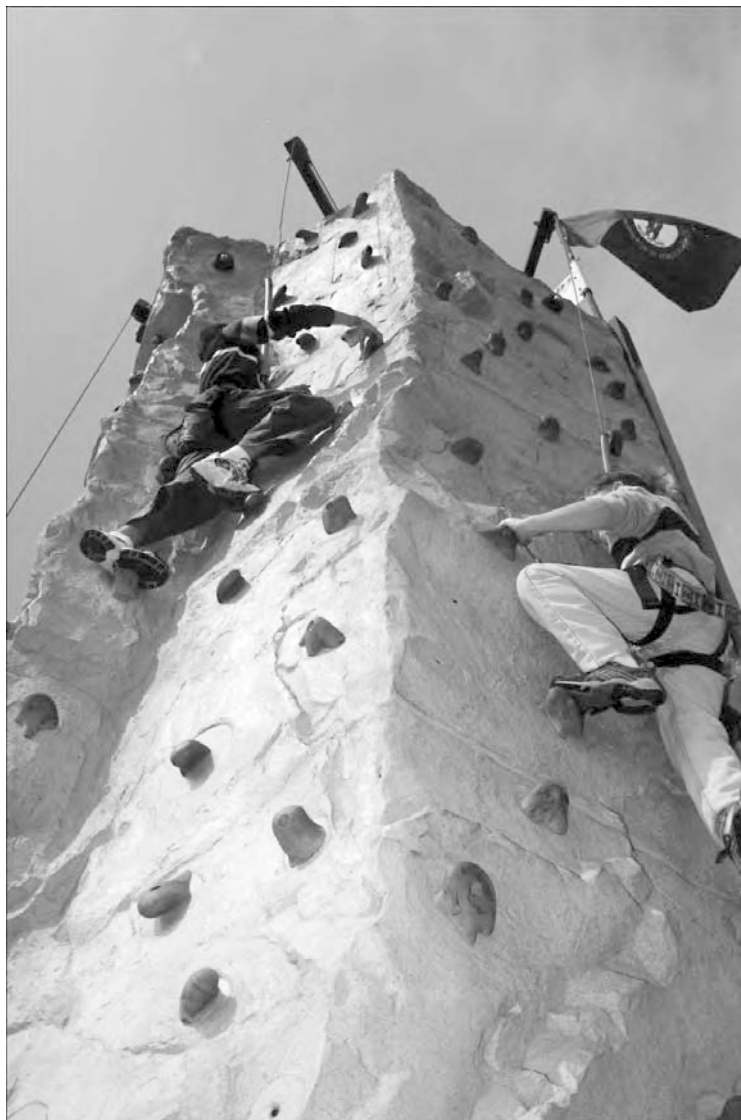


THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XVI, No. 10 • Dec. 2, 2000

Aiming High



Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Visitors to the KyANG tested their rock-climbing skills during Family Day 2000, held on base Oct. 22. A record crowd of more than 2,200 guard members, retirees and families turned out for the event, which featured a chili luncheon, games, an aircraft static display and live military demonstrations. See story and additional photos on Page 4.

KyANG members deploying for AEFs

By 1st Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The first 40 of more than 580 Kentucky Air Guard members began deploying overseas yesterday in support of Air Force missions around the world.

From now through March 5, KyANG personnel will provide critical assets as part of Air Expeditionary Forces based in Germany and Southwest Asia. Other unit members will be sent to South America to participate in drug interdiction efforts.

The largest contingent of Kentucky forces—nearly 470 aircrew, maintenance and support personnel—will operate from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in support of Operation Joint Forge, the multinational peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Their job will be to fly resupply missions into locations like Sarajevo and Tuzla, Bosnia, as well as Tazsar, Hungary.

During the deployment, Kentucky aircrews and maintainers will be working in concert with counterparts from the active-duty Air Force and Air Guard units in North Carolina, Ohio and Wyoming.

Kentucky's 123rd Airlift Wing, which will serve as the lead Air Guard unit for Operation Joint Forge, also will undergo an inspection to determine the unit's combat readiness.

Other KyANG members will deploy to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey in support of operations Joint Forge, Southern Watch and Northern Watch. The latter two missions are responsible for enforcing no-fly zones imposed upon Iraq following the Gulf War.

