Casing of the Colors

Lt. Col. Jeff Peters, commander of the 165th Weather Flight, cases the unit’s colors during an inactivation ceremony held in the base annex Oct. 2. The flight was stood down as part of a reorganization of weather assets across the Air Guard. Most of the unit’s members will be absorbed into other KyANG duty sections, which are gaining organic weather capabilities.

Service

Continued from Page 2

we accept unique responsibilities. In today’s world, service to country requires not only a high degree of skill but a willingness to make personal sacrifices.”

There have been periods in the history of our nation where relative peace or stability in the world didn’t require much of us beyond the minimum level of inconvenience of our personal lives for our military service as citizen airmen.

I don’t really have to tell you that this isn’t one of those times. The last three years since 9/11 have awakened us to the limits of our obligations on the opposite end of the scale. The recent release of Osama Bin Laden’s latest videotape serves to remind us that he and the terror-mongers that follow his lead intend to continue to test our collective will for freedom.

As long as we, together, steadfastly place service before self, we answer the challenge on the depths of our resolve and commitment to defend our families, our friends and those values we hold dear as Americans.

Cargo Courier Staff Report


General Morrow leaves his former position as the assistant adjutant general for Air for the Kentucky National Guard to become the senior National Guard officer at NORAD.

He will advise the commander and his staff on wartime and peacetime operational capabilities of the National Guard.

“Gen. Morrow is a fine officer and well deserving of this position,” General Storm said. “His contributions have helped transform the Kentucky National Guard into a viable force in the face of the War on Terror and no doubt will represent the National Guard well in this new position.”

General Morrow will remain affiliated with the Kentucky National Guard but will be assigned to NORAD in Colorado. On a interim basis, Col. Robert Yaple will assume Morrow’s former duties while a nationwide search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

The general received his Air Force commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Clemson University in South Carolina in 1977. He continued his education in Europe at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, completing a master’s degree in Aeronautical Science in 1984. An outstanding graduate of undergraduate pilot
from the moment we raised our right hands and repeated our oath of office or enlistment, we signed up to the premise of “Service Before Self.” We freely accept that sacred trust of the military profession from the American people in what Gen. John J. Hackett called “the unlimited liability clause.”

We swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to do, we formally set ourselves apart from the general populous.

Service, by the very nature of the word, imbues a sense of sacrifice of something of self will, of time, of talent or skill — to another.

Literally defined, it is the employment in duties or work for another; an act of assistance or benefit to others.

With the embodiment of Service Before Self as an Air Force core value, we are told our duties are most commonly exercised, we formally set ourselves apart from the general populous.

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"Airmen," former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman noted, "are part of a unique profession that is founded on the premise of service before self. We are not engaged in just another job; we are practitioners of the profession of arms. We are entrusted with the security of our nation, the protection of its citizens, and the preservation of its way of life. In this capacity, we serve as guardians of America’s future. By its very nature, this responsibility requires us to place the needs of our service and our country before personal concerns. No other profession expects it’s members to lay down their lives for their friends, families or freedoms."

"But our profession readily expects its people to follow these rules unless there is a clear, operational reason for refusing to do so."

"Respect for others. Service Before Self tells us also that a good leader places the troops ahead of his/her personal comfort. We must always act in the certain knowledge that all persons possess a fundamental worth as human beings.

Discipline and self-control. Professionals cannot indulge themselves in self-pity, discouragement, anger, frustration or defeatism. They have a fundamental moral obligation to the people they lead to strike a tone of confidence and forward-looking optimism."

"Faith in the system. To lose faith in the system is to adopt the view that you know better than those above you in the chain of command what should or should not be done. In other words, to lose faith in the system is to place self before service. Leaders can be very influential in this regard: If a leader resists the temptation to doubt ‘the system,’ then subordinates may follow suit.

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"But our profession readily expects its members to willingly risk their lives in performing their professional duties. By voluntarily serving in the military profession, we formally set ourselves apart from the general populous."

"The unlimited liability clause."
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — America’s citizen soldiers are taking an unprecedented role in the global war on terrorism, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said here Oct. 8.

While the National Guard has always been in the homeland-defense business, it is being used in a new and different way, Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum told media at the Foreign Press Center.

He noted that the Guard bureau acts as an operational force supporting the Army and the Air Force overseas and defending the homeland in the United States — and doing both simultaneously.

“The Guard is deployed around the globe in support of every combatant commander. At home, it has responded to DoD missions and state missions, such as assisting in cleanup efforts after natural disasters. You can see the National Guard is participating in every aspect of our national security strategy,” General Blum said. “(Defense of the homeland) is always Job One for the National Guard. But it doesn’t always mean we have to defend the homeland here at home.”

At the request of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, the National Guard is becoming a storm-responding force as well — a useful tool in the global war on terrorism.

To this end, the Guard transforming from a strategic reserve — to be called only in the event of World War III — to an operational force to be called up as needed for any reason, both at home and abroad, General Blum said.

