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Planes of Thunder display draws nearly 50,000

More than 35 military aircraft showcased

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The cool, windy day didn’t stop the 50,000 people from pouring into the KyANG base to witness Planes of Thunder static display April 21.

More than 35 aircraft were on display as part of Thunder Over Louisville the opening ceremonies of the Kentucky Derby Festival.

Pilots and aircrews flying in the airshow were on hand to greet visitors to the base to discuss their state-of-the-art aircraft.

Event Coordinator Maj. Ken Dale said he was extremely pleased with how the annual event turned out.

“Everything went so smoothly and the people really seemed to be enjoying themselves.”

This year’s display featured a four-ship A-10 demo team, two B-1 Lancer bombers, the F-15E Strike Eagle, F-18 Hornet, P-51 Mustang and AH-64 Apache helicopter.

“All the aircrews feedback was very positive,” said Dale. “I even received comments that this was the best airshow they had ever seen. They complimented the professionalism of the operations and maintenance folks at the Kentucky Air Guard.”

It is estimated that over 1 million people actually witnessed the airshow itself, said Dale.

“Once a year we get this opportunity to show-off the U.S. military’s airpower from the Kentucky Air Guard, and I’m very happy to see that our community is so receptive to us,” he said.

Operation RiverBats
* SEE STORY, PAGE 3.
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON—The Air Force is stepping out to improve decisions from the Secretary of Defense to transform the way military space is managed and organized.

The service will put into motion recommendations made by the congressionally chartered Space Commission, a group that looked at national security space activities and suggested steps to strengthen and streamline how national leaders, the Department of Defense and the Air Force manage space.

The DOD recently reviewed the report and agreed with its recommendations.

“This is an historic event in the Air Force’s ongoing pursuit of aerospace integration and advanced space capabilities, and we are excited to tackle these new challenges,” said Acting Secretary of the Air Force (Dr.) Lawrence J. Delaney.

“We recognize the trust the Secretary of Defense has placed in the Air Force and we are ready to implement his directives,” Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. Michael E. Ryan said. “The Air Force will be the new advocate for space, more accountable, and more capable than ever before.

"SMC becoming part of Air Force Space Command consolidates space acquisition and operations functions under one commander, creating a strong center of advocacy for space systems and resources," said Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander.

“Space priorities will be set by a single commander—Air Force Space Command—ensuring the Air Force continues to protect and defend our nation’s unrivaled military space capabilities and leadership.”

“AFCM, meanwhile, will still provide acquisition and science and technology support to AFSPC after SMC has been realigned.”

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, described the changes ahead in the DOD and Air Force space program as comprehensive and far-reaching, a true watershed event.

“A nation, we are more dependent on space than ever before for our economic and security needs,” Ryan said. “These changes to our space program are necessary, and truly profound. It’s an exciting time to be on the leading edge of the transformation of our military space capabilities.”

Air Force leaders send Armed Forces Day message

by Dr. Lawrence J. Delaney
Acting Secretary of the Air Force and Gen. Michael E. Ryan
Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON—When President Truman first established Armed Forces Day in 1950, he created a single day to celebrate the dedication, sacrifice and excellence of all the military services.

The theme of the first Armed Forces Day was “Teamed for Defense”—a precursor of our future.

Through five decades our military members—airmen, sailors, and marines—have teamed with our civilian counterparts to create the greatest military in the world.

This joint team is the embodiment of integrity, service, excellence, and is “Teamed for Defense” like never before.

On May 15, Armed Forces Day, the nation pays homage to our military men and women, our civilian members, our families, and the communities who support us.

If you wear, or have worn, the American military uniform, this is a day to be proud and to savour the respect of a grateful nation.

We sincerely thank each and every one you for your service before self commitment to our nation.
Air Guard delivers even in the cold weather

KyANG supports Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica

By Maj. Sae Na
KyANG State Public Affairs Officer

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard joined the New York Air Guard in Operation Deep Freeze delivery both people and supplies to McMurdo Station, Ross Island at the South Pole in December.

Ten personnel from the 123rd Maintenance Squadron and the 165th Aircraft Generation Squadron traveled to the bottom of the earth donning their parkas and bunny boots to offer assistance in support of the National Science Foundation and their studies of the Ozone Hole, ice sheets and the dynamics of the Southern Ocean.

