

THE CARGO COURIER

Standiford Field, Louisville, Kentucky

123rd TAW, Kentucky Air National Guard

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123rd mourns loss of crew



The Kentucky Air National Guard color guard paid tribute during a memorial service Feb. 9 to honor five crew members that died in a tragic plane crash in Evansville. Eleven people on the ground also died when the C-130B transport plane crashed into a restaurant and nearby motel.

KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Fritz

By Capt. Steve Bullard
Special Writer

Personnel of the Kentucky Air National Guard paused for 11 days in February to mourn and honor five of its members who perished in the tragic crash of a C-130B transport plane Feb. 6 near the Evansville Dress Regional Airport in Indiana.

The five crew members: Maj. Richard A. Strang, 39 of Floyds Knobs, Ind.; Capt. Warren J. Klingaman, 29 of Louisville; 1st Lt. Vincent D. "Rin" Yancar, 25 of Louisville; Master Sgt. William G. Hawkins, 41 of Crestwood, Ky.; and Master Sgt. John M. Medley, 38 of Louisville, were honored during a memorial ceremony Feb. 9 at the KyANG base at Standiford Field.

About 3,000 personnel, friends and family members attended the televised ceremony. Guest participants included Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington and former air commander of Kentucky's 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing; Gov. Brereton C. Jones; and U.S. Rep. Romano Mazzoli of Louisville. A memorial sermon was given by Chaplains Charles Smith, Thomas Curry and Roger Dill.

The crash happened around 10:30 a.m. about one mile from the airport's

runways. The aircraft, on a routine training mission, hit the local Jojo's restaurant and an adjacent Drury Inn motel. Response from Air Force and National Guard units from Kentucky and Indiana was immediate and support units quickly arrived at the scene.

Typical of the Guard's response was 17 security police specialists of the 123rd SPF. Under the direction of Senior Master Sgt. Dave Pope, most were volunteers who left their civilian work places immediately and arrived at the Evansville crash site by early evening.

Several members of the deployed unit stayed throughout the state and national safety board's on-site investigation and the site clean-up, which took about three weeks.

A group of KyANG aircrew members set up the KyANG's C-130 Aircrew Family Memorial Fund to benefit families of the five aircrew members.

Guard units in Nashville and Martinsburg, W.V., voluntarily flew KyANG personnel to the funerals of Strang in Tyner, Ind., Klingaman in Advance, Mo., and Yancar in Largo, Fla. Hawkins was buried at the Duncan Memorial Chapel in Crestwood and Medley was buried at St. Francis Cemetery in St. Francis, Ky.

The KyANG resumed flying schedules Feb. 18 following an 11-day layoff.



Maj. Richard Strang
Command Pilot



Capt. Warren Klingaman
Co-Pilot



1st Lt. Vincent Yancar
Co-Pilot



Master Sgt. William Hawkins
Flight Engineer



Master Sgt. John Medley
Loadmaster

Commander's Column



Thoughts and prayers, in memory of our crew

On Thursday, Feb. 6, 1992, tragedy struck when our C-130B transport plane crashed in Evansville, Ind., causing the death of five members of the crew, two employees of JoJo's Restaurant and nine members of Plumbing and Industrial Supply Company. Fourteen people were injured, some critically. The following are just a few of the many expressions of sympathy received.

The entire Evansville and Tri-State Area have responded with deep feelings of sadness, regret and prayers of concern and support for the families and friends of those who were lost or injured in this tragic experience.

Evansville Chamber of Commerce

On behalf of the Defense Courier Service ... deepest sympathies as you deal with the tragedy which struck your unit. I know only providence can begin to heal the hurt as you cope with the loss of those fine airmen and civilians.

Col. Chris Jefferies, Commander

We at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kentucky express our deepest sympathies over your tragic loss. While words are not much comfort during this time, please know our thoughts are with the guardsmen's families and friends.

Stephen T. Bow, President and CEO

The men and women of the South Dakota Air Guard extend our deepest sympathies to you and your unit. We have been privileged to fly with you on several deployments and have always been impressed with the extraordinary pride, professionalism and courtesies shown by your crews.

Col. Brian C. Bade, Commander

The loss is felt by all of us who know you ... I have enjoyed just watching you fly whenever I was in the Louisville area. They will be missed.

John Lameck, Windsor, Ontario

We hope that during this difficult period of bereavement, unit members and families will find some measure of comfort knowing how many Kentuckians truly



Col. John V. Greene
Wing Commander

care.

