



The BLUEGRASS GUARD

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NGAKy contingent meets with U.S. Congressional delegation

The Executive Council of the National Guard Association of Kentucky joined forces with top officials of the National Guard Association of the United States recently to make Kentucky's U.S. Congressional delegation more aware of the status of the Kentucky National Guard and the needs of the total Guard program.

A 26-member contingent, consisting of virtually the entire executive council plus several other Kentucky Guardsmen, including Major General Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, traveled to Washington January 8-9 for a series of meetings and briefings. Officials of the national organization noted that, while other states had conducted similar functions in the past, few had had such a large participation from the state.

The activities began with a meeting of the Executive Council in the conference room of the National Guard Association headquarters in Washington. Major General Francis Greenlief (Ret.), Executive Vice-President of NGAUS, turned over virtually

the entire facilities of the headquarters to the Kentucky group.

Kentucky Association President Lieutenant Colonel Joe Kottak presided over the lengthy and sometimes controversial business session.

During that session, the members voted to realign the executive council membership to be compatible with the recent reorganization of the Kentucky Army National Guard and to recognize the strength of particular Air National Guard units.

President Kottak gave the council members a detailed explanation of the financial situation faced by the organization and identified alternatives which could be considered to remedy the organization's financial dilemma. He proposed a dues increase based upon a "\$5 - \$10 - \$20 - \$30" formula. Debate by the members left little doubt that most agreed that some type of increase was necessary, since the organization faced significant financial difficulties and the state dues had not been raised for approximately 11

years. However, the amount and formula of the increase was subject to considerable debate.

Ultimately, the members voted to increase annual dues for second and first lieutenants, and WO1's and WO2's by \$5 for a total of \$25. Captains and WO3's will see a \$10 increase for a total of \$38 dues, while WO4's will also have a \$10 increase for a total of \$43. Majors will pay an additional \$10, bringing the annual membership to \$51, while lieutenant colonels and colonels will be assessed an additional \$20 for a total of \$69 each year. General officers will pay an additional \$30, bringing their membership to \$103.

The new rate increase will be effective with the upcoming dues.

Captain Ed Taylor, chairman of the Insurance Committee, gave a very favorable comment about the program, and noted that more than 70 percent of Kentucky Guardsmen now participate. He also noted the very active participation in the program by unit insurance administrators.

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ONE OF 800 firefighters maintains a fireline to stop the spread of one of the many forest fires that broke out in Eastern Kentucky in November. Nearly 100 Guardsmen from Hazard and Jackson were called to active duty to aid in firefighting efforts.

Guardsmen activated in firefighting efforts

Fall traditionally brings outbreaks of forest fires to the dense, wooded areas of Eastern Kentucky, and the fall of 1980 was no exception. A severe drought throughout the area worsened the situation this year and forced Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown Jr. to call upon the Kentucky Army National Guard for firefighting help for the first time in memory.

The most serious outbreaks began Nov. 7. Fires spread rapidly and, after several days, the entire forested region was declared "off-limits," even though hunting season was in full swing. Although most of the damage occurred in the Daniel Boone National Forest, many other areas of state- and privately-owned land were ravaged.

Preliminary figures from the division of Forestry indicated that over 400,000

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Wellman appointed to four national organizations

Kentucky Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman has recently received four appointments to national organizations that directly influence National Guard policies.

After recommendations from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and Governor John Y. Brown Jr., Wellman was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to serve three years on the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

This board was created by Congress as the principal policy advisors to the Secretary of Defense on all reserve forces matters. The board strives to enhance mobilization

readiness for all reserve forces, including the National Guard.

The second appointment places Wellman on the Executive Council of the Adjutants General Association which includes all 53 Adjutants General of the United States. Wellman also serves as the ethics committee chairman for the group.

Wellman's third appointment is with the Executive Council of the National Guard Association of the United States which includes all commissioned officers and warrant officers in the country.

His fourth appointment, made by Brown, places Wellman as Chairman of the 1981 U.S. Savings Bond Drive.

