annual training at Fort Bragg, N.C. for the units of the 138th Field Artillery Group was highlighted by intense field exercises.

“We shot, moved and communicated,” Col. Bob Watson, Group Commander, said after two and one-half days of reviewing the basics of artillery. “There were no problems and overall the camp and units received very high ratings.”

Colonel Watson, from Glasgow, said that his command was evaluated by the 18th Airborne, regular army troops stationed at Fort Bragg. “We used the equipment of the North Carolina National Guard and were supported by the regular Army units at Bragg.”

Most satisfying

Unit commanders agreed that the training period was one of the most satisfying they had experienced. “This was the best annual training I have ever had,” Capt. Ralph Sullivan, Commander of Battery B, 2nd Battalion of the 138th FA, headquartered in Eliza-

bethtown, said. “Our unit was evaluated to have the ‘lowest mobilization time’ for a firing battery — three weeks for a unit at 80% strength,” Captain Sullivan explained, “which is not bad.”

Units lived in the field for the entire two weeks. Capt. Mike Jones, commander of Btry C, of Bardstown, said, “Our men stayed with the guns four nights, but that didn’t keep some of them from taking a good old bath.” “Our Service Battery Sergeant, Henry Haydon, used some ingenuity and brought a bathtub to camp, along with the materials needed to supply hot water.

Good and serious

1st Sgt. Robert J. Caldwell, of Btry A, agreed, “The training was good, hard and serious.”

Battery A commander Capt. John Majors said that he was impressed with the support his unit received from his battalion headquarters and service battery. “It was good for the battalion to work together and the smoothness of the whole operation was the best I’ve seen,”

Nearly 30 Kentuckians miss AT, learn first-hand of AWOL policy

Nearly 30 Kentucky Guardsmen chose not to participate in annual training this year, and most now regret it.

AWOL’s (absent without leave) are a continuing problem but, according to Capt. Bob Baker, of the Staff Judge Advocate’s office, more attention is now being given to the matter.

Captain Baker and Capt. Ken Kennedy provide legal assistance to commanders throughout the state and they deal with the AWOL problem routinely.

“I don’t think the problem is really growing,” Captain Baker said, “but it may seem greater because we’re beginning to seriously deal with it. Commanders are getting much better at dealing with the legal matters involved.”

The captain said that warrants were issued for each person reported AWOL and that most were served. More than half, though, were on people who had moved out-of-state.

Normally, with guidance from the Judge Advocate’s office, company commanders file charges against the troops who fail to appear for training. Chapter 35 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes clearly defines options available and penalties that may be assessed. After the warrant is served, the individual is usually given the option of reporting to camp or posting an appearance bond to appear later before a summary court.

Several of the Guardsmen remained in jail for a few days. The law permits up to 12 days’ confinement for each offense.

“Obviously, we don’t want to take such drastic measures,” said Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, “but we have got to impress upon everyone that this is a serious obligation. Our units can’t function if they don’t know what assets will be available to them. So I have directed all commanders to be firm in their dealings.”

Editor responds (in advance) to special edition questions

By Capt. Tom Little

O.K., let’s answer the first question: “What is this thing?”

Answer: This is a special issue of the Kentucky GUARDSMAN devoted primarily to annual training. It’s a one-time shot, with the normal format returning with the next publication.

That raises several other questions, such as “Why?” “What do I do with it?” and “So what?” I’ll try to answer them all.

AT different

First, annual training is different from what we normally do at the armory during the year and it’s difficult to explain to our families, friends, and potential recruits what it’s all about. Hopefully, this publication will provide some insight.

Captain Major, a Louisville attorney, said.

“All the units in the battalion pulled together and were doing their best for the battalion—not just their individual batteries,” he explained. “The fire battery commanders fully cooperated.”

Captain Majors’ unit was judged first among the firing batteries by the regular army evaluators, and Captain Jones’ battery received the battalion award for the top firing battery.

‘It’s a convoy, Good Buddy’

By 2nd Lt. Maurice Denton

Perhaps one of the most crucial parts of annual training is the convoy movement to and from the military post.

According to 1st Lt. Rose Marie Sullen, traffic control officer of the 198th Military Police Battalion in Louisville, planning for the two-day march to Camp Shelby, Miss. started last winter.

Procedure

The usual procedure is for the military police to drive the route on their way to the pre-camp conference, noting vital rest stops, refueling points and identifying traffic control points. This information is compiled into the “motor march table,” considered the “bible” for the trip.

