

NATION's Best

By Spec. 4 Bob Walters

The Kentucky Army Guard Light Machine Gun Team, consisting of SSgt. Ray Patterson, Team Captain, SSgt. Steve Cowan, SSgt. Frank Van Dorsten, and Spec. 4 Terry Hood, all of Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry of Somerset, earned top honors in the All Army Championship Match at Ft. Benning, Ga., recently.

On the road to the championship, the team won the Kentucky State Championship Match with the highest score ever fired; the Winston P. Wilson Match, in Little Rock, Ark. with Van Dorsten firing the highest Novice score ever for the match; and the Fifth Army Reserve Match, also in Little Rock.

The squad took the Combat Match with a team aggregate score of 2078. Patterson won the individual aggregate with a 1012

score and Van Dorsten won the Individual Novice with a 946 score.

During the past three years, a M-1 Grand Rifle has been awarded to the individual with the highest score at the Winston P. Wilson Matches. Kentucky Guardsmen have won all three of these rifles with this year's going to Cowan.

In the last four years, the Kentucky Light Machine Gun Team has won 24 Forces Command and All Army trophies, 13 plaques and numerous medallions.



The BLUEGRASS GUARD

Vol. 23, No. 5

Published by the Media Relations Office

December 1983

REFORGER

By Spec. 4 Don Belisle

Despite a series of near-catastrophes that threatened the completion of their mission, the Bowling Green unit of the Kentucky Army National Guard overcame tremendous obstacles and had a very successful experience during "Confident Enterprise," a major North Atlantic Treaty Organization exercise conducted in West Germany recently.

First Lt. Eldon Isenberg, the 2123d Transportation Company's executive officer, was one of five Guardsmen who left a week early to coordinate the arrival of the unit's equipment in Europe. "Our equipment was shipped by rail Aug. 17 from Ft. Knox, to Galveston, Tex., where it was loaded onto a ship bound for Antwerp, Belgium," Isenberg explained.

The problems began in Belgium. "When we arrived at Antwerp, we encountered a couple of small problems," pointed out a grinning Isenberg.

"Two Soviet ships, one on each side of our freighter, moved along side and remained there the entire time. I really don't know what they were doing, but I do know they didn't unload any thing the whole time we were there," noted Isenberg. He added, "I think we were being watched very closely."

Things didn't improve for the five Bowling Green soldiers very rapidly. "Just a little later, we had a bomb threat on our ship and, to make things worse, the railroad workers were on strike," Isenberg said.

Meanwhile, the heart of the company's

23 vehicles remained on board the ship. Isenberg said the equipment was finally off-loaded by a German civilian labor force brought in from Manheim.

It took 10, three-hour convoys to get all of the equipment to Hanau, in West Germany, where the 2123d Transportation Co. was to be attached to the 181st Transportation Battalion, within the 8th Infantry Division.

However, before the convoy could move along Europe's roads, one more problem had to be resolved. "Many of our vehicles were too wide for loading aboard the ship, so all the outside tires had to be removed," Isenberg explained.

"Before the convoy could begin, we had to replace 144 tires," he said. "It took four days, with about four hours of sleep each night."

Isenberg was quick to commend the German civilian work force. "If it hadn't been for their work, we'd probably still be at port," he said. "There should have been a two day pad between the time we arrived at Hanau and the main body got there, but they actually beat us by three hours."

When the equipment arrived at Hanau, it was fully operational and the troops were ready to perform their mission. Throughout the exercise, the unit was to move tanks, armored personnel carriers, and other tracked vehicles and to recover other vehicles with mechanical problems.

A typical mission involved several groups. The Movement Control Center (MCC) would confer with German Military Police about a proposed convoy, and the MCC would then determine if the 2123d could

support the mission.

"Once we gave the OK, the MCC and the Germans, with the help of a computer, plotted the route our vehicles would take," Isenberg explained. "We would then receive a movement clearance and would begin preparing for the mission."

That preparation consisted of pre-operative maintenance on all involved vehicles. Each vehicle would be inspected, a safety briefing would be conducted, and the troops would be told what they would haul and to what location.

One of the unit's principal vehicles, known as a "911", is equipped with two winches and can move 43,000 pounds with each winch. The 2123d was reportedly the first unit in the entire Army to get a full fleet of the vehicles. They began arriving in 1978.

As far as the exercise itself was concerned, Isenberg said the "overall training aspect was great. The company got a lot of good training and our vehicles logged over 13,000 miles on European roads."

"Many people don't realize how important a transportation company really is," the lieutenant noted. "If the trucks don't roll, the equipment doesn't get to the front lines. This exercise showed how functional we can be."