Wellman, a Major General, has served as Kentucky Adjutant General since Dec. 1977. He was reappointed by Governor John Y. Brown Jr. in Dec. 1979.

Wellman's accomplishments during the past three years include bringing the Kentucky National Guard to full strength and acquiring a major combat command, the 149th Separate Armor Brigade, headquartered in Louisville.

NGAKy contingent

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Captain Kent Akers presented a draft copy of a legislative handbook which he had devised. This document was very well received by the membership and was later complimented by Greenleaf.

Following the business session, Brigadier General Bruce Jacobs, Deputy Executive Vice-President, NGAUS, spoke of the mission of the national organization. He noted that the NGAUS is recognized as one of the most effective lobbying groups in Washington.

Greenleaf then recounted past legislative accomplishments of the NGAUS and explained the legislative program for the coming Congress in considerable detail. He noted that, during the past Congressional session, the NGAUS wrote and caused to be introduced 11 separate bills and provided information and assistance about countless other pieces of legislation.

In spite of press accounts, he expressed some doubt that significant increases in military spending can occur during the early years of the new administration. But he noted that this would not deter the group from working hard for such appropriations.

"The Guard is expected to fight when, where, and as well as the regulars," Greenleaf said. "We must demand the resources that are needed to do that."

During the course of his remarks, Greenleaf noted that the legislative emphasis in recent years has been for individual benefits. He said that the lobby effort must now turn more toward the hardware and facilities needed to carry out the assigned missions.

During a one-hour presentation, Greenleaf touched on many pieces of legislation that are to be considered within the foreseeable future. However, several were assigned high priority.

For example, he said that the Association would seek to expand and fund existing authority for enlistment, reenlistment and educational financial assistance. Other legislation to be sought would provide federal Tort claims coverage for National Guard members.

Special pay programs for National Guard positions would also be sought as well as legislation that would provide for medical, dental and death benefits for any incident which occurs while an individual performs in active duty training or annual training. He noted that increased military construction is necessary to reduce backlogs both in the Army Guard and Air Guard.

The General also detailed a number of equipment modernization programs which would be sought.

The Kentucky Executive Council hosted a Congressional breakfast January 8.

Nearly all the Congressional delegation attended or sent a staff representative. Senators Walter D. Huddleston and Wendell H. Ford both attended as did Representatives Carroll Hubbard Jr., William H. Natcher and Hal Rogers. Representatives Romano L. Mazzoli, Gene Snyder, and Larry J. Hopkins were represented by staff assistants.

At the conclusion of the breakfast, Wellman gave the guests a very favorable status report on the Kentucky National Guard programs and strength. He emphasized the readiness of the Air National Guard and the facilities which have been completed in recent years and told the Congressmen that they need not worry about the Kentucky Air National Guard.

He also spoke highly of the Army Guard and noted the challenge imposed by the creation of the Kentucky Brigade. He said that the Army Guard was doing very well but needed some assistance in obtaining essential ammunition and in gaining armories and improved training facilities.

NGAKy officials noted that this trip had been in the planning stage for nearly a year and had fulfilled a long-time goal of the organization. All who participated have been very enthusiastic about the trip and predicted that the Association development could have a lasting favorable impact for the Kentucky Guard.

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Guardsmen activated

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acres of woodland burned, and this figure may exceed one-half million acres when the final tabulation is completed.

Limited state and local resources were virtually exhausted by Nov. 9, when Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman continued his tour of the area with officials from the Governor's office and state Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. Nearly 100 Guardsmen from Hazard and Jackson were

called to active duty to add their talents and manpower to the 700 other firefighters. The number of men working in shifts of at least 12 hours varied, according to the number and magnitude of the fires.

After visiting the men, all members of the 207th Engineer Company, Wellman expressed his pride in the work that had been done. "The service and dedication of these men," Wellman said, "is representative of the important work that the Guard has always performed in its communities."

