



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD

Flight ends with lift from the Black Hawk

By SFC Chuck Toler



AIR CREWS prepare for the lift by the Blackhawk of a UH-1 from a farmers field during recovery operation conducted at Camp Grayling. (photo by SFC Chuck Toler)

Only minutes into the final leg of what had been a routine cross country flight for two Kentucky Army National Guard pilots, an engine chip detector light illuminated in their UH-1 helicopter.

The hood came off and the instrument training flight abruptly ended as CW2 Glen Alford and co-pilot, Warrant Officer Steve Bates, of the 441st Medical Detachment, began searching for a clear area to land the aircraft. The farming region of southern Michigan soon revealed a cornfield, and the aircraft landed, under full power, with no damage.

Upon removal of the chip detector, a large amount of material was found which led to further inspection of the filter screens, revealing metal shavings including brass, indicating internal breakdown of the engine. The crew took samples of this material on to Camp Grayling where they met with members of Detachment 1, 1155th Transportation Company of Frankfort, for a decision on what action should be taken. According to CW2 William H. Canon, production control officer for the 1155th, the aircraft was unsafe to fly.

The method of recovery was unsure until a crew returned to the disabled craft. It was located approximately 100 meters off a main highway in a soft, sandy area. A wrecker would not have been able to get into the field to retrieve the aircraft. A decision was made to use the UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter for the recovery.

Since this was to be the first time the Kentucky Guard had made an aerial recovery of an aircraft, extensive planning went into the mission. Within two hours after the recovery crew arrived the next morning, the UH-1 was rigged and ready to be lifted.

The final inspection of the rigging and the crew briefing were made by the 1155th executive officer and UH-60 co-pilot Capt. Lloyd Bailey.

The powerful UH-60 slowly hovered over the UH-1 and blowing sand reduced visibility to near zero.

See: Flight
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25 year retired Guardsmen get new plates

By Spec. 4 Bob Walters

Retired members of the Kentucky National Guard with 25 years of service are now authorized to purchase a Kentucky National Guard license plate.

The license plate will be issued for passenger cars or commercial vehicles of 6,000 pounds or less and will be available in December of each year.

To obtain the special plate, retired Guardsmen must acquire form TC 96-277 from the county clerk or National Guard armory. This form must be signed by the applicant and the custodian of Military Records of the Department of Military

Affairs, Boone National Guard Center, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

With this proof of service in the Kentucky National Guard and the payment of a one-time fee of \$25, the license plate will be issued. Annually, thereafter, a new plate or renewal decal will be issued upon application to the clerk's office with proof of service and payment of \$1. As the law is currently interpreted, a person who had a Kentucky National Guard tag but surrendered it upon retirement may return to the use of the tag without the initial \$25 fee.

Additional information can be obtained from the Military Records Manager, 502-564-8557.

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Guard at a glance

AIR AWARDS

Two units of the Kentucky Air Guard have recently earned prestigious awards for outstanding performance. The 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing received its fourth Air Force Outstanding Unit award. This is the highest in-service award given to active duty, Guard or Reserve units. The award covered a period from 1980 through November 1982.

The Headquarters was one of only four units in the nation to receive the Air Force Organizational Excellence award. The recognition covers October 1976 through September 1983.

SGLI CHANGE

Effective July 1, monthly premiums for the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance covered dropped from \$4.06 to \$2.08 for \$35,000 of coverage. Officials noted that investment income has increased and members are living longer, which has given the fund increased assets.

ARMCO SUPPORT

Armco Steel, in Ashland, recently featured the National Guard and Reserve in their employee newsletter. Armco is one of the state's top supporters of the Guard.



RECEIVING THE flag of the 149th Separate Armor Brigade from Major General Billy G. Wellman, Colonel Paul Collins takes command in ceremonies held in Louisville in Aug. (photo by SFC David Curtis) (STARC PAO)

PRO PATRIA is top award for employers

Employers who voluntarily take actions or make policies that make it possible for National Guardsmen to actively participate in Guard activities without any work-related problems can now be recognized through a program sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve National Committee. There are three different awards an employer might receive, but everyone who is nominated will get at least a certificate of appreciation which is awarded by the National Committee and the State Committee.

Federal law requires employers to grant excused absences for military training, so

an employer should do something beyond that in order to be considered for recognition.

The top award, PRO PATRIA, is awarded by the National Committee and no more than 60 are given each year. Individual supervisors, as well as firms and agencies, are eligible for recognition.

A State Chairman's Award, which is a plaque-mounted certificate, is awarded by the State Committee, and certificates of appreciation are awarded to all nominees.

The nomination process is quite simple. A Guardsman must write a letter explain-

See: Employers

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Kentucky Military Academy to offer new courses for Guardsmen

By Maj. Tom Little

It was only a few years ago that "Kentucky Military Academy" really meant "Officer Candidate School." That's true no longer, for enlisted career development courses now make up the majority of courses and enlisted Guardsmen constitute the bulk of students throughout the year.

The current course list includes three career development courses for enlisted Guardsmen, a "pre-basic training" course, a first sergeant course, OCS, a unit commander's pre-command course, a similar course for battalion commanders, a direct appointment course for officers appointed without prior service, and approval has been received for a junior officer development course.

