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Governor unveils new tail flash on C-130 fleet

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, unveiled a new paint scheme for the 123rd Airlift Wing's C-130 fleet during a ceremony held at the Air Guard base June 25.

The Kentucky Air Guard's eight Hercules transports now feature the commonwealth's "Unbridled Spirit" logo on their vertical stabilizer wings, proudly indentifying their Kentucky heritage wherever they fly around the world, Governor Fletcher said.

The new tail flash is part of a statewide branding campaign designed to promote Kentucky's image. The same "Unbridled Spirit" logo already appears on state license plates, Web sites, road signs and other items.

The goal is to "harness the pride and passion Kentuckians have for our state, and showcase that pride to the rest of the world," Gov. Fletcher when announcing the campaign.

Kentucky aircrews and C-130s regularly deploy worldwide to provide airlift services in support of U.S. military and humanitarian



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm (left) joins Gov. Ernie Fletcher (center) to unveil a new C-130 paint scheme as Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, looks on.

operations, including several mobilizations for missions in Southwest Asia as part of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Free-

dom. Back home, the unit continues to support

See *SPIRIT*, Page 3

Hunt selected as JFACC, Chief of Staff for KyANG



By Maj. Kirk Hilbrecht
Kentucky Joint Forces Public Affairs

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Kentucky National Guard has named Col. Howard P. Hunt III as Joint Forces Air Component Commander and Chief of Staff for the Kentucky Air National Guard, effective July 1.

"It's a great day to be a Kentucky National Guard Airman, and I am so pleased to have Col. Hunt further serve the Commonwealth in this capacity," said Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, Kentucky's adjutant general.

"I am confident in his leadership abilities and believe he is a strong asset to the Kentucky National Guard."

As Joint Forces Air Component Com-

mander — also known as the JFACC — Hunt will be responsible for providing air support to all Joint Task Force operations.

Prior to his selection as JFACC and Chief of Staff, Hunt served as commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group.

Under his command, the unit provided aircraft maintenance and flight support functions for the 123rd Airlift Wing during Operation Iraqi Freedom and multiple peacetime missions.

During his 32-year military career, Colonel Hunt also has served as the state's Executive Support Staff Officer at Headquarters, Kentucky Air National Guard.

See *HUNT*, Back Page

Volunteerism for border mission proves American spirit of service alive in 123rd

O

n Dec. 31, 1776, General George Washington assembled to address the men of the Continental Army.

Only a week earlier, on Christmas Day, they had crossed the freezing Delaware River to attack the British-backed Hessian garrison at Trenton, N.J.

The Americans, led by Washington, took the Hessians by surprise and scored a stunning and much-needed victory that would be regarded as a turning point to favor the Americans in the war for independence.

The week's passing would, however, bring an equally critical juncture for the revolution: the enlistment expiration of the most veteran troops in the Continental Army.

They had endured endless hardships, the bitter winter, a shortage of supplies, poor equipment, bad food and terrible illness.

All had taken their toll through the ranks, but in a few short hours the soldiers' commitment to duty would end, freeing them to return to their homes and families.

Washington appealed to them to stay, saying, "You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know



**Col. Mark Kraus
123rd Airlift Wing Commander**

not how to spare you."

Ultimately, one man stepped forward to continue to serve — and then another, and others, until finally most all had inclined to stay; never again would the Army come so perilously close to dissolution.

It is another example of that great American spirit of service and sacrifice that can be told and retold countless times through our history.

As modern day Minutemen, that spirit is a part of who we are, and it is alive and thriving in our 123rd Airlift Wing today.

Last UTA, the call went out for volunteers to deploy and assist with the securing of our border in the Southwestern United States. With only sketchy details of the mission, duties to be performed, tour start dates or the dangers to be faced, more than 120 members of the 123rd raised their hands to say, "Send me."

I'm exceedingly pleased to tell you that your response leads the nation to assist with this important mission — and it represents to me the rekindling of that same American spirit of service witnessed that cold, wintry New Year's Eve in Trenton long ago.

The Army and Air National Guard will have an important role to play along our southern-most border over the next two years, strengthening the security of the entire nation.

It will succeed only with a commitment of our time and talent, and I'm very proud that many of you have stepped forward to offer both. My heartfelt thanks to all for your magnificent commitment to service and willingness to answer the call.

Mark R. Kraus

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Spirit

Continued from Front Page

homeland defense missions and disaster relief operations. Last year, the Kentucky Air Guard deployed multiple units and aircraft to the Gulf Coast following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Governor Fletcher used the unveiling, held in the base fuel cell hangar on a drill weekend, to praise the men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard, whom he called “the best troops in the world.”

