

THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

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Fire fight



Maj. John Cassel III/KyANG

Firefighters from the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron battle a blaze at a training facility in Lexington recently. See story and additional photos on Page 6.

Visa travel card now mandatory for expenditures

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Under a new DoD policy that took effect Wednesday, military members must now pay for most authorized travel expenses with the government Visa travel card.

The policy, which was issued in response to the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998, bars military members from using personal credit cards for authorized expenses, except under certain circumstances.

Military members are required to use the government travel card for hotel costs, car rentals and air travel.

"These services were selected because all major airlines, hotels and car rental companies will accept the government travel card," said Michael Weber, card coordinator for the Air Force.

It may, however, be difficult to use the card at smaller merchant stores.

"For that reason, card use is not required for such expenses as restaurant meals and other miscellaneous incidental items," he said.

The government gets a rebate based on the amount of charges against the card, Weber explained.

"That rebate is used by (the Government Services Agency) for manning the program," he said, "and the (Air Force portion) of the rebate is given back to each major command to be put in its travel budget."

Despite the convenience of using the government Visa card, its mandatory use has evoked some criticism.

Questions have been asked about the charging of interest rates on overdue balances, especially on long deployments.

"By contract, the bank can't charge interest

Dry selected as top first shirt

By Staff Sgt. David I. Tors
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Master Sgt. Victor Dry of the 205th Combat Communications Squadron has been selected as the First Sergeant of the Year for the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Dry, who joined the KyANG in 1991 and has been with the 205th ever since, said he was honored to receive the award because of the caliber of NCOs who were nominated.

"I was honestly shocked when I heard I had won," Dry said. "The competition was stiff."

Chief Master Sgt. David Orange, the wing's command chief master sergeant, said it was difficult to select a winner, but he

noted that "Master Sgt. Dry just seemed to stand out a little above his competition."

Dry was first shirt for three years at the 205th, but he recently turned over the reigns to Tech. Sgt. Doug Briscoe, who is the unit's current first sergeant.



DRY

Dry served on active duty from 1982 to 1985 at RAF Bentwaters in England, where he serviced A-10s as an electronic countermeasures troop.

From 1985 to 1989, he served as a maintainer at the Atlantic Command Defense Analysis Center in Virginia

Beach, Va.

Dry currently is pursuing associate's degrees in electronics and business.

See VISA, Page 5

Nothing is likely to be more important than mentoring tomorrow's Guard leaders

Several years back I served as the president of a not-for-profit organization.

During my year at the helm of that organization, I spent much of my time attempting to identify and nurture individuals who I believed had the ability and the willingness to lead the organization after the end of my tenure.

I had inherited most of the standing board of directors, so their level of conviction had already been pretty much established.

My greatest emphasis, however, was to identify the individual I thought would be best to follow in my footsteps.

I discovered a super successor, and after his election he asked me what the most important aspect of the job would be during his year.

My answer was simply to identify and recruit his replacement.

Since that time, at least four generations of that organization passed down the same advice and approach with great success.

I didn't realize it at the time, but it was a classic example of what we in the military call mentoring.

All of us, regardless of rank, have the opportunity and the responsibility to share the experience and the attained wisdom that is gained through tenure with those who are destined to follow



Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini
Kentucky Air Guard Chief of Staff

in our footsteps.

Some would say that mentoring is an attempt at cloning.

I would say they are wrong; that styles and approaches to leadership which demonstrate variety and diversity are destined to be most beneficial to our organizations.

The next generation of KyANG leaders, at all levels, needs to receive this kind of personal attention through mentoring.

Each Guard member has a wide range

of approaches to how he or she trains and teaches those in line to be elevated to higher positions of responsibility.

It's much more than teaching technical skills or management ideals.

It delves into the heart of the core values of these future leaders: integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

In your role of mentoring you'll find yourself wearing many hats.

You can assume the role of counselor, coach, motivator, role model or even disciplinarian.