Edward F. Hessel Jr., Chairman,
Ky Committee for Employer Support
of the Guard and Reserve

I pray for quick healing for the outstanding men and women of the 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing.

Charlotte E. Montague, Air National
Guard Readiness Center

Our prayers are with you. Anytime we lose our guardsmen, a little in each of us dies. Brig. Gen. Allen Newcomb, Cmdr,
118th TAW, Tennessee ANG

Memorial fund created for families of air crash

The Kentucky C-130 Aircrew Family Memorial Fund has been established to benefit the families of the five aircrew members that perished in the Feb. 6 plane crash in Evansville.

The fund was established by a group of Air National Guard aircrew members to benefit the surviv-

ing families.

Funds will be distributed to the families to help defray funeral, medical and sustenance expenses, as well as educational funds for their surviving children. Expressions of sympathy should be sent in the form of donations to:

The Kentucky C-130 Aircrew Fam-

ily Memorial Fund, C/O Kentucky Air National Guard Federal Credit Union, Standiford Field (ANG), Lou., Ky., 40213.

The fund will be administered by a board of aircrew members from the deceased aviators' unit, the 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing and the Kentucky Air National Guard.

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Deadline for submission of articles is Sunday morning of each UTA, for publication in the following month's newspaper. Articles may be delivered to the Public Affairs Office, Room 143 of the O&T Building.

History of KyANG

Airport debates go back to 1962, 123rd flies to Norway

By Tech Sgt. John Martin
123rd Wing Historian

In an article appearing in the March 1962 edition of the Kentucky Guardsmen was a story about Col. William H. Webster, who was being installed as the new commander of the KyANG. Col. Webster replaced Brig. Gen. William D. Ott, who served as acting commander of the KyANG since 1960.

On March 22, 1962, a story was featured in the Louisville Times, a story with 1990 overtones. The report was over the Prestonia Elementary School's PTA being very upset with the airport, particularly the KyANG, over the amount of noise in the area due to aircraft activity. Though the story may sound humorous, it was no laughing matter to school administrators.

H model rolls off assembly, heads for Standiford



The new C-130 "H" model is rolling off Lockheed's assembly line near Marietta, Ga., and the KyANG is slated to receive the 2,000th Hercules aircraft in about 2 months.



KyANG photos by SMSgt. Dave Tinsley

"Our school is directly in the flight path for the north-south runway at Standiford Field," explained school principal John R. Madsen. "When planes pass over, teachers have to halt instruction because of the excessive noise," Madsen went on to add.

Col. Verne M. Yahne offered a compromise with the school by having all Guard aircraft to make a 15-degree left turn on takeoffs in an effort to avoid the school and other residential areas.

Additionally, aircraft were to remain as high as possible on takeoffs and landings. The matter was eventually resolved and the guard was able to continue flying, the teachers continued teaching, and the students continued ... well, we'll assume that they continued learning.

In 1966 the KyANG responded in an effort to help local area Boy Scouts by raising \$605, a record amount at that time. The money would be used to help defray the costs of keeping young men in the scouting program. In return, Col. Verne M. Yahne was presented a plaque on behalf of the Louisville area Boy Scouts to all members of the KyANG.

On March 4, 1978, an article appeared in the STRAVANGER, (Norway) newspaper about the KyANG that deployed to that part of the world during the period of February-March.

The article stated, in part: "Direkte fra Kentucky -- Beboerne omkring Sola flystasjon har det ikke greit for tiden." That is, the RF-4C reconnaissance aircraft from the KyANG were in a photo exercise with flying units from the Reno ANG during the deployment.

In 1987, Maj. Gen. John B. Conaway personally presented a letter of congratulations to Chief Master Sgt. William T. Smith upon his selection to the Outstanding Air National Guardsman of the Year program for 1987.

Smith, currently a member of the unit's Combat Control Team, was possibly the first KyANG member to be so honored with the prestigious award.

Promotions

The following airmen, organizations indicated, are promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as a reservist of the U.S. Air Force. Congratulations on a job well done.

To Airman (E-2)

Chad Barati, 8123rd STU FLT
Jerry Floyd, 123rd MAPS
Christina Holder, 123rd SPF

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)

Deanna Brown, 123rd CAM

To Staff Sgt. (E-5)

Lois Allen, 123rd CAMS
Teresa Amsler, 123rd CAMS
Kevin Baylor, 123 CES
Frank Bock, 123rd MAPS
Richard Buckles, 123rd MAPS
Karole Geiger, 123rd TAC HOSP
Clyde Henderson, 123rd CAM
Joel Hicks, 123rd OLC T
Kevin Higdon, 123rd COMM
Rodney Jarboe, 123rd CES
David Meredith, 123rd CAMS
Genevieve Smith, 123rd RMS

Bean Soup Feast set for April 16

It's time again for the 22nd Annual Kentucky Air Guard Bean Soup Feast and Open House, Thursday, April 16, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$4 and children under 12 are \$2. You can dine in or call 364-9485 for carry out. Monies from ticket sales should be turned in by May 5.

