



THE BLUEGRASS GUARD



SURROUNDED BY a sea of mud, members of the mortar team of Troop A, 240th Cavalry prepare for fire mission during exercises conducted on the firing ranges at Fort Knox. (Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

Basic change for new 2Lts

Second lieutenants in the Kentucky Army National Guard will now have to complete the officer basic course in residence instead of through correspondence.

The policy, which became effective Jan. 1, has been adopted by the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, because of the more sophisticated equipment now in use, according to 2nd Lt. R. Neill Fox, state training technician.

"This whole thing has come about because of force modernization," Fox said. "We're using the same equipment that the Active Army is ... the technology of war is changing."

Resident courses provide 50 to 60 percent of what a new officer needs to know about his branch, he said. These courses give a new lieutenant ground work which he can expand through practical experience. Correspondence doesn't always offer as much ground work, he said.

Lieutenants enrolled in a correspondence course when this policy was adopted will be allowed to complete it and receive credit for initial branch qualification. Completion will also meet the educational requirements through the rank of captain.

The correspondence course may also be used to retire waivers from a federal recognition board in connection with branch transfers if the lieutenant has completed initial branch qualification.

The alternative is enrollment in a resident officer basic course in the new branch.

Wellman is also requiring officers who receive their commissions through direct appointment to complete the direct appointment course offered by the Kentucky Military Academy or the Guard Professional Education Center. The officer must serve a year before he can be promoted.

This policy is not intended to penalize those officers who receive constructive

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Unit bonuses to be offered

By SP4 DON BELISLE

Fifteen units in the Kentucky Army National Guard have been selected to participate in a Priority Unit Bonus Program, in which cash enlistment bonuses of \$2,000 will be offered. The program, which is a test, is scheduled to end Jan. 31, 1985.

"Since the program has just started the response has been slow," explained Sgt. Jerry Kilgore, who manages the Select Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP). However, Kilgore says, "once the word gets out, things will pick up quickly."

In order to receive the \$2,000 bonus, an individual must enlist in one of the Guard's 15 priority units for a six-year period. Once the individual successfully completes basic training and advanced individual training, he or she will receive an initial entitlement of \$1,000."

According to Kilgore, it takes about 60 to 90 days before an individual receives his initial entitlement check by mail. The balance of the bonus is paid in subsequent amounts of \$500 at the satisfactory completion of the second and fourth years of the individual's enlistment.

Kilgore stressed that this program is only for those without prior military service.

"The program is actually two-fold," stated Kilgore. "We are attempting to get new people in the Guard while, at the same time, increasing priority units to 100 percent strength."

For more information on the Priority Unit Bonus Program, contact Kilgore by mail or phone (502) 564-8549.



SSG DAVID W. Winstead, Safety NCO instructs Pvt. 2 David L. Boone in the proper firing procedures for the LAW during exercises conducted on the ranges at Fort Knox by Troop A, 240th Cavalry, 149th Sep. Arm. Bde. (Photo by Capt. Frank Mattingly)

Bluegrass Guard earns first

The *Bluegrass Guard*, the command information newspaper of the Kentucky National Guard, earned first place honors in its category in national competition sponsored by the National Guard Association of the U.S.

The award, which covered 1983, was published throughout the year by the Kentucky Army Guard's 133d Public Affairs Detachment. All stories and photos were produced by unit members, and printing was done by the state Department of Military Affairs. Capt. Thomas E. Little served as editor throughout the year.

Both Army and Air Guard entries were considered in the thirteenth annual contest, according to the NGAUS officials. Maj. Gen. Francis S. Greenleaf, executive vice-president of NGAUS, offered his "heartfelt congratulations on this notable accomplishment," and Kentucky Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman passed along a plaque awarded by the national association.

The 133d continues to provide most of the material for the newspaper, which is now published by the Media Relations Section of Recruiting and Retention.

Air Guard gets 'excellent'

The 12th Air Force Inspector General's team recently awarded the Kentucky Air Guard an "excellent" rating during the annual Management Effectiveness Inspection (MEI).

Most units, either active or Guard or Reserve, would be very proud of an overall 'excellent', according to Col. John L. Smith, 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing commander. He said there were only seven deficiencies noted that required response.

The unit received "outstanding" ratings in seven specific areas, which meant they were at the highest level. These included:

immunizations/physical/clinical examination program; standard evaluation program; flying training; scheduling; life support; manuals control; and budget.

Smith noted that he was very concerned about the "marginal" rating given in the area of appearance. The report noted improperly trimmed mustaches, improperly fitting uniforms, and an absence of proper patches.

The commander advised his staff that such deficiencies would not be tolerated in the future.

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"We are at the crossroads and we must now make the decision to grow and expand our facilities."

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, made the statement as the key point in his annual address to members of the National Guard Association of Kentucky in Louisville recently.

Wellman noted that currently the active Army has 779,000 troops and the Guard and Reserve have 683,000. However, by 1987 the figures are scheduled to change to 780,000 in the active force with reserve components reaching 795,000. The Air Guard already has 101,000.

He explained that the Guard can no longer assume a support role, but must obtain the resources and conduct training necessary to become totally combat ready.

Five states confer in Lexington

The first "CAPSTONE" conference of field artillery units from Kentucky, Michigan, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Wisconsin was held recently in Lexington by the 138th FA Brigade. More than 40 Key staff people participated in the two-day conference.

"This planning training conference is to acquaint units in our CAPSTONE alignment with their wartime role," said Col. Julius L. Berthold, brigade commander. "Planning and training guidance is being discussed to give a clear understanding of our mission, and includes where we are going to fight, who we expect to support, what command we will be working for, and what priority our units will display."

Administrative officer Maj. Joe Warren presented the history of the 138th, which is made up of the 1st Bn, 623d FA and the 2nd Bn.. 138th FA.

Highlights of the conference included the time and place for the CAPSTONE units to train jointly while on annual training in 1985; joint training during AT '84 and MUTA, and discussion of standard operating procedure changes. The exercise was based on scenario maps and intelligence data for the area to which the CAPSTONE units would be deployed.

Each of the individual commanders in attendance addressed the conference to exchange ideas and philosophy.

Wellman commended the Kentucky Army and Air Guard units for many achievements over the past year. For example, the Air Guard earned its third consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and became the only Air Guard unit to earn an "Outstanding" on an Operational Readiness Inspection.

The Air Guard also reached a retention rate of 86.5 percent and kept its strength over 100 percent.

The Adjutant General also announced that six new aircraft and 279 manpower spaces would be allocated.

On the Army side, strength reached over 100 percent with 7,341 troops and 12 units increased their priority status.

The 1st Battalion, 623d Armor and 2nd Bn., 138th Field Artillery successfully completed the battalion level Army Training and Evaluation Program.

Western Kentucky armor units, the 2nd Bn., 123d Armor and Troop A, 240th Cavalry received 68 of 73 M60A3 tanks allocated to the National Guard. Wellman said he anticipated gaining more of the sophisticated tanks for the 1st Bn., 123d Armor in the future.

The general noted that Kentucky is now working to finalize details of the new 35th Division's organization. He said that rumors about unit changes should be ignored because no firm decisions have been made.

He did note that the Division move will increase Kentucky strength by 637 and

Monies gone

Kentucky National Guard members who applied after Jan. 29 for financial aid from the Educational Encouragement Fund shouldn't look forward to payment before Aug. 15.

The fund provides financial assistance to Guardsmen who meet eligibility requirements.

Capt. Tim Nemeth, a recruiting induction officer, said all but about \$30 of the \$150,000 appropriated for fiscal 1983-84 is exhausted.

Applications for the assistance will be accepted and processed and applicants will be informed if they are eligible, but payment probably won't be made before Aug. 15 if the legislature appropriates money for the program, Nemeth said.

A \$250,000 request for the program has been submitted to the General Assembly, but no action on the request had been taken as of March 18, Nemeth said.

The assistance is available to Guard members in grades E-1 through E-5 and in O-1 through O-3 and for individuals in medical school.

that the first activations will occur in September. Current planning shows about four new units, including a major aviation command.

Wellman explained that state revenue shortages are having a devastating effect on the Guard's construction program, since some state funds are needed to attract federal funds. He noted that the Guard contributed \$60 million to the state economy in 1983, through drill and annual training pay, as well as more than 1,000 federal jobs. The current ratio of federal to state dollars is about 15 to 1.

"The Department of Military Affairs is the only agency of state government that pays its way," Wellman proclaimed.

Wellman challenged the Army Guard to improve drill attendance from 92 percent to 95 percent in the coming year and to reach 88 percent Military Occupational Specialty qualification. He also told commanders that he could not accept any units with a C-4 readiness rating.

The Air Guard was challenged to correct deficiencies noted in recent evaluations and to improve documentation of on-the-job training. He also urged them to reach 100 percent strength within 18 months of the time new strength levels are authorized.

"You are good, but we all need to be a little better," Wellman concluded. "The Kentucky National Guard will never be second to anyone."

THE BLUEGRASS Guard accepts material submitted from the field by writing care of the Editor, Bluegrass Guard, Boone NG Center, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

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Charting your progress.

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Total Gross Weekend Drill Pay Effective 1 January 1984

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NGAKy Awards for 83

Several prestigious awards were given during the recent annual conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky in Louisville.

Battery A, 1st Battalion, 623d Field Artillery, Tompkinsville, earned the Retention Award. Capt. Kelly Goad commands the unit.

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Staff Sgt. Charles Ehlschide, 307th Maintenance Co., Central City, was selected Outstanding Enlisted Guardsman of the Year.

The Eisenhower Trophy, given to the outstanding company or battery-sized unit, went to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 201st Engineer Battalion, Ashland. Capt. Roger Gillum heads the unit.

The same unit claimed the National Guard Bureau Efficiency in Maintenance Award.

The USP&FO Excellence in Management Award, given to the company or battery-sized unit that best manages federal resources, went to Co. B, 1st Bn., 123d Armor, Hopkinsville. Unit commander Capt. William Lyle, III accepted the award.

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credit without prior service, but to give them much needed training and experience to enhance themselves before they are promoted, Wellman said.

The course to be conducted at the Kentucky Military Academy will begin on the weekend of Sept. 15-16 and run for the next two months.

A six-day course will also be offered at the National Guard Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark., beginning May 6.

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