Farewell to the Ky. Air Guard

To all my Guard friends,

As I have said often and publicly, about five years should be the extent that we linger in a position. Finding myself at that juncture, it is time to step off and let someone else carry the baton.

About 28 years ago I became part of an organization that encompasses ideals of public service that I find appealing.

The concept that, as citizens, we have a personal and social obligation to contribute to the security of our nation weighs heavily in my mind. There can be no purer form of patriotism than the citizen-airman and citizen-soldier who toils for years balancing the obligations of family, work, recreation and military duty — everyday citizens who quietly go about their daily lives but when called will risk that last full measure of devotion to protect ideals cemented with the blood of our forefathers over 200 years ago.

It has been my humble honor to work among the societal giants who guard our declared precepts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Leading the Kentucky Air Guard has been humbling, rewarding and a privileged distinction.

I cheerfully look forward to a less hectic life style and will proudly follow the great deeds of Kentuckians striving to make the world safer for our children and grandchildren.

I heard it stated once that at first we become part of the Guard, and then eventually it becomes part of us. I now have a fuller understanding and appreciation of that statement. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

—Brig. Gen. Rick Ash
Assistant Adjutant General for Air
It is critical for wing members to understand direction the unit is headed

January, I published and this month, as I do every — and they will every day — they are re-tuned for better readability and updated to

We can only garner this respect if we de-cide to dedicate ourselves to being the best airmen, NCOs or officers that we can be. We must constantly strive to take care of business and have our “stuff together” if we are to have the immediate credibility nec-essary to become “powerful.”

A perfect example of this is our wing plans shop, which gets our folks out the door with the right training and equipment to fight and win.

Because of their reputation for having their “stuff together” they have immediate credibility when they go to National Guard Bureau and ask for something.

They are consulted by other units, and their opinion is listened to — and acted upon — by policy makers nationwide. They are a “powerful” organization, and they lend credibility to every member of the 123rd.

“Harmonious,” simply put, means that everyone is in tune with each other and sing- ing the same song.

For the 123rd, the words to the song are found in our plan, and everything that we do should be aimed at achieving our vision and accomplishing the specific goals and objectives in the plan.

This does not mean that everyone acts the same, has the same personality or comes from the same background or culture. It means that when disagreements occur — and they will every day — they are re-solved.

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The revised version also updates the dis-cussion on core competencies and distinc-tive capabilities, and adds new text on the linkage between vision, operating concepts and doctrine.

Overall it has been substantially restruc-tured for better readability and updated to include references to operations Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and current doctrine.

The Air Force Doctrine Center’s com-mander, Maj. Gen. David MacGhee, ex-plained the importance of the changes within the revised document.

“We all realize that 9-11 changed the world forever,” MacGhee said.

“The old construct I grew up with, where forces were garrisoned at home and when we were called upon we moved as a single, very much an old construct. I think we’ve made great progress through lessons learned from Afghanistan, something we did not plan for, or train for. The services applied those lessons to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and I think you can see the results — a resound-ing success in combat operations.”

Retired Lt. Col. Bob Poyner, a military doctrine analyst at the center, explained the revisions.

“Time, the introduction discusses why doctrine is important,” Poyner said. “We explain to airmen why they need to under-stand and apply it.”

Poyner has been involved from the be-ginning, having served as project officer for the document since its previous publication in 1993.

He helped establish the doctrine center and launched the first series of briefings for numbered air force commanders, their staffs and other senior leaders. The information from those briefings formed a large portion of the current doctrine document.

“AFFD I provides an intelligent baseline on which to form command relationships and doctrine,” Poyner said.

“Most importantly,” he said, “it tells air-force commanders the difference between policy, strategy, and doctrine, and what doctrine is and is not.”

Poyner used the example of the transfor-mation from the Cold War to an expedition-ary air and space force to demonstrate the need for periodic revisions of doctrine.

“The Cold War, everything was censored, he explained. “When forces were called upon to reinforce NATO or (South) Korea, for example, everything was or-chestrated according to a prearranged operations plan. We didn’t have to think about how to set up.”

The modern expeditionary air and space force must fight in new ways and in new places from one deployment location to the next, he said.

“Now with an expeditionary force we must start over for each deployment,” Poyner said. “There is no prearranged struc-ture, because we don’t know the size and shape of each mission. We have to think about them as the situation develops and define the missions for common under-standing in the joint environment. That’s what doctrine does. It helps eliminate some of the leg work before you go into an operation.”