It can be in a formal or an informal setting. Sometimes, it will be well-received and appreciated and sometimes it will be scowled at.

You learn to approach each response with a smile and adjust your next mentoring gesture appropriately.

I can say that for me nothing is more satisfying than seeing someone who I have mentored or sponsored succeed.

Maybe it is true here in the Guard as well; there is nothing you are likely to do that is more important than identifying and nurturing those who will follow in your footsteps.

Think about it and begin your own mentoring program.

Guidance and additional thoughts and approaches can be gleaned from ANGI 36-3401.

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is March 13.

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

Top teacher



Photo courtesy Danielle Fields

Dan Wells, Air Force Association state president, joins Col. Bill Leslie, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, in presenting a \$500 prize to local high school teacher Dewey Beadle during the AFA's awards program in November. Beadle, a physics instructor at Louisville's Seneca High School, was named AFA Teacher of the Year for the Great Lakes Region.

STF supports historic Red Flag

By Maj. Jeremy J.C. Shoop
123rd Special Tactics Flight Commander

Two combat controllers from the 123rd Special Tactics Flight participated in a historic event recently — the first Red Flag exercise to feature Russian MiG-29 Fulcrum jets.

Master Sgt. Bob VanAssen and Tech. Sgt. Jon Rosa were among more than 2000 people who participated in the annual Air Force exercise, held Oct. 23 through Nov. 5 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

The MiGs, which were flown by the German air force, were joined by more than 100 other aircraft.

Red Flag is designed to provide aircrews from the United States and allied nations with superior combat training and to challenge the most experienced pilot.

“Blue Forces” — the good guys — fight “Red Forces” in a mock air war.

The 123rd STF controllers were tasked with operating drop zones and landing zones in support of friendly tactical airlift. The landing and drop zones were all located in the desert about 200 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

“It took me awhile to get used to MiG 29s

flying overhead,” VanAssen said. “You just don’t see that on a daily basis.”

As American and British C-17s and C-130s delivered their cargo to the drop zones, MiGs would often enter nearby airspace to attempt a shootdown.

“We would see the MiG 29s up high, behind the inbound aircraft,” Rosa recalled. “At that point we would warn them to take evasive action.”

Historically, Red Force teams have flown U.S. or allied air force jets against the defending Blue Force.

This time, however, the MiG 29s added realism to an already thrilling exercise, Rosa said.

Due to its maneuvering capabilities, the MiG-29 is considered by many to be one of the best fighters in the air today.

Rosa saw four MiGs engage four F-15s and came away impressed, but he noted that the F-15 pilots seemed to have more sophisticated tactics.

“It appeared as though the F-15s were getting the best of the MiGs” he said.

All the landing and drop zones operated by the 123rd STF were successful, and a very realistic training scenario finished with historic overtones, VanAssen said.

Cargo Courier again named best paper in Guard

The Cargo Courier has again been named the best newspaper of its kind in the National Guard, earning first place last month in the NGB's 1999 Media Contest.

“As always, credit goes to a lot of hard-working people like Staff Sgts. Amy Carr and Dave Tors and the outstanding photography of Master Sgt. Charlie Simpson, Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines and Senior Airman Aleica Dennison,” said 2nd Lt. Dale Greer, wing public affairs officer.

The wing also claimed three writing honors. Greer received first place for news stories and commentary, and he was runner-up for Journalist of the Year.

The Cargo Courier tied for first place in the 1996 NGB competition and won first place in the 1997 Air Force Media Contest.

Airmen of Year banquet tonight

The Kentucky Air Guard's 2000 Airmen of the Year Banquet will be held at 6 tonight at Louisville's Woodhaven Country Club.

Chief Master Sgt. Gary Broad-bent, command chief master sergeant of the ANG, is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

For tickets, contact Chief Master Sgt. David Orange at ext. 4444.

EANGUS to hold Florida golf tourney

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard U.S. is sponsoring a golf tournament July 12-15 in Sarasota, Fla.

