

Bonus program expands to boost recruiting

In the annual State of the Guard address to conferees at the recent annual conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman reviewed three requests to the Air Guard during a similar speech at the conference in 1978.

He has asked the Air Guard to achieve 100 per cent strength (they are now at 104 per cent); maintain a C-1 rating (which they did do) and win the Spatz Trophy,

which they failed to accomplish in 1978. He repeated these requests for 1979 and even upped the strength goal to 110 per cent.

Referring to the Army Guard goals for 1978 of reaching 100 per cent strength, and the fact they only reached 90 per cent, General Wellman said he appreciated the effort, citing the fact that Kentucky led the nation in December of last year with 192 recruits. To spur on recruiting

efforts General Wellman announced that every understrength unit would be eligible for the \$1,500 bonus until June 15.

In other announcements concerning recruiting and retention, the general thanked the newly formed group of representatives of 15 leading businesses in the Commonwealth who have formed the Committee for the Support of the Guard and Reserve.

He also announced the assignment of a

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475th previews hospital equipment

Members of Frankfort's 475th Combat Support Hospital were able to get an advance look in March at the type of

equipment that they will be receiving.

The 86th Combat Support Hospital, from Fort Campbell, traveled to Frankfort

to set up their equipment, which is very similar to that which will be assigned to the Kentucky medical organization. The exercise was scheduled to familiarize the Guardsmen with the equipment and give them an opportunity to train with people who utilize it daily. It also served as a training vehicle for the active duty forces.

During a tour of the facility, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, expressed his thanks for all of the effort that went into movement of the hospital. Normally, the hospital is equipped to handle 200 beds. However, because of transportation limitations, only a 60-bed hospital was established.

The equipment was fully deployed and operational within only a few hours after the operation began, and Kentucky medical representatives were most impressed by the operation.

According to a Fort Campbell spokesman, the equipment, which was purchased in 1972 for about \$6 million now carries a replacement cost of nearly \$20 million.

The unit includes surgical facilities, intensive care wards, x-ray services and other related activities.



SP4 Bill Wofford of the 86th Combat Support Hospital, U.S. Army, instructs Private Karen Murphy of the 475th Combat Support Hospital, Kentucky Army National Guard, in slide preparation for the microscope.

Governor appoints committee to gain employer support

A committee of key business and governmental officials has been appointed by Gov. Julian M. Carroll to encourage employers to give full support to Reserve military components, including the Kentucky National Guard.

Governor Carroll and Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, serve as the honorary chairmen of the group. Lewis Kerberg, General Manager of the Louisville Area Chamber of Commerce, heads the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. S. Rayburn Watkins, President of Associated Industries of Kentucky, serves as the Vice-Chairman.

The committee was established to assist units gain the awareness and support of employers, and to help explain the need for a strong Reserve force to business leaders across the state.

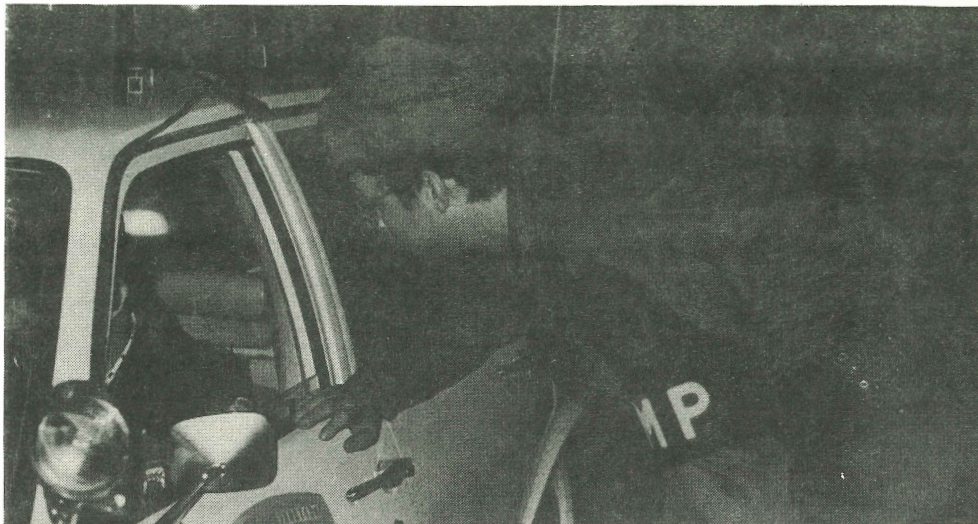
The committee has already identified one problem that the members intend to address in the early phases of their activity. According to a committee spokesman, the acute problem seems to be not with company executives or top management, but with the lower level supervisors. The group hopes to reach these individuals to explain the benefits that they receive from a strong Reserve force.