Yet, despite all the preparation and attention to detail, when the march begins the MPs attached to the convoy are just beginning the most difficult part of their job. Each key traffic intersection must be manned to stop cross traffic and every attempt is made to keep civilian traffic out of the convoy movement.

Headaches

According to Capt. Mike Shain, commander of the 438th MP Company, one of the biggest headaches occurs when the convoy is stopped needlessly at a busy intersection, resulting in a long, strung-out line of vehicles. Although not allowed in official U. S. Army vehicles, CB radios in cars driven by Guardsmen have been cited as being vital to the smooth operation of the convoy. Captain Shain said the biggest aid for the CBs is to warn traffic coming up on the convoy to expect 45 mile per hour traffic.

Captain Shain, whose unit escorted a unit to AT through Birmingham, said strong consideration is given to the safety

We know that this paper does not cover every unit, nor does it begin to provide information about all of the activity that occurs. That would be impossible.

We have attempted to make the coverage representative, and I think that we have succeeded. I apologize in advance to those units that are not mentioned in these pages. I wish you could each have a paper devoted only to your activities.

Current information

We’ve also included quite a bit of current information, particularly emphasizing the recent major reorganization of units and the status of benefit programs that have changed this summer.

We hope that you’ll share this copy with others and keep some copies available to give to potential recruits who want to know more about what summer camp is all about. I regret that additional copies are not available.

A lot of people have been responsible for putting this publication together, and I won’t bore you with all of the names. But I must mention my associates in the 133d Public Affairs Detachment and SP5 Jim Evans, of the 201st Engineer Battalion, who provided some fine photographic support.

If you like the paper, we’d like to hear about it. If you don’t like it, we’re not quite as anxious to learn about that, but we are willing to listen.

and fatigue factors in the execution of the motor march. For example, the daily total march time does not exceed 12 hours and every attempt is made not to start before sunrise and to stop the convoy before sundown.

Stress safety

The Adjutant General urges all commanders to stress safety — not speed. Lieutenant Sullen, noting that spirits are especially high on the return trip, said there seems to be a strong esprit de corps on the part of convoy drivers—probably because drivers know they are being watched by other convoy participants and the convoy movement itself represents a picture of solidarity.

Physical training

(continued from page 1)

One troop commander, with a desire to lead by example, went beyond the requirements. Agreeing the run had a good morale effect on the troops, Lt. Col. Kenneth Wood, 198th Military Police Battalion commander, accompanied five of the MP units on their individual runs. Colonel Wood said he prepared for the running for several weeks prior to summer camp and the practice really paid dividends.

The four mile march replaces the more segmented physical training test which measured timed skills in different areas of physical exercises. Lt. Col. Armando Alfaro, of State Headquarters, is serving as Physical Training Officer for the Kentucky Guard. He said most commanders he has talked to feel the new test, although not as strenuous as the former test, is a more equitable means of measuring the physical fitness of unit members whose ages cover a wide span.

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SP4 Steve K. Hutchinson, left, and Capt. Bruce Phillips, commander of the Somerset unit shave at dawn while in Germany. Even while in the field, the troops remained clean-shaven.

PHOTOS BY
SSGT JOE HAYDON



SSgt. Jimmy Dishman stands in the window of an old church north of Grafenwohr. The church, located in Dortstelle Hopfenohe, was the site of Audie Murphy's heroic stand against six German tanks.

German experience

By Maj. Bob Whitaker

Realistic training has always been the objective of Kentucky Army National Guard units undergoing annual training. This year, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 623d Field Artillery, at Monticello, trained for two weeks on European terrain that United States troops may someday be asked to defend.

The unit, commanded by Capt. Bruce H. Phillips, trained and was successfully tested at the U. S. Army base in Grafenwohr, Germany. Four officers and 98 enlisted men from the unit left May 26 and returned June 11 from a unique personal and military experience, according to Captain Phillips.

He explained, "Our mission was two-fold — we wanted to see how fast we could move our people and equipment to Germany (about eight hours from Charleston, S. C. to Frankfurt, Germany) and become operational, and to take and

successfully complete an Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP)."

Captain Phillips continued, "We passed the test for a Level 2 rating, which was expected for us. But, the unit also completed several of the Level 1 missions."

According to the commander, the training, conducted nine miles from the Czechoslovakian border, was very intense.

"We were expected to train 88 hours the first week, but far exceeded that, and the second week we were tested," he said. "Unit training is much more intense there (Germany) because commanders know they have only a few hours to respond in time of crisis," Captain Phillips pointed out. "You must be constantly prepared by having your vehicles repaired and fueled for deployment because units may not have even two or three hours."