Anyone needing flyers to post at their civilian workplaces or churches, or to obtain additional tickets, may contact Master Sgt. Madeleine Travis at on-base ext 620 or Master Sgt. John Lundergan at 638.

Change in tax withholding may affect ANG members

The IRS has issued a new edition of Publication 15, Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide, to all employers. The new publication 15 contains new withholding tables for federal income tax withholding which replaces the January 1992 revision.

The tables will reduce the income tax withholding for most low- and middle-income employees and members, thereby increasing their take-home pay. Those employees and members withheld at the married rate may see as much as \$345 more in their take-home pay over the next year. Those withheld at the single rate may see up to \$172 more.

It must be emphasized, this is not a tax cut. Employees and members' tax liability will remain the same. Only the amount withheld will change.

As a result of lower withholding rates, several things may happen. Some employees and members who received a refund from their 1991 taxes may receive a smaller refund from their 1992 taxes. Still other employees and members who usually owe when they file, may find they owe more later this year. The IRS plans to notify any employees and members likely to owe for 1992 because of this change, and suggest that

they adjust their withholding.

The IRS will not penalize any employee or member underwithheld for 1992 because of these new rules.

Some workers, particularly high income wage earners, will not be affected by these new tables. Employees and members withheld at the married rate with wages subject to withholding of \$90,200 or more will see no change. Workers who withhold at the single rate will also see no change if their wages subject to withholding are \$53,200 or more. Wages subject to withholding are total annual wages reduced by \$2,300 for each withholding allowance claimed.

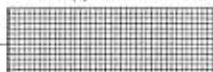
If employees and members do not want their withholding changed, they should complete a new form W-4 and submit it to their payroll office. The IRS has advised that employees and members may claim the same number of withholding allowances as before, but indicate on line 6 of the Form W-4 that you want additional taxes withheld each payday. For employees and members withheld at the married rate, the amount on Line 6 should be \$345 divided by the number of paydays in the year (i.e., 26 for civilian employees and 12 for military members). Employees



and members withheld at the single rate should use \$172. These amounts should be added to any amount already shown on Line 6.

Another option available to employees and members is to reduce the number of allowances they claim on their W-4. More information on determining the correct withholding can be found in Publication 919, "Is my withholding correct," available through the IRS. Also, employees and members may call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 for more information.

Employees and members are urged to consider this information carefully in deciding whether or not they want to change their withholding to avoid having to pay additional taxes next year. If they have any questions about this, they should consult their base tax advisor (for military members only), the IRS or a tax professional.



DoDDS verbal scores exceed SATisfactory

College-bound Department of Defense Dependents Schools students scored six points higher than the national average in the 1991 Scholastic Aptitude Test's verbal section.

However, the students scored lower than average on the math section of the college placement test.

John L. Stremple, DoDDS director, said the class of 1991 averaged 428 in the verbal skills section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 465 in the math section.

The national averages were 422 in the verbal section and 427 in math.

Stremple said while he was pleased with the verbal scores, his school system will work to improve math scores.

"We are assiduously pursuing improvements in mathematics instruction and student learning," Stremple said. "In an effort to improve mathematics skills, DoDDS implemented a three-year mathematics initiative in school year 1989-90."

Sixty-one percent of all DoDDS students take the aptitude tests; only 13 states have as high a percentage of their student body taking the tests. Com-

pared with these states, the DoD system did well. Only four states have as high a percentage of their student body taking the tests. Compared with these states, the DoD system did well.

Only four states with such a high percentage of students taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test exceeded the DoDDS cumulative score of 893 for both test sections. They are New Hampshire with 921, Maryland with 904, Connecticut with 897 and Massachusetts with 896.

Generally, the higher the percentage of students taking the test, the lower the scores, said DoDDS officials.

Insurance options need looking into as C-130 crash comes unexpected

By Capt. Steve Bullard
Special Writer

The tragic deaths of five aircrew members in the C-130B plane crash in Evansville has many Air National Guard personnel interested in the life insurance options available to them through the National Guard. There are three options available to all Guard members: Death Gratuity Pay, Servicemen's Group Life Insurance and the National Guard Association of Kentucky's group insurance program.

