

THE BLUEGRASS GUARD



133d Public Affairs Detachment Spends AT in Central America

Members of the Kentucky Army Guard's 133d Public Affairs Detachment, of Frankfort, recently spent two weeks in Central America publicizing National Guard and Reserve road-building projects and other missions in Panama and Honduras.

"It's always challenging to go into a strange environment and prove you can get the job done," unit commander Maj. Tom Little said, "and the staff we worked for was extremely pleased. In fact we earned the Forces Command 4th Estate Award, which is the highest public affairs award the command offers."

During the training period, the Kentucky Guardsmen wrote news releases, took photos and slides, produced videotape TV stories and radio releases and published two newspapers. A team from the unit also supported media coverage of Vice President George Bush's visit to Honduras.

"One of our principal jobs was to get information back to the United States that tells the story of military activity in Central America", Little explained. "Right now there's a lot of negative information available, but the public doesn't hear much about the positive civic action missions or the training opportunities given U.S. soldiers."

The two main exercises the unit reported on were Operation Costa Abajo and Operation Terrencio Sierra. Costa

Abajo is a joint National Guard, Reserve and Active Army project to build a six-mile road through the dense jungle on Panama's Caribbean coast. Terrencio Sierra, in central Honduras, is designed to provide a road where only primitive paths existed before.

"It's obvious these projects help the residents," Little said, "because they will be able to get to the markets, schools and medical facilities throughout the year. Before these roads, the people were virtually isolated during the lengthy rainy season."

"This training greatly helped our unit," Little said. "We were able to train under conditions we couldn't possibly duplicate in the United States, and we again saw different cultures."

It was the second trip to Central America for the unit after two previous training periods in Europe.

Upon the units return, they were presented the FORSCOM 4th Estate Award for Journalism Excellence. The award is normally given to a specific person, but in this case the entire unit was cited.



The road project exercise COSTA ABAJO, in Panama was approximately 5 miles long and involved active Reserve and National Guard troops. Gen. Wellman anticipated that other Kentucky Guard units will be chosen for duty in Central America.

Air Guard Scores High in Photo Finish '85

The Air National Guard's international photo reconnaissance competition – Photo Finish 85 – produced two second place and one third place winners for the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing

(KyANG). It was held from Oct. 5-12 at McClellan AFB, Calif.

Photo Finish 85 was the fifth in a series of tactical photo reconnaissance meets which is designed to pit the best reconnaissance

units against each other. The 123rd TRW hosted the first event which has grown into an international bi-annual event. This year's competition saw 12 units

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Employer Support is Vital to Guard Mission

A Rand Corporation study has confirmed what Guard members have long realized: problems with employers cause reenlistment offers to get turned down.

However, the study also noted that more than 380,000 employers have pledged their support and many employers pay Guard members their full salaries during annual training, while others voluntarily make up the difference between the civilian pay and military income.

On the other hand, almost 31 percent of a sample population of former Guardsmen and Reservists cited employment conflicts as the reason they quit the ranks. Only a slightly higher percentage cited family and leisure time demands as the reason for getting out.

The study indicated that the problem extends to both the private and public sectors, with difficulties sometimes extending even to state government agencies and the state's own National Guard.

Sometimes, though, Guardsmen cause problems themselves. Existing laws designed to protect Guard members and place responsibility on employers also build in some protection for the "boss." For example, the military member is expected to give his employer reasonable notice of time required for training. Some people have also been known to sign up for repeated tours of active duty not

essential to their skill development or unit mission.

The law and court findings have determined that Guardsmen:

- ** must be released from work to attend military training;
- ** cannot be fired because of military status or because they seek time off for training;
- ** get vacation (normally, training time cannot be charged against vacation);
- ** can belong to any service;
- ** can perform voluntary duty with the same rights;
- ** have no limit on the number of times they can go to training;
- ** retain benefits, such as seniority, status, vacation, rate of pay, as if they had never been away.

In turn, the Guard member has certain obligations. He must:

- ** ask for the time off (he can't simply fail to show up);

** report back to work on the next scheduled work day after completion of training;

** consider the employer's needs; that is, he may not abuse the law by repeatedly requesting unnecessary training, since this benefits no one.

Employers have the right to:

- ** know their employees' military training schedule well in advance;
- ** require paperwork, such as copies of military orders;
- ** deny pay or special work scheduling.

If problems exist and cannot be resolved locally, help may be obtained from several sources. Kentucky has an active Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and their assistance is available by calling Major Robert L. Cannon at (502) 564-8467, or by writing him at Boone National Guard Center, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

Engineer's Serve Best Meal in Town

The best place to get a meal in the Kentucky Army National Guard this year is in Ashland at the dining facility of Headquarters Company, 201st Engineer Battalion.

