

Headquarters undergoes reorganization

By Sgt. Robert W. Pillow

Kentucky National Guard headquarters has been reorganized into a state area command, creating an emphasis on mobilization and adding 62 positions to the headquarters element.

The reorganization, which was effective Oct. 1, is the result of a study ordered by the National Guard Bureau about a year ago for several states, according to Col. Ralph Palmore, chief of staff. The Bureau wanted the several state headquarters to manage resources more efficiently and do away with unnecessary duplication by consolidating tables of distribution authorizations, Palmore said.

Kentucky has two such tables, which are used to assign responsibilities in command elements; other states may have as many as seven, Palmore said.

Another goal of the study, the chief of staff said, was to develop a more effective system for mobilizing Guard units. A state area command system, called STARC,

has existed as a core staff of about 100 within state headquarters, he said.

This core staff was responsible for ensuring units placed on active duty arrived at their mobilization stations, Palmore said.

However, the staff was not large enough to efficiently meet this duty.

"We have had several command post operations (before reorganization) involving STARC," Palmore said. "The problem just kept cropping up: we didn't have enough people to get mobilization completed."

The move to make all of state headquarters, nearly 240 people, and the addition of 62 positions puts more than 300 people on the mobilization team, Palmore said.

Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman said the reorganization is the start of something "meaningful."

"Over the years we haven't taken the mobilization mission as seriously as we should have," said Wellman, who is now the STARC commander. "The new organ-

ization should show we are playing the game."

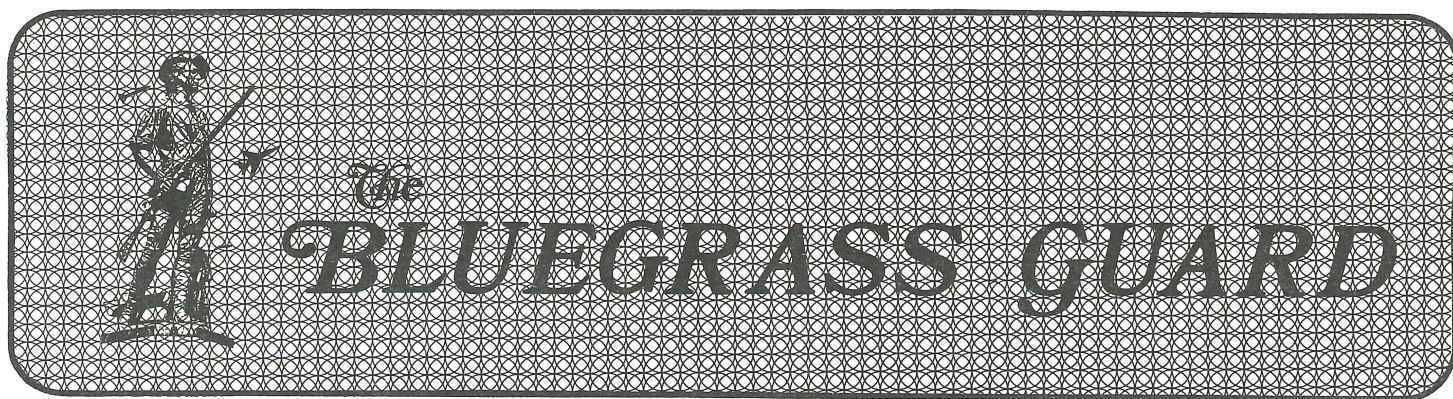
Wellman said a readiness committee will be appointed to review the readiness reports of each unit in the state.

The reorganization added several new duty sections and dropped the Command and Control element, according to Lt. Col. Larry Barker, the deputy director of personnel.

An administrative services division, USP&FO support section, NCOES division for the Kentucky Military Academy and a civilian personnel division, among others, were created to be a part of STARC, Barker said. A marksmanship training section was also created.

The NCOES division will provide instruction for non-commissioned officer candidates at KMA. The civilian personnel division will be responsible for finding civilians to carry on necessary duties after

(continued on page 4)



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133d PAD earns high marks at Reforger exercise

By Capt. Tom Little

The Kentucky Army Guard's 133d Public Affairs Detachment, based in Frankfort, got high marks from evaluators following the unit's recent performance in Germany, covering the annual Reforger exercise.

Lt. Col. James E. Lawson Jr., public affairs officer for III Corps, noted that the 133d produced more news material and photos than all other participating National Guard and active component public affairs units. National Guard PADs from Kansas and Rhode Island, as well as active-duty PAD staff also supported the Allied Press Information Center (APIC), located in Wertheim.