Karibo appointed Air Assistant AG

Kentucky Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman announced that Col. (Dr.) John M. Karibo, 51, has been appointed as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air with the Kentucky National Guard.

The announcement came during the 50th annual meeting of the Kentucky National Guard Association held in Louisville Jan 30-31. Some 500 Army and Air Guard officers attended the meeting held at the Galt House.

Col. Karibo is currently the commander of the 123rd Tactical Hospital, Standiford

Field. In addition to his private practice, he is the director and an associate professor, Pediatric Allergy Section, University of Louisville School of Medicine.

Col. Karibo entered the U. S. Air Force in 1951, serving initially as a crew chief and later as an aviation cadet, jet instrument instructor, pilot and flight medicine officer.

He is the first physician in Kentucky's history to ever hold the Assistant AG for Air position. He replaces Brig. Gen. Fred W. Cross, who retired Dec. 31, 1980.

Karibo assumed the position during official swearing-in ceremonies at Standiford Field on Feb. 7.

He is a member of the Jefferson County Medical Association, Kentucky and American Medical Associations, American Academy of Allergy, American Academy of Pediatrics, the Kentucky Guard Association and the Alliance of Flight Surgeons.

The next issue of the *BLUEGRASS GUARD* will feature a story on the 50th anniversary of the Kentucky National Guard Association meeting.

Kentucky recruiters driving for 100% goal

Kentucky's full-time recruiting force led off the new year holding a number one national ranking. Efforts to maintain this position include several recruiting drives and the hiring of one additional recruiter.

The recruiting drives began Jan. 1 with 1st Lt. James Davis and the 149th Infantry organizing its own three-month Battalion-wide drive which has been incredibly successful with a total of 65 enlistments.

Staff Sgt. Ruth Dysart began her tour in Bowling Green with a most successful recruiting drive which ran from Jan. 12-21 and included several visits to local schools and some excellent coverage by the Bowling Green news media. Diligent efforts by everyone during this drive have accounted for 51 enlistments in Bowling Green's HHC 2/123rd Armor and 2123rd Transportation Company.

Awareness was the theme as Lexington's HHB 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery

sponsored the Guard's third recruiting drive, running from Jan. 31-Feb 7. Unit personnel and Lexington recruiters set up and operated the National Guard Shooting Gallery in the Lexington Mall and Lexington Mayor James Amato proclaimed the week as National Guard Awareness Week. Long awaited, complete media coverage was received during the week with another special TV presentation planned during a

CPX on Feb. 21. The success of this drive will be reported in our next edition.

Next stop on the drive will be Murray and Hickman, scheduled for March 1-15. Plans for this drive include radio and newspaper coverage, a National Guard Week proclamation and a visit by Maj. Gen. Wellman for an address to the Murray Rotary Club.

