



The BLUEGRASS GUARD

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IT'S ALL WORK and no play when you're on the range. Sgt. Denny Gentry of Company B, 149th Mechanized Infantry, Prestonsburg, loads his machine gun during annual training at Fort Pickett, Va. Gentry fired at stationary and moving targets. (Photo by 1st Lt. Frank Mattingly)

Guardsmen saves life

By Spec. 4 Ed Armstrong

A 19-year-old Olive Hill National Guardsman saved the life of a drowning seven-year-old boy on Aug. 9.

While Spec. 4 David Smith was on duty as a lifeguard at the Grayson city pool, a swimmer pulled Neil Wright out of five feet of water where he had been unconscious and under water for an undetermined length of time.

After Wright was pulled out of the water, Smith administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Smith learned this technique during his training as a lifeguard.

Smith is being nominated for an award by his unit, Detachment 1, Company B, 201st Engineer Battalion, where he is company clerk. Smith has been in the Guard for two and a half years. He is attending Morehead University where he is a music major.

Exercise plans adventurous for five units

Members of five Kentucky Army Guard units will be experiencing within the next few months the travel and adventure often advertised in recruiting literature, according to Col. Harold Loy, Director of Plans, Operations and Training.

The 441st Medical Detachment, of Frankfort, will travel to Fort Campbell in September on the first leg of a trip to West Germany. The helicopter ambulance unit will transport its troops, four helicopters

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Exercise

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and five vehicles to Fort Campbell, where they will be loaded onto a C-5A Galaxy. Loy noted that this is the first time a unit has taken such equipment assets from Kentucky to an overseas location for training.

The unit will take part in "Reforger," a massive exercise involving Active and Reserve components. The entire period will be spent in a tactical field situation. The 441st will be assigned to the 7th Medical Brigade.

In October, the 2123rd Transportation Company, of Bowling Green, will support an Army forces exercise at Eglin AFB, Fla. The "Bold Eagle" exercise is also conducted entirely in a tactical environment and the 2123rd will provide heavy truck support to most elements of the exercise. Loy noted that the exercise area is more than 70 miles long and that the distance should provide an excellent challenge to the unit.

The 2123rd will be assigned to the 7th Transportation Battalion for the two-week training period.

Approximately 20 members of the headquarters staff of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mechanized), based in Barbourville, will travel with all battalion company commanders to Calgary, Canada, in late November. The group will take part in a five-day command post exercise with the 1st Canadian Brigade of the Canadian Army.

Members of Company C of the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Mechanized), won't be exaggerating if they return from annual training talking about the "cold shoulder" they received. The troops from Ravenna and Richmond will train at Camp Ripley, Minn., in January.

Loy explained that this will be the first true "cold weather" training undertaken by Kentucky units in many years. He noted that the unit will learn winter tactics including walking on snowshoes and travelling by skis.



TANK RACE -- After hours of training, members of the Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor from Hickman, thunder into the tank park to start routine maintenance during annual training at Fort Pickett, Va. (Photo by 1st Lt. Frank Mattingly)

Air Guard reaches three goals; sets Spaatz Trophy as fourth

The Kentucky Air Guard recently celebrated accomplishment of three of its four goals for the year and still has its sights set on the fourth.

The unit had reached the first goal - 100 percent manpower strength - by July. The second goal was to retain the C-1, or fully combat ready, rating. This was again reached, extending the rating from August 1977.

The third goal related to individual awards and professional military education. Early in the calendar year, the Kentucky Air Guard was second in the nation in numbers of people attending PME courses. In the one-year period, 27 people graduated from Leadership School; 41 met Noncommissioned Officer Academy requirements;

and four members graduated from the Senior NCO Academy. One officer graduated from the Squadron Officer School and another graduated in residence from the Armed Forces Staff College. Nineteen percent of all unit members have completed at least one PME course in residence.

Winning the Spaatz Trophy remains the fourth goal. At press time, the winning unit had not been announced, but Col. Carl Black, 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing commander, expressed confidence. He noted that the unit scored 34 more points on this year's evaluation than on last year's and that any unit would have to be truly extraordinary to outrank the Kentucky wing.

O'Keefe is graduate of War College

Lt. Col. James O'Keefe, of Louisville, has become the first Kentucky Army Guard officer to graduate from the U.S. Army War College in Washington. The War College is the Army's senior school and the course of instruction is one year.

O'Keefe is currently on an active duty assignment as Chief of Reserve Components at Ft. Jackson, S.C. He is a past commander of several Kentucky Guard units, including the 198th Military Police Battalion, and the 207th Engineer Company. He also led Battery B, 2nd Howitzer B, from Elizabethtown, when that unit was called to active duty in Vietnam.

The officer holds a bachelor of science degree in Police Administration and a master of science degree in community development from the University of Louisville.

The Guard has become a real family affair for O'Keefe. His son, Matthew, is currently transferring from the South Carolina Guard to Kentucky and another son, Kevin, is assigned to the Kentucky Guard's 475th Combat Support Hospital.

O'Keefe had high praise for the War College training and explained that his experiences in the Kentucky Guard proved of great value at the school.

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Educational assistance is available

Would additional formal education or vocational training increase your chances for career advancement?

Are rising tuition costs a major reason for your decision not to seek additional educational opportunities?

If so, you may be a candidate for the Kentucky National Guard's Educational Encouragement Program which has provided more than \$435,000 in tuition assistance to Guardsmen since 1976.

The program is designed to provide members of the Guard a broad spectrum of opportunities to further their education. Though subject to the availability of funds, the program will provide reimbursement for up to 50 percent of tuition costs at any state-supported university, community college, proprietary or vocational school for eligible persons seeking:

- * trade or vocational training or education.
- * to achieve a two-year associate degree.
- * to achieve a four-year baccalaureate or graduate degree.

