

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## CES troops return home from Baghdad

Ky. airmen spent four months at U.S. Air Force compound



Photos by Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell  
Cargo Courier Editor

More than 400 family members and friends gathered near the Kentucky Air Guard flightline March 11 to welcome home 48 airmen who had been stationed in Iraq since November.

The troops — all members of the wing's 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron — arrived on two Kentucky C-130s and were greeted by the flag-waving, cheering crowd.

As the sunnanned faces of the men and women stepped off the aircraft, emotions ran high with smiling faces and tears.

They would finally be reunited with their loved ones after a four-month deployment to the Air Force compound at Baghdad International Airport — a place their squadron commander called "very dangerous."

As the celebration eventually began to slow and the crowd began to dwindle, their commander, Lt. Col. Connie Allen, said she couldn't have been prouder of her troops.

Their attitude, she said, is what made all the difference during the deployment.

"I had the time of my life," Colonel Allen said. "It was the most rewarding experience I have ever had."

The squadron, she said, was a "dream."

"They were hard-working, patriotic and dedicated."

The entire experience was greatly im-

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**Forty-eight Kentucky airmen returned home March 11 after spending four months deployed to the Air Force compound at Baghdad International Airport in Iraq.**

**While deployed, the troops provided base maintenance for the compound and other tenant units.**

# American flag should be displayed with honor and respect

**O**

n Sept. 11, 2001, I witnessed two airplanes flown by my civilian employer, American Airlines, crash into the World Trade Center and the Pen-

tagon, killing fellow employees and numerous others at the hands of ruthless terrorists.

I, like millions, was extremely upset at the events that took place that day. I am proud to be an American and was distraught that someone could attack our values and the United States.

I signed on with the military because of a commitment to those who served before me, to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedom of the United States. I signed on the dotted line with a commitment, the commitment to give my life if needed to secure a future for others.

One of the most symbolic items that portray our values is the flag of the United States. We display it with honor and should respect every thread it is made of. To hear "The Star Spangled Banner" and see that flag wave should stir us with emotion.

Here are some items to review to ensure that we show proper respect during ceremonial occasions like reveille or retreat:

- When outdoors and in uniform, face the flag, if visible, or face the music.
- Stand at attention and salute on the first note of the music (or, if no music, when you see the flag first being raised or lowered).
- Drop your salute after the last note is played, or when the flag has been fully raised



**Brig. Gen. Hank Morrow  
123rd Airlift Wing Commander**

or lowered, depending on the ceremony. (During the playing of "Sound Retreat," which precedes the lowering of the flag, stand at parade rest.)

- If in a vehicle during reveille or retreat, pull the car to the side of the road and stop. All occupants sit at attention until the last note of the music has played.
- When in civilian clothes and outdoors, stand at attention and place your right hand (with a hat, if wearing one) over your heart.

• Ceremonial occasions when the salute is rendered — outdoors only — include the passing of the uncased colors, the playing of "Ruffles and Flourishes," "Hail to the Chief," the national anthem of any nation and "To the Colors."

• When indoors and in uniform or civilian clothes, face the flag (or the music, if the flag is not visible) and stand at attention when the national anthem or "To the Colors" is played. Do not place your hand over your heart. (There are, however, two exceptions: If you are in uniform and under arms, you should salute. The other applies when you are a spectator in uniform at a military ceremony inside where "outdoor" rules apply. A good example is when a change of command ceremony planned for outdoors is moved inside a hangar due to inclement weather.)

• No courtesies are rendered to either the national anthem or "To the Colors" when the ceremonies are broadcast remotely by radio or television.

• If the flag is raised or lowered for any reason (maintenance, adverse weather, etc.) you should stop and salute while it is moving up or down the pole.

We have made a decision to play "Retreat" and "The Star Spangled Banner" on the base in the near future.

We should all be proud of our accomplishments over the past several years.

Please think of those people before us who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we enjoy our nation and our lifestyle today.

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Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is May 3.

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## Job well done...



Senior Airman Phillip Speck/KyANG

**Brig. Gen. Hank Morrow thanks Kentucky Army Guard troops March 18 for their service to the KyANG. The soldiers, from the 149th Infantry Battalion, provided security details to the base for more than a year while Air Force officials worked to find a solution to manpower shortfalls affecting security forces worldwide.**

## New family readiness service available

### Counseling, online tools available at One Source

By Staff Sgt. Mark Flener  
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

New resources are now available to unit members and their families through the Air Force's latest family readiness tool, Air Force One Source.

The program offers two forms of helpful communication to its users — telephone counseling services and online tools intended to make routine household responsibilities easier for military families, especially when a loved one is deployed.