Kentucky units honored at NGA conference

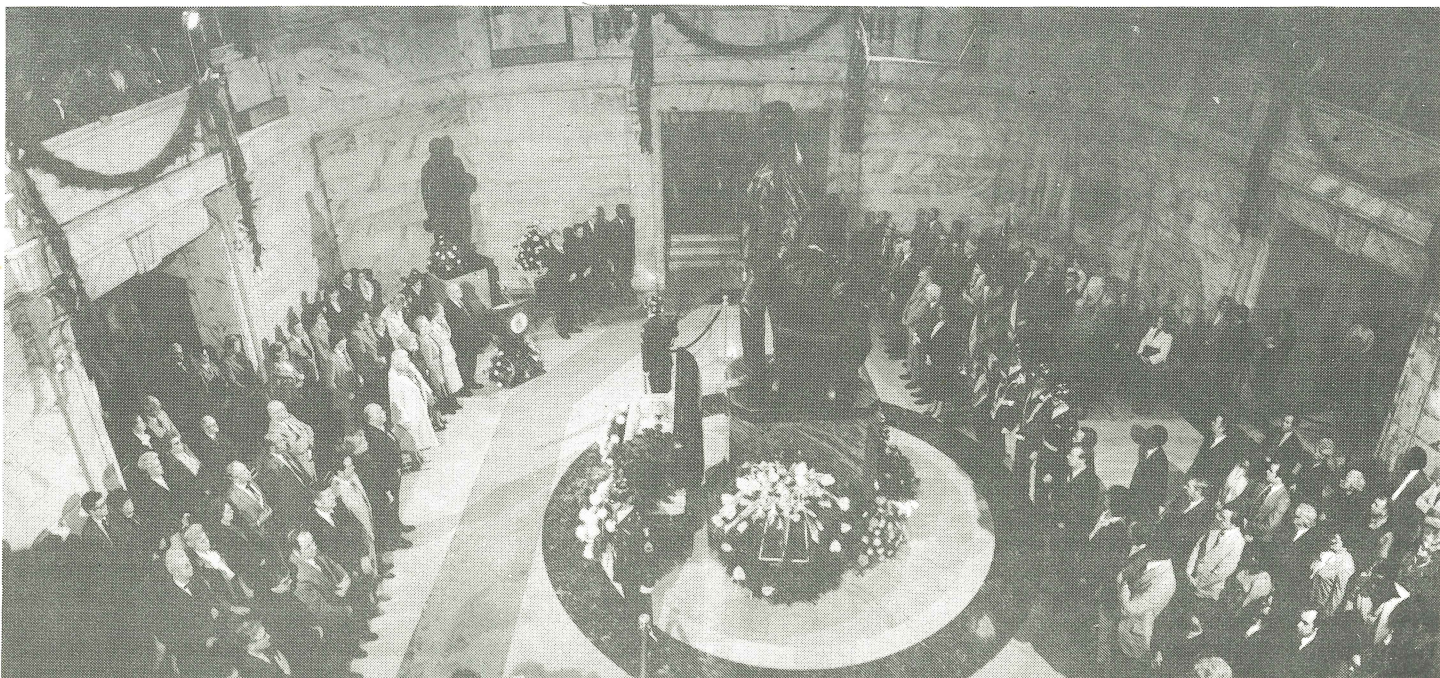
Three Kentucky National Guard units received awards at the 102nd General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States held in Las Vegas recently.

The 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of the Air National Guard was awarded the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque for outstanding performance of flying missions.

The 201st Engineer Battalion of the

Army National Guard received the Milton A. Reckord Trophy for the fifth consecutive year. The Reckord Trophy is awarded to the outstanding Army National Guard unit in each of nine readiness regions.

The 123rd CAM Squadron of the Air National Guard was awarded a United States Air Force Explosive Safety Plaque for contributions to the United States Air Force and Air National Guard safety program and for execution of the program.



THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S Special Color Guard lent assistance during memorial services for Col. Harlan Sanders in the

Capitol Rotunda. The group also participated in the Governor's Day of Prayer ceremony.

Guard . . . at a glance

Maj. Bill Locke is the new commander of the First Battalion, 123rd Armor, Paducah. He takes over command of the unit from Lt. Col. Richard Small, who, after four years in Paducah, will be an operations officer for the new 149th Separate Armor Brigade in Louisville.

Breathitt County's newspaper, the Jackson Times, is running a regular column in its weekly publication entitled, "The Guard Post." The column, which comes out about twice each month, helps keep the community informed on local Guard activities.