Several Kentucky Guard units have taken part in Reforger previously, but the 133d was the only state unit to train

overseas in 1982. The exercise, called Carbine Fortress, included more than 100,000 NATO troops.

The APIC served civilian media from around the world and included staff members from many NATO nations. The 133d worked closely with their counterparts from Germany and Canada and covered stories of units from many other nations.

"It was a tremendous training experience for us," said Capt. Keith Kappes, 133d PAD commander. "We had an opportunity to operate under very realistic wartime conditions and we saw much of the country as we travelled throughout the exercise 'box' to find stories. I know we'll reap the benefits of this exercise for many years to come."

The 133d principally provided material for the "Defender," the exercise newspaper produced for the participating troops.

Much of the material was also selected for release to public media and other military publications. Kentucky-produced items have also been used by "Army Times" and an upcoming edition of "On Guard." That is a bulletin board item distributed to all National Guard units in the country.

A photo display of Reforger activities has also been in the Pentagon for several weeks and most of the photos used were shot by 133d PAD photographers, according to National Guard Bureau officials.

Maj. Gray Jessup, of the National Guard Bureau, said the Kentucky unit's performance was as good as that of any National Guard PAD that has ever supported Reforger. He also said that he was pleased that the 133d has been selected for Reforger again in 1983. That will mark the first time any National Guard PAD has been selected twice for the prestigious assignment.

Guardsmen find Germans appreciative of military

AN EDITORIAL COMMENT

By Pfc. J.C. Newton

As a member of the Kentucky Army National Guard, I recently participated in Exercise Carbine Fortress, in West Germany. I was afforded the opportunity to observe the situation there from both a military and a civilian perspective.

Many Americans seem to have a negative attitude toward our military involvement there. This cynicism comes mostly from a common press practice of emphasizing the negative aspects of any situation.

I went there very apprehensive about the German citizens' feeling about the Army, but it took only one small incident to alleviate my fears.

While riding through a small German village, we came upon a group of school children walking down the sidewalk. Their enthusiasm and friendly smiles were enough to warm any heart. After watching these kids flash us the peace sign and wave, I soon realized that maybe we aren't considered the villains, after all.

Older people who experienced World War II went out of their way to smile and be helpful. They know our presence there is essential for them to continue their peaceful lifestyle.

I had coffee with a German captain one morning during a field exercise we were covering. He had arrived at the farmhouse the night before, at 10 p.m., and the farmer allowed him to move a unit of more than 30 vehicles and 200 men into his backyard.

It's easy to sit back in your living room, reading the evening newspaper, and criticize the expenditure of money to maintain a military force over 5,000 miles away. But it's a completely different story when you have the opportunity to see a situation first-hand.

How many people try to escape to East Germany?

Our involvement there had one basic function: to protect the most basic precious element of human existence, freedom.

We have an obligation, because of our prior involvement there, to maintain what our soldiers accomplished for the German people, almost 40 years ago: the right to live in a free society. Any drop in our military strength would only be an invitation for the Communist forces to take this away from a fine and hard-working people.

Deterrence means freedom to millions of German citizens, and Americans need to understand the importance of a strong deterrent force.

Also, I have read numerous articles in American newspapers about drug problems and the low I.Q. levels of our soldiers.

In the 15-day period I spent in Germany, I observed the American soldiers on the job and I came home with a whole new confidence in their ability to accomplish their mission.

They are bristling with confidence and very good at what they do. They take their jobs seriously and, after talking with many different men in different areas of responsibility, I am convinced they are the finest fighting force in the world.

People seem to forget the Army today is a volunteer force. None of the men I talked to were drafted. They are in the Army because they believe in the American way of life and, if the time comes, they are willing to sacrifice their own life to protect their beliefs.

It seems to me the time has come for the American people to quit downgrading these dedicated men and women of the United States Armed Forces and let them know they are appreciated. They are a proud group of people and the American citizens should let them know we are proud of what they are doing and what they stand for.

BG Gast retires after 34 years

Brig. Gen. William P. Gast, the Kentucky Air Guard's Chief of Staff, retired in October after 34 years of service. In a retirement ceremony, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, presented the Legion of Merit and Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal to Gast, who has often been called the "enlisted man's general." He rose to the rank of technical sergeant before commissioning and logged more than 6,000 hours of flight time. He has been credited with personally recruiting more than 100 people into the Air Guard.

