Promotions, retirements, separations & enlistments

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

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)
- Rosanna Crowds, 165th Airlift Sq.
- Valerie Carpenter, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Gabriel Kessler, 123rd Airlift Wing
- Benjamin Nelson, 123rd Airlift Wing
- Diane Stinnett, 123rd Communications Flt.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)
- Steven Best, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Larry Burba, 123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Jeremy Howard, 123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Travis Howard, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Andrew Waggner, 123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)
- Gregory Terry, 123rd Logistics Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

- Senior Airman Albert Elliott, 123rd Airlift Wing
- Airman 1st Class Kelly Johnson, 123rd Student Flt.
- Airman 1st Class David Ruby, 123rd Mission Support Flt.
- Senior Airman Michael Skeens, 123rd Airlift Wing

The following individuals have enlisted as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

- Airman 1st Class Dirk McComas, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Senior Airman Jacob Nungent, 123rd Medical Sq.
- Airman 1st Class Marie Plaza, 123rd Services Flt.
- Master Sgt. Cynthia Williams, 165th Airlift Sq.
- Senior Airman Roxanne Westmoreland, 123rd Support Group.

Weather Flight completes ORI

The Kentucky Air Guard’s 165th Weather Flight successfully completed an Operational Readiness Inspection here July 11-14. Master Sgt. Jeff Sarver, a meteorological technician in the flight, credits the results to the flight’s dedicated personnel.

“The senior leadership’s knowledge and training played a big role on how we did,” he said. “The majority of our NCOs and officers have civilian weather jobs as well.”

This helps, Sarver said, because most members of the flight do the job every day and stay current on weather-related information.

“Our goal is to keep that standard now and in the future.”

— Senior Airman Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Wing successfully completes UCI and ORI

Members of Kentucky Air Guard successfully completed an Operational Readiness Inspection and a Unit Compliance Inspection here Sept. 9-15.

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, described the unit’s performance as “dynamite,” especially considering the wing’s ongoing role in Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

“We had an opportunity to postpone the UCI due to our high ops tempo, but we felt the right thing to do was to get it done,” Harden said.

The inspectors praised the unit’s “get it done” attitude, he said, and were “very complimentary of our performance.”

“We trusted our folks to do what was necessary, and they trusted me when I told them that things would come out just fine.”

Col. Jeff Worthing, Air Mobility Command Inspection Team Chief, said he was impressed with the wing’s efforts.

“The 123rd is a great team that did a great job, particularly in the readiness inspection,” Worthing said. “It was evident that the team was focused and had spent time training for the inspection.”

During the compliance inspection, he said, the 123rd really stepped up the plate.

“The wing was really in a difficult position considering an Air Guard unit hadn’t had a UCI in more than 10 years,” he said. “But the wing volunteered to go first, and this really is a great credit to the wing and, in particular, its leadership.”

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
Vol. XVIII, No. 10 • Oct. 5, 2002
When I came into this unit 26 years ago I heard stories about the unit’s first C-1 ORI in the RF-101. I don’t remember what year that was, but I do remember the guys being very proud of being one of the only Air Guard units to have passed a C-1 ORI at that time. I remember Maj. Gen. Carl Black’s fire, and Chief Master Sgt. Al Gebring’s quiet competence.

These people, and the thousands like them who have served this unit well over the years, are the reason that we did so well. I believe that excellence is passed on through the years. I also believe that mediocrity is also passed on through he years. We are fortunate that it is excellence and not mediocrity that is our heritage, and we owe our predecessors a debt of gratitude for their work.

We owe it to the folks who come af- ter us to pass on what we have learned, so that in years to come folks will remember that Chief Master Sgts. Googele, Allen, Cwiaik, Heustis, the Smith brothers and many more insisted on doing things right—any way—any way they could. People will live up to the expectations and standards placed upon them.

We like our predecessors have high stan- dards and expectations and it is our responsibility to honor the legacy of those who came before us by passing it on to all who gain membership in the 123rd.

Thanks Loads!

Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

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Our office is located in room 2181 of the Wing Head- quarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Oct. 18.