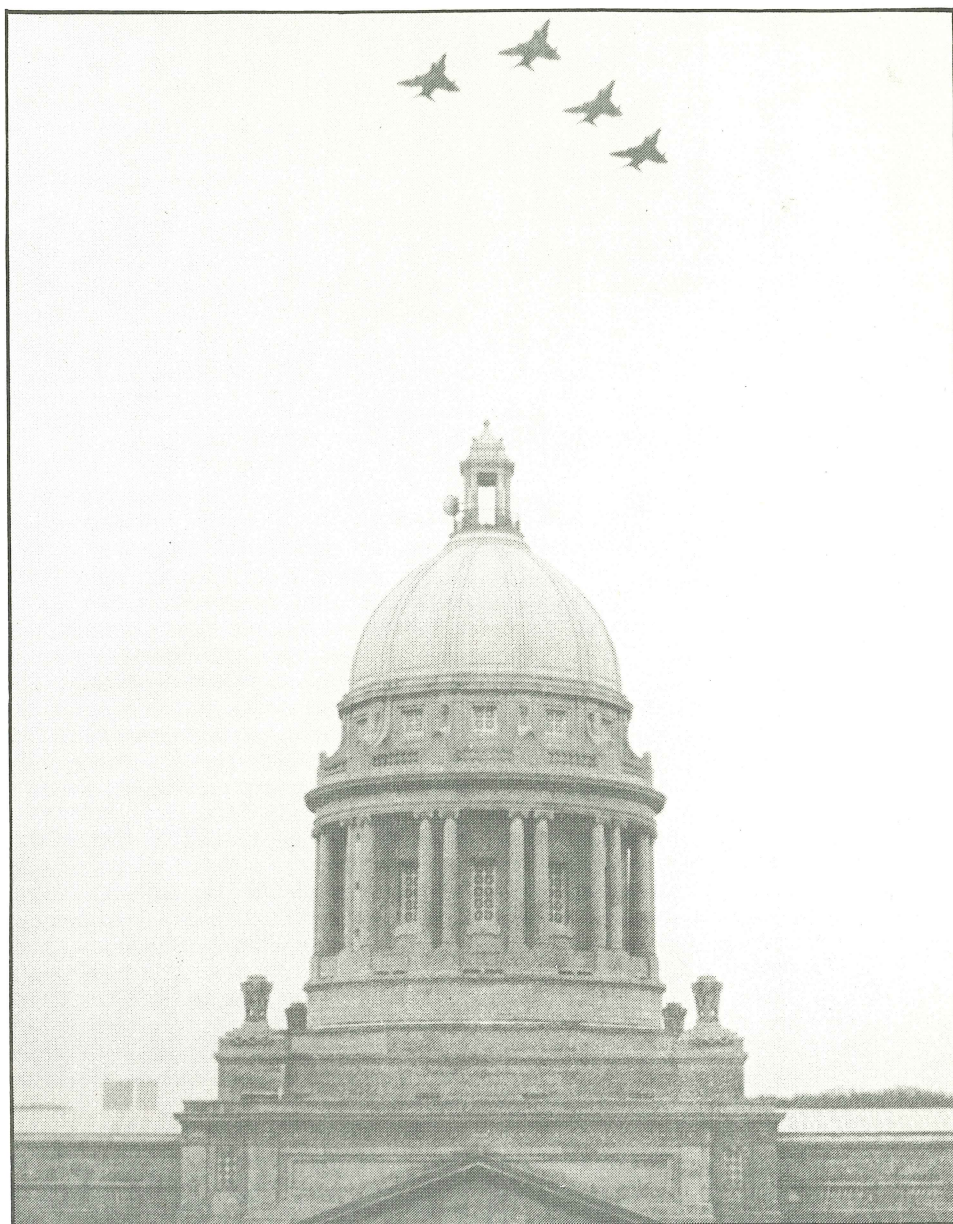
The Ashland division of ARMCO Steel again showed its support of the Guard in a recent edition of the firm's newsletter.

Museum affiliated with U.S. system

The Kentucky Military History Museum has been designated a "provisional Army National Guard Museum."

This action was taken at the request of Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, and Historical Society Director W.R. Buster.

Although the museum has functioned for several years as a National Guard museum, this designation makes official the museum's affiliation with the museum system of the United States Army. As a result of this action, the museum should benefit from programs conducted by the Army's Center of Military History.



FOUR RF-4Cs from the Kentucky Air National Guard pay tribute to the 52 American hostages in a fly-over of the State Capitol.

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