

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## 13 SFS troops spend 60 days at Baghdad IAP *Airmen were the first security police to arrive at the site*

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell  
Cargo Courier Editor

Flying into a war zone in complete darkness aboard a C-130 is something 13 members of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron will never forget.

In April, while the fight for Baghdad was still underway, these Kentucky airmen deployed to the former Saddam International Airport to protect Air Force assets as they arrived for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Being the first troops on the ground at the airport, which has since been renamed Baghdad International, was an experience like no other, the airmen said.

The first thing Senior Airman Mike Doran saw as he stepped off the plane — and into the darkness — was a group of fellow Kentucky SPs who had arrived minutes earlier on another transport and were already securing the area.

It was a good thing to see a friendly face, Doran said.

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Photo courtesy of Senior Airman Mike Doran/KYANG

Senior Airman Mike Doran, a security forces troop from the Kentucky Air Guard, spent more than 60 days at Baghdad International Airport with 12 members of his squadron. The security forces team was the first of its kind to arrive at the airport.

## CES and MPF receive top honors for performance

By Staff Sgt. Mark Flener  
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Two Kentucky Air Guard units recently were honored with awards for outstanding performance.

The 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron received the Col. William L. Deneke Outstanding Civil Engineers Unit Award, while the 123rd Military Personnel Flight took home the Air Guard Outstanding Military Personnel Flight of the Year Award.

Civil engineering won the Deneke award based on its performance in 2001.

The honor recognizes the best civil engineering squadron in the Air Guard each year.

Base Civil Engineer Lt. Col. Phil Howard said the award committee based its decision in part on the Kentucky unit's excellent preparedness.

"The committee looks at how ready you are to go out that door," Howard said. "They also look at the squadron's attendance during drill."

The committee was equally impressed with the Kentucky squadron's ability to meet the challenges of numerous deployments around the world, Howard said.

While it is an honor to win the Deneke award, getting it is far from easy.

"You have to work for this award," Howard noted. "It's not something they

hand out like candy."

Lt. Col. Connie Allen, commander of the civil engineers squadron, said no other civil engineering unit deserved the Deneke title more.

"The squadron is a unique collection of dedicated and talented airmen," Allen said. "They're a good squadron."

The honor actually marks the second Deneke award for the 123rd, which won its first such title in 1985.

The military personnel flight received its newest honor for demonstrating outstanding performance while coordinating mul-

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## More support in Liberia



Tech. Sgt. Justin D. Pyle/USAF

**LUNGI, Sierra Leone — An Air Force MC-130P Combat Shadow lands here with supplies and people headed for the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia, on July 28. The 398th Air Expeditionary Group is here to provide personnel recovery and emergency evacuation capability for the humanitarian assistance survey team and the fleet antiterrorism security team in Liberia.**

## AEF rotations begin at Tallil

By 2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez  
407th Air Expeditionary Group

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq — Five airmen stepped off a C-130 Hercules aircraft June 30 to become the first Air and Space Expeditionary Force Blue arrivals here.

The AEF Blue rotation is the first of two 120-day tours designed to replace most people who are still deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and help normalize the AEF cycle, officials said.

“I’m really glad to be here,” said Tech. Sgt. Paul Carpenter, an air traffic controller from the 28th Operations Support Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

“Iraq is pretty much what I expected — a little like Afghanistan ... hot, humid and dusty.”

Two base agencies will be the focal point as base officials prepare for the arrival and departure of nearly 3,000 people within the next month.

They are the personnel support for contingency operations section, better known as PERSCO, and the 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

“Our main role is to maintain accountability of personnel,” said Senior Master Sgt. Susan Baker, PERSCO team chief. “We have to see everybody before they leave, and we have to see everybody as they land ... If you don’t check out with us, we still think you’re sitting here.”

Before troops, either coming or going, can go anywhere, they will need a ride, and that job falls on the shoulders of the 407th.

“We started working redeployment about a month ago,” said Capt. Gary Jackson, commander of the 407th. “The plan is to have a just-in-time rotation.”

Thirteen flights have been contracted to move airmen in and out of Iraq in July, he said. The flights, however, will not fly into Iraq but arrive and depart from another base in Southwest Asia.

