Deploymen ts

Continued from Front Page

America, said Maj. James White, mission commander.

Both deployments follow on the heels of a third overseas mis-
nion this spring in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

About 200 Kentucky Airmen and multiple Kentucky Air Guard
C-130s were deployed to Afghanistan in March, April and May,
airdropping vital equipment and supplies to U.S. and coalition
forces on the ground, and transported more than 20,000 Soldiers
across the theater of operations.

While the wing’s aviation assets have been active in Europe,
Asia, and Central and South America, scores of other unit mem-
bers have deployed to Iraq and dozens of other locations around
the world this year for missions ranging from civil engineering
to public affairs.

“We can honestly say that the Kentucky Air National Guard
supports every current overseas contingency operation,” Colonel
Nelson said.

The unit has been equally busy at home, providing extensive
support for disaster relief operations after a statewide ice storm
paralyzed the Commonwealth in January and record flooding struck
Louisville in August.

The operations tempo isn’t expected to slow much in the com-
ing months, with an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled
for May and additional overseas deployments slated to follow
next summer.

“Name a mission, and we’re most likely playing a vital role,
whether it’s homeland defense or overseas contingency opera-
tions in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere,” Colonel Nelson said.

“That is a testament to the men and women of the 123rd Airlift
Wing, who are always ready to answer the call to duty, any
time, anywhere. I’d like to thank our members for their continued
dedication to the Air Force and Air National Guard mission all
over the world.”

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 10,000 members of the Ken-
tucky Army and Air National Guard have deployed worldwide.
**COMMANDER’S CALL**

Happy New Year! Or, at least Happy New Fiscal Year. Welcome back for our October Unit Training Assembly.

We took a nice break in September after completing a record fiscal year. Thanks again, but get ready! Fiscal Year 2010 will be historic for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

For the first time in our history, we will demonstrate our combat readiness to respond to a homeland security emergency or homeland defense enemy attack under an Air Mobility Command inspection.

For the first time in our history, we will deploy in support of multiple operations.

For the first time in our history, we will perform a homeland security/home defense exercise and our inspection.

For the first time in our history, we will be deploying within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

For the first time in our history, we will be deploying from our allies abroad.

For the first time in our history, we will be deploying aircraft, vehicles and support equipment.

We will find out this weekend.

Our MOBEX is the first step toward next year’s inspection. Later we will train under an Ability to Survive and Operate exercise.

We will have a couple of MOBEX and AFSO exercises before we perform a deployed exercise and our inspection.

At the same time, every day, we must be ready for the call from our governor to mobilize at home or from our allies abroad asking for help. We will be there. We are the 123rd Airlift Wing. Get ready.

— Col. Greg Nelson

123rd Airlift Wing Commander

NGB NEWS

**Air Mobility Command stands up blended units**

Active-duty, Guard and Reserve elements merge for a total force concept

By Master Sgt. Angie Sarchet

**Air Mobility Command Public Affairs**

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command officials here continued their total force integration efforts Oct. 1. That marked the stand-up of three active associate units that now combine active-duty units and Airmen who accomplish the KC-135 Stratotanker air refueling mission with their Reserve and Guard counterparts.

The three units that stood up are at Scott Air Force Base, Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., and Birmingham Air National Guard Base, Ala.

Total force integration, an effort initiated by AMC officials several years ago, maximizes resources while increasing operational effectiveness in support of wartime.

Simply defined, an associate unit is where active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members combine forces and missions using total force integration.

Normalcy, people think of an associate unit when the active duty owns the aircraft and the Reserve or Air National Guard co-locate with them to provide only manpower.

On Oct. 1, however, that relationship evolved with great success as AMC broke the old paradigm.

“Your unit is a blended unit,” said Col. Greg Nelson, the Illinois National Guard’s 126th Air Refueling Wing commander.

The total force integration concept builds on state and regional capabilities, increases economic efficiencies and enhances the Air Force’s ability to defend the homeland against emerging threats, respond to national disasters and meet the requirements for contingency operations.

“With the KC-135 active association unit stand up at Scott Air Force Base is another testimony of how we enable combat power,” said Col. Gary Goldstone, the newly established 375th Air Mobility Wing commander.