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

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By Airman 1st Class Amanda Currier
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—To the air and Air Force basic military training is evolving with time.

The Air Force unveiled its latest addition BMT Sept. 16 at Warrior Week encamp- ment site: a nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional warfare training facility. The “addition of this new facility will en- sure the best possible training for our air- force basic trainees anywhere in the world today,” said Brig. Gen. Fred Van Valkenburg Jr., commander of the 37th Training Wing. Warrior Week, which was originally es- tablished about three years ago, gives train- ees an opportunity to go in the field to get a taste of what it would be like in a wartime situation.

Now, the week includes trainees passing through the NBCC training facility, allow- ing them to test the integrity of their gas masks. Troops enter one of the facility’s two 400- square-foot sealed chambers in full chemical warfare gear. Once inside, they are exposed to a substance simi- lar to pepper spray known as “CS,” or o-chlorobenzyl- idene malononitrile.

“Trainees who are not wearing their masks prop- erly will smell a slightly pep- perly odor and experience a teary eyes and a runny nose,” said Capt. David May, 37th field training flight commander. “Once trainees have been inside of a chamber for a few minutes, instructors have them remove their masks, so they can get a better under- standing of how well their gear really works,” he said.

“Trainees don’t realize how much they have to readjust themselves in the new nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional warfare training facility at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.”

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Robin Cresswell/AFPN
Laughter may increase quality of living

How many of you think of spirituality as serious business? Do images of sitting still in church during a stern sermon come to mind?

Do you think of long periods of prayer and meditation alone? Maybe you think about the hard work of planning a mission to feed people who are homeless.

Whatever your particular way of envisioning a spiritual life might be, does making time for fun and laughter ever come up?

If you’re like me, laughter may be low down on the list of priorities for a spiritual life.

Laughter wasn’t, however, low down on the list of priorities for Jesus and other leaders of our spiritual traditions.

According to the Christian scriptures, children flocked to Jesus. According to the Jewish scriptures, Rabbis were drawn to someone who didn’t laugh with them—Jesus and other leaders of our spiritual traditions.

Laughter isn’t, however, low down on the list of priorities for Jesus and other leaders of our spiritual traditions.

Scientists have found that laughter is a form of internal jogging that exercises the body and boosts the immune system.

Just like physical exercise, laughing increases the release of good hormones like endorphins and decreases the production of stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline. Laughter is basically one of the body’s safety valves, a counterbalance to tension.

When you’re feeling stressed and you can’t make it to the gym, you can make time to laugh.

In case you might need a little help in this area, here are a few tips:

—Start a humor library. Clip funny cartoons, collect calendars, mugs, pictures, funny greeting cards, books or anything else that makes you laugh. Collect some humorous audio and videotapes. Post those cartoons and calendars on your wall, so you can look at them often for a good laugh.

—Laugh with others. People laugh much more often when they’re around others. So watch a funny movie with some friends and share the laughter.

—Learn the basics of humor. Improve your sense of humor by taking a class. Often, community colleges and elder hostel classes offer classes on how to tell jokes and improve your sense of humor.

—Remember a funny moment. Start thinking about something funny that happened when you’re feeling tense. This will ease the tension and help you forget your troubles, at least temporarily.

—Laugh at yourself. Tell a funny or embarrassing story about yourself. After all, even the most embarrassing situations years from now will be a funny story.

—Learn to play. Play with your kids or your pets. Teach Fido or Fluffy some stupid pet tricks. Games are also funny. How about Scattegories, Charades or Password?

—Lighten up! You take your life’s work seriously, but take yourself a little more lightly. Just appreciate the value of laughter—it’s one of our greatest gifts from God. It’s also one of the greatest gifts we can give to each other.

—Laugh for real. Tell a story about something that is funny. The 16th-century Carmelite nun, St. Teresa of Avila, wrote: “From silly devotions and from sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us.”

These words ring as true today as they did 500 years ago.

Maybe we all need to say this prayer from time to time.

As a Christian, I understand that Jesus came into the world to share God’s wholeness—physical, emotional and spiritual—and laughter is part of that wholeness.