The unit's vehicles are not on the way back to Bowling Green and are scheduled to arrive by mid-November. The company won't be fully operational again until January or February.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, Kentucky's Adjutant General, had high praise for the Bowling Green Guardsmen.

2123d goes to Germany

Raiders in Kentucky



(photos by Spec. 4 J. C. Newton)

By Spec. 4 Don Belisle

Thirty seven weary-eyed soldiers, faces covered with camouflage paint, sat under the trees eating their C-rations as the order came to "move out." Despite not having slept in over 24 hours, the troops quickly gathered their gear, jumped into the back of two, 2½-ton trucks and broke into a verse of 'My Old Kentucky Home.'

"They are really motivated and that's great," said Capt. Steve Collins, Senior TAC Officer with the Kentucky Military Academy. Thirty-five male and two female officer candidates travelled to Barbourville for a weekend of ranger training over the Boone Raider Course.

"The course is a pass/fail situation and those fortunate enough to get through the course are presented with the highly coveted Boone Raider Patch," pointed out Collins. "This course is now mandatory for all officer candidates," he added.

The Boone Raider course was the idea of Command Sgt. Major Harold Disney,

with the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade in Barbourville. "I came up with the idea in 1974 and designed the course," said Disney. "The National Guard Bureau approved it and it is now an accredited course."

"The course is mainly for members of the 149th and the KMA, but when there are slots available, we open them up to other members of the Guard," he said.

When the KMA class arrived at the course on a Friday afternoon, they immediately underwent instruction on what to expect in the days ahead. Teaching all aspects of the course were SFC's Ron Lytle and Cecil Sager, both Ranger instructors with the 2nd Ranger Company, Dahlonga, Ga.

Participants were briefed on a recon patrol that was to be performed at midnight. Split into two groups, the six mile, back breaking mission took students through uncharted strip mines, steep terrain and thick underbrush. "They are strictly on their own at that point," said Maj. Larry L. Arnett, executive officer with the 1st Bn.,

149th Inf. "When they are lost, we are lost."

"It took all night to complete the mission because of the slow pace. The tough terrain led to a pace of about a mile per hour," explained Arnett. "The purpose of this patrol was to observe the enemy without being seen, while utilizing the strictest noise discipline," pointed out Arnett, who also served as an aggressor with others in his unit.

"This kind of training can really make you tired," said Arnett as he attempted to fight a yawn. "This is realistic training and a tactical tool to assist future officers to become leaders," stressed Arnett. "This is the largest group ever to go through the course and we're dealing with future platoon leaders," he added.

Both patrols made it to their destination, despite the black sky and treacherous terrain. "They did really well," said Arnett,

(continued on page 4)

Out of Uniform?

Guard goes to School

Guard members traveling to schools, conferences, or other temporary duty must comply with new Army policies on uniform wear, according to Lt. Col. Larry Barker, Deputy Director of Personnel.

According to the policy, when traveling by private or commercial transportation, civilian clothing may be worn unless otherwise specified by the commander or by orders.

If the individual is traveling in uniform, he must wear the complete Army green uniform. The black windbreaker or pull-over sweater may not be worn. When aboard the conveyance, the coat may be removed.

If the travel is totally within the boundaries of hot or warm climate areas and the temperature is high, travelers may be able to obtain permission to wear the Army Green uniform without the coat.

When travel is by military aircraft or military charter, any appropriate uniform specified by a unit commander may be worn. In some cases, depending upon the ultimate destination of the flight, civilian clothing may be required. However, in virtually all other cases military uniforms are required aboard military aircraft or charter.

Pulaski goes Dry

By SP4 Bob Walters

An eight member water purification team from the Kentucky National Guard's Headquarters Company, 201st Engineering Battalion in Ashland went to Southern Pulaski County recently to purify water for approximately 5,000 people on the Bronston water system. Many area residents had been without water for up to four weeks.

The team, serving on state active duty and consisting of Sgt. Jerry McKenzie, Sgt. James Bowling, Sgt. Billy Morris, Sgt. Herbert Yonts, Sgt. Pat Steele, Spec. 5 Clay Robbins, Spec. 4 Billy Messer, and PFC Tyrone Morris set up a 24-hour operation on Woodson Bend Resort and began purifying water to be put into the water system.

With the assistance of six water tankers from the Pulaski County Fire Departments,

(continued on page 4)

The Kentucky National Guard's tuition assistance program has been a tremendous success in recent years and that very success has forced changes in priorities designed to reduced program costs. As a result, only persons in four categories will have applications considered for approval.

The Kentucky General Assembly appropriates \$150,000 annually to provide up to 50 percent reimbursement for tuition expenses for Guard members attending schools in Kentucky. At the current rate, a deficit of \$80,000 would exist at the end of the state's fiscal year.