“As part of the total force integration, this transition allows better use of resources and manpower to ensure we better accomplish the mission both at home and during contingency deployments,” Goldstone said.

Active associations are a win-win for AMC officials.

The total force integration concept builds on state and regional capabilities, increases economic efficiencies and enhances the Air Force’s ability to defend the homeland against emerging threats, respond to national disasters and meet the requirements for contingency operations.

As the Air Force realigns and consolidates, the use of total force integration has helped enhance unit operations and optimize mobility partnerships, particularly in AMC.

While some units are moving, deactivate and reactivating due to the last round of Base Realignment and Closure Commission actions, this creates unique partnerships not normally seen in the Total Force community.

At Scott Air Force Base, Air National Guard leaders agreed about the capability provided by building associate units.

“The Illinois Air National Guard’s 126th Air Refueling Wing is an outstanding unit with a great history,” said Maj. Gen. William Entyart, the Illinois National Guard adjutant general.

“Today’s Airmen have an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience that makes the 126th Air Refueling Wing ideal to be an associate unit with the Air Force.”

Col. Greg Nelson

123rd Airlift Wing Commander

123rd Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

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Our office is located in room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is Oct. 25.

An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard’s Web site — www.123aw.ang.af.mil

Wyatt: Guard needs to adapt to new missions

The future will provide “great opportunities” for the Air National Guard, but it also will require a different way of thinking, the ANG director said Oct. 15. Success and Maintenance Group Mega-Conference in Boise, Idaho.

“Those in this room, we’re going to rely on your skills as great maintainers, but you may be maintaining something you never thought you’d put your hands on,” said Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt III to the emergency.

Adapting to changes in the active-duty Air Force is critical, General Wyatt added. There are new platforms and new missions, including unmanned aircraft systems, and the Air Guard needs to be an important part of these changes.

“All services are looking beyond the current face today, and the ability to adapt to a changing environment really begins and stops with you,” General Wyatt said.

Air Guard members need to understand these new roles and responsibilities, General Wyatt said.

Total force integration, an effort initiated by AMC officials several years ago, maximizes resources while increasing operational effectiveness in support of warfighters.

Simply defined, an associate unit is where active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members combine forces and missions using total force integration.

Normally, people think of an associate unit when the active duty owns the aircraft and the Reserve or Air National Guard co-locate with them to provide only manpower.

On Oct. 1, however, that relationship evolved with great success as AMC broke the old paradigm.

“We need to (develop) your younger Airmen by taking them under your wings and giving them the opportunities to succeed and exceed expectations,” General Wyatt said.

“We need to have more flexible and adaptable Airmen.

“I know we have the ability, the mobility and the resources, and the Air Force gets into a pickle, we will hone the skills we will prove that we are just as ready to fight as the active-duty units. That will not only be a first for the 123rd, but get ready! Fiscal Year 2010 will be historic for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Additionally, we will hone the skills we need for immediate response when called. Beginning with a culture of “think first” in everything we do, we will ensure we are manned, complete necessary training and acquire the equipment needed to perform our mission. We will ensure we have our personal affairs in order so we can deploy immediately, knowing our family and loved ones will be fine while we are gone.

We will train to survive any enemy attack and continue to perform our operational mission, while insuring security of operations, communications, our forces and infrastructure.

We will demonstrate in an outstanding manner that we can mobilize, deploy, operate and survive attack, win, and return victorious.

This month, we will complete a mobility exercise that will test our immediate readiness to deploy within the Commonwealth of the United States or overseas.

The success of our MOBEX begins with your readiness. Have you completed the multiple training events necessary, ensuring that you will know what to do when deployed (self-aid and buddy care, Law of Armed Conflict, weapons qualification, information/communications security training, etc.)?

Are you physically prepared to endure the hardships of an austere deployed location (immunizations, medical exams, physical fitness tests, etc.).

Are you prepared to perform your specific mission (Career Development Course completion, currencies, specialty qualifications)?

Is your equipment ready (personal bag/gear and protective equipment)? Are our aircraft, vehicles and support equipment ready?

We will find out this weekend.