He also thanked the hundreds of Airmen who gathered for the ceremony, saying their military service was integral to winning the war on terror.

“As you deploy all over to help us in the war on terrorism, please know that there are people who have enjoyed a freedom they have never tasted before — women in Afghanistan who had to wear burkas, young daughters who could never aspire to even go to school,” Governor Fletcher said.

“Your work jointly has helped us make sure that we’ve promulgated freedom across this globe....

“As long as there are tyrants in the world, we will continue to need folks like you — folks who are willing to give even the ultimate sacrifice to promote freedom and liberty.

“Whether it’s fighting in the war on terrorism, rescuing Americans after hurricane Katrina or being mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom, you continue to prove time and time again that Kentucky can count on you, that America can count on you, and that people all across the world can count on you.

“I thank you for your service.”

Change of command



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/USAF

Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, passes the guidon from the 123rd Maintenance Group to Lt. Col. Neil Mullaney (center) during a change-of-command ceremony held on base June 24. Colonel Mullaney assumed command of the group from Col. Howard Hunt (right), who was named JFAC Commander and KyANG Chief of Staff (see story, Front Page).

Adkisson top PA troop for '05

Staff report

Lt. Col. Bill Adkisson of the 123rd Medical Group has been named the Air National Guard’s Outstanding Physicians’ Assistant of the Year for 2005, the Air Guard’s deputy director, Maj. Gen. Charles V. Ickes II, announced in May.

Colonel Adkisson received the honor in part for his exceptional performance while deployed in the spring of 2005 to Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq, dubbed “Mortaritaville” for its high frequency of mortar attacks by Al Qaeda terrorists.

He excelled in the treatment of combat casualties during the deployment and has participated in numerous briefings and exercises since returning home.



Adkisson

Balad and Anaconda, approximately 68 kilometers north of Baghdad in Northern Iraq, are home to Central Command’s largest in-theater multi-national hospital unit — including the Air Force’s only combat theater hospital since the Vietnam War, Colonel Adkisson said.

LSA Anaconda experienced 100 mortar attacks during the colonel’s two-month stay at the base, statistically the “most-bombed” U.S. base in the world today.

Colonel Adkisson is a medical physicians’ assistant with the 123rd Medical Group.

In civilian life, he works on the Orthopedic Trauma Team with the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.

Wing leads the way for border patrol mission

Scores volunteer for Operation Jump Start; Hunt tapped at NGB

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard are leading the way to support Operation Jump Start, officials said, with scores of Louisville-based Airmen volunteering to deploy to the American Southwest as part of President Bush's initiative to secure the U.S.-Mexican border.

Meanwhile, a Kentucky Air Guard officer — Col. Howard Hunt — has been tapped by the National Guard Bureau to help stand up the Air Guard component of the mission.

Overall, Operation Jump Start is expected to deploy a force of about 6,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen to Arizona, New Mexico, California and Texas.

As of Aug. 3, 87 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing were deployed to Arizona in support of the mission — one of the largest Air Guard groups from any state, said Col. Michael Dornbush, vice commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing and the Air National Guard liaison officer for Arizona's Joint Task Force in Phoenix.

A handful of Kentucky Airmen also were sent to New Mexico and Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

Deployed troops included maintenance technicians, civil engineers, communications specialists, medical personnel, aerial porters and logisticians.

Most were doing work specific to their career fields — building fences, providing medical care or coordinating military logistics, for example.

But 18 Kentucky Airmen were assigned to conduct security patrols along the border as part of four-person teams, Colonel Dornbush said.

As Air Guard liaison in Phoenix, Colonel Dornbush is charged with ensuring that deployed troops and equipment are properly in-processed for use in the Arizona Area of Responsibility.

Guardsmen are then assigned to work for one of five Arizona task forces:

- Task Force Raven (aviation)
- Task Force Maverick (logistics)
- Task Force Diamondback (road maintenance and construction of border fencing)
- Task Force Sidewinder (administrative duties for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol)
- Task Force Gila (border-observation patrols)

Most of the Kentucky Airmen began de-

ploying July 29 on orders ranging in length from seven days to about 65 days. Further rotations are expected, and orders can be cut for up to 365 days, according to guidance from the Guard Bureau.

Officials faced a short suspense getting Operation Jump Start staffed, but troop levels are now on track thanks to the help of Colonel Hunt, whom the NGB contacted for assistance and placed on orders in early July.

Guard officials were working against the clock to deploy 4,500 Army Guardsmen and 1,500 Air Guardsmen to the Southwest by Aug. 1, so Colonel Hunt started calling colleagues at the state headquarters of Air Guard units around the country, making officials aware of the immediate need to solicit volunteers for the mission.