The company's food service team, directed by SFC Harold R. Boggs, recently won the state-wide competition of the Phillip A. Connely Food Service Award

program. The competition, in its 18th year, recognizes the best mess team in the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

The Ashland mess team was chosen as the best in the state by members of the logistics directorate in Frankfort. The team now enters regional competition judged by the Second Army.

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While in Honduras, Sgt. Steve Collier of the 133d PAD, used a hand puppet to gather villagers. Collier, shown here during a medical exercise, was joined by Sgt. Robert Pillow, far right, in news coverage of exercises in Central America.

New Equipment Brings Changes For Guardsmen

By Sgt. Bob Walters

From BDUs to new combat boots to "meals ready-to-eat" (MRE), soldiers can readily see the changes over the past few years in equipment, rations and weapons.

But the soldier can expect to see a new protective mask, lighter chemical protective clothing, "silent" generators and "fire and forget" munitions in the Army inventory in the next few years.

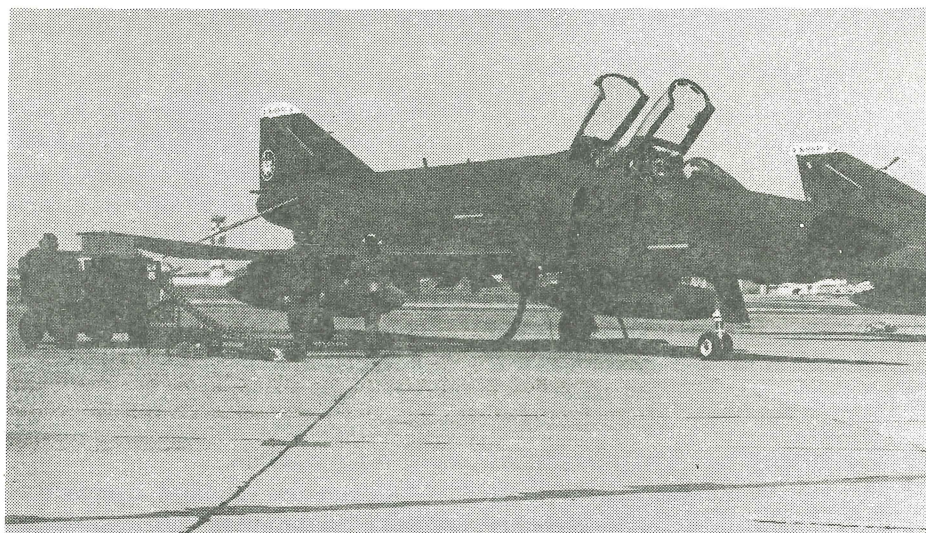
The Army should begin receiving a new protective mask in August, 1986, according to Brig. Gen. Jerry C. Harrison, Deputy Director of Combat Support Systems at the Pentagon. The new mask has a NATO-interchangeable canister as well as side voicemitters for improved communications.

"We're doing a lot of work on protective clothing, as well," said Harrison. "We're trying to lighten it and still provide maximum protection.

Improvements in the Command and Control area include a system that will replace the grease pencil and map board. It will include a computerized maneuver control system that will enhance command and control by telling commanders the status of their units, where they're located and other vital information. The system will be supported by a new position locating and reporting system — an electronic system that will allow a soldier to locate his position on the battlefield and report that position to those who need to know.

The procurement of a new generation of night vision equipment will enable the soldier to fight as well at night as he does in the daytime, says Harrison. "It's not just for the soldiers in the forward battle area, but aviators, as well. Night sights for our weapons systems will be improved so we can see and shoot better at night," Harrison said.

On-going tests at Ft. Hood, Texas involve the testing of various military and commercially available generators which put out little or no noise. The development and procurement of so-called



Start your engine — flight crews of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing prepare for another mission during Photo Finish 85 held at McClellan Air Force Base, Calif. (Photo by KyANG).

"silent generators should enhance the survivability of the soldier on the battlefield, according to research and development officials.

To help alleviate the possible shortage of water, the army is now fielding water production equipment for treating and producing drinkable water from sea water as well as various pieces of equipment which will enhance the storage, distribution and cooling of water.

Fiscal Year 1987 should see new medical equipment for use in the field as well as fixed facilities become available according to Harrison. "We've got improved operating rooms, rigid wall shelters, fabric shelters, x-ray support equipment and electrical generator

equipment that will be standardized throughout the Department of Defense."

According to Harrison, tomorrow's soldier should see some interesting and new technology. "By the year 2000, soldiers should see things like 'Fire and Forget' munitions. These will be munitions you fire and they go out and seek the target." He continued, "I think you'll see a reliance on remotely piloted vehicles for intelligence gathering and target designation."

"We will also see robotics and systems that won't require as many crew members. You'll see more automated ammunition handling, and a strong reliance on new technology and lightweight materials," Harrison said.

