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Kentucky first to get Blackhawks

By Capt. Tom Little

The Blackhawk, the Army's most sophisticated transport helicopter, will soon be part of the Kentucky Army Guard's inventory in the "first in the nation" assignment.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, announced that Kentucky will be the first state to receive the Sikorsky-built helicopters. Two are expected in the state by October. Wellman said they would probably be the only two available for several years.

The aircraft will be assigned to Frankfort's 1155th Transportation Company.

The helicopter carries a crew of three and will transport up to 14 troops. With-

out a troop load, the aircraft can lift 6,500 pounds by sling load.

Wellman said that the equipment assignment speaks well of the Kentucky Guard's aviation program and of the "Total Force" policy. He told a press conference, "These certainly aren't hand-me-downs—they're the best available and many active Army units don't have theirs yet."

Kentucky Army Guard aviators have flown 11 years and 44,000 hours without an accident. Wellman said this was undoubtedly a factor in selecting Kentucky to receive the Blackhawks.

Bill Tripp, a Sikorsky representative, said the Blackhawk is the most "crash

survivable" aircraft in the Army system. He explained that the helicopter has many redundant systems and in tremendous protection, including crash and ballistic tolerant fuel cells. He set the price per helicopter at \$4.6 million, which includes some development costs.

The twin-engine helicopter is designed to eventually replace the UH-1 "Huey" aircraft currently in use. Kentucky has 36 UH-1 helicopters.

The Blackhawk cruises at 168 mph and can reach top speeds of 223 mph. At cruising speed, it has a range of 2.5 hours.

Kentucky aviators and maintenance staff are scheduled to begin training on the new equipment at schools in August.



TWO FIRSTS—The Kentucky Army National Guard will be the first state to receive the Sikorsky-built Blackhawk, the Army's most sophisticated transport helicopter. Two are

expected in the state by October. (Photo courtesy U.S. Army)

123d Armor authorized wartime strength

By Capt. Tom Little

Kentucky Army Guard armor troops will train in greater numbers, at a different location, and in different tanks in the future as a result of changes recently announced.

Col. Harold O. Loy, Director of Plans, Operations, and Training, said that the 1st and 2nd battalion, 123d Armor have been authorized their wartime levels of strength and equipment. This will bring the authorized strength of each battalion from 501 to 561. All of the new positions are enlisted.

The change also brings a tank increase from 43 to 54 in each battalion, and all have already been received in the state.

The two battalions have recently concluded a transition from the M60A1 tank to the M48A5. Loy explained that, though the M48A5's are older, they have been modified to have the same capability and

maneuverability as the M60A1. The gun on the two tanks is identical.

Loy noted that the switch was made primarily because the M60A2 tanks could not be obtained in any quantity and the M48A5 was available in the war stock.

Another major change moves the mobilization station of the 149th Separate Armor Brigade to Fort Stewart, Ga. A Fort Hood, Tex. location had been requested because of its facilities and Kentucky's affiliation with Fort Hood units, but officials at the Texas site rejected the request because they could not accommodate a unit of the brigade's size as well as others already assigned there.

Kentucky Guard officials accepted Fort Stewart as an alternative because of its excellent tank ranges and accessibility. It is about the same distance from Kentucky as is Camp Shelby, Miss., a frequent training site.

Loy said that while Fort Hood would have been the "ideal" mobilization site, Fort Stewart is "closer and very suitable." He pointed out that Charleston, S.C. and Savannah, Ga. are reasonably near and that both are major sea ports that could be used for overseas deployment.

Though the change will not affect any immediate annual training plans, Fort Stewart will apparently be the location of brigade annual training many years in the future. Loy said that the brigade will train at Fort Hood in 1983 and move to Fort Stewart in 1984.

State Headquarters staff will attempt to schedule the brigade's training as a unit in each future year, subject to travel funding limitations.

The mobilization site change will also have no effect upon unit affiliations or "Capstone" assignments.

11-year drive

Guard collects \$1 million for Easter Seals

Kentucky Army Guardsmen donated their time recently to top \$1 million in collections for the Kentucky Easter Seal Society. In the previous 10 years Kentucky Guardsmen had collected \$996,325.34.

This year's collection exceeded \$50,000, though some reports had not been received at press time.

In most past years, units were able to collect funds as part of their community service activities during training assemblies. Now, however, because of changing regulations and differing interpretations, such use of training time is not permitted.

In Ashland, three units combined to collect \$11,262. Those units were Head-

quarters and Headquarters Company, 201st Engineer Battalion; Company A and Detachment 1, Company B, 201st Engr. Bn.

The Carlisle unit collected \$2,366, while Cynthiana gained \$1,820, and Henderson collected \$1,816. The Middlesboro unit took in \$1,750 and Jackson collected \$1,725.

