

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Online Edition • May 19, 2007

Retirees, founders honored at celebration

Thunder event marks unit's 60th anniversary

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

In a fitting prelude to the Thunder Over Louisville airshow, Airmen from the Kentucky Air Guard paid tribute last month to 43 members who retired or transferred from the organization in 2006 after completing at least 20 years of honorable service.

The names of the Airmen are etched into a marble tablet on permanent display in front of the John B. Conaway Headquarters Building.

The monument was unveiled there April 21 as part of the unit's 60th anniversary celebration. Officials also presented special plaques to two Kentucky Air Guard founders, Maj. Gen. Philip Ardery and Judge Henry Meigs, before kicking off daylong activities leading up to Thunder.

Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, Kentucky's adjutant general, told the crowd that he felt privileged to "be among these great patriots who laid the foundation" of the modern-day 123rd Airlift Wing, which he called a "world-class organization."

"It's a wonderful day to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Kentucky Air National Guard and to honor those who have served and retired," General Storm said.

"There is no way we can find words to



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

Recent retirees Chief Master Sgt. David Heustis and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Cwiak unveil a marble tablet listing the names of former unit members April 21.

say thanks — to pay the proper tribute — to all of you for making what is arguably one of the finest military organizations in the world.

"You've certainly been on the cutting edge in the global war on terror after 9/11.

"The Kentucky Air Guard has been at

the forefront, not only overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places around the world, but also here at home, each and every day," General Storm noted.

"Whatever the mission, the Kentucky Air National Guard is there."

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Headquarters wins Organizational Excellence Award

By Maj. Kirk Hilbrecht
Joint Forces Headquarters Kentucky

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Kentucky Air National Guard's Headquarters has earned an Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for exceptionally meritorious service from Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2005.

Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt III, assistant adjutant general for Air, accepted the honor

on behalf of the unit during a ceremony held here April 15 at the Boone National Guard Center.

During the award's two-year period, the unit supported numerous missions around the world, including overseas deployments as part of the Global War of Terror and stateside missions for border security and disaster relief.

The state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen.

Donald Storm, praised the men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard for their service and dedication.

"When you listen closely to the reading of this citation, you will hear a lot of references to Hurricane Katrina, a lot of references to OCONUS missions and a lot of references to Operation Jumpstart," General Storm said.

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New service dress uniform will link rich heritage with today's warrior ethos

As Airmen, we have many opportunities to represent our Air Force to the American public, our sister services and allies.

Many of these opportunities are formal occasions where we don our service dress uniform for joint school graduations, promotions, retirements, memorial services, host nation celebrations or community events in Downtown, U.S.A.

As the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, I have the chance to attend many formal events with my peers from our sister services.

I am always proud to stand beside them, wear our uniform well, and represent you — our great Airmen. I look forward to the day when I stand tall in a new service dress uniform with a stronger military image, one that will make a powerful statement about who we are — America's Airmen who fly, fight and win in any domain.

The proposed heritage jacket will give us a uniform with more historical significance, better functionality and, most importantly, it will embody the warrior spirit that defines us as Airmen serving in the Profession of Arms.

From the Berlin Airlift, B-26 and



**Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley,
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force**

B-29 bombing runs over North Korea during the Korean War and the "Shock and Awe" air campaigns of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Air Force remains at the forefront of the fight. Since everything we are and accomplish today has root in our warfighting history, it's only right our uniforms should reflect this heritage.

A new service dress uniform also

links with our efforts to cultivate a Warrior Ethos throughout every facet of the Air Force.

Among these efforts, we are expanding basic military training to give Airmen skills to set up and defend expeditionary air bases, we recognize our Airmen's ground-combat actions with a new Air Force Combat Action Medal, and we now have an Airman's Creed to embody and articulate our warrior spirit.

As I travel throughout our Air Force talking with Airmen, I see warriors who are leading the charge in the Global War on Terror.

Despite long hours, extended deployments and a myriad of challenges, our Airmen continually prove they have the grit and determination of the Airmen who fought the wars before us.

A new heritage service dress uniform will say to the world what we already know: We are proud Airmen linked to a combat-forged past, and Air Force warriors prepared for today's challenges and future battlefields.

