Cheney praises ANG efforts in war on terror

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell National Guard Bureau

DENVER—Vice President Richard Cheney praised the Air Guard for all it has done during the global war against terrorism and promised that the fight will not end until the threat to the United States and the rest of the civilized world is wiped out.

That includes making sure that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is deprived of all weapons of mass destruction, Cheney told a reported 1,200 people attending the Air Guard’s Senior Leadership Conference here Dec. 2.

“The only path to safety is the path of action,” Cheney said. “And the United States will act. We will confront every threat from every source that could possibly bring harm to our country.

“The conflict can only end with their complete and utter destruction and a victory for the United States and the cause of freedom,” said Cheney of the war against those who have little to lose.

“In the terrorists … we have enemies who have nothing to defend,” he pointed out. “A group like the al-Qaida cannot be deterred or placated or reasoned with at a conference table. For this reason, the war against terror will not end in a treaty. There will be no summit meeting or negotiations with terrorists.

“As the president has said, this is a fight to save the civilized world,” Cheney said. “This is a struggle against evil, against an enemy that rejoices in the murder of innocent, unsuspecting human beings.”

As for Iraq, the Cheney said that “confronting the threat posed by Iraq is not a distraction from the war on terror. It is absolutely crucial to winning the war on terror.”

Hussein, Cheney charged, harbors terrorists and could supply biological or chemical weapons to terrorist groups or individuals.

“The war on terror will not be won until Iraq is completely and visibly deprived of weapons of mass destruction,” he added. Cheney brought greetings and gratitude from President Bush, “the former commander-in-chief of the Texas National Guard, and the first Air National Guard veteran ever to live in the White House,” Bush, Cheney told his audience, “asked me to please give you his personal thanks for the fantastic job you’ve done for all of us over the course of the last year and a half.”

Cheney also acknowledged what the Air Guard has brought to the 14-month-old war against terrorism that Bush initiated following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“The Air National Guard’s role in the aftermath of September 11th has been truly remarkable. You have assumed an astonishing portion of the military missions in Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom,” Cheney said.

“Today, there are nearly 11,000 mobilized and volunteer members of the Air Guard serving at home or overseas,” he pointed out. “Air National Guard pilots fly three-quarters of the combat air patrols defending the United States mainland. You provide 40 percent of our airlift capacity in Afghanistan and 42 percent of the fighters in our air expeditionary force. Between September 11th of 2001 and September 11th of this year, Air National Guard pilots flew 46,000 sorties.

“As members of the National Guard, you may not be full-time soldiers, but you are all full-time patriots,” Cheney praised.

**ALCF**

Continued from Page 5

and heading to Fort Campbell, Ky., to offer support for the deployment and redeployment of their troops.

During this four-month trip, Nelson’s team assisted in moving more than 17 million pounds of cargo.

Since then, KYANG’s ALCF has been deactivated and is working to return to business as usual.

Throughout it all, the team’s performance was outstanding, Nelson said.

“We had a lot of experience, a lot of maturity that really made my job easy,” he said. “I can’t thank them enough, can’t praise them enough. What else can I really say?

“They’re combat veterans (who) went out and did they’re job. Some (are) multiple veterans. I’ve got two (for whom) this is their second or third war.

“You can’t deploy with better than that.”

**123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office**

Kentucky Air National Guard
1101 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY 40213-2678

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**Wing’s ALCF troops spend time in OEF**

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler Cargo Courier Editor

“Welcome to the madness,” are words that the 123rd Airlift Control Flight’s commander will never forget when he remembers his time serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lt. Col. Greg Nelson and his unit were called to active duty November 2001 and spent more than 60 days deployed in the Afghanistan area of operations last winter, working side-by-side with active duty, Guard and Reserve troops from all branches of military.

“We really were lucky, because I got about 30 days notice before we left,” Nelson said.

The team had been deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, with other KYANG troops participating in Operation Noble Eagle before being “invited to the other war,” according to the element’s commander.

