



The BLUEGRASS GUARD

Vol. 21, No. 7

Published by the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment

October 1981

Hidden Valley gets a face lift

Men and machines of the 201st Engineer Battalion moved into Powell County recently to begin the conversion of the former Hidden Valley Resort into a week-

end training site for the Guard.

Soldiers and heavy equipment from units in Carlisle and Cynthiana, including several Guardsmen from Powell County,

began the task of demolishing abandoned buildings and disposing of debris on the 541-acre site about three miles from Clay City.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, visited the site and stated that the Guard would devote much of the coming year to cleaning the property on weekends and for two-week periods during the summer of 1982.

Wellman said that a five-year master plan for the training site will include the construction of federally-funded housing, dining and equipment maintenance facilities. Also, the Guard eventually will assign permanent personnel to the site.

Lt. Col. Harold G. Robinson, commander of the Ashland-based engineer battalion, said that his troops would salvage building materials whenever possible and make temporary repairs to the main building which will be utilized until new construction is completed.

Bulldozers were used to topple the former resort's motel units into the old swimming pool, which was found previously damaged beyond repair.

Robinson said makeshift bivouac sites were being readied for use by his entire battalion during a weekend field training exercise at the site in mid-October.

Wellman also has announced that the training site will be utilized by the 149th Mechanized Infantry Battalion.



DEMOLITION CREW - Members of the 201st Engineer Battalion demolish the deteriorated facilities of the former Hidden Valley Resort. The area will become a training site for many Kentucky units. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Murphy)

New inspections stress mobilization readiness

By Spec. 4 Sparky Goodman

In the last few years, troop readiness has become a major goal of our armed forces. This goal has resulted in a change in inspection procedures for the Kentucky Army National Guard. The old annual IG inspections will be replaced by command readiness inspections.

The new inspection procedure will focus on major areas that affect mobilization readiness. The four functions of the new inspections are to evaluate: personnel

readiness, training readiness, logistics readiness and command staff readiness.

The new method incorporates the strengths of the old IG inspections and more adequately evaluates the entire scope of unit activities. Col. Ralph R. Palmore, Command Administrative Officer for the Army Guard, remarked, "We think it will produce a valuable tool for the commander in determining the readiness status of his troops." The new procedure should also reduce the number of visits and inspections conducted by head-

quarters.

The command readiness inspections will run on an 18-month cycle in an attempt to cover all high priority units. If this is not possible, an attempt will be made to cover all units in a 30-month cycle. The current cycle is scheduled to end in September 1982.

For individual units, inspections will begin on the Tuesday prior to a drill weekend and will conclude during that drill. Evaluators will question both individual soldiers and the staff.

AG comments on Guard strength

By Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman
The Adjutant General

This is the first of a series of comments that will appear in the *BLUEGRASS GUARD*, where I will share with you some of my thoughts, concerns, and plans for the Kentucky National Guard.

It has always been my intent, as I constantly emphasize to my commanders, to keep you informed on key issues and areas that we all need to emphasize.

I am frequently asked by members of the Guard, "Why am I so concerned with our strength?" National Guard Bureau funding for training, equipment and all programs essential to our mission is geared to our strength.

When we operate at full capacity, we automatically receive our full allocation of funds. This enables us to perform in all required areas which properly train and prepare each of us for our most important role. Maintaining the Guard strength is not just a command responsibility, but is an inherent responsibility

of all members of the Kentucky National Guard.

If you're playing a very important football game, no person wants to practice and play with a team at less than 100 percent, for if you do, then you're penalized before the game starts, and fellow Guardmembers, I assure you, we are in no game!

Never in the history of this great country has there been a greater need for the Guard and individuals like you to fulfill a role in the total force concept in the defense of our nation.

The Kentucky National Guard was just honored by the National Guard Bureau and Department of the Army by being selected as the first National Guard headquarters to send a unit on an overseas deployment with its TOE equipment.

The 441st Medical Detachment of Frankfort traveled to Germany, where members worked with an active army medical unit for two weeks of field training. This first could not have been attempted if our strength had been low.

I'm asking each of you to work with me and with your unit in the continuous effort of improving the performance and maintaining the strength of the Kentucky National Guard.

