

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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2nd to NONE

**No other Air Guard unit
has more AFOUAs
as wing brings home 11th**

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The 123rd Airlift Wing has once again been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, marking the unit's 11th such honor and continuing its tradition of being one of the most decorated units in the Air National Guard.

The wing now is tied with two other units for top honors—Georgia's 116th Bomb Wing and Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Group.

"The competition was extremely keen, and the 123rd Airlift Wing is commended for being selected from among an outstanding group of nominees," said Brig. Gen. David Brubaker, deputy director of the Air Guard.

"The dedication and commitment of its members enable the Air National Guard to fulfill its commitment of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, domestic improvement and— most important of all— defense of America."

The award is given annually to the top 10 percent of Air Guard units and recognizes the wing's accomplishments from Aug. 31, 1999 to Aug. 30, 2001.

During the two-year period, the wing made history when it deployed to Oman in support of Operation Southern Watch, becoming one of the first Air Guard units to participate in the Air Force's new Expeditionary Aerospace Force program.

While there, the unit excelled in delivering around-the-clock airlift services for multinational troops enforcing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. Subsequent overseas missions included a deployment to Germany for Operation Joint Forge, during which the unit supported multinational peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia.

Closer to home, the wing was lauded by civic leaders for its out-



Staff Sgt. Tommy Downs/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. Bob Allen, Lt. Col. Tom Marks and Master Sgt. Ed Sachleben are the only personnel currently serving in the 123rd Airlift Wing who have received all 11 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. The wing is now tied with two other Air Guard units for top honors.

standing support of the community during events like Thunder Over Louisville, the Kentucky Derby Festival's annual kickoff airshow.

The wing also earned high praise for record-setting community relations events like Operation RiverBats, a night of patriotic activities held in conjunction with a Louisville RiverBats baseball game.

Other community relations successes included the wing's Bean Soup 2001 and Combined Federal Campaign fund-raisers, and its support of Special Olympics Kentucky and the Kentucky Harvest

SECOND TO NONE, Back Page

Women in the military are key in Guard success

It's exciting for me to write on a subject that is very near and dear to my heart—women in the military.

Creating an environment and culture that values and furthers the development of each member is important to the success of our Guard family.

It enables us to remain the premier reserve component in the military and continue to attract and retain the best and brightest individuals in this demographically changing nation.

While 16 percent of KyANG troops are female, diversity remains a top priority in the 123rd because it gives us a competitive advantage by ensuring diversity of thought at all levels of the organization, including the top three—currently, only 12.3 percent of field-grade officers are female, 11.8 percent of the top-three enlisted ranks are female and less than 4 percent of the wing's pilots and navigators are female.

Still, throughout the total force, the Air Force leads all other services in gender representation at 18 percent. One might ask: Are we really making progress? And my answer is: Yes, we are making good progress.

Since the early 1970s, the percentage of women serving in the Air Guard has more than doubled. Currently, our female representation is 18 percent. This is truly a good-news story because about 2.4 percent of our pilots are female and 5.6 percent of our navigators are female.

I'm amazed every day at the growing momentum of the initiative. We must keep this impetus going, and with your help, at the forefront of our journey, I know we can build a bridge beyond the 21st century.

The U.S. military is widely viewed as a



Col. Cora Jackson
123rd Airlift Wing Vice Commander

pioneer in providing equal opportunity for its uniformed members. From the 1948 Executive Order that formally began the process of racial integration to the most recent admission of women into most military occupational specialties, the military has compiled a record of providing equal opportunity that often exceeds the progress of civilian society.

Less than two years ago, the USS Cole was bombed by a terrorist and once again we were reminded that each and every one of us put our lives on the line in defense of our great nation, everyday.

Two of the 17 sailors who died aboard the Cole were women, and for the first time the fact that women died in an attack on military personnel wasn't a media event. In fact, the country appears to have taken this pretty

much in stride since women are now accepted as indispensable members of our war-fighting team.

In my view, this was a clear signal of just how far we have come with assimilating women into the military. In an interview Rear Adm. John Foley said it best when he stated, "whether they're male or female doesn't matter. The focus has been on all Cole sailors."

As leaders, we find these issues are often the most difficult to get our hands around because they require that we use our heads and our hearts—and sometimes that's just plain uncomfortable. Let someone else do the "touchy-feely" stuff. Yet our people want to know we care about them. They want to know we passionately lead them.