The Board that administers the program recently evaluated a wide range of options that could assist as many people as possible while, at the same time, return the program to its budgeted level. As a result, several changes were made and put into effect immediately. Details were mailed to all units.

Under the new system, applications will be accepted from enlisted members in grades E-5 and below; officer candidates at the Kentucky Military Academy; warrant officers in the Physician Assistance

Program; and second lieutenants.

Reimbursement will continue at the 50 percent rate for students at four-year senior colleges and universities, junior colleges, community colleges that are part of the University of Kentucky system, and at theological seminaries. There is a maximum benefit of \$750 during any fiscal year.

Reimbursement at a 25 percent rate will be considered for students at other approved institutions and proprietary schools.

No applications for less than \$25 reimbursement will be processed and all applications must be submitted, with proof of payment from the school, during the term for which aid is requested.

Regulations also require aid recipients to have at least one year of service remaining upon conclusion of the school term.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, said that he sincerely regrets the action, because some people undoubtedly will be denied this benefit. However, he said that gaining increased funding for the program will be high among his priorities in the 1984 General Assembly.

Gains in FY84

The National Guard will gain significant benefits from the FY 1984 Defense Authorization Bill. If the actual appropriation follows the authorization, approximately \$1.2 billion for equipment will be added to the request made by the Department of Defense. It is impossible to determine if Kentucky will benefit directly from the equipment funding.

In a significant change, Guardsmen will now have medical coverage from the time they return on inactive duty training. Previously, such protection has existed only from the time the soldier reached the drill location and ended at the end of the duty day. This "portal to portal" protection will exist only when travel is directly between the duty station and the individual's home.

If an individual is injured, medical care will be provided, but pay and allowances for the recovery period will not be available.

In a major victory, states will retain control of individuals in the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) program. The Army Judge Advocate General had ruled that Guardsmen serving in AGR positions were actually on active federal duty and were, in effect, serving in the active component of the

Army. Therefore, they were not subject to the state chain of command.

Congress changed the language of the legislation to clarify its intent and ensure state control.

A new position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs will apparently be created. This would raise the level of the principal spokesman for Reserve Affairs significantly, because the task has been assigned to a deputy assistant secretary who also had other responsibilities.

The authorization bill includes a four percent pay raise for the military, effective April 1, 1984. In recent years, pay increases have been effective Oct. 1.

On the negative side, Guardsmen have been receiving a Variable Housing Allowance during Annual Training and on short tours. This financial benefit has been removed for any active time less than 120 days.

In another matter, officers who serve on active duty tours will now be able to accept promotions and be paid in a higher pay grade when promotions are available. Previously, officers serving on such tours were "frozen" in rank until the end of the tour.

Jackson's new Armory

By Spec. 4 Don Belisle

In the late 1950's, the city of Jackson stood to lose its Kentucky Army National Guard unit because the local government lacked the real estate in which to build an armory.

Several unit members obtained a loan to purchase five acres of land, deeded it to

the government and a permanent home was provided for the unit. Today, a plaque stands near the entrance of the facility honoring those ten individuals.

Now, some 25 years later, the 207th Engineer Company of Jackson, is preparing for the construction of a new armory.

(continued on page 4)

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

is published using the offset method by the Kentucky Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Office, Boone Center, Frankfort, Kentucky, in cooperation with the 133d Public Affairs Detachment and 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. Frank Mattingly Editor
Capt. Thomas E. Little Associate Editor
SFC Chuck Toler Associate Editor
Jean Marie Smith Typesetter
Douglas E. Buffin Graphic Arts
Capt. Glenn P. Adair Pres., NGAKy
CW4 Edwin G. Birdwhistell President-Elect
Capt. Howard P. Hunt III V.P., Air
Capt. Norman E. Arlack V.P., Army
Col. Jerry W. Heaton Executive Director
Capt. Jasper Carpenter Sec.-Treas.

BOONE RAIDERS

"when you consider they had never seen this area before. That is not an easy thing to do."

Following the night patrol, the exhausted troops ate a hasty C-ration breakfast, then it was off to some rocky cliffs for five hours of instruction in rappelling.

Some candidates, wary of heights, hesitated prior to their initial attempt at bounding from the cliffs. "After the first time, those same individuals were hurrying to get back in line for another turn," said Collins. Collins was obviously proud of his class, which is scheduled to graduate with commissions this summer.

"Something like this definitely builds confidence," pointed out Collins. "This course teaches the officer candidates to recognize what their limits are and gives them the opportunity to exceed them," he said.