During this preparatory time, Nelson said he heard many stories of doom and despair from the commander he was to replace.

“It was terrible. When that guy arrived, there were no tents, no latrines — there was nothing.”

Luckily, this wasn’t the case by the time the Kentucky troops reached the location.

“It was funny because when we got there, it was the middle of the night, all black out ops, a very austere location,” Nelson recalled.

“But there was actually a tent where you use the bathroom and take a shower, so it

See ALCF, Page 5

**RIGHT:** 123rd Tactical Airlift Control troops were housed in tents set up inside a hangar.

**Photos courtesy of the 123rd ALCF**
When we think of readiness we tend to emphasize, and do, to ensure that we become:

- A powerful, harmonious, and EPIC military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms; and that you can take an hour a day to exercise on military time. Please take advantage of that. If you are a traditional Guardsman, it may be a bit more difficult, but I ask you to give it a try.
- As members of the profession of arms it is our responsibility not only to be trained but that you can take an hour a day to exercise in knowing that we are ready.
- We are all busy, and every one of us can come up with a million reasons why we don’t have the time to stay in shape.
- The team chief for our recent inspections of fitness that allows us to employ that training and paperwork to go to war.
- During our activation too many of our folks came down with minor injuries—strains, pulled muscles, back aches—that could have been prevented had they been in better physical condition.
- The team chief for our recent inspections pointed out that the big difference he sees between the active force and the Guard is the level of physical fitness.
- He grounded that we have more experience, and that we fly, fix and support better than the active folks due to that experience. But he also noted that when placed under stress—heat, cold, an NBC environment—Guard folks tend to drop out a lot sooner than the active folks do. No matter how well trained and experienced we may be, if we physically can’t hack it we are not much good when things get hairy. I would like for everyone to make an effort to improve their level of fitness during this year.
- We are fortunate to have a great fitness facility here on base that is open to all Guardsmen almost any hour of the day or night. We also have people with the expertise to help you set up an exercise program. All you have to do is to commit to give it a shot.
- Let’s resolve to be fully prepared to meet any enemy and any challenge.

Thanks Loads!

Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

and in knowing that we are ready. However, it became clear this past year that our health and fitness need work if we are to be truly ready.

Thumbs Up!

Michael D. Mather

Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

USAFA eliminates captain central selection boards

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

BOILING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. — The Air Force Surgeon General has issued a notice to airmen on the potential risks associated with dietary supplements that contain ephedra on Sept. 5 that strongly discouraged the use of such supplements and highlighted associated risk factors.

The policy was developed by a memorandum from the Air Force Surgeon’s Agency, which called for services activities to remove such supplements from their re-sate inventories.

Since ephedra and its alkaloids have several different names, products should be evaluated by (major command-) and baselevel dietitians to ensure all items known to contain ephedra or ephedra alkaloids are removed from your operations,” the services memo read.

In late August, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service also removed the products from its inventories.

According to a statement issued by AAFES headquarters officials in Dallas: “Due to health and safety concerns, AAFES has replaced all ‘performance enhancing’ dietary supplements that contain ephedra with ephedra-free products. All products with ephedra have been removed from AAFES’ supply chain, along with those operated by AAFES’ concessionaires. Signs have been posted to encourage customers to carefully read the Nutritional Facts label on all dietary supplements to help them make informed choices.”

Air Force Surgeon General officials have repeatedly “strongly advised” people to contact their physicians or health-care provid- ers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

“Consultation is especially necessary if an individual has preexisting medical problems, is taking other medications or exer- cises vigorously as part of (his or her) occupation or fitness program,” Wallace said.

Such supplements, which include so-called energy boosters, over-the-counter diet pills and bodybuilding drinks or mixes, may pose health and occupational risks even for those not taking other prescribed drugs, Wallace said.

Today, at least 20 states and the National Football League are among those who have banned or restricted use of ephedrine products.

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON—The Air Force will eliminate the recommendation for active-duty, Guard and Reserve officers beginning in 2003.