The tourney is open to all EANGUS members, but registration is limited to the first 288 applicants. The fee is \$100.

For more information, contact Bob Denton via e-mail at dentonre@gtc.net.

Bean Team

Charity meal requires Herculean effort

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Chef John Lundergan will be calling on more than his culinary talents this month as he prepares for the wing's Bean Soup 2000 charity

dinner. The retired KyANG maintenance supervisor also will be employing the logistical skills he developed during nearly 30 years in the military.

That's because Bean Soup 2000, which benefits the WHAS Crusade for Children and other youth charities, has grown into a fittingly Herculean effort, with more than 1,500 people expected to visit the base March 23 for fun, fellowship and good old-fashioned home cooking.

The meal — bean and vegetable soups, corn bread, potato salad and cole slaw — will be deceptively simple, but it also will represent the coordinated efforts of dozens of volunteers and a week's worth of preparation.

"We'll start on March 17, cooking the meat for the stock and sorting the beans out for the first two pots of soup," Lundergan said. "Then we'll cook seven pots of soup between March 20 and 23."

Note that when Lundergan says "pots," he's not referring to 2-quart saucepans, but 35-gallon tanks.

"This is a pretty major undertaking," Lundergan said. "There's a lot of time and coordination involved in getting it

done."

It takes nearly four hours to cook one "pot" of soup, but that gives Lundergan and his team of volunteers the opportunity to peel 500 pounds of potatoes, prepare 300 pounds of cole slaw and bake nine cases of corn bread mix.

"There's always something to do," said Lundergan, who first began helping organize the event more than 20 years ago.

This year's version promises to be the biggest yet, with an open house, door prizes and an aircraft static display featuring an A-10 Thunderbolt, C-130 Hercules, F-16 Fighting Falcon, United Parcel Service 727 and UH-64 Blackhawk, among others.

The display also will include fire equipment, all-terrain vehicles, an Army National Guard tank and a helicopter from the Jefferson County Police Department.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to do something special for our community as well as showcase our extraordinary base facilities and equipment to the public" said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, wing executive officer.

Tickets for Bean Soup 2000 are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12. They may be purchased in advance from any section supervisor and also will be available at the door.

The event gets underway at 11 a.m. and concludes at 7 p.m.

Lundergan and his team, however, expect to stay a little while longer.

"There's quite a bit of cleanup involved, but I don't mind," he said. "It's for a good cause, and that makes it all worthwhile."

If you would like to volunteer your services to the KyANG Bean Team or can help by donating a dessert, call Frymire at ext. 4589 or Tech. Sgt. Mary Decker at ext. 4120. Volunteers are needed from March 20 through 24.



Tech. Sgt. Bill Lewis/KyANG

Tech. Sgt. Mary Decker of the 123rd Services Flight and Chef John Lundergan examine one of the 35-gallon vats that will be used to prepare this year's bean soup in the base kitchen.



Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, center, accepts checks from KyANG leaders purchasing Bean Soup 2000 tickets for family and friends. From left to right: Lt. Col. Tom Marks, 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron commander; Col. Bill Leslie, 123rd Airlift Wing commander; Col. Mike Harden, executive support staff officer; and Lt. Col. Paul Rhodes, 123rd Operations Group commander.

Chaplain Von Almen continues family's calling

By Staff Sgt. Amy Carr
Cargo Courier Assistant Editor

Following in his father's footsteps was the last thing John Von Almen had planned. After completing a degree in zoology at the University of Georgia, the 123rd Airlift Wing's newest chaplain began working in a botanical research lab.

But a year and half later, Von Almen decided he was too much of a "people" person for the scientific research field. Deep down, he knew the ministry was where his heart lay.

After attending Lexington Theological Seminary and becoming a civilian minister, Von Almen decided he shared another calling with his father — becoming a military chaplain.

"I became interested in military chaplaincy because my dad was a Naval Reserve chaplain," said Von Almen, who is now a first lieutenant.

