

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## 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 "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."

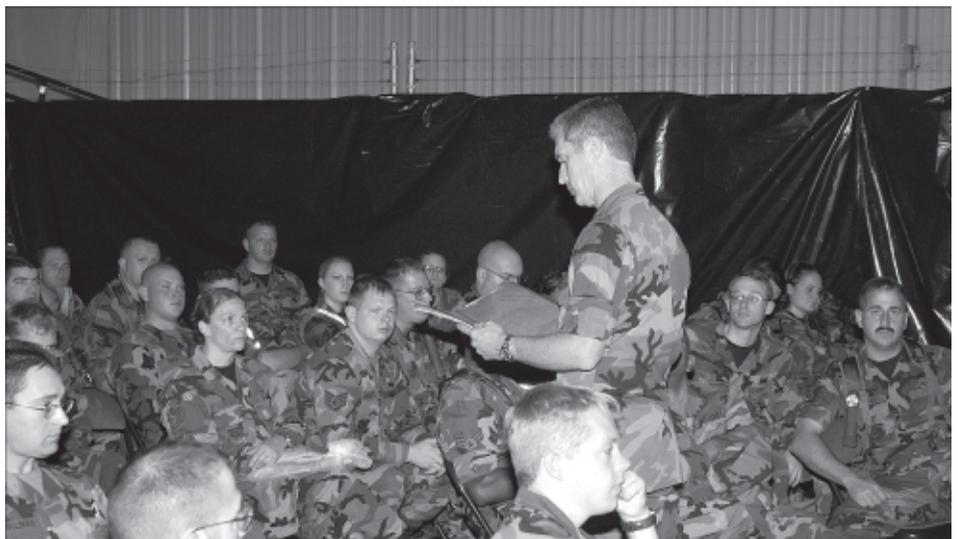
"We trusted our folks to do what was necessary, and they trusted me when I told them that things would come out just fine."

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."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

**TOP:** Maj. 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.

# KyANG heritage passes along excellence

W

ell, our Unit Compliance Inspection and Initial Response Operational Readiness Inspection are over, and each and every member of the Thorough-

bred Express has reason to be proud, not only of our performance, but the fact that we stepped forward and welcomed the inspectors to evaluate us after such a busy year of wartime deployments.

I could not be more pleased at the effort that was shown, and the way we met every tasking and exceeded every expectation.

As the commander, I am in the position to receive all of the kudos for your performance, and you need to know that there have been many.

I am also in the position to be able to stand back and try and figure out why you folks do as well as you do time after time, and question what I should do, or not do, in order to not screw you up.

I believe the results of our inspections today are a direct result of what our predecessors did yesterday.

When I look at how well our logistics and maintenance folks did generating and maintaining the aircraft so that they were ready to deploy, I see the same "do it right" philosophy that was preached years ago by guys like Chief Master Sgt. Roy Adams, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Marks, Lt. Col. Paul Stone and so many others.

When I walk into the line shack and see the enthusiasm and expertise of our crew chiefs, I see the same thing I saw years ago in Senior Master Sgt. Darrell Minton, Master Sgt. Rod Terry and Senior Master Sgt. Jim Snodgrass.

The operations and support arenas are no



**Col. Michael Harden**  
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

different.

The planning and attention to detail that the ops folks put into the deployment had its roots in the work done years ago by guys like Col. Joe Kottak, Col. Dave Moremen, Maj. Lee Vannamen and many others.

The enthusiasm and sense of urgency displayed by the aircrews was similarly displayed years ago by guys like Lt. Col. Ken Voelker, Maj. Don Kristich, Master Sgt. Calvin Leisure and so many others.

The roots of our excellence in the support arena can be found in the work done by folks like Col. Ed Hornung, Master Sgt. Tony Fernandez, Col. Denny Lewis and many more.

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. Coogle, Allen, Cwiak, Heustis, the Smith brothers and many more insisted on doing things right—and they will too.

People will live up to the expectations and standards placed upon them.

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!

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An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — [www.kyloui.ang.af.mil](http://www.kyloui.ang.af.mil)



**LEFT:** President George W. Bush is greeted by the Adjutant General of Kentucky, Brig. Gen. Allen Youngman, and 123rd Airlift Wing Commander Col. Michael Harden, upon Bush's arrival at the base Sept. 5. The president was in town to attend a political function.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Bush meets with members of Valley Sports, the 2002 World Champion Little Leaguers, during his stop on base. The team from Southwest Louisville spoke with the President before touring Air Force One. They also had an opportunity to meet with members of KyANG and tour a C-130 Hercules.