It's leadership's responsibility to also create a climate that inspires everyone to achieve extraordinary goals and levels of performance, at all times and under all conditions—especially in the stress of combat.

It is also important for us to have a balanced representation of women throughout the ranks—from the most junior airmen to the most senior flag officers. We all know this is both the right and smart thing to do.

Our traditional sources for recruitment will not satisfy our needs for ensuring the diversity of thought, numbers of recruits and a balanced work force. The future will demand only the best and the brightest individuals who possess high technological skills.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "One man can make a difference and everyone should try."

Let us go forth together and make a difference and leave the Guard better than we found it.

—Col. Cora Jackson

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Leslie's dedication to unit not to be forgotten

KyANG troops hail farewell to former commander and friend

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Cold rain falls from the sky as tears fall from the faces of those who are saddened by the loss of their former commander.

His troops stand tall and are lined up on the street as the group is called to attention.

Then they render one last salute as the hearse carrying the remains of Ret. Col. Bill Leslie passes by.

Leslie, who served in the Kentucky Air Guard for more than 32 years, died March 16 at the age of 55 after fighting a yearlong battle with cancer.

More than 350 people crowded into the Base Annex here March 19 to honor the 123rd Airlift Wing's previous commander and pay tribute to his life and accomplishments.

The KyANG command pilot, who retired from the wing in April 2001, had logged more than 6,000 hours' flying time in both the F-4 Phantom and the C-130 Hercules during his career.

From airmen to colonel, Leslie was a good man who had a great career in the unit, said Col. Mike Harden, the wing's current commander.

"One of the amazing things about Bill was that he led this unit out of a desire for mission accomplishment, not self promotion," Harden told those who gathered to remember Leslie.

"He left behind him a legacy of competence, professionalism and good humor."

Harden, who knew Leslie for more than 25 years, said his record speaks for itself.

"Bill was the type of guy who was respected by both four-star generals and four-stripe airmen.

"He was a military man, husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend. He epitomized the phrase 'Excellence in all we do' in each of these roles," Harden said.

"During Bill's time here, he led the unit to a national reputation for readiness and can-do spirit.

"We had a mutual respect and admiration for one another because we shared a fierce desire to see this unit excel and be a great place for folks to serve their country.

"Bill was my friend, and he will be missed," Harden said.

Chief Master Sgt. Dan Spradling, NCOIC of the 165th Airlift Wing's loadmaster section, worked under Leslie in several different positions since he joined the unit in 1989.

Leslie, Spradling said, was a person who always ensured the job got done to the best his ability.

"He was very strict to standards and wouldn't accept less than a superior performance from aircrew members," Spradling said.

"But at the same time he was compassionate to people and he cared if people were suffering from personal problems."

The chief also recalls Leslie as being very approachable to everyone around him.

"It didn't matter if you were an airman. Because of his demeanor, everyone felt like they could talk to him," Spradling said.

"His rank was there, but it didn't deter troops from him."



Ret. Col. Bill Leslie

During his career, Leslie served in numerous positions within the Kentucky Air Guard, including safety officer, chief of standards evaluation, director of operations, wing vice commander and finally wing commander.

He also served as the Air Guard advisor to the commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

For service to his country, he was awarded numerous decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal.

Leslie was an active member of the Louisville Armed Forces Committee and a former commander of the Military Order of World Wars.

Leslie was buried with full military honors and is survived by his wife, mother, son, grandson and three sisters.

Words OF War

Tonini uses marketing background to create 'Guardians of Freedom'

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

After 33 years in sales and marketing, Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini knows what will play in Peoria and how to deliver the message.

The chief of staff for the Kentucky Air National Guard is the first career public affairs officer in Air Guard history to earn a brigadier general's star.

He owns his own film and tape production company in Louisville that specializes in sales and marketing.

He has worked with such high-profile organizations as ESPN, the Walt Disney Studio, Chase Bank, General Electric and IBM.

Tonini also is the founding father and driving force behind "Your Guardians of Freedom."

That new public relations program has gained the 33-year Air Guard veteran the attention of many of this country's military leaders who have committed full-time and part-time people for a few months or a few years to the new war against terrorism.

Your Guardians of Freedom enables unit commanders to quickly communicate with people affected by and interested in the mobilization of military people for the war that President George W. Bush launched within days of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Commanders can contact and request the support of civilian employers, educators, families, members of Congress and local government leaders, and the local media when Guard members, Reservists and active duty troops get called up for Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom operations in this country and overseas.