After receiving a recruiting flyer in the mail and pursuing it, he eventually found an opening in the 123rd Airlift Wing, which he joined in July.

"Being raised in a military reserve family, I have always had a lot of respect for the men and women who are serving and wearing the uniform of our country," the 36-year-old Macon, Ga., native said. "I think they are doing one the most important and hardest jobs conceivable.

"I like the people out here, and that's been one of things I have really enjoyed. It is one of the best part-time jobs in the world, and as a chaplain it is very fulfilling work.

"I am not here so much for the military as I am the people who are serving in it. Chaplains are here to enable people to express their religious beliefs and practice their faith.

"I am here to listen to problems, offer a shoulder to cry on if necessary or a voice to help people work out their spiritual needs."

By all accounts, it looks as if Von Almen has made the right decision.

"He really is a 'people' guy, and it shows," said Lt. Col. Tom Curry, the 123rd Airlift Wing's chief chaplain.

"We are delighted that he is on board and feel like he is doing a great job and is adjusting to us well.

"It is easy for us to adjust to him because he has such a pleasant character. He has already had several counseling sessions where people have sought him out, and that's a good sign that he is beginning to fit in. I've also received good comments on his preaching."



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Chaplain Von Almen's sermons include liberal doses of humor and real-life examples to make their points.

His sermons get to the point, Curry said, by mixing in humor and using illustrations gained from experience in his church.

As pastor of the Simpsonville Christian Church, much of his civilian training and skills carry over to the Guard.

"His personal pastoral experience shows, and so the transition out here is much, much easier."

Visa

Continued from Front Page

on overdue balances," Weber said. "That's why we don't call it a credit card — it's a travel card. With a credit card, if you don't pay your balance, interest automatically accrues. The travel card doesn't have that."

Base finance offices have two ways of handling reimbursements for those deployed more than 60 days. They can either

issue an advance for the entire amount entitled for that deployment, or they can send a monthly entitlement to the deployed member's checking account, making the money available to pay off the travel card's balance.

Weber cautioned that each member is responsible for ensuring his or her bill is paid in a timely manner. Failure to do so can affect credit ratings.

Other concerns regarding use of the card center around privacy issues.

"Bank of America, by contract, is not allowed to use any personal financial data except to administer the contract," Weber said. "The bank does not inform the Air Force of an individual's financial credit record."

Although use of the travel card is mandatory, punitive actions for those who fail to use it remain at the unit commander's discretion. People who are exempt from using the card include basic trainees and airmen attending technical school.

123rd firefighters get high-tech training

By Staff Sgt. Amy Carr
Assistant Editor

Members of the base Fire Department attended three days of intense training recently at a high-tech installation in Lexington.

The school, called the Airfield Reserve and Fire Fighting Training Facility, is located at Blue Grass Airport and has been offering sophisticated training since it opened in 1997.

Previous training methods amounted to setting pits of fuel on fire and trying to douse the flames, said Chief Master Sgt. Bill Smith, base fire chief with the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

The Lexington facility features a mock-up aircraft that can be ablaze via computer control and extinguished within seconds if necessary.

The new approach is more environmentally friendly, Smith said.

It also is safer because it gives instructors the ability to control how fast a fire burns, said Tech. Sgt. Darryl Loafman of the fire department's education and training office.

"The training really benefits Guard firefighters," Loafman added.

"Most traditional Guard members don't have an opportunity to put out real fires if they are not firefighters in their civilian jobs."

KyANG
photos by
Maj. John Cassel III



Firefighters from the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron use teamwork to battle a blaze on a simulated aircraft at a Lexington training facility.

The training center, which is located at Blue Grass Airport, is unique because instructors can control both the length and intensity of a fire's burn, giving students a safer and more realistic experience.



Service eliminates requirement for random weigh-ins

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force units are no longer required to conduct monthly, random weigh-ins.

According to Air Force personnel officials, commanders said the requirement to conduct random weight checks took valuable time away from duty sections and required too much administrative support.