In less than a month, the goal was met.

Colonel Hunt praised Kentucky's Airmen for their superior volunteerism, noting that the state's response was among the top two or three in the nation.

Colonel Dornbush also was pleased.

"It's been a real rewarding experience for Kentucky to take a lead in this effort — to know that we're part of something the president and secretary of defense have made clear is very important to the security of this country."

Operation Jump Start is expected to continue through the summer of 2008

Pfeifer named installation inspector general



Staff report

Maj. Kathy Pfeifer has been named the 123rd Airlift Wing's Installation Inspector General, effective May 2.

Major Pfeifer has been a member of the Kentucky Air Guard for nearly six years and most recently served as a readiness officer in the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron.

As inspector general, Major Pfeifer is responsible for investigating and resolving complaints alleging improper conduct on the part of military members.

She encourages all Airmen to first use their chain of command to resolve issues or conflicts.

If that approach proves unsuccessful,

however, or if unit members are uncomfortable discussing issues with their commanders, Pfeifer may be contacted by voice mail at extension 4430.

"My role is help resolve any issues that may occur and ensure that regulations are followed appropriately," Major Pfeifer said. "Military service is a passion for me, and I'm looking forward to continuing that service as the IG."

Major Pfeifer received her commission through the Air Force ROTC program at North Carolina State University in 1988.

She served on active duty for 10 years as a missile maintenance officer and a civil engineering officer.

Major Pfeifer also may be reached via e-mail at ig.123aw@kyloui.ang.af.mil

Commission takes review panel on the road

By Staff Sgt. Chris Decker
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — The Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, charged by Congress to recommend changes in the laws and policies governing its citizen Soldiers, met in San Antonio in July — the first time the commission has met somewhere other than Washington, D.C.

Six high-ranking members of the Guard and Reserve branches, including the chief of the Air Force Reserve and director of the Air National Guard, gathered in the ballroom of the La Mansion Del Rio Hotel to testify before the commission on issues including training, financial limitations and mobilization.

The Air Force contingent showed a confidence in the way the forces are handling things now and their ability to conform to future needs.

The chief of the Air Force Reserve, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, emphasized both the contributions and the “real bargain” of a part-time Airman. Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, stressed the importance of looking out for Airmen in the face of high ops tempos, more diverse missions and budget cuts.

“We believe we want to hang on to our people. We think they’re the most precious commodity that we have. And we want to be able to offer members who are leaving any of the components, an opportunity to come serve with us,” General McKinley said.

The hearing was just one of a series of formal sessions, with San Diego scheduled as the next stop.

The commission will release its findings, along with any recommendations for change, to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees in March.

Bureau selects McKinley as director of Air National Guard

By Army Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — A lieutenant general with 32 years of service has been named as the 12th director of the Air National Guard.

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley was confirmed as director by the U.S. Senate effective May 20 and promoted to three-star rank.

“I am thrilled about this opportunity to lead the more than 106,000 members of the Air National Guard during the global war on terrorism,” General McKinley said.

General McKinley succeeds Lt. Gen. Daniel James, who officially retired June 3.

A member of the Florida Air National Guard, General McKinley most recently served as assistant deputy chief of staff for plans and programs at Air Force headquarters.

In that position, he managed the \$682 billion Air Force Future Years Defense Program and the Air Force Long-Range Plan to support national security objectives and military strategy.

General McKinley graduated from Southern Methodist University, where he was the

distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program in 1974. He has master’s degrees from Webster College and the National Defense University.

A command pilot, General McKinley has flown more than 4,000 hours in eight aircraft, primarily the T-38 Talon, F-106 Delta Dart, F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-15 Eagle. His assignments have included operations and command positions at group, wing, sector and field operating agency levels.

His military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak clusters and the Humanitarian Service Medal.



McKinley

Falcon prep



Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker/USAF

Tech. Sgt. Paul Holloway prepares an F-16 Fighting Falcon for an engine run at the Virginia Air National Guard in Sandstone, Va.

Moseley: New bomber on the horizon by 2018

By Tech. Sgt. Russell Wicke
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — A new bomber scheduled for operation as early as 2018 will enhance America's long-range strike capabilities, according to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley in a recent Armed Services Committee speech.

In a step to develop future long-range strike capabilities, Air Combat Command is conducting a study that is looking at aircraft platforms and weapon improvements. Air Force leaders will use the study to decide the best pathway for providing long-range strike capabilities for the future Air Force. This process normally takes about two years, but the 2018 target requires accelerated efforts.

