Mobile Medicine

Hospital's crisis team gearing up

Stuart Sq. Kristina Swenson of the 123rd Medical Squadron provides medical assistance to the residents of Falmouth, Ky., following record flooding in the community this spring. The squadron deployed its Thoroughbred Response Team to help local authorities during the crisis.

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

It's been a little more than two years since the 123rd Medical Squadron became one of the first dozen units in the Air Guard to create a rapidly deployable crisis action force.

Since that time, nearly half of the squadron's personnel have completed advanced trauma courses to form the core of the Thoroughbred Response Team, a community service agency designed to help civilian authorities in times of medical emergency.

The team demonstrated its worth following the flooding of Falmouth, Ky., this spring, when the unit provided medical care to hundreds of residents in the devastated community.

Now the team has a new weapon in its arsenal - a mobile command post - that will improve medical care by providing easier deployability.

The $5,500 trailer, which the team received in November, will serve as a base of operations that can be stocked with medical supplies and trauma gear, said Capt. David Worley, the 123rd Medical Squadron's education and training manager.

"Since it can be easily towed, it allows us the mobility to travel where we are needed and not just be limited to locations accessible to C-130s," Worley said.

Flexibility like that will be key to the team's success, he said.

"We need to be the 'knee jerk' medical response in the state of Kentucky," Worley said.

"We have to be an immediate response for the governor when there is a medical emergency. The Army Guard has been downsized to the point that they can not adequately respond to a disaster in the state, which leaves us as the largest medical unit in Kentucky.

"We can't be on scene in 10 minutes like the local EMS, but we can be present in a few hours and bring a level of care that local EMS does not have."

The Thoroughbred Response Team is comprised of two doctors; two dentists; two physician assistants; six nurses; approximately 15 medics; and public health and bio-environmental engineering troops.

That diversity means the team has 30 personnel whose medical expertise equals or exceeds what most local communities can provide.

"We also have the training to deal with chemical agents in the event of terrorist attacks such as the gas attack on the Tokyo subway," Worley said. "And we have the ability to stay in place as long as necessary to complete the task."
Honest communication, trust critical to making wing world-class

As we begin a new year, it never hurts to reflect on what we have accomplished during the past 12 months and also on what we have left undone. The year 1997 will go down as one of the best ever in terms of mission accomplishment!

We fulfilled our federal mission of supporting wartime CINC’s in Southwest Asia, Europe and South America by our participation in Southern Watch, Bright Star, Joint Guard and Coronet Oak.

We trained in Ecuador, we built ramps in Spain, and we constructed buildings in Canada.

We fulfilled our state mission during the spring floods when our civil engineers and security forces deployed to help some folks who really needed it.

And our 50th anniversary celebration let us show the community what a great organization we have.

We can truly say that we did our mission — and did it well.

For that, you have my thanks, respect and admiration.

What we have left to do is the hard part. It is difficult to describe and maybe even harder to remedy, but I am willing to give it a shot if you are.

What I’m talking about is a feeling and because it is a feeling, it’s hard to put a finger on and say “yeah — that’s the problem.”

But here goes. I sense a feeling of mistrust out there among the groups. Ops trusts ops guys, but they wonder what the folks in the Support Group and the Logistics Group are up to, and vice versa.

It’s a feeling that each group is out for its own gain and operates with a lot of hidden agendas.

Whether this feeling is based on fact or is a mere perception does not matter. It is harmful in any case.

In an atmosphere of mistrust, open and honest communication cannot occur, and without true open and honest communication, this wing cannot take the next step to true world-class status.

The only way to change this feeling is for everyone to buy into the idea that we are all one team, that we all have the same values, mission, goals and objectives.

Everything that we do is a reflection of these values and is pointed toward accomplishing our mission.

We need to know that our leaders believe in the values and goals and are committed to their accomplishment, and that they look out for the welfare of the airmen and NCOs who turn the wrenches and do the paperwork necessary to accomplish the wing’s mission.

If we buy into the concept that the wing mission statement is what everyone is here for, and that everyone is important in accomplishing it, we can achieve anything.

If, when conflicts occur — and they occur everyday — we forget about egos and agendas and communicate openly and honestly in an attempt to resolve the conflict in favor of the wing mission, then we will be world class.

I thank you for a tremendous year, and I look forward to working with you to take the next step and achieve even more in 1998.

Thanks Loads!

Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

Michael L. Harden

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the PA office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 21.

Human resource managers to focus on fairness for all

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Master Sgt. Ron Smith and Senior Master Sgt. Bob Wagner have been named the Kentucky Air Guard’s new Human Resource Force Management NCOs.