I'm looking forward to wearing our new heritage service dress uniform, and I hope you are, too.

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is May 29.

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Dornbush receives Legion of Merit award

By Maj. Kirk Hilbrecht
Joint Forces Headquarters Kentucky

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky Air Guard Chief of Staff Big. Gen. Michael Dornbush received the Legion of Merit during a ceremony at the Boone National Guard Center here April 15.

General Dornbush, who also serves as Kentucky's Joint Force Air Component Commander, received the award in recognition of his exceptional performance as state Staff Support Officer and Vice Wing Commander, of the 123rd Airlift Wing from Nov. 2, 2000 to Nov. 19, 2006.

During this time, General Dornbush played a key role in the merger of Kentucky Army and Air staff, resulting in the formation of the Kentucky National Guard Joint Force Headquarters. He also provided essential leadership for the Kentucky Air Guard's participation in relief operations following Hurricane Katrina, the National Guard-staffed border security mission known as Operation Jumpstart and multiple successful readiness inspections.

"I want to say 'thank you' for your contributions and the leadership that got you here today," said Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, when he presented the award to General Dornbush.

"The Award's citation sums it up: General Dornbush has always been positive, he's always been working toward the future.

"He's all about handing off a better organization to a younger generation of patriots to continue the mission.



Capt. David Page/KyArNG

Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, left, presents the Legion of Merit to Big. Gen. Michael Dornbush during a ceremony held in Frankfort, Ky., on April 15.

"General Dornbush continues to make a major contribution to our organization. As a Joint Forces Kentucky Guard, we are 'One Team, One Fight.'

"Certainly this general officer, General Dornbush, has had a lot to do with that."

General Dornbush noted that an excellent staff continues to play a key role in the success of the Headquarters.

"We have a tremendous capability with our Joint Forces Headquarters Staff, and that's why we are as good as we are," he said. "This will only continue to increase with the synergies of more and more talents that blend together here in the Joint Forces Headquarters.

"I am so proud to be on the Headquarters staff."



Capt. David Page/KyArNG

Kentucky Air Guard Headquarters staff pose with the award.

Headquarters

Continued from Front Page

"When you think about the missions we've covered over the last five years and since 9/11, you would agree: It's been simply amazing. We've been right on the cutting edge. We've been early and we've been often.

"While everybody else is watching reality TV shows in their living rooms, our National Guardsmen are working the reality of hope, the reality of freedom. We're real.

"You all have stepped up," General Storm continued. "You all have answered the call. You all are special. There are so few of us. But you are there.

"I am so proud of our Kentucky soldiers and airmen. Kentucky has done our nation proud."

60th anniversary celebration features

The Kentucky Air Guard played host to hundreds of retirees and their family members April 21 during a 60th anniversary celebration that included a cook-out and displays of aircraft to be featured in the Thunder Over Louisville airshow later that afternoon.

Aircraft available for inspection included F-16 Fighting Falcons, A-10 Thunderbolts, F-18 Hornets and a U.S. Air Force E-3 Sentry AWACS.

But the highlight proved to be the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft, the F-22A Raptor, making its first appearance in Louisville.

Informational briefings also were provided throughout the day on topics ranging from military benefits to new mission opportunities at the Kentucky Air Guard.



Above: Kentucky Airmen, retirees and their family members line up to tour an Air Force E-3 Sentry aircraft. More commonly called the AWACS, the E-3 serves as an airborne warning and control system.

Below: The highlight of the day was the F-22A Raptor, which is combines stealth technology with high maneuverability and speeds in excess of Mach 2.

Right: Officials from the U.S. Postal Service were on hand to offer stamp cancellations bearing a "60th Anniversary" imprint.



KyANG photos by Capt. Dale Greer



cook-out, Thunder aircraft displays



Left: Three young visitors get schooled on the proper use of military hardware by a member of the wing's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

Below: Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs, command chief master sergeant for the 123rd Airlift Wing, prepares hot dogs at the cook-out.



Hurricane Hunters off to early start in 2007

American Forces Press Service

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Although the 2007 Atlantic Ocean hurricane season officially starts June 1, Keesler Air Force Base's Hurricane Hunters got off to an early start.