With Jumper’s signature, the document was approved for distribution. It is available for download from the AFDL website at https://wwwdoctrine.af.mil. Hard copy publication will follow. Professional military education schools will begin teaching from it soon.

Jacket, pullover require metallic nametags

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms and pullover sweaters.

As of Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer’s right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer’s right side, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag.

An exception is when a command insignia is worn by either men or women. It is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag. Then the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the airman is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower, than the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on pullover sweaters on the wearer’s right side with the bottom of the nametag centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline.

It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.
Sending holiday CHEER

Members of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron load a C-130 Hercules aircraft on Dec. 12 as about 20 members of the Kentucky Air Guard prepare to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The aircraft also transported more than 100 holiday care packages from unit family members to their deployed loved ones, who remained overseas during the holidays.

Promotions, retirements & separations

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and reserves of the United States Air Force:

- **SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)**
  - Joseph O’Donnell, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

- **TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**
  - Anthony Glover, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
  - Jennifer Lucas, 165th Airlift Sq.
  - John McCullie, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

- **MAJOR (O-4)**
  - John McCallie, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and reserves of the United States Air Force:

- **Maj. Larry Bolton**, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- **Tech. Sgt. Larry Brinegar**, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
- **Master Sgt. Terry Chasteen**, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
- **Chief Master Sgt. Gary Cline**, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
- **Tech. Sgt. George Heeke**, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air National Guard:

- **Staff Sgt. Lewis Christopher**, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- **Staff Sgt. William Billings**, 123rd Security Forces Sq.

**KyANG troops must be resilient**

The war is not over, but Air Guard members are returning to home and work. This is a time of significant readjustment for those returning from war and those who stayed home.

Both require resilience. The American Psychological Association defines resilience as the ability to adapt in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or other significant sources of stress.

The APA gives us a heads up about redeployments. Check out their web site at http://helping.apa.org/resilience/homecoming.html.

Reuniting with family may fall short of a quick, smooth, “back to normal” adjustment. Instead, those returning often are hit right away with a laundry list of problems, including bills, family disputes and expectations that family interactions and intimacy will return to pre-war levels.

The returning member will experience stress from culture shock, requiring time to adjust to the American way of life again. Returning to work also can create tension. Often, employers underestimate how long it will take someone who’s been away to shift gears.

Friends may want to talk about the war while the returning member wants to forget. A rush to normalize creates undue stress.

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Friends may want to talk about the war while the returning member wants to forget. A rush to normalize creates undue stress. The Good News is that we have a God who understands our stress and anxieties. The Hebrew Scriptures remind us, “They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31).

Coming home is another chapter of adjustment. It will not be the same home you left, but it can be a better home. Patience, communication and negotiation are the tools God uses in our lives to bring good gifts.

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Chaplain’s Column

**Choir of airmen**

Maj. Matt Stone of the 123rd Airlift Wing Plans Office leads a group of carolers as they spread holiday cheer during the December drill. The group, which included Wing Commander Col. Michael Harden, visited the Children’s Christmas Party and holiday luncheons for each unit.

**CorRECTION**

The Kentucky Air Guard’s outstanding airmen of the year for 2003 will be honored at a banquet Feb. 7.

The banquet gives member of KyANG an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Kentucky’s outstanding airmen, said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Mitro, the 123rd Airlift Wing’s command chief.

The dinner will be held at the Parroquet Springs Convention Center in Shepherdville, Ky.

The cost is $15 per person, and tickets can be purchased from any chief master sergeant.

This year’s honorees are Senior Airman Jason Hoyt, Staff Sgt. Joseph Youdell and Master Sgt. Jon Rosa, all from the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron; and first sergeant of the year, Master Sgt. Gregg Romans of the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The guest speaker will be Chief Master Sgt. Vickie Mauldin, command chief master sergeant of the Air Force Material Command and formerly the command chief master sergeant of United States Air Forces Europe.

The uniform for the evening is mess dress or dress blues.

For more information, contact Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Mitro at ext. 4465.

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The rank of Army Col. Mike Jones, the Kentucky National Guard comptroller and U.S. property fiscal officer (J-8), was incorrect in the November edition of the Cargo Courier.
CES state maintenance personnel send packages to deployed Kentucky troops

By Capt. Kirk Hilbrecht

When Kentucky Air Guard troops packed their bags and headed overseas for Operation Iraqi Freedom last year, members of the base civil engineers’ state maintenance group decided they wanted to help.

Two of these state employees, Teresa Downey and Diane Jones, quickly launched a campaign to ship care packages to the deployed airmen, ultimately collecting nearly 2,500 pounds of items like snack foods and games to help boost the morale and welfare of the troops.