“With the possibility on each board to promote 100 percent of those eligible, and with an increase in personnel points, the average selection rate, it only seemed logical to make this change,” Vande Hey said.

The 2002 National Defense Authorization Act permits the service secretaries to eliminate captain promotion boards when the pro-motion opportunity is to the interest of the force. Despite the absence of a central review, individuals will still need to be “fully qualified” to be promoted. This means everyone who is determined to be qualified can be pro- moted.

By comparison, promotion to the ranks of major through colonel is based on the “best qualified” criterion, meaning pro-motion board members rank-ordered candidates by merit and only a predetermined percentage of the total eligible are promoted.

First lieutenants meeting the time-in-grade and time-in-service requirements will be in-turn recommended as either “promote” or “do not promote” candidates. Members who receive “promote” recommenda-tions will be given an opportunity to re- commend the promotion to a higher rank or level as defined during the promotion process. If they do not receive a recommendation, the candidate’s projected pin-on date will be based on the projected pin-on date.

Medical officials issue notices on ephedra risks

This Air Force newspaper is an authorized pub- lisher for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville International Airport, Louisville, Ky. 40213-2678.

Our office is located on 211B of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 18.
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- Frank Morgan III, 123rd Security Forces Sq.

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)
- Nicholas Ash, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Jeremiah Burns, 123rd Student Fit.
- Joshua Forney, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Thomas Mahan, 123rd Student Fit.

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- Staff Sgt. Carey Pravdica, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
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Promotions, retirements & separations

As I write this column, KYANG’s Family Support Christmas party is in full swing and the voices (or delighted screams) of possible future citizen-airmen fill the air.

It’s also the day after the submission by Iraq of their arms declaration to the United Nations.

As you read this, we have begun a new year. What is now on our mind? Is it the voices of little ones running around filled with the joy of the holiday season, or the apprehension of a possible fight with the political leadership of Iraq?

Only time will tell what the future holds.

We are all called to live now, but with an eye to the future.

As a chaplain, I must confess that I do not have a direct line to an all-knowing, all-powerful God. Like the rest of the members of the Kentucky Air National Guard, I wonder what will be awaiting me as we enter a new year.

Will I be praying beside the monks of my community, or will I be praying and leading worship in a distant land?

I have no idea, and I won’t even chance a guess.

As a Benedictine monk, one of our axioms, which come from the rule of our founder, St. Benedict, is to “keep death daily before one’s eyes.”

It may, at first, sound like a morbid thought, but it is actually meant to call one to live in the present moment, not in the possible future.

As we enter into this new year of 2003, let it be a time for us to rejoice and celebrate.

Let us celebrate in the gift of life that we each have been given and let us rejoice in all the gifts and blessings that we have and will continue to receive.

The future will unfold as it will, but it is the present where we can make a difference.

As that old familiar songs states, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

A faith that assures me that I, too, can live with God in a place full of milk and honey, where there is no more sadness or pain — a place of peace and harmony.

We are all called to live now, but with an eye to the future.

To live in the future, with all its unknowns, is to allow the unknown to control one’s life, because the unknowns will constantly change.

If one chooses to live this way, it will only lead to a life filled with anxiety.

But by living in the present, one lives by one’s faith, letting God worry about the future.

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Blessings from the Chapel staff as we begin this New Year.

— Maj. Patrick Cooney, Wing Chaplain
Counselor to airman and back again
Greene experiences shock of leaving rural Ky. for desert life

By Senior Airman Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

One fall day, Tech. Sgt. Paul Greene packed his things, left behind his job as a marriage counselor in rural Kentucky and went on the adventure of a lifetime.

As a member of the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Airlift Control Flight, he was one of the first troops deployed following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Greene, a radio equipment repairman, originally volunteered to deploy to Fort Hood, Texas, with other wing members as part of Operation Noble Eagle. His job there was to support communications and airfield management.