Flying a specially equipped WC-130 Hercules, Airmen from the Air Force Reserve Command's 403rd Wing tracked their first tropical disturbance May 9 off the coast of Georgia.

Timing of the mission was reminiscent of the early start of the 2005 record-breaking-hurricane season which stirred up May 20 with Tropical Storm Adrian.

The state-of-the-art WC-130J equipped with a Stepped-Frequency Microwave Radiometer measures surface winds directly below the aircraft.

"The SFMR will be the biggest advance I can think of to improve hurricane intensity forecasts," said Max Mayfield, the former director of the National Hurricane Center.

Data collected by the Hurricane Hunters resulted in the National Hurricane Center naming the storm Subtropical Storm Andrea.

Andrea's minimum central pressure was at 29.62 inches, moving west at 3 mph with sustained winds at 45 mph extending outward up to 115 miles.

The radiometer can also determine rainfall rates within a storm system. This information in addition to wind speeds at flight level provides structural detail of the storm.

Information collected by the Hurricane Hunters increase the accuracy of the National Hurricane Center's forecasts by as much as 30 percent. This data enables the National Hurricane Center to predict more accurately the path of storms in order to save lives and narrow areas of evacuation, center forecasters said. They expect the accuracy of their forecasts to increase with the use of the SFMR.

Two Hurricane Hunter aircraft will be equipped with the radiometers by the end of June with one added each month until all of the 403rd Wing's 10 WC-130J aircraft are outfitted with the SFMR pod.



Tech. Sgt. James Pritchett/USAF

USAF Hurricane Hunters track a subtropical storm off the coast of Georgia in a WC-130J aircraft.

Officials evaluate plans for new KC-X tanker aircraft

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — The Air Force source selection evaluation team is poring over industry proposals for the KC-X program, the replacement for the Air Force's aging KC-135 Stratotanker strategic refueling aircraft.

The evaluation team, made up of a broad spectrum of acquisition and operational professionals, is currently sequestered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, supporting a multi-month effort to carefully dissect and evaluate each proposal submitted in April 2007.

"I have an Air Force-wide, hand-picked team of more than 150 experts reviewing every aspect of these proposals," said Terry

Kasten, director of the 653rd Aeronautical Systems Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

"When the dust settles, we'll have spent many tens of thousands of man-hours scrubbing the content of these proposals, conducting a legal review and preparing summary information for both an independent advisory council assessment and ultimately a source selection authority decision," Mr. Kasten said.

Stressing the importance of this program to the Air Force, Mr. Kasten has a full-time, dedicated legal staff to ensure every "i" is dotted and every "t" is crossed.

The source-selection process is rigor-

ous, requiring months of preparation and several more months of evaluation in a tightly controlled environment.

The selection will be announced and contract award made after receiving authority to proceed from the undersecretary of Defense for acquisition logistics and technology through the Defense Acquisition Board scheduled later this year.

Federal Acquisition Regulations limit information exchanges or discussions with potential offerors solely to the procuring contracting officer inside the formal source selection process. These regulations also prohibit Air Force officials from disclosing the number or identity of offerors, or discussing source selection progress.

Security measure added to DoD's myPay system

A new security feature has been added to protect myPay customers' data on the pay account system.

As part of an on-going commitment to strengthen password and account security, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service has implemented a "virtual keyboard" to assist in protecting against malicious software such as spyware, trojans and keylogging.

"This is a significant move toward adding yet another layer of security to our myPay system," said Pat Shine, director of operations for DFAS.

"We want to reassure our customers that we are proactively working to secure their pay account information."

Beginning in mid-May, when a user arrives logs on to myPay, a virtual keyboard will appear on the screen.

The user will type in his or her login ID and then use the mouse to click his or her Personal Identification Number, or PIN, on the pictured keyboard.

To enhance security, the keyboard layout will change or keys will be displayed randomly every time the page is refreshed.

Although DFAS uses a variety of security features to protect data on the myPay system.

The new measure will provide an additional layer of security and prevent personal data from being compromised or captured on home computers, DFAS officials said.