The telephone counseling service is designed to help reduce stress and burnout, while the online services are designed to provide assistance with everyday-life issues.

The web site includes tools such as event calendars, budgeting and finance calculators, self-assessment quizzes, bulletin boards and links to useful information for military personnel and their families.

More than that, the web site provides

health, parenting and child-care advice.

The service is a compliment to the base Family Readiness Office and provides a wide array of information to unit members and their families, said 1st Lt. Latonia Trowell, KyANG program coordinator.

"The Air Force created this program to provide an additional benefit to our service members," Lieutenant Trowell said.

Air Force One Source resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To access the web site, KyANG members and their families should go to online to [www.airforceonesource.com](http://www.airforceonesource.com).

Members logging onto the web site for the first time should login as "air force" with the password of "ready."

Users then will be able to create their own IDs and passwords.

To contact Air Force One Source via the telephone in the United States, call (800) 707-5784. Outside the United States, dial (800) 7075-7844. For collect calls, dial (484) 530-5913.

*For additional information, contact the Kentucky Air Guard Family Readiness Office at extension 4647.*

## KyANG unit profile

### 123rd Aerial Port Squadron

#### Leadership

Maj. Doug Rose has commanded the unit since September 2003.



#### Mission

To provide the United States with qualified and motivated aerial port personnel for worldwide service.

#### Personnel

The flight has approximately 100 members, about 5 of whom are full time. The remainder are traditional, part-time reservists.

The unit's personnel are responsible for preparing and certifying personnel and cargo for shipment, managing air transportation operations at aerial ports worldwide and safely loading cargo on a wide variety of military and commercial aircraft.

#### Global engagement

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the squadron has been mobilized twice in support of Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror.

Eighteen members of the unit were activated immediately after the attacks to support the nation's homeland defense mission.

In 2003, 24 members were deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where they supported joint Iraqi Freedom airlift missions. A total of 37 members ultimately deployed to support the 10-month operation.



**RIGHT: Forty-eight members of the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron break from formation after returning from a four-month deployment to Baghdad International Airport. The troops arrived on two Kentucky C-130 Hercules aircraft.**



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

## Civil engineers return from Iraq

Continued from Front Page

proved because of the people, she added.

"Every single day, whether it was raining or the sun was shining, if I caught someone's eye, they smiled," said Colonel Allen, who commanded a civil engineering squadron made up of more than 200 active duty, Guard and Reserve airmen during the deployment.

"They were happy to be there and glad they went."

Colonel Allen attributes her troops' positive experience to the fact that they were given a unique opportunity to deploy as a unit.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, members of her squadron have repeatedly deployed into harm's way — but only a few troops at a time. This deployment was different — the squadron went as a team, like they were trained to do.

"They stepped up to do what we've been training to do — some for as many as 20 years," Colonel Allen noted.

While deployed, the unit's fire fighters, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heavy equipment operators and land surveyors worked to maintain the camp's electrical power, shelters and sanitary facilities, as well as fire-fighting and chemical-warfare-defense abilities.

One of the group's favorite projects, the colonel said, was converting former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's Military Reception Center into the Group Headquarters Building.

The project required extensive electrical, ventilation, plumbing and carpentry work.

The squadron's fire fighters, meanwhile, became acclimated to the base in just days because they were so busy putting out fires.

On average, the colonel said, there was at least one

attack on the base every week, if not two.

"If anyone was scared, you couldn't tell it," she said. "It just became a way of life. It was routine."

Senior Master Sgt. Dwight Riggle, the squadron's first sergeant, said he thought the deployment was a great experience for all the Kentucky troops.

"It was an interesting and valuable experience for all of us," he said. "It allowed us to be part of what was going on in Operation Iraqi Freedom in our own way, and everyone was proud to do it."

Although the group was deployed over the holidays, he said, the time passed quickly and spirits were good.

"The attitudes and morale — and the willingness to get the work done — were phenomenal."

Senior Airman Todd Edelen, a structural apprentice in the squadron, said that staying focused on the mission kept him from missing home too much.

"We stayed busy to make the days go by," he said.

Airman Edelen also said that without the support of his family and friends, the deployment would've been more difficult.

"Everyone wanted to know what they could do — family, friends, local businesses. Everyone was so supportive."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 123rd Airlift Wing has deployed more than 500 airmen around the world — many more than once.

Besides civil engineering expertise, the unit has provided mission-critical airlift of troops and cargo, security police forces, food and recreation services, air cargo handling, aircraft maintenance, aircraft command and control, combat search and rescue, and special operations taskings.

# CES



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ABOVE: More

# S homecoming



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

Senior Sgt. Robert Patton, a civil engineering operations manager, reunites with his grandson at the Kentucky Air Guard base March 11.



