'Year of the C-130,' McPeak proclaims

Washington (AFNS) - In January, the day before coalition forces delivered an air strike on Iraq, the Air Force chief of staff said the United States will have to continue to think about its new post-cold war role and how to adapt to it.

Although Gen. Merrill A. McPeak did not reference the recent problem with Iraq's defiance of United Nations resolutions, or any pending military action, he did say the United States still has a contingency operation going on in the Persian Gulf.

"There will always be some critics who say we should never intervene in what's going on outside our borders. I don't know if it's possible for us to avoid intervention. In some of these areas I don't know how you do it," he said.

"I'm not arguing that we should go around and right every single wrong, or cure every ill around the world. But, the fact of the matter is, America is a great power. There is a sense in which we're the only remaining super power."

The December 1992 Air Force White Paper titled "Global Reach -- Global Power: The Evolving Air Force Contribution to National Security" echoes McPeak's theme of an Air Force in the process of reshaping to meet the requirements of an era where a smaller, more capable force must meet unpredictable threats.

The white paper said a regional focus is replacing decades of preoccupation with the cold war standoff, with the new definition of global engagement focusing on countering regional hot spots and on preserving collective security in a fragmenting world. The situation in Somalia today is another example of a U.S.-led contingency situation, McPeak said.

For Operation Restore Hope, "The principle focus of our contribution is on the lift side. But believe me, we're not just airlifting the marines and the army, we're airlifting everybody who's going down there," he said. "It turns out that anybody in the world who wants to move military forces is going to come knocking on our door. We have a rather substantial commitment to this contingency going on in Somalia."

In addition, there's a third contingency operation going on in Bosnia, where the Air Force has flown more than 500 sorties carrying United Nations relief supplies. According to McPeak, a key Air Force player in all three contingency operations has been the C-130 cargo plane.

"One thing we need to think about is how much the C-130 is really contributing to our worldwide operations," he said. "What's impressed me over the last six to eight months is the contribution made by the C-130 force. We simply have to find some way to recognize them. They've been TDY, stretched very thin all over the world, both the reserves and the active. This ought to be the year of the C-130 crew."
Let’s not forget where it all began: Lackland

Last month, as part of the Air Force Brigadier General Orientation Course, I had the opportunity of experiencing basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas with a group of new recruits. We watched the "Rainbows," as they were affectionately called, before they are issued uniforms. Arriving at the San Antonio International Airport, we felt that sinking feeling as they met their training instructor for the first time, and watching as those curly locks hit the barber shop floor.

"...we learned that generals can't really walk on water, and that mud is still slippery."

We followed the new troops as they were assigned a bunk, issued uniforms and groomed to become an effective part of an Air Force unit. We were paired with members of the "Relish," the name they acquire after issue of BDUs, tennis shoes and horn-rimmed glasses, known as birth control devices. We worked our way through the obstacle course with our recruit, learned that brigadier generals can't really walk on water and that mud is still slippery. We also learned that you begin to care a great deal about each other as you work your way through the difficult course. Afterward the chow hall takes on a completely new meaning with excitement of your accomplishments.

Sunday morning we attended church with the "Canned Relish," the next level of trainees. This was truly an electrifying event. We sang, we laughed, we prayed, we shouted with joy, we listened and we learned. I have not felt so good about anything in a long time. It was magnificent seeing all of those young people enjoying the camaraderie of their classmates during the service.

I came away from Lackland with mixed emotions. I was caught up in the excitement that many of you have experienced upon completion of basic training and I wanted to keep that excitement alive. I had to deal with the realities of life, confront issues more complex than life in the world of basic training. This is where I feel we have a lesson to learn.

When our troops return from training, we must all do our part to help them make the transition and become a productive part of our unit. Let them know that you have experienced the same excitement and that the feeling of unity of purpose will stay with them as members of our unit. Help them to see that they can maintain some of that excitement by applying themselves during technical training, give them encouragement as they progress.

"Few units have received more Outstanding Unit Awards...we're delivering food in Somalia to Bosnia."

Brig. Gen. Stewart R. Byrne
Wing Commander

We are the Kentucky Air National Guard, one of the finest, most highly respected units in the U.S. Air Force. Few units have received more Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.

This is a proud organization, leading the way in operations around the world. We all share part in this excitement in everything we do; from raising record amounts of money for charities like the Easter Seal campaign to delivering food to the needy in Somalia and Bosnia. We come from the same fiber as the Kentuckians who fought bravely at the Alamo and have dedicated ourselves to the noble cause of serving our fellow man before ourselves.

Let's keep the excitement growing in the young men and women as they return from basic training. Take time to talk with them, inspire them and prepare them for the Air Force of the future. Our country depends on it now, more than ever. Our future will soon be in their hands.
Aspin welcomes troops back from Somalia

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Information Services

Defense Secretary Les Aspin welcomed 10th Mountain Division soldiers returning last month from Somalia.

