TOP: Delta Squadron members load cargo on a C-130 Hercules Ramstein Air Base in support of Operation Joint Forge.

BOTTOM: A Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 taxis into Ramstein following an airlift sortie.

Air Guard delivers on Bosnia mission

KyANG supports Operation Joint Forge while being inspected

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany—Members of the Kentucky Air Guard joined forces with another Air Guard unit and active-duty troops here in December to fly supplies to multinational peacekeepers in Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Forge. Aircrews, maintainers and support personnel from Ohio’s 179th Airlift Wing and Kentucky’s 123rd Airlift Wing supported the operation through March 4, when they were replaced by personnel from other Air Guard and active-duty units.

During the deployment, KyANG crews flew more than 150 sorties, delivering approximately 2,500 passengers and 410 tons of cargo throughout Europe.

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The Pope contingent packed up Feb. 17, however, leaving operations to the Ohio-Kentucky team.

Such intermingling of active-duty and Air Guard members is now the norm around the world, said Lt. Col. Mark L. Stephens, a pilot in the Ohio Air Guard and the commander of Delta Squadron, also known as the 38th Airlift Squadron (Provisional).

The concept of the Air Guard as ‘weekend warriors’ is no longer accurate in today’s Air Force,” Stephens said. “The Total Force is definitely a reality, particularly since Desert Storm.”

EORI results

• SEE STORY, PAGE 4.
Wing focuses on being powerful, harmonious

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—Tears and tributes punctuated three memorial services in Virginia and Florida. Held March 10 and 11, that honored 21 members of the National Guard who perished in a March 3 military aircraft crash in rural Pennsylvania.

Governors from both states in which the units are located, personally offered their condolences. Letters, including one from President George W. Bush, a former Texas Air National Guard fighter pilot, were read to those who mourned.

An estimated 4,000 family members, friends, military people and other dignitaries paid their respects. Red baseball caps bearing the term “citizen-soldier.”

“Harmonious” also means that everyone in the 123rd feels comfortable and a real part of the wing. This means embracing all members regardless of gender, race or religion. If one person feels left out because of their gender or color of skin, we have failed to achieve our vision.

This unit is a reflection of our community and we should mirror community demographics if we are to recruit and retain into the 21st century. It is a given that the 123rd is a military organization, but I included it in our vision statement because it is central to what we do.

We must always strive to honor our military traditions and responsibilities. People may join the unit for educational benefits, the money or the travel, but they will only stay if we focus on and live the traditional military values of duty, honor, and country.

Next month I will focus on the next phase. I ask for your feedback, but I know it is great to be back. Thanks Loads!

Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

By Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.—President George W. Bush visited here March 12, his first official visit to an Air Force installation as president.

He toured base facilities, discussed the defense budget and talked about quality-of-life issues with Air Force people and their families.

“One part of the budget I submitted to the Congress is a pay raise for those who wear the uniform,” he said. “I believe by focusing our mission we can improve morale — but I know by paying folks more we can improve morale as well.”

The president seemed genuinely interested in military mem-

ers’ needs and concerns, said Capt. Dennis G. Scarborough, 95th Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations and a member of a group that met with the president.

“We talked primarily about housing, pay raises, the defense budget and overseas issues,” he said. “The president listened carefully to us and expressed support for taking care of the military and our families.”

After these messages, Bush had another message for the service with a rendition of “Amazing Grace,” the crowd flowed outside to watch four Virginia Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcons from Richmond’s 192nd Fighter Wing roar over the church. A single F-16 peeled off in the “missing man” formation.

Friends of the deceased airmen expressed their hope that the memorial services will start of the healing process for the thousands of people who are still feeling the pain.


Each branch of the U.S. armed forces was represented.

Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki said all service leaders were genuinely con-

cerned for the families and troops.

Three pairs of Army boots and camouflage uniforms were draped over three memorials for the 18 Air Guard members at Virginia Beach.

In Jacksonville, Fla., former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush compared their deaths to those who died during the Civil War battle at Gettysburg, Pa.

“This does not mean that this duty and this sacrifice was not justified. In fact, it was just thrown away. They are an inspiration for all of us.”

Bus visits first Air Force base as president

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

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ier are not necessarily the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited and prepared by the pub-

lic affairs office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville International Airport, Louisville, Ky. 40213-2678.

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Head- quarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is May 4.

By Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

How to contact us

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ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICES

This page is dedicated to the men and women of the National Guard who perished in an accident on March 3, 2001. A moment of silence and a color guard present the colors.

Memorial "Harmonious" at the 123rd Wing was among the units honored during the Virginia memorial.