But, he cautioned, this presents challenges.

“We still have a mandate to the government responders, needed to respond to terrorist attacks or if it were attacked or if it suffered a tragedy.”

To become more responsive and capable, General Blum said these teams “can offer an immediate communications bridge so that the local first responders can plug in to the Department of Homeland Security’s information system immediately.”

All elements are tied together through a secure information technology system, and the Department of Homeland Security’s information network has been integrated for maximum effectiveness.

“Each is a tactical joint task force capable headquarters able to manage any military service element — including active duty, Reserve or National Guard — individually or in combination with other agency and government responders, needed to respond to an incident in any given state or territory. If needed, the Guard can synchro- nize responses from across the nation, pulling resources from other areas.”

General Blum called it a “very, very powerful model, which means that there is no part of our country that is not protected and would not have the capability to respond if it were attacked or if it suffered a tragedy.”

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“The information will be used for employer outreach programs as we seek to promote community support for our mission and our people,” said Lt. Col. Steve Bullard, di-

rector of administrative services for the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

Members may provide their employer information by visiting https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal/.

For more information on ESGR, visit www.esgr.org or call Colonel Bullard at (859) 245-1100.

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Members asked to provide data for employer support effort

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Continued from Front Page

exotic aircraft and travel the world on short‐tour exercises, including assign-
ments in Germany, Honduras, Korea and Panama.

Things were, however, becoming a little too routine. Sergeant Rosa enlisted as an airman basic right out of high school, and he steadily advanced through the ranks until he’d fully mastered his job. Now, Ser-
geant Rosa was beginning to assume more management responsibilities — writing airman’s performance reports and serving as a team leader — which signaled an in-
crease in paperwork and a decrease in op-
erational engagement.

“I had risen to a seven‐level, I was a watch supervisor, and I was starting to get into management,” Sergeant Rosa re-
called. “But it just wasn’t enough. I needed something more exciting.”

And so he left the world of BDUs to seek a new challenge from an alphabet soup of federal agencies, applying to the CIA, DEA, FBl, FAA, U.S. Customs and the U.S. Marshal’s Service.

In the meantime, he got a job manag-
ing a private airport in Key Largo, Fla., near Homestead. He also heard about an Air Force Reserve pararescue unit near Homestead. He also heard about an Air Force Reserve pararescue unit there, which seemed to offer the kind of challenge and excitement he was seeking.

Sergeant Rosa took and passed the unit’s mandatory Physical Ability and Stamina Test, or PAST, a kind of pre-
screening for special tactics candidates, and he completed a flight physical before being told he would have to wait for fund-
ing to send him through the pararescue training course.

Then an old friend told him about the Kentucky Air Guard’s relatively new 123rd Special Tactics Flight, which was home to the only combat control unit in the Air National Guard.

Combat controllers deploy into austere environments, establish and manage for-
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The most difficult part, however, might have been the first component, a three-
month “selection course” designed to push candidates to their limits with constant men-
tal and physical stress.

Sergeant Rosa described the experience as “12 weeks of heinous pain and agony to see if (the candidates) have the intestinal fortitude to do these jobs.”

The training is so difficult, in fact, that between 80 and 90 percent of the candidates wash out before graduation — the highest rate of any of the Special Operations schools, Sergeant Rosa said.

Such a high attrition rate rightfully con-
cerned him, but Sergeant Rosa thrives on facing new challenges — a mindset he de-
veloped in part by competing aggressively in track and field events as a high school athlete in West Palm Beach, Fla.

“I was concerned about it, but the only way to alay my fears was to be in the best shape that I could be,” Sergeant Rosa said.

“I had a very structured training program, based on the recommendations of other combat controllers, and that helped me pre-
pare for the experience. “The whole time I was in the pipeline, I never failed any of the running, swimming or physical events. “I just took each day as an individual chenge, I told myself: Today, I’m going to do the best that I can on whatever task I have before me.”

That attitude got Sergeant Rosa through the combat control pipeline, and it has served him well in the nine years since.

He accepted a full‐time position with the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Special Tac-
tics Flight in 1995 (the unit is now a squad-
ron) and hasn’t looked back.

During that time, he’s participated in scores of classified missions and de-
ployed to dozens of countries around the world, including sites on every continent save Antarctica.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began to gear up in 2003, Sergeant Rosa de-
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Sergeant Rosa was credited with 110 confirmed enemy kills before being re-
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While in Afghanistan, Sergeant Rosa was assigned to protect the life of Af-
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As a combat controller, he assisted with counter-terrorism measures and co-
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Maj. Jeremy Shoop, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, said Sergeant Rosa’s selection for the detail speaks volumes about his performance and the skills that combat controllers bring to the table.

“That was an immense statement of faith in Jon’s ability, as well as a real shot in the arm for the reputation of the 123rd STS and all combat control personnel across the Air Force,” he said.

Rosa, now a senior master sergeant, was further recognized earlier this year when he was named one of the U.S. Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year — an honor that he said “humbled” him.