New Maysville Unit Gaining Strength

Kentucky's top National Guardsman is pleased with the progress of the new unit in Maysville.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, The Adjutant General, announced that Company A, 206th Engineer Battalion, has reached 42 percent of its authorized strength with 69 officers and enlisted men now assigned.

"We are very pleased with the rapid progress of Company A and the overwhelming community support from the Maysville area and the other four counties which the unit serves," Gen. Wellman stated.

He also announced that the unit soon will be moving into new and larger

quarters on Kenton Station Road.

"Our company commander in Maysville, 1st Lt. Dean Dixon, needs sufficient space to begin his training program while the unit recruits its additional manpower," Gen. Wellman added. "We sincerely appreciate the excellent cooperation we have received from local government and the business community in meeting our space needs with the new temporary facility. We are looking forward to working with Mayor Cartmell and other elected officials toward our goal of a permanent armory."

Gen. Wellman said the unit's new home would include a fenced

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Air Guard - Photo Finish '85

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participating, including, for the first time, a foreign country. It was also the largest meet to date with some 1,000 people and 34 recce birds.

"It was the best ever," commented Lt. Col. Gary Burge, 123rd team captain. The remaining teams from the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve, Royal Australian Air Force, and the Air National Guard all expressed similar views.

In the end, Colonel Burge summarized the contest saying, "Everyone gave us 110 percent. We worked a lot of long, long hours; they take a toll, but everyone still worked hard to support the entire unit and its goals. All can be proud of the 123rd TRW team performance."

The Best Overall Reconnaissance Unit was the 124th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Boise, Idaho. Kentucky placed sixth, but in other competitions rated higher.

Maj. Don Goley and Capt. Jim Allen, KyANG aircrews, were just behind the first place team from the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing in the Best Day crew competition.

The Imagery Interpretation competi-

tion was one of the closest races. Lt. Col. Tom Thorton and the five-member interpreter group pulled down second place with a total of 334.8 points. They were 7.9 points away from the first place while the third place team was just 1.4 points behind them.

Photo Finish 85 also put the 123rd Consolidated Maintenance Squadron (123rd CAM) under the spotlight with their 32-member contingent winning the third place position.

"This was the toughest competition thus far," according to Capt. Paul Stone, maintenance team captain. As it turned out it was also the closest race of the nine events. The 15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Kadena AFB, Japan, won first place just seven points ahead of the 123rd CAM.

"I am very proud of every member of the photo finish team, Capt. Stone explained. "They displayed team spirit and high degrees of job skills when doing their assignments, but topped the whole effort from beginning to the very end with the attitude that is necessary to compete at the level required."

Maysville Unit

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compound for secure storage of the vehicles and other equipment which will begin arriving in the coming months.

As part of an engineer battalion in support of the 35th Infantry Division (Mech), Co. A will utilize armored personnel carriers, armored combat earth movers, armored vehicle launched bridges, armored recovery vehicles and the combat engineer vehicle, a demolition gun mounted on the chassis of an M-60 tank.

The Maysville unit's sister organizations in the 206th Engineer Bn include Headquarters Company in Richmond, Co. B in Prestonsburg, Co. C in Jackson and Co. D in Hazard. The battalion is commanded by Major Ervine Allen of Richmond.

Gen. Wellman commended Lt. Dixon and other members of the Maysville unit for their recruiting efforts in building strength since the company was federally recognized last September 30.

Worth Repeating

"The problems of victory are more agreeable than those of defeat, but are no less pressing."

- Winston Churchill

"Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died."

- Erma Bombeck, author

"The only way to get the best of an argument is to avoid it."

- Dale Carnegie

"Never mind the raggedness, Colonel, the enemy never sees the backs of my Texans."

- Gen. Robert E. Lee

"A psychiatrist is a fellow who asks you a lot of expensive questions your wife asks you for nothing."

- Joey Adams, comedian



DoD ISSUES TRAVEL GUIDELINES: No Commercial Stops in Greece

Effective immediately, U.S. service members, DoD civilians and their families are restricted from using commercial airlines for official travel in and out of Greece.

The U.S. European Command (EUCOM) has issued a statement requiring official travelers to use Military Airlift Command or military charter flights until further notice when traveling through Greece for temporary or permanent duty assignments.

The policy change was made in light of recent events in Greece that prompted concern for the safety of Americans traveling in that region.

According to EUCOM guidelines, DoD personnel are to travel to Frankfurt, Germany, to connect with existing MAC flights to Greece.

Two MAC aircraft, one C-141 and one C-130, generally fly to Hellenikon Air Base in Greece each day. Officials anticipate no need for additional flights to accommodate the additional passenger load.

Other EUCOM guidelines specify that personnel on leave status who travel through Greece on commercial aircraft carry tourist, rather than official, passports.

About 3,700 service members and 2,300 dependents are stationed at four U.S. military installations in Greece.

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