Virginia National Guard remembers fallen airmen
Chaplain distributes encouragement cards

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

More than 3,000 encouragement cards were distributed to deployed members of the Kentucky and Ohio Air Guard who participated in Operation Joint Forge at Ramstein Air Base, Germany thanks to the efforts of five women from Parkland Baptist Church here in Louisville, Ky.

The cards, which were handmade by the group, feature art work, bible verses and information on how to contact deployed chaplains, said Lt. Col. Tom Curry, a chaplain from the 123rd Airlift Wing.

“This ladies worked on this project every Thursday, four to five hours for more than three months, to show support for the deployed troops,” Curry said.

“This is a very patriotic group, and many of the ladies have family members in the armed forces, so they understand the stress that (deployed troops) are feeling,” Wilma Price, who led the group from Parkland Baptist Church in making encouragement cards, said.

“These ladies were delighted to make the 3,000 cards so the people in the military could be encouraged and have something from back home.”

Promotions, retirements & separations

The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air and Reserves of the United States Air Force:

AIRMAN (E-2)
• Jesse Nash, 165th Airlift Sq.
• Timothy Zozula, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)
• Erika Caduff, 123rd Services Sq.
• Raymond Moore, 123rd Logistics Sq.
• Mark Black, 123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)
• Gregory Ledford, 123rd Medical Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and reserves of the United States Air Force:

• Staff Sgt. Gwendslyn Bishop, 165th Weather Flt.
• Master Sgt. Douglas Briscoe, 205th Combat Communications Sq.
• Tech. Sgt. Mark Elledge, 123rd Logistics Sq.
• Senior Master Sgt. Larry Franklin, 123rd Communications Flt.
• Master Sgt. Mark Hagan, 205th Combat Communications Sq.
• Tech. Sgt. Edward Rachford, 123rd Logistics Sq.
• Staff Sgt. Douglas Sharp, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
• Master Sgt. Gorman Walters, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air National Guard:

• Staff Sgt. Robert Akridge, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
• Staff Sgt. Christopher Baker, 123rd Special Tactics Flt.
• Senior Airman Paul Blackburn, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
• Staff Sgt. Terence Ceki, 123rd Logistics Sq.
• Tech. Sgt. Timothy Cruse, 205th Combat Communications Sq.
• Staff Sgt. Larry Daugherty Jr., 123rd Maintenance Sq.
• Senior Airman Billy Fields, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
• Staff Sgt. Anthony Foll, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
• Staff Sgt. Gary Hampton, 205th Combat Communications Sq.

Wing seeking individuals to build mini C-130

The Kentucky Air National Guard is working to build a mini C-130 and is looking for individuals interested in helping.

Both those with the necessary building skills and those willing to provide manpower in any area are needed.

Photos of a mini C-130 will be displayed on bulletin boards outside of the dining hall during April and May drills. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will also be posted in the dining hall.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar at ext. 4645.

Bosslift scheduled for May

Kentucky employers will have an opportunity to see military active duty, National Guard and Reserve training firsthand May 16 to 18.

The bosslift will begin with a visit to the Kentucky Air National Guard base, then a flight to and from San Diego, Calif., to visit military facilities there.

Highlights of the event will include tours on Navy ships, a tour of the Mexican border with the Border Patrol, and a tour of Coast Guard Operations.

The registration fee is $75, which includes a dinner reception Wednesday evening and lunches. Lodging cost are separate and will be approximately $13 per night.

Seating is limited to 40 partici- pants. All participants must be capable of walking and climbing and will be asked to sign a waiver of liability.

For more information, contact Steve Bullard, executive director of the Kentucky Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, at (502) 491-4737.
KyANG completes 1st EORI

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Members of KyANG completed their first Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection successfully at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in February.

Already deployed in support of Operation Joint Forge, the airmen were tasked to continue their normal routines and handle real-world situations while being inspected.

The inspection was considered an “over-the-shoulder” work review to ensure the unit is mission-ready.

The sections which were evaluated all did an excellent job, said Col. Bill Leslie, 123rd Airlift Wing commander during the EORI.

“I am extremely pleased with the outcome. All our hard work, training and enthusiasm really paid off.”

The inspection team, which was composed of evaluators from the Air Mobility Command Inspector General’s office at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., concluded that KyANG had earned its combat readiness validation.

“Overall, we just did really well,” Leslie said. “I am very proud of our people and couldn’t be more pleased.”

The three-day inspection evaluated aircraft maintenance, aviation packages, personnel, public affairs and the wing’s chaplains.

Operation Joint Forge

Bosnia

Continued from Front Page

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

reliance on the Air Guard: A downsized active-duty force and a high operations tempo. Both factors are, however, hardly recent developments.

In fact, the Ohio and Kentucky units have deployed to Germany at least eight times since the mid-1990s to provide airlift services in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Stephens said operations like Joint Forge offer advantages for everyone because they provide an opportunity for the seamless integration of active-duty and reserve-component forces.