The committee will also publicize veteran's reemployment rights guaranteed by Public Law 93-508 and will seek to have employers adopt a statement of support. This statement insures that the company will implement personnel policies and practices that encourage participation in training programs.

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SSgt. David Dempsey was one of six members of the 223d Military Police Company, Louisville, placed on State Active Duty recently to provide night security at Lebanon Junction. During this period, there were no reported instances of burglary or looting in the town.

Boone Center plans open house

An open house at Boone Center in Frankfort will highlight the Kentucky Guard's observance of Armed Forces Day May 19.

The occasion is set for 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and all members of the public are invited. In addition, Guardsmen from other units across the state are welcome.

A full schedule is set to keep all visitors occupied while they become familiar with the people and equipment of the Kentucky Army National Guard. Scheduled events include a helicopter medical evacuation, concert by the Kentucky Army National Guard Band, parachute jumps, a fly-over

by the Kentucky Air National Guard, various equipment displays, exhibits of rifle and pistol team equipment, jeep rides for youngsters, and other activities.

Refreshments will also be available at the center.

123d Armor units are trading M60's for 86 new tanks

The 1st and 2nd Battalions, 123d Armor from Owensboro and Paducah have begun exchanging 86 M60 Tanks for M60-A1 tanks. Both tanks use 105 cannons but the M60-A1 will provide improved automatic weapons, more sophisticated fire control equipment, and a new engine.

Each Kentucky battalion will receive 20 tanks and the other 46 will be maintained at the Kentucky mobilization training site. Col. Ralph Palmore, State Maintenance Officer, stated that both battalions would receive the new tanks in time for this year's annual training.

Palmore also stated that the major reason for the change is that in the event of a national mobilization the Kentucky units would be experienced in the operation, maintenance, and firing of the tanks used by the 2nd Armor Division, with which Kentucky's units would "round-out".

Bonus . . .

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liaison officer to each Kentucky university which has a ROTC program. Their goal is to recruit at least 90 per cent of the available Kentucky graduates of the ROTC program.

General stressed the need for quality training as the key to retention. He also said there would be no more than 96 hours of mission-oriented training during the AT period so Guardsmen can enjoy AT and still achieve objectives.

Reflecting on the 10 times the Kentucky Guard was activated in 1978, General Wellman extended his appreciation to all the affected Guardsmen for their excellent efforts -- a fact which is acknowledged yearly by the Governor and the General Assembly.

NGAKy holds 48th conference; 500 officers attend yearly event

By Lt. Maurice Denton

More than 500 officers attended the 48th annual conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky held March 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington. Association President Lt. Col. Maurice D. Farmer presided.

New officers elected by the organization were: President: Capt. Bruce D. Pieratt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 201st Engineer Battalion; Vice President, Air: Capt. John Oswald, 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing; and Vice President, Army: Maj. Charles Hillard, HHC, 103d Supply and Service Battalion.

In his acceptance speech, Captain Pieratt said he plans to become more involved and work for results. He cited specific goals for his tenure: to create more interest and involvement by the members of the Association, to conduct an analysis of the annual conference in order that the format will result in more time spent on candidates for office discussing issues, and to attempt to have a more representative election.

Three proposed changes to the organization's constitution were adopted. The most important change permitted selection of a President-elect to serve for one year prior to moving into the Presidency slot. Lt. Col. Joe Kottak was elected to the position after his only opponent withdrew from the race. In a related move, the group voted to expand the Executive Council membership to include the President-elect and dropped the past president from membership.

A key part of the program was the

presentation of unit awards by Brig. Gen. Wilbur R. Buntin, Assistant Adjutant General for Army. The Army Leadership Award was presented to Company C, 2nd Bn., 123rd Armor, in Russellville and the Eisenhower Trophy was presented to HHC, 103 Supply and Service Bn, in Richmond.

The highest award for an enlisted Guardsman, the Outstanding Guardsman of the Year Award, was presented to Specialist 4 Clinton C. Beck, III from Co. A, 2nd Bn., 123rd Armor, Livermore. During the presentation, it was pointed out Beck has read virtually every manual in both the company and battalion libraries.

