Nominations sought for employer award

American Forces Press Service

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is accepting nominations for its 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, given for outstanding support of employees who serve in the Reserve and National Guard.

The award was instituted in 1996 to recognize the significant contributions and sacrifices made by America’s employers of National Guardmen and reservists, ESGR officials said.

This year, ESGR officials said they are reinstating the original parameters of the nomination process in which only guardsmen and reservists may nominate employers.

“Today, in support of the war on terrorism and the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, an essential alliance has been formed, as many of America’s employers have become inextricably linked to the nation’s defense by sharing their most precious asset — their employees,” said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR executive director.

National Guardsmen and reservists can nominate their employers online at www.esgr.mil/. Nominations will be accepted through midnight Feb. 24. Recipients will be recognized Oct. 22 in Washington, D.C.

Kazakhstan

Continued from Page 3

an aircrew perspective and a maintenance perspective,” he said.

Colonel Hunt came away from the visit with a favorable impression, which he relayed to CENTAF in an after-action report.

“The environment was much more austere than ours, but the maintenance capability was there and their facilities were impressive,” Colonel Hunt said.

C-130s would represent a major leap forward for the country’s tactical airlift community, which primarily flies the Soviet-era AN-12.

“Colonel Hunt said he flew on “an immaculately maintained” AN-12 that was, nonetheless, “probably 50 years old.”

Besides age, the aircraft is limited by a rear cargo door that doesn’t drop low enough to facilitate the loading of rolling stock, and by an onboard cargo handling system that uses a crane rather than pallets and rollers.

“A C-130 would ratchet up their logistics movement capability significantly,” Colonel Hunt said.

If the Kazakhstan Air Force moves forward with a purchase of C-130s, the Kentucky Air Guard could be tapped again to provide expertise, Colonel Kraus said, adding: “I think they were very impressed with our facilities and our personnel.”
quick turn from the January AUA and we're back for February. All indications are that last drill was pro-
ductive in many different areas of training, with the time and energy to those things that will lead to the
successful completion of this inspection.

The calendar is set with month-to-month activities from now until then that will build the
skills required.

Last month it was Chemical Warfare De-
fense Task Qualification Training. This month, we will exercise the Cargo Deplo-
ment Function and in March the Personnel
Deployment Function.

Teams are being formed that will take us
to and through the “Big Game ’06,” and each
of us has an important part to play.

I don’t know about you, but I won’t be
satisfied with “Satisfactory” when the books
are closed on this Inspection.

The Air Force’s View of “Excellence in
all we do” is our guiding principle, and the
thread of excellence is tightly woven into the
fabric of our wing. Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, commander of the Air Combat
Command, personalizes the Core Value of
Excellence this way:

“Inherent in ‘service before self’ is a de-
sire for excellence and prosperity. We do
not mean that we’re ‘excellent all the
time.’ It just means that we try, and we try
doesn’t mean that we’re excellent all the
time. It just means that we try, and we try
we don’t mean that we’re ‘excellent all the
time.’ It just means that we try, and we try
our best. Budget cuts, deadlines and expe-
time. It just means that we try, and we try

I recently read an article about six-time
Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong.
His is a story of incredible courage, com-
mmitment and an insurmountable desire for
excellence. To be sure he has an innate talent for cy-
clying, but it would be too easy to explain
away his success to that talent alone.

What struck me about the article are the
things you don’t see that culminate in his
victory at the finish line — the months of
prior physical, mental and emotional con-
ditioning; the meticulous planning; prepa-
ration of equipment; research for a techno-
logical edge; team-building exercises and
rehearsals, riding the courses months in ad-
vance to memorize every hill, pothole or
road wash.

The precision of the preparation is what
prompts him ahead of the competition to the
degree that talent alone never would. The
employment of these time-tested tools have
made Lance Armstrong an athletic phenom-

At the Air Force’s Heart are the people
who do not play by the same rules as tradi-
tional nation states or conventional militar-
ies to address the challenges of
the future concepts and transfor-
mation strategy of the Air Force.