Aspin told the soldiers at Fort Drum, N.Y., that the country appreciates what they did during Operation Restore Hope. Speaking at the post's Soldier Sports Complex, Aspin said the division's humanitarian effort exemplifies missions DoD will be doing more of in the future.

"We saw television pictures of our men and women in uniform -- far away from home and family -- feeding a starving population," he said. "It was an American gift to the world. I want to thank you for that. We're proud of what you've done."

Aspin addressed 290 soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 14th Infantry, who had just returned from the devastated country. About 700 other soldiers who returned from Somalia earlier also participated. Approximately 500 family members attended the ceremony.

"I also want to thank the family members who sacrificed and supported you," Aspin told the soldiers. "Family separation is hard for everyone. We know it and appreciate your sacrifice."

The battalion was stationed in and around the town of Kismayo and worked with soldiers from Belgium, Australia and Morocco. During their assignment in the contested town, the division task force seized an arms convoy with 467,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, seized a 30-bunker complex, upgraded roads, established security in rural areas and defended themselves against attack by armed bandits.

The first contingent from the division arrived in Somalia Dec. 11, 1992. Soldiers started returning Feb. 8. The division still has 2,400 members in the country. Post officials said more will return to the upstate New York installation in the next two weeks.

The United Nations is setting up a force to maintain order in Somalia and keep food flowing. "Our mission in Somalia was to save lives," he said. "This we have done, thanks to you."

NGB to document women's role

The National Guard Bureau in Washington has planned a documentary film on the history of women in the National Guard, according to the December issue of On Guard.

The film will discuss women's evolving role in the Guard from the first nurses who joined in the 1950s to Operation Desert Storm. NGB historians need information from the field, particularly about the first nurses and the first non-medical women to join in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

If you have any photos or memories to share, or if you know someone who does, have them write to Renee Hylton-Greene, NGB-PAH, Skyline 6, Room 401C, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Va., 22041 or call 703-736-1980 or DSN289-1980.

Next UTA weekends

- May 15 - 16
- June 5 - 6
- July 10 - 11
- Aug. 14 - 15
- Sept. 18 - 19
- Oct. 16 - 17
- Nov. 20 - 21
- Dec. 11 - 12

The Cargo Courier
April 3, 1993
VA scholarships available for nurses, therapists

The Department of Veterans Affairs announces the availability of scholarships for the 1993-94 school year for members of the Selected Ready Reserve, who are interested in careers in nursing and physical therapy.

The Reserve Member Stipend Program provides financial support to associate degree nursing students in their last year of study and third- and fourth-year students in baccalaureate or entry-level masters' degree programs in nursing, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Reservists must be members of the Selected Ready Reserve and eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve). Recipients receive $400 monthly for each month of full-time study. In exchange, participants agree to serve as a full-time registered nurse or occupational physical therapist in a VA medical center for two years.

Individuals interested can request an application by writing to the Reserve Member Stipend Program (1438-B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420 or by calling 202-535-7528. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 25. Awards will be made in August with financial support beginning in the fall term.
Clinton begins process to change military's ban on homosexuals

American Forces Information Services

President Bill Clinton set the wheels in motion Jan. 29 to change the military's ban on homosexuals.

Clinton tasked Defense Secretary Les Aspin to draft an executive order by July 15 to end the military's policy of not permitting individuals to join the military or remain on active duty solely because they are homosexual. The order would establish strict standards of sexual behavior for all military members.

According to a White House statement, overall DoD personnel policies will remain in effect while the DoD drafts the executive order.

Several key points in Clinton's announcement affect aspects of the homosexuality ban:

- The initiative removes the question regarding sexual orientation from future versions of the enlistment application; recruiters will not ask the question in the interim.
- The Department of Justice will seek continuances on court cases concerning reinstatement of those people discharged for admitted homosexuality.
- Administrative separations based solely on status will be suspended until the president takes final action.
- Individuals in the process of being discharged for homosexuality and those who declare themselves as homosexuals will be removed from active duty and placed in standby reserve status.
- New cases will be processed up to and including actual discharge, if the individual requests it, or up to the point of discharge if the individual contests the action.

"Military life is fundamentally different from civilian society," Clinton said. "It necessarily has a different and stricter code of conduct, even a different code of justice. I agree with the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the highest standards of conduct must be required. The change cannot and should not be accomplished overnight."

C-130 units across globe join in Somalia

The United Nations' presence in Africa sits just hours away from other UN hot spots, including the active force in the Persian Gulf region and the current strife in the former Yugoslavia.