Remember, whomever laughs...lasts!

—Capt. Fred Ehrman

Wing Chaplain

Corrective eye surgery can end Ky. Air Guard careers

By Senior Airman Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

With corrective vision surgeries on the rise across the country, it’s important for Air Guard members to know that without the proper authorization, such a surgery can end your military career.

Although there are circumstances where service members can undergo the eye surgery, it’s vital to use the proper channels in order to get approval, said Master Sgt. Annmarie Mason, the NCOIC of the 123rd Airlift Wing’s Aerospace Medicine Clinic.

There are two types of corrective vision surgery, LASIK and PRK. While both surgeries are permitted with proper authorization, only PRK is authorized for aircrew members and those with special operational duties.

PRK involves burning off the outside of the eye to correct vision, according to Capt. Steve Casas, a flight surgeon in the 123rd Medical Squadron.

“It’s really painful for about three to five days,” Casas said, “and people are usually uncomfortable for a while afterwards.”

LASIK is more popular, he said, because it’s not usually painful during recovery.

Casas said both procedures pose special risks for military members.

“If there are any problems after PRK or LASIK, you can be permanently disqualified (from military service), because the damage is done,” Casas said.

In addition, he cautioned, if an Air Guard member thinks he or she may want to be on flying status in the future, don’t get LASIK.

“These surgeries are irreversible, Casas said. “And the corneas do not grow back.”

In addition to PRK and LASIK, there are also several variations on both surgeries.

However, none of these are authorized under any circumstances for any Air Guard member.

“Come see us before you go and make sure it’s the right procedure for you,” Mason said.

“The best way to protect our members from inadvertently getting the wrong surgery and ending their military careers.”

—Capt. Fred Ehrman
Knowing LOAC is a must for service members

By Maj. Nate Mellman
Wing Staff Judge Advocate

During a deployment, you notice a couple of airmen parking a C-130 in the hanger usually used by the medical evacuation plane.

The hanger is set off from the rest of the hangers and it is a large red cross painted on its roof. What do you do? The answer is simple—move the planes immediately.

Do not just turn a blind eye and wait until the medical evacuation plane returns before moving the C-130 out.

Also, you must report the incident up your chain of command or to another responsible individual such as JAG.

LOAC, or the Law of Armed Conflict, is not just a nice theory—it’s a living set of rules derived from the reality of war.

Quite a number of rules have developed over time that our forces remain in compliance during those times it will be better not to hit them.

For example, in a non-combatant who threatens your life with a weapon, a soldier is entitled to use deadly force.

But combat troops liked the idea so much that they began carrying a bullet, usually from a firearm with which they were familiar, even outside combat zones.

During that war, the U.S. military used “E” flags to recognize companies whose efficient production made major contributions to the overall war effort.

The new employer recognition lapel pin displays an “E” cradled in the Air Force logo to recognize its partnership with employers who employ at least one Guardsman or Reservist.

Whether due to potentially negative media reports or the minimal threat posed by a non-combatant, many times it will be better not to hit them.

There are a number of rules developed from the three principles mentioned above. For instance, people are divided into combatants and non-combatants.

So, did the commander who ordered the bombing in Al Firdus commit a LOAC violation?

The bunker was a clear military objective, and it was necessary to take it out to advance the coalition’s objectives.

From the intelligence the commander had in hand, it didn’t appear that he was putting non-combatants—civilians—at risk.

If we change the facts a little so the commander knew civilians were at risk, then he would have to weigh whether attacking this objective was reasonable.

If he knew that hundreds of civilians were likely to die, then authorizing this attack was very well be understandable and thus, would have violated LOAC.

NO MORE "BULLETS"

The coin, which is brightly colored, recognizes the KyANG as front side of the coin.© The Courier Oct. 5, 2002

KyANG NEWS

By Master Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Support Group First Sergeant

The Kentucky Air National Guard’s first sergeants recently began selling a new coin to commemorate the unit’s support of the war on terror.