The idea began when Downey and Jones received an e-mail from Master Sgt. Tommy Miller, a deployed loadmaster with the 165th Airlift Squadron who also is a state maintenance employee when he’s not serving on active duty.

“To me, it was a way to say, ‘They’re not on their own,’” Jones said.

“I was seeing a need, and I thought that people would want to help out,” Downey said.

“We wanted to do something,” Jones said.

Both women began to solicit snack vendors, sundry vendors and the general public to help raise the morale of our airmen in the desert. When we would call on people, they would say, ‘What can we do to help?’” Downey said.

“The rest of the CE staff, as well as the base personnel, all helped out, especially in the boxing and the shipping of the items,” Jones said.

Downey said, “When we boxed up over 2,400 pounds of care-package goods! Then we wondered, ‘How can we ship all these boxes?’ So, we thought of who might have (the resources), and we called on (local car dealer) Neil Huffman,” Jones said.

“The key to this harmony is open and honest communication,” Jones added.

“We are a harmonious, military organization ... because it is important to us that we fully understand each and every word of what we want and need. It is ‘Harmonious’ also means that everyone in the 123rd feels and not because you just don’t like the other guy. The key to this harmony is open and honest communication.”

“Harmonious” also means that everyone in the 123rd feels and not because you just don’t like the other guy. The key to this harmony is open and honest communication.”

As the new adjutant general, Storm will have a dual role as both head of the Kentucky National Guard and the head of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

The adjutant general is responsible for ensuring a trained, prepared and ready force to respond to both state and national emergencies.

Storm also will command the 7,400 men and women of the Kentucky Air and Army National Guard.

Storm began his military career in 1970 as an enlisted soldier, serving with Military Assistance Command Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

After leaving active duty in 1972, he enlisted in the Kentucky Army National Guard and has been employed by the Guard since 1974. Since he was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1981, Storm has commanded and served in staff officer positions at the company, battalion, brigade and state headquarters level.

His senior-level leadership assignments include director of Army personnel; state surface maintenance manager; director of plans, operations and training; and state counter-drug coordinator.

Storm previously served as the Kentucky Army Guard’s Chief of Staff since October 2001.

“We are proud to have such a highly experienced military leader join our team,” Fletcher said. “I’m confident he will bring the Kentucky National Guard to the next level!”

“Col. Storm is an asset as new rope,” added Lt. Gov. Steve Pence. “It is a great honor to have him on board.”

Storm is a native of Laurel County, Kentucky, and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University.

Storm replaces Maj. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, who served in the position for more than two years.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in finance as well as a master’s degree in strategic studies from the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Central to what we do. There was a time not long ago when the military aspect of the Air National Guard was downplayed because our society was going in a different direction. We talked about acting like a business, benchmarking on General Electric, holding gatherings instead of formations and generally downplayed the idea that we were a military organization with certain military traditions and symbols.

But people join the 123rd because they like the military and want to do military things. We must always remember that, and strive to honor our military traditions and responsibilities.

People may also join the unit for the educational benefits, the money or the travel, but they will only stay if we focus on and live the traditional military values of duty, honor, and country.

Joe has written quite a lot on just five words: “A powerful, harmonious, military organization ...” because it is important that we fully understand each and every word of what we want to become.

Next month I will focus on the next phrase, and maybe the next. I have written quite a lot on just five words: “A powerful, harmonious, military organization ...” because it is important that we fully understand each and every word of what we want to become.

I ask for you support.

Thanks, Richard

Storm appointed newest adjutant general

Cargo Courier Staff Report

Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm was appointed the 51st Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky by Gov. Ernie Fletcher on Dec. 9.

As the new adjutant general, Storm will have a dual role as both head of the Kentucky National Guard and the head of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

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KyANG State Headquarters PAO

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Two of these state employees, Teresa Downey and Diane Jones, quickly launched a campaign to ship care packages to the deployed airmen, ultimately collecting nearly 2,500 pounds of items like snack foods and games to help boost the morale and welfare of the troops.

The idea began when Downey and Jones received a e-mail from Master Sgt. Tommy Miller, a deployed loadmaster with the 165th Airlift Squadron who also is a state maintenance employee when he's not serving on active duty.

“Tommy wrote back that living conditions were poor and that the troops were ‘eating junk,’” Downey said.

“Tommy was one of us. Teresa and I sat down that afternoon and wondered, ‘What can we do to help?’” Jones said.