For frequently asked questions about myPay, visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

USAF's new F-22 Raptor ends 1st overseas mission

Deployment part of AEF rotation to Japan

By Airman 1st Class Chase DeMayo
1st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — The first overseas deployment of America's newest fighter aircraft ended when the stealthy planes arrived here May 11.

The first wave of F-22 Raptors from the 27th Fighter Squadron returned from Kadena Air Base, Japan, as part of a three-month air and space expeditionary force deployment where the squadron flew more than 685 sorties.

"The mission still isn't over for us," said Lt. Col. Wade Tolliver, 27th Fighter Squadron commander.

"But so far, we accomplished several amazing tasks making it not only operationally successful but also historical."

While deployed, the 27th Fighter Squadron pilots joined with pilots from the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing to fly several missions with the Air Force AWACS and 18th Wing KC-135 Stratotankers.

The squadron also flew with the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and the Japanese Air Self Defense Force.

"Working together with the other units made us a much stronger asset to the United States' mission," said Colonel Tolliver. "Now that we have experience working together, it gives us that better edge in combat."

Langley's pilots and maintainers also worked closely with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force.

Meanwhile, the squadron hosted four open houses, allowing local servicemembers to view the Raptor.

"Never again can bring we bring our Raptors to Japan and say it's a first," Colonel Tolliver said. "It was historic for everyone."



Staff Sgt. Samuel Rogers/USAF

F-22 Raptors from the 27th Fighter Squadron taxi at Langley Air Force Base, Va., May 11. The 27th Fighter Squadron deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan, for three months. The Pacific theater mission marked the Raptor's first overseas Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployment.

Bad guys can't hide from backscatter tech

By Tech. Sgt. Parker Gyokeres
23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Members of the 820th Security Forces Group here are set to employ a new high-technology search system in the war on terrorism that will help increase base security and also can deter acts of aggression against coalition forces.

Known as the Z backscatter van, the \$1.2 million, 13,000-pound, lead-lined delivery truck uses low-power X-rays to detect the presence of radiological or low-density organic materials like explosives or drugs hidden inside metal structures, said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hobbs, an 820th SFG sensors technician.

The group currently owns two of the vehicles. One van is configured for stateside use with mandatory "X-ray on" and "scanning" strobe lights. The other van does not have any beacons installed, for more covert use at deployed locations.

"There is also a personnel-scanning mode that can be used to instantly detect the presence of weapons or small amounts of ex-

plosives that might not be located during a pat-down search," Sergeant Hobbs said.

At this time, the personnel-scanning mode is not authorized for use in the United States, pending the results of a Federal Aviation Administration study.

As it drives past a target at a continuous speed, the ZBV uses a rotating, pencil-shaped beam of low-level X-ray radiation and a large array of backscatter detectors to create its images, Sergeant Hobbs said.

"As we drive past a target or it drives or walks past us, the computer knows exactly where the beam is at any given point and is able to assemble a series of slices into a detailed picture we can view from the sensor display in the truck's cab," he said.

If organic material is inside the vehicle, such as a detonation cord or a cache of drugs tucked inside a wheel well or door panel, it will appear as an anomaly on the scanner and the security team will target that vehicle for further inspection, said Tech. Sgt. John DeLaCerde, the 820th SFG sensors and advanced technologies NCO in charge.

The ZBV has a number of advantages over more traditional search methods, Ser-

geant DeLaCerde said. Since the system is installed in an unmarked common European van chassis, it can be used to covertly inspect a suspect vehicle without the occupants ever being aware of a search.

"We can intercept a suspect vehicle that has been flagged by security and inspect it before it becomes a threat," he said. "After its initial warm up, the vehicle is ready to respond and instantly put itself into a position that provides base defenders with the most critical intelligence."

It is also safer for the search team, Sergeant DeLaCerde said. The van's sensors can be operated hundreds of meters away via a fiber-optic link.

This way, sensor operators can now scan the same suspect vehicle for improvised explosive devices without having to sit right beside it.

In addition to being safer for the operators, the technology is much less harmful than traditional X-ray methods for people and objects being scanned.

The power levels used in the ZBV system are significantly lower than common X-ray technology, Sergeant Hobbs said.

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