The coin, which is brightly colored, recognizes the KyANG as well as the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, sites of the horrific ter- rorist attacks that took place on Sept. 11, 2001.

The purpose of the coin is to provide Guard members with a sense of community, but the medallions also serve as a link to tradi- tion.

That tradition began during the Vietnam War as the “Bull Club,” an informal collection of soldiers and airmen who became mem- bers simply by carrying bullets with them at all times.

The bullet, usually kept in the back pocket, was to be used if the warrior was captured in combat, denying the enemy a prisoner of war.

It is highly unlikely, however, that this practice was ever followed, and it most certainly was not condoned by military authorities.

But combat troops liked the idea so much that they began carrying a bullet, usually from a firearm which they were familiar, even outside combat zones.

So common was this practice that the few unforgotten ones who forgot to pack their lead were chided to embarrassment for such a slip of protocol.

The tradition grew to the point that servicemen often were asked to “show their bullet” upon entering bars or restaurants frequented by military members.

If a soldier or airman was able to produce his bullet, the man who witnessed the challenge was obligated to buy refreshments.

But if no bullet was forthcoming, the newcomer had to supply the eats and drinks for all paying customers for the remainder of the evening. Obviously, no one went about without his bullet.

As time went along, various calibers were used for such a dis- play. Projectiles from rifles and pistols of all types, machine guns, rockets, grenades—even mortar shells—were used as servicemen tried to outdo one another by packing around the largest ordnance.

Government authorities did not like the connotations of this, so they began to actively discourage the tradition. After a few years, it gradually faded away.

But the idea of the custom remained. In a short period of time, military coins began replacing bullets in the pockets of service members.

These coins came in all sizes and colors, with mottos, insignias and dates of important events such as military operations, gradua- tion and service records.

The KyANG’s new commemorative coins are now on sale through any first sergeant for $5 each.

Family Day 2002 canceled

By Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, wing executive officer and event coordinator, officials decided it would be best to wait until next year because prepara- tions for the wing’s recent inspections have understandably taken a toll.

Next year, he said, base person- nel can put forth more energy in order to make Family Day a success, he said.

Frymire noted that the Family Readiness Team’s operating funds are at an all-time low, in part because Family Day also was canceled last year following Sept. 11. The team now is accepting $1 donations from unit members to help raise events like the Children’s Christmas Party.

Front side of the coin.© The Courier Oct. 5, 2002

Wing’s new commemorative coin continues tradition

By Maj. Nate Mellman
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LOAC, or the Law of Armed Conflict, is not just a nice theory—it’s a living set of principles and rules each of us in the military needs to know.

Guard members must know the principles and rules of LOAC, know how to recognize and prevent violations, and know what to do when a violation has occurred.

As military members, LOAC applies to you through the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or UCMJ.

We benefit from complying with LOAC in a number of ways, including the following:

- Unit morale and world opinion remain high because we fight honorably.
- Lives are saved and weaponry conserved that otherwise would be lost to indiscriminate attacks.
- Post-war relations with conquered nations are easier to maintain.

Although LOAC is intended to apply only during armed conflict, it is U.S. policy that our forces act in compliance during all operations.

During the Persian Gulf War, planners identified the Al Firdus bunker as a military objective. Barbed wire surrounded the area, and trip wires and the entrance and exit points were monitored by sentries.

When a necessary military target whose attack will likely involve civilians, combatants are responsible for ensuring that no civilians are involved in or near it.

In fact, if more than 50 civilians are killed or wounded, the commander responsible can easily face criminal prosecution.

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But for those exceptions, LOAC requires that our forces remain in compliance during all times.
Laughter may increase quality of living

How many of you think of spirituality as serious business? Do images of sitting still in church during a sermon come to mind?

Do you think of long periods of prayer and meditation alone? Maybe you think about the hard work of planning a mission to feed people who are homeless.

Whatever your particular way of envisioning a spiritual life might be, does making time for fun and laughter ever come up?

If you’re like me, laughter may be low down on the list of priorities for Jesus and other leaders of our spiritual traditions.