“Food! Care packages! We needed to send snacks and items of home to our airman abroad,” Downey explained.

We wanted to do our part for the contingency overseas. We wanted to do something.

Both women began to solicit snack vendors, sundry producers and civic organizations for small items that might be sent to the deployed Kentucky airmen in the desert.

“We boxed up over 2,400 pounds of care-package goods!” Jones said.

“Then we wondered, ‘How can we ship all these boxes?’”

So, we thought of who might have the (resources), and we called on (local car dealer) Neil Huffman,” Jones said.

“Thirty minutes later, Mr. Huffman had a check for us to pay for shipping.”

“It was a wonderful experience, and we are glad we could do our part to help raise the morale of our airmen in the Persian Gulf,” Downey said.

“It was an exhausting, tiring, fun and rewarding mission,” Jones added. “I’m glad we could support our deployed airmen. Support is what we do.”

Lt. Col. Phillip Howard of the wing’s civil engineers squadron also was pleased with the campaign.

“This effort really shows that this is one team, one fight,” Howard said.

The rest of the CE staff, as well as the base personnel, all helped out, especially in the boxing and the shipping of the items,” Jones said.

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He holds a bachelor’s degree in finance as well as a master’s degree in strategic studies from the United States Army War Col-
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Thanks Loads!

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Promotions, retirements & separations

The following individuals have promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and reserves of the United States Air Force:

- **TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**
  - Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Cheney, 165th Airlift Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. George Heeke, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
  - Tech. Sgt. Brian Moore, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and reserves of the United States Air Force:

- **SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)**
  - Joseph O’Donnell, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
  - Anthony Glover, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
  - Jennifer Lucas, 165th Airlift Sq.

- **TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**
  - Joseph Scrogham III, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
  - Joseph Youdell, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
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The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air National Guard:

- **MAJOR (O-4)**
  - John McCullie, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
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The following individuals have retired as members of the United States Air Force:

- **TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**
  - Maj. Larry Bolton, 165th Airlift Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. George Heeke, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the United States Air Force:

- **TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**
  - Staff Sgt. Lewis Christopher, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. William Billings, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
  - Tech. Sgt. Timothy Dougherty, 123rd Special Tactics Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. Scott Forbes, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. Sheena Fugett, 123rd Logistics Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. Travis Hayden, 123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. Ad Hodge III, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
  - Lt. Col. Louis House, 123rd Medical Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. Jerome Howard, 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. Kevin Hughes, 123rd Student Flight.
  - Airman 1st Class Richard Mattmiller III, 123rd Student Flight.
  - Staff Sgt. George Heeke, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
  - Staff Sgt. StevenAdvanced, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
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**Chaplain’s Column**

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It will not be the same home you left, but it can be a better home.

Patience, communication and negotiation are the tools God uses in our lives to bring good gifts.

— Lt. Col. Tom Curry

_Wing Chaplain_
It is critical for wing members to understand direction the unit is headed

This month, as I do every January, I published and will distribute the 2004 version of the wing strategic plan.

It is critically important that all members of the 123rd Airlift Wing know and understand where we are going and how we intend to get there.

This plan outlines why we are here — our mission — and what we want to be — our vision.

It then goes on to outline how we want to operate and lists specific goals and objectives that, if attained, will allow us to perform our mission and fulfill our vision.

The vision for the 123rd — what we want to be — remains what it has been for the past five years.

It is simply this: A powerful, harmonious and EPIC military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms, prepared to successfully wage war, and provide world class service to community, state and nation.

This is a short and simple statement of what each member of the Thoroughbred Air National Guard, Louisville International Airport, 123rd Airlift Wing, needs to understand. It is critically important that everyone get there.

We can only garner this respect if we decide to dedicate ourselves to being the best airman, NCOs or officers that we can be.

We must constantly strive to take care of business and have our “stuff” together if we are to have the immediate credibility necessary to become “powerful.”

A perfect example of this is our wing plans shop, which gets our folks out of the door with the right training and equipment to fight the war.

Because of their reputation for having their “stuff” together, they have immediate credibility when they talk to National Guard Bureau and ask for something.

They are consulted by other units, and their opinion is listened to — and acted upon — by policy makers nationwide.

They are a “powerful” organization, and they lend credibility to every member of the 123rd.

“Harmonious,” simply put, means that everyone gets along with each other and singing the same song.

For the 123rd, the words to the song are found in our plan, and everything that we do should be aimed at achieving our vision and accomplishing the specific goals and objectives of the plan.

