KyANG earns its eighth Outstanding Unit Award

Doing the mission - A KyANG C-130 lands on a dirt strip in Somalia. Humanitarian missions such as this one helped the 123rd earn its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

By Maj. Kallinda Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The 123d Airlift Wing will receive its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in a ceremony here during this drill weekend.

The award was earned for distinguished acts and service performed by the 123rd that significantly exceed those of similar units during the period from Aug. 31, 1992 to Aug. 30, 1994. Only the top ten percent of Air Force units can even be recommended for the award each year.

During this period the wing participated in humanitarian relief missions to support the victims of Hurricane Andrew at home and the victims of famine and civil war in Somalia, Bosnia-Hercegovina and Rwanda. Since becoming operational in the C-130H in September 1992, the 123rd logged 64 percent of its total flying hours in "real world" missions.

The 123rd was one of five Air National Guard units to win the Distinguished Flying Plaque in 1993. The wing was also named the best ANG airlift or air refueling unit in 1993 and was awarded the Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Trophy.

In his congratulatory letter to the 123rd and other winners of the award, Maj. Gen. Donald W. Sheppard, ANG director, said, "The dedication and commitment of the members of these units enable the Air National Guard to fulfill its commitment to the missions of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, domestic improvement, and most important of all — defense of America."

The wing was cited for its exceptional service, not only to the nation and the United States Air Force, but also to humanity in general, by Maj. Gen. Robert L. DeZarn, adjutant general of Kentucky.

Only one other ANG flying unit has earned as many Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards as the 123rd. The 116th Fighter Wing, based at Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Ga., earned their eighth award in 1993, according to Lt. Col. Jim Swanger, director of personnel for the 116th.

The 116th, which flies the F-15 Eagle, is in the midst of a conversion to the B-1 bomber and will be moving to Robins Air Force Base, Ga.
now that the Ninth Air Force Inspector General's office has been here and validated our unit self-assessment, is our quality improvement effort going to change? Well, we are certainly going to address the areas where they found problems, and we are going to look at areas of suggested improvement. We are also going to take pride in those areas where we are clearly out in front and we are going to look for ways to stay out in front.

In a nut shell, we are on the quality improvement course that we are on because we feel that it is in our best interest. If you feel that we are not on the right course, you, as a group or team, will change course. It has very little to do with the IG team. They were here simply to validate our assessment and to help us figure out where we are on the journey.

You may say "that's not exactly true, general, we took some hits in areas where they felt we were not in compliance with the regulations." No one told us we could break the rules.

However, as new guidance is being published we are finding fewer and fewer hard and fast regulations. We have much more freedom while working to improve our processes but it is prudent to keep some of the rules that are meant to keep us out of trouble.

By in large, we will determine just how competitive we want to be. If you are satisfied to be somewhere down in the stack, that's where we will be. When decisions are made about our future we will live with the results of our efforts. This is your chance, your future and you can make of it what you will. If you want to fight to keep the member who is not producing to his or her potential, that's what we will do.

On the other hand, if you want to improve your position in the future, you will try to come up with the best group of players that you can and you will find ways to encourage everyone to work to their potential.

Such is life in this changing world.

The competitiveness we are experiencing in business will also be with us in the military. Like business, we must keep our competitive edge. You must decide that you want to be a benchmark candidate then work toward that goal.

So now that we know where we are, it's up to each of us to determine where we will be when our next assessment rolls around. We will continue to teach new principles, to be the best coaches we can be and to look for better ways to do each and every thing we do; but, in the end, the game will be determined on your talent and how badly you want to win.
Abuse of travel charge card prompts serious legal action

By Master Sgt. Louis Arana-Barradas
Air Force News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is cracking down on the illegal use of American Express government travel charge cards and handing offenders stiffer punishments.

At the same time, American Express officials said they intend to sue some of these card holders with delinquent accounts, which presently total more than $13.2 million.

"We have a problem. Too many people are using the travel cards to charge things not associated with official travel," said Michael Weber, the Air Force's American Express card coordinator.

Topping the list of offenses are cash withdrawals from automatic teller machines. Of accounts that are more than 90 days past due, 70 percent stem from these kinds of transactions, American Express officials said.

"People are withdrawing money from ATM machines even though they don't have orders and are not going on a TDY.

Instead, they use the money to buy new tires, a television or stereo or to take their spouse to dinner," Weber said.

