

THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

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Ceremony begins 50th anniversary

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — The Air Force kicked off its yearlong 50th Anniversary celebration last month with a ceremony honoring Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Sept. 16 commemoration, which paid tribute to the Air Force's only five-star general, was attended by more than 500 people, including Arnold's grandson, Robert Bruce Arnold; Medal of Honor recipient and former Air Force NCO John L. Levitow; and the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 1996.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force David J. Campanale spoke briefly about the men and women who have served proudly in the Air Force since it became a separate branch of the armed services in 1947, praising them for their dedication and excellence.

"They passed on to us a legacy — a legacy that should allow us to reflect during this 50th anniversary of our great United States Air Force to never forget the contributions of the past because their cause is the legacy that we have for the future," Campanale said.

Campanale and Levitow then laid a red wreath — symbolic of the past — at Arnold's headstone.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman paid tribute to the modern-day Air Force, but he first took a moment to reflect on the statement made by Arnold's stark headstone.

"You would think that somehow there would be a great monument to him," Fogleman said, "but in fact he insisted that he be buried with the same type of grave-stone that marks the graves of the common airman, the common soldier, the common marine or sailor — recognizing that, in fact,



Air Force News Service photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Stafford

Air Force Secretary Sheila E. Widnall and Cadet Brig. Gen. Melissa Bales, national commander of the Arnold Air Society, place a wreath at the grave of Gen. William Henry 'Hap' Arnold in Arlington National Cemetery.

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there's nothing common about any of them.

"So, as we mark the beginning of our celebration of the Air Force's 50th anniversary, I think it's only fitting that we pause and pay tribute to Gen. Arnold, first among our founding fathers. It was through his drive and vision that our Air Force was really founded.

"I would hope that as Gen. Arnold looks down on the United States Air Force today, he's pleased with what he sees. We provide America with the ability to be globally engaged through our long range lethal combat power, our strategic mobility, our global awareness that comes from space

See CEREMONY, Page 11

Effective communication makes life much easier for everyone

Last month at the Unit Training Assembly, we hosted two events that I think will benefit the wing tremendously: Family Day and the Unit Culture Workshop.

Family Day gave us the chance to let our families know what it is that we do around here and why it is so necessary for us to spend so much time away from home in service to our country.

Thanks loads to Family Support Group president Tommie Duke and all the rest of the folks who worked so hard to put this important event together.

The Unit Culture Workshop gave us a chance to look inward and think about how we do things and what effect that has on the wing.

What we discovered is that we fly airplanes very well, we fix airplanes very well, and we cook and serve great meals.

We also cut orders; load cargo; order, receive and stock supplies; construct buildings; fix runways; supply communications; forecast weather; and provide security and air traffic control — all very well.

We do that because we have well-trained, dedicated people who will do almost anything necessary to get their jobs done.



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

What we don't do well is communicate!

So what's the problem? you say. If we do our jobs and get great results, who cares about a communication problem?

Failure to communicate effectively up, down and across the chain of command leads to a very high level of frustration.

It causes a one-hour job to take three hours. It causes work to be started, stopped and then restarted. It creates hurry-up, short-suspense projects because someone didn't tell someone else

what to do or when to do it.

How many times have you begun a project only to be stopped because you needed information from another shop and could not get it?

How many times have you been stopped and told to do something over again because it "wasn't what the boss really wanted."

So you stand there thinking, "Why the *@#* didn't he tell me that in the first place?"

All of this causes needless frustration, and everyone ends up paying a high cost to attain the results expected of us.

Identifying the problem is the first step to a solution.

I ask that everyone in the wing be aware of how essential effective communication is.

The most effective communication is, after all, a meeting of the minds. Words can be carried by voice, telephone, paper or e-mail, but until they are understood by all parties and acted upon, effective communication does not occur.

Thanks *loads* for what you have already accomplished.

I ask now for your help in making our lives a lot easier and far less frustrating through effective communication.