"Also, CBR training is stressed to a greater extent than in the U.S.," he

revealed.

Captain Phillips praised his men for their performance and ability to respond to the training supervised by the regular Army host unit, Battery B, 2d Battalion, 92d Field Artillery.

SSgt. Bobby K. Jones, unit technician, said the men took advantage of the opportunity to witness 'life in Germany'. "We were in contact with German soldiers in the field," he said. "They were interested in the difference in our equipment and clothing from their own."

"Our men participated in the week-end excursion to Munich planned for us by the regular Army," he pointed out. He explained that if the men from his unit were given the opportunity to return to Germany or some other foreign country for AT, they would welcome it.

The Jackson unit was headed for a similar experience in Germany at press time.



Sgt. Joe Smalley, left, and PFC Audie Barrier look out over a distant bunker. The European training gave the Kentucky Guardsmen an opportunity to see the terrain that they could someday be called upon to defend.



SFC Gary M. Hutchinson stands watch on a fire point. Realistic field training was provided throughout the European encampment.

Military Academy offers demanding , rewarding program

By Capt. Tom Little
“The course is very strenuous; it’s demanding mentally as well as physically. But if you are going to be a decent leader, you have got to be willing to do more than everyone else.”

Lt. Col Jerry W. Heaton, the Commandant of the Kentucky Military Academy, made that comment about the program his school offers.

Indeed, the programs offered by both the Officer Candidate School and the Noncommissioned Officer School are quite demanding, both during annual training, and on weekend drills. A 14-hour day is not uncommon at the Academy, the colonel explained, but he remarked with some surprise about an attitude he has uncovered.

“When the students complete the course,” Colonel Heaton said, “many of them tell me that the course has not been long enough. Frankly, this has surprised me. But I think that it is proof that all commanders will profit if they make their unit training demanding and if they fully utilize the time available to them.”

The Commandant looks upon the role of OCS as meeting the needs of the future rather than the present. He said that he hopes that the school will one day produce enough officers to take care of the normal attrition of officers in the Kentucky Guard. To do that, about 100 students per class would be needed. Thirty-four officers graduated from the most recent class.

“The academy is responsible for the future of the Guard,” Colonel Heaton said. “We are not so much concerned with the ‘now’ of the situation. If we do our job right, the field people will be much better in the future.”

The current OCS curriculum is prescribed by the Fort Benning, Ga. infantry

program. It also incorporates additional work in the classroom, as well as correspondence courses.

The NCO curriculum is currently under review, and may be altered to include three different levels of training. Currently, the course lasts for six months, and includes one annual training period. Approximately 75 students complete the course each year.

Colonel Heaton acknowledged that there are problems with the NCO program, particularly since graduation does not bring an automatic promotion, and completion of the program is not now required for promotion to the higher enlisted grades. He feels that the military’s increasing educational requirements will someday require graduation from a program of this type before an individual can be promoted to the senior enlisted ranks.

“Even though the graduate is not promoted, I think that virtually all of those who have attended the program will agree that it provides some of the best training in the National Guard today,” Colonel Heaton stated. “I think that the unit commander will be pleasantly surprised if he really challenges the NCO graduates and asks them to do more for him and for the unit.”

The academy recently moved to Fort Knox, and this has had a significant effect upon the students.

“It’s really good to be in a military atmosphere,” the Commandant explained. “We are away from the distractions of other units, and we are able to readily utilize some of the facilities at Fort Knox.”

Annual training for the academy’s students is spent at Fort Knox, and much of that time is spent in the field. The OCS program includes at least one three-day field problem, and the students get “good



Officer Candidate Kelly Goad, right, checks the appearance of OC Houston Henley during an inspection at annual training. During the course, students have an opportunity to assume many roles, learning the responsibilities that go with each task. Both men were commissioned as second lieutenants upon completion of the AT period. (Photo by SFC Gordon Nichols)

realistic infantry-type training.” There are at least three major exercises during the summer encampment.

The colonel sees a bright future for the military academy.

“I have been pleasantly surprised by the academy,” he said. “I had been a bit skeptical, but now I am completely sold. But we need to get more people involved. We need more candidates to take care of the attrition of officers, and we need more students on the NCO side, because our field units need to profit by gaining better senior enlisted people.”

Colonel Heaton said that he fears that, in many cases, unit commanders are discouraging their NCO’s from attending the school, because they do not want to lose the individual’s service during an AT.