Tech.Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

More than 400 family members and friends welcome the CES troops home.



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

**ABOVE:** Two Kentucky C-130s are showered with water as they return to Louisville carrying the unit's civil engineers.



Tech.Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**ABOVE:** Eighteen-year Kentucky Air Guard veteran Tech. Sgt. Rodney Jarboe kisses his daughter upon his return to the Commonwealth.



# 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 1ST CLASS (E-3)**

•**Sean Fiedler,**  
123rd Mission Support Group

## **SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)**

•**Jennifer Camron,**  
123rd Mission Support Ft.  
•**Chad Fazio,**  
123rd Communications Ft.  
•**Troy Franks,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**Maria Hart,**  
165th Airlift Sq.  
•**April Keen,**  
123rd Medical Sq.  
•**Micah Strevels,**  
123rd Maintenance Sq.

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

•**Jason Cordy,**  
123rd Special Tactics Sq.

•**Margaret Esposito,**  
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.  
•**Peter Jones,**  
123rd Communications Ft.  
•**Jason Kennedy,**  
123rd Maintenance Sq.  
•**Raymond Moore,**  
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.  
•**Eric Pocker,**  
123rd Maintenance Sq.

## **TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**

•**John Carey Jr.,**  
123rd Mission Support Ft.  
•**Anthony Gardner,**  
123rd Medical Sq.  
•**Eric Hamilton,**  
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.  
•**John Hourigan,**  
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
•**Nicholas James,**  
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
•**Gregory Smith,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**James Stuckey,**  
165th Airlift Sq.  
•**Duane Wariner,**  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

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

•**Tech. Sgt. Embry Heil Sr.,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**Master Sgt. Danny Houston,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**Tech. Sgt. Gary Lazone,**  
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
•**Senior Master Sgt. Ralph Lowery,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**Master Sgt. Donald Richeson,**  
123rd Maintenance Sq.  
•**Master Sgt. Charles Simpson,**  
123rd Communications Sq.  
•**Lt. Col. Donnie Stevenson,**  
123rd Operations Support Ft.  
•**Maj. Mark Sutherland,**  
165th Airlift Sq.  
•**Tech. Sgt. Kent Wernert,**  
165th Airlift Sq.  
•**Master Sgt. Julie Willis,**  
123rd Mission Support Ft.

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

•**Tech. Sgt. David Bridges,**  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.  
•**Senior Airman Jason Ellison,**  
123rd Security Forces Sq.  
•**Senior Airman Stephine Flickinger,**  
165th Airlift Sq.  
•**Staff Sgt. Chad Rager,**  
123rd Security Forces Sq.  
•**Airman 1st Class Brandon Smith,**  
123rd Student Ft.  
•**Senior Airman Daniel Spradling II,**  
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.



## Farewell

Lt. Col. Steve Allison, the Kentucky Air Guard staff judge advocate, receives a silver cup from Col. Bob Yapple, the Kentucky Air Guard's chief of staff, at Colonel Allison's retirement ceremony in the wing conference room during the November drill.

Colonel Allison spent more than six years in the Kentucky Air Guard. Prior to that, he spent 17 years in the U.S. Army including active duty, Guard and Reserve service. The colonel first joined the Army as a private in 1968.

*Photo by Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG*

# Officials work on balancing Guard force

By Army Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON — Governors will be able to call on at least 50 percent of their National Guard forces for homeland-defense missions and other state emergencies thanks to a plan to realign Army and Air Guard units during the next few years, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said.

“We will balance our forces, focusing on the right force mix and the right kinds of units with the right capabilities in every state and territory,” said Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum while addressing the National Governors Association’s winter meeting here.

The intent is to have no more than 50 percent of the 460,000-person Guard force involved in the nation’s warfighting effort at any given time.

With this, between 50 and 75 percent of the force can be available “on a no-notice, immediate basis” for missions on their home turf, General Blum said.

“We must develop a predictive deployment model ... that ensures the (Guard) force is managed to permit (about) 25 percent to be deployed to the warfight; with another 25 percent training to replace those already deployed; and ensuring that a minimum of 50 percent remain available to the governors for state missions, homeland defense and support for homeland-security operations,” General Blum said.

“To get to this end-state, we are going through a top-to-bottom rebalancing nation-

wide,” he said. “It will result in a more evenly distributed burden-sharing throughout the Guard, enhanced capabilities in the National Guard in each state and a better level of predictability for when the force may be needed.”

The model will be based on a goal of no more than one substantial deployment every five or six years for Guard soldiers and one deployment every 15 months for Guard airmen, he said.

General Blum also asked the governors to support legislation that the Defense Department has proposed to expand the authority of Title 32 of the U.S. code.