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Wing Commander

Col. Michael Harden

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Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, call or stop by the PA office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Oct. 31.

Dishing It Out

Comm unit deploys to the prairie for war games



Members of the 205th Combat Communications Squadron took their satellite gear to Wyoming this summer to provide communications for a joint-service exercise called Global Yankee. The operation was the unit's first full-scale deployment outside Kentucky.

KyANG photos by
Tech. Sgt. Ralph Barney

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

The 205th Combat Communications Squadron showed it could dish out the data this summer when it deployed to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., for its first major exercise outside the Commonwealth.

Thirty-seven Kentucky guardsmen set up shop on the prairies of the remote Army site for a week of joint-service war games, providing initial satellite, radio and telephone communications at a simulated Kuwaiti airfield.

The July operation was part of a nationwide exercise called Global Yankee, a far-reaching scenario that centered around a buildup of troops and materiel in Saudi Arabia.

Camp Guernsey served as the forward base for the operation, while Camp Drum, N.Y., stood in for the Saudi Arabian headquarters, said Chief Master Sgt. Joe Goodin, the squadron's communications maintenance manager.

"Our job was to go in and set up communications networks: air-to-ground, command-and-control, secure voice and data circuits, telephone communications and satellite links," Goodin said.

"In an actual war, a larger unit then would have come in behind us and set up sustaining communications."

Combat Communications units from Wyoming and Missouri also participated in the exercise.

Tech. Sgt. Ralph Barney, a satellite maintenance technician with the 205th, said his unit's first major exercise went off without a hitch.

"We went in there, put it up, got everything operating; tore it down and came back home," Barney said. "Everything all went pretty smoothly."

The mission was a little more difficult, however, for the 123rd Airlift Control Flight.

Four members of the flight served as an advance team for the 205th, arriving at Camp Guernsey three days before the communications squadron in order to prepare the airfield for operations.

But getting there proved to be half the battle, said Tech. Sgt. Joe Johnston, an airfield management specialist.

"We were brought into the scenario late in the planning stage because a Marine detachment that was supposed to manage the airfield had to drop out," Johnston said.

"Because of that, it was a real challenge



for us to find someone to take us and our support equipment out there. We finally found a ride on an Army C-12 from Fort Knox the day before we had to leave. We took whatever equipment we could fit on the C-12 and the rest was shipped with the Combat Comm gear on one of our C-130s the next day.

"We had very minimal gear when we got out there, but we knew we were going to face that, so we worked out any potential problems with the permanent party folks there."

Dining hall wants you

By Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

The Thoroughbred Dining Hall wants you.

It's the only way the facility can continue to offer fine meals like the steak and shrimp combo its cooks served up last drill.

Funding for the hall is based on the number of people who eat there each year, said Master Sgt. Sheila Atwell, superintendent of food services.

"The more people we can attract, the more funding we get," Atwell said. "And that means better meals for everyone."

"We are constantly striving to improve our menu by adding new items. We have a full salad and potato bar, and now that cold weather is setting in, we also will be offering chili and soup."

A new addition today is a specialty sandwich in the fast food line.

The hall also offers carry-out for the

guardsman on the go, Atwell said.

The cost of meals will be increasing this drill for officers and Air Guard reservists, but Atwell said the meal still is a bargain.

"We promise to give you a meal worth much more than the \$2.75 you pay," she said.

Enlisted members will continue to eat free.

TODAY'S MENU: Polish sausage and sauerkraut; lasagna and garlic bread; hamburgers with cheese and bacon; chili; french fries; onion rings; grilled ham and cheese sandwiches; salad bar.

SUNDAY'S MENU: Cornish hens; veal cutlet; au gratin potatoes; spinach; peas; hamburgers with cheese and bacon; chili; french fries; onion rings; breaded chicken patty sandwiches; salad bar.

Golf scramble raises \$270

By Senior Master Sgt. Mike Mitro
123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron

The third-annual Thoroughbred Golf Classic raised \$270 this year to benefit the base club and Louisville's Crusade for Children.