“We cannot be selfish if we are to continue to move forward,” The commandant said. “While we are taking care of the present, we must look to the future. And the Kentucky Military Academy can hold the key to the future for many of our units.”

Anyone interested in learning more about the academy’s programs can contact Capt. Clyde Wiseman at Boone Center in Frankfort, or call him at (502) 564-7800. Commanders must recommend potential students, so applications should be made well in advance. Generally, officer candidates must apply by March, while NCO’s need to apply by at least two months prior to the beginning of the course.

One cliché proves true: Army travels on its stomach

By 2nd Lt. Maurice Denton
Army life is filled with clichés-most of which bear little truth in today’s modern force.

One remains accurate, however: “An army travels on its stomach.”

Indeed, one of the few topics discussed at annual training as frequently as the weather is food-particularly the food prepared by unit mess sections.

Cooks historically have been the object of jokes, and troops have worked diligently to avoid serving on KP (kitchen police). But when the GUARDSMAN interviewed several cooks on duty at Camp Shelby, Miss. a positive attitude and intense pride proved to be the prevailing sentiments.

Commanders have become increasingly aware of the morale value of a good mess section and the hot, nutritious meals they serve, particularly in a tactical, field environment.

The cooks interviewed agreed that serving a meal in the field is far more difficult than serving one in a mess hall, because of the problems imposed by weather and the frequent lack of refrigeration.

SP6 Francis E. Busch, chief cook of the 207th Engineer Battalion headquarters in Louisville, worked with his crew to set up facilities early during the July encampment at Camp Shelby

when rain began to fall. Five hours later, the rain was still coming in force.

In such situations, “Pappy,” as the 59-year old Guardsman is called by the troops of the 207th, tries to cover the food as much as possible as he continues to serve. But the meal must be served, regardless of the weather.

The danger of food contamination is another field hazard that plagues the cooks.

SSgt. Ronald Mooneyhan, first cook of Bowling Green’s 2123d Transportation Company, recalled one camp when a gas attack was simulated during breakfast. His five-man staff scrambled to protect the food and later served it only after all risks were eliminated. He emphasized that if there is ever any question about contamination, the food is destroyed.

Why does someone want to be a cook and work in a field that has little of the excitement of some other areas, but demands long, and early, hours?

Many of the people interviewed said that they simply liked to cook. One such person is SP5 Ralph Woods, of Danville’s 303d General Supply Company. He has cooked for the Kentucky School for the Deaf and for Centre College. One cook with the 2123d Trans. Co. serves with the Blue Boar restaurant.

Specialist Busch, a veteran of 30 summer camps, says that the cooks

invariably know if they’re doing a good job, because the troops are quick to comment.

Life for a cook at summer camp hardly rates as a paid vacation, but the schedule depends largely upon location. In the field, the cooks usually arise around 3 a.m. to prepare the burners and start cracking eggs. At the base camp, they usually have the luxury of “sleeping in” until 4 a.m. before starting their 17-18 hour day.

The more experienced cooks learn to save time in the morning by perform-

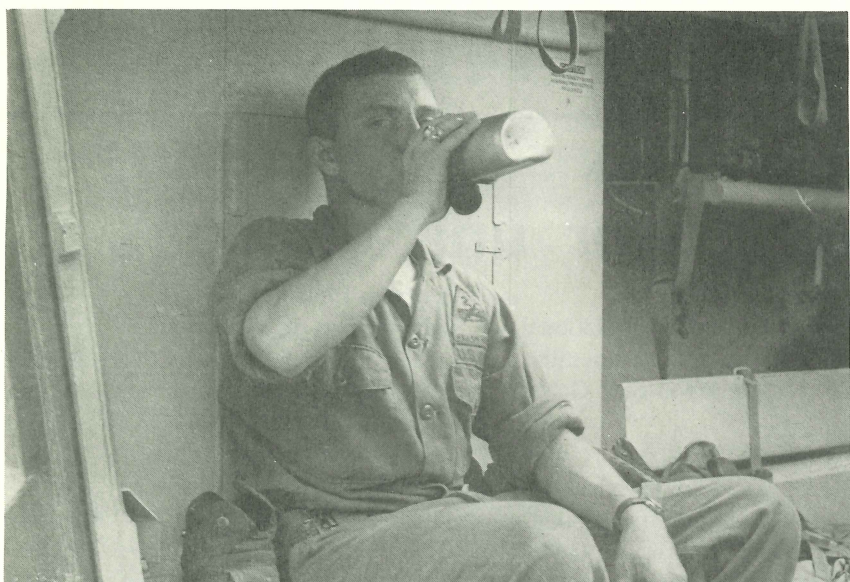
ing some of the chores during the previous evening.