Death Gratuity pay is a \$6,000 payment which all Guard members are automatically entitled to. This benefit is paid within 24 hours and goes to your surviving spouse or children, according to Staff Sgt. Julie Webb, a base personnel specialist. If you have no immediate family, the payment must go to a blood relative (mother, father, sister or brother) whom you have designated on your emergency data card. Also on the data card you can specify any person you wish to receive your unpaid pay and allowances.

The SGLI coverage is offered in increments of \$10,000 up to a \$100,000 maximum. The cost is inexpensive and the insurance is in effect throughout the period of full-time active duty or active duty for training. Coverage is also in effect on a full-time basis for guardsmen or reservists who are assigned to a unit or position in which they may be required to perform active duty or active duty for training and each year will be scheduled to perform at least 12 four-hour drill periods of inactive duty training creditable for retirement purposes.

Full-time coverage means that personnel are insured 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as long as they make their monthly premium payments. Payments are normally deducted from your pay each month, but personnel who take an extended amount of time off from training should coordinate with CBPO to



The tragic air disaster involving a Kentucky Air Guard C-130B transport plane drew national media attention to Louisville and Evansville. Col. John V. Greene, commander of the 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing, worked alongside the unit's public affairs office to conduct daily press conferences at both locations, and to relay the Guard aspect to news organizations across the nation.

KyANG photo by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz

make their payments another way. If your payments are not current, your SGLI coverage may lapse until another payment is made.

Another thing to beware of, said personal affairs specialist Tech Sgt. Deborah Nelson, is that SGLI benefits are paid to beneficiaries designated on the election and certificate form on the date you signed it. Personnel should periodically review and update their insurance documents.

For instance, "if you've been married before and are now divorced (since you signed up for SGLI), you should name a person as your beneficiary," Nelson explained. Otherwise, your ex-spouse may receive all your insurance benefits because, by law, he/she was your beneficiary on the date you last signed the application. Likewise, if you leave the benefits to under-age children, the children's new guardian may gain total control over the benefits.

There is a plan in the works for reservist retirees to be covered under SGLI for life. Currently, regular retirees may stay on SGLI for five years after retirement, then switch to a government insurance program. Reservist retirees with 20 "good" years of service stay on SGLI until age 61, or

until they start receiving retirement pay. The new plan is proposed to take effect in FY 1993.

Also available to the guardsman is National Guard Group Insurance from the NGA Ky. Low-cost life insurance is available in increments of \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$50,000. The premium rates never increase and are deducted from your drill paycheck. Spouses may be insured for up to \$25,000 and dependents to \$10,000. There are no exclusions due to cause of death and, unlike SGLI, payment is made in full within 24 hours of notification of death.

A special feature offered by the NGA Ky is that, for first time applicants, the association provides a basic \$10,000 amount of coverage free for the first year after you apply. In addition, after one year the policy coverage increases automatically, at no charge, by \$1,000 for every \$5,000 of coverage -- \$50,000 increases to \$55,000, for example.

Personnel who have questions about life insurance options available to them, or who would like to review or update their current policies, should contact the CBPO at on-base ext 486.

Menu changes planned for meals, 'ready to eat'

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Information Service

If all goes well, service members may never have to eat chicken a la king again.

Food researchers at the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center in Natick, Mass., are improving the military's answer to fast food: Meals, Ready-to-Eat.

Changes already being made to the MRE include hot sauce with every packet, more commercial candy — to include heat-stabilized chocolate and real wet-pack fruit. The next MRE iteration will include a flameless ration heater with every menu.

Chicken a la king — a mixture of diced chicken, mushrooms, pimentos and green peppers in a cream sauce — will be the first item dropped, according to Jerry Darsch, chief of food technology at the center. Meatballs in tomato sauce will also go.

"We're getting away from the 'casserole syndrome,' where everything had to have a sauce," said Darsch. "Instead, we'll have foods more like the fast and popular food the young soldier, Marine, airman and sailor want."

Replacement entrees scheduled for the 1993 procurement of the MRE are smoky franks with potato sticks and pork chow mein with chow mein noodles. Natick also plans a whole new family of pound cakes for the rations. Darsch has heard the jokes about the MRE being "meals rejected by Ethiopians" but believes they can become "meals relished by everyone."

Darsch said all the food is nutritious, but service members often will not eat it. "It doesn't matter how nutritious the food is if it ends up in a garbage can," he said.