Both parties, he said, bring unique assets to the table.

“Many of the people in the Guard came off active duty and can draw on 20 or 25 years’ experience.” Stephens said.

“I think the active-duty side enjoys working with us because of that depth of experience. And we certainly enjoy working with our active-duty counterparts in real-world missions.”

1st Lt. Dale Green contributed information for this article.

ABOVE: Capt. Teddi Steil and Chief Master Sgt. David Delano, EORI inspectors from Air Mobility Command, check the life support gear.

LEFT: Staff Sgt. John Waldrip, a propulsion technician from the Kentucky Air Guard, performs maintenance work on a C-130 at Ramstein.

ABOVE: Master Sgt. Bill Raby, a loadmaster from the Ohio Air Guard, reviews his checklist before takeoff.

LEFT: Members of the Kentucky and Ohio Air Guard work together to prepare a C-130 Hercules for an airlift sortie.
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- Raymond Moore, 123rd Logistics Sq.
- Greg Ledford, 123rd Medical Sq.
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Chaplain distributes encouragement cards

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Wilma Price, who led the group from Parkland Baptist Church in making encouragement cards, receives a plaque March 4 from Col. Bill Leslie, former 123rd Wing Commander, and Lt. Col. Tom Curry, wing chaplain.

Wing seeking individuals to build mini C-130

The Kentucky Air National Guard is recognized building a mini C-130 and is looking for interested individuals in helping. Both those with the necessary building skills and those willing to provide manpower in any area are needed.

The recruiting office will also give seat cushions away to the first 1,000 patrons to enter the stadium gates. Promotion packets will be distributed to current Guard members during the April UTU, while retirees will receive information in the mail. Organizers hope to sell more than 1,000 tickets, which are now on sale for $6.

For more information, contact Frymire at ext. 4589.

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KyANG night with the River Bats

**By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler**

Cargo Courier Editor

Once again, Kentucky Air Guard members have an opportunity to take part in a special evening with a local sports team.

The Louisville River Bats and KyANG are teaming up for Operation River Bats, to take place at Slugger Field during the team’s game against the Durham Bulls on June 9 at 6:15 p.m.

The event will allow unit members and their families to join together for a fun-filled evening, said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, event organizer.

“This is a great opportunity for wing members to go out to the game and have a good time,” he said. “This special evening will be full of excitement for everyone in attendance.”

The events begin with a C-130 Hercules aircraft fly-by to be followed by members of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron parachuting into the stadium delivering a ceremonial baseball, which will be used to throw out the first pitch.

Also, a 25 member honorary KyANG baseball team will be introduced prior to the game, said Frymire.

“The team is a diverse mix that will feature at least one member from each unit on base,” he said. “Members will be dressed in various uniforms; some will wear blues and whites, and others woodland or desert BDUs and flight suits.

The recruiting office will also give seat cushions away to the first 1,000 patrons to enter the stadium gates. Promotion packets will be distributed to current Guard members during the April UTU, while retirees will receive information in the mail. Organizers hope to sell more than 1,000 tickets, which are now on sale for $6.

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edless to say it is great to be back! There is no other job I would rather have than to serve as the Commander of this unit. To have the opportunity to lead this great organization once again is a great honor, and to get to do it a second time is even more so.

My most important task as Commander is to define, and communicate what we want the 123rd Airlift Wing to be. Management gurus call this setting the vision for the organization. Those of you who have been around for a few years have heard it before; but I think it is important to define and communicate it again.

The vision of the 123rd is simply this: "A powerful, harmonious military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms, prepared to successfully wage war, and provide world class service to community, state and nation."

This is a short and simple statement of what each member of the Thoroughbred Express should endeavor to make this wing become. Because I want everyone in the wing to fully understand this vision; this column will break it down into its various parts and explain what I mean.

The first phrase I would like to explain is "The power, harmonious military organization." In this context, the word "powerful" means that we must be strong enough to do the job, and if we are strong enough to do the job, we are able to do the job.

"Harmonious" simply put means that everyone in the wing is in tune with each other. For the wing to move forward, the educational benefits, the money or the travel, but they will only stay if we focus on and live the traditional military values of duty, honor, and country. Next month I will focus on the next phrase. I ask for your patience, and I promise it is great to be back. Thanks Load!
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Col. Bill Leslie awards Chief Master Sgt. Michael Geoghegan of the 123rd Medical Squadron the Meritorious Service Medal during a March 3 retirement ceremony held on the flightline. Geoghegan served more than 24 years in the KyANG.

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Public Affairs Office
Kentucky Air National Guard
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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KyANG Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines

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