The club's board of directors decided to split the earnings with charity for the first time this year.

Although the weather offered a great day for golf — at least after the fog cleared — it was not a great golf day.

Shawnee Golf Course, where the classic was held Sept. 29, played very long, thanks to its rain-soaked fairways.

Last year's winning team came in at 14 under par, but the best anyone could do this year was five under.

First place went to Mike Etherington, Mara Etherington, Donnie Rogers and Donnie Rogers Jr.

Runners up were Ted Schiess, Tom Schiess, Tom Schiess Jr. and Peter Rastocny.

Donnie Rogers took home the title for longest drive, and Mike Guillaume dropped his drive closest to the pin.

The Thoroughbred Club will raffle a set of golf irons this unit training assembly.

To purchase tickets, which will cost \$1 each or \$5 for six, see Tech. Sgt. Kris Evans, Tech. Sgt. Mark Ferris, Senior Master Sgt. David Orange, Master Sgt. Dee Riggle or Tech. Sgt. Ted Schiess.

This year's golf classic was sponsored by Byerly Ford, Commonwealth Paying, Flynn Brothers Construction, Holiday Inn — Airport, Hops Bar and Grill, The Kroger Co., Nevada Bob's Discount Golf, Shirts by Us and Wolf Printables.



Pay Dates

IN BY:

▲ Oct. 22

▲ Oct. 24

▲ Oct. 29

▲ Nov. 5

▲ Nov. 12

OUT BY:

▲ Nov. 1

▲ Nov. 6

▲ Nov. 13

▲ Nov. 15

▲ Nov. 20

Gig Line —

JOB OPENINGS

•State Senior Enlisted Advisor, Headquarters KyANG —Candidates must be chief master sergeants or senior master sergeants immediately eligible for promotion and have been in their current posts for at least 12 months prior to appointment.

The advisor communicates directly with the Assistant Adjutant General for Air on enlisted health, welfare and morale issues.

Candidates interested in applying for the post, which has a term of three to four years, must submit a letter to Chief Master Sgt. Martin Anderson, SEA, HQ KyANG, before Dec. 31. The letter should include a brief explanation of why the applicant believes he or she is suited for the position.

•Staff assistant, wing chaplain's office —Applicants must be staff or technical sergeants. For more information, contact Chaplain Tom Curry on base at 4611.

Combat Control Team blows past away

By Chief Master Sgt. William Smith
123rd Combat Control Flight

MADISON, IND. — Sweat dripped from Tech. Sgt. Chris Emly's nose as he knelt over the 81-millimeter mortar round in front of him.

The Kevlar helmet and flak vest he wore added to the searing heat from the August sun as he concentrated on the task before him. But the temperature was not the most important concern to the 123rd combat controller.

Vaporizing this old piece of unexploded ordnance was.

Emly carefully placed five blocks of C-4 explosive over the rusted target and then primed the charges by inserting a blasting cap into the putty-like demolition material.

Snaking out the nine-foot section of time fuse that he had crimped onto the blasting cap, Emly signaled the demolition supervisor that he was ready.

Nearby, Maj. Larry Zummach, CCT commander, and Senior Master Sgt. Mike Moore, a Kentucky combat controller, waited for the command to activate the charges that they, too, had placed.

"Fire in the hole!" yelled the Army master sergeant as the plunger on the first fuse igniter was pulled.

At 30-second intervals, the remaining igniters were fired. Seeing smoke waft from each fuse, the men almost nonchalantly gathered up their tools and walked away from the pending explosion to watch their handiwork from a safe distance, more than 1,000 feet away.



KyANG photos by Chief Master Sgt. William Smith

ABOVE: Maj. Larry Zummach, commander of the 123rd Combat Control flight, primes C-4 explosives with a blasting cap and a time fuse.

BELOW: Two rusted mortar rounds await destruction at the Jefferson Proving Grounds in Indiana. The site is littered with UXOs.