Facts help dispel myths of NCO training

"I'm not going through any NCO course just to get a stripe. I've been around too long to be harassed by a drill sergeant and be treated like a kid again. Besides, my unit would fall apart if I left for six months. And the commander wouldn't want me to miss AT."

Sound familiar? It's undoubtedly been said by every NCO who doesn't want any part of the Kentucky Military Academy's NCO education program.

The Basic NCO course is now a requirement for anyone to be promoted to E-6 or above. The Advanced course is primarily for NCOs in grades E-6 and E-7, though higher-ranking NCOs also attend.

Though Academy officials readily admit that it is impossible to eliminate all fears and dislike for the NCO program, they feel

that knowledge of facts is improving across the state.

In response to several expressed opinions, KMA officials provided the following information:

OPINION: The unit commanders don't want their NCOs to leave for training.

FACT: Col. James Daniel, KMA Commandant, noted a change in attitude. "Some of our commanders are still short-sighted," he said, "but most are now realizing that the time lost to the unit is more than repaid through the quality of the NCO who returns."

OPINION: The courses are too long. No one can afford to be away for six months as well as AT.

FACT: Either NCO course may be taken during the two-week AT period. The Basic course may also be taken in six weekend blocks and the Advanced course may be taken in five weekend sessions.

OPINION: There's too much physical training.

FACT: Physical training normally consists

of about 15 minutes of basic military exercises, followed by a one-mile run. It does normally occur before dawn. Physical training for the Advanced class conforms with capabilities normally associated with the more mature NCO.

OPINION: The students are harassed and abused by the drill sergeants.

FACT: There are no drill sergeants and physical harassment is not a part of the NCO training program.

OPINION: There's no need for an NCO with 10-15 years of service to go to school. He already knows all he'll ever need.

FACT: Professional educators, as well as military managers, recognize a need for a continuing adult education program in any changing environment, according to Daniel. An NCO who doesn't continue his education may well be operating under outdated philosophies and methods.

For information direct from the Academy, write: Kentucky Military Academy, P.O. Box 232, Fort Knox, KY 40121.

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

is published using the offset method by the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment, Boone Center, Frankfort, Kentucky, in cooperation with the National Guard Association of Kentucky and in accordance with AR 360-81. It is distributed free of charge to members of the Kentucky National Guard and to other persons upon request.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman The Adjutant General
Capt. Thomas E. Little Editor
Capt. Keith Kappes Managing Editor
Sgt. 1st Class J. Gordon Nichols Associate Editor
Ms. Terra L. Barnett Associate Editor
Jean Marie Goins Typesetter
Douglas E. Buffin Graphic Arts
Lt. Col. Charles E. Hillard Jr. Pres., NGAKY
Lt. Col. Donald J. Waldner President Elect
Maj. Jacquelyn D. Reid V.P., Air
CW4 Edwin G. Birdwhistell V.P., Army
Col. Jerry W. Heaton Executive Director
Capt. Jasper Carpenter Sec. Treas.

Day planned to honor employers

Guardsmen and Reservists will honor Bowling Green area employers who support their dual role of citizen and soldier Nov. 14 at the Bowling Green Armory.

Employers' Support Day will feature remarks by Maj. Gen. Zack Saufley, Commander of the 100th Division, Brig. Gen. Robert Fiorella, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, and local community

officials. Awards will be given to about 75 local employers who encourage workers to participate in the Guard and Reserves.

The program will include lunch and a tour of the armory. Employers will have a chance to meet the unit commanders as well as the other soldiers drilling that weekend.

The program will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Patterson sets record at machinegun matches

Another Kentucky National Guardsman has brought national honors to his state by winning the National Guard 1981 Machinegun Championship.

Staff Sgt. Ray E. Patterson, assigned to Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mechanized), won the prestigious award in competition at the National Guard Rifle, Pistol and Machinegun Championships held at Camp Robinson, Ark., recently.

Patterson and his M60 teammates, Sgt. Bobby Middleton of Gray, Sgt. Steve Cowan of Somerset and Spec. 4 Terry Hood of Somerset, competed against 26 other teams from around the country. At the end of the week-long machinegun competition, Patterson had shot his way to the national title, setting new match records along the way. Cowan placed first in the new-shooter category. In team competition, Kentucky's squad placed second overall.