"Our goal here is to make it as easy as possible for you to create a dialogue with those affected by the absence of Air National Guardsmen in your community," Tonini writes in the introduction to the Your Guardians of Freedom web site on the Internet.

"The events of September 11th have changed all of our lives. As Americans we mourn, and as Americans we are righteous in our outrage. When provoked by this level of barbarism, we will bear any suffering, pay any cost, go to any length, in the pursuit of justice."

That is the compelling introduction to letters that commanders can sign and send or use as examples for their own letters that explain why military people have been called to arms.

Along with the letters go posters featuring the Statue of Liberty in front of the American Flag, which the recipients are asked to display as a show of support for the people who have been called away.

Family members also receive Lady Liberty postcards and re-



Kentucky Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini is explaining the "Your Guardians of Freedom" communications program to military leaders across the country.

frigerator magnets, and "We Will Not Fail" patches.

"Because these Air National Guardsmen are highly valued in their civilian roles, their sudden absence—which can last up to two years—will cause major inconveniences and hardships to everyone around them. Their employer. Their school. Their family," Tonini explains to commanders.

"We know that communicating with these folks is yet one more responsibility for you to undertake in your already full work schedule," he advises.

"However, building a grass roots level of support here in the Homeland for our troops is an important role. So, we hope you do your part."

The program does the groundwork for a number of different agencies, including the National Guard's state family programs and Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. Tonini considers the program a full partner with those agencies.

"We needed a device to re-shine the light on these solid programs," said Tonini who described his program's two most important factors. It is simple for people in the field to use. It is an effective way to communicate with a large number of people.

"When you take the time to explain to people and organizations how an Air Guardsman's activation will affect them, you have the unique opportunity to positively influence public opinion on defense issues and create a better civilian understanding of the military service," Tonini tells commanders.

Tonini and the Air Guard have certainly done their part. The program has been developed and approved since Sept. 11, and the material has been distributed to Air Guard installations in the 54 states and territories within about four months—faster than anyone who knows Washington, D.C., could imagine.

ALCF returns from OEF deployment

A small contingent from the wing's 123rd Airlift Control Flight returned home in mid-February after a two-month deployment to Pakistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The flight was the first of its kind in the Air Guard to deploy into a combat environment, establish and then provide command and control for a tanker/airlift control element.

The KyANG members received praise for their performance from their superiors, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard B. Myers, according to Lt. Col. Greg Nelson, the flight's commander.

The team recently was redeployed to a stateside location.

Fairchild to retire in June

Maj. Gen. Verna Fairchild will be honored during a retirement ceremony to be held June 8 at 2 p.m. in the Base Annex.

Fairchild is the Air National Guard assistant to the director, Air National Guard, for base operational support readiness—a post she has held since February 1999.

Prior to that, she served as Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air beginning in 1993.

The unit is seeking photos of Fairchild from active and retired members for use in a special video tribute. Photos should be mailed to Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, 1101 Grade Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40213. All photos will be returned.

Friends and family are invited to attend the ceremony.

For more information on the event, contact Frymire at ext. 4589.

Backing the troops



Senior Airman Valerie Gholson/KyANG

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1170 in Middletown, Ky., present 62 Easter gift boxes to 123rd Security Forces Squadron members set to deploy for Operation Enduring Freedom.

From left are Debbie Antle, Brian Duffy, Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Meyer, Tech. Sgt. Eric Chenault, Master Sgt. Delano Jewell, Senior Airman Dale Massey, Staff Sgt. Bill Billings, Senior Airman Nick Hartsell, Tech. Sgt. Jesse Smith, Sue Christy and Jim McDonald.

Diversity speaker to visit KyANG

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Samuel Betances, Ph.D., a motivational speaker and diversity educator, is scheduled to speak to KyANG troops here May 17.

As a biracial, bicultural and bilingual citizen of the world, Betances spreads words of inspiration for individuals to aim high, reject rejection and embrace themselves and each other as powerful team members working toward a more prosperous future.

Col. Cora Jackson, the wing's vice commander whose previous position was human resource enhancement advisor for the National Guard, said that diversity education is important for the military and its continued success.

"We're changing demographically across the whole nation, and we need to have diversity of thought as one of those key ele-

ments of our organization to give us a competitive edge," she said.

"The more people you have with different perspectives talking about issues, the better your information source is to make the best decision."