Officially, charge cards may only be used for reimbursable travel expenses — TDY or permanent-change-of-station moves — or for travel advances authorized by travel orders, he said.

In the Air Force, American Express' biggest government account, those charges add up to a lot of money. Since switching to American Express Nov. 30, 1993, the more than 262,000 card holders have made more than 2.2 million charges worth more than $262.5 million — about $119 average per charge, Weber said.

"And we're issuing about 14,000 new cards each month," he said.

Both Weber and American Express officials agree that, previously, there was little action taken for wrongful card use because the program was new and account data was being gathered and developed. "Some people found the card worked easily and that there were no repercussions for wrongful use — they were getting away with the abuse," Weber said.

That's no longer the case.


"Commanders are paying particular attention to violators and will deal with them accordingly," he said. Violators face administrative actions, such as letters of reprimand, non-judicial punishment, such as article 15 action; or trial by court-martial, Reed said.

KyANG warns against using card for pleasure

By Maj. Raina G. Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

KyANG members who violate the terms of the American Express government charge card will be subject to administrative or punitive action, according to Maj. Michael Johnson of the staff judge advocate's office here.

The Air Force is cracking down on people who use the card for personal expenses, said Maj. Glenn Adair, base comptroller.

"Every time that card is used, the government pays American Express a fee. Essentially you're stealing from the government if you use it for personal charge expenses," Adair said.

It's easy to catch guard members who misuse the card, the comptroller said. He receives a monthly activity report detailing each charge by each cardholder. The report lists how much was spent for each transaction as well as the establishment and its location. Adair also receives a list of delinquent accounts.

American Express will not list an account as delinquent if the guard member has not yet been reimbursed by accounting and finance, Adair said.

"If you call them and let them know you haven't been reimbursed yet, they'll automatically give you another 30 days," the comptroller said. "They may call me to confirm you haven't been paid. They've been excellent to work with."

The wing has not had any cases of American Express card misuse, Adair said.

The Cargo Courier
Jan. 7, 1995 3
Farewell, good friend

By Maj. John W. Amshoff Jr.
165 Airlift Squadron

When I was first asked to write a remembrance of retired KyANG Maj. Howard Fabing, I thought it would be an easy task. How do you describe such a person in a few paragraphs?

He loved the thrill of flying and the camaraderie of the Air Guard. Howard often organized the “beach party” at annual field training in Savannah, the outings to Lake Mead during each Nellis deployment and the squadron parties at Lake Cumberland.

Howard was commissioned a second lieutenant through Army ROTC at the University of Cincinnati. After receiving a letter from an Air Force recruiter asking if he was interested in aviation, Howard became a weapons system officer (WSO) for the Nebraska Air National Guard and flew the RF-4C. When Kentucky converted from the RF-101 to the RF-4 in 1976, Howard transferred to the 123 TRW and became one of this unit’s first WSOs. Howard also had the distinction of flying one of the last six RF-4Cs from Standiford Field to Spain when the 123rd’s last aircraft were sold to that country.

When the C-130 came along, Howard continued to excel. Along with Jack Britton, he developed a computer program for a hand-held calculator which simplified navigation procedures inline.

Howard was just as successful on the business side. In 1991, Howard, along with two partners, started a company which specializes in piping manufactured to order. In three short years, this company has expanded to plants operating in Connecticut, South Carolina, Virginia, Louisiana and Kentucky.

Howard best demonstrated his leadership skills while coordinating the rescue effort of two crew members who had successfully ejected from a burning RF-4. While Lt. Col. Jack Chanda piloted the aircraft and coordinated with air traffic control, Howard established contact with an Army helicopter nearby and directed it to the crash site. Both crew members were rescued within minutes of their ejection and taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of their injuries.

In October 1993, Howard shocked the squadron by his sudden announcement of his retirement. In a slow draw which he often used when quite serious, he said, “Well boys, this is my last drill. I’m retiring. I know you have heard someone in the unit has cancer. Well, it’s me.” How Howard could stand and talk to the squadron and show no emotion when we in the audience had tearful eyes. I have no idea. I only know it was this same strength and determination that saw him, Nancy and his sons through the next 14 months.

Howard fought his battle with cancer with the same energy he fought every other battle — never complaining — always saying he felt “okay” or "pretty good." But like so often happens, the battle was lost. On the night of December 2, after giving Nancy one last hug, he held her hand and slipped peacefully away.

As a long-time friend and business associate of Howard said, "If you could only have one friend in life, you would want it to be Howard.

