Clamshell move is picture-perfect

Massive feat could go down as largest structure ever moved

By Col. Ed Tonini
Headquarters, KyANG Public Affairs

Civil engineers from the Kentucky Air Guard moved the unit's "clamshell" aircraft maintenance hangar to the new base April 29. The move covered about 1.5 miles from the old base and was observed by local media representatives.

Moving structures around the airport has become routine lately, but none compares to this effort. It is believed to be the largest structure in history to be moved intact.

The structure, valued at more than $750,000, has been used since the unit's conversion to C-130 aircraft as a maintenance hangar because the KyANG's original hangar was not large enough to house a C-130. The clamshell is 162.5 by 152 feet wide and stands 53 feet high at the center. It takes up 26,000 square feet of ground space under cover.

"Safety was our primary concern in the operation... the weatherman helped"

-- Lt. Col. Thomas Marks

One other clamshell structure was moved in Houston about two years ago, but it was only half the size of Kentucky's and it was only moved about 60 feet. That move was accomplished without incident.

The move to the new base took nearly 15 hours. From its old location, the structure slowly moved on wheels mounted to two 80-foot steel I-beams. It proceeded westward along the KyANG ramp, turned north up the 11/29 runway at Louisville International Airport, then headed east until it reached the ramp entrance to the newly constructed KyANG base.

Two contractors from Clamsheild and 30 guardsmen participated in the relocation.

"Safety was our primary concern in the operation," said Lt. Col. Thomas Marks Jr., commander of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron. "The weatherman helped us determine when the movement would start."

Marks said that 10 m.p.h. winds were regarded as a safe limit.

"Rain isn't a problem for us," he added. "We're just concerned with the wind."

Moving the structure instead of disassembling it saved taxpayers about 60 percent of the final cost. Current projections indicate that 2,400 man-days were saved in labor costs alone.
No Room For Personal Agendas:
ORI Shapes Up In Savannah

Next month we will conduct the second leg of our training in preparation for our operational readiness inspection, known as the ORI. We have a great deal to accomplish before we will be completely ready to take anything the inspector general can throw at us, but we are well on our way with the training we received at Volk Field in March.

You experienced what it was like operating in "chem gear" for extended periods of time during cold weather; now you will get to practice in warm, humid conditions. The warm weather will force us into work-rest cycles which become a very important consideration in combat.

A big part of our training at Savannah, Ga., will focus on our ability to continue flying operations while we are being harassed by the enemy. We will strive to improve our ability to communicate while we are recovering from enemy attacks and putting our airfield back into operation. If you start preparing now you will be ready to take full advantage of the training exercises conducted, and you will gain the confidence necessary to do well on the ORI in February 1996.

One of the most important things that we have learned is that it is essential to have a backup plan with people trained to step in when the primary players are removed from action. Talk with your commander or supervisor and make sure you know where you fit into the plan and the backup plan. Don't hesitate to volunteer to learn new skills. Who knows, you might be the most important element. Your attitude, knowledge and preparation are most important to our success.

Secondly, we must not forget the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence. These three elements set the standard for our behavior, our service to our country and our treatment of one another. The core values remind us of the profession we've chosen, the oath we've taken and the demands placed upon us: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all that we do.

We must know the right thing to do and have the moral fortitude to do it. This is your responsibility. There is no room for personal agendas at the expense of the American people. When we become dedicated to a higher goal, we will gain the motivation that will fuel the drive for excellence. There is a trust, a teamwork, a drive that guarantees success. With your dedication, we will do well on the ORI.

Personnel center offers hotline

(Air Force News Agency) -- The Air Force Military Personnel Center has a hotline callers can use to reach the AFMPC commander with complaints, concerns or compliments. People who would like to voice an opinion about AFMPC should call the hotline at DSN 487-5475 or commercial 210-652-5475 and leave a recorded message. Callers should provide their name, rank, social security number, phone number and address along with their comments.
Retirees Roundup

By Chief Master Sgt. Jim Turpin
KyANG Headquarters Staff

If you are a retired member of the Kentucky Air National Guard, you are about to receive a bonus. The bonus won't even be taxable to the Internal Revenue Service or to the Kentucky Department of Revenue. If you elect to receive the bonus, it will be delivered to your home address every month for as long as you care to get it.