Although the normal day is quite long, the mess crews usually have every other day off, giving them approximately the same amount of free time as that given other troops.

The cooks like the relative independence that they have, and not having to pull extra duties. But, most importantly, they like their jobs because they know that they are making an important contribution to the welfare and morale of their fellow Guardsmen.



Sgt. Allen Whitaker, foreground, and SP5 Everett Clark, rear, of Co. D, 201st Engineer Bn, serve a meal at Camp Shelby. Cooks throughout the Guard play a vital role in the lives of their fellow troops. (Photo by SSgt. Ron Bayes)



Pvt. Wayne Musick, of Harlan, drinks from his canteen during a break in the field. The heat and dust of Camp Shelby made water a valuable commodity. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scotty McFadden)

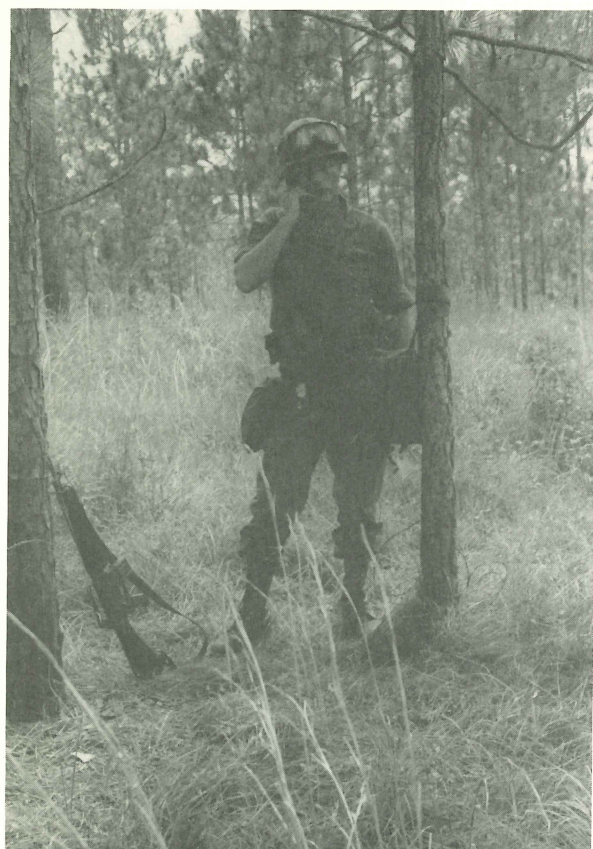


Sgt. Gene Tackett, left, and SP4 Danny Scarberry, both of Prestonsburg, wait atop their armored personnel carrier while at Camp Shelby. Specialist Scarberry wears a mask to protect his nose and mouth from the intense dust of the field trails. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scotty McFadden)

AT '78



Three members of Middlesboro's mechanized infantry unit are outlined against the evening Mississippi sky. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scotty McFadden)



Pvt. Sherman Cardwell, of Bowling Green's 149th Armor Brigade Headquarters, uses a field telephone to report to his command post while manning a checkpoint at Camp Shelby. (Photo by SSgt. Tom Murphy)



Sgt. Charles Tabor, of Marion, sits at the controls of his M-60 tank at Camp Shelby. Two western Kentucky armor battalions took part in the encampment. (Photo by SP5 Jim Evans)



Sgt. Nick Zabenco, of the 470th Medical Detachment, checks a winch before taking off on a UH-1 mission. Kentucky aviation units flew numerous medical evacuation missions throughout the encampments. (Photo by SSgt. Ron Bayes)

The Kentucky Guard — NOW!

Guard musicians alter routine, hit New Orleans

When it came time for annual training this year, the Frankfort-based 202d Army Band truly marched to the beat of a different drummer.

Instead of their customary concert tour of the state, CW2 John Hoover and his musicians traveled to Camp Shelby, Miss., for a taste of annual training at a military post.

Bandmaster Hoover, band director at Louisville's Seneca High School in civilian life, conducted the 202d in seven public concerts in the southern Mississippi area.

The band played first on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and then at Paul B. Johnson State Park near Hattiesburg and Camp Shelby.

The highlight of the annual training period for the band was a Sunday afternoon performance at historic Jackson Square in New Orleans.