Commanders may still use their discretion to weigh individuals who appear to be in excess of their maximum allowable weights, and they remain responsible for conducting annual weigh-ins as required by Air Force instructions.

Jumper becomes ACC's fifth leader

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — Gen. John P. Jumper assumed command of Air Combat Command during a ceremony here Feb. 8, becoming ACC's fifth commander.

Jumper came to ACC from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he was U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander. He is a command pilot who served two tours in Southeast Asia, accumulating more than 1,400 combat hours.

DoD selects Kentucky as site for full-time civil support team

Guard members to staff unit

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has announced plans to form 17 more Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, including one to be located in Kentucky.

The teams, originally called Rapid Assessment and Detection teams, would deploy and assist civil first-responders in the event of a weapons-of-mass destruction incident, said Charles Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

The federal government will train, equip and develop doctrine for the teams, which will be composed of members from the Army and Air National Guard, Cragin said.

The teams will always work in support of civilian agencies and, unless federalized, will remain under the control of the governors of the host state.

The new teams, which will join 10 others already being stood up, will be based in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia, as well as Kentucky.

They will come on line in 2001, between March and July.

The first 10 designated teams are completing training and are scheduled to come on line in April 2000 in Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, California, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.

The teams "work collaboratively with local and state first-providers," Cragin said.

"The teams consist of 22 full-time members of the Army and Air National Guard. The personnel selected for these additional teams will undergo 15 months of rigorous individual and unit training and then will be evaluated for operational certification."

The announcement marks the second phase of an initiative started in fiscal 1998.

"(Defense Secretary William Cohen) was apprised by first-responders in many communities that one bit of expertise they needed was the technical expertise to identify and assess particular chemical or biological agents that may be the instrument of a terrorist attack," Cragin said.

These teams give local officials that capability.

The units have two major pieces of equipment: a mobile analytical lab and a mobile communications facility. The first allows the teams to identify chemical and biological agents in the field. The second allows the teams to coordinate communications among the first-responders and all other areas.

"If they need information from a medical laboratory, they can connect from the van," Cragin said.

The teams' communications capabilities also allow all local, state and federal authorities to speak to each other.

While the 27 teams will be based in 26 states — California will have two teams — local agreements will allow the teams to work across state lines. So, for example, the New York team could answer a call in Connecticut, and the Illinois team could work in Wisconsin.

Commissary shoppers save an average \$2,000 annually

Air Force Print News

FORT LEE, Va. — Reservists who shop at the commissary can save \$2,000 or more annually on groceries, according to Defense Commissary Agency officials here.

Members of Air National Guard are authorized 24 commissary visits each year when they shop with their Commissary Privilege Cards and military identification cards.

"Commissary shopping is part of (reservists') non-pay military compensation, and we at DeCA want reservists to use their com-

missary benefit," said Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr., director of DeCA. "After all, they earned it."

The most recent market survey reports that commissary shoppers save 27 percent on their grocery purchases. This means that a reservist shopping for a family of four could save more than \$2,000 annually by using the commissary.

Twenty-four commissary visits are also available to "gray area" reservist retirees. These people are entitled to retired pay at age 60 but have not yet reached that age. At 60, retired reservists and their eligible dependents receive unlimited access to the commissary.

Farewell



Tech. Sgt. Bill Lewis/KyANG

Lt. Col. John Amshoff accepts congratulations from Chief Master Sgt. David Orange and Master Sgt. Mike Buckley during Amshoff's retirement ceremony in the base dining hall in December.

Amshoff, a C-130 navigator, enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1967 and held a variety of posts. He most recently served as wing Plans Officer.

Promotions

The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the U.S. Air Force:

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- Heather Allen,
205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Ileah Brown,
123 Maintenance Sq.
- George Burke Jr.,
123rd Logistics Sq.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

- Michael Delph,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Eronica Dew,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Shelly Portman,
123rd Medical Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

- Richard Kerr,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Eric Mills,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.
- Kent Wernert,
165th Airlift Sq.

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