“The proposal would permit expanded use of federally funded National Guard forces, under the respective governor’s control, for homeland defense and support for homeland-security operations,” he said.

“This is the best of both worlds for all concerned.”

The 367-year-old National Guard has already transformed itself into a more reliable, ready, relevant and accessible force for the war against terrorism, General Blum said.

“To date, your adjutants general have consolidated 162 ... headquarters organizations into 54 standing joint-force headquarters,” said General Blum, who initiated the transformation in May.

“In times of emergency, your standing joint-force headquarters provide for rapid response and better integration of National Guard assistance from your neighboring states through existing emergency mutual

assistance compacts,” General Blum said.

“Additionally, the standing joint-force headquarters provide improved access to all Department of Defense assets within your state or territory, should they be needed,” he said.

“We do not foresee a reduction in the number of people in the Guard,” General Blum said.

“We do see a National Guard with enhanced capabilities to perform all of its missions.”

Guardsmen have performed extremely well during the war against terrorism, General Blum said.

“In combat, the performance of our soldiers and airmen has been magnificent,” he said.

“They bring civilian-acquired skills and life experiences unmatched by their active counterparts and are even more effective because of this. They are America’s home team. And they bring your communities and those values to the fight.

At the current deployment rate, 80 percent of the Guard’s forces will be combat veterans as well as homeland-security veterans within the next 36 months, General Blum said.

“The numbers vary daily and have ranged as high as 75 percent of one state’s National Guard being deployed,” General Blum said. “Governors and adjutants general have told me this is unacceptable.”

That is why it is time to even the load among all of the states, he said.

## Guard, Reserve, employers named ‘Citizen of the Year’

### Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation named Reserve and Guard forces and their employers as the “Citizen of the Year” March 23 during the foundation’s annual Circle of Honor dinner at the New York Stock Exchange.

“We are privileged to honor as our citizen of the year, America’s citizen-Soldiers and their employers, for their sacrifices on behalf of the nation and for being ready when the nation calls,” said retired Col. Jack Jacobs, a Medal of Honor recipient and foundation board member.

“America depends on its National Guard and Reserve, and the Guard and Reserve depend not only on the individual

members but also their families and their employers,” assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs Thomas F. Hall said.

“I am deeply humbled to accept this award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation on their behalf.”

Mr. Hall and Dr. Henry McKinnell, chief executive officer of Pfizer Corp., jointly accepted twin crystal plaques on behalf of the 1.2 million people of the reserve components and their employers.

The foundation supports the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, which is made up exclusively of the Medal of Honor recipients.

The society promotes an awareness of what the medal represents and how ordinary Americans can challenge fate and change the course of history, officials said.

# Gallopalooza horse painted in Air Guard blue

By Capt. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The mythological Pegasus bore wings of victory, so it's fitting that a Derby Festival Pegasus should do the same.

The Kentucky Air Guard is sponsoring an equine sculpture in this year's Pegasus Parade that has been adorned with images of aircraft flown throughout the unit's history, including the P-51 Mustang and the C-130 Hercules.

The patriotic horse, cast in fiberglass and named the Thoroughbred Express, also features an image of the Statue of Liberty.

Thoroughbred Express is part of a citywide campaign called Gallopalooza in which civic-minded organizations have sponsored 200 artistically rendered sculptures, said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, community manager for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Following their appearance in the Pegasus Parade, the sculptures will be displayed at Waterfront Park from April 30 to May 2. Then they will move to locations along major roadways throughout Louisville until mid-October. In the meantime, Gallopalooza officials will publish maps of the horses' locations and hold scavenger hunts for the general public.

The unit decided to sponsor a sculpture because it provides an excellent opportunity to assist recruiting efforts and raise public awareness of the Kentucky Air Guard, Colonel Frymire said.

"Thoroughbred Express represents all members of the Kentucky Air National Guard — past, present and future — who have selflessly dedicated their lives to ensuring that freedom rings through-



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

**Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, wing community manager, joins Louisville artist Mari Renn and jockey Pat Day for the unveiling of "Thoroughbred Express" on April 14.**

out America," he said.

The sculpture's painter, artist Mari Renn, was selected because her design best captured the history and spirit of the Kentucky Air National Guard, Colonel Frymire added.

Thoroughbred Express is expected to retire to pasture on base following his city tour.

## Ky. airmen offered discount Fire tickets

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and their families are being offered discounted tickets to see a local arena league football team, The Louisville Fire.

Tickets are available for the Louisville vs. Albany game scheduled for 7:30 p.m. May 15 at Freedom Hall.

Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased from Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, the wing's community relations manager.

Cash or checks made payable to "KyANG Football" will be accepted until May 4.

For more information, contact Colonel Frymire on base at extension 4589.

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