Have I gotten your attention yet? Effective last month, all retired members of the KyANG are being mailed the monthly edition of The Cargo Courier, the base newspaper of the 123rd Airlift Wing. In the past, the state headquarters staff has published a semianual newsletter for retirees. While conducting the headquarters unit "quality" inventory it was decided that incorporating a "retired" column in the wing's newsletter would be better serving our "customer," the retired community.

So, the "retired newsletter" is now history, gone the way of the old Louisville Times newspaper.

Next month The Cargo Courier will contain a column of specific interest to the retired community. There will be a postpaid card which will need to be mailed back to the unit to affirm members' continued interest in receiving the publication.

Look for it, fill it out and your "bonus" will be delivered each month thereafter.

Promotions at the KyANG

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

To Airman (E-2)
Mark Wilson, 123rd Medical Squadron

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)
James Barker, 165th Airlift Squadron
Eric Bindner, 123rd Services Flight
Kenneth Brown III, 123rd Med. Squadron
Shelly Curtisiager, 123rd Med. Squadron
Larry Moore, 123rd Med. Squadron
Jason Vardeman, 123rd Maint. Squadron

To Senior Airman (E-4)
Jacob Noe, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Kenneth Richards, 123rd Med. Squadron
Gioff Spalding, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Gary Uebel, 123rd Maint. Squadron

To Staff Sgt. (E-5)
Scott Andrews, 123rd Maint. Squadron
James Barkley II, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Robert Bradshaw, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Sherry Butts, 123rd Aerial Port Squadron
Michael Embry, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Melissa Evaline, 123rd Services Flight
Sally Hackworth, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Donald Happel, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Matthew Howard, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Thomas Minear, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Gregory Norberg, 123rd Maint. Squadron
Phillip Payne, 123rd Aerial Port Squadron
Krome Raymond, 123rd Aerial Port Squadron
Craig Smith, 123rd Security Police Squadron
Kurt Tate, 123rd Mission Support Squadron

To Tech. Sgt. (E-6)
Beverly Glover, 123rd Services Flight
Larry Harson, 123rd Aerial Port Squadron
James Martin, 123rd Civil Engineering Sq.
Wayne Reeser, 165th Airlift Squadron
Douglas Wells, 123rd Logistics Squadron
It all starts here

KyANG photo by SMSgt. Dave Tinsley

Air Force Academy candidates and appointees were treated to a C-130 orientation flight here April 20. The KyANG hosted this first-ever flight to give local students a peek at the Air Force before they enter the Academy. Interested parents, airmen and students can contact Maj. Ralinda Gregor at 364-9431 for information about applying to the Air Force Academy.

No tie required with sweater; 55 uniform changes made

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force members can now wear the pullover sweater without a tie or tab, and women can wear cuff links on the long-sleeved shirt.

These are two of the 55 uniform changes Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogelman has approved based on recommendations from the Air Force Uniform board that met in January.

The uniform division here has already sent messages to bases announcing the changes and implementation instructions. The changes become effective when the implementation message is received, unless otherwise noted, division officials said. Some changes require uniform design modifications, or development and testing, and evaluation by senior leadership before they can be implemented.

KyANG runners finish strong in Mini

By Lt. Col. Dan Wells
205 Combat Communications Squadron

Eleven Kentucky Air National Guard members took up the challenge of the 13.1 mile Kentucky Derby Mini-Marathon April 29 in Louisville.

The top ANG runner appears to be Senior Master Sgt. Jim Smith, 165th Airlift Squadron, who was unofficially clocked at 1:35:21.


Oklahoma bombing draws USAF help

The face of Capt. Jose Loya Jr. mirrors his anguish after he helped remove bodies, including a child's, from the devastated federal building in Oklahoma City, Okla. Airmen from nearby Tinker AFB joined active duty, National Guard and civilian volunteers working to restore the area after an April 19 bomb attack.

USAF photo by SMSgt. Boyd Belcher

Southern Command moving

By Linda Kozaryn

American Forces Information Service

Adios, Panama City; hello, Miami. The U.S. Southern Command headquarters is moving from Panama to the Florida coast.

President Bill Clinton recently named Miami as the DoD's new home for Southern Command. DoD had recommended the city from more than 120 possible sites in the United States and Puerto Rico.

About 700 military and civilian staff and 1,500 family members will relocate from the present headquarters at Quarry Heights near Panama City, a DoD official said. The staff payroll is about $27 million.