Eight minutes later, a sharp report thundered across the abandoned airfield, sending dozens of startled killdeer birds flying from their grassy cover. On cue, each of the four remaining charges detonated with a large blast of black smoke and shattering noise.

Mission accomplished: UXOs eliminated.

Emly took off his hot protective equipment and grinned with satisfaction at his teammates.

123d Combat Control Flight members are no strangers to handling live munitions. They routinely practice their demolition skills as well as train with grenades and other ordnance.

And during real-world missions, some operators have been shot at, while others have come under artillery fire.

But this "demo shot" at the old Jefferson Proving Grounds in Indiana was the first time any of them have dealt with the dangers of actual UXOs.

"JPG was used for over 50 years as a testing site for all types of munitions," Zummach explained.

"They even had their own airfield and military aircraft to drop test bombs onto their range. After the aircraft left, JPG continued to use a small part of the old airfield to test mortars. In 1989, our wing established a drop

See CCT, Page 8



Family ▲ Day

◀ Combat Control Team members demonstrate their aerial ability by rappelling from a Blackhawk helicopter near the base fire station.



▲ Tug-of-war competition involving hundreds of young people.

Dozens of activities were featured at Family Day 1996. One of the highlights included rappelling and a number of other activities.

KyAN
Tech. Sgt.

Top Toddler

► The winner of the Cute Baby Contest was this bright-eyed two year old, Sheila Fentress.

She's better known as the wing's top culinary coordinator, Master Sgt. Sheila Atwell.





ests were among the most popular events for Family Day 1996, which drew
g visitors to the base.

demonstrations helped make
liveliest ever. The event, which
bat simulations, drew a record
sitors to the base.

photos by
Charles Simpson



◀ Chris Downs and his father, Staff Sgt. John Downs, watch as Staff Sgt. Jim Johnson, a combat control team member, rigs his rappelling gear.

▶ Joshua Travis, son of Staff Sgt. Stephen Travis, fine tunes his aim on the bean bag toss.



▲ A Personnel Deployment Function customer waits with rapt attention as her dog tags are prepared.



CCT blasts ordnance

Continued from Page 5

zone adjacent to the mortar impact area, and last year, the proving ground was closed and sold at a public auction."

The 123rd's interest in the property, however, didn't end with the sale of the land to a Madison, Ind., farmer.

Lt. Col. Tom Marks of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron now is involved in negotiating a lease with the new owner so that the wing can continue its air drop operations there.

"JPG is perfect for us," said Lt. Col. Paul Rhodes, the 165th Airlift Squadron's operations officer.

"It's reasonably close, and we can drop everything there."

To make the area safe for training, the 123rd Combat Control Flight, along with 10 Army and Air Guardsmen from across the country, gathered at the proving grounds Aug. 12 to clear unexploded mortars.

"The explosive ordnance disposal team did the hard part," Zummach said. "They spent a week cutting the grass and walking the entire 400-acre area

locating the duds with metal detectors."

Staff Sgt. Ed Seuter of the Virginia Army Guard explained the search process.

"Our metal detectors are tuned to filter out bits of junk and empty aluminum casings that litter the area. When you find a mortar, you know it. The detector really lets out a different tone."

After the rounds were located, EOD members carefully uncovered them, marking them for destruction later in the week.

To reduce transportation problems, the EOD specialists struck a deal with the combat control flight to use 40 pounds of high explosives the controllers store at Fort Knox.

"Since CCT is tasked with removing obstacles and ordnance from assault zones, this was a great opportunity for us to do what we train for," Zummach said.

"It was also good for us to work with others units that have a similar demolition mission."

Base phone numbers change

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

If you've had difficulty making on-base phone calls today, it's probably because you dialed the wrong number.

All base phone numbers were converted to four-digit extensions Oct. 1.

The change came about because the base was running out of three-digit extensions, said Chief Master Sgt. Jim Swanner, chief of maintenance with the 123rd Communications Flight.

The conversion adds a 4 to all previous extensions. If a number had been 431, for example, it now is 4431.