According to the secretary of defense’s
transformation planning guidance, officials
in the office of force transformation use the
flight plan and the transformation road maps
from the services and Joint Forces Command
to conduct an appraisal of transformation pro-

Issues and concerns raised by this
appraisal are used to form the
secretary’s guidance to the ser-

Our goal is clear, the timetable is set, the
plan is formulated and our focus is narrow-
ing to achieve that goal. Lance Armstrong
is the embodiment of General Hornburg’s
encouragement to “live your life with a pas-
tion for excellence (so that you can make
a difference) — your mind, your
body, your total dedication — what is life
worth? The quality of life is in direct pro-

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Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Head-
quarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 23.

An electronic version of the Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard’s Web site — www.kyang.org.af.mil

Col. Mark Kraus
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

Live your life with a passion for excellence and you can make a difference.

A

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Wing Public Affairs Officer — Capt. Dale Greer
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Kazakhstan defense officials visit wing to evaluate C-130s

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A delegation of officials from the Republic of Kazakhstan visited the Kentucky Air Guard base on Nov. 18 and 19 to see a top C-130 unit in action and explore the possibility of purchasing Hercules aircraft from the United States.

The delegation included Maj. Gen. Bolat Sembinov, Kazakhstan’s deputy minister of defense, who attended several briefings as part of his fact-finding mission, said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Air Lift Wing.

General Sembinov also flew on an orientation flight that included a heavy-equipment drop and an assault landing. He completed the visit with a tour of base operations, aircraft maintenance and the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron.

The visit was so productive that one Kentucky Air Guard member, Col. Howard Hunt, was invited to visit Kazakhstan two weeks later as part of a U.S. team tasked with evaluating the capability of the former Soviet republic to support C-130s.

“The primary reason I was selected to go was because the Air Force representative who was here in Louisville with General Sembinov liked what he heard and saw at the Kentucky Air Guard,” said Colonel Hunt, commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group.

“He wanted someone from the C-130 maintenance community to go on and really assess their capabilities.”

Colonel Hunt spent a week at Almaty Air Base attending briefings and evaluating the Kazakhstan operations.

“Their presentation was designed to assure us of their professionalism, both from

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Meditation:
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— Richard Kriegbaum in “Leadership Prayers”

Softball teams seeking members

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The Cargo Courier
Feb. 5, 2005
Operation Deep Freeze

Continued from Front Page

The hours are long. Most days, the men were in the warehouse at 3 a.m. and worked until 5 p.m. or later. Sundays were the only days off.

While much of life on the ice is structured, both found time to take in other activities like hiking trips into the many valleys and peaks that surround McMurdo. Both also visited the historic areas on Ross Island, including some of the camp huts used by Antarctic explorers more than 100 years ago.

“I liked putting myself in the shoes of the early explorers and imagining myself in that era,” Sergeant Wanner said.

“Their experiences down here are so different than ours, but in a way, just the same.”

Other polar pursuits took on new meaning below the 60th parallel. “We went sledding one day and I scared myself with how fast we got going,” Sergeant Romig said.

“There aren’t any trees of bushes to slow you down.”

Duty lengths for military personnel range from five weeks to six months.

The military community, however, makes up only a small portion of McMurdo residents in the summer.

Hundreds of scientists, researchers, heavy equipment operators and those simply wanting to experience life on the harsh continent make up the diverse population of the station.

On any given day, a lunch table in the dining facility may host the foremost ozone depletion expert in the world, an Air Guard mechanic, a university professor working as a custodian on the ice and a professional dive instructor from Hawaii who now gathers mollusk specimens from frigid polar water.

“The personalities here are very different from military folks but very friendly,” Sergeant Romig said.

“Everyone has been new here at one time or another and has helped out any time I’ve asked.”