But the next thing he knew, Greene and other Kentucky Air National Guard members were sent home to prepare for a deployment to an unknown location outside the United States as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Although Greene said he initially was gung-ho about doing his part in the war on terrorism, he began to have second thoughts when he reached the overseas base at which he was to serve after spending 38 hours riding in a C-17 Globemaster III.

“We had to walk across the ramp and the hangar in almost total darkness after a tactical descent into the air base,” Greene said.

“I thought, ‘What have I gotten myself into?’”

What Greene and his flight had gotten into was a grueling schedule that included 12-hour days, seven days a week, in a hostile environment.

“I wish we got more than one retirement point per day,” Greene joked.

His job now was not only to act as a radio equipment repairman but also to plan communications operations for the flight.

“I needed to be able to service a generator, help loadmasters and airfield managers,” he said.

“And I needed to be able to do a little bit of everything.”

Greene and his unit stayed in a tent city set up inside an open hangar and worked side by side with a combined force of more than 2,000 soldiers, Marines and airmen from other units.

“One of the most profound experiences for me was the common spirit and camaraderie with the other services,” Greene said.

“The people were so great.”

The bonds that were formed in this environment still continue, he added, because many of the people still stay in contact.

Several members of deployed total force were young, with little military experience and just out of high school.

“They were kids — 18, 19, barely shaving,” Greene said.

“For many, this was their first deployment. I saw my part as encouraging and building them up.”

Greene’s flight left the desert in February and spent the rest of the deployment at Fort Campbell, Ky., before being shipped back to Louisville for an Inspector General’s Exercise.

Since then, Greene has been released from active duty and is readjusting to his life as a civilian.

He recently opened another office for his counseling practice and is trying to rebuild the business to the level it was when he left.

The transition has had its moments for Greene.

“It was the first time I spent Christmas and New Year’s Day away from my family,” Greene said.

“I’m glad I went, but I’m even happier to be home.”

Greene’s military experience spans nearly 25 years. He voluntered to deploy to Fort Hood, Texas, as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

The deployment also was hard on his family life.

“It was like a big race track. We’d have to get creative because airplanes do break sometimes.”

“You’re supposed to have one (airplane) on the ground and that’s it. Now you’ve got two on the ground you’re working; a third one on the ground that you’re holding; one at the pit taking gas and another one on final trying to come in.”

One night while this was going on, Nelson said, he listened to an air traffic controller explain the situation to someone calling in.

“It’s got two on the ground...one just took off poppin’ flares, another on final poppin’ flares coming in. Welcome to the madness,” the controller said.

After returning from the Afghanistan area of operations, the group was home for less than a month before packing their bags again for redeployment.
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The transition has had its moments for Greene.

“You’re dealing with more black-and-white issues in the military than in marriage counseling,” Greene said.

“There are more concrete issues such as attention to detail and the responsibilities of dealing with people’s lives in the Air Force than there are in marriage counseling.”

The deployment also was hard on his family life.

“It was the first time I spent Christmas and New Year’s Day away from my family,” Greene said.

“I’m glad I went, but I’m even happier to be home.”

Greene’s military experience spans nearly 25 years. He spent five years in the Tennessee Air Guard, from 1978 to 1983, then enlisted again in the Kentucky Air Guard in October 1997.

He recently was recognized for his service to the country.

“The ALCF mission during the deployment consisted of command and control of all air-lift operations. According to Nelson, ALCF members worked with every service aircraft in the U.S. military as well as those of multiple coalition nations and U.S. agencies.

“Such interoperability among the services was highly successful,” Nelson said.

“There’s a bond when you’re in a fight,” he said.

“You’re there for the same purpose, same location. You’re all wearing the same uniform.

“You still have, not animosity, but jokes between sister and brother services. But there’s a bond... If you’ve got something I need, you’ll give it to me. You’ll give me two if you have it.”

This spirit of cooperation and can-do attitude helped make the mission a success, but a little creativity didn’t hurt either.

“There were constant aircraft coming through,” Nelson said, “so they would land on the runway, taxi off to a parallel taxiway, and that’s where we would load and off load it, and it would taxi right back around.