Smith, who will oversee the program from State Headquarters, and Wagner, who will handle the wing's efforts, both will be charged with developing plans to ensure that all KYANG personnel have an equal opportunity for advancement and personal development.

"The HR FM NCO position exists to assist our state, wing and individual units to develop strategic plans aimed at fully recognizing and utilizing all of our Human Resources," Smith said.

"The ANG has recognized that the general population of our communities has become quite diverse. However, the ANG has not.

"Therefore, the HR FM position was created at the State Headquarters level in 1993 and, with renewed emphasis, in the Wing Headquarters two months ago." The HR FM position will identify diversity within the state, community and the KYANG, Wagner said.

This information, along with statistical data will be given to commanders at all levels so that they may be aware of the diversity within their respective units.

"Equally as important," Wagner said, "the HR FM NCOs will recommend and develop programs to assist underutilized individuals to enhance their talents and abilities. We also will help establish mentoring programs and assist in identifying and tearing down artificial barriers to advancement for all KYANG personnel.

"This is not a program to promote individuals who are not qualified but to ensure that all personnel have an equal opportunity for success."
Yesterday, today, tomorrow: A lesson for the new year

The turning of the new year always gives us an opportunity to look back — all the way back to the beginning, if we want — and appreciate all of the bounty our God created in this world, to count the blessings that have brought us through all our yesterdays.

Perhaps the turning point of the year also offers a time to pause and consider today.

We can spend so much time looking back, remembering the past and wishing it were here again, and so much time looking forward to what we yearn and hope for, that we overlook today.

Chaplain's Column

Each tomorrow as it arrives is a gift from God, to be anticipated, planned for and welcomed as a blessing. “Happy New Year,” we say to one another, and we look forward, perhaps one day at a time, one “tomorrow” before the next.

Remember your yesterdays, live for today and hope for the future.

Happy New Year from the base Chaplain’s Office.

—Chaplain Charles Smith

Coat Crusade ending this drill

If you’ve been meaning to make a donation to the wing’s annual Coat Crusade, you have just two more days to bring in those winter items.

The 123rd Aerial Port Squadron and base chaplain’s office are seeking coats, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, gloves, mittens, hats, boots and blankets to help keep Louisville’s estimated 7,000 homeless people warm this winter.

Donations will be accepted at the aerial port hanger through tomorrow afternoon.

Deadline extended on KyANG book

The deadline to order a copy of the upcoming Kentucky Air National Guard history book has been extended to Jan. 31.

The hardcover publication, which will include historical photographs and the official chronology of the Kentucky Air Guard, is expected to be released by mid-summer.

To reserve your copy, contact Turner Publishing Company at (502) 443-0121.

The standard edition will cost $29.95, and a deluxe leather-bound edition will sell for $64.

Turner is the world’s largest publisher of military association history books.

The company recently released “Call Out the Guard,” a history of the National Guard by Lt. Gen. John Conway, a former Kentucky Air Guard commander who went on to serve as chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Promotions in the Kentucky Air National Guard

The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the U.S. Air Force:

TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)
- Juanita Kirker, 123rd Civil Engineering Sq.
- Delando Jones, 205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Hui McDonald, 123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Sean Swanson, 123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

TO TECH. SGT. (E-6)
- Angela Haagen, 165th Weather Flt.
- Joan Hazel, 123rd Airlift Wing

TO 1ST LIEUTENANT (O-2)
- Becky Roman-Amador, 123rd Student Flt.

TO MAJOR (O-4)
- Philip Campbell, 165th Airlift Sq.
- Kristie Jones, 123rd Logistics Sq.
- James Waggener, 123rd Airlift Wing
- Paul Wilsman, 165th Weather Flt.
Season's Greetings
A Thoroughbred Express Holiday

KyANG photos by
Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson

Santa prepares to take holiday requests from Justin Silloway, son of Master Sgt. Michael Silloway.

▲ Staff Sgt. Nora Ferrell of the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron signs Christmas wishes on a giant greeting as Tech. Sgt. Peter Rendon watches. The card later was delivered to Sen. Wendell Ford.

▲ Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, assistant adjutant general for air, shows Kayla McNeill the proper technique for playing this Christmas noisemaker.
KyANG's first 'caretaker' recalls unit's past

Editor's note: Col. Carl H. Lochner Jr. served as the Kentucky Air Guard's first full-time officer, known in the '40s and '50s as a "caretaker." The Louisville native recently shared his memories with Tech. Sgt. John Martin, the 123rd Airlift Wing historian.

This is the first installment of a two-part series based on those interviews.

QUESTION: What was it like during the first days of the Kentucky Air Guard?

ANSWER: We had a lot of fun starting this thing (the KyANG). It was fun and a lot of work.