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— Col. Greg Nelson
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its challenges,” Colonel Pfeifer said. “They
indicate that this merger has not been without
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six commands were selected early last year
"break anything" by merging the mission sup-
In the spirit of the Kentucky Derby, the pre-inspection project was known as the
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symbolic race horse to represent its progress
toward completion of 13 “homework” as-
signments. The assignments were designed to
move sections closer to the “finish line,”
representing total compliance.
Colonel Shoop also composed and pub-
lished rigorous standards for medical ethics
and the treatment of patients, as well as a
Customer Bill of Rights to protect patient
confidentiality and promote superior service.

Squadron
Continued from Front Page
nel Pfeifer said. For example, the sustainment
services flight contains the food operations,
fitness and wellness, and lodging branches.
“This is basically a behind-the-scenes
change and should appear transparent to our
Airmen here at the Kentucky Air Guard,”
Colonel Pfeifer said.
“If someone needs to get on an ID card,
that person will still go to the same location
they’re familiar with today. What we’ll have,
however, is a more effective force structure
in place to better support our Airmen in the
long run.”
To make sure the Air Force wouldn’t
“break anything” by merging the mission sup-
port and services, six Air Force bases across
six commands were selected early last year
to test the new squadron model, officials said.
The test bases — Edwards, Eielson, F.E.
Warren, Grand Forks, Langley and Minot —
helped establish where specific responsibili-
ties and processes should be placed within the
organizational structure and how they should be set up.
“The end-of-test reports from the test sites
indicate that this merger has not been without
its challenges,” Colonel Pfeifer said.
“Colonel Shoop designed and developed a
marketing plan to ensure unified compliance for
a scheduled Health Services Inspection. That program led to the 123rd
Medical Group receiving the highest inspec-
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Colonel Shoop, commander of the Ken-
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Colonel Pfeifer cited the new force de-
velopment flight as an example of positive
changes coming.
“The new force development flight com-
mander is responsible for all education,
training, professional development and
professional military education,” she said.
“It’s advantageous for the wing to have
one person overseeing and integrating the
learning opportunities for the installation.
The merger also is advantageous for the
careers of future force support officers and
Civilian personnel.
“This reorganization opens up career
opportunities that we haven’t had before,”
Colonel Pfeifer said. “With our training
plan in place, our people will be able to
gain valuable experience across different
functional areas.
“The bottom-line is that there is now a
new name at the Kentucky Air Guard — the
123rd Force Support Squadron — in place of
what once were the 123rd Mission Sup-
port and 123rd Services Flights.
“One thing will not change: The dedi-
cated people of this newly merged organiza-
tion will continue doing their best to support
commanders and provide first-class support
to their customers.”
Colonel Pfeifer comes to the job with
Colonel Shoop’s style of leadership,
his ability to lead from the middle,
and his experience as a "mediator"
commander.
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Executive order bans texting while driving
A new executive order, signed recently by President Barack
Obama, prohibits on-duty federal employees from texting while driv-
ing, effective Oct. 1.
Executive Order 13513 states that
“federal employees shall not
engage in text messaging (a)
when driving (government-owned
or privately owned vehicles) while
on official Government business,
or (b) when using electronic
equipment supplied by the Government while
Driving.”
The executive order defines
texting in section 6 (b): “ ‘Texting’
or ‘Text Messaging’ means read-
ing from or entering data into any
handheld or other electronic device,
including for the purpose of SMS
texting, e-mailing, instant messag-
ing, obtaining navigational infor-
mation, or engaging in any other
form of electronic data retrieval or
electronic data communication.”
The bottom line is that if you
are on duty as a federal employee,
you are banned from texting while
driving.
Research has shown that
the distraction caused by texting while
driving is equivalent to the impair-
ment caused by having a blood-
alkohol level of twice the legal limit.
While Kentucky has not passed a
law prohibiting texting while driv-
ing, all the surrounding states ex-
cept Ohio have. It is only a matter of
time before all states ban texting while driving, so we should stop
any bad habits today and practice
safety in all aspects of our lives.
The text of the entire execu-
tive order is available at the 123rd
Airlift Wing (Open) Community
of Practice Web site, in the “News
and Info” folder; or on the public
— Maj. Charles Hans,
Base safety officer

Senior Airmen in Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia and West Virginia have recently been recognized for their
outstanding safety performance.
Senior Airman John Byrnes,
2nd Airlift Wing’s Distribution
Airlift Flight member, was rec-
ognized for outstanding perfor-
mance.
Senior Airman Erika Cannon,
2nd Airlift Wing’s Freedom
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Joint mission showcases 123rd Airlift Wing’s EOD capabilities, assists Indiana Guard

Oct. 24, 2009

The Cargo Courier

Clockwise from left: Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods attaches C-4 plastic explosives to a row of 25-pound practice bombs at the Camp Atterbury Air-to-Ground Munitions Range in Indiana.

