



The BLUEGRASS GUARD

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NGAKy holds 49th Annual Conference

Three major Army Guard assignments were announced and new officers for the upcoming term of the National Guard Association of Kentucky were elected at the NGAKy's 49th Annual Conference, held in Louisville February 23.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, announced the appointment of Col. Robert M. Fiorella as chief of staff, Army Guard headquarters. Lt. Col. Leo M. Henderson will assume command of the 149th Armor Brigade, while Maj. Ronald P. Woodson will take over the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mechanized).

Officers elected to hold the top Association positions for the coming year include: Lt. Col. Charles E. Hillard Jr., president-elect; Capt. Talbert M. Strange, vice president, Army and Maj. Verna D. Fairchild, vice president, Air. Lt. Col. Joseph L. Kottak, who has served as president-elect, will assume the president's position.

During the Association's business ses-

sion, Capt. Bruce W. Pieratt, Association president, discussed the achievements of the past year, particularly in the insurance program and in the quality of the legislative package.

Capt. Jerry L. Ream, who has headed the insurance committee, reported that membership increased to over 4,000 members. He also noted that 10 claims were paid during the year, with benefits exceeding \$79,000.

Capt. Alan K. Akers made the legislative report, noting that the committee decided to address six major issues. Of primary importance, he explained, is a proposal to increase the minimum state active duty pay to the federal minimum wage. He said that, according to current pay rates, the minimum would be \$37.50 per day. The current minimum pay is \$25.

He said that a second part of the legislative package would involve a request to change the fee charged to obtain a regular

license plate for a car that has carried a National Guard plate prior to selling that car. Currently, a Guardsman must pay full price to obtain a regular plate to replace the Guard plate. Previously, only \$1 had been charged for such an exchange.

Another issue concerned the definition of liability while on state active duty, while an additional proposal would increase the annual limit on National Guard tuition assistance from \$500 to \$750 per year.

Finally, a bill would require an employer to permit a Guardsman to return from state active duty without any penalty and with full benefits that would have accrued had the Guardsman not been called to state active duty.

Akers noted that several issues are being considered at the federal level, including aircraft modernization, administrative pay for commanders, commissary privileges for Guardsmen and a reduction of the age required to draw retirement benefits.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Bailey, president of the Enlisted Association, National Guard of Kentucky, noted the growth of the Enlisted Association and its achievements. He said that a membership goal of 1,500 has been established for the next fiscal year, and that a \$500 scholarship fund has been established.

He also reported that Command Sgt. Maj. James Garritson has announced his candidacy for the presidency of the National Enlisted Association.

During break-out sessions, Maj. Gen. James J. Lindsay, commander of US Army Readiness Region VI, spoke of the renewed emphasis on the Guard and Reserve. He said that the increased Soviet threat has enhanced concern for the Guard and Reserve and spoke at some length on training standards.

He noted that, in some cases, we "may have to lower our sights." He said that we should consider "doing less, but doing it better."



SEN. WENDELL FORD was the keynote speaker at the National Guard Association of Kentucky's 49th Annual Conference. In his speech, Ford called for a strong national defense posture and supported the reinstitution of registration procedures.

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NGAKy holds 49th

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Brig. Gen. John B. Conaway, a Kentuckian now serving as deputy director, Air National Guard, at the National Guard Bureau, spoke of the current and future missions of the Air National Guard. He gave the Air Guard officers an indication of programs now receiving attention at the National Guard Bureau level.

Following the break-out sessions, the Resolutions Committee presented several items for consideration, all of which were adopted.

One resolution commended Wellman for his support and leadership since assuming the post of Adjutant General in 1977.

Another supported enhanced global airlift capabilities for the armed forces, while a third supported the provision of smokeless engines for F-4 and RF-4 aircrafts.

A fourth resolution reaffirmed support for the reinstitution of procedures for registration, testing and classification of both males and females for military service.

A change in National Guard Bureau

policy concerning technician assignments to command and control headquarters positions was also solicited, while a final resolution asked the Department of Military Affairs to provide a Kentucky state flag to survivors of deceased Guardsmen.

In his "State of the Guard" address, Wellman praised both the Air Guard and Army Guard.