All of our initial supplies and equipment came in railroad boxcars. The old (Louisville and Nashville Railroad) had an unloading dock that is now down on the west side of the airport.

Several boxcars would arrive at a time to be unloaded. All of our supplies and equipment came this way - desks, other furniture, trucks, autos, a C-2 wrecker, tools, everything except the aircraft.

There were so few of us here at the time, in full-time status. I have forgotten just how many we had, but it was less than 50 people around here to do the work.

We would use drill days trying to straighten things out, build bins and stock them.

None of us at that time had a (military) driver's license that covered all the vehicles of the service. They were pretty strict on driver's licenses. Maybe we could drive a car or a ton-and-a-half truck or something.

So it was decided that I should go out to Fort Knox to take a driver's course to get a driver's license to cover what the Air Force was going to send here.

We started at the Bremner Biscuit Company building that been a hangar for recycling Curtiss-Wright bombers during World War II. It was like a shell with a few offices on the balcony. It was pretty great.

We worked with the Kentucky National Guard's U.S. Property and Disposal Officer, Maj. Smith. His office was in the old 138th Field Artillery building at Bowman Field. Bowman Field was the local air terminal at the time.

There was nothing active at what later became known as Standiford Field, where we were setting up the KyANG. Later, they started moving the terminal over to Standiford.

We saw Standiford build up to a major airport during the early setting up of the KyANG.

QUESTION: What was the Kentucky unit's genesis?

ANSWER: It is assumed that the KyANG was started with the National Guard Bureau advising state governors of the pending expansion into Air National Guard units.


There had been a National Guard unit (the 138th Field Artillery) in Kentucky, as far back as I can remember.

I think it was decided that with all the personnel released after World War II, there would be an adequate number of people who could be interested in belonging to such an organization, plus the fact that adequate recruiting would be available for keeping the Guard going.

At the time, we did not know that we were going to be in another war so soon.

Actually, we ended up starting the unit in '47, and by '50, we were called to active duty for the Korean Conflict.

QUESTION: What were the circumstances of that call up?

ANSWER: We were one of the first units activated. We went to Fort Knox, and I was pulled out about nine months later to go on an individual assignment to Tokyo.

A lot of us were pulled out. The pilots, though, were lucky. Most of them got to stay with the unit at Fort Knox because they knew the aircraft.

They went, of course, to England. When they were beginning to deactivate to return from England, (KyANG commander) Col. Arden called me in Tokyo from England and asked me if I wanted to come back and take the same job I had before.

I had over half the time I needed for retirement, so I told him I was not going to do it this time. I said, "I'll just skip that and go ahead and finish up my (active duty) career."

Again, that was when they brought Doug McGill in my place. Doug was an officer in World War II. He came into this unit as a sergeant for one of the "caretaker" jobs in personnel, and he later got his commission back.

QUESTION: What was the opinion of the unit's combat readiness at that time?

ANSWER: When we had an ORI, we would rate right up there with the active duty units every time.

We used to come right at the top. They used to give us little blurbis all the time about being such a good unit.

We did dang good at it.

QUESTION: What about our first aircraft, the P-51?

ANSWER: They were the best they had in the Air Force. We thought the P-51s were tops. It was a good aircraft.

We had our troubles once in a while. I can remember a time when one of our pilots ran into a little problem and had to land on a golf course just south of here, and we had to go take the airplane apart and bring it back in.

They were the last of the prop-jobs, too. Our replacements, as they came in later, were all jets.
Guard ID cards to go green

Identification cards for all active status service members will share the common green color of the cards active duty members now carry.

Defense secretary William S. Cohen announced the change will be phased in over two to five years, beginning as early as June.

The modifications include changing the reserve active status forces identification card from red to green.

Reserve active status forces include members of the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve and the National Guard.

Only the color of the card will change. Current service benefits, privileges and entitlements will remain the same, unless a change in status occurs.

The change comes in response to a pledge made by Cohen in a recent policy memorandum calling on the civilian and military leadership of the Defense Department to eliminate “all residual barriers — structural and cultural” to effective integration of the reserve and active components into a “seamless total force.”

Implementing instructions from the services must be coordinated and published before green ID cards are issued to reserve component members.

The only ID card being affected is the DD Form 2 (Reserve). The color of all other Uniformed Services Identification Cards will remain the same.

Red identification cards (DD Form 2 — reserve retired) will continue to be issued to “gray-area retirees” — members of the retired reserve who have not reached age 60.

The cards will identify the member’s reserve component service in the upper right-hand corner.

New bluesuit Internet site designed expressly for kids

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Children at a suburban Maryland elementary school are giving the Air Force’s new kids-only Web site rave reviews.