“It was like a big race track. We’d have to get creative because airplanes do break sometimes.”

“You’re supposed to have one (airplane) on the ground and that’s it. Now you’ve got two on the ground you’re working, a third one on the ground that you’re holding, one at the pit taking gas and another one on final trying to get airborne.”

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- Thomas Mahan, 123rd Student FIt.
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- Gregory Mattingly, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Frank Morgan III, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Russel Decker, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Ivan Dommitt, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
- Robert Holland, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- David Johnston, 123rd Security Forces Sq.

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Will I be praying beside the monks of my community, or will I be praying and leading worship in a distant land?

I have no idea, and I won’t even chance a guess.

This requires faith, not just faith in one’s self and one’s leaders, but also faith in one’s God.

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If one chooses to live this way, it will only lead to a life filled with anxiety.

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Blessings from the Chapel staff as we begin this New Year.

— Maj. Patrick Cooney, Wing Chaplain
Mission-ready troops need to be physically fit

Vande Hey said. Previously, active-duty Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Aside from placing the promotion decision maker closer to the officer, it also saves the Air Force time, money and productivity by eliminating temporary duty trips for board members and preparation time at the centers," Vande Hey said.

The 2002 National Defense Authorization Act permits the service secretaries to eliminate captain promotion boards when the promotion opportunity rate is below 100 percent. Despite the absence of a central review, individuals will still need to be "fully qualified" to be promoted. This means everyone who is determined to be qualified can be promoted. By comparison, promotion to the ranks of major through colonel officer on the "best qualified" criterion, meaning promotion board members rank-order qualified candidates by merit and only a percentage of the total eligible are promoted. First lieutenant members meeting the time-in-grade and time-in-service requirements will be initially recommended as either "promote" or "do not promote" candidates. Members who receive a "do not promote" recommendation will be provided an opportunity to reapply.

123rd Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Commander’s Call

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

Air Force News

WASHINGTON—The Air Force will eliminate the Promotion Decision Center for active-duty, Guard and Reserve officers beginning in 2003.

"With the possibility on each board to promote 100 percent of those eligible, and with an historically low active-duty selection rate, it only seemed logical to make this change," Vande Hey said.

The Cargo Courier
Jan. 11, 2003

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Air Force Print News

How to contact us:
Editor................................................Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Wing Commander..............................Col. Michael Harden

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Commander’s Call

Commander’s Call

Commander’s Call

Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

No one knows what the future may hold, and let it be known that we will do everything in our power to ensure that the 123rd Airlift Wing is prepared to support any effort to defend our American way of life. As I do every year during the holiday season I have reviewed and revised our wing strategic plan, and you should see a copy of it around your squadron.

I ask that you take a look at it, read it and refer to it when you have a question about why we are doing what we are doing. This document contains what I think we need to emphasize, and do, to ensure that we become:

“A powerful, harmonious, and EPIC military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms; prepared to successfully wage war, and add value to community, state and nation.”

You may note that this year’s plan looks very similar to the one we had last year. That’s not because I decided to take the holidays off and simply take the old one. It’s because we had a great year last year, and there are not many things that need to be changed.

One area that I would like to emphasize, however, is personal readiness. The entire Air Guard, and our unit in particular, needs to improve its level of physical fitness, so I have included that in the plan. When we think of readiness we tend to think about having all of our training squares filled, and having all of the required equipment and paperwork and payload to go with it. But we do very well and take great pride in knowing that we are ready. However, it became clear this past year that our health and fitness need work if we are to be truly ready.

During our activation too many of our airmen came down with minor injuries—strains, pulled muscles, back aches—that could have been prevented had they been in better physical condition. The team chief for our recent inspections pointed out that the big difference he sees between the active force and the Guard is the level of physical fitness. He grinned that we have more experience, and that we fly, fix and support better than the active forces due to that experience. But he also noted that when placed under stress—heat, cold, an NBC environment—Guard folks tend to drop out a lot sooner than their active force counterparts.