The switch does not, however, change any phone numbers for people who call in from off base. Those will remain the same.

One exception to this concerns extensions that previously were 500 through 599. These are being converted to 4700 through 4799.

If an old extension were 500, it now will be 4700.

When activated, these new extensions will be able to accept calls dialed directly into the base, Swanner said.

KyANG teams win Plane Pull

Two KyANG teams out-muscled their competitors in the Kentucky Special Olympics Plane Pull held here earlier this month.

The women's and coed teams both took first place in their respective categories by pulling a 757 through a short course more quickly than their rivals.

The KyANG men's team was narrowly defeated by a group from United Parcel Service.

Program offers NCO Academy in Louisville

If you need to complete the NCO Academy but can't leave your civilian job for six weeks, the base training office has a solution.

Instead of TDY, simply attend a local NCO Academy Seminar offered through the Air Force's Distance Learning program.

Applicants who are selected attend three-hour classes on base for two nights each week.

After completing the 18-week course here, they then attend follow-up training at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

The program is considered in-residence training and gives participants the opportunity to earn up to 12 semester hours in college credits.

To apply, you need to see your Enlisted Specialty Training Manager and complete a formal school request.

The course will be offered early next year, and the deadline for applying to the Base Training Office is Nov. 1. The class is limited to 15.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar on base at 4604.



Meet the Chief

Gering named wing senior enlisted advisor

Name: Chief Master Sgt. Al Gering

First duty assignment: Airfield operations specialist, KyANG, Feb. 1970.

Positions held in the KyANG: Command Post NCOIC; airfield management superintendent; Airlift Control Element member.

Reasons for joining the KyANG: "I joined the Guard with two friends back in 1970. We were interested in the military and in doing our duty. We thought that the Air National Guard was the best opportunity available back then, and it still is today.

Best advice: "I encourage everybody to take advantage of what the Guard offers — education and specialty training; the Kentucky tuition assistance; the chance to travel and learn more about the world — to help better yourself, your unit and your country."



KyANG photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

Al Gering receives his chief's stripes last month from wife Marcia and the wing commander, Col. Michael Harden.

Promotions and honors in the KyANG



The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the United States Air Force.

TO SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- Matthew Stearn,
123rd Combat Control Flt.
- Robert Herndon,
165th Weather Flt.

TO STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

- Mark C. Bone,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Michael Cook,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

- Emmanuel Fowler,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

- Jeffrey Hulan,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

- Derek Whitmer,
165th Weather Flt.

- Leah Williams,
123rd Support Grp.

- Scott Windell,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

- Jerry Zollman,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

TO TECH. SERGEANT (E-6)

- Larry Broyles,
123rd Civil Engineer Sq.

- Wallace Garner,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TO MAJOR GENERAL (O-8)

- Stewart Byrne,
Headquarters, KyANG.

The following servicemembers have distinguished themselves and their units by outstanding achievement.

- Staff Sgt. Robert Semones,
165th Airlift Sq. — distinguished graduate, Air National Guard Basic Flight Engineer Course.

- Staff Sgt. Larry Coberly, 123rd Civil Engineer Sq. — distinguished graduate, Civil Engineer Management Craftsman Course.

KyANG graphic by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

Service delivers news to use

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Like to keep up with Air Force news but don't have time to read all those military journals?

The Air Force News Service can deliver a daily diet of bluesuit briefs right to your home or office — and it's free.

You'll get the same stories that appear in U.S. military publications around the globe, and you can read them before they ever appear in print.

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To subscribe, send an e-mail to LISTSERV@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM.

In both the subject box and the text box of your e-mail, type **SUBSCRIBE AFNS** followed by a space and your name.

For example: **SUBSCRIBE AFNS CAPTAIN JOHN DOE.**

If you prefer a weekly digest instead, type **SUBSCRIBE AFWEEKLY** followed by your name.

