

THE

CARGO COURIER



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

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Ky. maintainers shine in Egypt's Bright Star 1997

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air Guard's maintenance troops once again set the standard for combat readiness when the wing completed its role in a recent Egyptian training exercise without missing a single mission.

Kentucky aircrews flew more than 30 sorties during the October deployment, providing airlift services for Bright Star 1997, a multinational effort designed to test the readiness and interoperability of U.S., Egyptian and coalition forces.

The Kentucky unit's 100 percent mission-readiness rate is virtually unheard of in the active duty force, said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Hall, who served as production superintendent on the deployment. For the Kentucky Air Guard, however, it was business as usual.

"We never dropped a mission for anything during the deployment," Hall said. "If we had a write-up for repairs to an aircraft, we were able to fix it that night. That's a reflection of our maintenance folks and the training that we undergo on a day-to-day basis. Our aircraft are constantly maintained in a ready state.

"When you're that well-trained and that well-prepared, you're ready to go into these kinds of scenarios at any time."

The Bright Star scenario centered around a mock war in the Egyptian desert near Cairo West, where 90 Kentucky Guardsmen were based Oct. 20-30.

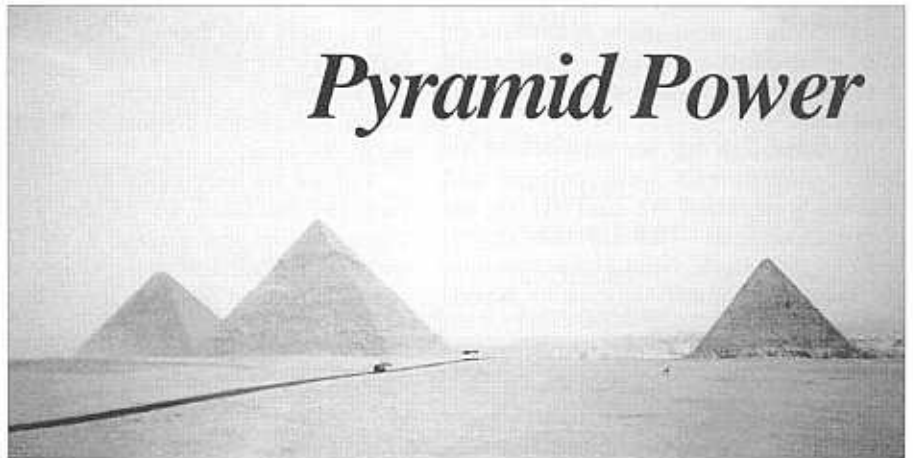
They joined forces with more than 7,000 other troops representing England, France, Italy, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and every branch of the U.S. military.

The Kentucky Air Guard — which was the only Air Force component to provide C-130s for the operation — deployed four aircraft for resupply missions and paratrooper drops. The U.S. Marine Corps contributed two C-130s for helicopter refueling, and a



Photos by Tech. Sgt. John Martin/KyANG

Members of the wing's 123rd Aircraft Generation and Maintenance squadrons achieved a 100 percent aircraft readiness rate during their deployment to Egypt.



Pyramid Power

British Hercules was used for heavy equipment drops.

Although the weather was relatively cool, the environment presented one unexpected nuisance for the 28 Kentucky maintainers who deployed from the unit's 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron and 123rd Maintenance Squadron: All repairs had to be accomplished on the tarmac amid a constant swirl of airborne sand.

See **BRIGHT STAR** on Page 5

People form foundation of Air Force's past — and future

I

t is a great honor to be selected to be the chief of staff of America's Air Force.

Jane and I are excited about the new challenges before us and proud to be able to represent and serve the outstanding men and women of the United States Air Force.

I know if my father were here today, he would be very proud, too, not just for our family, but for our great Air Force family to which he dedicated a lifetime of service.

The Air Force my father knew was different from the one we know today. We are much smaller, much more modern, coherent and capable. And that is because of the vision and efforts of all the past leaders of our Air Force, like him and many who are here today.

They built a force with a tremendous heritage, which we celebrate this year during our 50th anniversary as a separate service.

But separate does not mean alone or apart. We, the Air Force, are absolutely committed to being full partners in America's joint military team.

We have the responsibility to present to our national leadership and our combatant commanders a potent, ready, responsive air and space force capable of meeting America's global challenges as part of one joint team.

To accomplish that, we must be one Air Force, well-trained, well-equipped and seamlessly organized. We must leverage our core competencies — air and space superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superi-



Gen. Michael E. Ryan
Air Force Chief of Staff

ority and agile combat support — to respond to tomorrow's challenges.

Central to that vision is the air expeditionary concept, a concept that calls for rapid deployment and employment around the world.

It is more than force packaging. It embodies how we think, organize, deploy, support and employ. All elements — active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian — all performing as one force.

And we are very much more than one team and one force, we are also a family. Those families that succeed in the face of the greatest challenges do so because of trust — that bond that develops through caring,

mutual respect, mentoring and discipline. It is this delicate chemistry that must be preserved, especially when our institution is charged with protecting our nation, and entrusted with the lives of her sons and daughters to accomplish it.