No matter how well trained and experienced we may be, if we physically can’t hack it we are not much good when things get hairy. I would like for everyone to make an effort to improve their level of fitness during this year.

We are fortunate to have a great fitness facility here on base that is open to all Guard members almost any hour of the day or night. We also have people with the expertise to help you set up an exercise program. All you have to do is to commit to give it a try.

We are all busy, and every one of us can come up with a million reasons why we don’t have the time to stay in shape. If you are full-time out here you know that you can take an hour a day to exercise on military time. Please take advantage of that. If you are a traditional Guardman, it may be a bit more difficult, but I ask you to give it a try. As members of the profession of arms it is our responsibility not only to be trained and equipped. We must also maintain a level of fitness that allows us to employ that training and equipment so as to prevail in any struggle.

Let’s resolve to be fully prepared to meet any enemy and any challenge.

Thanks Loads!

Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

Air Force News

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C.—The Air Force general has issued a notice to airmen on the potential risks associated with dietary supplements that contain ephedra.

No matter how well trained and experienced we may be a bit more difficult, but I ask you to come up with a million reasons why we can’t possibly do this. All you have to do is to commit to give it a try.

Medical notices are released by clinical quality management division officials from the Air Force Medical Operations Agency to disseminate lessons learned from medical incident investigations and other pertinent events.

“We know that is this young man took supplements, including ephedra,” said Royal Air Force Wing Commander (Dr.) Victor Wallace, of the aerospace medicine division at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency. “Although there was insufficient evidence to be causal, the changes seen in this young man’s cardiovascular system can be associated with ephedra use.

“The purpose of the notice is to ensure that Air Force personnel and their attending medical staff remain alert to the risks and can provide appropriate advice and education,” he said, an RAFF public affairs officer.

The Air Force surgeon general issued a revised policy covering dietary supplements last May that strongly discouraged the use of such supplements and highlighted associated risk factors.

The revised policy was followed by a memorandum from the Air Force Services Agency, which called for services activities to remove such supplements from their sale inventories.

“Since ephedra and its alkaloids have several different names, products should be evaluated by (major command-) and base-level dietitians to ensure all items known to contain ephedra are identified and removed from your operations,” the service memo read.

In late August, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service also removed the products from its inventories.

According to a statement issued by AAFES headquarters officials in Dallas: “Due to health and safety concerns, AAFES has replaced all ‘performance enhancing’ dietary supplements that contain ephedra with ephedra-free products. All products with ephedra have been removed from AAFES’ product inventory, along with those operated by AAFES’ concessionaires. Signs have been posted to encourage customers to carefully read the labels of all dietary supplements to help them make informed choices.”

Air Force Surgeon General officials have reportedly “strongly advised” people to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

“Consultation is especially necessary if an individual has preexisting medical problems, is taking other medications or exercises vigorously as part of (his or her) occupation or fitness program,” Wallace said.

Such supplements, which include so-called energy boosters, over-the-counter diet pills and bodybuilding drinks or mixes, may pose health and occupational risks even for those not taking other prescribed drugs, Wallace said.

Today, at least 20 states and the National Football League are among those who have banned or restricted use of ephedrine products.

USAF eliminates captain central selection boards

The Air Force’s surgeon general has issued a directive prohibiting the use of ephedra products.

The Air Force’s surgeon general has issued a directive prohibiting the use of ephedra products.

USAFA...
CHENEY PRaises ANG Efforts in War on Terror

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell National Guard Bureau

DENVER—Vice President Richard Cheney praised the Air Guard for all it has done during the global war against terrorism and promised that the fight will not end until the threat to the United States and the rest of the civilized world is wiped out.

That includes making sure that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is deprived of all weapons of mass destruction. Cheney told a reported 1,200 people attending the Air Guard’s Senior Leadership Conference here Dec. 2, “The only path to safety is the path of action,” Cheney said, “and the United States will act. We will confront every threat from every source that could possibly bring harm to our country.”