DoD is currently doing an environmental analysis of Richmond Heights, a Coast Guard facility in southern Dade County. If approved to house the command, officials plan to move in the summer of 1998. The cost of the move is estimated at $60 million, according to DoD officials.

Under provisions of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977, the command must leave Panama by the end of 1999. The treaty calls for the phased withdrawal of all U.S. service members from Panama and the turnover of U.S. military-controlled installations to the government of Panama.

Southern Command's territory covers 7 million square miles and includes 19 Central and South American countries. About 8,500 service members are assigned to the command to defend the Panama Canal, promote democracy, implement U.S. drug control policy and promote regional defense cooperation.

Air Force on World Wide Web, Internet

(AFNS) -- For those who have access to the Internet World Wide Web, Air Force news and information is now available on the Air Force's Home Page.

Home Pages are electronic sites which provide specific information about an institution or agency in graphical format. The Air Force's Home Page, known as Air Force Link, offers fact sheets on weapon systems, biographies of senior leaders, Air Force News Service and a master index of Home Pages throughout the DoD.

As the system matures, other information and images will be available, such as selected images from the Air Force art collection, Air Force awards, decorations and specialty badges.

Internet users can reach the new Home Page at http://www.dtic.dla.mil:80/airforcelink.

AF news over the telephone

(AFNS) -- KyANG members and their families now have increased, uninterrupted access to Air Force Radio News 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Using an AT&T system called INFOWORX, the service allows scores of callers to access the Air Force Radio News Service without getting a busy signal. The five minutes of news is updated Monday through Friday. The service is available by calling toll-free 1-800-264-2066.
Kentuckian tapped for ACC commander

Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Ralston
Hopkinsville native headed to ACC

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Ralston has been nominated for promotion and reassignment as commander of the Air Combat Command.

Ralston, currently the Air Force deputy chief of staff for plans and operations, would replace Gen. John M. Loh who retires in June, said Air Force officials at the Pentagon.

If confirmed by the Senate, Ralston would become the second person to command ACC.

Loh took over the command in June 1992 when the Tactical Air Command was deactivated. Loh had been the commander of TAC since March 1991.

Loh is a 1960 Air Force Academy graduate and a former Air Force vice chief of staff. He is a command pilot with 4,300 hours, mostly in fighter aircraft. He flew 204 combat missions in Vietnam.

Ralston, who is from Hopkinsville, Ky., was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC in 1965. He is a command pilot with more than 2,400 flying hours, including 147 combat missions over Laos and North Vietnam.

While assigned to Thailand in 1969, Ralston flew combat missions as an F-105 Wild Weasel and strike pilot. A year later, he was assigned to Nellis AFB, Nev., as a Wild Weasel instructor pilot.

Other assignments include serving as the fighter requirements officer and assistant deputy chief of staff for operations at TAC; operations officer and commander of the 68th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, Ga.; and director of operational requirements for the Air Force deputy chief of staff for plans and operations.

Ralston and his wife, Diane, have four children: Christopher, Paige, David and Sarah.

'Pilot Recall' will bring back flyers

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Pilots in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with pilots who previously separated from the service and still have reserve status, have an opportunity to join the active duty force, according to personnel officials.

The Air Force is accepting these pilots through the voluntary Reserve Officer Recall and voluntary Extended Active Duty for Air Reserve commissioned officers programs to help the service increase the number of experienced fighter pilots serving in UPT instructor pilot positions. It's also designed to help fill stateside and overseas liaison officer positions and fighter staff positions Air Force-wide.

The service will accept up to 50 pilots through Sept. 20 and about 200 pilots for fiscal 1996 requirements. Contact CBPO for more details.
Good Army, Air Force writers draw to Louisville Journalism

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Sansbury
Cargo Courier Editor

Louisville was invaded by more than 150 military journalists last month when the Fort Knox public affairs office hosted an annual workshop for these pen-wielding professionals.

Writers, photographers, editors and art designers attended the annual event, which caters to Army, Air Force and Department of Defense personnel.

For five days in April, the journalists convened at the Executive West Hotel to sharpen their editing skills, learn about new trends in newspaper design and how to reach "generation X," the generation of Americans under 25. With growing competition from online computer services, cable TV and broad-based communications, newspapers face a shrinking market and a younger audience each year.