Arnett agreed, saying, "The Boone Raider course gives everyone the opportunity to be a leader and the pressure is extreme. Not everyone can handle it and those who can't, simply drop out, because the course is tough. It's no piece of cake," added Arnett.

After making through the rappelling without injury, the soldiers again dined on C-rations and then it was time for more instruction. This time, the class was on the construction of rope bridges, which would be utilized later in the challenging course.

With no sleep or rest, the thirty-seven soldiers continued the hectic pace. "That displayed their ability to react to stress in a combat type situation," pointed out Arnett.

Sitting in a small clearing near the edge of a ravine, the class listened to instructor Lytle explain the construction of a two rope bridge.

The soldiers watched with expressions of awe, as Lytle made things look simple. The Ranger instructor, after completing the rope bridge with the help of some selected students, travelled across the rope with ease, much like a professional high wire performer. A short time later, each student crossed that bridge in preparation for what was to come the following day.

"You see, the soldiers tonight will receive an operations order to conduct a night raid on an enemy position," explained Arnett. "They will hold that position until early morning, when they are given the order to retreat. The soldiers will be forced to construct a rope bridge to cross the river in order to make a successful retreat."

Carrying full equipment, while sliding across the bridge, each soldier was forced to take a plunge in the chilly waters, as they neared the ground on the other side of the river. "That marks the end of the course," said Arnett.

After a weekend of pushing themselves to the limit, all 37 weary-eyed members of the Kentucky Army National Guard can now proudly display the highly coveted Boone Raider Patch.

JACKSON GROUNDBREAKING

A groundbreaking ceremony was recently conducted for the almost \$1.5 million facility, drawing a large crowd of local supporters, despite the thick, early morning fog and chilly temperatures.

"This is a momentous occasion for us," said Company Commander, Maj. Edward Taylor. "The new armory means a lot to the men as well as to the community."

Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman, in delivering the opening address, pointed out the significance of the new armory. "Only four armories were authorized out of 1983 funds and we received two of them," pointed out Wellman. The other armory to be constructed is in Hazard, about 30 miles south of Jackson.

Wellman was quick to give praise to Sen. Walter D. Huddleston and Congressman Carl Perkins for what he termed, "their political maneuvering," which allowed Kentucky to receive federal funds for the construction of two armories.

"You should be delighted you have such an outstanding Adjutant General in Kentucky," said Perkins. "I think he is the greatest in the United States and the most liked," Perkins added. Perkins went on to say, "The new armory is something we all can be proud of."

Huddleston echoed the comments of Perkins and added, "It's important that we maintain this kind of facility, its soldiers and the type of training necessary to meet the challenges that may come."

General Wellman also thanked State Representative Jimmy Maggard, who was instrumental in acquiring state funding for the project. "We did not get General Assembly approval until the last hour of

the last day of the last session," said Wellman. "Without the help of Representative Maggard, a new armory would have not become a reality," he added.

"There's nothing too good for Breathitt County and Eastern Kentucky," exclaimed Maggard. "You're a great Guard unit and I'm proud of you and the new armory," concluded Maggard.

The new armory, which will house 168 soldiers in the unit, is expected to have quite an economic impact on Breathitt County. According to General Wellman, the Kentucky Army National Guard last year spent \$275,000 in Breathitt County.

County Judge Nim Henson and Jackson Mayor Frank Noble both agree the Guard is the best thing that ever happened to their area. "The National Guard is a big benefit to our community," said Noble. Henson added, "The Guard has provided jobs for the county and that's what we really needed."

Construction of the new armory is scheduled to begin in February 1984, with completion scheduled within 12 months. The new armory will be built on land about 50 yards away from the front of the existing facility.

The present armory, which cost almost \$182,000 to construct 25 years ago, will be torn down to provide space for the new armory's parking lot.

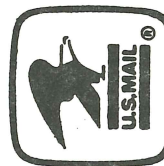
PULASKI WATER

they filled 200,000 and 100,000 gallon water storage tanks and 16 miles of water lines with over 500,000 gallons of water. This action restored water service to everyone on the system.

The Guardsmen continued their 24-hour operation, and were able to provide adequate water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. The Guardsmen were ordered to break down their operation Aug. 17, and to return to Ashland after Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman received word that the Department of Transportation had granted a temporary permit allowing a pipeline to be placed across the route 90 bridge over Lake Cumberland to provide a supplemental water supply for the area.

The Guardsmen purified and pumped over 420,000 gallons of water into the water system during the operation.

McKenzie, section chief, said that this was a very good operation because it gave them a opportunity to conduct a continuous 24-hour operation. He said, "All the equipment performed exceptionally well, and we did not suffer any mechanical breakdowns with the water purification equipment."



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

PERMIT NO. G-5

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