C-130s will shuttle people to and from the rotator base, Jackson said. The C-130s will depart Tallil and deliver troops about four to five hours before the contracted flight leaves. On the same trip, it will pick up people who are inbound and bring them back to Tallil.

## Travel to Iraq easier with express ticket

By Master Sgt. Paul A. Fazzini  
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — When planning a business trip, most people do not just jump in the car and drive.

They plan their trip carefully to ensure they reach their intended destination safely and on time.

Service members traveling into and out of the Iraqi theater of operations must do the same, according to Sharon Boynton, the deputy director of global channel operations at the tanker airlift control center here.

When people receive travel orders, one of their first stops should be their installation transportation office, Boynton said. This helps ensure they can travel on an Air Mobility Command “Patriot Express” commercial mission.

“The problem, however, is that many people know there are military aircraft moving cargo to a theater location and believe they can just show up to a port like Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and get on a flight. Our number one priority, in AMC, is movement of warfighter sustainment cargo,” she said.

Combatant commanders may request

channel validation for three types of movement: cargo, passenger, or both cargo and passenger.

It is important for Iraq-bound travelers to understand why there may not be space offered for passenger movement on an aircraft headed in their direction, she said.

“Currently, there are no validated passenger missions from Ramstein directly into Iraq,” said Boynton, “only cargo missions. The combatant commander’s priority is movement of sustainment cargo. When passengers ride on military aircraft, there is less space available to move palletized cargo and vehicles.

To help alleviate the need to create new missions validated for passengers, and to avoid a backlog of weary passengers, U.S. Central Command officials directed the Patriot Express as the preferred travel mode through Al Udeid, Qatar, and Kuwait to get to Iraq, according to Brig. Gen. Paul J. Selva, the TACC’s commander.

“If you are bound for a destination in Iraq, plan your travel with your installation transportation officer as early as possible for booking on a Patriot Express mission to a theater hub location,” Selva said.

## Airman of Year packages due by Sept. 30

Cargo Courier Staff Report

It's the time of year again for supervisors, first sergeants and commanders to start thinking about Airman of the Year selections for 2003.

All nominations are due to the military personnel flight no later than the close of business on Sept. 30, according to State Headquarters Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Grant and Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Mitro.

Each unit may submit a nominee for each category — airman, noncommissioned officer and senior noncommissioned officer.

Each package should contain a letter from the unit commander stating why the individual should be selected, an Air Force form 1206, a biography, and a letter to the state command chief master sergeant stating that the nominee meets all of criteria listed in KyANG instruction 36-2801, paragraph 5.5.

Biographies should follow the format shown in Air National Guard instruction 36-2802, attachment 5.

Guidelines for completing an Air Force form 1206 can be found in Air Force instruction 36-2805, paragraphs 3.4 through 3.4.6.2.3.

The command chiefs ask those nominating troops to keep in mind that each candidate is being nominated for the past year's performance, not an entire career.

For more information, contact Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Mitro at ext. 4465 or Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Grant at ext. 4100.

# MDS troop gives birth with deployed husband on phone

By Senior Airman Jason Hobgood  
123rd Medical Squadron

Isabella Faith Billings was born an instant celebrity in her hometown of Lexington, Ky., when the media came out to cover her birth on April 29.

Her mother, Tech. Sgt. Brooke Davison-Billings, a member of the 123rd Medical Squadron here, gave birth to the blue-eyed baby girl while her husband was deployed to an undisclosed location in the Persian Gulf supporting the Global War on Terror.

Although Tech. Sgt. Michael John Billings, of the Tennessee Air National Guard's 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, missed seeing the child's birth, he was able to hear it — listening to the entire delivery via long-distance speaker telephone.

"Of course I was sad that I couldn't physically be there, but I was fortunate enough to listen in by telephone and hear my baby's first cry," Billings said.

In addition, he was able to see a picture of his baby girl within minutes of her birth, thanks to a snapshot taken with a digital camera and

transmitted halfway around the world.

As for how he felt about being away from home during the critical months before and after the labor, Billings said, "Our church family is wonderful and has been very supportive, so I had no worries."