He noted that the Air Guard is fully capable of performing its mission, and singled out Brig. Gen. Fred Bradley, 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing commander, and Col. Carl Black, air commander, for their outstanding leadership.

He also noted that the Air Guard unit earned the Air Force outstanding unit award and commended the outstanding NCO education program.

On the Army side, Wellman recognized four battalions for being over 100 percent of authorized strength. Those units are: 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor; 201st Engineer Battalion; 103rd Supply and Service Battalion; and 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery.

Wellman pointed out that 64 of 65 tank

crews qualified during annual training last year and that five units received "commendable" ratings on annual general inspections.

He praised the continued accident-free aviation record, and spoke highly of the 52 neo-natal aviation transportation missions that have been flown during the past year.

The improved effectiveness of the chaplain program was also praised.

On the negative side, Wellman noted the financial crisis faced at each armory, citing the possible loss of dedicated maintenance workers in each armory. He urged commanders to pay particular attention to utility costs.

Critical reports about absenteeism, "ghosts" and pay for drill not performed were also discussed, and Wellman directed commanders to eliminate those problems immediately.

Wellman set only two goals for the coming year. He challenged each unit to reach 100 percent of authorized strength, and to improve readiness ratings.

Brown announces Army, Air Assistant AGs

Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. has announced the appointment and reappointment of the Assistant Adjutants General for the Army and Air National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cundiff has been appointed as Assistant Adjutant General for the Army National Guard and Brig. Gen. Fred W. Cross has been reappointed under the new administration as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Air National Guard. Cross was first appointed as Assistant Adjutant General for the Air National Guard on Nov. 1, 1978 under Julian Carroll's administration.

Cundiff began his service in the armed forces in 1944, serving in Europe with a tank destroyer unit during World War II.

In 1950 he was mobilized with an

artillery battalion and in 1968 his artillery battalion was called for a year of duty in Vietnam.

He has served as commander of the 149th Army Brigade and his most recent post was chief of staff, state headquarters, a position he held from Jan. 1, 1978 to Feb. 5, 1980.

Cundiff received the nation's second-highest award for meritorious service, the Legion of Merit, while in Vietnam. He also was presented the Bronze Star and the Air Medal.

Cundiff lives with his wife, Nina, in Hodgenville. They have three children.

As a civilian, he is employed as a combat vehicle equipment specialist at Fort Knox.

Cross began his military career in 1948 in the Army National Guard. He received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1953.

During the Pueblo activation in 1968, he was appointed contracting officer for the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. Subsequently, he was assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group, Hurlburt Field, Florida, as chief base procurement officer. There he earned the Air Force Commendation Medal.

He has also been awarded the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1969 with his assignment as commander of the 123rd Supply Squadron at Standiford Field Base, Louisville. In 1975, he was promoted to Colonel.

He is married to the former Jean Carter of Tompkinsville. They have two children.

His civilian position is supervisory contract negotiator at the Naval Ordnance Station in Louisville.

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123rd TRW wins Outstanding Unit Award

The 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Standiford Field, Louisville, for the second time in its 33-year history, won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA).

The AFOUA is the second highest unit level award given to active duty guard or reserve forces. It is based on meritorious service.

The award covers the period from Nov. 1, 1976 to Oct. 30, 1978. During that

time, the 123rd TRW made gains in such areas as flying safety, unit inspection marks, rapid reactor unit designation, threat tactics training program, accelerated conversion time of RF-4Cs and enhancement of NATO Forces' relationships. The unit was instrumental in establishing the first photo reconnaissance competition for active duty and guard units.

The unit first received the AFOUA in 1970.

Several awards presented to units, individuals

Several unit and individual awards were presented at the recent 49th Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 201st Engineer Battalion, Ashland, earned the prestigious Eisenhower Trophy as the top company or battery-size unit in the Kentucky Army Guard. Capt. Paul A. Melvin commands the unit.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, Russellville, claimed the Armor Leadership Award. The honor is given annually to the state's best tank company. Capt. Joe W. Matlock is the commander.

Another engineer unit, Company A in Ashland, gained the Phillip A. Connally Award for having the best field mess. The unit finished second in Army Readiness Region VI competition. 1st Lt. William Blake is the commander and Sgt. 1st Class Gene Cooke is the mess sergeant.