That is why we will continue to hold our Air Force members to a higher level of personal accountability than is required outside the military. That is also why we will stand up for and support our commanders as they perform their critical and often dangerous missions.

We have many responsibilities to our people as their leaders. We can assure them that when they must go in harm's way, it is for a critical cause. And we can ensure that they have the best equipment and training to accomplish their mission. And we will.

We can also do everything possible to provide them the best quality of life we can, be responsive to their concerns and provide them the opportunity for a fulfilling family life. And we will. And when they must deploy, we must do all we can to ensure their families are secure and well-cared for. And we will. Most ask no more; we should provide no less.

Our Air Force family deserves a quality of life commensurate with that of the nation they are sworn to defend.

But the quality of the Air Force, whether in 1947 or 1997, is not measured in terms of new fighters, bombers, missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles or the weapons they carry. It's in the people who together have built the greatest air and space power team in the world. People are the strength of our past and the foundation of our future.

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Our phone number is (502) 364-9431. ☎

An electronic version of *The Cargo Courier* is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.kyang.win.net>

Wing Commander
Cargo Courier Editor
Digital Image Editor

Col. Michael Harden
Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the PA office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 16.



Staff Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Hall retires after 3 decades in Air Guard

Chief Master Sgt. Frank Hall retired from the Kentucky Air National Guard earlier this month after 34 years' service.

Hall, whose last duty assignment was maintenance supervisor for the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, enlisted in the unit in 1963 as an aircraft mechanic.

In the ensuing years, he repaired components on five different airframes, following the wing's progression from bombers to reconnaissance aircraft to cargo lifters.

Hall also spent a year and a half on active duty after Guardsmen were called to federal service for the Pueblo Crisis of 1968-69.

More recently, he served in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Operation Provide Promise.

Col. Bill Leslie, 123rd Airlift Wing vice commander, presents Chief Master Sgt. Frank Hall with the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal during a retirement ceremony last month.

Club, Family Support Group sponsoring Christmas activities

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air Guard's Thoroughbred Club and Family Support Group are sponsoring separate Christmas activities this month to provide a double dose of holiday cheer.

Santa Claus is scheduled to make an appearance in the Thoroughbred Dining Hall tomorrow from 2:30-4:30 p.m., courtesy of the Family Support Group.

Cookies and surprises will be provided for each child who visits, and parents may take a photo of their child with Santa for \$1.

Proceeds will help fund family support activities throughout the year, said group president Tommie Duke.

Adults haven't been left off Santa's list this year, either. The Thoroughbred Club will be holding its annual Christmas Dance on base Dec. 20.

This year's dance will be held in the Fuel Cell Hangar and features entertainment by The Rustics.

Doors open at 8 p.m., and the music begins at 9 p.m.

Tickets cost \$25 per couple or \$15 each. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Teresa Adams at ext. 4467 or Senior Master Sgt. Mike Mitro at ext. 4633.

1998 Drill Dates

January	10-11
February	7-8
March	7-8
April	4-5
May	16-17
June	6-7
July	11-12
August	15-16
September	12-13
October	3-4
November	7-8
December	5-6

Commander's Hotline

The 123rd Airlift Wing has a Commander's Hotline for comments, suggestions and concerns. On base, dial 4400, extension 8. Off base, call (502) 364-9400, extension 8.

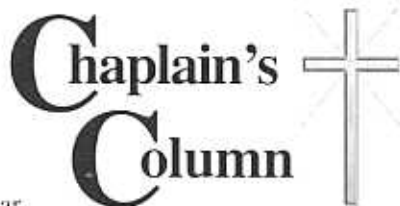
Wing collecting winter coats for Louisville-area homeless

The 123rd Aerial Port Squadron and the base Chaplain's Section will be collecting donations this drill for Operation Winter Coat.

This effort is our opportunity to provide clothing to homeless people in the Louisville area.

Approximately 7,000 people will need coats and sweaters this year. Louisville winters can be bitter cold. Imagine trying to survive a cold winter without a warm bed or a warm coat.

We can make a difference for a homeless person or family who needs our assistance.



Dig through your closet or ask your neighbor for a contribution to the clothing drive.

Then bring your donations to the base chaplain's office or the Aerial Port Squadron hangar.

Donations also will be taken during the January unit training assembly. Thank you for your compassionate response!

—Chaplain Thomas T. Curry

Contact Social Security now if you plan 1998 retirement

By Charles F. Schuler
Social Security Administration

If you're thinking about retiring next year, you should contact Social Security now to discuss your plans.

In some cases, your choice of retirement month could mean additional benefits for you and your family.

Because the computation of benefits varies based on your earnings for the year and month in which you file, it's a good idea to find out in advance what affects your decision will have.

Social Security rules permit people to work and receive retirement benefits at the same time, so it could be to your advantage to have your benefits begin in January, even if you don't plan to retire until later in the year.