Kentucky marksmen earn honors at region competition

Members of the Kentucky Army Guard's Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Battalion have again earned honors in light machinegun competition against marksmen from the Active Army,

Army Reserve and National Guard units from other states.

Kentucky's shooters competed against 60 other individuals and 13 teams to claim honors at the 1982 USA Forces Command Central Region Championships at Fort Riley, Kansas. They fired during periods of sleet, snow and rain with temperatures in the low 30's.

The Kentucky team, composed of SSgt.

Ray Patterson, Sgt. Steve Cowan, SP4 Terry Hood, and PFC Gregory Wilson, finished the two-mile run in the physical fitness phase in second place. The team runs in full combat uniform with the M-60 weapon.

Patterson won first place in the overall competition with a score of 343 out of a possible 500 points. Cowan was second overall and was the top "new shooter."

The Kentucky team won all three matches and the "Grand Aggregate" title.

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Formula helps clarify retirement confusion

Whether military retirement is years off, or on the horizon, it seems to be a mysterious process, capable of confounding all.

First, who's eligible and when? To determine the answer, follow the 20-8-60 formula. You're eligible if you've completed 20 years of qualifying military service, including the last eight in a Guard or Reserve unit, and are at least 60.

Upon meeting those conditions, you are

eligible for retirement pay, survivor benefits, use of facilities on military installation, medical benefits, and "space available" travel.

Military installations offer the retiree a wide range of opportunities. The Retired I.D. card grants access to commissary stores, post exchanges, clothing sales stores, theaters, recreation facilities, clubs, guesthouses, and beverage stores.

Buddy Platoon appears successful



MEMBERS OF THE Kentucky Army Guard's first "Buddy Platoon" collect their uniform items during processing at Fort Knox. The first class graduated recently and the second is in training.

Kentucky's first "Buddy Platoon" has completed basic training and the second group is now well into the training cycle at Fort Knox. Under the program, basic trainees from a single area or state are kept in a platoon through basic training and, in some cases, through advanced training.

The first class was termed a "moderate success" by Kentucky Army Guard officials, as 41 members of the original 50 completed basic training successfully. Most of the class members were from western Kentucky.

Kentucky has eight such platoons set for the remainder of the training year, with several continuing through the advanced portion together.

Lt. Col. Larry Barker, deputy director of personnel, said that the drop-out rate was about normal for both Guard and Active Army trainees. He noted that five of the trainees were dropped for medical reasons.

Barker also cited the Army's Physical Fitness Test as a major cause of failure in many classes, not only in basic training, but also in advanced and officer training. He noted that Guardsmen are going to have to become better conditioned if they are to meet standards over the next two years or if they plan to attend training programs.

Training Extension Courses help develop skills

By Spec. 4 Sparky Goodman

If you are in the process of changing your military occupational specialty, seeking a second occupational specialty or just boning up on the tasks required for you as a Kentucky Army National Guardsman, Training Extension Courses (TEC) may be the ticket you need.

These TEC lessons have been developed by 25 different service schools and they explain in detail the tasks individual soldiers

must perform in both war and peacetime. They also specify the methods and techniques of handling different situations in the correct manner. The TEC program both complements and supports the training functions of the Enlisted Personnel Management System, soldiers manuals, skill qualification tests, the Army Training Evaluation Program and the Battalion Training Management System.

These TEC lessons are available in a var-

ety of media, including printed text, audiovisual shows and audiotapes. They are designed in a self-paced format so anyone from a new recruit to an old pro can take advantage of the information and at his own pace. The lessons can be used by an individual or a group which makes them a very versatile training tool. Over 2,500 different TEC lessons are available to Kentucky Army Guardmembers and they can be found in the educational center located at each Guard armory.

Army Guard assists in distributing cheese to needy

Four Kentucky Army Guard battalions recently assisted the needy in Kentucky by transporting 550,000 pounds of surplus federal cheese to distribution points in the state.

The federal government recently implemented a plan to distribute some of the vast amount of cheese that had been acquired under dairy price support programs. In Kentucky, responsibility for allocating the cheese was assigned to the Department for Human Resources.

DHR Secretary Grady Stumbo solicited help from Kentucky Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman and members of the 103d

Supply and Service Battalion, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 123d Armor, and the 1st Bn.,

149th Armor helped with transportation to local distribution points.

Dependents authorized new PX privileges

Dependents of Guard members who participate in regularly-scheduled inactive duty training may now use post exchange privileges earned by the sponsor.

Dependents may now use one day of exchange shopping for each day of inactive duty training in pay status. The dependent must present the sponsor's leave and earning statement or a letter of authorization issued by the Guard component organiza-

tion and must possess a driver's license or other credentials which verify the dependent relationship.