Other concert appearances included the U.S. Naval Home and VA Hospital in Gulfport, Miss., the VA Hospital in Biloxi, Miss., and Kamper City Park in Hattiesburg.

"We felt the band played well during the entire annual training period," said CW2 Hoover. "Going to an Army post was an unexpected stroke of good luck from a training standpoint."

The group currently anticipates to return to the state tour plan for next year's annual training.

Bardstown earns top recognition in maintenance

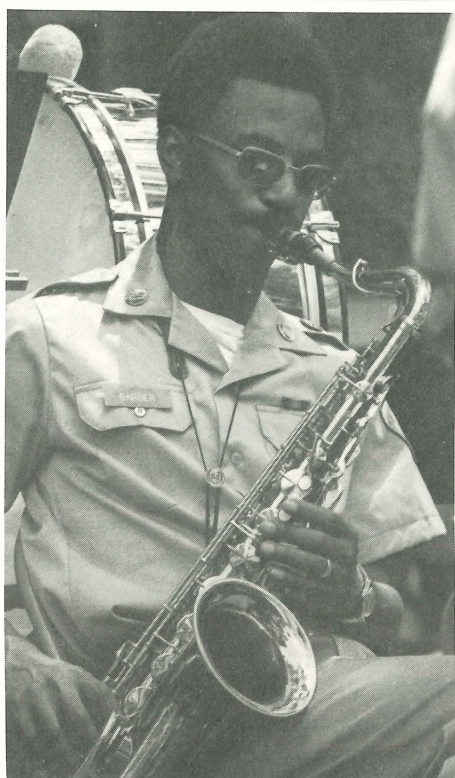
The Kentucky National Guard's "efficiency in Maintenance Award" for Fiscal year 1978 will be awarded to Battery C, 2d Battalion, 138th Field Artillery in Bardstown, commanded by 1st Lt. Michael A. Jones.

A selection panel reviewed records and reports of seven units nominated for this year's award. The other units considered were: Company B, 1st Battalion 123d Armor, Hopkinsville; Service Btry, 1st Bn, 623d Field Artillery, Springfield; 2123d Transportation Company, Bowling Green; 306th Maintenance Co., Frankfort; 303d General Supply Co., Danville; Headquarters Co., and 198th MP Bn, Louisville.

Col. Ralph Palmore, state director of maintenance, said that the panel did not have an easy job in making its selection. He said that all units nominated for the award had excellent records.

He added, "The panel was well aware of the many hours of hard work, command supervision and interest down to and including the user of all unit equipment."

He went on to say if all elements of the Kentucky Guard would qualify for this award, many extra hours of work would be averted, thereby providing many more hours of training to the majority of the troops.



SP5 Jim Barber, of the Kentucky National Guard Band, performs at Jackson Square in New Orleans. The band performed eight times during AT. (Photo by SP5 Jim Evans)

Plate program running smoothly; expanded benefits explained

The revised state license plate law for Kentucky Guardsmen appears to be going smoothly, according to Capt. Tom Little, who monitors the two-year old program.

"In spite of the changes in the law, I've heard of very few problems," Captain Little said. "This is certainly a major change from two years ago, when the program was new."

Law revised

Under the law, revised by the 1978 Kentucky General Assembly, Guardsmen may now put a Guard plate on pick-up trucks and non-commercial vans. Previously, the tags had been limited to passenger cars.

The one-time \$25 fee and annual \$1 renewal is still in effect, but the transfer system has changed. Now, when the plate is transferred from one car to another, the Guardsman must pay the normal pro-rated fee to obtain a regular

First reorganization phase brings major unit changes

By SFC Gordon Nichols

Hazard now has a Kentucky National Guard unit, while other communities have experienced changes in their Guard structure.

The changes are the first part of a three-phase reorganization designed by Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, in an effort to bring the Guard up to full strength and improve the overall troop structure. The changes had the concurrence of Gov. Julian Carroll and the National Guard Bureau.

"I am convinced the moving of these units will greatly increase the Guard's ability to respond to federal mobilization," Governor Carroll said, "but, of course equally important to me, is the ability to respond to the state mission in time of emergency."

Louisville

"The changes we are making will mean that only Louisville will lose a unit," General Wellman said. "There had been seven units in Louisville and it

became apparent that we could not keep them all at full strength."

The unit moved is the 207th Engineer Company, which has been split between Hazard and Jackson, and will operate under the command of the 201st Engineer Battalion.

Governor Carroll said that the new Hazard unit fulfills an earlier commitment and gives that community the type unit it needs.