Similarly, Sergeant Wanner heard about Deep Freeze two years ago and kept it on his radar screen. “My goal is to hit every continent (while serving on military deployments),” he said. “Antarctica is my fourth — and probably the toughest one to get.”

While military duty at McMurdo isn’t necessarily foremost in the public’s mind, Operation Deep Freeze has been a military staple since 1957 and largely a Guard mission since 1998.

The 109th Airlift Wing from Scotia, New York, flies LC-130 aircraft that have been modified with skis, allowing them to take off and land on the slick ice and compacted snow that is up to two miles thick at the South Pole.

Sergeant Wanner, who deployed here for five weeks, was impressed by the joint nature of the mission, which is overseen by the U.S. Transportation Command. “We’ve got people here from the Mississippi, Washington, California, Maryland, Ohio, New York and Nevada Guard units,” he said.

Along with the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Navy Sealift Command and, in the last season, Coast Guard cutters, it’s really a total-force mission.

Both Sergeants Romig and Wanner are seasoned aerial port troops, but their joint cargo inspection duty was unlike anything they’d ever imagined. “We’re working cargo with civilians from the U.S.-Antarctic Program, with New Zealand Defense Force people and with ramp folks from Raytheon.” Sergeant Romig said.

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Airman gains naval experience at South Pole

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Senior Master Sgt. Barry Wright’s recent deployment to Antarctica gives new meaning to the phrase “career-broadening.”

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The military presence includes members of the Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve, U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard, all under the control of the U.S. Transportation Command. “This is truly a joint operation that’s fast-paced and diversified,” Sergeant Wright said.

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Reeves Group Inc., weapons of mass destruction consultants for the Department of Military Affairs, conducted the training.

Chaplain’s Column

By Lt. Col. Tom Curry, 123rd Airlift Wing chaplain

Today’s Thought:

In military life, every Airman exercises leadership, and every supervisor has a supervisor. Successful leaders at all ranks understand the importance of improving leadership skills by developing right relationships, especially with God.

— Lt. Col. Tom Curry, 123rd Airlift Wing chaplain

Reference:

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

— Samuel the prophet

Meditation:

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March banquet to honor wing’s Airmen of the Year

The Kentucky Air Guard’s 2005 Outstanding Airmen of the Year will be honored at a banquet scheduled for March 5 at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center in Shepherdsville, Ky.

Tickets for the banquet, which will feature entertainment by the Kentucky Army National Guard Band, are $20 each and may be purchased from any chief master sergeant.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

This year’s honorees are Master Sgt. Rhetta Perdue, interim training manager in the 123rd Security Forces Squadron; Staff Sgt. Amanda Blackburn, an information management specialist in the 123rd Airlift Wing Headquarters; and Senior Airman Sharon Foster, a relocation employment and readiness technician in the 123rd Military Personnel Flight.

Winners were selected from a pool of 30 nominees from across the base.

The Paroquet Springs Conference Center is located at 395 Paroquet Springs Drive.

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“Everyone had different accounts of the C-130 maintenance community to go over and really scrub their capabilities.”

Colonel Hunt spent a week at Almaty Air Base attending briefings and evaluating the Kazakhstani operations.

“Their presentation was designed to assure us of their professionalism, both from their presentation and in the manner in which they responded to our questions.”

Senior Airman Philip Speck
KyANG NEWS

Correction

The rank of Chief Master Sgt. Mike Mitto was incorrect in the January 2005 edition of The Cargo Courier.

Senior Airman Wayne Ashley of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron shows a C-130 turbine module to Maj. Gen. Bolat Sembinov, deputy defense minister of Kazakhstan, during General Sembinov’s visit here in November.

See KAZAKHSTAN, Back Page
quick turn from the January UTA and we’re back for February. All indications are that last drill was pro-
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Teams are being formed that will take us to and through the “Big Game ’06,” and each of us has an important part to play.

I don’t know about you, but I won’t be satisfied with “Satisfactory” when the books are closed on this Inspection.