According to the Christian scriptures, children flocked to Jesus. I can’t imagine how any children would feel drawn to someone who didn’t laugh with them— at least not any children I know.

Researchers have shown that the average child laughs anywhere from 150 to 400 times a day, but the average adult laughs only 15 times a day. Maybe we need more laughter in our lives.

Scientists have found that laughter is a form of internal jogging that exercises the body and boosts the immune system.

Just like physical exercise, laughing increases the release of good hormones like endorphins and decreases the production of stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline. Laughter is basically one of the body’s safety valves, a counterbalance to tension.

When you’re feeling stressed and you can’t make it to the gym, you can make time to laugh.

In case you might need a little help in this area, here are a few tips:

— Figure out what tickles your funny bone. Do you like slap-stick or a more intellectual type of humor? Once you know what makes you laugh, you can go out and look for those things.

— Start a humor library. Clip funny cartoons, collect calendars, mugs, pictures, funny greeting cards, books or anything else that makes you laugh. Collect some humorous audio and videotapes. Post those cartoons and calendars on your wall, so you can look at them often for a good laugh.

— Laugh with others. People laugh much more often when they’re around others. So watch a funny movie with some friends and share the laughter.

— Learn the basics of humor. Improve your sense of humor by taking a class. Often, community colleges and elder hostels offer classes on how to tell jokes and improve your sense of humor.

— Remember a funny moment. Start thinking about something funny that happened when you’re feeling tense. This will ease the tension and help you forget your troubles, at least temporarily.

— Laugh at yourself. Tell a funny or embarrassing story about yourself. After all, even the most embarrassing situation years from now will be a funny story.

— Learn to play. Play with your kids or your pets. Teach Fido or Fluffy some stupid pet tricks. Games are also funny. How about Scattemongers, Charades or Password?

— Lighten up! You take your life’s work seriously, but take yourself a little more lightly. Just appreciate the value of laughter—it’s one of our greatest gifts from God. It’s also one of the greatest gifts we can give to each other.

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These words ring as true today as they did 500 years ago. Maybe we all need to say this prayer from time to time.

As a Christian, I understand that Jesus came into the world to share God’s wholeness—physical, emotional and spiritual—and laughter is part of that wholeness.

Remember, whomever laughs...lasts!

— Capt. Fred Ehrman

Presidential Visit

KyANG NEWS

By Senior Airman Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

With corrective vision surgeries on the rise across the country, it’s important for Air Guard members to know that without the proper authorization, such a surgery can end your military career.

Although there are circumstances where service members can undergo the eye surgery, it’s vital to use the proper channels in order to get approval, said Master Sgt. Annmarie Mason, the NCOIC of the 123rd Airlift Wing’s Aerospace Medicine Clinic.

There are two types of corrective vision surgeries, LASIK and PRK. While both surgeries are permitted with proper authorization, only PRK is authorized for aircrew members and those with special operational duties.

PRK involves burning off the outside of the eye to correct vision, according to Capt. Steve Casos, a flight surgeon in the 123rd Medical Squadron.

“It’s really painful for about three to five days,” Casos said, “and people are usually uncomfortable for a while afterwards.

LASIK is more popular, he said, because it’s not usually painful during recovery.

Casos said both procedures pose special risks for military members.

“If there are any problems after PRK or LASIK, you can be permanently disqualified (from military service), because the damage is done,” Casos said.

In addition, he cautioned, if an Air Guard member thinks he or she may want to be on flying status in the future, don’t get LASIK.

“Those surgeries are irreversible, Casos said. “And the corneas do not grow back.”

In addition to PRK and LASIK, there also are several variations on both surgeries. However, none of these are authorized under any circumstances for any Air Guard member.

“Come see us before you go and make sure it’s the right procedure for you,” Mason said.

“We want to try to protect our members from inadvertently getting the wrong surgery and ending their military careers.”

Corrective eye surgery can end Ky. Air Guard careers

SECAF/CSAF ‘Thank the Employers’ plan launched

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Air Force senior leaders plan to transform how they communicate with the civilian employees of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airman using a new program called Thank the Employer.