Master Sgt. Gary Dunlap from the maintenance squadron’s engine shop said the trip was a great opportunity to learn to work in an extremely cold environment. “Not only was it a neat experience traveling to such a different environment, I’m really glad I got the chance to gain a great deal of knowledge about working on aircraft in such cold weather. The experience was so outstanding, I’d gladly go back again.”

Other members of the unit who participated felt the same way including Capt. Matt Stone, the logistics management officer. “It was just such a different type of place,” Stone said. “I feel fortunate that I was able to see the world that few would ever experience.”

The airman witnessed a place where the coldest temperature on earth was recorded—a glacial temperature of 128.6 degrees below zero and where during the summer months the temperature can routinely dip to 50 degrees below zero.

During winter months the population of McMurdo Station which is Antarctica’s largest community is a mere 250 persons.

Kentucky and New York Air Guard units deliver both supplies and people to McMurdo Station, Antarctica’s largest community.

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Chaplain’s Column

Being a buddy to someone can prevent suicide

Which individual is most effective or responsible for preventing suicide? The Wing Commander? The First Sergeant? The Security Police? The mental health unit? The Chaplain?

The real answer is you.

You are the person who notices that someone has a problem. Buddy Care basics require that we all be acquainted with the signals of someone’s life.

Remember, nothing can hurt your buddy more than suicide. Behavioral medicine is a non-punitive helping agency. Many suicides are preventable if people get help early. Your early buddy care may save someone’s life.

—Lt. Col. Tom Curry, wing chaplain

Strategic planning used for Harden’s ceremonial pitch

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Take me out to the ballgame is what members of the Kentucky Air Guard will be saying June 9 as they leave drill to head out to Slugger Field for Operation RiverBats and the Louisville RiverBats take on the Durham Bulls.

KyANG night will feature a night jam-packed with festivities beginning 30 minutes prior to the 6:15 p.m. game start time.

The evening will begin with 40 person honorary baseball team followed by the members of the Special Tactics Squadron parachuting into the stadium to deliver the baseball for the ceremonial first pitch to the 123rd Airlift Wing Commander Mike Harden, said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, event coordinator.

“Our unit will participate in events practically the entire evening,” he said.

“About 30 Kentucky Air Guard kids who play Little League even have a chance to participate by taking the field after the RiverBats run unto the field.”

The unit’s own color guard will present the colors as the KYANG soloist sings the National Anthem.

“Not only will baseball fans get an opportunity to see KYANG’s very own Col. Harden throw the ceremonial pitch but our unit will get another chance to shine in the eyes of those in the community.”

Frymire said, “This night is expected to be fun-filled, help enhance morale and will be great for recruiting purposes.”

In addition, Frymire said, recruiters will be giving away seat cushions to the first 1,000 customers through the gates.

The unit’s goal is to attract 1,000 active and retired members, families and friends to the game, he said.

May 20 is the last day to purchase tickets for Operation RiverBats. Tickets are $6 each for adults and children.

For tickets, contact Lt. Col. Rich Frymire at ext. 4589.

Operation RiverBats... ...Take me out to the ballgame

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
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When Col. Mike Harden, the 123rd Airlift Wing Commander takes the field to throw the ceremonial pitch at the Louisville RiverBats game on June 9, it won’t be his first trip to the baseball diamond.

As a matter fact, it’s not even close.

From Little League to Trinity High School to active duty Air Force, playing baseball has been a significant part of his life.

When he was asked how many years he played, he only commented, “too many years to count!”

Since Col. Harden agreed to throw the first pitch, he said he has been thinking about his pitch delivery.

“After thinking about it, I have decided to use either a fastball or curveball. I think that I will use a modified fastball that will travel at least 60 feet 6 inches.”

Then he added, “I feel great about it—I just hope my arm feels great after it’s over.”

Harden is so enthusiastic about his pitch that he has even considered what type of wind-up to use.

“I considered using the Juan Marichal and his high leg kick, but I’ve decided against that. The high leg kick would be nice, but I don’t want to look like a hot dog. So I think I’ll use the Don Larsen ‘no wind-up’ delivery.”