Staff Sgt. Matthew “Mouse” Meuser, a Kentucky Air Guard explosive ordnance disposal technician, controls a Remotec MK VI Andros robot as he checks a simulated suspicious vehicle during a training evolution at Camp Atterbury.

The Remotec robot carries a simulated pipe bomb to a secure location to be x-rayed. By x-raying the suspect device, Airmen are able to determine its explosive capabilities and properly disrupt it.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare Cargo Courier Editor

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — The call comes in: There’s a suspicious vehicle parked at one of the Indiana National Guard’s primary combat training facilities.

Military and civilian authorities aren’t taking any chances. They call the closest responders they know — the Kentucky Air National Guard’s explosive ordnance disposal team.

Within moments of a briefing from emergency responders, the Airmen deploy their Remotec MK VI Andros robot. From a safe distance, they use its camera to survey the scene.

They find a suspicious tube in the vehicle’s trunk, remove it with the robot and take it to a safer location.

Now it’s time to sweat. Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods, a seasoned explosive ordnance disposal tech, dons an 80-pound “bomb suit.” It’s designed to protect the body’s vital organs in the event of an explosion. That’s an eventuality Sergeant Woods would rather not contemplate.

To safely destroy the probable pipe bomb, he must hand-carry an x-ray device to the scene, scan the object and determine the best way to disarm or destroy it. Years of training and experience, coupled with an hour of extreme tension and careful planning, come to a close with an uneventful shell pop.

Plastic from the simulated bomb is scattered to the winds.

The exercise is over.

So is a four-day, real-world mission and joint training evolution that cleared the Indiana Air National Guard’s Air-to-Ground Munitions Range here of ordnance and sharpened the capabilities of Kentucky Airmen and Indiana State Police hazardous devices technicians.

“This is a win-win situation for us and the Kentucky Air National Guard,” said Lt. Col. Craig Haggard, Commander, Joint Forces Air Component, Detachment 1, Indiana Air National Guard. “By regulation, we have to clean up the bombs on our range. We don’t have an EOD team. Kentucky does, and when they come out here they’re able to do-training they can’t do at home.”

According to Colonel Haggard, the task of assessing range clearance is increasingly challenging based on worldwide demands for EOD techs.

By incorporating Indiana emergency responders, the Kentucky Airmen and Indiana technicians improve their abilities for both states.

“There’s only so much you can do in a classroom,” explains Master Sgt. Shane Lagrone, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Kentucky’s EOD shop. “This is a chance to help a neighbor and give our young guys the opportunity to get out and blow stuff up.”

According to Sergeant Lagrone, the real-world mission of range maintenance is one of EOD’s core tasks. It’s a “bread-and-butter” job that involves identifying ordnance that may still contain explosives, lining those bombs up, connecting C-4, triggering a fuse and driving a safe distance away to watch the fireworks.

Safe, expended ordnance is then recycled or otherwise removed from the range.

Sergeant Lagrone, who was twice awarded the Bronze Star for combat service, said that, in the hands of professionals, the EOD job is safe — safer at least than two tours spent clearing Iraq’s highways of improvised explosive devices while under fire.

He said the opportunity to perform the mission in Indiana helps the Airmen build credibility with leadership in both states.

“Sometimes people think of us as cowboys,” he said. “They think we just want to run off base blow stuff up — knock down trees and everything. The truth is that, yes, we’re going to race off base and do our job just like anybody else would. But we’re very careful and educated about what we do. Our biggest fear is losing someone on a call.”

In fact, one of the highlights of the deployment to Indiana was something that wasn’t on anyone’s agenda.

Shortly before the trip, Sergeant Squier was given an unfired piece of military ordnance that was in an aging Indiana woman’s home. Senior Master Sgt. Lee Comer, EOD superintendent, was able to identify the ordnance and confirm the danger it posed in civilian hands.