The program, which is scheduled to kick off at the end of October, arranges for letters and lapel pins to be sent to employers in thanks for their support of reservist employees.

The program resulted from a request from senior Air Force leadership, said Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini, the Kentucky Air Guard’s chief of staff and originator of the plan.

“It’s a spin off of the Your Guardsians of Freedom program, but at the same time this is a project that was directed by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff,” Tonini said.

Senior leaders, he noted, want to send the message to employers that the nation is at war, and that it we depends on its Guard and Reserve forces like never before.

According to Tonini, it is only appropriate to bend over backwards to reach out to the employers, who also bear some of the cost of the military’s efforts.

“It’s a win-win situation,” he added. “Employers need to be told how important their employees’ role is in the Air Force. And it also helps give the employer a sense of inclusion on the war on terror.”

The plan also has several other goals, such as helping employers understand why their employees’ active-duty commitments are critical to national security, recognizing their support of reservist employees.

For more information, contact Senior Airman Valerie Gholson.

See THANKS on Page 5
When I came into this unit 26 years ago I heard stories about the unit’s first C-1 ORI in the RF-101. I don’t remember what year that was, but I do remember the guys being very proud of being one of the only Air Guard units to have passed a C-1 ORI at that time.

I remember Maj. Gen. Carl Black’s fire, and Chief Master Sgt. Al Gehring’s quiet competence. These people, and the thousands like them who have served this unit well over the years, are the reason that we did so well. I believe that excellence is passed on through the years. I also believe that mediocrity is also passed on through the years. We are fortunate that it is excellence and not mediocrity that is our heritage, and we owe our predecessors a debt of gratitude for that.

We also owe it to the folks who come after us to pass on what we have learned, so that in years to come folks will remember that Chief Master Sgts. Coogler, Allen, Cwik, Heustis, the Smith brothers and many more insisted on doing things right—any way they could. The folks that have done this will be the heroes of our heritage.

We, like our predecessors, have high standards and expectations and it is our responsibility to honor the legacy of those who came before us by passing it on to all who gain membership in the 123rd.

Thanks Loads!

Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

KyANG heritage passes along excellence

Major AEF changes coming in June 2002

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

Major air expeditionary force changes are coming beginning with the start of Cycle 4 in June. People and assets from two on-call wings will be embedded in the 10 AEFs while Expeditionary Combat Support Support generally focused into two different AEF periods to facilitate teaming, Peppe said.

These changes will enable the advancement of the AEF construct to handle both steady state requirements and surge support for contingency operations, according to Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Peppe, special assistant to the chief of air force and air expeditionary forces.

“The thing that everyone needs to understand is (the AEF construct) has worked pretty well,” Peppe said. “We know that there are issues out there, and leadership is committed to fixing those issues.”

The first change involves the 4th Fighter Wing at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., and the 366th Wing at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

“ать is that causing some fluctuations? Yes, but the AEF Center is minimizing the shuffling,” Peppe said. “Our assessment is that the AEF alignment of perhaps 10 to 12 percent of airframes will be affected by this fine-tuning.”

The third change involves distributing Air Reserve Component assets across the AEFs to provide a more consistent level of the workload for the reserve component.

The “Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve contribute significantly (to the AEF construct) with aviation and support assets,” Peppe said. “If you look at how they’re postured right now, you’ll see that they’re heavily weighted in AEFs 7, 8, 9 and 10.”

Better distributing the ANG and Reserve forces is especially important considering that ARC aircraft and people are also heavily involved in Operation Noble Eagle, Peppe said. The Air Reserve Component will also realign ANG fighterers by block type and geography.

“The bottom line is we’re making changes to maximize capability available across the board,” Peppe said. “We want to smooth-flow capabilities across the AEFs and minimize the hills and valleys.”

Basic training opens chemical warfare facility

By Airman 1st Class Amanda Currier
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—In training, Air Force basic military training is evolving with the times.

The Air Force unveiled its latest addition to BMT Sept. 16 at Warrior Week encampment site: a nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional warfare training facility.