The United States, Jackson said, is the most diversified country in the world, and it is crucial for the military to reflect the community.

"It's very appropriate in the military that we not only set the example but exceed the example, because the military has always been at the forefront of leading change throughout society," she said.

Betances will hold two sessions—8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.—at the Base Annex.

All KyANG troops are encouraged to attend. Annual training days are available for traditional guard members.

Wills and powers of attorney available through legal office

By Senior Airman Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

While it has always been important for KyANG members to have up-to-date wills and powers of attorney, it's become even more so with the increased chance of deployment for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

These important documents allow for the handling of legal affairs in the event of a unit member's death or absence.

The two key reasons to get a will, according to deputy staff judge advocate Maj. Allison Weber, are to provide guardianship for children and designate who receives a person's assets.

"This way you get to decide where your assets will go and not leave it up to state law," Weber said.

Guard members also may get living wills, which can specify organ donations and appoint a person to make health-care decisions if the designator is incapacitated.

Equally important for deploying forces, a power of attorney enables troops to designate someone to handle their affairs and assets if they're absent or incapacitated.

Weber cautioned, however, that unit members should grant power of attorney only to someone extremely trustworthy.

"Powers of attorney allow someone to sign your name and legally bind you," Weber said. "They are extremely powerful instruments not to be executed lightly."

There are two types of powers of attorney—general and special.

A general power of attorney provides unlimited authority to the designated party to act on that person's behalf.

A special power of attorney gives the designated person specific and limited powers, like the ability to sell property or file income tax returns.

Wills and powers of attorney are free to unit members through the base legal office. No appointment is necessary during drill weekends.

Guard members ensure security

By Master Sgt. Shawn Burt
123rd Security Forces Squadron

Since the horrific attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, Americans have become more concerned about homeland defense, and KyANG's commitment to the cause has grown.

What if an incident happened on a smaller scale? What if it were to happen here? Would it be any less tragic to you? No one wants to look back and say, "I wish I had."

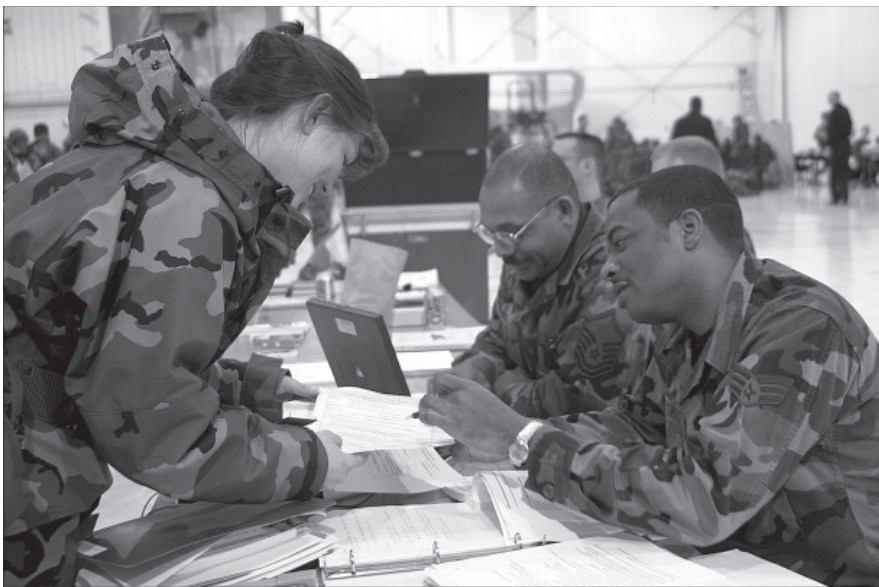
The world isn't the same as it was before the attacks, but there are some routine things Guard members can do to protect themselves, like following military force protection conditions while on base.

In order to neutralize the threat, KyANG troops must deter and detect. Measures you should take:

- Establish procedures and designate unit members to regularly inspect the interior and exterior of your facilities for suspicious packages.
- Secure rooms and storage areas not regularly in use, and inspect them regularly.
- Strictly enforce entry to your facility and work areas. Use designated entry doors at all times for entry and exit. If unit members must open other doors for operations, they must have someone ensure positive control and re-secure the area immediately.
- Designate someone to conduct beginning and end-of-day checks to ensure all areas are secure.
- Don't forget home. Make sure family members know individual protective measures and consider basic crime-prevention measures.
- Be suspicious and question unknown people in your areas.