The funds are available for semester, quarter, and summer terms or other approved periods of instruction on a full- or part-time basis.

To be eligible to receive benefits from the fund, a person must be an active member in good standing of the Kentucky National Guard at the beginning and throughout the entire academic term for which benefits are payable. Also, the Guardsman must have a minimum of one year remain-

ing as a member of the Kentucky National Guard from the end of the academic term for which educational fund assistance is provided.

A primary objective of the Kentucky National Guard has always been to have a highly trained and professional military force. The Guard realized several years ago that this objective could best be met by providing a program to raise the civilian educational level of its members.

In 1976, the Kentucky General Assembly enacted the initial legislation for the Educational Encouragement Program. The funds provided in the program are used to recruit students, retain already active members of the Guard and also to improve the educational level of members so they could better serve the Commonwealth as citizens and soldiers.

The Guard realizes that education of the type supported through this program in accredited civilian schools increases understanding and raises military performance potential. In addition, the general development of individuals on a continuing basis supports procurement, training and utilization.

A spokesman for the state Department of Military Affairs explained that while many states have declined in strength during the past few years, Kentucky has actually gained. Much of the credit must be given to the Commonwealth's benefit programs. Undoubtedly, programs like the Educational Encouragement Fund have been instrumental in recruiting and retention of trained members that might otherwise have been lost.

Assistance application forms are available from each Army and Air unit.

Cundiff retires from Guard

After 36 years of Military service, Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cundiff has retired from the Kentucky Army National Guard. The general was serving as Assistant Adjutant General, Army.

Cundiff enlisted in the Army in 1944 and served a tour of duty in Europe. Upon returning from Europe, he joined the 100th Division. Four years later, he joined the Kentucky Army Guard where he received a direct commission to second lieutenant. Throughout his military career, Cundiff served in various command posi-

tions with the Guard, principally with armor units.

Among Cundiff's federal awards and decorations is the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal. His Kentucky awards include the Kentucky Medal for Merit and the Kentucky Commendation Ribbon.

Cundiff lives with his wife, Nina, at Hodgenville. He will continue to work at his civilian position as a combat vehicle equipment specialist at Fort Knox.

Draw two checks

The Simultaneous Membership Program provides the opportunity for individuals to receive pay and a commission through college ROTC programs and remain in the Guard.

All SMP participants are paid by the Guard at the grade of E-5 unless their current grade is already higher. They also receive a monthly \$100 allowance for participating in the advanced ROTC program.

Participants receive on-the-job training to prepare them for the duties of an officer by being given the responsibilities of second lieutenants in their Guard units.

Interested soldiers must be enlisted and must be between the ages of 17 and 25.

They must also be enrolled in Advanced ROTC and have a minimum of four years enlistment time left at the time of enrollment. The program requires recommendations from the unit commander and professor of military science.

For complete details concerning the SMP, contact the Personnel Office at Boone Center in Frankfort.



THE MORTARS BELLOW as members of Troop A, 240th Armored Cavalry, Owensboro, practice for night firing during annual training at Fort Pickett, Va. Troop A provided flare illumination for the night portion of the tank qualification course. (Photo by Spec. 5 Pat Collins)

Answers provided for reemployment questions

Because of the dual role most Guardsmen play as citizens and soldiers, much confusion has arisen concerning the rights and responsibilities of civilian employment.

To help clarify the situation, the U.S. Department of Labor has produced a series of questions and answers covering common problems faced by Guardmembers.

Q. Is an employer required to excuse a worker for military training duty?

A. Yes. Chapter 43 of Title 38, U.S. Code covers this.

Q. May an employer discharge an employee because of his or her military membership?

A. No.

Q. How about an employee's pay for time lost at work because of military training?

A. Employers are not required to pay for lost time because of training. Some do as a matter of policy or contract; others do not.

Q. Are any other employment rights or benefits protected by law?

A. Yes. The employee cannot be denied promotion or any other benefits or advantages of employment because of his or her Reserve obligations.

Q. Are all employees in all kinds of employment covered by this Federal law?

A. Yes, except for those in temporary positions.

Q. What is the employee's responsibility?

A. To report back to the employer as soon as the training has ended.

Q. Is the employee required to inform the employer about his or her military duty?

A. Yes, the employee must request leave for the training period.

Q. May the employer deny the request for leave?

A. No.

Q. If an employee has accrued paid

vacation of so many days when he or she begins training, is that same amount still to his or her credit upon returning?

A. Yes, at least that many days.

Q. Is it possible that accrual of vacation time may continue even during an employee's absence?

A. Yes, the employee is entitled to such vacation as he or she would have had if the employment had continued without interruption by military training. However, the military training does not necessarily count as essential work on the job if actual work is a factor in accruing additional vacation time.

Q. Suppose there is no regular shift of schedule of work, as in the case of a sales worker?

A. Since reporting for work is the nor-

mal way of ending leave of all kinds, it is enough that the employee notify the employer and begin work on the day that would be his or her normal working day.

Q. Does the trainee lose the right to return to work if he or she delays reporting beyond the time prescribed under the law?

A. No, but the trainee will be subject to conduct rules of the employer pertaining to explanations and discipline with respect to absence from scheduled work.

If Guardmembers feel their rights have been violated, or have further questions, they should contact the State Race Relations/Equal Opportunities Office at Boone Center or the Kentucky Committee on Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at (502) 564-8467.



MASKED MAN -- Who is this masked man? Staff Sgt. Abrey James uses a scarf to protect his face from dust while commanding his tank during annual training at Fort Pickett, Va. James is a member of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor from Livermore. (Photo by Spec. 5 Pat Collins)

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