Davison-Billings agreed, saying she is thankful for the support from the church community, which helped make everything as comfortable as possible.

The new mother also said she willingly accepted the reasons for her husband's long absence.

"I was raised in the military and totally understand that my husband and I both have a duty to serve our country whenever we are called upon," Davison-Billings said.

Michael Billings has now returned home to his family of four.



**TOP RIGHT:** Tech. Sgt. Brooke Davison-Billings talked with her deployed husband, Tech. Sgt. Michael Billings, via speakerphone during labor, giving birth to their second child, Isabella Faith, on April 29. Local Lexington news media covered the story.



**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Davison-Billings holds her new baby shortly after giving birth. Digital photos were e-mailed to her husband within minutes of the child's arrival.

Photos courtesy of  
Tech. Sgt.  
Brooke Davison-Billings



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

## FITNESS FEVER

The new base fitness center officially opened July 13 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that featured (left to right) Senior Airman Chevon Griffith, a wing services specialist, Capt. Rodney Boyd, the services commander, Brig. Gen. Hank Morrow, KyANG chief of staff, Capt. Kristin Knuteson, wing fitness program manager, Col. Mark Kraus, acting wing commander, and Senior Airman Heather Marshall, a services specialist.

The facility, which offers new cardiovascular and strength equipment — including a treadmill, elliptical trainer and 13 Nautilus machines — is open to all members.

## Quit juggling your time and start balancing it

Do you ever find yourself struggling to balance work, family and personal needs?

Many of us are discovering that a life of rushed, out-of-control days hardly brings happiness.

Especially if one spouse is deployed, the spouse left at home has to learn to manage finances, children and work without any help.

If you're feeling the crunch from too much to do and too little time, here are a few simple tips for getting a handle on your time.

— First list your priorities and goals, then analyze how your time matches up. Consider giving more time to the people and activities that are most important to you and less time to things that are less important.

— Do a quick budget review. Identify areas where you can cut back on spending. As you spend less money, you won't have to worry as much about working so many hours to afford what you buy.

— Avoid debt. Don't buy what you don't need and can't afford. Sometimes, people buy things when they're feeling stressed. Increasing debt increases stress, and it can turn into a vicious circle leading to more debt and stress — and less time.

— Turn off the TV. Television is one of the easiest ways to

waste time without even realizing it.

— Escape from your cell phone, pager and fax machine when you leave work. You're not required to be available to other people 24/7.

— Give away items that clutter your home and haven't been used for at least six months.

— If you have children at home and they want to participate in extracurricular activities, limit their participation to one at a time. Setting this limit will reduce car pool demands as well as the stress of juggling too many activities at once. Your children might even enjoy the extra time with you.

— Ask for help if you need it! We were not created to live in isolation. No single person can be expected to do it all.

We all need support from time to time, whether it's with chores around the house, childcare or running errands.

If you need help getting a handle on your time, contact our Family Readiness Team at 364-9647.

Remember, it's your life and your time. Start balancing your time today!

—Maj. Fred Ehrman  
Wing Chaplain

## Chaplain's Column

# Promotions, retirements & separations



*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)**

•**Jennifer Cambron,**  
123rd Mission Support Flt.

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

•**Keith Collins,**  
123 Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**Jeffrey Higgs,**  
165th Airlift Sq.  
•**Adrien Martin,**  
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.  
•**Remiah Newton,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

## **STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)**

•**Jonathan Bannister II,**  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.  
•**Anthony Cortese,**  
123rd Special Tactics Sq.  
•**Mason Hoyt,**  
123rd Special Tactics Sq.  
•**Cutty Parker,**  
123rd Services Sq.  
•**Darrell Roof,**  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

## **TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**

•**Craig Beck,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**William Christopher Jr.,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.  
•**Karen Fulton,**  
123rd Mission Support Flt.  
•**Michael Herrell,**  
123rd Medical Sq.

•**Richard Jackson Jr.,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

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

•**Staff Sgt. Scott Sychala,**  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

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

•**Senior Airman Robert Huff,**  
123rd Communications Flt.  
•**Senior Airman Robert Mack,**  
123rd Mission Support Flt.  
•**Senior Airman Craig Wiseman,**  
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

## Baghdad

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to hit the ground and stared from ground zero without much support," Dunn added.