"Your field, as expected, faces the same challenges as our U.S. forces: downsizing, budgets, resources and training," said Brig. Gen. Bruce MacDonald, an Army Reserve commander and corporate communications officer for General Motors Corp.

"Like the service itself, it's time to focus on the 21st century, to have a clear vision and realistic goals in order to survive as a medium," MacDonald said.

Public affairs specialists from Japan, Germany and Hawaii, including guardsmen and reservists, shared their expertise that week. Daily sessions in desktop publishing software, photojournalism and contemporary layout design were all welcomed agendas.

And the experts themselves were impressive, including guest speakers from The Orange County (Calif.) Register; The Courier Journal and USA Today. Their military counterparts balanced the program by adding their unique perspective and comparing their skills and goals with larger, commercial newspaper staffs.

The message that week was clear: military newspapers must listen to their audiences and create a product that responds to its readers' lifestyle and concerns. In the old days, as The Courier Journal's associate editor Mervin Aubespin pointed out, "newspapers were arrogant. They wrote it, and you read it."

"Today," Aubespin continued, "audiences just won't accept that. Readers are smarter, more objective, and they deserve better. If you want to survive out there, then you'd better listen to those readers."

A good number of newspaper staffs were featured, including editors from The Fort Campbell Courier and Fort Knox's Inside the Turret, recognized as some of the DoD's best. Award-winning military journalists were honored and their works were displayed to give novices an opportunity to "borrow" techniques from the best.

"It really is a unique field for us," said Army Master Sgt. Tom Tierman of the Fort Knox PA office, which has hosted the workshop in Louisville for the last three years.

"We're discovering that, just like in the corporate environment, our product is subject to failures and successes," Tierman said. "If we don't constantly research, learn and improve, we won't be able to compete on the base, or off."

What do you think? Is the Cargo Courier meeting your information needs? Are you interested in getting news on the lot or the internet? Call us at 364-9431 or e-mail to: r.gregor@cc@123av.

Mervin Aubespin, an associate editor of The Courier Journal, spoke to Army, Air Force and DoD journalists from all over the world during a workshop here April 28. Aubespin became the CU's first African-American to attain such a position, and he's stayed with his profession more than 30 years.
1950s witness first runway extension

Wing receives its first, and best, federal inspection

By Tech. Sgt. John Martin
123rd Wing Historian

This month in 1959, the runways at Standiford Field were resurfaced with a four-inch asphalt coating. From May 4-10, the unit received its first federal inspection and its finest showing ever.

Four years later, the 165th participated in the exercise "Big Blast Papa" in Bermuda. This was in addition to an ORI being held at the base at the same time. The result of this ORI was a satisfactory rating and the unit being confirmed in its C-1 rating. Seems like the 165th fellows knew when to be out of town, come inspection time.

The Kentucky Air National Guard — home of the C-5A Galaxy aircraft? Doesn't sound right, does it? In May 1967, the unit was not being considered for another conversion, but Pentagon officials were interested in using Standiford Field as a point to transport soldiers to and from Fort Knox.

In order to accommodate the large aircraft, the runways here needed extension. The big plane never came, but the runway extension did some years later.

On May 14, 1988, the Mission Support Flight received federal recognition, making it the newest member of the KyANG. 1st Lt. Michael Dornbusch (now major) was the unit's first commander with a manning of 36 enlisted positions.

It was this month in 1989 that members of the 123rd Medical Squadron deployed to Eglin AFB, Fla., for annual field training. The purpose was to participate in disaster preparedness exercises.

As a final note, one of the most somber of federal holidays, Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was known at first, is observed on the last Monday in May. It is this day that is set aside to honor those who have served in all U.S. wars from the Civil War through the Persian Gulf conflict.

Trivia for April: Surely you got this one. Of all places the unit has been to for annual field training, the most often visited has been Savannah, Ga., the site of next month's deployment.

Question for June: Of the thousands who have entered our hallowed ranks, only one has become the top military official in the state (that is, state adjutant general). Who was he? Answer next month.

Satisfaction Guaranteed: A little horseing around led to this 1955 mock duel between Majs. Rollo Fox and Charles "Bob" Robertson, both professional part-time squadron commanders. Fortunately, no one was injured in the gentleman's disagreement because neither could hit the side of a barn, even during annual field training at the Savannah training site.