The Air Force Core Value of “Excellence in all we do” is our guiding principle, and the thread of excellence is tightly woven into the fabric of our wing. Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, commander of the Air Combat Command, personalizes the Core Value of Excellence this way:

“Excellence in ‘service before self’ is a de-

sire for excellence that we do not mean that we’re ‘excellent all the time. It just means that we try, and we try our best. Budget cuts, deadlines and expe-
rience too often attempt to out-shoot and
our-run excellence. Conformity is too easy. Mediocrity is too safe. Many settle for less than their best and convince themselves quality and integrity are negotiable. But I believe excellence is a commitment to con-
stant improvement. There are only two directions to move in life, either forward or backward; it’s impossible to stand still — standing still means you’re actually falling backward; it’s impossible to stand still — standing still means you’re actually falling backward...

That’s why the quality of life is direct propor-
tion to your commitment to excellence.’

The Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard’s Web site www.kyang.af.mil

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Kentucky Air Guardsmen deploy to bottom of the world in support of Antarctic mission

By 1st Lt. April Conway
Support Forces Antarctica

MCMURDO STATION, ANTARCTICA — Most Louisvillians got their first taste of winter this season when an arctic storm front dumped up to six inches of snow and ice on the city a few days before Christmas. For Master Sgts. Jeff Romig and Scott Wanner, however, the chilly white stuff had been a daily part of their routines since mid-November, when they first arrived at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, a scientific outpost located on the bottom of the world.

The Kentucky Air Guardsmen deployed here as part of Operation Deep Freeze and Support Forces Antarctica, both of which are tasked with supporting the National Science Foundation and the many research projects that take place in Antarctica each austral summer.

Sergeant Romig, a member of the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, volunteered for his six-week rotation after seeing a request for cargo inspectors come down through the National Guard Bureau. He believes an open mind and willing attitude earned him the experience of a lifetime.

“The environment was much more austere than ours, but the maintenance capability was there and their facilities were impressive,” Colonel Hunt said.

C-130s would represent a major leap forward for the country’s tactical airlift community, which primarily flies the Soviet-era AN-12.

“It’s amazing here,” he said. “A C-130 would ratchet up their logistics movement capability significantly,” Colonel Hunt said.

Besides age, the aircraft is limited by a rear cargo door that doesn’t drop low enough to facilitate the loading of rolling stock, and by an onboard cargo handling system that uses a crane rather than pallets and rollers.

“A C-130 would ratchet up their logistics movement capability significantly,” Colonel Hunt said.

If the Kazakhstan Air Force moves forward with a purchase of C-130s, the Kentucky Air Guard could be tapped again to provide expertise, Colonel Kraus said, adding: “I think they were very impressed with our facilities and our personnel.”

Freeze

Deep

OPERATION

Deep
FREEZE

Kazakhstan

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an aircrew perspective and a maintenance perspective,” he said.

Colonel Hunt came away from the visit with a favorable impression, which he relayed to CENTAF in an after-action report.

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Colonel Hunt said he flew on “an immaculately maintained” AN-12 that was, nonetheless, “probably 50 years old.”

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Nominations sought for employer award

American Forces Press Service

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is accepting nominations for its 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, given for outstanding support of employees who serve in the Reserve and National Guard.

The award was instituted in 1996 to recognize the significant contributions and sacrifices made by America’s employers of National Guardmen and reservists, ESGR officials said.

This year, ESGR officials said they are reinstating the original parameters of the nomination process in which only guardsmen and reservists may nominate employers.

“Today, in support of the war on terrorism and the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, an essential alliance has been formed, as many of America’s employers have become inextricably linked to the nation’s defense by sharing their most precious asset — their employees,” said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR executive director.

National Guardsmen and reservists can nominate their employers online at www.esgr.mil.

Nominations will be accepted through midnight Feb. 24. Recipients will be recognized Oct. 22 in Washington, D.C.