

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## 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.

Both Air Guard units also participated in a three-day Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection to evaluate their mission readiness.

The Ohio and Kentucky airmen began arriving at Ramstein in early December to work alongside their active-duty counterparts from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

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 'week-end warriors' is no longer accurate in today's



Photos by 1st Lt. Dale Greer

**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.

### EORI results

• SEE STORY, PAGE 4.

Air Force," Stephens said.

"The Total Force is definitely a reality, particularly since Desert Storm."

Stephens said two factors are driving the

See **BOSNIA**, page 4

# Wing focuses on being powerful, harmonious

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eedless 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 is a great honor, and to get to do it a second time is more than I can stand.

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 for 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 want to make this wing become. Because I want everyone in the wing to fully understand this vision; this column over the next several months will break it down into its various parts and explain what I mean.

The first phrase I would like to explain is “A powerful, harmonious military organization.” In this context, the word “powerful” means that the 123rd, and every member in it, is respected and listened to when he or she goes on a deployment, to a conference or simply calls his Air Force counterpart. We can only garner this respect if



**Col. Michael Harden**  
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

we decide to dedicate ourselves to be the best that we can be. We must constantly strive to take care of business and have our “stuff together” if we are to have the immediate credibility necessary to become “powerful.”

“Harmonious” simply put, means that everyone is in tune with each other. For the 123rd, it should be in everything that we do, and be aimed at achieving our vision and accomplishing our objectives.

This does not mean that everyone acts the same, has the same personality, or comes from the same background or culture.

It means that when disagreements occur, they are resolved in favor of the wing mission and not some personal agenda. The key to this harmony is open and honest communication. Tell folks what you mean. If you

disagree it is alright as long as the disagreement is based on fact, or an honest opinion. Honesty brings trust and without trust true communication does not happen.

“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. Not long ago the military aspect of the ANG was downplayed because our society was going in a different direction. We talked about acting like a business, had gatherings instead of formations, and generally downplayed the idea that we were a military organization. People join the 123rd because they like the military, and they want to do military things.

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

Next month I will focus on the next phrase. I ask for you support, and again it is great to be back. Thanks Loads!

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

Wing Commander.....Col. Michael Harden  
Wing Public Affairs Officer.....1st Lt. Dale Greer  
Cargo Courier Editor.....Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler

How to contact us

Phone: (502) 364-9431  
E-mail: amycziegler@hotmail.com



An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — [www.kyang.ang.af.mil](http://www.kyang.ang.af.mil)

## Wing seeking individuals to build mini C-130

The Kentucky Air National Guard is considering building 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.

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 participants. 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 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 parachut-

ing 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 UTA, 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.



Tech. Sgt. Bill Lewis/KyANG

Col. Michael Harden, 123rd Airlift Commander, joins River Bat mascot Buddy Bat and Chris Sobczyk, River Bats promotions manager, at Louisville Slugger Field.



## 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



Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler/KyANG



ABOVE: Capt. T. [Name obscured] from Air Mo [Name obscured]

LEFT: Staff Sgt. [Name obscured] Air Guard, perform [Name obscured]

## Bosnia

Continued from Front Page

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 Greer contributed information for this article.*





1st Lt. Dale Greer/KyANG

eddi Steil and Chief Master Sgt. David Delano, EORI inspection Command, check the life support gear.

John Waldrip, a propulsion technician from the Kentucky Arms maintenance work on a C-130 at Ramstein.



Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler/KyANG

**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.



Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler/KyANG



# 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.

"These 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 under," he 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."



Tech. Sgt. Bill Lewis/KyANG

**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.**

## Promotions, retirements & separations



*The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists 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 Flt.
- Raymond Moore,  
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Mark Black,  
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

### **STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)**

- Gregory Ledford,  
123rd Medical Sq.

- Joseph Holt,  
123rd Logistics Sq.

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

- Staff Sgt. Gwendolyn Bishop,  
165th Weather Flt.
- Master Sgt. Douglas Briscoe,  
205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. Mark Ellegood,  
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 Operations Gp.
- Staff Sgt. Joseph Cambron ,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Terence Cecil,  
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.

# National Guard remembers fallen airmen

**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 airplane crash in rural Georgia.

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 poured into the cavernous Rock Church in Virginia Beach, Va., on March 10 to pay their respects.

Nearly 1,000 attended services March 11 in airplane hangars in Lakeland and Jacksonville, Fla.

The 18 Air National Guard civil engineers from Virginia's 203rd RED HORSE Engineering Flight and the three Army Guard aviators from Florida's 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation C-23 Sherpa detachment were remembered at all three services.

The Army Guard flight crew was transporting the one officer and 17 enlisted members back to Virginia following two weeks of annual training at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Virginia Gov. James Gilmore III told the families at Virginia Beach that their losses from one of the worst peacetime tragedies in the National Guard's history has affected

the entire country.

"Today, we come together in this magnificent church to remember and to honor good men who lost their lives doing something they believed in to their core—serving their country, their state and their communities," Gilmore said.

"The pain of this tragic loss has touched far more than communities in Virginia, Florida, North Carolina and Georgia. It has touched the nation."

Families also heard messages of condolence from the nation's leaders, including two letters read by Virginia National Guard Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Claude A. Williams, who hosted the service.

"We mourn together with their loss," Williams read from Bush's letter. "They personified the term 'citizen-soldier.'"

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated in a letter to the families that the citizen-airmen and soldiers would be remembered. "These were true patriots serving our country," he said. "Their contributions will not be forgotten."

During the 90-minute Virginia memorial, families viewed poster-sized photographs of their loved ones. Red baseball caps bearing the 203rd RED HORSE Engineering Flight logo and personal items were also on display.

The families were presented shadow boxes containing folded U.S. and Virginia flags and the citizen-airmen's ranks, ribbons and awards. Members of the unit made those boxes by hand.

After a solitary bagpiper concluded 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 fighter peeled off in the "missing man" formation.

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

Other dignitaries included Virginia U.S. Sen. John Warner, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Gen. Michael Ryan, U.S. Air Force chief of staff. Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., director of the Air National Guard, also attended.

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

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki said all service leaders were genuinely concerned for the families and troops.

Three pairs of Army boots and camouflage helmets were prominently displayed next to memorials for the 18 Air Guard members at Virginia Beach.

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

"They leave a legacy for all of us to remember," Jeb Bush said. "You should know that this duty and this sacrifice was not something that was just thrown away. They are an inspiration for all of us."

## Bush visits first Air Force base as president

**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-

bers' 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 members around the world.

"I'm proud of the men and women who wear our uniforms," Bush said. "I look forward to shaking your hands and looking you in the eye and thanking you for serving America."

"For those of you who I don't get to look in the eye and say thanks for serving America—thanks for serving America!"

## ***Retirements***



**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.**



**Chief Master Sgt. Bobbie Brawner of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron also received an MSM during the retirement ceremony March 3. Brawner spent more than 26 years in the KyANG.**

*KyANG Photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines*

**123rd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs Office  
Kentucky Air National Guard  
1101 Grade Lane  
Louisville, KY 40213-2678**

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