The site was designed to offer young people the opportunity to learn more about the Air Force in an environment that is both educational and entertaining.

“I like learning about the history of the Air Force,” said Jamaica Duque, who was an F-15 Appearance on screen after clicking the last dot of a connect-the-dots game.

Classmate Amanda Densmore, Douglas Rimmer and Iruanga Kahangia then demonstrated to visitors some of the features they had discovered, while exploring the site, called Air Force Link Jr., including its game room, media lab, air field and post office. Each features Air Force history and entertainment.

The new Web site “gives them knowledge that they wouldn’t normally have access to,” said David Chia, one of the teachers at Georgia Forest Elementary School in Silver Spring.

“The designers of your home page took time to think carefully about how they were going to reach (all elementary students),” Capt. Bryan Hubbard, chief of technology integration for the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs, said.

Air Force Link Jr., gives elementary students a hands-on Internet site with fun educational activities.

“On Air Force Link Jr., kids can learn Air Force jargon and the basics of flight.

“They can send other children Air Force postcards with action photos and color airplanes.”

The Web site was developed through a partnership with college students at American University who created the original art and much of the programming, said Hubbard, project manager for Air Force Link Jr.

Service seeking retirees to serve as instructors for Junior ROTC

Air Force News Service

MAXWELL AIR force BASE, Ala. — Retired officers and NCOs are needed to serve as aerospace science instructors at Air Force Junior ROTC units around the country.

Air Force JROTC is sponsored by the Air Force to provide high school students with aerospace science and leadership education programs.

It explores the civilian, industrial and military aspects of aerospace and teaches self-reliance, self-discipline and citizenship.

The curriculum integrates social studies and physical sciences and their applications to aerospace through lectures and field exercises in five areas: aviation, national defense, aerospace careers, space education and leadership education.

People eligible for faculty must have completed at least 15 years of active duty and have been retired a minimum of five years. Active duty members may apply if they are within six months of retirement, officials said. While teaching, instructors receive the same rates of pay they received before retirement and wear current Air Force uniforms

For more information, write AFROTC/DOH, 551 E. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. 36112-6106.

You also may call DSN 493-5275 or commercial (334) 953-5275.

The Cargo Courier
January 10, 1998
Guard members to receive anthrax shots

Innoculations designed to counter rising threat of biological agent

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — A systematic vaccination of U.S. military personnel against anthrax will start next summer, the Department of Defense announced Dec. 15.

The program, which will affect all members of the National Guard, is the result of a three-year study that examined the military's vulnerability to biological agents.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen concluded that vaccination is the safest way to protect highly mobile U.S. military forces against a potential threat that is 99 percent lethal to unprotected people.

Anthrax vaccine will initially be administered to about 100,000 military members assigned or deployed to the high-threat areas of Southwest Asia and Northeast Asia.

Within the next several years, it will be given to all active-duty members and reservists.

"This is a force-protection issue," Cohen said. "To be effective, medical force protection must be comprehensive, well documented and consistent. I have instructed the military to put such a program in place."

Vaccinations would start only after several conditions are met:

- Supplemental testing, consistent with Food and Drug Administration standards, to assure sterility, safety, potency and purity of the vaccine.
- Implementation of a system for tracking people who receive the vaccine.
- Approval of appropriate operational plans to administer the immunizations and working in at-risk jobs — some 3,000 people assigned to special operations units, the Army Technical Escort Unit and the Marine Chemical-Biological Initial Response Force.
- Anthrax is a disease that normally afflicts animals, especially cattle and sheep. Anthrax spores can be produced in a dry form that can be incorporated into weapons. When inhaled by humans, these particles cause severe pneumonia and death within a week.
- At least 10 countries have or are suspected of developing a biological warfare capability.

The immunization program follows the recommendation of Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It will consist of a series of six inoculations per service member over an 18-month period, followed by an annual booster.

Although protection levels increase as shots in the series are given, the entire six-shot series is required for full protection.

Consistent with the force health protection program announced Nov. 8 by President Clinton, the anthrax vaccination plan will serve as a prototype for long-term force protection.

The secretary of the Army is the executive agent for the effort, including procurement of the vaccine, tracking and oversight of the vaccination program, and coordinating with the other services.

Because of the mobility of military members, Cohen said he must be satisfied there is a medical management system in place to track individuals before the immunizations begin.

Cohen directed that it be independently assessed before implementation by Dr. Gerald N. Burrow of Yale University, who serves as special advisor to the Yale president for health affairs.

"We owe it to our people to move ahead with this immunization plan," Cohen said. "But we also want to make sure that our overall immunization program is safe and effective."

The program is expected to cost about $130 million to protect the nearly 4.5 million U.S. servicemembers.