At right, a C-130 transport plane takes off as Canadian paratroopers raise their flag after seizing the airstrip at the Somalia village of Belet Uen.

C-130 units have played an ever-important role this decade in combat and humanitarian airlift missions, perhaps more than any other period in world military history.

Canadian military photo by PHCM T.C. Mitchell

Special Olympics needs Guard help

Courtesy of the On Guard

One of the major Special Olympics events scheduled to kick off the 25th anniversary celebration is a traveling exhibit, a dynamic museum on wheels designed to increase awareness and understanding of the achievement of the Special Olympic athletes.

The mobile exhibit will visit 70 cities in 48 states for the next 15 months. Guard units are encouraged to participate in this event. If your support is requested, units may provide a color guard, set up and tear down entrance and exit ramps, tents and tables, stages and chairs and sports courts; consisting of basketball backboards and volleyball nets.

Approval for support may be at the state headquarters (TAG) level. Support may be provided in conjunction with training at no additional cost to the U.S. government. Call Maj. Willie Davenport at 703-4600 or DSN 289-4600.

ATC has new name, gets new structure

Kelly AFB, Texas (AFNEWS) - The Air Training Command and Air University will merge July 1 to become the Air Education and Training Command, known as AETC. The new command, which will have two numbered air forces and the university, will be located at Randolph AFB, Texas.

One numbered air force will manage technical training from the headquarters at Keesler AFB, Miss., and the other numbered air force will manage flying training at Randolph. Air University will remain at Maxwell AFB, Ala., and will manage professional military education at all levels.

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C-17 Globemaster

NEXT GENERATION Airlifter

Technicians fuel and load the C-17 "Globemaster" transport plane during testing at Edwards AFB, Calif. Testers call the leading ramp of the aircraft the "business end" of the transport. McDonnell-Douglas and Air Force technicians call the aircraft the "next generation" of transport.

WRIGHT-PATTERSON
AFB, Ohio (AFNS) - The Air Force C-17 five-ship test fleet, including the first test aircraft, T-1, passed the 1,000-hour mark during a three-hour mission at Edwards AFB, Calif., Feb. 5.

The C-17 program is designed to fulfill needs well into the next century, carrying large combat equipment and troops, or humanitarian aid anywhere in the world, USAF officials said.

Flying hours for the fleet now total 1,011 on 291 test missions. The C-17 is currently in a flight test program with the five aircraft assigned to Edwards. Two of the five are undergoing testing at other locations. The first operational C-17s will be delivered to the Air Mobility Command’s 437th Military Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB, S.C., later this year.

AAFES has mail-order catalog, military clothing sales available

Courtesy of the On Guard

Does the lengthy drive to your closest military clothing sales store discourage you from shopping there?

Or, perhaps there is no store you can drive to? If so, the Military Clothing Mail Order Catalog is for you. Dress, service and battle dress uniforms are available through the catalog, as well as boots, shoes, shirts, insignia, patches, accessories, socks and towels.

The catalog also includes size charts to help you fit your uniforms and procedures to follow if you need special measurement items. To receive a copy of the AAFES MCSS catalog, write to: HQ AAFES/PD-U, P.O. Box 660202, Dallas, TX 75226 or call DSN 967-3206 or commercial 214-312-3206.

The catalog is available in both Army and Air Force editions, so be sure to specify which one you want.

CCAF performs weekend duty

The Community College of the Air Force staffs its Student Affairs Office on selected Saturdays for those performing military duty one weekend per month. Master Sgt. Brenda Thompson, the ANG liaison, assists members with matters concerning their CCAF degree programs and certificate requirements.

CCAF students can reach Thompson at 800-842-5912 or DSN 493-5800 or 245-953-5800 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during the Saturday UTA on April 3.
Smith, Kottak fly tornado mission; KyANG officer dies at Freedom Hall

By Tech Sgt. John Martin
Wing Historian

In April 1961, word was announced that Col. William Webster had been selected as the new wing commander at the KyANG. But Webster’s new position was part-time only; his full-time duties were spent as a vice-president for Citizens Fidelity Bank (now PNC Bank).

In 1966, the end of the month saw all of the KyANG’s aircraft returning from a winter’s hibernation in Tennessee. The aircraft had been barred from its home base because Standiford Field lacked arresting cables on the runways. The cables were used as a last-stop emergency procedure to snag runway aircraft. The cables were in place by the end of the month. That same week in April saw Brig. Gen. Jack Owen take over as the new wing commander, replacing the retired Webster.

On April 3, 1974, Louisville and surrounding areas were hit by a series of devastating tornadoes, the worst of three to hit the city since 1890. The twisters caused four deaths locally and more in nearby Brandenburg, Ky., along with millions of dollars in property damage. Personnel from the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard sent relief units to aid victims.