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Major Shoop agrees about the quality of his troops, but he has no doubt that Sergeant Rosa earned his title.

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He wasted no time phoning up the unit and asking the training manager about possible vacancies. “He gave me the line that he unoub-tedly said so many times before: ‘It takes a lot of training, and you’re going to have to take the PAST test,’ ” Sergeant Rosa re-called. “And I said, ‘Well, I’ve already taken it.’ I faxed it to him, and he said, ‘That’s Great!’

“Then I told him I was already an air traf-fic controller, so I wouldn’t have to get qualified. He said, ‘Great! Fix me that, too!’ ”

“And just like that, by early 1994 Sergeant Rosa was back in the military — this time as a Kentucky Air Guardsman — and on his way through the combat control "pipe-line," a year-and-a-half-long series of spe-cialized training courses that included Air-Force Survival School, Special Forces SCUBA school, USAF Survival School and high-altitude parachute training.

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Weather suspends Oak airlift

By Capt. Dale Greer

Wealthy forces Kentucky AANG officials to temporarily suspend Coronet Oak flying operations in Puerto Rico from Sept. 14 to 16 while Tropical Storm Jeanne passed through.

Jeanne, which was later upgraded to a hurricane and caused more than 1,000 deaths in the Caribbean, buffeted Puerto Rico with winds in excess of 70 miles per hour, said Maj. Jeff Harrison, a pilot in the 156th Airlift Squadron and the mission commander in Puerto Rico during the storm. All C-130 aircraft were evacuated to Florida on Sept. 14 and returned on Sept. 16, the day after Jeanne made landfall on the island.

As many as 1,000 military personnel, including a combat veteran and command pilot, arrived in Puerto Rico in the week before Jeanne hit the island by air, sea, and land to provide support.

“Standing on the balcony was like riding in your car with the window down at 70 miles per hour,” he said.

Coronet Oak is an airlift mission that supports U.S. military operations and government agencies in the Southern Command Area of Responsibility.

The wing is providing airlift for the mission through January 2005.
Service Before Self demonstrates the depth of our resolve

Comrades, we should understand that people in the military profession are not engaged in just another job; we are on the premise of service before self. We are not engaged in just another job; we are practitioners of the profession of arms. We are entrusted with the security of our nation, the protection of its citizens, and the preservation of its way of life. In this capacity, we serve as guardians of America’s future. By its very nature, this responsibility requires us to place the needs of our service and our country before personal concerns. No other profession expects its members to lay down their lives for their friends, families or freedoms.

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“Service Before Self”

The Cargo Courier
Nov. 4, 2004

See SERVICE, Page 8

Service delivers JSAF news

Air Force officials announced a new e-mail service Oct. 20 that gives subscribers an easy to use news summary with links to extensive news and information, as well as audio and video news reports. Those wishing to receive the free e-mail news summary, called “AF Today,” can subscribe by going to Air Force Link at www.af.mil and clicking on “Subscribe” on the right side of the site’s banner. AF Today was developed after analyzing user trends and surveys showing news customers wanted useful information with less clutter.

Utility uniform gets ‘pixelated’

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The Cargo Courier
Nov. 4, 2004
Wing’s Rosa named top USAF airman
Special tactics troop has made a career out of seeking new challenges

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Jon Rosa gazed out the window of the control tower at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., and wondered if life shouldn’t offer something more.

The air traffic controller had been thinking about little else for months, and now, in the fall of 1991, he decided it was time to find out.

After an accomplished 10-year career directing air traffic for the Air Force, Sergeant Rosa filed for a discharge from active duty and prepared to enter the uncharted waters of the civilian workforce.

Fatefully enough, his journey would bring him right back to a full-time job with the U.S. military just a few years later, and in 2004 the Kentucky Air Guard combat controller would be named one of the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

But back in 1991, Sergeant Rosa needed a new challenge. He relished air traffic control—especially the opportunity it offered to see

See ROSA, Page 4 Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa is one of the 12 USAF Outstanding Airmen for 2004.

Morrow selected as assistant to NORAD commander
Cargo Courier Staff Report


General Morrow leaves his former position as the assistant adjutant general for Air for the Kentucky National Guard to become the senior National Guard officer at NORAD.

He will advise the commander and his staff on wartime and peacetime operational capabilities of the National Guard.

“Gen. Morrow is a fine officer and well deserving of this position,” General Storm said. “His contributions have helped transform the Kentucky National Guard into a viable force in the face of the War on Terror and no doubt will represent the National Guard well in this new position.”

General Morrow will remain affiliated with the Kentucky National Guard but will be assigned to NORAD in Colorado. On a interim basis, Col. Robert Yaple will assume Morrow’s former duties while a nationwide search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

The general received his Air Force commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Clemson University in 1977.

He continued his education in Europe at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, completing a master’s degree in Aeronautical Science in 1984. An outstanding graduate of undergraduate pilot

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