Individual awards presented for the statewide Rifle and Pistol Tournament went to Maj. Donald L. Durbin, Kentucky Air Guard, Standiford Field, Louisville, Individual Rifle Winner and Sgt. 1st Class Jerry D. Crossett, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Armor, Paducah, Individual Pistol Winner.

Team Rifle Winners include: Maj. Donald Durbin, 1st Lt. Daniel G. Wells, M. Sgt. Forry R. E. Engle, M. Sgt. Robert Conder, Sgt. Orville Patterson and Airman John B. Wiseman, of the Kentucky Air Guard, Standiford Field, Louisville.

Team Pistol Winners are: Platoon Sgt. Robin L. McGuire, Sgt. 1st Class Richard W. Webb, Staff Sgt. Will Thomas Jr. and Sgt. Michael McKeehan, of the 198th Military Police Battalion, Louisville.

Also honored during the Annual Conference is the team from the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mechanized), which represented Kentucky in the Winston P. Wilson Matches in September 1979. The team won one of two matches and placed fifth overall in M-60 Light Machine Gun Competition.

Team members include: Spec. 5 Lawrence L. Rigney (captain), Sgt. James E. Lawson and Spec. 4 William G. Willis.

Rigney fired a 298 at the tournament, capturing the Individual M-60 Machine Gun championship and setting a national record.



SGT. JERRY WATKINS, Detachment 1, 1155th Transportation Company, Frankfort, services the tail rotor of a UH1H helicopter. (Photo by Sgt. Danny Sexton, 1155th Transportation Company, Frankfort, and managing editor of the **JOHNSON COUNTY JOURNAL**, Paintsville.)

Souder selected as Guardsman of Year

Staff Sgt. Walter F. Souder, of the Air Guard, has been named the Outstanding Kentucky National Guardsman for 1979. Souder, 31, is a member of the 123rd Combined Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Louisville.

Other finalists in the statewide competition are: Spec. 4 Joseph P. Brewer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, XXIII Corps Artillery, Louisville; Staff Sgt. Danny R. Smart, Company A, 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor, Marion; Sgt. Douglas W. Cornett, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 103rd Supply and Service Battalion, Richmond; and Spec. 5 Larry Meadows, Kentucky Army National Guard State Headquarters, Frankfort.

Lt. Col. Larry Barker, who headed the evaluation board, said that the competition was very close, and he commended each

finalist for his knowledge and performance. He noted that each was an extremely fine representative of his command.

Souder has been with the Kentucky Air Guard for three years, after serving two years with the Mississippi Air Guard. He had previously served on active duty in the Air Force for four years.

He is an Air Guard technician, working in air frame repair at the Standiford Field Base. He has held that position for one and a half years.

Souder addressed the 49th Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky, and said that his selection brings with it considerable responsibility.

He and his wife, Janie, live in Louisville with their son, Ethan.

Guard members are eligible for unique tax breaks

At tax time each year, National Guard members get a break that is unique to their kind of part-time work.

Items which may be tax deductible include Guard-related transportation, meals, lodging, association or society memberships and tuition and book costs.

Guard members are entitled to 18.5 cents per mile for transportation costs from their homes of record to drill locations, unless their full-time businesses are in the same area as their drill locations. If the drill site is in the same vicinity as the full-time business, the 18.5 cents per mile would go for the distance between the business and drill location.

Meals and lodging expenses are deductible if not provided by the government.

Dues for membership in National Guard-oriented associations and professional societies which enhance the effectiveness of a National Guard member are deductible.

Also deductible are unreimbursed travel expenses, including lodging and meals, incurred while attending National Guard sanctioned meetings, conferences, workshops and conventions.

Unreimbursed tuition and book costs may be deductible when the educational goal is to maintain or improve Army-related skills or meet the express requirements of a military position.

Tax Form 1040, schedules A and B may be used singly, or Form 2106 may be attached to Form 1040. Form 2106 has the advantage of reducing adjusted gross income.

Questions regarding eligibility for any of these deductions should be directed to the IRS.



MAJ. GEN. BILLY G. WELLMAN (center), the Adjutant General, presented members of the 1st Battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers with a Kentucky flag during their visit at Ft. Campbell. The Scottish troops interchanged ideas with the 101st Airborne Division during recent training exercises.

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