According to Sergeant Squier, as World War II veterans pass on, their survivors occasionally inherit hand grenades, shells or other dangerous explosives that were brought home as souvenirs. Training with the Kentucky Airmen not only allowed the sergeant and fellow officers to take a potentially deadly piece of weaponry out of the community, it helped them improve their skills at assessing military ordnance.

This exchange and experience working together may be especially important if military EOD members are ever tasked to respond to nationwide emergencies.

“Everyone on our team has deployed at least once,” Sergeant Comer said. “And we know it’s just a matter of time before we go again. Being able to answer the nation’s call is something we’re proud of. At the same time, we want to be the best possible asset we can be for our Commonwealth if the state or our neighbors need our help. We’re confident we can answer that call and perform whenever and wherever we’re needed.”

Left: Staff Sgt. Matthew “Mouse” Meuser helps explosive ordnance disposal technician Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods adjust his EOD bomb suit before proceeding to x-ray a simulated pipe bomb at Camp Atterbury. KYANG

Above: Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods attaches C-4 plastic explosives to a 500-pound practice bomb at Camp Atterbury.

Left: Staff Sgt. Matthew “Mouse” Meuser secures detonation cord that has been inserted into C-4 plastic explosives at Camp Atterbury. Cutting open the ordnance verifies that it does not contain high explosives and that the items are safe to be removed from the range.
Joint mission showcases 123rd Airlift Wing’s EOD capabilities, assists Indiana Guard

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare

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The Cargo Courier
Oct. 24, 2009

Shoop honored for national excellence

By Capt. Amy Mundell
123rd Medical Group

Col. Diana Shoop has been named recipient of the 2008 Brig. Gen. Donald Wagner Administrative Excellence Award, which is bestowed annually on a reserve-component Medical Service Corps officer for outstanding administrative contributions to the Air Force Medical Service.

Colonel Shoop, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Medical Group, won the national award in recognition of her outstanding achievements last year.

Among these, Colonel Shoop designed and developed a demanding but inspiring two-year preparatory initiative to ensure unit compliance for a scheduled Health Services Inspection. That program led to the 123rd Medical Group receiving the highest inspection marks in unit history.

In the spirit of the Kentucky Derby, the pre-inspection project was known as the “HIS Derby.” Each duty section created a symbolic race horse to represent its progress toward completion of 13 “homework” assignments. The assignments were designed to move sections closer to the “finish line,” representing total compliance.

Colonel Shoop also composed and published rigorous standards for medical ethics and the treatment of patients, as well as a Customer Bill of Rights to protect patient confidentiality and promote superior service.

Executive order bans texting while driving

A new executive order, signed recently by President Barack Obama, prohibits on-duty federal employees from texting while driving, effective Oct. 1.

Executive Order 13513 states that “federal employees shall not engage in text messaging (a) when driving (government-owned or privately owned vehicles) while on official Government business, or (b) when using electronic equipment supplied by the Government while driving.”

The executive order defines texting in section 6(b): “‘Texting’ or ‘Text Messaging’ means reading from or entering data into any handheld or other electronic device, including for the purpose of SMS texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, obtaining navigational information, or engaging in any form of electronic data retrieval or electronic data communication.”

The bottom line is that if you are on duty as a federal employee, you are banned from texting while driving.

Research has shown that the distraction caused by texting while driving is equivalent to the impairment caused by having a blood-alcohol level of twice the legal limit.

While Kentucky has not passed a law prohibiting texting while driving, all the surrounding states except Ohio have. It is only a matter of time before all states ban texting while driving, so we should stop any bad habits today and practice safety in all aspects of our lives.


— Maj. Charles Hans, Base safety officer

Senior Airman Windy Wagner, a security forces troop who serves as the 123rd Airlift Wing’s full-time civilian security program manager, has been named the top security forces civilian in both the Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

The awards, bestowed in 2008, recognize Airman Wagner’s exceptional accomplishments in a wide range of essential activities, according to Chief Master Sgt. Dan Radke, base security forces manager.