Finally, a small group of Kentucky airmen will deploy to Curacao Island, the Netherlands Antilles, in support of U.S. drug interdiction efforts throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Most of the deploying Kentucky airmen will serve

See *DEPLOYMENT*, Back Page

Election recounts prove value of each vote

As Florida's ongoing election saga grows more contentious each day, one undisputed fact has emerged: Every vote matters.

This became obvious immediately after the election, when Florida voting officials tallied their presidential ballots by machine—twice—and found George W. Bush to be ahead by a mere 300 votes. Such a margin of victory was, according to election experts, within the vote-counting machines' margin of error.

Vice President Al Gore subsequently pressed his case for manual recounts in selected Florida counties, and Bush forces understandably protested.

The result was a fusillade of lawsuits—more than a dozen in both federal and state jurisdictions, with one going all the way to the Florida Supreme Court and another headed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The importance of each vote only grew more clear after county election officials were given the go-ahead to begin manual recounts of the punch-card ballots used throughout the Sunshine State.

That's because many voters apparently failed to punch their ballots adequately, leaving little pieces of hanging paper, called chads, that partially obstructed the holes indicating which candidates the voters intended to elect.

To address this issue, election officials decided they would make judgement calls as to whether a voter actually meant to punch a hole—a process that has led to even more lawsuits.

To ensure the evaluative recount was as fair as possible, *every single ballot was inspected by representatives from each party*. If the Democrat and Republican representatives could not agree on a given voter's intentions, a third and impartial official made the call.

The process was so contentious that one Republican observer was forcibly removed from a county election office for challenging too many ballot decisions.

So the next time you think your vote doesn't matter, just remember the 2000 Presidential election, when scores of attorneys and political operatives fought tooth-and-nail for every single chad.

Remember, too, that you joined the Air National Guard to defend the democratic process with your life, if necessary. Your vote is precious. And it most certainly matters.

1st Lt. Dale Greer is the wing's public affairs officer.

'Tis the season to celebrate the gift of families

As we approach a holiday that for many has significant religious meaning, I would like to suggest that for this Christmas, we celebrate a gift that we all have and take part in—the gift of family.

As a Benedictine monk, I am part of a community of men who live a life of devoted to prayer and work.

Prayer and work in this case that is all centered on God.

It is more than just a bunch of men living in a common place. We are a family. We have made commitments to each other and our community.

It was just October that I joined the Ken-

tucky Air National Guard as the new Catholic Chaplain. I find that in addition to being a member of my monastic family, I have now joined a new family, one that took on real meaning as I met many of your families during Family Day.

In the Guard as in our own families, we have and will commit ourselves to each other.

It is within this context of family that we develop our personal identities as individuals and as members of our communities.

It should be to these families that we turn in both times of joy and sorrow, for our families should be a source of support and love.

In this imperfect world, we find that not

all families can or will meet the needs placed on them, but hopefully in these cases we are lucky to be members of another type of family, such as the Guard, which will step up to the call.

For Catholics, the first Sunday after Christmas is always celebrated as the Feast of the Holy Family, but it also honors all our families.

Let us this season celebrate our gift of family, and let this gift challenge us to make our families holier day by day.

Maj. Patrick Cooney is the wing's new Catholic chaplain

This funded Air Force newspaper is published for members of the military services. Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited and prepared by the public affairs office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville International Airport, Louisville, Ky. 40213-2678.

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 27.

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

Higher Calling

Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini presents Father John Cusack with a Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal Nov. 19 in appreciation for his service to the Kentucky Air Guard.

Father Cusack acted as the Kentucky Air Guard's auxiliary Catholic priest during the selection process for a permanent Catholic chaplain.



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

KyANG invited to hockey game

By Staff Sgt. Dave Tors
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

By popular demand, the KyANG Human Relations Council and Louisville Panthers hockey team are inviting Guard members, friends and families to Freedom Hall on Jan. 6 to watch the Panthers play the Kentucky Thoroughblades.

The idea originated almost a year ago when the HRC began searching for ways to improve morale and camaraderie in the wing.

"Some of the feedback we were getting from the unit reps was that there seems to have been a loss of camaraderie," said Capt. Beth Leistensnider, assistant chief of the military equal opportunity office.