"I think it speaks volumes that our guys were tabbed for the force-protection command-and-control duties upon their arrival and continued up until the time they redeployed."

These men, Dunn said, can do the job any time, in any environment, under the most stressful conditions and with a commitment that allows them to excel.

"This group was all-volunteer, and their desire to serve their country was the overriding reason for a successful mission," Dunn said.

"Every one of these folks had to adapt to the situation and were successful only because of their training, attitudes, work ethic and commitment.

"I am proud of each and every one of these guys and would go to war with them anytime, anywhere."

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**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

# War rages on — KyANG troops still essential

**G**reetings from the desert. As I write this, many members of the Thoroughbred Express are still deployed around the world doing the important work of our country.

Many of our members have been deployed away from their families and their civilian employers for more than five months now, and many folks are asking why it's been so long — and when they will be home.

While I am not in control of when we come home — and, as I write this, I do not know the answer — I can give you my thoughts on why we have been here so long.

The answer is simple: Our country still needs us.

We all signed up for the military because we wanted to serve our country. Many of us joined the active duty Air Force first and then joined the Guard as a way to keep serving because we enjoyed it, and considered it an important part of our lives.

Others joined the Guard right out of high school or college for the same reasons.

As much as we enjoyed the flying, the educational benefits, the money and the good times, we all realized that we were in the Guard to serve our community, state and nation in times of peace and war.

Make no mistake about it — we are still at war. The Global War on Terror is still raging.

American soldiers are still fighting and dying in Iraq, and evil forces are still plotting to destroy our American way of life all over the world.

Many times we have heard the leaders of the Air Force say that they can not go to war



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

without the Air National Guard.

This always makes us feel good. We thump our chest and say, "Damn right!"

We pride ourselves on having good equipment and trained people ready to go on short notice.

So the answer to the question of why we are still in the desert is simply that the Air Force really can't go to war without us!

There is a need for a certain number of C-130s to fight this war.

The fact that we have 12 of the best-equipped and maintained aircraft, and a bunch of the best-trained and most experi-

enced crews in the Air Force, is the reason we are still here.

The Air Force really can't do it without us, and I am damned proud of that fact.

I am damned proud of every member of the Thoroughbred Express, the folks in the desert, the folks in Germany and the folks at home supporting us.

Wars are not like a basketball or football game. They don't run on a time clock where the game is over in 40 or 60 minutes. They also seldom run as planned.

We are still here because there is a need for us to be here.

This is what we train to do, and our Air Force is using us to do what we take pride in doing.

We all want to go home, and there may be some legitimate questions as to why other units have not come over to replace us. I will leave that for others to ask.

As for me, I have faith that the leadership of the Air Force and the Air National Guard is working to get us home when it is right for the country and the war effort.

While they do that, I am satisfied that what we are doing is important, and we are doing our duty as citizens and airmen with honor and excellence.

I am honored to serve with each and everyone of you.

I pray every day that each member of the Thoroughbred Express returns home safely, and with the pride of knowing that they simply did their duty.

Thanks Loads!

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

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# SFS airmen spend 2 months at Baghdad IAP

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"I was glad to be there and wanted to know what I could do to help," he said.

Because the team members landed at night wearing night-vision goggles, it was difficult for them to get an adequate assessment of the environment beyond their immediate perimeter.

"The next day, we were able to see the massive destruction," Doran recalled. "Ammo laying on the ground, bombs on the sides of buildings, holes in the ground, bullet holes and shattered glass."

The young airman, who joined the KyANG three years ago, had been home from basic training and his initial security forces school for only a few days when terrorists struck America on Sept. 11, 2001.

Days later, he was called to active duty for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, and he has served full-time in the unit ever since.

What Doran initially thought would be a way to pay for college has turned out to be much more — a roller coaster ride that took him to the other side of the world and back.

During his stay in Iraq, Doran said, he re-

mained pretty calm, but he also admits to a couple of frightening moments.

"The only time my adrenaline really got pumping was when we noticed that the bombs were getting close," Doran said.