During the breakout sessions of the conferences, Brig. Gen. John B. Conaway, Deputy Director of the Air Guard, National Guard Bureau and former Kentucky Air Guard Air Commander, spoke to the "blue suiters" on a wide variety of current issues.

Maj. Gen. Emmett H. Walker, Jr., Army Guard Director, National Guard Bureau, spoke to the Army officers about the Guard's increasingly important role as part of the total Army. He stressed that everything the Guard does must center on preparation of mobilization readiness alert. He noted that the Army Guard is currently losing 40 per cent of first term enlistees by the fourth of their six year terms.

General Walker said two things could alleviate the high attrition rate. He informed the group that the inactive program has now been changed so that a Guardsman



A 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron photo interpreter is making a careful evaluation of "Photo Finish" targets behind closed doors. SSgt. Fred Rosenberger, 123d TRS, checks a target photo run as it relates to angle, position and visual quality.

who wants to go into the inactive program can stay in it, which should greatly enhance the chance of affected individuals reenlisting at a later date. The General also stressed that putting some fun back in the National Guard could do much to recruit and retain people.

Among the resolutions the conferees passed were: to allow basic allowance for subsistence for Guard officers on inactive duty status; to allow Guardsmen to avoid paying the \$12.50 license fee when transferring ownership of a car which has a Guard license plate; and to request the reinstitution of Selective Service registration, placing up to 200,000 men in a lottery.

The conference ended with a dinner and formal military ball.

Commander speaks to graduates

Lt. Col. Maurice Farmer, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 123d Armor in Owensboro, recently had a rare opportunity to carry the National Guard message to the graduating class of the U.S. Military Academy. Colonel Farmer was selected to speak on the "Round-out" and Affiliation programs. His counterpart in the active Army's 2nd Armor Division also made a presentation.

Colonel Farmer spoke to more than 900

members of the graduating class in four lectures, and he said that he was pleased to have the opportunity to make the future second lieutenants more aware of National Guard programs.

While at the Academy, he had an opportunity to view the facilities and to watch the cadets in action. He said that he was most impressed by the efficiency of the Academy and with the extraordinary

facilities that they have.

Military officials said that it is a high honor for a National Guard officer to be able to address the cadets, and only top officials and experts in particular fields are asked to make presentations.

Colonel Farmer, who recently concluded a year as President of the National Guard Association of Kentucky, has been a member of the National Guard for 22 years.

Guard strength swells to 91.5%

Enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses — state tuition assistance — special license plates — tax credits.

Those benefits, coupled with public awareness of the Kentucky National Guard, are bringing strength figures to their highest point in many months. In fact, according to Capt. Elmo Head, State Recruiting and Retention Officer, Kentucky ranks among the best in the country in recruiting. The Commonwealth has shown a net increase in personnel for 14 consecutive months and has now grown to 91.5 per cent of full strength.

Kentucky now ranks 14th nationally in enlistment production (number of persons per recruiter). In 1978 Kentucky recruiters enlisted 9.5 persons per month and in the first quarter of 1979, they're averaging 11 per month.

The strongest gains have been made in the 201st Engineer Battalion; 1st Bn. 623rd Field Artillery; and 149th Mechanized Infantry. Capt. Head also noted that individual units making significant gains were armor units in Marion and Murray; 614th Military Police in Louisville; and the 413th Maintenance Company in Harrodsburg.

At the end of March, the Kentucky Army National Guard showed a gain of 76 persons over the previous month with 5,839 out of an authorized strength of 6,404.



These youngsters at the Northern Kentucky Easter Seal Society center are among the many helped by donations collected by Kentucky Army Guardsmen. The 1979 drive totalled over \$75,000, bringing the eight-year collection to more than \$775,000. (Photo by Capt. Tom Little)

Air Guard members will increase by 135

The Air Guard in Louisville has grown to over 100 per cent and at one point reached 105 per cent, but July the manning will increase by a total of 135 persons.

According to base officials, these changes are being made to realign the unit with Tactical Air Command's mobilization requirements and to provide grade enhancement in some areas.

The medical personnel additions will be enough to change their status from a clinic

to a hospital. The unfortunate spinoff of these mobility realignments will be a sudden drop in strength to around 90 per cent.

Pinkston

Mrs. Ruby Pinkston, widow of CW4 Harlan Pinkston, has asked the GUARDSMAN to express her thanks and that of her family to all of the individuals who visited, sent cards, or donations to the Heart Fund in memory of her husband.

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