Farewell, good friend.

First AC-130U Spectre gunship rolls out

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) - The Air Force Special Operations Command officially rolled out its newest aircraft, the AC-130U Spectre gunship, in a ceremony here Nov. 14. Thirteen AC-130Us are scheduled to be delivered by August 1995.

Maj. Gen. James L. Hobson, AFSOC commander, said the "U-model gunship is a 'sorely needed air-to-ground attack aircraft which will enhance our nation's defense posture well into the next century."
Keeping his **Guard** up, Fautz saves child in fire

By 2nd Lt. Didi Byerly  
123rd Civil Engineering Squadron

It was just a regular day in the life of Tech. Sgt. Marty Fautz of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron. But when his pager went off Oct. 22, he responded, as he always does.

He rushed to a local firehouse, got dressed and responded to a residential fire. Fautz is a volunteer with the Buechel Volunteer Fire Department. When the department arrived at the house fire, he learned from the occupant of the house, Sherry Henderson, that her 6-year-old son Tyler was still inside.

Fautz jumped into action with Maj. Mike Wallingford to try to rescue Tyler. Because the fire was blazing, they were unable to reach Tyler on the first attempt. On a second attempt, the firefighters made a successful rescue.

Tyler was unconscious when he was rescued, and he was immediately transported to the hospital. The boy spent about 10 days in critical condition but was released from the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

The men and women of the 123rd CES are proud of Fautz and his unselfish acts. When asked about Fautz, his friend, Senior Master Sgt. Tim O’Mahoney, said, “Marty is a very dependable individual. He has always been willing to aid others when called upon.”

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$20,000 raised in KyANG campaign

By Maj. Radinda Gregor  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Having helped needy people in Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda, KyANG members focused their attention closer to home last month. In an enthusiastic fund-raising campaign, unit members contributed $20,000 to the 1994 Combined Federal Campaign.

The CFC is a United Way fund-raising campaign for government employees. The KyANG’s goal was $17,500. The goal was set by CFC officials based on the payroll of the unit’s full-time workforce, according to Chief Master Sgt. Russell Leadbetter, the wing project officer.

Leadbetter attributes the success of the campaign to the caring spirit of the guard members. “They were happy to support it,” he said. “We’ve flown food and taken care of people all over the world. This was our chance to show the community we care for the people who live here,” the chief added.

The wing’s generosity lit a spark among other federal employees in Louisville. Leadbetter visited Bowman Field, Naval Ordnance and the U.S. Postal Service to encourage its participation in CFC.

The chief explained that he and other guard members had seen the countless graves in Somalia and the bloody airport walls in Kigali, Rwanda. “I don’t know my neighbor’s religion,” he said. “And it’s incomprehensible to me that they would butcher me for it.” He said that many guard members now have a new appreciation for how good they really have it and they wanted to take the opportunity to help people in their own community.
Possible joint service academies?

Critics, friends of academies agree: they're costly

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

The last letter George Washington wrote before he died was an attempt to convince Thomas Jefferson and others the young United States needed a military academy.

Washington remembered he had relied on foreign generals to help train the Continental Army. He believed the United States should never rely on foreigners again.

Jefferson fought the idea. He feared an academy would lead to an excessively strong military that might be inclined to take over the government. Then, Jefferson took the presidential oath of office to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.

"At that point, he realized he would need a well-trained military to help him defend the Constitution," said retired Army Lt. Gen. Dave Palmer, former superintendent of West Point. So two years after Washington's death, Jefferson founded the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Palmer was on a panel discussing future of the U.S. service academies at the U.S. Naval Institute's Fourth Annual Annapolis Seminar recently. The panel members agreed that budget problems, not fears of militarism, threaten the nation's service academies today. Critics and friends of the academies agree: They're costly.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the academies produce only 16 percent of the nation's yearly crop of new officers but expend half the $1.5 billion a year the country spends on new officers.

Panel member Arnold Punaro, Senate Armed Services Committee staff director, said he believes the United States needs military academies to provide well-trained leaders for the future, but they must become more efficient and cost effective to survive. He believes they can do this, and he hopes for their sake -- and the country's -- they will.

Punaro, a brigadier general in the Marine Corps Reserve, suggested closing or downsizing academy prep schools, which prepare enlisted members and academically deficient students, as one way to save money. He has been impressed so far with an experiment to send some students to private prep schools instead of the academy prep schools. He also urged the academies to encourage graduates to give more money to their alma mater. He said this money should not be earmarked for popular sports like football and basketball.