The Air Force also has made its Web page easier to access. Air Force Link, located at <http://www.af.mil>, has incorporated new graphics, user-friendly features and a host of other changes as a result of hundreds of customer suggestions. The changes are aimed at making Air Force Link a quick, one-stop shopping site for information about the Air Force.

Air Force Link topics include the latest news about the men and women of the Air Force, and photographs of high tech aircraft that you can download.

Considered by Internet users as one of the best home pages on the World Wide Web, Air Force Link has demonstrated its value to Air Force leaders. Internet users often look to the site for news when the Air Force mission gains national attention.

Defense bill changes reserve status

The fiscal 1997 National Defense Authorization Act contains several provisions affecting reservists.

The act, signed by President Clinton Sept. 23, establishes in law each reserve component as a major command within its respective service.

Over the years, the Air Force has treated Air Force reserve units as major commands because they take on most missions performed by active-duty troops.

The act also

- Grants a 3 percent pay raise and a 4.6 percent hike in basic allowance for quarters, effective Jan. 1.

- Increases the annual limit on days of inactive duty training creditable toward reserve retirement from 60 to 75.

- Permits a reserve enlisted member who qualifies for an active duty retirement and who is reduced in grade for reasons other than misconduct to retire in the highest enlisted grade held.

- Clarifies eligibility of reservists for disability retirement. Reservists are eligible for a disability retirement if the disability is the result of or incurred in line of duty while performing active duty or inactive duty training; incurred while traveling directly to or from the place of duty; or incurred between successive periods of inactive duty training if the site is outside reasonable commuting distance.

- Provides dental insurance for military retirees, gray area reservists and their eligible family members.



New Stars

Gen. Walter Kross, right, accepts the flag and leadership of the Air Mobility Command from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman recently. Kross also assumed command of the U.S. Transportation Command. Gen. Robert L. Rutherford, the AMC's former commander, retired after 35 years of service.

USAF photo by
Chuck Canahan

Benken appointed top enlisted member

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman has named Chief Master Sgt. Eric W. Benken to serve as the 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

Benken will replace CMSAF David J. Campanale, who will retire Nov. 4 after 26 years of service.

"Chief Benken is going to join the Air Force senior leadership at what I consider to be an exciting time for our Air Force," Fogleman said. "We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary and we're in the

process of defining the Air Force of the future."

Benken, who was born in Cincinnati, entered the Air Force in March 1970. His background is in information management.

He has served in the republics of Taiwan, Korea and Vietnam, and in a joint service assignment at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Before his current appointment with USAFE, Benken was the senior enlisted advisor for the Twelfth Air Force.



CMSAF Eric Benken

Ceremony begins yearlong commemoration

Continued from Page 1

assets and our theater air dominance.

"I hope we have fulfilled and even, perhaps, surpassed the vision that General Arnold had for our Air Force because we truly are the world's most respected air and space force."

Fogleman and Staff Sgt. Shilette Addison, one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, then laid a white wreath — symbolic of the present — at Arnold's headstone.

Last to speak was Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall, who talked about the future and emphasized the importance of carrying on Arnold's commitment "to build the finest Air Force on earth."

"To achieve this mission," Widnall said, "we must sharply focus our goals and our resources over the next 50 years.

"The quality of our training and facilities must attract the finest, most dedicated people.

"We must provide them, and their families, with an environment of support and good will.

"Skilled maintainers and operators will work with the most advanced systems available. We will link together platforms of the air with those in space to give our troops unparalleled ability

to see what is unfolding around them.

"We will, by virtue of the patriotism, dedication and intelligence of every member of the Air Force team, continue to be the world's premier air and space force."

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Widnall and Cadet Brig. Gen. Melissa K. Bales, national commander of the Arnold Air Society, laid a blue wreath — symbolic of the future — at Arnold's headstone.

Then, to honor spouses and family members, Jane Fogleman, wife of the Air Force chief of staff, and Kathy McCoy, wife of Air Force Association chairman of the board James M. McCoy, laid a bouquet at the

nearby headstone of Arnold's wife, Eleanor.