These include providing superior service for the pass and vehicle registration section, which issued more than 1,200 decals during the evaluation period while keeping wait times under five minutes; outstanding supervision of the personnel security section, which expertly processed more than 170 security clearances in compliance with Air Force regulations; and proactive management of the information security program, which conducted 12 program reviews to ensure that classified accounts were being properly maintained.

Airman Wagner also contributed to the unit’s being selected as the 2006 Air National Guard Outstanding Security Forces Squadron by excelling in her role as the organization’s primary computer support administrator and by helping secure more than $780,000 in additional funding as the squadron resource advisor.

The money was used to purchase badly needed deployment gear and upgrades for the base alarm system, Chief Radke said.

Her other duties include serving as a functional area records manager, squadron computer security monitor, information technology support coordinator, 123rd Security Forces Wing information manager, and executive order clerk and orders preparation clerk.

Airman Wagner is an active supporter of local youth baseball leagues and volunteers much of her spare time to Janet’s Helpers, a civilian charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged Appalachian children.

Cargo Courier Staff Report

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Senior Airman Windy Wagner, who serves as the 123rd Airlift Wing’s full-time civilian security program manager, received the Outstanding Air National Guard Security Forces Civilian of the Year Award for 2007 from Col. Bill Albro, former director of A&F at the National Guard Bureau, during an annual security forces symposium held in Annapolis, Md., on Nov. 6. Airman Wagner also won the same honor at the Air Force level.
Happy New Year! Or, at least Happy New Fiscal Year. Welcome back for our October Unit Training Assembly.

We took a nice break in September after completing a record fiscal year. Thanks again, but get ready! Fiscal Year 2010 will be historic for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

For the first time in our history, we will demonstrate our combat readiness to respond to a homeland security emergency or homeland defense enemy attack under an Air Mobility Command Inspection (AMC Global Operational Readiness Inspection. This will not only be a first for the 123rd, it also will mark the first time that any Air Mobility Command or Air National Guard unit will perform a homeland security/home front defense inspection.

We will prove that we are just as ready to do our mission in support of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our state’s needs. And, as a nation, our personal and professional foundation we set last fiscal year: readiness.

We will find out this weekend. Our MOBEX is the first step toward next year’s inspection. Later, we will train under an Ability to Survive and Operate exercise. We will have a couple of MOBEX and ATSO exercises before we perform a deployed exercise and our inspection.

At the same time, every day, we must be ready for the call from our government, home or from our allies abroad asking for help. We will be there. We are the 123rd Airlift Wing. Get ready! — Col. Greg Nelson

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We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photographs. Publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is Oct. 25.

An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard’s Web site — www.123aw.ang.af.mil

Col. Greg Nelson 123rd Airlift Wing Commander

The future will provide "great opportunities" for the Air National Guard, but it also will require a different way of thinking, the ANG director Oct. 15. Succeed and Maintenance Group Mega-Conference in Boise, Idaho.

"For those in this room, we’re going to rely on your skills as great maintainers, but you may be maintaining something you never thought you’d put your hands on," said Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt III to the defense IG.

Adapting to changes in the active-duty Air Force is critical, General Wyatt added. There are new platforms and new programs, including unmanned aircraft systems, and the Air Guard needs to be an integral part of those changes.

"All services are looking beyond the current wars to face today, and the ability to adapt to a changing environment really begins and stops with the people," the general said.

Air Guard members need to understand these new roles and responsibilities, while maintaining security of operations, communications, our forces and infrastructure.

Air National Guard members combine military education.

"We need (you) to develop our younger Airmen by taking them under your wings and giving them the opportunities to succeed and exceed expectations," he said. "We need to have more flexible and adaptable Airmen.

"I know we have the ability, the stability and the constant readiness to operate and survive attack, win, and return victorious.

This month, we will complete a mobility exercise that will test our immediate readiness to deploy within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our state’s needs.

Have you completed the multiple training events necessary, ensuring that you will know what to do when deployed (self-aid and buddy care, Law of Armed Conflict, weapons qualification, information/communications security training, etc.)?

Are you physically prepared to endure the hardships of an austere deployed location (immunizations, medical exams, physical fitness tests, etc.)?

Are you prepared to perform your specific mission (Career Development Course completion, currencies, specialty qualifications)?

Is your equipment ready (personal baggage and protective equipment)? Are our aircraft, vehicles and support equipment ready?