For on-base emergencies, dial ext. 111. To contact the security forces squadron, dial ext. 4401.

Practice makes perfect



Staff Sgt. Tommy Downs/KyANG

Finance troops Senior Airman Monte Goldring and Master Sgt. Frank Collins brief Tech. Sgt. Karla Sheckells as she makes her way through the exercise mobility line here March 3. More than 135 troops processed through the line in preparation for the operational readiness inspection to be held in September.

Vice president visits AF troops in Middle East

Air Force Print News

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM—In his first stop to an Operation Enduring Freedom base in the Middle East, Vice President Dick Cheney visited the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing on March 17.

As part of his 10-day, 12-nation tour of the region, the vice president addressed service members on the vital role they are playing in the war on terrorism and the great humanitarian assistance they are providing to the Afghan people.

“These are testing times for the U.S. and, in such a time, we are especially grateful for our military,” Cheney said.

“You are here fighting for the defense of our country, and the forces of freedom will defeat the forces of terror.

“During Operation Enduring Freedom, and most recently Operation Anaconda, U.S. forces have encountered dangers and will encounter many more, but in the last five months, the al-Qaida and Taliban have gotten a good dose of American airpower. Missions from this location have made all the difference in Enduring Freedom and Anaconda.”

Cheney’s entourage, which included the White House’s top counter terrorism official, and his wife, Lynne, received a rousing applause from the large contingent of troops upon entering the American compound known as Camp Andy, a temporary living and working area of nearly 200 heavy-duty, tan-colored tents first set up in September.

The camp is named after Air Force Master Sgt. Evander Earl “Andy” Andrews, the first U.S. casualty of Enduring Freedom

who died here Oct. 10 as a result of a heavy-equipment accident.

The vice president then thanked the airmen for their efforts in the war and continuously emphasized the long-term commitment of the United States and other allied nations.

“Afghanistan is only the beginning of a long effort,” Cheney said. “The war will end when no terrorist group is allowed to threaten any nation. We will assist governments in fighting terrorist cells wherever they form. We will respond decisively and we will prevail.

“You’re here because you believe in America. I’m here to tell you, America believes in you.”

During his visit, Cheney spoke one-on-one with several wing members, including Lt. Col. “D Dawg,” commander of the 157th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron from the South Carolina Air National Guard.

“D Dawg,” a decorated combat pilot as well as an American Airlines captain in his civilian life, gave the vice president a quick tour of his unit’s F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, which are flying daily mis-



Senior Airman Danielle Upton/USAF

Vice President Dick Cheney greets troops during a visit to an Operation Enduring Freedom base in the Middle East March 17.

sions over Afghanistan.

The 157th is a prime example of the Air Force’s total force commitment of active-duty, Reserve and Air Guard forces involved in the Enduring Freedom campaign. Notable is the fact that the Guard unit, which has eight fighter pilots here who fly for major airlines, also plays a key role in U.S. homeland defense.

Pilots from this unit were flying combat air patrols over Atlanta just four hours after the terrorist attacks Sept. 11.

The 366th serves as one of the largest wings in the region, with a number of support and operational functions.

Aircraft supported by the wing include KC-10 Extenders, KC-135 Stratotankers, E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft and F-16s.

Provide Cover

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM—Airman 1st Class Jerry Summers, from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Security Forces Squadron, provides cover support March 18 at a deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Summers’ mission is to provide surveillance for troops and look for suspicious activity.

Photo by Staff Sgt. James Arrowood/USAF



TAKING THE POLAR BEAR P L U N G E



Col. Michael Harden, commander of 123rd Airlift Wing, jumps into the icy waters of the Ohio River Feb. 23 for the fourth-annual Polar Bear Plunge. The charity event raised more than \$83,000 for Special Olympics Kentucky.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tommy Downs/KyANG

Second to none

Continued from Front Page

“Million in a Month” food drive.

Col. Michael Harden, wing commander, noted the unit’s sustained record of success.

“The 11th award is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of every man and woman in the Kentucky Air National Guard,” Harden said. “This also includes the generations that have come before us.”

Brig. Gen. Allen Youngman, state adjutant general, spoke of the wing’s sterling reputation.

“Units across the nation look to the 123rd Airlift Wing as a role model to follow,” Youngman said.

“The 123rd’s commitment to making a difference has clearly won the hearts and minds of people nationally and in the community.”

A special ceremony recognizing the award is being planned, said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, wing executive officer.

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