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"TO THE PRESIDENT" echoes through the chamber as Sen. Wendell H. Ford, left, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman and 700 hundred other officers, warrant officers, and guests of the Kentucky National Guard are directed by the President of the Mess, Lt. Col. Maurice D. Farmer, through the formal portions of the tenth Annual Dining-In held at Louisville in September. (Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

207th builds unique bridges

By Capt. Keith Kappes

Why build a bridge over dry land? Does a raft look like a bridge?

Members of the 207th Engineer Company, based in Jackson and Hazard, found the answers during a weekend training exercise in mid-October at the Eastern Kentucky Weekend Training Site near Clay City.

The unit's bridge platoon proved that its standard float bridge equipment, the M4T6, also can be utilized to carry military vehicles across gaps other than water.

"This was our first exercise with a dry span and it was good training," said Staff Sgt. Gene Hamilton of Beattyville, NCOIC of the bridge platoon. "We achieved our objective to develop the ability to fabricate and install bridge components quickly without the use of our cranes or lift aircraft."

Nearby, members of three combat engineer platoons from the unit's Hazard element were learning to assemble a light tactical raft, another standard equipment item of the 207th, a subordinate unit of the 149th Armored Brigade.

"One of our new men remarked that it was the first raft he had seen which really looked like a bridge," said Sgt. Albert Napier, the unit's instructor for raft training. "Our bridge platoon handles this equipment easily and we want our other troops to do the same."

Maj. Ed Taylor, commander of the 207th, added: "Our people learned during annual training at Camp Shelby this year that we must be able to keep the brigade's tracks on the move and bridging is vital to that mission."



BRIDGE BUILDING—Members of the 207th Engineer Company assemble a bridge as part of their training at the Eastern Kentucky Weekend Training Site. (Photo by Capt. Keith Kappes)

CID unit sets target on waste, abuse of government property

By Spec. 4 Sparky Goodman

Waste and abuse of government property within the Army Guard will be the targets of one of the Guard's newest units.

Lt. Col. Edward T. Dougherty Jr., a state police officer for 24 years, is the commander of the 615th Criminal Investigation Detachment, based in Frankfort. Dougherty said that their mission "is to investigate all felony offenses and to assist the Adjutant General and commanders in maintaining the integrity of the Kentucky National Guard."

The 18 members of the unit were selected based on their individual qualifications and experience. For the next few

years the individual investigators will be trained and accredited. The accreditation process for investigators requires them to complete 171 hours of correspondence work beyond their regular National Guard obligations. All members of the new unit, including clerk typists, must undergo a thorough personal check. The investigators are also attending classes at the State Police Headquarters in Frankfort. All of the investigators are employed as civilian police officers.

For the next 6 to 8 months the new CID members will be working closely with their active Army counterparts in an extensive one-to-one training program at Ft. Knox. Their annual training will also be

spent at Fort Knox in order to familiarize members with the day-to-day operations of a CID unit.

Capt. Roy E. Sturgill, executive officer of the new unit, commented, "We don't want to give everybody the wrong impression. We are not headhunters. We are simply an investigative unit." When asked to give his impression of the new unit, Sturgill replied, "I am excited about the unit because it offers policemen in the Guard the opportunity to combine their civilian and military skills and I am confident that the top notch people who have been selected to fill the ranks will do an excellent job."

Rifle, machinegun team keeps winning tradition

By Spec. 4 Sparky Goodman

The Kentucky Army National Guard continued its winning tradition at the annual National Guard Rifle, Pistol and Light Machinegun Championships in September. The match, held at Camp Robinson, Ark., resulted in the M-16 rifle team being re-ranked 12th in the nation and the light machinegun team walking away with almost all of the top honors.

Staff Sgt. Steve A. Cowan, of Science Hill, shot a 341, 306, and a 338 to win the overall M-60 light machinegun championship. Cowan's 338 score set a new record for the course.

Spec. 4 Terry L. Hood, of Somerset, shot a 349, 303, and a 332 to finish

second to Cowan in the same championship. Hood won first place in the first round of the match with his score of 349.

Staff Sgt. Ray E. Patterson, of Ingle, who holds two current M-60 firing records, won second place in the M-60 open match with an aggregate score of 900.

Staff Sgt. Frank Van Dorsten, of Somerset and a newcomer to the machinegun team, proved himself by winning the first place award for new shooters with scores of 325, 293 and 282. Van Dorsten earned first and second place awards during the first two individual matches and he placed fourth in the third match.