"We don't take deployments anymore as a whole wing. We haven't done that in years. So it was suggested that we do something fun on a drill weekend. We conducted a survey and asked people what activity they might be interested in. It was unanimous that a

sporting event would be the favorite thing."

Of the sporting events, baseball and hockey were chosen as the ones people would most likely attend, Leistensnider said.

"It's going to be like 'Guard Night with the Louisville Panthers.' There will be 500 reserved seats, promotional giveaways, and games at halftime.

"We're also going to have an information booth set up at Freedom Hall," Leistensnider added.

Today the Panthers will hold a demonstration on base called Hockey 101. The team's mascot and players will be on hand to answer questions about the sport.

Ticket prices for the Jan. 6 game, which begins at 7:30 p.m., are \$9 for adults and \$6.50 for children 12 & under.

Volunteers are needed to work the information booth at Freedom Hall.

For information call Staff Sgt. Latonia Trowell at ext. 4404.

MPF collects toys for the needy

This holiday season the 123rd Military Personnel Flight will be collecting toys for the Wayside Christian Mission, which will donate the toys to needy families.

"We wanted to do something nice this year," said Master Sgt. Sissy Green, chief of the personnel. "We wanted to start a little earlier than usual so we could have plenty of time to get as much together as we can for the kids."

Green said the MPF had a choice between donating coats or toys. Since the aerial port squadron will be collecting coats, the MPF decided it would collect toys.

The two units also will help each other out with collection efforts.

Toys should be new and in the original packaging.

However, used video games such as Nintendo cartridges and Playstation CD-ROMs will be accepted.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Sissy Green at ext. 4622.

Dates announced for 2001 UTAs

Next year's unit training assembly dates for the Kentucky Air National Guard:

January	6-7
February	3-4
March	3-4
April	7-8
May	19-20
June	9-10
July	14-15
August	11-12
September	15-16
October	13-14
November	3-4
December	1-2

All members must participate in scheduled UTAs unless attending a split or rescheduled UTA as authorized by their commanders.

KENTUCKY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Family Day '00



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

ABOVE: Master Sgt. Jerome Davis of the 123rd Communications Flight enjoys chili with his family in the hangar.

2,200 attend fun-filled day

**By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor**

Warm temperatures, blue skies and smiling faces helped draw a record crowd to Family Day 2000.

More than 2,200 unit members and their families gathered here Oct. 22 to eat lunch, play games and see military displays.

Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, who helped organize the event, was pleased with its success.

"I've heard comments from around the base that people thought Family Day 2000 was, without a doubt, the best in our unit history."

One reason for that success, Frymire said, was the variety of new activities.

Family Day 2000 featured a unit competition fire truck pull which included the participation of family members.

Eighteen teams competed to see who could pull the truck in the fastest time over a 12-foot course.

The 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron walked away with top honors this year, logging a time of 6.56 seconds.

In addition to the fire truck pull, seven new children's games were added.

"The goal was to create a fun day to enrich morale for unit members and their families," Frymire said. "And I believe we came through with winning colors."

RIGHT: Raymond Palazzo, son of Airman 1st Class Michael Palazzo, tries out one of the Family Day 2000 features.



Master

ABOVE: Maj. Ken Dale of the 165th Airlift Squadron helps Master Sgt. Baylee to get their lunch.



Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG



Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

TOP RIGHT: The 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron won the fire truck pull with a time of 6.56 seconds. Team members were, in front from left, Staff Sgt. Jim Burns, Jeremy Burns, Senior Airman William Christopher, Master Sgt. Dee Riggle, Tech. Sgt. Juanita Kirker, Tech. Sgt. Ronnie Clayton, Senior Master Sgt. Steve Peters; in back from left, Lt. Col. Tom Marks, Tech. Sgt. Teddy Hoskins, Rosemary Hoskins, Staff Sgt. Patricia Smith, Senior Airman Doug Thiery, Senior Master Sgt. Tony Hettinger, Maj. Connie Allen and Master Sgt. Marty Fautz.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The civil engineers pull diligently to defeat the 165th Airlift Squadron in the grand championship. Other units that advanced to the finals were the aerial port squadron, services flight and communications flight.

adron takes daughter

Team wins individual honors during national pistol match

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Members of the Kentucky National Guard Pistol Team once again had a fine showing during the Winston P. Wilson national match at Camp Robinson, Ark., in October.