Photos by Senior Airman Valerie Gholson/KyANG

# Presidential Visit

## 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 employers 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 as in thanks for their support of reservist employees.

The program resulted from a request by 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 Guard-

ians 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



During World War II, the U.S. military used "E" flags to recognize companies whose efficient production made major contributions to the overall war effort. Today, as we wage war on terrorism, this contemporary adaptation – an "E" cradled in the Air Force symbol – recognizes the vital partnership between America's Air Force and the civilian employers of our Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command airmen.

*America's Air Force - No One Comes Close*

**See THANKS on Page 5**

# 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 has 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 the JAG.

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 eased.

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

During the Persian Gulf War, planners identified the Al Firdus bunker as a military objective. Barbed wire surrounded the complex, it was camouflaged, and armed sentries guarded its entrance and exit points.

Unknown to coalition planners, however, Iraqi civilians used the shelter as nighttime sleeping quarters.

The complex was bombed, resulting in 300 civilian casualties.

As mentioned above, LOAC consists of a number of rules, all of which derive from just a few basic principles.

- We must only do what is necessary to reach military objectives.

- We must distinguish the people we target (combatants versus non-combatants) and the objects we target (military objectives versus protected property or places).

- When there is a necessary military target whose attack will likely involve civilian casualties or the damage of a protected place, commanders must exercise the principle of proportionality. In other words, the anticipated loss of life and damage to property incidental to attacks must not be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct advantage expected to be gained.

So, did the commander who ordered the bombing in Al Firdus commit a LOAC violation? No.

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 had to weigh whether attacking this objective was reasonable.

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

Quite a number of rules have developed from the three principles mentioned above.

For instance, people are divided into combatants and non-combatants.

Combatants are legal targets and include most members of the military. People who are not involved in military operations are considered to be non-combatants.

This category includes civilians and certain military members like medical personnel, chaplains, wounded and sick personnel, POWs, and the shipwrecked, including aircrews lost at sea.

The obvious reason is that non-combatants pose no military threat, so there is no military necessity in targeting them.

Indeed, attacking them diverts resources and turns people against our purposes.

Keep in mind, though, that people's status can change between combatant and non-combatant. A common shift comes when a combatant surrenders or is captured.

Another example involves aircrews. A pilot—normally considered a combatant—be-

comes a non-combatant when parachuting from a damaged plane (and should not be shot at). If, however, that pilot pulls a pistol and starts shooting on the way down, his status returns to being that of a combatant (and he may be attacked).

A non-combatant who threatens your life gives up his protected status and becomes an unlawful combatant, which means he is then a legal target.

You always have the right of self-defense.

In addition to distinguishing between combatants and non-combatants, we also have to distinguish between valid military targets and protected places.

Any building supporting the enemy's war effort is a legal target. This includes military dorms, chow halls and communication facilities.

Obvious protected places are medical facilities, religious buildings and cultural buildings such as museums.

These protected places, however, can lose their protected status if they are used for a different, unprotected, purpose.

If this does happen, we have to evaluate the benefit of destroying such a place in advancing our war effort.

Whether due to potentially negative media reports or the minimal military benefit derived from hitting such a target, many times it will be better not to hit them.

Other targets, such as power plants, pose more difficult challenges because of their dual military and civilian purposes.

Still other rules have developed for prisoners of war, such as separate accommodations away from the battle whenever possible.

POWs should be treated humanely and are entitled to basic human rights such as food, clothing and shelter. They also are entitled to equal medical care.

POWs can be required to work, and they also can be punished or even be court-martialed if they break a camp rule.

War is not an excuse to bomb and kill at will. Even during wartime, we have to follow certain rules. Those rules, called the Law of Armed Conflict, help us to fight honorably and ease the transition to peace once the war is over. We each have a responsibility to know how those rules apply to our specific military jobs.

*For more information on LOAC, contact the legal office at ext. 4267.*

# Wing's new commemorative coin continues tradition

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

The Kentucky Air 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 terrorists attacks that took place 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 tradition.

That tradition began during the Vietnam War as the "Bullet Club," an informal collection of soldiers and airmen who became members simply by carrying bullets with them at all times.

The bullet, usually kept in the back pocket, was to be used if the warrior were 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 with which they were familiar, even outside combat

zones. So common was this practice that the few unfortunate 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 issued 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 display. 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, graduation and service records.