“The conflict can only end with their complete and utter destruction and a victory for the United States and the cause of freedom,” Cheney said of the war against those who have little to lose.

“Terrorists...we have enemies who have nothing to defend,” he pointed out. “A group like the al-Quada cannot be deterred or placated or reasoned with at a conference table. For this reason, the war against terror will not end in a treaty. There will be no summit meeting or negotiations with terrorists.

“...the president has said, this is a fight to save the civilized world,” Cheney said. “This is a struggle against evil, against an enemy that rejoices in the murder of innocent, unsuspecting human beings.”

As for Iraq, the Cheney said that “confronting the threat posed by Iraq is not a distraction from the war on terror. It is absolutely crucial to winning the war on terror.” Hussein, Cheney charged, harbors terrorists and could supply biological or chemical weapons to terrorist groups or individuals.

“The war on terror will not be won until Iraq is completely and verifiably deprived of weapons of mass destruction,” he added. Cheney brought greetings and gratitude from President Bush, “the former commander-in-chief of the Texas National Guard,” and the first Air National Guard veteran ever to live in the White House.”

Bush, Cheney told his audience, “asked me to please give you his personal thanks for the fantastic job you’ve done for all of us over the course of the last year and a half.”

Cheney also acknowledged what the Air Guard has brought to the 14-month-old war against terrorism that Bush initiated following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“The Air National Guard’s role in the aftermath of September 11th has been truly remarkable. You have assumed an astonishing portion of the military missions in Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom,” Cheney said.

“Today, there are nearly 11,000 mobilized and volunteer members of the Air Guard serving at home or overseas,” he pointed out. “Air National Guard pilots fly three-quarters of our combat air patrols defending the United States mainland. You provide 40 percent of our airlift capacity in Afghanistan and 42 percent of the fighters in our air expeditionary force. Between September 11th of 2001 and September 11th of this year, Air National Guard pilots flew 46,000 sorties.

“As members of the National Guard, you may not be full-time soldiers, but you are all full-time patriots,” Cheney praised.

The Cargo Courier
Jan. 11, 2003

ALCF

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and heading to Fort Campbell, Ky., to offer support for the deployment and redeployment of their troops.

During this four-month trip, Nelson’s team assisted in moving more than 17 million pounds of cargo.

Since then, KYANG’s ALCF has been deactivated and is working to return to business as usual.

Through it all, the team’s performance was outstanding, Nelson said.

“We had a lot of experience, a lot of maturity that really made my job easy,” he said. “I can’t thank them enough. can’t praise them enough. What else can I really say?”

“They’re combat veterans (who) went out and did they’re job. Some (are) multiple veterans. I’ve got two (for whom) this is their second or third war. You can’t deploy with better than that.”

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Wing’s ALCF Troops Spend Time in OEF

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler Cargo Courier Editor

“Welcome to the madness,” are words that the 123rd Airlift Control Flight’s commander will never forget when he remembers his time serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lt. Col. Greg Nelson and his unit were called to active duty November 2001 and spent more than 60 days deployed in the Afghanistan area of operations last winter, working side-by-side with active duty, Guard and Reserve troops from all branches of military.

“We really were lucky, because I got about 30 days notice before we left,” Nelson said.

The team had been deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, with other KYANG troops participating in Operation Noble Eagle before being “invited to the other war,” according to the element’s commander.

During this preparatory time, Nelson said he heard many stories of doom and despair from the commander he was to replace.

“It was terrible. When that guy arrived, there were no tents, no latrines — there was nothing.”

Luckily, this wasn’t the case by the time the Kentucky troops reached the location.

“It was funny because when we got there, it was the middle of the night, all black out ops, a very austere location,” Nelson recalled.

“But there was actually a tent where you use the bathroom and take a shower, so it

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TOP: Senior Master Sgt. Frank Green and Master Sgt. David Pollard work on communications problems during the deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom.

RIGHT: 123rd Tactical Airlift Control troops were housed in tents set up inside a hangar.

Photos courtesy of the 123rd ALCF