Jackson strong

General Wellman noted that Jackson has always been a strong Guard town. The former unit in Jackson, Company C., 201st Engineer Battalion, has been moved to Cynthiana. The Cynthiana unit, Detachment 1, Co. D., has joined its parent company in Carlisle. General Wellman said that this will consolidate the engineer units and enable those units to be at full strength.

The 203d General Supply Co. in Harrodsburg, which remained below strength for some time, has been eliminated from the state troop structure. However, the general said, "We just constructed a new armory in Harrodsburg and cannot afford not to utilize the facility. The city has helped us a great deal in trying to recruit, but the manpower was just not available."

413th Moves

So a Frankfort unit, the 413th Maintenance Co., moves to Harrodsburg. That unit had also been under strength. General Wellman noted that this will also help alleviate a space problem in the Frankfort armory, and will consolidate two low strength units into a full strength unit.

The 470th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) will be reorganized as a Combat Support Aviation Company, increasing the number of helicopters by seven. That unit will remain in Frankfort.

The 2113th Transportation Company, also in Frankfort, will be split with Tennessee. The unit has been at 75 per cent strength. General Wellman said, "Usually these large transportation units are split between two states, so now our unit will be over full strength. The National Guard Bureau allows 10 per cent over strength."

Phase One

The general noted that this is only Phase One of the reorganization. "We will now give other low strength units until Nov. 1 to get to 90 per cent strength," he said. On that date, more units could be affected. A unit for Murray will also be announced, filling a commitment made last year.

The final phase of the reorganization will come Jan. 1 with all Kentucky Army and Air National Guard units reaching full strength.

General Wellman concluded, "The Guard wants to expand to new communities and make troops available to all regions of the state. But we can do this only if full strength is achieved."



Thirty-five new second lieutenants repeat the commissioning oath during the graduation ceremony in the capitol rotunda. An overflow crowd of family, friends, and fellow officers attended the event. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scotty McFadden)

Nearly 300 provide protection in wake of Louisville strike

Nearly 300 Kentucky Army National Guardsmen provided fire protection and security for closed fire stations in Louisville July 14-18 as city firemen went out on strike.

Governor Julian M. Carroll ordered the Guardsmen to State Active Duty to support the fire department supervisors who remained on the job. Two units from Louisville and units from Bardstown and Frankfort provided manpower for seven stations that remained operational, and set up security for approximately 15 stations that were closed. The units involved were Headquarters Battery, XXIII Corps Artillery; 306th Maintenance Company; 413th Maintenance Co.; and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery.

The Guardsmen, working in 12-hour shifts, fought a variety of fires, ranging from small vehicle fires to larger blazes in the business community. The fire department officials had high praise for the work of the Kentucky troops.

Since only a few of the Guardsmen had any previous fire training, basic familiarization instruction was provided.

However, they were instructed not to enter any burning buildings or take any unnecessary risk, unless trying to save a life. There were no serious incidents.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, spoke glowingly of the troops as he dismissed them. He called the exercise "the most efficient and best we have ever had." He noted that, even though strike work is very unpleasant, it is a part of the mission that the National Guard must sometimes assume.

He expressed his appreciation and that of Governor Carroll in his remarks.

Springfield claims honors

Service Battery, 1st Battalion of the 623d Field Artillery, headquartered in Springfield, has 'the best' mess section in the field kitchen category of competing Kentucky Army Guard units.

The section, supervised by SFC Henry Keene, won the award during annual training at Ft. Bragg. Competition conducted on the state level was the first phase of the national Philip A. Connelly Food Service Award Program.

Col. Joseph Craft, director of the Kentucky Army Guard's logistics section said, "The competition is a training vehicle for food service people, and the S-4s and their staffs that conduct the unit evaluations."

The Springfield unit's achievements will be submitted for competition in Army Readiness Region VI. The winner will then advance to Army (CONUS) level.

"The program has created more interest and competition than we expected the first year," Colonel Craft said. "The unit commanders have shown a real interest in improving the quality of their dining room and food service."

"Basically, the program gives mess sections recognition and incentive for excellence during field kitchen operations," he explained.

All Reserve Component units having organic field food service capability and mission were eligible to compete. Competition, however, had to be conducted under simulated tactical operations in a field location.

Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion of the 149th Infantry (Mech) headquartered in Somerset, was runner-up in the competition.

Guard skills save life

For a Louisville man, the first aid training that PFC David Duckett received as a Guardsman proved very beneficial.

PFC Duckett, 223d Military Police Company, administered first aid to the man, about 50 years of age, when the victim began to collapse, and 'went into shock'.