Patterson's individual championship, and Kentucky's excellent performance in team events, were repeats of last year, when Spec. 5 Lawrence Rigney claimed the individual M60 title, for his second year in a row, and the same team won the championship. Patterson's record score at this year's matches topped Rigney's score of last year.

Shooting for the 198th Military Police Battalion in Louisville was the state's combat pistol team. Staff Sgt. Will Thomas Jr., delivered an outstanding performance that won him first place, open division, in the individual competition. In the process he also won an individual match leading to the aggregate championship.



ON THE FIRING LINE - Staff Sgt. Brent Whitton, Kentucky Air Guard, takes aim during pistol competition at the Wilson Matches. (Photo by Staff Sgt. John Orberon)

Three scholarships awarded

Three Kentuckians were the recipients of the first scholarships given by the Enlisted Association, National Guard of Kentucky.

The \$250 scholarships were awarded by a seven-person committee based upon financial need and scholastic achievement.

To be eligible for a scholarship, the applicant must be either a member of the Guard or a dependent. Beginning next

year, spouses of Guard members will also be eligible.

This year's recipients were Katherine E. Elkins, daughter of Hubert Elkins, a Guardsman in Louisville's 198th Military Police Battalion, Pvt. Lisa P. Phillips and Spec. 4 Sarah L. Tollner.

The EANGKY is planning to award at least three scholarships a year.

Films show National Guard's active history

The Kentucky Army National Guard has recently received two films of past activities of the Guard.

The first of the 16mm films, which would be useful to commanders and recruiters making presentations to their units or to civic groups, is titled "Equal to the Challenge," and is about activations

of Guard units across the United States during 1980.

The second film is titled "Goodbye Dear, I'll Be Back in a Year." This film includes original footage taken when many Guard units were activated for a year in 1940 and were then kept on active duty

after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Most of those units didn't return home for five years. This film includes reminiscences of some World War II veterans.

The films, which were produced for the National Guard Bureau, are available by calling Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Toler at (502) 564-8633.

Three choices

New option provides additional survivors' benefits

Under a new benefit option retirees from the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard may now provide death benefits to their survivors, payable even if they die before age 60.

This change in the Military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) provides three options.

Retirement-eligible Guard members may elect any of the following options:

(A) He or she may stay with the old plan. The Guard member may decline to make a selection for or against SBP coverage until he or she reaches age 60. If this option is chosen, no survivor coverage will be available during the years between attaining retirement eligibility and reaching age 60.

(B) Under the first option, the Guard

member may elect to provide a survivor benefit annuity, payable on the date he or she would have reached age 60, if death comes before that time.

(C) Under the second option, the Guard member may choose to have the survivor annuity made payable on the date of death, regardless of whether death occurs before or after age 60.

Officer brings talents from another 'field'

By Pfc. Ed Armstrong

A Kentucky National Guardsman has shifted his emphasis from professional football player to the executive officer in the 438th Military Police Company in Louisville.

First Lt. Thomas C. Franklin attended Virginia University for two years playing college football before leaving to enter professional football as a free agent in 1972. He was picked up by the Los Angeles Rams where he played for two years before a knee injury ended his football career.

Franklin then reentered college in 1975 to complete his education and to receive a commission into the active Army. He spent two years on active duty as a maintenance officer.

In 1979, Franklin joined the National Guard military police company in Louisville as a platoon leader and has since been promoted to executive officer of his company.

This is a time when you don't hear very much about patriotism in the United States, according to Franklin. "I think we need to start remembering what the military has done for us. Every war or conflict that the United States has ever been in has been fought on another country's soil, so it has never been brought home to the American people just how lucky we are," said Franklin.

Hospital slots open

All combat support hospitals in the nation, including Kentucky's 475th Combat Support Hospital, have received a change in their structure. This change has increased the authorized strength for the Frankfort-based unit.

Lt. Col. Larry C. Barker, Military Personnel Officer for the Guard, stated that since the increased strength authorization, the 475th Combat Support Hospital is short 90 people and is at 66.4 percent of its total strength. Many of the slots that have been opened up are for medical professionals, but other positions such as clinical specialists, are also available.



DIFFERENT TRAINING FIELD -- Former professional football player 1st Lt. Thomas C. Franklin takes part in a field exercise during annual training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ron Bayes)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
BOONE NATIONAL GUARD CENTER
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DOD-314