We will find out this weekend.

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Wyatt: Guard needs to adapt to new missions Air Mobility Command stands up blended units Active-duty, Guard and Reserve elements merge for a total force concept By Master Sgt. Angie Sarchet Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command officials here continued their total force integration efforts Oct. 1, as they stand-up of three active associate units that now combine active-duty units and Airmen who accomplish the KC-135 Stratotanker air refueling mission with their Reserve and Guard counterparts.

The three units that stood up are at Scott Air Force Base, Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., and Birmingham Air National Guard Base, Ala.

Total force integration, an effort initiated by AMC officials several years ago, maximizes resources while increasing operational effectiveness in support of warfighters.

Simply defined, an associate unit is where active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members combine forces and missions using total force integration.

Normally, people think of an associate unit when the active duty owns the aircraft and the Reserve or Air National Guard co-locate with them to provide only manpower.

On Oct. 1, however, that relationship evolved with great success as AMC broke the old paradigm.

In the past, active-duty units were not placed at Reserve or Guard “unit equipped” locations. To take advantage of synergies and aircraft, active-duty units are now being stood up at these locations.

This enables the Air Force to be more productive in meeting the global demands for mobility air forces.

Recent active associate success stories can be found for the C-40 mission at Scott Air Force Base; for the C-130 mission at Cheyenne Municipal Airport, Wyo.; and for the KC-135 mission at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

AMC officials are continuing to capitalize on the success of these units and apply lessons learned to the new units the command brings on line.

“Having the KC-135 active association unit stand up at Scott Air Force Base is another testimony of how we enable combat power,” said Col. Gary Goldstone, the newly established 375th Air Mobility Wing commander.

“As part of the total force integration, this transition allows better use of resources and manpower to enable us to better accomplish our mission both at home and during contingency deployments.”

Active associations are a win-win for AMC officials, said.

The total force integration concept builds on the regional and national capabilities, increased economic efficiencies and enhancing the Air Force’s ability to defend the homeland against emerging threats, respond to national disasters and meet the requirements for contingency operations.

As the Air Force realigns and consolidates, the use of total force integration has helped enhance unit operations and optimize mobility partnerships, particularly in AMC.

While some units are moving, deactivating and reactivating due to the last round of Base Realignment and Closure Commission actions, this creates unique partnerships not normally seen in the Total Force community.

At Scott Air Force Base, Air National Guard leaders agreed about the capability provided by building associate units.

“The Illinois Air National Guard’s 126th Air Refueling Wing is an outstanding unit with a great history,” said Maj. Gen. William Enyart, the Illinois National Guard adjutant general.

“Having Airmen in an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience that makes the 126th Air Refueling Wing ideal to be an associate unit with the Air Force.”
Deployments

Continued from Front Page

America, said Maj. James White, mission commander. Both deployments follow on the heels of a third overseas mission this spring in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

About 200 Kentucky Airmen and multiple Kentucky Air Guard C-130s were deployed to Afghanistan in March, April and May, flying more than 1,500 combat sorties to deliver approximately 6,000 tons of cargo to forward operating bases in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. The Kentucky Airmen also airdropped vital equipment and supplies to U.S. and coalition forces on the ground, and transported more than 20,000 Soldiers across the theater of operations.

While the wing’s aviation assets have been active in Europe, Asia, and Central and South America, scores of other unit members have deployed to Iraq and dozens of other locations around the world this year for missions ranging from civil engineering to public affairs.

“We can honestly say that the Kentucky Air National Guard supports every current overseas contingency operation,” Colonel Nelson said.

The unit has been equally busy at home, providing extensive support for disaster relief operations after a statewide ice storm paralyzed the Commonwealth in January and record flooding struck Louisville in August.

The operations tempo isn’t expected to slow much in the coming months, with an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for May and additional overseas deployments slated to follow next summer.

“Name a mission, and we’re most likely playing a vital role, whether it be homeland defense or overseas contingency operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere,” Colonel Nelson said.

“That is a testament to the men and women of the 123rd Airlift Wing, who are always ready to answer the call to duty, any time, anywhere. I’d like to thank our members for their continued dedication to the Air Force and Air National Guard mission all over the world.”

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 10,000 members of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard have deployed worldwide.