Two of the team's members from the Air Guard, Master Sgt. Rich Martin and Tech. Sgt. Darryl Loafman walked away with honors.

Martin earned the gold distinguished shooters badge for his participation in the Excellence in Competition match.

Meanwhile, Loafman received a bronze rifle badge and an invitation to try out for the All Guard Pistol Team, composed of competitors from across the country.

Both Martin's and Loafman's years of success were acknowledged by Army Maj. Gen. John R. Groves Jr., Kentucky's Adjutant General, and Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Satchwell.

Groves presented Loafman with a commemorative adjutant general coin while Satchwell presented Martin with a command sergeant major coin.

Martin has been on the pistol team since 1993 and Loafman since 1998.

Other team members include Army National Guard Sgt. James Dollar, Spec. Darren Thompson and Spec. Brian Roach.

The Wilson match, which only invites the top 10 percent of shooters, was the season finale for the pistol team.

The team claimed numerous awards during the season, including several at the Bluegrass Games held in Wilmore, Ky., in March.

The 2001 season is scheduled to begin in March, and both Martin and Loafman plan to hone their skills once again.

Interested individuals are encouraged to try out from the team at Fort Knox, Ky.

For more information, contact Martin at ext. 4337.

Dental plan to change in 2001

Guard members planning to enroll in the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program can expect changes immediately.

Effective Feb. 1, United Concordia Companies Inc. will begin administering the program. Previous dental benefits for reservists were administered by Humana Military Healthcare Services.

Another change will be the manner in which Guard members apply for the plan. In the past, unit personnel offices handled the process, but applications now will need to be submitted directly to United Concordia.

Those who currently have the Humana plan will automatically be transferred over, while new enrollees will have to submit an application no later than Jan. 1. Applications are available at www.ucci.com. or by calling 1 (888) 622-2256.

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:

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- Gregory Mattingly, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Andrew Short, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

- Anthony Brashear, 123rd Logistics Sq.
- William Christopher Jr., 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
- Robert Holland, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Bruce Slaughter, 123rd Maintenance Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

- George Schnell III, 165th Airlift Sq.

COLONEL (O-6)

- John Moore, 123rd Medical Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the U.S. Air Force:

- Senior Master Sgt. Paul Bell, 123rd Airlift Wing
- Tech. Sgt. Richard Buckles, 123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Conner, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Dionne, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Master Sgt. Barbara Hagans, 165th Aerial Port Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:

- Maj. Rochelle Brown, 123rd Mission Support Flt.
- Senior Airman Donald Busam, 205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Michael Butler, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Senior Airman Christopher Jones, 123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Airman 1st Class Andre Provencher, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Ildico Reeckmann, 123rd Logistics Sq.
- Senior Airman Donald Sleeter, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Senior Airman Scott Thornburg, 123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
- Capt. Stephen Wilkinson, 123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Senior Airman Matthew Wagner, 123rd Special Tactics Flt.

National Guard to benefit from NDAA

Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON—Nearly 1.4 million members of the National Guard and Reserve will benefit significantly from the \$309.9 billion fiscal 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which President Clinton signed into law Oct. 30.

Starting Jan. 1, Guard and Reserve members will see a 3.7 percent increase in drill and annual training pay, and numerous other incentives and benefits that the Department of Defense believes will keep them in uniform longer and attract more young people to join the force.

National Guard and Reserve members now can receive credit for up to 90 points each year for inactive duty training and completion of correspondence courses and membership in the Guard or Reserve.

This is a 15-point-per-year increase over the previous limit.

Now Guard and Reserve members who perform additional drills and complete additional study through correspondence courses to receive credit for their extra effort, which will be used to calculate their Reserve retired pay.

Also included are improvements in special pays and benefits.

"The 2001 NDAA helps every man and woman in this force - active, Guard and Reserve," said Charles L. Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

"We are so fortunate to have the most dedicated, hardest working military force in the world"

"The authorization act gives them the tools to do their jobs while improving their quality of life and taking care of their families," Cragin said.

The pay raise is not the only benefit to the act.

Now active and reserve personnel can participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) 180 days after the date of enactment of the act.

The secretary of defense may delay implementation for an additional 180 days if implementation at the specified date

would prevent the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board from being able to provide timely and accurate services to investors or would place an excessive burden on the administrative capacity of the board to accommodate participants in the TSP.

Some delay is likely due to the need for system changes.

It authorizes \$668.8 million for National Guard and Reserve military construction (MILCON), an increase of \$446.8 million above the president's budget.

The fiscal 2001 MILCON authorization is \$24.2 million more than the fiscal 2000 MILCON authorization for the National Guard and Reserve.

academies.

To be eligible for an appointment, the Reserve member must have been credited with at least eight years of service computed for Reserve retirement, which is 2,880 retirement points, or have qualified for a non-regular retirement, gray area and age 60 retirees.

Also, service secretaries will now be paid by either drill pay or the \$50 stipend to Guard and Reserve members when training for or performing funeral honors in the new funeral honors duty status, which was established last year.

Previously, members were authorized only the \$50 stipend.

Also, Guard and Reserve members who are injured or become ill while in a funeral honors duty status are now eligible for incapacitation pay.

The act recognizes the increased responsibility placed on mid-grade enlisted members by providing an added pay increase for enlisted personnel in the pay grades of E-5 through E-7.

This pay increase will take effect on July 1, 2001, and is in addition to the Jan. 1, 2001,

pay increase.

The act will allow National Guard and Reserve members and their dependents legal assistance for their personal legal affairs (subject to the availability of legal staff) following release from active duty from a mobilization for more than 30 days.

If legal staff is available, assistance can be provided for at least twice as long as the period of mobilization.

It specifies that Reserve forces medical officers are authorized their special pay while performing any type of active duty including annual training, active duty for training, active duty for special work and active duty.

It also makes clear that Guard and Reserve medical and dental officers may not be paid the Reserve and active duty special pay at the same time.

The act expands TRICARE Prime Remote and eliminates co-payments under TRICARE Prime for Service member's immediate family.

“We are so fortunate to have the most dedicated, hardest working military force in the world. The authorization act gives them the tools to do their jobs while improving their quality of life and taking care of their families.”

—Charles L. Cragin
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs

This increase funds construction for 61 new projects for Guard and Reserve facilities.

The act also authorizes approximately \$2.3 billion for National Guard and Reserve equipment, including the president's budget request of \$1.3 billion and congressional adds of \$1 billion.

In addition to this, the Air National Guard received authorization for one EC-130J aircraft from Congress, plus funding for F-15 countermeasures dispensers, F-16 Block 42 Engine Retrofit, and KC-135 re-engineing kits in addition to the president's Budget.

The Air Force Reserve received authorization for the amount requested in the president's budget.

The 2001 NDAA also allows the president to appoint children of National Guard and Reserve personnel to the Service academies.

Each year the president may select 100 children of armed forces members to attend

Williams leaves unit

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Col. Robert Williams said farewell to the Kentucky Air Guard in November to pursue a career in the Air Force Reserves.

Williams, who joined the Air Guard in 1967 and most recently served as commander of the 123rd Support Group, began his career as an airman in base administration. While enlisted, he achieved the rank of master sergeant and served in several positions across the base.

In 1977, Williams received a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Louisville, and in 1978 was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He returned to KyANG and served as the unit's budget chief.

In 1982 he was selected as the comptroller, a position he held until being appointed commander of the 123rd Support Group in 1992.

Williams major accomplishments include participating in the 1968 Pueblo Crisis, overseeing the base relocation, coordinating the unit's statewide flood response in 1997, and playing a lead role in the Air Force 50th anniversary celebration.



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Col. Bill Leslie, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, presents Col. Robert Williams with a Kentucky Colnel Certificate at his farewell dinner in November. Williams served in the KyANG for more than 33 years.

Deployment

Continued from Front Page

on rotations lasting about 20 days.

The Kentucky Air Guard's participation in all four missions is part of the Air Force's relatively new Expeditionary Aerospace Forces concept.

Under the concept, designed to eliminate the unpredictable nature of reserve deployments in recent years, the Kentucky Air Guard will be tapped for major deployments only during a 90-day window every 15 months.

The Kentucky Air Guard deployed in support of the Bosnian mission in 1996, 1997 and 1999; and Operation Southern Watch in 1997 and 1999.

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