“The addition of this new facility will ensure the best possible training for our airman facing uncertainties in the world today,” said Brig. Gen. Fred Van Valkenburg, Jr., commander of the 37th Training Wing. Warrior Week, warfare was only fully established about three years ago, gives trainees an opportunity to go to the field and get a taste of what it would be like in a wartime situation.

Now, the week includes instructors passing through the NBC training facility, allowing them to test the integrity of their gas masks. Troops enter one of the facility’s two 400-square-foot sealed chambers in full chemical warfare gear. Once inside, they are exposed to a substance similar to pepper spray known as “CS,” or o-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile.

“Trainees who are not wearing their masks properly will smell a slightly peppery odor and experience a somewhat burning sensation in their eyes and a runny nose,” said Capt. David May, 37th field training flight commander.

Once trainees have been inside of a chamber for a few minutes, instructors have them remove their masks, so they can get a better understanding of how well their gear really works, he said.

“This facility gives airman confidence in their gear,” May said.

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37th Training Wing Public Affairs

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“This facility gives airman confidence in their gear,” May said.
The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)
- Rosanna Crowdues, 165th Airlift Sq.

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)
- Valerie Carpenter, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Gabriel Kessler, 123rd Airlift Wing
- Benjamin Nelson, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Diane Stinnett, 123rd Communications Flt.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)
- Steven Best, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

- Senior Airman Albert Elliott, 122nd Airlift Wing
- Senior Airman Charles Turner, 123rd Student Flt.
- Senior Airman Michael Skeens, 123rd Airlift Wing

The following individuals have enlisted as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

- Airman 1st Class Dirk McComas, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Senior Airman Jacob Nugent, 123rd Medical Flt.
- Airman 1st Class Marie Plaza, 123rd Maintenance Flt.
- Senior Airman Roxanne Westmoreland, 123rd Support Gp.
- Staff Sgt. Mark Flener

Promotions, retirements, separations & enlistments

Weather Flight completes ORI

The Kentucky Air Guard’s 165th Weather Flight successfully completed an Operational Readiness Inspection here July 11-14.

Master Sgt. Jeff Sarver, a meteorological technician in the flight, credits the results to the flight’s dedicated personnel.

“An airman’s knowledge and training played a big role on how we did,” he said. “The majority of our NCOs and officers have civilian weather jobs as well.”

This helps, Sarver said, because most members of the flight do the job every day and stay current on weather-related information.

“Our goal is to keep that standard now and in the future.”

— Senior Airman Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

THE CARGO COURIER

Wing successfully completes UCI and ORI

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Members of Kentucky Air Guard successfully completed an Operational Readiness Inspection and a Unit Compliance Inspection here Sept. 9-15.

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, described the unit’s performance as “dynamic,” especially considering the wing’s ongoing role in Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

“We had an opportunity to postpone the UCI due to our high ops tempo, but we felt the right thing to do was to get it done,” Harden said.

The inspectors praised the unit’s “get it done” attitude, he said, and were “very complimentary of our performance.”

“We trusted our folks to do what was necessary, and they trusted me when I told them that things would come out just fine.”

Col. Jeff Worthing, Air Mobility Command Inspection Team Chief, said he was impressed with the wing’s efforts.

“The 123rd is a great team that did a great job, particularly in the readiness inspection,” Worthing said. “It was evident that the team was focused and had spent time training for the inspection.”

During the compliance inspection, he said, the 123rd really stepped up the plate.

“The wing was really in a difficult position considering an Air Guard unit hadn’t had a UCI in more than 10 years,” he said. “But the wing volunteered to go first, and this really is a great credit to the wing and, in particular, its leadership.”

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Flener/KyANG

TOP:  Majs. Cathy Brown and Kathy Bowers read cards given to them at the chaplains’ station during the Operational Readiness Inspection here in September.

MIDDLE:  Lt. Col. Pat Cole, who served as a troop commander during the inspection, briefs troops on what to expect while awaiting transport to their aircraft.

LEFT:  Master Sgt. Linda Tussey tracks processing times on the deployment line.

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Kentucky Air National Guard
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Flener/KyANG