Maj. Mel Shelley, who is the full-time administrator of the academy, summarized the courses and listed admission requirements.

The Primary Non-commissioned Officer course is required for promotion to E-6 and is for those in pay grades E-4 and E-5

who are high school graduates or who have G.E.D. equivalency. Students must be recommended by their first sergeants. The course is designed to train first-line supervisors in basic leadership and soldier skills. It is offered in two options: one weekend and a 15-day period, or four weekends and an eight day period.

The Advanced NCO course is required for promotion to E-7 and is open to persons in grade E-6 or who already hold E-7 rank. A high school diploma or G.E.D. is required. The course emphasizes mid-level NCO leadership and management skills and can be taken in a single 11-day block or on six weekends.

The Senior NCO course is open to E-7s who have had the Advanced course and to E-8s and E-9s. Again, a high school diploma or G.E.D. is required. The course is designed to offer senior level management training.

Shelley noted that the courses are oriented toward practical subjects and that they are designed for the Reserve Components. The NCO curriculum is supervised

by the Sergeant Major Academy.

He also noted that the leadership and stress training is much different in the NCO program and that there is much less structured observation of the enlisted students, particularly as they advance in rank.

There is a 30-minute-per-day physical training requirement and students learn to conduct PT programs. The level of physical activity is geared toward the age grouping of each class.

KMA also offers a one weekend class for persons awaiting basic training so they can get basic skills to make their initial days of active duty less difficult. Students learn to salute, make a military bunk, and properly wear the uniform. Drill instructors from the 100th Military Training Division help conduct the course.

A First Sergeant course will be offered for the first time in September. The 10-day course will be taught in small groups and will concentrate of the technical duties of a first sergeant. It is for current first sergeants or persons identified for potential first sergeant duty in the future.

Company or battery-level commanders, or officers with command prospects in the near future may be selected by higher commanders to attend the Unit Commander's Pre-Command course. This six-day course teaches the officer his duties and responsibilities as commander.

Battalion commanders or those in line for such command in the future may be picked for a similar course at the battalion level. This is a three-day course.

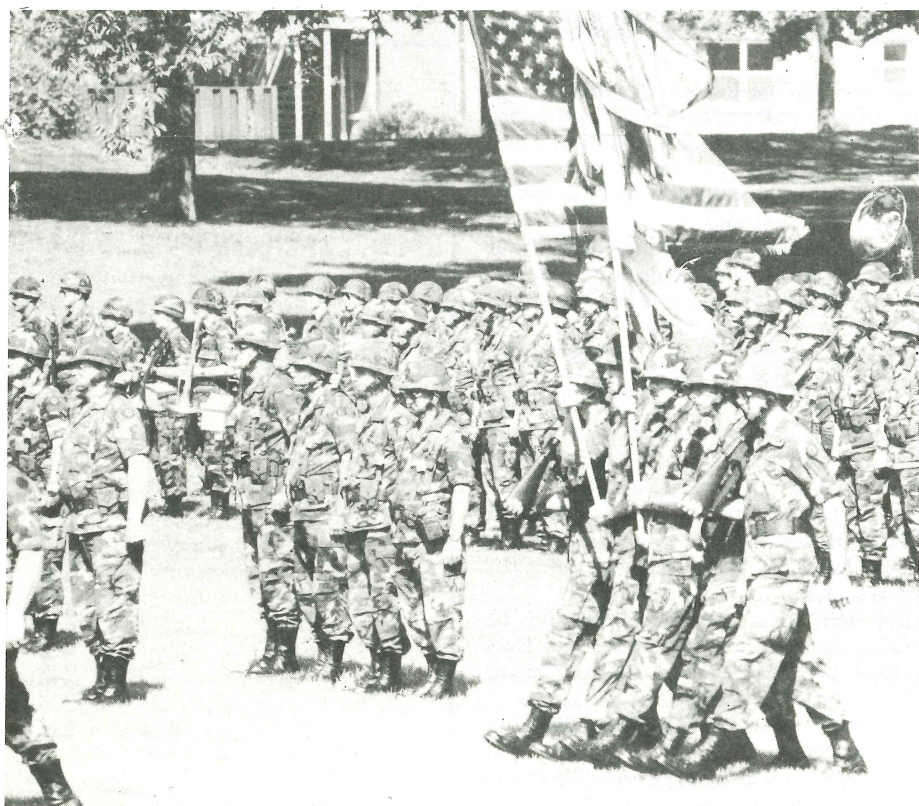
A Direct Appointment course is offered periodically for individuals whose particular specialty has qualified them for direct appointment as officers, without prior military experience. Medical officers, chaplains, public affairs officers, and members of the judge advocate general corps often fall into this category. The course covers three weekends.

A new course for junior officers has been approved, but it has not yet been offered. This course will help train junior officers in areas where no training is normally given. For example, the training could include requirements of a mess officer, physical security officer, or may deal with convoy operations.