According to officials of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, dependents who special order merchandise, purchase on a layaway basis or leave items for repair, may complete those transactions on a second day without having the second trip charged against the shopping entitlement.

Warrant Officers: in a special rank

"You can call me Mr. or you can call me Ms., but you doesn't have to call me Colonel."

There are 129 officers in the Kentucky Army National Guard whose rank doesn't necessarily have to be remembered to call them by name. But they deserve the same respect as other officers. They may be called simply Mr. or Ms., as the case may be.

Warrant officers are different from commissioned officers in other ways besides title. For instance, while a commissioned officer is widely trained in many areas, a warrant officer provides a depth of

knowledge in a single area that the commissioned officer cannot.

Most warrant officers serve as enlisted personnel before becoming appointed. While most KyARNG warrants are in the aviation field, other specialized areas include physician's assistants, personnel and maintenance.

To become a warrant officer, a person must be between the ages of 18 and 46 for an initial appointment. He or she must meet the approval of a federal recognition board and the National Guard Bureau. The successful candidate must have a great deal of civilian or military expertise in a certain

field.

Opportunities for promotion in the program are good. Warrant Officer 1, WO1, is the first rank. Promotion to Chief Warrant Officer, CW2, is automatic, upon the commander's approval, three years after the date of appointment.

CW3 and CW4 are the next two grades and are achieved by good performance and by filling time-in-grade requirements for selection. Those requirements are a minimum of six years per grade.

More information on the warrant officer program is available through personnel officers.

Points add up

Retirement benefits grow with Guard years

What are your Kentucky National Guard retirement benefits worth? Just how is retirement pay computed?

As an example, we'll use the retirement benefits available to an E-8, with over 22 years service at age 60:

Total Points - His retirement points total 4,734 for both active duty and National Guard service. That number, when divided by 360, equals 13.15, which represents the total years of service for retirement purposes.

Retirement pay is computed at 2.5

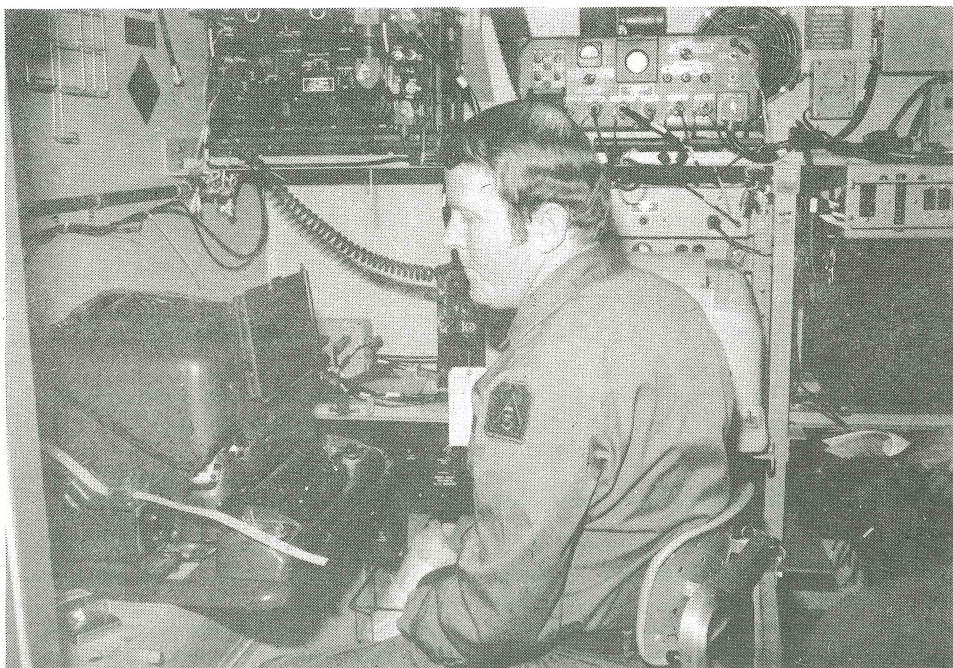
percent of base pay for each year of service. The monthly base pay rate for an E-8 over 22 is \$1,223.70. This amount multiplied by .3288 gives the monthly retirement pay for this individual at age 60 -- \$402.35.

You would have to invest \$1,344 annually for 20 years to have a paid-up life insurance policy that would pay you a monthly income of \$150 at age 60.

By joining or remaining in the Kentucky National Guard you protect yourself and

your family's future by working toward your 20-year retirement.

To be eligible for National Guard retirement, your last eight years must have been spent as a member of the Reserve Components such as the Guard.



BRIGADE '82 PREPARATION—A radio teletype operator sends messages on plans for Brigade '82, the largest camp the Kentucky Guard has ever attempted. The AT period is scheduled for late May and early June.



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