Neil Singer, acting assistant director of the CBO's National Security Division, said the academies serve an important role but offered two money-saving alternatives. First, he said, close one or two academies and make the remainder joint.

"Jointness is increasingly important in today's environment, and this would instill jointness from the start," he said. Under this plan, all students for the first two years would take a common core curriculum. In their junior year, they would choose a service and train with that service in the summer.

Singer's second suggestion would integrate ROTC into the academy system. Outstanding ROTC students would be offered the chance to spend their last two years at one of the academies.

All I want for Christmas is ... Amanda Paul, daughter of Staff Sgts. Dan and Susan Paul, gives Santa (Rev. Philipp Krause) her list during the Family Support Group Christmas Party held December 11. The Family Support Group welcomes all family members and friends of guardmembers to participate in their activities.
2 Honor Grads Return from Leadership Course

Story, photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Sansbury
Cargo Courier Editor

Staff Sgt. Mike Hedges and Senior Airman Quentin Moore and Chris McElroy found that teamwork is the key to success after the three KYANG members graduated from the Airman Leadership Course in Missouri recently.

Hedges and Moore graduated as distinguished honor graduates from the 30-day course, held during October at the Ike Skelton Training Site near Jefferson City, Mo. The leadership school is required now for most guardsmen seeking the rank of E-4, and it's part of the curriculum for many Community College of the Air Force degrees.

"I came out a better person, all around," said Moore. "It's some of the latest and best training I've had since coming off active duty last year."

Staff Sgt. Mike Hedges, left, and Senior Airman Quentin Moore were recently named honor graduates from the Airman Leadership Course held in Missouri.

All graduates received 90 hours of TQM instruction.

Hedges is a training instructor and vehicle operator for the base motor pool; Moore is a security policeman; and McElroy is a pest exterminator for the civil engineering squadron.

Maj. Gen. Robert DeZant, Kentucky's adjutant general, sent a letter of recognition to the commanders of the graduates. The course was sponsored and coordinated by the Missouri National Guard.

Guard Drill Pay, 1995

Here are the one-day reserve drill rates that will be effective Jan. 1, 1995, reflecting the 2.6 percent raise approved by Congress and expected to be approved by President Clinton. In general, a weekend drill is worth four one-day drills.

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Note: Basic pay is limited to $305.65 per day by levels I of the Executive Pay Schedule.
Source: Department of Defense/DFC/P3C

The Cargo Courier
Jan. 7, 1995
Like today, KyANG built new base in 1956

By Tech. Sgt. John Martin
123rd Wing Historian

It was during this month in 1956 that the Kentucky Air Guard announced it would be moving into newer facilities across the runway at Standiford Field, just off Grade Lane. For most of the 1950s, the base was located at the site occupied by the recently demolished Brelmer Biscuit Company.

These new facilities would place the KyANG on par with most other ANG units. It had separate buildings for civil engineering, security police, base operations, fuels, supply, avionics, photo cell and fire units. After the announcement was made, it took almost two years to build our existing facilities and have them ready for occupancy.

Seven years ago the Air Force approved BDUs as an issued uniform for service personnel. This new uniform, with its distinctive "paratrooper" look, was authorized to be worn on a daily basis. The uniform was allowed to be worn off-base for short convenience stops, but not for extended shopping, dining or frequenting establishments where alcohol was a primary attraction.

Eight years ago this month the KyANG bid farewell to an old friend. After serving the KyANG for 33 years, the base club was to be shut down. A fixture at the KyANG since 1951 when it first opened, the club was closed due to a regulation stating that Air National Guard clubs had to provide adequate public liability insurance.

This announcement, made earlier in the year, forced the closing of most ANG clubs throughout the United States. Located in the facility that was once the former L&N Golf Course clubhouse, the KyANG base club was for all of its 33 years a favorite meeting place for unit members.

The base club did not offer bright lights, video games or even a pool table in its last years. What it did offer was an atmosphere that kept bringing patrons back. Founded in 1951 by Chief Warrant Officer Jack Gowen at Bowman Field, the club was always full of people and high spirits (you know what I mean).

Trivia Questions: What was the first item sold at the club back in 1951 when it opened?
Answers next month.

Trivia Question from October: Summer camp has been spent at numerous sites, but the most often used has been Travis Field at Savannah, Ga.