Changes in the MRE result from comments by service members who ate them during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Natick officials said they would have made the changes anyway, but the comments hurried the process.

One problem encountered during the Persian Gulf crisis had already been corrected.

"When the troops first got over there, they were eating 'vintage' MREs," said Darsch. "Some were six or seven years old, and there was some degradation in quality. In addition, we had changed the menus substantially in 1988. When the older MREs were eaten and the new ones appeared, we received many letters saying they (the service members) liked and appreciated the improvements."


Natick researchers constantly work to improve the MRE. They consider comments from the field and field test any change before procurement. Service members asked for more ethnic food and more fast food. As a result, Natick researchers developed an MRE burrito, pizza, cheeseburger, chow mein, hot dog and steak.

"As a result of our research and development effort, we were able to develop 30 new MRE components," Darsch said. "These include six new entrees, 10 new starch and snack offerings, nine new desserts and five new beverages — including milkshakes."

Natick officials took those 30 components and constructed six brand new menus and modified the remaining six menus. The menus underwent field testing at the Army's Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii.

"The results were fantastic," Darsch said. "We use a 1-to-9 scale for soldiers to report their preference, with 9 being the best. The vast majority of soldiers put the new meals between 8.1 and 8.8 on the scale."

Testing the new menus continues, but service members will see some changes in rations bought during fiscal 1993. Researchers at Natick will continue to listen to service members as they put together new MREs.

"With food, everybody is an expert, and everybody is a critic," Darsch said. "We'll keep working on improvements, and we appreciate the feedback our customers — the soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors — give us." 

UNFORTUNATELY

THE BEST EXCUSES FOR NOT WEARING SEATBELTS ARE ALWAYS

GETTING BURIED



Health benefits plan covers mammograms, more

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service


Federal employees will find major new services covered by their health insurance plans next year, but a recent move to require carriers to standardize coverage died quietly.

Federal employees' health benefit plans next year will cover bona fide smoking cessation programs; screening mammograms, which doctors recommend for women for early cancer detection; and up to \$50,000 for expenses related to the treatment of mental illness.

Originally, the Office of Personnel Management also was going to require all insurers to offer the same benefits in important areas; this might have made comparison shopping easier for federal employees. Insurers and employee groups, however, raised concerns that standard co-insurance levels would not result in standard expenses or reimbursements. OPM officials expressed concern about insurers' inconsistent "usual, customary and reasonable" reimbursement schedules.

Reginald M. Jones Jr., OPM's assistant director for insurance programs, wrote a letter to carriers asking them to be prepared to move to consistent reimbursement. Currently, carriers use different data bases or formulas that mean, for instance, two plans may pay a surgeon different amounts for an operation although both cover "80 percent of the usual, customary and reasonable charges."

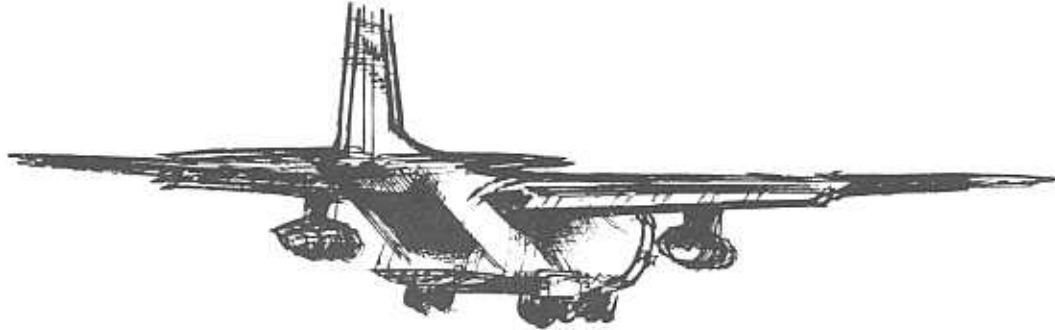
Some plans pay set allowances, but OPM spokesman Richard McGowan said the agency prefers standard formulas because fee schedules could also be inequitable. For example, he said, a \$30 allowance for an office visit may cover 80 percent of the actual cost in West Virginia, but only 50 percent in a high-cost area like New York City.

To help employees understand premiums, benefits and reimbursement percentages, OPM intends to provide information at open season explaining the options, he said. 



**Absence makes the
heart grow stronger.**

**When you think of Bean Soup,
think Thursday, April 16**



BEAN SOUP FEAST

**CARRY
OUTS
364-9668**

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OPEN HOUSE

Because deep down inside, everyone loves Bean Soup!