This does not mean that everyone acts the same, has the same personality or comes from the same background. It means that when disagreements occur — and they will every day — they are re-into its various parts and explain what it means.

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The Cargo Courier
Jan. 10, 2004

Bureau and ask for something.

They are consulted by other units, and their opinion is listened to — and acted upon — by policy makers nationwide.

They are a “powerful” organization, and they lend credibility to every member of the 123rd.

“Harmonious,” simply put, means that everyone gets along with each other and singing the same song.

For the 123rd, the words to the song are found in our plan, and everything that we do should be aimed at achieving our vision and accomplishing the specific goals and objectives of the plan.

This does not mean that everyone acts the same, has the same personality or comes from the same background. It means that when disagreements occur — and they will every day — they are re
Act gives commissary, other benefits

Air Force Print News


President George W. Bush signed the defense bill Nov. 24. It allows reservists in the Selected Reserve, reserve retirees under age 60 and their families to have access to commissaries on the same basis as active-duty people, retirees and their families.

The act authorizes a minimum pay hike of 3.7 percent with additional increases to midgrade and senior noncommissioned officers and midgrade officers.

To improve readiness, the law allows Department of Defense officials to provide immediate medical and dental screenings and care to reservists who are assigned to a unit that has been alerted or notified of mobilization.

Reservists can obtain improved TRICARE coverage until Dec. 31, 2004, under the following circumstances:

—Nonmobilized reservists and their families can enroll on a cost-share basis if the reservist is unemployed or the employer does not offer health insurance.

—Coverage for mobilized reservists and their families can begin up to 90 days before the start of the reservists’ active duty. Previously, coverage started only when the active-duty period began.

—Coverage can continue up to 180 days after separation from active duty. Previously, coverage lasted up to 60 or 120 days after separation, depending on the years of service.

Farewell to the Ky. Air Guard

To all my Guard friends,

As I have said often and publicly, about five years should be the extent that we linger in a position. Finding myself at that juncture, it is time to step off and let someone else carry the baton.

About 28 years ago I became part of an organization that embraces ideals of public service that I find appealing.

The concept that, as citizens, we have a personal and social obligation to contribute to the security of our nation weighs heavily in my mind. There can be no purer form of patriotism than the citizen-airman and citizen-soldier who toils for years balancing the obligations of family, work, recreation and military duty — everyday citizens who quietly go about their daily lives but when called will risk that last full measure of devotion to protect ideals cemented with the blood of our forefathers over 200 years ago.

It has been my humble honor to work among the societal giants who guard our declared precepts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Leading the Kentucky Air National Guard has been humbling, rewarding and a privileged distinction.

I cheerfully look forward to a less hectic life style and will proudly follow the great deeds of Kentuckyans striving to make the world safer for our children and grand-children.

I heard it stated once that at first we become part of the Guard, and then eventually it becomes part of us.

I now have a fuller understanding and appreciation of that statement.

May God bless you all and keep you safe.

—Brig. Gen. Rick Ash
Assistant Adjutant General for Air

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Wing implements Air Force standard organization

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

The 123rd Airlift Wing transformed its organizational structure here Oct. 1 by implementing the Air Force’s standard wing organizational structure.

The changes were made to ensure that wing structure is consistent across the Air Force, said Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

The reorganization also will allow commanders to focus on specific core competencies, with the desired end-result being a more capable force to meet an increasingly complex mission, Harden added.

The reorganization produced five primary initiatives:

—Creation of the Logistics Readiness Officer Career Field, which combines the supply, plans and transportation officer positions into one merged career field

—Assignment of all aircraft maintenance personnel to the maintenance group

—Merger of the supply and transportation squadrons into one logistics readiness squadron

—Implementation of logistics plans under the new logistics readiness squadron

—Placement of the logistics readiness squadron, contracting and aerial port squadron into the existing support group, forming an entirely new unit named the mission support group

Wing airmen receive Bronze Stars from Handy

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

Four members of the Kentucky Air National Guard’s 123rd Airlift Wing received Bronze Stars from Gen. John Handy, commander of the U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, during a ceremony at the Base Annex Nov. 25.


Hunt, commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group, commanded a 1,400-person maintenance team in the Persian Gulf region during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The other three airmen, all from the 123rd Airlift Control Flight, provided command and control of military aircraft operating in the Afghanistan area during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, said he is extremely proud the performance of the four men.

“These individuals represent the best of the Thoroughbred Express,” Harden said.

“They went to war, did their job and returned with honor. No commander can ask for more, and we should all take pride in knowing that this wing is filled with folks like these.”

The Bronze Star is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.