The Guardsman, 18, saw the man falling and rushed to him when his daughter screamed. He covered him with a blanket and administered other techniques he had learned for treating shock victims. "I stayed with him for about 10 minutes," PFC Duckett said, "until

the ambulance his daughter called, arrived."

"I received first aid training while attending 'basic' after joining the Guard," he pointed out. The employee of Louisville Ladder said he joined the Kentucky Army National Guard after his friends became members and influenced him. He is a mechanic with the Louisville - headquartered MP unit.

Heroics seem to 'run' in PFC Duckett's family. His mother, Anna Kuhl, recently was seriously injured while pushing her three-year-old son from the path of an automobile.



Sgt. Al Miller practices sliding down a firepole during the Louisville firemen's strike. He is the supply Sergeant for the 306th Heavy Maintenance Company. (Photo by SP5 Don Wainscott)

Tuition Board implements revised policies

Revised regulations implementing the Educational Encouragement Fund are now being utilized and all checks covering summer school payments should soon be in the mail, according to a spokesman for the Board that administers the program.

The 1978 Kentucky General Assembly revised the program to make many private colleges, universities, business schools, and vocational schools eligible for participation. Previously, only state-supported universities, community colleges, and vocational schools could be considered.

50 per cent reimbursement

Under the current law, up to 50 per cent of a Guardsman's tuition payment is

reimbursable, with a maximum of \$250 per term or \$500 per year set. Fees, book costs, and board expenses are not eligible for reimbursement.

A revised one-page application form has been distributed to all units, rendering the old form obsolete.

Under the new administrative procedures, applications will be reviewed by the Board only once during the term, and applications submitted late may be considered only upon appeal to the Adjutant General, with justification. October 15 has been set as the review date for the fall term.

The spokesman said that this system will enable the Board to evaluate all

applications according to their relative merit so that, if it becomes necessary to implement a priority system, no one who needs the money to "survive" will be denied assistance.

"Unless we adopt this system," the spokesman said, "we could wind up giving aid to a senior officer and denying a low-ranking enlisted person. We certainly don't want that to happen."

Another change will permit new enlistees who attend school before leaving for basic training to receive aid. Previously, assistance was available only after completion of basic. However, the recipient must repay all funds if he does not complete the required training.

Throughout term

Each recipient must still be a member of the Guard throughout the school term and for at least one year after the completion of the term in which assistance is provided. There is no limit to the number of terms in which the individual can receive funds, and use of "G.I. Bill" benefits is not an eligibility factor.

"We've had few problems since the new law was passed," the spokesman explained, "and I'm confident that this program will continue to be our strongest recruiting and retention aid."

Split training aids students

By SFC Gordon Nichols

Many young men and women considering joining the Guard simply cannot afford to leave their job or school for the length of time required for both basic training and advanced individual training. This has, undoubtedly, kept many people from joining.

This problem will now be alleviated through a new "split training option" which will enable a student or worker to join the Guard without devoting an extended period.

The "split training option" is being offered on a pilot basis, enabling an enlistee to take basic training at one

time, then advanced training at any time during the next 12 months.

Capt. Elmo Head, state recruiting and retention officer, said, "This program offers an excellent opportunity for the enlistment of high school juniors and seniors and it should enlarge the potential field for our recruiters."

"Along with the state educational fund that pays up to 50 per cent of the Guardsman's tuition to college or vocational school, this split will make the Guard more attractive to the student," he added.

The split training option will be offered in almost all job categories.

EANGKY sets membership drive

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kentucky is currently conducting its annual membership drive. The organization rolls have swelled to over 1,000 and their goal is to reach 1,500. All enlisted members of the Army and Air Guard will be receiving an application soon.

President of the Enlisted Association, CSM James H. Garrison explained that


for the \$5 membership fee, a Guardsman will receive many benefits.

"Our association is one of many working hard to insure that the benefits and privileges of Guardsmen are maintained and improved, both nationally and locally," he said. "Here in Kentucky, members of the legislative committee of the association stay in constant contact with legislative representatives," Garrison added.

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INSIDE: Wonder why you went to AT? General Wellman is
happy to explain. Annual training means dirt, heat,
discomfort, lots of work, with some rewarding exper-
iences mixed in. There's lots of pix of all that stuff in
these pages. Look closely. You might see yourself. Or
a friend. There's some current info in here too, and
some might mean money to you. So, before you auto-
matically share this "army junk" with your bird, take
a look--then share it with a friend.

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