The new bomber is necessary to recapitalize the Air Force's fleet of B-52 Stratofortress and B-1 Lancer "legacy bombers," and to counter advanced anti-access systems of America's enemies, said Lt. Col. Kevin Shorb, chief of Air Combat Command's Next Generation Long Range Strike Division. Modern enemy anti-access systems, such as surface-to-air missiles and enemy aircraft, are emerging and becoming common, he added.

In the speech, General Moseley said the current bomber fleet is adequate to meet America's needs today, despite its age -- but that's likely to change in the future without a new platform.

The B-52 and B-1 are not expected to engage a target in guarded enemy territory without the help of advanced airframes like the stealthy F-22 Raptor, according to Lt. Col. Tony Siler, ACC chief of the Ground Dominance Capability Team.

"We refer to it as, 'Kick down the door,'" said Colonel Siler. "Taking down a portion of the enemy's air defense is the initial part of air warfare."

A B-1 or B-52 can't penetrate guarded territory on its own - but the new bomber could be expected to penetrate, engage, and return without any help.

Colonel Shorb said the platform should also meet the needs of a leaner Air Force by reducing aircraft, sorties and fuel needed to put bombs on target.

Fuel efficiency and longer range are important features, according to Colonel Siler because they reduce dependency on the Air Force's in-flight refueling tankers - most of



U.S. Air Force Photo

The Air Force bomber force is shown in flight together. The B-2 Spirit is a multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. The B-1B is a multi-role, long-range bomber capable of flying intercontinental missions without refueling. The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber.

which are approaching 50 years in service. Also, because bomber forces aren't typically based in theater, long-range bombers fly long distances to deliver their weapons and thus face much longer flying hours.

This new endeavor comes at a time when the Air Force budget is strained, 40,000 Airmen are on their way out the door, and remaining Airmen are tightening the belt. Yet a stealthy, long-range bomber is needed more than ever. The average age of the force's aircraft is 23.5 years. It's the oldest inventory the Air Force has operated since its beginning in 1947.

The first B-52 rolled off the assembly line February 1955 and the 51-year old aircraft design makes up more than half of the Air Force's bomber inventory. That's equivalent to a police department using a 1955 Dodge Monaco for its patrol car. The B-52 will be more than 90 years old before it retires.

Furthermore, the increasing age of Air Force aircraft requires more dollars invested to modernize their capabilities. Quite simply, "Old aircraft strain the budget,"

said Colonel Shorb. "The critical nature of current funding impacts the ability to modernize and sustain current fleets."

"The Air Force budget must balance our resources, support a lean, ready force and meet current and future joint warfighting requirements," said Maj. Brenda Campbell, secretary of the Air Force spokesperson. "The way we fight wars is changing. We must ensure our force is structured to meet future emerging threats."

But the major also said shortfalls in the budget could prevent the Air Force from providing the air and space capabilities America needs.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, bombers delivered two-thirds of the total Air Force tonnage while flying roughly five percent of all Air Force strike sorties, Colonel Shorb said. These bombs were dropped against an enemy without anti-access systems; so essentially, the door didn't need to be kicked down.

The same accomplishments would've been thorny had Iraq's anti-access system been developed.

USAF announces new force-shaping measures

Plans will eliminate 8,000 officer positions

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced new force-shaping initiatives July 26 to be used to meet the required 2007 fiscal year end-strength numbers.

The new initiatives are designed only to bring the officer numbers down; enlisted end-strength numbers are on target for 2007.

Officials said more than 8,000 officers must separate through normal attrition, retirement or force-shaping measures to achieve the required balance in force.

“It’s important to keep in mind what force shaping is all about: the present and future state of the Air Force,” said Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

“We have to balance our (force) for now and the coming years to have the kind of

force we need to win the long war we are in now and be prepared for whatever comes next.”

The Air Force will look for volunteers but also will initiate involuntary shaping programs to achieve a balanced force. The force-shaping program maximizes the Air Force’s voluntary separation authority and also allows implementation for involuntary shaping programs as required.

The Air Force starts the 2007 force-shaping program with three tools to lower the number of active duty officers.

These three initiatives are Voluntary Separation Pay, Selective Early Retirement Board and a fiscal 2007 Force Shaping Board.

The VSP incentive will be offered to line-of-the-Air Force officers, including judge advocates, and to chaplains with more than six and no more than exactly 12 years of service, to encourage their separation, General Brady said.

The Air Force also seeks to retire 313 line-officer lieutenant colonels who have been

twice deferred for promotion or colonels with four years time in grade who are not general selects.

The Air Force is planning a SERB for 2007 to meet this objective.

“The officers who fit this category have already been notified,” General Brady said. “If we get enough volunteers for retirement, we will not hold the SERB.”

Finally, the Air Force will hold a fiscal 2007 Force Shaping Board.

This board will evaluate officers who have not completed more than five years commissioned service.

The board will consider officers in selected, overage career fields in the 2003 and 2004 year groups.

Air Force officials project more than 900 losses as a result of the 2007 Force Shaping Board, which is scheduled for March 12 to 23, 2007.

Air Force officials also plan to recruit fewer Airmen this year, cutting enlistments by 3,000 and officer appointments by 500, General Brady said.

PA, multimedia fields to merge as strategic comm

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Twenty-four hour news cycles and the demand for real-time data and images dictate an adjustment in how the Air Force is organized in order to better leverage its capabilities and provide timely and focused information to the public, the Air Force chief of staff said recently in a memorandum.

“To help build a versatile and formidable communication capability, I approve the concept of realigning two functional areas — public affairs and multimedia — into a relevant strategic communication structure that will provide operational capability for today and into the future,” he wrote.

The realignment will take place first at the Air Staff level. Multimedia will realign from the Office of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Office to the Air Force Office of Communication and the Office of Public Affairs (SAF/PA).

“The goal of strategic communication is to inform and appropriately influence key audiences by synchronizing and integrating our communication efforts,” said Brig. Gen. Erv

Lessel, director of Air Force communication. “Through this realignment, both multimedia and public affairs will be operationally aligned to help meet that goal.”

The career field managers for public affairs and multimedia began studying a merger of the career fields in November 2005. Several meetings took place to compare training plans and doctrine and to gather inputs from major command functional managers from both communities.

“Our goal is to create a new capability for the Air Force, not just merge two career fields,” said Chief Master Sgt. Ron Nelson, multimedia career field manager.

The result of the study was a proposal to merge public affairs specialists with multimedia photographers and public affairs broadcasters with multimedia videographers to create new capabilities. Combining capabilities will increase operational effectiveness and national and international understanding by improving communication to internal and external audiences.

“Both communities are in the business of telling stories, through pictures, words and video,” said Chief Master Sgt. Janice

Conner, public affairs career field manager. “This realignment will leverage the capabilities of Airmen from both multimedia and public affairs into one team focused on the operational mission of communicating to both internal and external audiences.”

The first step for strategic communication is a top-level realignment of assets, followed by a study to bring the four career fields down to two. The Air Force will then develop a plan and timeline of how to realign at the major command and installation levels.

“The approval of the concept to realign is just the first step in building this capability. Both communities will work together to put into place the policies, training and structures to make it work,” said Col. Michelle Johnson, director of Air Force public affairs. “There will be a number of working groups formed to look at the myriad areas involved in merging (Air Force specialty codes) such as deployments, training, and budgets.”

This realignment meets the vision of the Air Force to reduce the number of AFSCs by organizing into expeditionary clusters tied to the roles Airmen currently fulfill.

New guidance issued on wear of uniform items

Senior NCOs to lose shoulder-board option

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, contains revised guidance for a number of items, including enlisted chevrons.

A key feature of the updated instruction, released Aug. 2, is the return of heritage to the enlisted corps — chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

“Over the years, we’ve made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley.

“Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them.”

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

“Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done,” she said. “Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918.”

The change will include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters.

The updates also will include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge.

Other changes:

— Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and from the area of responsibility.

— Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the mandatory wear of physical training gear. All Airmen will be required to have one running suit, two T-shirts and two pair of shorts. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen

will receive an increase in their clothing allowance to offset the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Air Force officials emphasized that Airmen should not wait until October to purchase these items. The revised AFI will clarify wear of the PT gear by specifying that when doing organized PT, the shorts and T-shirts will be worn as a set and not mixed with civilian clothes; however, at other times the PT gear, to include the running suit, can be worn with civilian clothes.

More clarification will be provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing also is incorporated in the updated document.

“The Air Force Uniform Board, chaired by Air Force A1, reviews any matters related to Air Force uniforms involving possible improvements, and in turn, provides recommendations to the chief of staff for a final decision,” Sergeant Athnos said.

“It’s a deliberate process that is focused on feedback from the field to better accomplish our mission.”

Hunt

Continued from Front Page

In 2002 he was mobilized to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle and deployed with his troops to stand alert in support of the Quick Response Force at Fort Riley, Kan.

In 2003 he was once again called to active duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which he commanded the 485th Expeditionary Maintenance Group and the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Group at two locations in Southwest Asia.

His awards include the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf; the Kentucky and Tennessee Distinguished Service Medals; and several federal and state awards.

He received his commission in 1974 through the ROTC program at Texas Christian University.

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