In time, however, the men grew accustomed to the sound of gunfire and the sight

they had encountered a stroke of luck — air conditioning.

Unfortunately, when they took a closer look, they discovered the windows of the building had been blown out from bombings.

MREs quickly became a way of life, and showers were out of the question.

The men finally took their first showers more than a month into the 60-day deployment, and they received their first hot meals only three days before they departed for home.

Capt. James Dunn, commander of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, said he was extremely pleased with the way the troops handled their deployment.

"Their performance was outstanding," Dunn said.

"They were thrust into very austere conditions, performing a new and unique mission, and they were flawless.

"Under their watch, there was not a single incident with an Air Force asset. They were the first Air Force security forces

“**Every one of these folks had to adapt to the situation and were successful only because of their training, attitudes, work ethic and commitment. I am proud of each and every one of these guys and would go to war with them any time, anywhere.**”

—Capt. James Dunn  
123rd Security Forces Squadron Commander

of exploding bombs.

It became what Doran called "normal."

When the team finally was able to get some sleep during those first nights, they unrolled their sleeping bags and laid on the tarmac.

Eventually, the group was relocated to an airport building where the airmen thought

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## CES, MPF receive honors

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tiple deployments after Sept. 11, 2001.

Chief Master Sgt. Elizabeth Green, military personnel



flight superintendent, said the unit's workload has tripled since the terrorists attacks of 2001, requiring many traditional Guard members to work full-time for the flight.

Those airmen, Green said, have allowed the unit to step up to the challenges of the increased workload.

"Our traditionals have been a godsend to us," Green said.

The latest honor means the flight now has been named the top Air Guard personnel unit in six of the past 10 years — an enviable record of excellence that Green attributes to hard work.

"We always go above and beyond," Green said. "That's why the wing wins so many awards."

Lt. Col. Dawn Muller, commander of the military personnel flight, said she is proud of the unit's accomplishments.

"They're just a super bunch of people," she said. "They work hard, and they're here because they want to be."

**Col. Mark Kraus, acting commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, praises the performance of the civil engineers squadron and military personnel flight during a flightline ceremony here July 13.**

Photo by Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

# Chief of staff promoted to brigadier general

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell  
Cargo Courier Editor

Kentucky Air Guard Chief of Staff Hank Morrow was promoted to brigadier general during a ceremony held in the Base Annex June 30.

Morrow, who joined the Kentucky Air Guard in March 2002, previously served in the active-duty Air Force and in the Texas Air Guard.

In his current position, Morrow also serves as Air National Guard advisor to the Air Force assistant surgeon general for expeditionary operations, science and technology. Additionally, he is a member of the Department of Defense directed energy weapons collection and analysis task force for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Morrow began his 24-year military career in 1978 after receiving a commission through the University of Clemson's ROTC program.

He was an outstanding graduate of undergraduate pilot training and has served as an F-111 Aardvark and F-16 Strike Eagle instructor pilot.

His flying assignments include tours at Lakenheath Royal Air Force Base, United Kingdom; Hahn Air Base, Germany; and Hill Air Force Base, Utah, where he served as a squadron and wing weapons officer.



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

**Hank Morrow, the Kentucky Air Guard chief of staff, receives his brigadier general star from his wife and Maj. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, the state adjutant general, during a ceremony here June 30. Morrow has spent 24 years in the military.**

In 1988, Morrow left active duty to join the Texas Air Guard, where he held various positions through the years, including commander of the 149th Fighter Wing.

Morrow received a bachelor's of science degree in administrative management from

the University of Clemson in 1977 and a masters of aeronautical science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in 1984.

The general is a combat veteran and command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in trainer and fighter aircraft.

## Promotions

**RIGHT: Glenn Farquhar receives his chief master sergeant stripes at a ceremony in the Base Annex during the June drill. Lt. Col. Connie Allen (left), commander of the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron, and Farquhar's wife, Rose, did the honors of replacing his epaulets.**



**ABOVE: Maj. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, the state's adjutant general, promotes Bill Ketterer to colonel with the help of Ketterer's wife, Cathy Jacob. The pinning ceremony took place during the July drill.**

*Photos by Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG*