Reducing costs is McPeek priority

LOS ANGELES (Air Force News Service) — The Air Force is on the prowl for cheaper ways to get the job done and still keep the force ready to fight, said the Air Force chief of staff.

"We need to look under every rock for cost savings," said Gen. Merrill A. McPeek. "Reducing total costs -- not holding costs steady and doing more, but reducing costs -- is essential to fulfilling our vision of building the world's most respected air and space force."

The Air Force has already trimmed much of its fat, but still faces a spiraling budget and set force structure; consequently, one of the "biggest puzzles" facing senior leaders is where to go to save money," McPeek said.

At the Air Force Association Symposium in Los Angeles on Oct. 28, McPeek said the Air Force is doing a fairly good job of getting more for its money by improving such areas as productivity, readiness, quality and morale.

Air Guard member is hero after family rescued in fire

By Staff Sgt. Joe Johnston
123rd MAPS

Staff Sgt. Steve Garvey, training flight supervisor for the 123rd Mobile Aerial Port Squadron, had anything but a routine day at his civilian job as a Louisville Gas and Electric customer service representative Oct. 13.

While responding to a call for service on East Brandeis Street, he noticed smoke billowing from the second-story window of a duplex. He immediately stopped and radioed the dispatcher to contact the fire department.

As Garvey ran toward the building, he saw a screaming woman attempting to throw her 2-year-old son to safety from a second-story window. Garvey caught the child and the woman who jumped.

He then rescued a mother and child in a first-floor apartment.

Garvey stayed with the victims until the fire department and medical emergency personnel arrived.

Garvey attributes the successful rescue to "that extra flow of adrenaline they say you get in emergencies."

"I just did what needed to be done," he added, "and I'm thankful that everyone is OK."

In 1946, after four years of war, the budget shortfall was about $16 billion. In 1993, after four decades of cold war, the deficit exceeds $300 billion. That deficit, coupled with the collapse of the Soviet empire, results in a defense budget reaching historic post-World War II lows, said McPeek.

For example, while the Air Force will fly more than a million fewer hours in 1995 than it did in 1985, operations and maintenance costs will increase from 30 to 36 percent over the same decade.

McPeek envisions at least three steps to help reduce operating costs:
-- one is a better accounting system, one that accounts for costs in a more timely and accurate manner;
-- two, he said, the Air Force needs to continue improving the reliability and maintainability of its systems;
-- third, McPeek said the Air Force needs to "turn loose the talent and creative energies of people at the point of contact."

In 1995, 13 percent of the Air Force's top line budget will be spent on the part of operations and maintenance that includes such things as fuel, depot maintenance and depot repairable parts.

"We can address this issue in two ways," said McPeek. "We can work the problem up front -- by better design of the equipment we acquire."

For example, he said, due to better engineering, the flying hour cost of the C-17 will be 40 percent less than the C-5B. The other option is to find ways to make the repair process more efficient.

But the Air Force can't win the battle alone and is looking to its partners in the defense industry to help cut costs. An Air Force-industry cost scrub of the B-1B program will save the service about $5 million in support costs next year.

"We need more success stories like this," said McPeek.
Commander's Column

During the holiday, let's not forget our trademark, heritage of service

With the holiday season upon us, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect upon our accomplishments of the past year in an effort to understand just what it is that makes this unit so special.

Why is it that this unit was able to support seven major overseas deployments, design a new base, institute a forward-looking quality program, adapt to a change in MAJCOM and still accomplish all the training required to maintain our combat ready status? Some units would stumble under the weight of just one of the above tasks. Why didn't we?

The answer lies in who we are, and where we came from. We are a unit made of individuals who over the years have taken it as a given that whatever the challenge, whatever the task, when it comes time to perform, the job gets done. It is very easy to become caught up in the day to day hassles, squabbles and political infighting. We all do it, and to a certain extent, it is part of the job.

Our secret, however, lies in our ability to put these petty concerns out of our mind when it comes time to perform. This ability has been the trademark of the KyANG for a long time and we owe it to all of those Kentucky guardsmen who came before us to continue that tradition. It is the responsibility of old timers like me to continue to instill this selfless "can do" attitude into all of the young men and women who join our organization. If we do that, we will live up to our heritage and insure that the 123rd continues as one of the premier units in the total force.

Thanks for who you are, what you have been, and what you will be. Take pride in what you have accomplished, and I have every confidence that we will continue to build upon our proud heritage.

Have a happy and safe holiday season and let's begin the new year with a renewed commitment to add to the proud heritage of the Kentucky Air National Guard. So Sayeth the Lead.

Quality Planning: the key to 'quality' success

By Capt. Patrick Wimsatt
Quality Officer

As with most things in life, a good plan leads toward a good ending. Quality is no different.

After many months of intense work, the 123rd Airlift Wing's Quality Council has developed a roadmap and a strategic plan to ensure our quality journey has the best possible chance for success.

The roadmap offers a set of milestones with which we can measure our progress along the way. The roadmap relates directly to bringing quality to the Kentucky Air National Guard and will be utilized by the wing, the groups and each squadron.

It sets up those items such as developing goals and objectives, providing training to everyone and outlining the structure in which quality takes place.

The roadmap is based on these tiers, or highways, along the journey.
Tier 1 represents the establishment phase where we develop focus. Tier 2 is the implement phase where we develop our people and Tier 3 is the institutionalize phase where we develop baselines and measurements.

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Quality Planning
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The other plan developed is our Strategic Plan. It provides the milestones to ensure survivability and it translates our mission of the future into goals and further defines these into objectives and action items.

The Strategic Plan goes on to define our environment, customers and values, all of which require our attention to ensure our success.

The Strategic Plan is your plan. Do you see where you fit in? If not, let us know.

During this UTA and in January, there will be "hot sheets" available for informing us of your comments. If you don't let us know what to change, we accept that you "buy-in" to the document.

We've got a great future ahead. Let's start it by working together in a quality environment, following a "quality" plan. Our plan.

KyANG's long range planning: our future, our vision

Our Mission

Provide trained and properly equipped personnel and units to accomplish state and federal missions, utilizing processes within an environment that encourages continuous improvement.

Our Philosophy of Success

To still be in existence in 2010, in Louisville, at present or increased manning levels, accomplishing the assigned mission, with reduced operating costs and improved efficiency, in well maintained facilities.

Goals of the 123rd Airlift Wing

1. Individuals and units will attain and maintain the capability to fulfill anticipated state and federal taskings.

2. Provide an environment that promotes increased individual involvement in personal and organizational safety, health and fitness.

3. Lead the Air National Guard in the pursuit of an environmentally clean base and increase awareness of the importance of protecting our environment.

4. Introduce to every member an attitude of, and belief in, continuous quality improvement through teamwork and open communication.

5. Champion programs that promote equal opportunity, family support, community involvement and employer support.

6. Provide maximum service to external customers within available resources while improving training.

The Kentucky Air National Guard has the vision of providing an open environment that fosters positive attitudes, encouraging all members to become committed to the shared responsibility of quality service through responsible leadership. It envisions commitment to quality through teamwork with integrity and an open communication process that leads to mutual understanding.
KyANG vet draws upon early years to build recruiting, leadership skills

By Airman 1st Class Fred Michaels
123rd Mission Support Flight

Tech. Sgt. Nate Mack is not an 8-to-5 kind of guy. During his 20-plus years in the military, serving both in the U.S. Army and Air Force, Mack has worked as a radio operator, a medic, a machine gunner patrol leader, a drill sergeant, an operating room technician, a security policeman and a recruiter.

He enlisted in the Army after high school in 1967. A native of Mansfield, Ohio, he attended basic training at Fort Knox and soon found himself stationed in Erlanger, Germany, for six months. It wasn't until then he attended an NCO academy, training him to be a leader in combat. In 1968, Mack was sent to Vietnam, where he spent 13 months.

"Vietnam was hot and humid," he recalled. "It took quinine tablets daily. I didn't think about the ethics of the war much at that time; I was too busy trying to stay alive."

Mack immediately was sent to the field upon arriving at an air base in Vietnam. He spent much of his time walking patrols, and vividly remembers his first fire-fight with the enemy.

"When I heard the shots coming, I ducked behind a sandbag," he recalled. "I literally froze. Then a bullet nearly swiped me and I came out firing an entire clip."

"Television went out of its way to show the dead bodies and people suffering," he said. "Most of the North Vietnamese were sympathizers. In war, people get hurt."

Following his war years, Mack became faced with a decision to either join an honor guard in Washington or to serve as a drill instructor. He chose the latter. "I became a drill instructor at Fort Knox," he said. "A major factor in my decision was to be close to my home town. I also felt like I could be effective in training the recruits."

Mack explained that at the time the harshness of Army basic training was being curtailed because of political influence. He decided to leave the active military and attended both Ashland College and Ohio State University. He served in the Army Reserve for one year as an operating room technician.

In 1980, Mack joined the Kentucky Air National Guard as a traditional guardman and worked for the security police. He filled a full-time position as a recruiter for the Guard in 1984 and has retained that position since.

Mack stated that during the Vietnam period, recruiters had guidelines to follow but their ethics were poor. "The military often was an alternative to jail sentences with the Army and Marines," he said. "No high school diploma was needed to enlist, security checks were lax and many enlistees were trying to get away from their wives."

Recruiting ethics since then have improved, he said.

He lists three personal attributes that impact the success of a recruiter: sincerity, moral character and a willingness to work long hours. His office reports that the KyANG is currently 92 percent manned, one of its lowest enlistments since 1984.

"It's a different climate, that's for sure," Mack said. "We used to brag about having 80 percent prior service members. Now, a lot of recruits are brand new, just trying to get their college tuition paid."

He also believes that funding cuts have blocked the KyANG from cross-training prior service members. Without the cross-training, he said, members must fill available slots that require little or no formal military education.

"Right now, we have a lot of openings in the service-related fields, and the combat control team. That's a hard specialty to fill because of the stringent training requirements."

Family influence, he says, is also an important factor in an individual's decision either to enlist or to reenlist. Mack says his job can be tough.

"Not having either the positions or the people to fill needed areas is most difficult in recruiting," he admits. But for now, we're still hiring."
Employer honored with DoD, ESGR award

By Capt. Ralinda Gregor
Assist. Public Affairs Officer

Last month, Mike and Chris Wagner, owners of Wagner Electric Company in Louisville, received Department of Defense certificates of appreciation for their support of the Air National Guard. Lt. Col. Thomas Marks Jr., the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron commander, presented the certificates to recognize the brothers who employ two Kentucky Air National Guardsmen.

Staff Sgt. Darryl J. Loafman, a KyANG firefighter, nominated the Wagner brothers for a "My Boss is a Pro" award. He and Staff Sgt. Bruce Byron, a KyANG electrician, are employed as journeyman electricians for Wagner Electric.

The Wagners have always been supportive of the Guard and Reserve.

Loafman said. They also employ two naval reservists, one Coast Guard reservist and an Army reservist, he added.

"When we have to go to field training for two or three weeks they don't mind," Loafman said. "They really support our work for the Guard."

The award is part of a national effort to recognize supportive employers of guardsmen and reservists.

Employers play a critical role in maintaining the personnel strength of the Guard and Reserve, according to Capt. Steve Bullard, a KyANG navigator and executive director of the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Research conducted by the DoD indicates Guard and Reserve members are more likely to remain in military service when their employers support their participation. Nearly one-third of those who leave the Guard and Reserve do so because of conflicts between the full-time demands of their civilian employment and the part-time responsibilities of their military duties.

"KyANG members who want to nominate their civilian employers for a 'My Boss is a Pro' award can get nomination forms from their commander or unit orderly room, or they can call me at 491-4737 and I'll get a form to them," Bullard said.

DoD counts 23,000 gripes

(AFNS) -- Since the inception of the Defense Hotline in 1979 to combat fraud, waste and mismanagement, the Department of Defense has examined and initiated corrective action on more than 23,000 complaints.

Callers have identified significant instances of product substitution, falsified testing procedures and use of inferior or defective material.

The lives of military personnel could have been endangered had those problems remained undetected. The hotline isn't effective unless people call when they witness or are aware of actions that are contrary to efficient and economical government operations.

Defense Secretary Les Aspin recently released a memorandum for all DoD personnel, asking everyone to be alert: report needed improvements and suspected problems by calling or writing the hotline.

The telephone numbers are: (toll-free) 1-800-424-9098, (DSN) 223-5080 and (commercial) 703-693-5080. The address is: Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20301-1900.

Awards luncheon Monday

The Kentucky Committee for ESGR will host an awards luncheon Dec. 13 to honor this year's outstanding employers.

Among those to be honored are LEEO Inc.; North American Stainless Steel; United Parcel Service; Congleton-Morris-Thorup & Associates; and Wagner Electric.

The luncheon will be held in the Carroll-Ford Room at the Galt House at 11:30. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door. Contact Capt. Steve Bullard at extension 460 for details.
Bowling team joins Crusade effort

By Staff Sgt. Joe Johnston
123rd MAPS

The KyANG Bowling Team, known for its 1992 win at the Air National Guard bowling tournament, took on a new challenge here during late October. The team bowled against the WHAS-TV Crusaders to help raise $1,887 for the WHAS Crusade for Children.

Each year, bowlers donate at least one dollar to give them and their team a chance to bowl against the Crusaders in this major fund raising event.

The Crusaders' team included Darrel Griffith, the1980 University of Louisville NCAA basketball tournament most valuable player, WHAS radio personality Terry "I wish I had Bowling lessons" Meiners and other WHAS employees.

They were challenged by KyANG members Chief Master Sgt. Bill Byrum of the 123rd CES, Master Sgt. Neville Johnson of the 123rd RMS, Master Sgt. Louis Caudill of the 123rd CES, Tech. Sgt. Ed Rachford of the 123rd RMS and Staff Sgt. Joe Johnston of the 123rd MAPS. These KyANG bowlers from the Sportsman's League at Executive Bowl beat 336 other teams to qualify.

The Crusaders had a remarkable advantage over the KyANG team, with a handicap of more than 300 pins compared to the 68-pin KyANG handicap. The KyANG team suffered an embarrassing loss, but in Johnston's words, "it was for a great cause."

VA urges vets to refinance; rates fall to 7%

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Department of Veterans Affairs is encouraging veterans to increase their net monthly income by refinancing their VA-guaranteed home loans at low interest rates, down to 7 percent at some banks.

"It's a win-win-win situation for veterans, the economy and lenders," said VA Secretary Jesse Brown. "Veterans increase their ready-cash to improve their home or start a college fund, for example. The lender gets a loan of greater quality with less risk of default and new income from fees for originating new loans."

Veterans can refinance their VA-guaranteed loans in two ways -- through a regular refinancing loan or through an interest rate reduction refinancing loan.

An IRRRL is used strictly to reduce the interest rate on a loan and requires no property appraisal or credit underwriting and, therefore, no out-of-pocket expense to the veteran, said VA officials.

There are currently more than 880,000 veterans with outstanding VA-guaranteed home loans with interest rates of 9 to 9.99 percent. More than 700,000 still have loans at interest rates of 10 percent or more.

"It's a win-win-win situation," says VA Secretary Jesse Brown

The monthly payment on a VA 30-year loan of $90,000 at a 10 percent interest rate is $790. The monthly payment on the same loan is $724 at a 9 percent rate, $660 at 8 percent and $598 at 7 percent.

The VA no longer sets the interest rate at which veterans can borrow a VA-guaranteed loan. Veterans can negotiate the rate with a private lending agency. More information on VA benefits is available by calling 1-800-827-1000.

Mail-order uniforms now at hand

Air Force News Service -- Air Force active duty, Guard and Reserve personnel may purchase uniform items by mail order. This includes service uniforms, battle dress uniforms, boots, shoes, shirts, insignia, patches and more.

Credit cards will be accepted for phone orders (VISA, MasterCard and Discover Card).

The free catalogs are available at any military clothing store. If you are at a remote location away from a military clothing store, call DSN 967-3206 and order a catalog for your unit.

The catalogs contain addresses within your geographical area where you should send your mail order, including five addresses in the continental United States and two each in the Pacific and European regions.

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Base rifle team shines at Knox, improves with Smith

By Lt. Col. Dan Wells
Base Rifle Team Coordinator

The 123rd Airlift Wing’s rifle team improved its performance this year with the addition of Senior Airman Craig Smith of the 123rd Security Police Flight. Smith competed at Fort Knox, Camp Atterbury and Fort Campbell with an Air National Guard M-1 rifle at distances starting at 200 yards in the prone position.

In July’s heat at Fort Knox, Smith beat everyone in the marksman class but because of rules on new shooters, he was placed in the masters class. A nationally-ranked shooter from Kentucky, Mitchell Maxberry, won the match with a 792-23X out of 800 points, followed by Chief Warrant Officer Charles Green from the Kentucky Army National Guard with a 772-23X.

At Camp Atterbury, during the Indiana High Power Championships, Smith beat his closest opponent in the marksman class by 56 points. It was a difficult match as temperatures hovered above 90 degrees.

Neville Smith, a civilian, won the match with a 773-26X followed closely by Green with a 772-23X. Lt. Col. Dan Wells of the KyANG finished in the master class with a 746-14X.

At Fort Campbell during the Kentucky State Service Rifle Championship, Smith beat his closest rival in the marksman class by 11 points and finished with a 687-5X. Alvin Scott, a retired Tennessee Army guardsman, won the match with a 776-20X. Green won the High Resident Service category with a 764-1X. Wells, the base rifle team coordinator, finished with a 745-9X.

Several new shooters from the 123rd Security Police flight and the 123rd Combat Control Team make 1994 bright. High-powered rifle competition is extremely demanding with the heavy equipment, weather extremes and the skills required. The team believes that its marksmanship program improves recruiting efforts, retention and basic military skills.

Clinton, Aspin call for strong humanitarian aid policy

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Pentagon wants to start budgeting for peacekeeping operations like Somalia and Bosnia, saying the military will have more humanitarian missions in the future.

“We’re rewriting the book on national security,” Defense Secretary Les Aspin told reporters at the Pentagon recently. “We have to manage this change, we don’t have the luxury of hanging a note on the door that says, ‘closed for re-modeling.’

“We’re going to be open for business every day. Each day we owe the country a force that is ready to fight, and we’re going to provide it.”

Aspin called the $750 million reprogramming request to cover the cost of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia “a crazy way to run a railroad, to run these operations and then scramble around later to find funds to pay for them.”

“Please understand that things are tight and let’s start budgeting rationally for peacekeeping in the future,” he said.

President Clinton said in May that he was considering sending U.S. ground troops as part of an international peacekeeping force to Macedonia, a republic in the former Yugoslavia. However, that decision was put on hold.

“At the same time, the United States has not ignored the problem in Bosnia, but has taken the lead in humanitarian assistance,” the president said.
December: drunk-driving prevention month is here

By Evelyn Harris
American Forces Information Service

Every year, traffic accidents kill more Americans between the ages of 6 and 23 than any other cause — and almost half those deaths involve alcohol.

To highlight the problem, DoD and national safety officials designated December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

The theme for the month is "Let's Take a Stand: Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk."

The percentage of DoD motor vehicle fatalities involving alcohol continues to decline, said John Lenke, DoD assistant director for occupational safety and occupational health policy.

During the first three quarters of 1993, traffic fatalities took the lives of 316 military members. Of these, 65, or 19.2 percent, stemmed from alcohol-related accidents, said Lenke.

DoD will continue to emphasize the designated driver program.

The proportion of teen-age drivers involved in fatal crashes while intoxicated has dropped significantly, from 31 percent in 1982 to 17.1 percent in 1992. Still, 2,452 youths aged 15 to 22 died in alcohol-related crashes last year, about eight every day, according to Tarry Hess, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spokesperson.

"That is a lot of parents who will never see their children again," she said. A coalition of public and private organizations sponsor the awareness month. They include the Department of Health and Human Services, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

ANG is dropped from House bill

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Congress has dropped expanded commissary privileges for members of the Guard and Reserve from the 1994 Defense Authorization Bill.

Acting on behalf of House and Senate conferees, members of the House and Senate Armed Services committees agreed not to permit unlimited commissary privileges for reservists and their family members. The House bill had recommended the expanded benefit.

Once approved by both House and Senate, the $261 billion authorization bill goes to the president for signature.

Specialty badges planned for all

(AFNS) -- The elimination of some old specialty badges and the creation of new ones will result in a badge for all servicemembers, regardless of career field.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Merrill McPeak directed a review of existing specialty badges with a goal of standardizing the wear of badges for all servicemembers. New badges will be available in about a year. People will then have a four-year transition period from the old to the new ones.

Mammograms free

(Courtesy of The On Guard) -- Air National Guard women aged 40 and over will be offered free mammograms as an added health benefit. According to Maj. Phil LaKier, ANG chief of professional medical services, female members must be in a military duty status while on the appointment.

For more information, contact your base clinic.

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