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



Front side of the coin.

## Thanks

Continued from Page 3

supportive employers as partners in the war effort, motivating less supportive employers to improve the way they treat reserve employees, and helping activated troops return to a positive work environment when an active-duty tour ends.

Currently, more than 190,000 citizen-airmen serve in Guard and Reserve, and the new program applies to the majority of them, Tonini said.

All traditional Guard members and reservist are encouraged to sign up by Oct. 15, not just those called to serve on active duty for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

A letter of thanks will be sent directly from the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff along with the lapel pin.

The pin is a contemporary adaptation of a World War II design, Tonini noted.

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 civilian employers of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen.

Another program similar in nature has also been created for reservists who have been called to active duty for a second year.

In this program, employers of the 14,000 Air Guard and Reserve troops being extended for a second year will receive a letter containing the name of the individual airman and the lapel pin.

Traditional Guard members and reservists may sign up for the program on the Web at <http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com/thanks>.

Those serving an additional year or active Guard and Reserve troops should sign up on the Web at <http://yourguardiansoffreedom.com/year2>.

Individuals with more than one employer may submit a form for each, Tonini said.

## Family Day 2002 canceled

**The Kentucky Air National Guard's Family Day 2002 has been canceled.**

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

Next year, he said, base personnel 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 fund other events like the Children's Christmas Party.

# 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.

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 slapstick or a more intellectual type of humor? Once you know what makes you laugh, you can go out and look for these 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 Scattagories, 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.

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

## Chaplain's Column

# 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 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 authoriza-

tion, 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.

"These 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."

# 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 assets from throughout the Air Force will be "leveled." Also, some Air Reserve Component contributions to the AEF will be realigned.

The changes will enhance the ability 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 staff for air and space expeditionary forces.

"The thing that everyone needs to understand is (the AEF construct) has worked pretty well," Peppe said. "We know 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.

These units, which currently operate in a 120-day rotational on-call status, will have their assets and people aligned throughout the 10 AEFs.

Each will be a lead wing, with aircraft and expeditionary combat support generally focused into two different AEF periods to facilitate teaming, Peppe said.

Their change in status will not result in the movement of personnel or equipment to other bases.

Besides placing people from these two wings into the overall expeditionary combat support pool, the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center at Langley AFB, Va., is working to level ECS manning in all rotations.

"We're trying to rearrange ECS assets Air Force-wide so there's a leveling of assets across the 10 AEFs, so the capabilities and numbers are about the same," Peppe said.

"It may be that some (unit type codes) move from AEF 5 to AEF 3," the general said. "So, instead of having 15 months between cycles, they will have 12. Some are going to move backward, having 18 months versus 15 months, because the AEF Center is trying to match ECS assets, where possible, to where the 'iron' is moved."

"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 airmen 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 fighters 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—Times are changing, and Air Force basic military training is evolving with them.

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 airmen facing uncertainties in the world today," said Brig. Gen. Fred Van Valkenburg Jr., commander of the 37th Training Wing.

Warrior Week, which was originally established about three years ago, gives trainees 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, 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 teary eyes and a runny nose," said Capt. David May, 737th 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.



Robbin Cresswell/AFPN

**Basic trainees don their chemical warfare gear Sept. 16 prior to entering the new nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional warfare training facility at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.**

"This facility gives airmen 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 Crowdus**,  
165th Airlift Sq.

## **SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)**

•**Valerie Carpenter**,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.  
•**Gabriel Kessler**,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.  
•**Benjamin Nelson**,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.  
•**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 Waggoner**,  
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:*

•**Lt. Col. Robert Abell**,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.  
•**Tech. Sgt. Annette Strom**,  
123rd Airlift Wing  
•**Tech. Sgt. Tyler Vincent**,  
123rd Services Flt.  
•**Master Sgt. Cynthia Williams**,  
165th Airlift Sq.

*The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:*

•**Senior Airman Albert Elliott**,  
123rd Airlift Wing  
•**Airman 1st Class Kelly Johnson**,  
123rd Student Flt.  
•**Tech. Sgt. James Paul**,  
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.  
•**Airman 1st Class David Roby**,  
123rd Mission Support Flt.  
•**Senior Airman Michael Skeens**,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

*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 Sq.  
•**Airman 1st Class Marie Plaza**,  
123rd Medical Sq.  
•**Senior Airman Roxanne Westmoreland**,  
123rd Support Gp.

## **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*

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