Several days later a tornado-related incident claimed another victim -- Lt. Col. Cephas ‘Cy’ Hermanson -- a retired KyANG officer who fell to his death while repairing the damaged roof at Freedom Hall. Also that week, then-Maj. John Smith and then-Capt. Joseph Kottak, both former commanders here, flew photo missions over Louisville, Brandenburg and Indiana communities in an attempt to assess damage.

In April 1988, the Community College of the Air Force announced that the KyANG had five graduates in one class -- the most for any Guard unit in the nation. Twenty-six percent of KyANG personnel was enrolled in CCAF with only four other Guard units in the nation having a higher percentage. That same month, the Phantom’s Eye announced that the KyANG’s annual Bean Soup Feast and Open House had been an extreme success. More than 1,750 meals had been served with $6,159 raised for local charities.

Guard quiz for March: There have been 14 commanders at the KyANG, including our present commander, Brig. Gen. Stewart Byrne.

Trivia for May: With May being the month in which the KyANG was founded, and also the month of the Derby, what is the connection between these two significant historical events?

Looking back 20 years ago

Photo is from the KyANG historical archive

X-RAY VIEW: Tech Sgt. Elizabeth Reeves, left, a radiology technician for the 123rd Tactical Hospital here, gives a pointer to Sgt. Nancy Marchand during a 1973 UTA weekend.

Conaway receives Swedish Guard award

Courtesy of the On Guard

Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, a former commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard and current chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, received the Swedish Home Guard Gold Medal, the highest Swedish military award approved by King Carl XVI Gustaf.

The medal was presented last October by Maj. Gen. Reinhold Laiti, the head of the Swedish Home Guard (the equivalent of our Army National Guard).

The medal was instituted for “meritorious” work and “distinguished services within the Home Guard.”

Both military organizations have participated in a joint operations and training exercise since 1987.

The Cargo Courier
April 3, 1993
Volunteers make Easter Seals goal big success

By Maj. Kenneth Peters
Easter Seals Society Campaign

During the weekend of March 6, 35 members of the Kentucky Air National Guard participated in collection efforts for the 1993 Easter Seals Society of Kentucky fund-a-thon drive.

The method of collection used was through traffic intersection “roadblocks” at Preston Highway and Grade Lane, to include the on-off-ramp for northbound Interstate 65.

Saturday saw the largest collected amount of the two days, while Sunday was only one-half the Saturday amount. This was attributed to various factors of church services, weather, later start time and televised basketball games of both U of L and U of K in the early- to mid-afternoon.

Saturday’s total was $1,672 and Sunday’s gross was $858 for a weekend total of $2,530. As a “thank you” to the volunteers, those individuals who participated are listed below:


Bean Soup tastes better, but cold weather keeps fans at home during annual feast

By Tech Sgt. Jeff Sansbury
Editor and NCOIC

About 25 volunteers shared a secret recipe to make the 23rd annual Bean Soup Feast and Open House a success here March 11.

Nearly $3,500 was raised by selling more than 400 tickets and by serving up a traditional fare of spicy dark bean soup, cole slaw, potato salad and sweet corn bread.

“I think it tasted even better this year. A lot of people mentioned that,” said Maj. Denny Lewis, the Kentucky Air National Guard director of personnel who has coordinated the event since 1991. “It really hits the spot.”

Proceeds from the feast are donated to several Kentucky charities, like the Ronald McDonald House, the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Association Boys’ Ranch and the Louisville Deaf Oral School.

Some volunteers believe the frigid temperatures that day kept many loyal bean soupers at home, despite a good effort by local media to publicize the annual feast. Though still encouraging, attendance and ticket sales were about the same as last year, said Lewis, who helped peel the 600 pounds of potatoes needed.

“All in all, it’s a real good thing those people are doing,” he said. “The volunteers enjoy it, the guests love it and the groups we support appreciate it.”

Even the left-over food, Lewis explained, goes to the Kentucky Harvest Corp., which distributes the food to area homeless shelter and soup kitchens.

On this day, enlisted personnel were seen giving orders to officers in the kitchen. A good number of volunteers were retired members who couldn’t pass up the chance to see their old friends. Stories of the first bean soup feast back in the early 1970’s surfaced, when the guest lines backed up to the parking lot of the O&T Building.

“We’ve seen better years,” Lewis conceded. “But as long as the volunteers want it, we’ll keep makin’ the soup. That’s what’s important.”

Remembering Black History Month

As Black History Month was recognized during the February UTA, several units within the Kentucky Air National Guard -- from personal affairs to graphic arts -- combined resources to create tributes and displays throughout the O&T Building.

The displays honored dozens of noteworthy African-American men and women who made a significant impact on our nation’s military organizations, social and civil rights movements and entertainment career fields.

KyANG photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley