

Guard authorized strength over 8,000

By Capt. Tom Little

The Kentucky National Guard's authorized strength is now over 8,000 for the first time in the state's history, according to remarks made by Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, at the 51st Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky in Lexington.

He explained that this increase will come from activation of two new units and reorganization of two existing military police units. He said he also hoped for increases in Air Guard authorization in the future.

The new structure would bring two new units to Frankfort. One is a dental detachment with 55 members and the other is a

criminal investigation detachment with 18 members. The 614th Military Police Company in Murray will increase its strength from 116 to 165, while the 198th Military Police Headquarters in Louisville will increase its unit strength by 25.

These actions will bring the Army Guard strength to 7,012, while the Air Guard strength remains at 1,075.

Wellman had announced only two weeks prior to the conference that the Army and Air Guard had both reached 100 percent of their authorized strength. He has also said he feels Kentucky should be able to maintain a strength of 9,000 troops by 1990.

Wellman summarized achievements with in the Air and Army Guard in the past year,

and set goals for the coming year. Air Guard goals include 100 percent strength and skill manning, accident-free flying, participation in significant Air Force exercises and winning two prestigious trophies.

The Adjutant General noted that the Army Guard had finally achieved a separate brigade in Kentucky, and he cited the success of new units in Newport and Louisville.

He expressed concern about the current retention rate of 62 percent and set a goal of 75 percent for the coming year. He explained that retention NCOs will be employed in Madisonville, Louisville and Lexington and that several recruiters,

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Brrr...weather is enemy in winter training

By Capt. Gordon Nichols

Kentucky Guard units are accustomed to annual training in states like Mississippi, Texas and Missouri, and in temperatures that usually average in the 85 to 95 degree range.

Detachment 1, Company C, 1/149th Infantry from Richmond had a different experience during two weeks at Camp Ripley, Minn. in January. This winter training is the first chance Kentucky Guard units have had to operate in such an environment with its numerous problems.

"It seemed many times that the weather was our worst enemy," Capt. John Julian, the unit commander, said. The temperatures never climbed above the zero mark and while we were in the field for four days, the temperature dropped to 42 below zero with 40 inches of snow on the ground, he said.

The detachment spent the entire two weeks training on skis and snowshoes and

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SNOWED IN - Members of Detachment 1, Company C, 1/149th Infantry from Richmond practiced range firing in an unusual training environment at Camp Ripley, Minn. More Kentucky units may be chosen for similar training in the future.

Officials optimistic at conference

Officers attending the 51st Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky heard top National Guard officials express optimism about many programs, and several units and individuals were recognized for outstanding performance at the Lexington meeting.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Garritson, a Kentucky Guardsman who serves as President of the Enlisted Association, National Guard of the United States, explained the mission of that association and highlighted several legislative achievements. He also discussed the Association's building fund and told the group that they are seeking \$400,000 to meet their goal. He also told of their upcoming national conference at Opryland in Nashville.

Maj. Gen. Emmitt Walker, Director of the Army National Guard, noted that significant progress had been made in the past year. For example, he told the group that eight new training programs had been funded and \$50 million has been allocated by Congress for specialized equipment, such as chemical and cold weather gear. He also told of several other significant appropriations, including funds which will provide additions to the Bowling Green Armory and the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office during the current year.

However, he also noted that Congress reduced an appropriation by \$6.5 million because they felt people were being paid for drills they did not attend.

He had glowing remarks for the "buddy" platoon system, under which Guardsmen from a community or state may undergo basic training together. He said that these platoons were showing a 95 percent completion rate.

He also said that a previous goal of putting a full-time trainer in virtually every Army Guard unit has been approved and trainers will be assigned over the next two years.

On the Air Guard side, Maj. Gen. John D. Conaway, another Kentuckian who

serves as Director of the Air National Guard, said that the Kentucky Air Guard epitomizes the Guard's motto: "Strength through Readiness."

"Are we still a bargain? You bet we are!" Conaway said. "The entire Air Guard is rapidly approaching wartime strength. Meanwhile the regular Air Force is spending 55 percent of its funds on personnel compared with the Air Guard's 22 percent."

Conaway said that means the Air Guard stands a better chance of getting funding for adequate training, facilities, and equipment.

The Air Guard Director praised top Kentucky leaders and unit members for efforts to establish a photo interpreter's school and to provide staff assistance visits for wing units in Nevada, Idaho and Nebraska. He also commended the units for maintaining 100 percent strength.

Several marksmanship awards were presented, including individual honors to Sgt. 1st Class Jerry D. Crossett, Staff Sgt. Will Thomas, Spec. 4 Charles E. Green, Sgt. Bobby Middleton and Capt. Daniel Wells. Teams earning recognition were 198th Military Police Battalion (Blue Team); Detachment 1, 1155th Transportation Company; 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry (Blue Team); and 149th Separate Armor Brigade.

Additionally, the prestigious Eisenhower trophy, given to the outstanding company or battery-sized unit in the Kentucky Army Guard, was presented to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, of Campbellsville. First Lt. David Young commands the unit.

Battery C, 2nd Battalion, Bardstown, earned the Efficiency in Maintenance award for the year, while they also received the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office Award, which was given for the first time.

The Livermore unit, Company A, 2nd

Battalion, 123rd Armor was recognized as the top tank company.

The Kentucky Easter Seals Society recognized several units for outstanding contributions in their annual fund-raising drive. Units receiving recognition included Company A, 201st Engineer Battalion, Ashland; 198th Military Police Battalion, Louisville; Company B, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, Henderson; and Company C, 42nd Aviation Battalion, Frankfort.

Air Guard Tech. Sgt. Todd Beasley was honored as the Outstanding Enlisted Guardsman of the Year. He competed against other Air and Army Guardsmen across the state for the honor. Beasley, who works as a recruiter for the Kentucky Air Guard, thanked many people who have contributed to his success.

In other business, the membership elected new officers for the coming year. Air Guard Capt. Glenn Adair was picked as President-Elect, while Maj. Larry Arnett will serve as Vice President, Army, and Maj. Michael Hardin will be the new Vice President, Air.

Several commands also elected or re-elected representatives to the Executive Council. These include Capt. Ed Taylor (201st Engineer Battalion), Maj. Jere Roche (149th Armor Brigade), CW4 Carl Edwards (103rd Support Battalion), Capt. Sam Rankin (2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery), and Col. John Smith (123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing).

The group adopted only four resolutions during the session. One seeks simultaneous membership for individuals in the Air National Guard and Air Force ROTC. The second seeks congressional authorization and funding for increased full-time force. The third opposes elimination of paid military leave for federal employees, and the final resolution opposes a pay (CAP) for individuals receiving salaries from a military and federal service.

Shoot the shooters

Photographers, take aim!

Small arms marksmanship in the Guard is the theme of a new photo contest for Guardmembers sponsored by the Unit Marksmanship Support Center, in Nashville.

The black and white 5x7 entries should make a statement or tell a story about rifle, pistol or machinegun marksmanship in the Guard. The entries can be action shots, human interest, candid portraits or pure artistic expression with no limit on the number of entries per person.

Anyone can enter, with the exception of public affairs officers and public affairs detachment members.

The winning photo may be printed in various National Guard newsletters and magazines. The Kentucky state champion will receive a certificate of appreciation and be eligible for the national championship prize, a target-grade air rifle.

Each photo must be accompanied by the photographer's name, rank, Guard unit, hometown and a brief explanation of the photo. Mail all submissions to: "Shoot the Shooters," Unit Marksmanship Support Center, Sidco Drive Armory, Nashville, TN 37204.

Entries will be accepted until Sept. 30.

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Tank honors 66 men who fought at Bataan

By Spec. 4 Sparky Goodman

One of the first sights encountered while driving down Kentucky Highway 127 into the historic town of Harrodsburg is an antiquated M3A1 "General Stuart" light tank. Although inoperative, the tank appears in mint condition thanks to the Kentucky Army Guard's Company D, 103rd Support Battalion. A monument, headed by the single word, "Bataan," stands next to the tank. Its unadorned inscription reads:

"The men whose names appear on this monument sailed from San Francisco 27 October 1941 under sealed orders with 192nd G.H.Q. Tank Battalion and arrived at Manila 20 November 1941. They fought to defend Bataan and Corregidor, 'one of the decisive battles of the world,' in a long protracted struggle to save the Pacific and Australia from enemy hands while the United Nations gathered strength to resist."

The plaque then lists the names of 29 Mercer County (Harrodsburg) men who gave their lives for our country and a list of 37 men who survived the "Bataan Death March" and more than 3½ years as prisoners of war before returning home.

These heroic men were members of the Kentucky Army National Guard, which was activated into federal military service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt Aug.

27, 1940. The trials and tribulations faced by these soldiers and their families were epitomized by an article appearing in the July 6, 1942 "Life" magazine entitled "Missing in Action -- With 66 Boys Lost on Bataan, The People of Harrodsburg, Kentucky Pay Their Price For Freedom."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur paid his tribute to those who fought in Manila, saying, "No army in history more thoroughly accomplished its mission. Let no man henceforth

speak of it other than as a magnificent victory." It is this enthusiasm and pride that led to the dedication of the "General Stuart" light tank.

Through the continued support and guidance of Capt. James Foster, Warrant Officer Victor ReFalo, Sgt. Herman Taylor and the other members of the unit, the tank will continue to be a source of pride for the residents of Harrodsburg and an inspiration to us all.



SGT. HERMAN TAYLOR applies a coat of paint to a historic tank displayed prominently in Harrodsburg. The tank memorializes 66 former Kentucky Guardsmen. (Photo by Staff Sgt. D.C. Reed)

Frankfort, Louisville teams take top honors

Frankfort and Louisville teams took top honors, while an Army and Air Guardsman earned recognition in the Kentucky Guard's recently-completed small bore indoor marksmanship competition.

