

# Guard members speak to students

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

On Friday, two area National Guard members addressed classes at Kings Mountain High School.

They discussed issues from the situations with Iraq and North Korea to basic training to various weapons used by the National Guard.

Michelle Causby, Sergeant First Class and recruiter at the Kings Mountain armory, explained various procedures to the students in Holly Melton, Tina Hollifield, and Tami Welch's classes. Specialist Daniel Elliott also came to visit the class in order to meet the students who have been writing to him and his friends. In fact, the first place he went when he arrived in town on Thursday afternoon was Kings Mountain High School.

Elliott, a graduate of Chase High School, has been stationed at the National Security Administration building in Fort Mead, Maryland since September. The NSA building is one of the top places in the world that a terrorist would hit, said Causby. Elliott's unit has been guarding the building, she said. Elliott has been pulling guard duty and performing random inspections on the cars of those who want to enter the building, she said.

Before September 11, anyone could drive through the NSA building. Now, people are required to have permission to enter the building, a badge, and identification.

Elliott joined the National Guard when he was a junior in high school. He talked to his assistant principal, who had recently gone to help with a flood somewhere in North Carolina with the National Guard. Elliott joined when he was 17 and went through basic training before he graduated from high school. Elliott said he has served for two years and two months so far.

Causby and the classes discussed likely targets in the area that terrorists would hit if they wanted to strike this area. The lithium plant, which is not far from Kings Mountain, would take out half of Cleveland and Gaston Counties if it blew up, she said. She also said the Bank of America building in Charlotte would probably be a target since it is a major financial center in Charlotte. She said the prime target would probably be Washington, D.C., though.

Causby said the situation with North Korea is just as serious as the situation with Iraq. North Korea has biological and chemical weapons. They recently launched a live missile into the ocean to test it. They also have activated their nuclear power plant. Causby stressed the importance of watching the news to the students.

"I watch it because I'm in the military, but for you guys, it's very important," she said.

When asked, Causby told the students that several countries, including North Korea and China, had missiles that could reach the United States. She told them not to worry, though, because the United States has missiles that can take out other countries' missiles before they reach us.

"We've got stuff that you don't even know about," she told them.

A new spy plane has recently been featured on the Discovery Channel, said Causby. The plane is operated with a hand-held device. Nobody actually needs to be in the plane while it flies over countries.

The recent threat of the reinstatement of the military draft has affected the number of people enlisting in the armed forces, said Causby. People do not want to be assigned a place where they have to serve, so they are signing up while they still have a choice, she said.

"You see a lot of people going into the army today because they're scared. They want to have a choice," she said.

Causby said she believes the United States will go to war soon. The question is with whom we will be fighting: Iraq, North Korea, or both at the same time. The main threat in the war is, of course, the biological and chemical weapons, she said. The military has already been required to give smallpox vaccinations to all of its personnel. Other threats could be mustard gas or anthrax.

The soldiers really appreciate the support that people give them in the form of letters, said Causby. Many are in very stressful situations and gain much encouragement from those who take the time to send letters, she said.

"Anything you give them and send them gives them support," said Causby.

Causby said she has been in the National Guard for 13 years.

# Board accepts results of State Report Card

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

On Monday evening, Kings Mountain Board of Education members accepted the results of the North Carolina School Report Card, which was sent home with students earlier this school year.

The report card is divided into sections, which include a school profile, student performance, school performance, school safety, access to technology, and quality of teachers.

"The schools performed very well," said John Goforth, Executive Director of Instruction and Curriculum. "We're very pleased with the results."

At Bethware Elementary, 85.2 percent of the third, fourth, and fifth graders scored at or above grade level in reading, while 87.3 percent scored at or above grade level in math. They were above the state average in both cases. The state average is 79.5 percent in reading and 84.4 percent in math. Bethware achieved both high growth and expected growth for the year. Bethware was named a school of distinction for the 2001-2002 school year.

At East Elementary, 89.3 percent of the students scored at or above grade level in reading, while 93.9 percent scored at or above grade level in math. East also achieved both high growth and expect-

ed growth for the year. East was named a school of excellence for the 2001-2002 school year.

At Grover Elementary, 80.6 percent scored at or above grade level in reading, while 81 percent scored at or above grade level in math. Grover achieved expected growth for the year. Grover was named a school of distinction for the 2001-2002 school year.

At North Elementary, 88.7 percent of the students scored at or above grade level in reading, while 88.2 percent scored at or above grade level in math. North achieved both high growth and expected growth for the year. North was named a school of distinction for the 2001-2002 school year.

At West Elementary, 90.6 percent of the students scored at or above grade level in reading, while 95.6 percent of the students scored at or above grade level in math. West achieved both high and expected growth for the year. West was named a school of excellence for the 2001-2002 school year.

At Kings Mountain Middle School, 82.2 percent of the students scored at or above grade level in reading, while 90.2 percent of the students scored at or above grade level in math. Students did not achieve expected growth for the 2001-2002 school year.

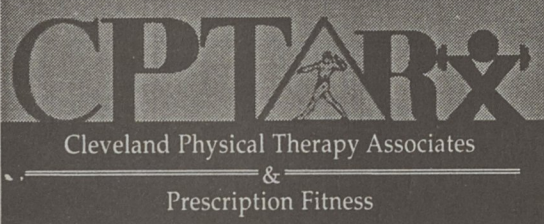
At Kings Mountain High School, stu-

dents scored above the state average in every subject except chemistry. The school achieved expected growth and was named a school of progress.

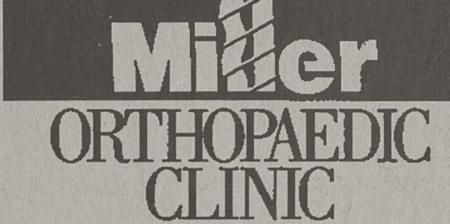
The Board also recognized the achievement of Brandy Rowland, a high school student. Rowland is the first KMHS student to become involved in a McDonald's management apprenticeship program.

Under the program, Rowland will be able to continue her education. She will parallel enroll at the high school, as well as start a career in McDonald's management. At the same time, she will be able to enroll at Cleveland Community College and earn a certificate of her choice. Rowland has chosen to study accounting. McDonald's will pay for her schooling. Once she is finished with the program, she will be a certified McDonald's manager.

In other business, the Board named Stephen Fisher assistant principal of Kings Mountain Middle School, Gary Spatler and Roxanne Bridges assistant principals of Kings Mountain Intermediate School, and Jada Hardin assistant principal of Bethware Elementary. Cheryl Lutz was given a four-year contract as director of technology, and Beth McGraw was given a four-year contract as director of business operations.



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