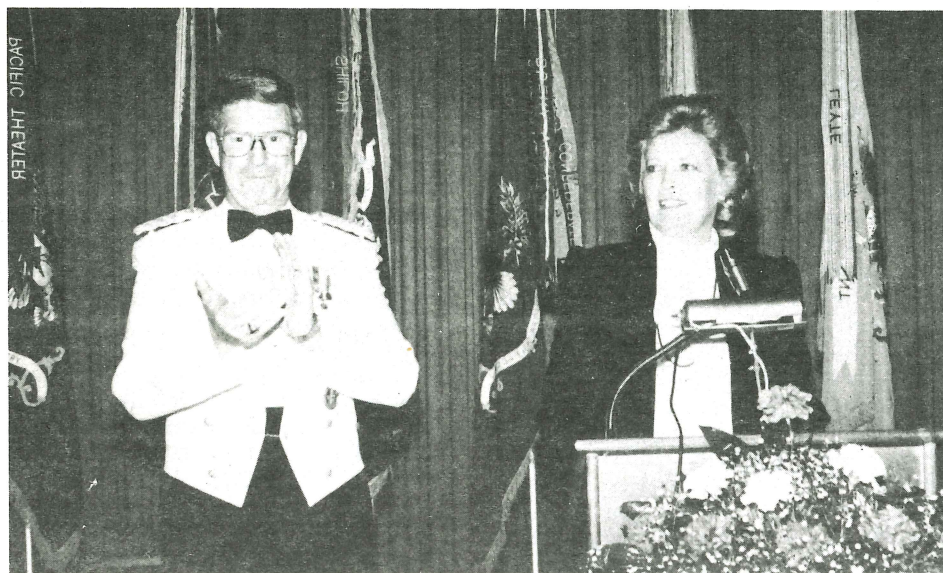
Shelley noted that between 15 and 20 percent of the Kentucky Guard goes through the academy each year, and that the impact of that training has an enormous "ripple" effect.

"How we influence people has further impact on all the people they're responsible for, too," he noted.

Information about specific courses and schedules is available from unit training officers and NCO's.



KENTUCKY JOINS the 35th division in Kansas. 200 Guardsmen belonging to the 149th Separate Armored Brigade traveled to Fort Leavenworth for the reactivation of the Santa Fe Division. (photo by Cpt. Frank Mattingly)



GOVERNOR MARTHA Layne Collins address the officers of the Kentucky National Guard during the annual Dining In held in Louisville on September 29. (photo by Cpt. Frank Mattingly)

Lasers/the new tool for real life training

By Maj. Tom Little

BANG! BANG! You're dead.

Those were familiar words for most children playing army in the years before the advent of "Star Wars" laser pistols.

Kentucky National Guardsmen play war games with laser "weapons", too, but they are considerably more expensive and complex than any toy, and the victim is dropped by an electronic BEEP instead of a shouted BANG.

The Multiple Integrated Laser Engage-ment System (MILES) uses a laser trans-

mitter on weapons and sensors on harnesses worn on the uniform and helmet of troops to clearly identify when a soldier is hit in simulated combat. The sensors can also be mounted on any combat vehicle to determine if it has been hit.

The equipment is so sophisticated that it even records "near misses," allowing both the aggressor and defender to take corrective or evasive action.

MILES equipment is not yet authorized at the unit level, but state director of plans, operations and training Col. Ed Gill said that some Kentucky Guard units have had experience with the devices and more should see it in the coming year.

Armor brigade units used the equipment at Fort Hood in 1983, and Kentucky Military Academy students have used it the past two years.

Gill said that equipment should be available for loan at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell in Training Year 1985 and noted that the National Guard Bureau expects to spend \$30 million on MILES in the next three years.

Plans are already being developed to use MILES during annual training for several units next year, and some should be available for weekend use in the near future.

"I think this is the nearest we'll ever come to actual combat training," Gill said. "It really gets the troops involved and they get together and compare notes after every use. It's tremendous training."

Flight ends in success (Continued from page 1)

"The only thing I could see was the tree line approximately 300 yards ahead and an occasional glimpse of the rotor blades on the UH-1," said CW2 Wallace Walker, the UH-60 pilot. "I was apprehensive at one point whether to continue, but I was receiving hookup instructions from my crew chief Sgt. Larry Slaughter, and he could see better than I."

The hookup was finally made and the ground crew cleared the area. As the "Blackhawk" began to lift, the rotor noise and blowing sand increased. The UH-1 rocked and then broke clear of the soil as the "birds" were airborne to the Army Aviation Support Facility in Grand Ledge, Mich., 50 miles north.

"Crew coordination is extremely important in this type of mission," Walker added. "Each crew member knew exactly what to do and did it at exactly the right time. The UH-60 also lived up to its billing. A mission such as this certainly adds to the crew's confidence in the aircraft."

Kentucky was the first state to receive the UH-60 for National Guard use.



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Employers deserve consideration (Continued from page 1)

ing why his employer deserved consideration for an award, particularly noting those policies or practices which are not required by law.

The letter must include the individual's unit identification, and the address and name of the unit commander.

There is no deadline for nominations, since this is a continuing program.

Letters should be addressed to:

My Boss Is A PRO
NCESGR Awards Officer
1735 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