Harden anticipates a large turnout.

“I hope everyone comes out not only so I can show off my pitch but so the Kentucky Air Guard gets the opportunity to show off our great organization.”


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2001 Bean Soup Odyssey

KYANG breaks records again

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Once again the Kentucky Air Guard hosted a successful Bean Soup feast March 22 raising more than $11,000 for the WHAS Crusade for Children which is a 440 percent increase over a two year period.

The day was picture perfect, according to Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, event coordinator.

“The day went so smoothly and above all else we raised money for the children,” he said.

“I’m just thrilled because each year just seems to get better and better. A random customer even commented it was the best Bean Soup to date.”

Frymire’s excitement also stems from breaking so many records this year.

Not only was the dollar figure higher this year, the Bean Team served a record number of customers and had a record high on carry-out meals totaling more than 2,300, he said.

“This event really couldn’t be possible without hundreds of volunteers who unselfishly gave their time and energy to help at the event,” he said.

“The men & women out here make honest effort to make the community we live in a better place for us all.”

Lt. Col. Frymire and members of the Bean Team will appear on WHAS-TV on Sunday, June 3 to present the Crusade for Children the $11,000 check.


TOP LEFT: Staff Sgt. James Embry and Staff Sgt. Tim Nash, both members of the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron clean trays.

BOTTOM LEFT: Chief Master Sgt. Tom Downs of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron is interviewed by WDRB-TV 41 reporter Jim Bullett.

ABOVE: The Bean Team served a record crowd of more than 2,300 customers.

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Photos by Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG
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The real answer is you.

You are the person who notices that someone has a problem. Buddy Care basics require that we all be acquainted with the signals of suicide such as talking about suicide, drastic changes in behavior, withdrawal from friends or social activities, lost interest in hobbies, work, school, etc., preoccupation with death, increased use in alcohol or drugs.

An individual who is contemplating suicide usually is experiencing many problems, like divorce, death of a spouse, pending disciplinary action, financial difficulty, alcohol abuse or has a history of past suicide attempts.

What can you do to take care of your buddy? First, know the warning signs. Pick up the pamphlet entitled suicide prevention in your orderly room and study the signals.

Second, you can intervene by talking with someone you suspect may have suicidal thoughts or feelings. Discern is they are considering suicide and how far they have planned to do so. Use direct language to discern if they are suicidal.

Third, get help. The first sergeant, commander, chaplain, hospital personnel, security police or mental health professionals are resources to assist you and your buddy.

Most of all take any threat of suicide seriously. It is not true that those who talk about suicide do not commit suicide. Remember, nothing can hurt your buddy more than suicide. Behavioral medicine is a non-punitive helping agency. Many suicides are preventable if people get help early. Your early buddy care may save someone’s life.

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Again, I will discuss the wing’s vision which is to become, a powerful, harmonious military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms, prepared to successfully engage and support our all-volunteer service to community, state and nation.

In the last issue of the Cargo Courier you will recall that I began to break the vision statement of the 123rd into its various parts in an attempt to make sure that every member of the wing understood what it is that we want to be so that we could all travel down the same road to get there.

At that time I talked about what kind of an organization we want to be—“a powerful, harmonious military organization” and what that entailed. This month I want to talk about what kind of people are needed to fulfill the second part of the vision, “—composed of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms.”

We must never forget that every member of the 123rd demonstrated, whether it be for extra money, educational opportunities abroad or emergency operations in Kentucky, as a volunteer; an individual who has some unique obligations that must be dedicated to the profession of arms.

We must never do anything that will bring disgrace on this unit and those who served before us. The profession of arms, like citizenship has some unique obligations that take dedication and commitment to fulfill.

Just as we are citizens all of the time, we are members of the profession of arms all of the time which both require dedication, pride and commitment.

Next month we will talk about the final piece of our vision, and when we are through maybe we will all have an understanding of what we really want to be.

Thanks loads!

Wing Commander

Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

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

This funded Air Force newspaper is published for members of the military services. Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.

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

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 211F of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is May 25.

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The Cargo Courier
May 19, 2001

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Operation RiverBats
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