Detachment 1, 1155th Transportation Company, Frankfort, fielded the top rifle team, with an aggregate score of 1,482. The team consisted of Staff Sgt. Hager Hollon, Sgt. Chuck Reed, Spec. 5 Ben Clement and Spec. 4 Charles Green.

Battery A, 1st Battalion, 623rd Field

Artillery, of Tompkinsville, finished in the runner-up position with a 1,421 tally.

In pistol competition, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 149th Separate Armor Brigade, of Louisville, recorded a 1,060 score, topping Louisville's 198th Military Police Battalion by 26 points. The winning team was composed of Maj. Edward Plymale, Warrant Officer 1 Patricia Upton, Staff Sgt. James French and Spec. 4 Leonard Jackson.

Staff Sgt. Will Thomas Jr. was the top individual pistol shooter. The 438th Military

Police Company marksman scored 286. Sgt. 1st Class Ted Simmons, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, was only two points off the pace.

Capt. Daniel Wells, of the Air Guard's 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, headed the list of rifle shooters with a 385 mark. His nearest competitors were Reed and Hollon, both members of the winning 1155th Transportation Company. Reed scored 369, while Hollon was a point behind.

Brrr... weather is enemy

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wearing uniforms unlike the ones they wear in normal conditions. They did range fire with all of their weapons and completed a four-mile forced march on skis.

Julian also noted that there were no serious injuries or cases of frostbite. "The men were trained before going on the

possible problems and they performed with a professionalism that gained them a C-2 rating from the active force."

Some of the problems they faced included starting the vehicles every two hours, 24 hours-a-day so they would not completely freeze. Weapons, after being outside, would sweat from the inside heat and then freeze when outside again.

Col. Harold Loy, Director of Training, said that this experience made everyone realize how slow a conflict in the middle of winter can be. "We know that the extremely cold temperatures made this a difficult training task but the lessons learned will be invaluable to each soldier," Loy added. More units are expected to be chosen for this type of training in the future.

CTSQT covers basic skills for MOSs

By Pfc. J.C. Newton

Soldiers whose Military Occupation Skill (MOS) has had no Skill Qualification Test (SQT) will now take the Common Task Skill Qualification Test (CTSQT).

According to Staff Sgt. John W. Orbersen, Training Standards Officer for the Kentucky Army National Guard, of the more than 400 MOSs in the Army, 150 have no SQT. The CTSQT, which covers basic soldiering skills, will now be given to all soldiers who hold such specialties.

Soldiers who took an MOS specific test last year can expect to take one again this year. Those working outside their Primary

MOS (PMOS) will take the technical SQT that applies to their PMOS.

The CTSQT will be given to all troops, with the exception of soldiers working in Personnel Management Programs.

The test is designed to identify and eliminate deficiencies in common task training.

Alluding to the administrative problems of the tests, Orbersen pointed out, "For example, the 198th Military Police Company has 62 troops in an MOS. In order to test the troops, about 350-400 booklets are needed for each component in skill levels 1-4.

The CTSQT, like the SQT, is organized into three parts: Skill Component (SC), Hands-On Component (HOC) and Job-Site Component (JSC).

The CTSQT will be administered through Aug. 31, 1982. Every unit will be required to schedule all eligible soldiers for testing during this period. A new CTSQT will be developed each year and given during this same time period.

Guard strength—

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including the medical officers, will be added to the full-time staff.

Wellman has special praise for the Army Guard aviators who have completed 11 years of accident-free flying. He also had kind words for the Kentucky Military Academy and noted that for the first time, there were more applications from NCOs than the Academy could handle.

Wellman complimented the Air Guard for having facilities that are among the best in the nation, and he pleased armor troops by informing them that he had received funds to construct tank washing facilities at the Western Kentucky weekend training site.

Court case reaffirms rights

A recent court decision reaffirms provisions of federal law that protect members of the National Guard.

The decision was rendered by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri and involved a Missouri Army National Guardsman.

In the case, David P. Ledbetter charged that his employer, Slay Transportation Company, Inc., had discharged him because he had requested military leave to attend mandatory training.

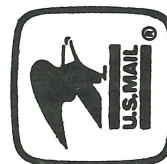
In June 1978, Ledbetter informed his employer that he had received orders to report for two weeks' annual training with the Guard. He was fired that day.

Ledbetter contacted the U.S. Department of Labor, asserting the discharge violated his rights under the Federal Veterans' Reemployment Rights Law.

Attempts to negotiate a settlement failed, so the Labor Department referred the case to the Justice Department, which filed suit.

Ledbetter requested reemployment, seniority and lost wages from his employer but, partly because of his health, the court limited damages to \$4,360. These were losses he could reasonably claim as a result of the wrongful discharge, according to the court.

In the findings, the court cited "Monroe v. Standard Oil," a case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 1981. The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Veterans' Reemployment Rights statute protects "the employee-reservist against discrimination-like discharge and demotion motivated solely by ... Reserve status." (ARNEWS)



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THREE MEMBERS of the Hopkinsville Army Guard's riot control team prepare to "flush out" a sniper during a recent training session at the Armory. The men belong to Company B, 1st Battalion, 123rd Armor. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Murphy)