Additionally, both Hood and Cowan won the "Chief's 50" patch, a distinguished shooting award. Cowan also received a

presentation M-1 Garand rifle and is the third person in Kentucky to earn this award.

The rifle and machinegun team members practice once every few weeks on a regular basis.

"These guys are dedicated to the team and are willing to practice on their own time," said Sgt. 1st Class John Orberson. "In order to be good at shooting, you have to be committed to it. You have to be willing to sacrifice for it like these guys have."

Headquarters

(continued from page 1)

STARC goes to its mobilization station, Barker said.

Duties assigned to the Command and Control element will be assigned to troop command within STARC, Barker said.

Under the new command system, several senior NCO positions, as well as officer slots, were established.

Wellman said that those in the headquarters element will have to start recruiting from the Frankfort area to fill these new positions instead of depending on NCOs and officers from other regions to take the vacant slots.

Standiford Field runway extension approved

The Kentucky Air National Guard has received approval and funding for extension of a runway at Louisville's Standiford Field.

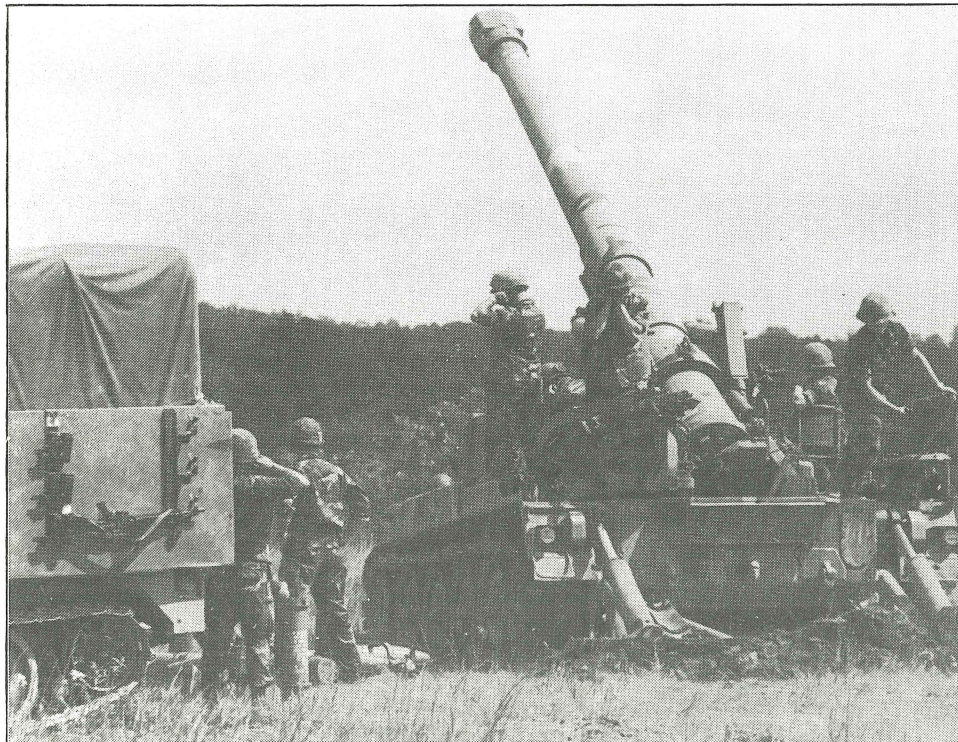
The National Guard Bureau approved the project, which calls for an extension of runway 1-19 to 10,000 feet. Plans also call for extension of a parallel taxiway and relocation of lighting and of the barrier at the end of the runway.

Brig. Gen. Carl D. Black made the announcement saying, "This endeavor will

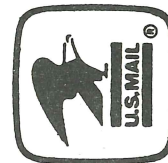
significantly enhance the operational capability of the Air National Guard. "The extra 2,200 feet of runway will substantially improve the measure of safety in case of a ground abort or an emergency."

In addition, the runway extension will aid in noise abatement and give great flexibility to the Air Guard as it approaches the year 2000, the general noted.

The entire project is estimated at \$5 million with the Guard paying 80-90 percent of the cost.



FROZEN FOREVER in that moment in time between the pull of the lanyard and the recoil of the 155mm gun are members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 623d Field Artillery during Family Day Activities held at Fort Knox in September. (Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)



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