Moments later, four F-15Cs from the 71st Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va., passed in formation directly overhead.

After all the participants had departed, Arnold's grandson reflected on the ceremony.

"My grandfather would have been very pleased to have been remembered as part of the past," he said.

"But he also would want to know, 'What's new? What are you up to? Where are you going?'"

Other events scheduled for the 50th anniversary:

- Dec. 17, Kitty Hawk, N.C. — The B-2 "Spirit of Kitty Hawk" will overfly the Wright Brothers Monument at 10:35 a.m., the same time American aviation's first flight took to the air.

- Jan. 1, Pasadena, Calif. — The Tournament of Roses parade will include a salute to Air Force history.

- April 19-20, Louisville International Airport — Thunder Over Louisville will showcase virtually every type of aircraft in the active inventory, including the Air Force Thunderbirds.

- April 25-26, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. — A two-day airshow will feature eight foreign demonstration teams and the Thunderbirds.

Unit coins began as back-pocket bullets

By Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Airlift Wing Historian

Unit coins provide Guard members with a sense of community so solid they can touch it, but the medallions also serve as a link to tradition.

That tradition began during the Vietnam War as the "Bullet Club," an informal collection of soldiers and airmen who became members simply by carrying bullets with them at all times.

The bullet, usually kept in the back pocket, was to be used if a warrior were captured in combat, denying the enemy a prisoner of war.

It is highly unlikely, however, that this practice was ever used, and it most certainly was not condoned by military authorities.

But combat troops liked the idea so much that they began carrying a bullet, usually from a firearm with which they were familiar, even outside combat zones.

So common was this practice that the few unfortunate ones who forgot to pack their lead were chided to embarrassment for such a slip of protocol.

The tradition grew to the point that ser-

vicemen often were asked to "show their bullet" upon entering bars or restaurants frequented by military members.

If a soldier or airman was able to produce his bullet, the man who issued the challenge was obligated to buy refreshments.

But if no bullet was forthcoming, the newcomer had to supply the eats and drinks

years, it gradually faded away.

But the idea of the custom remained. In a short period of time, military coins began replacing bullets in the pockets of servicemen.

These coins came in all sizes and colors with mottos, insignias and dates of important events such as military operations, graduation and service records.

Though service coins are more common

in the other

branches like

the Army, Air

Force per-

sonnel, no

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tion, and

even today,

some may be

able to produce,

upon demand, this

small part of military heritage.

Trivia from August: In the early days of the Guard, commanders used some unusual methods to instill a sense of discipline.

A wayward militia member was fined 40 shillings for violating the military code of conduct. If he could not afford to pay the sum, the soldier's feet were tied together and bound to the back of his neck for a duration of no more than five minutes.

Question for November: Though our base is located at Louisville International Airport, what link do we have with Bowman Field? See answer next month.



Unit coins, like this one commissioned for the Kentucky National Guard, trace their origins to the Vietnam War's 'Bullet Clubs.'



for all paying customers for the remainder of the evening. Obviously, no one went about without his bullet.

As time went along, various calibers were used for such a display. Projectiles from rifles and pistols of all types, machine guns, rockets, grenades — even mortar shells — were used as servicemen tried to outdo one another by packing around the largest ordnance.

Government authorities did not like the connotations of this, so they began to actively discourage the tradition. After a few

Group seeking retirees who served in England

A group of veterans is seeking fellow retirees who served at Manston Aerodrome in Margate, England, during the early 1950s.

The group, which calls itself the Manstonites, gathers for a reunion each year in a different part of the

country. This year, they traveled to England to visit their old duty station.

If you know of anyone who served in the 156th Fighter-Bomber Squadron from 1951 through 1954, please have them contact Frank J. Brehm, a retired chief master sergeant who heads the

group. Brehm can be reached at (707) 557-3943.

The group's next reunion is scheduled for June 22 in Las Vegas. It will coincide with the first of two national celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Air Force.