This would allow you to apply earnings in excess of the annual limit to those months and still receive some benefits for the year.

In 1997, beneficiaries younger than 65 can earn up to \$8,640 with no reduction in Social Security benefits, and beneficiaries age 65-69 can earn up to \$13,500 with no reduc-

tion in benefits.

The amount a person can earn and still receive benefits increases each year with increases in average wages.

Of course, if you are 70 or older, your benefits will not be reduced no matter how much you earn.

The Social Security Administration began mailing benefit statements to people as young as 46 in October.

The statements show what you can expect to earn from your lifelong investment in the Social Security program, listing benefits at retirement age or earlier, if you should become disabled.

By the end of the decade, Social Security will be required by law to send statements to everyone 25 and older.

If you would like to begin planning your retirement, make an appointment to talk with a Social Security representative.

The Social Security Administration can be reached Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at (800) 772-1213. ☎

Computer net offers finance info

The Base Bulletin Board system now offers up-to-date information from the finance community.

Visitors to the Accounting and Finance section can read the latest finance news and find out when drill dates will be paid.

For more information, call ext. 4710. ☎

CFC drive collects \$27,000

The Kentucky Air National Guard ranked as one of Louisville's top contributors to this year's Combined Federal campaign, raising \$27,387.

The campaign provides funding for more than 100 local health and social service agencies, some of which have aided our own troops in their time of need.

Senate approves Weaver's promotion

The U.S. Senate approved the promotion of Paul A. Weaver Jr. to the rank of major general in October.

Weaver will assume the rank when he begins his duties as the director of the Air National Guard, replacing Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd.

The Senate also approved the promotion of Craig R. McKinley to the rank of brigadier general.

McKinley's promotion will take effect when he assumes his new duties as deputy director of the Air National Guard.

Bright Star gives KyANG opportunity to shine

Continued from Page 1

More serious was the sudden failure of the avionics and navigation systems on three of the unit's C-130s.

"It was very unusual to lose that many at one time," Hall said of the faulty systems. "Normally, you might lose one on a deployment like that."

Luckily, Hall's troops brought the necessary parts to fix one of the aircraft, and the other two were repaired after a Kentucky crew picked up additional components from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Challenges like that made Bright Star a valuable training experience for Kentucky troops, Hall said.

Lt. Col. Paul Rhodes, who served as detachment commander for Bright Star, agreed, noting that the wing met all its goals while operating in an austere desert environment.

"We operated without external support, virtually by ourselves, and performed very well," said Rhodes, who is commander of the wing's 165th Airlift Squadron.

"We were well-prepared in terms of personnel, and the attitude and cooperation shown by our people was outstanding.

"We came in here with high standards, and we met those standards."

The mission was successful in other ways, too.

One of its less tangible benefits was the goodwill it fostered between Egyptian and U.S. forces.

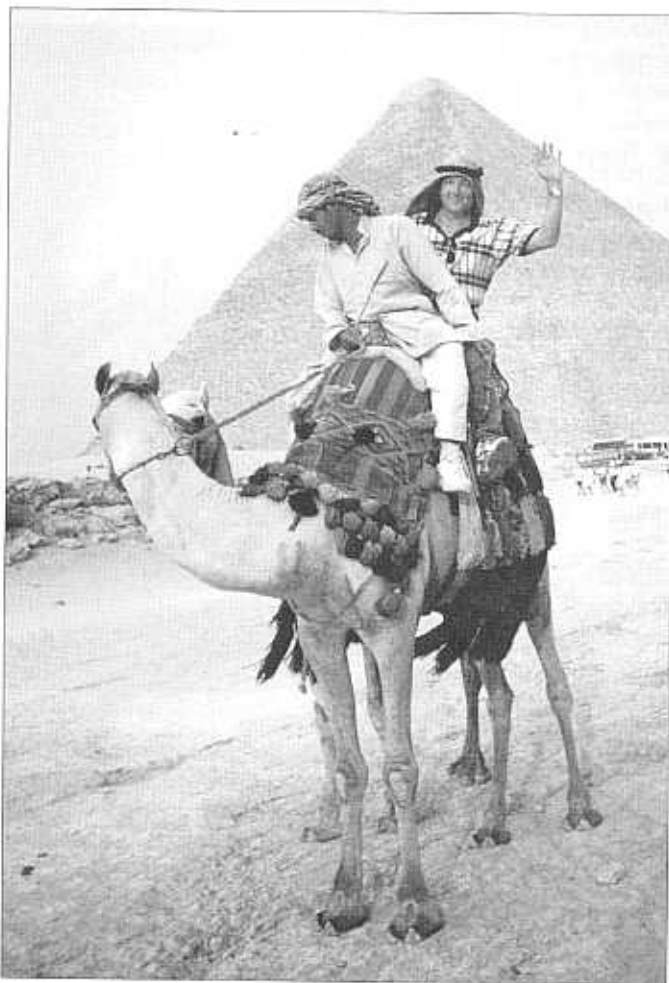
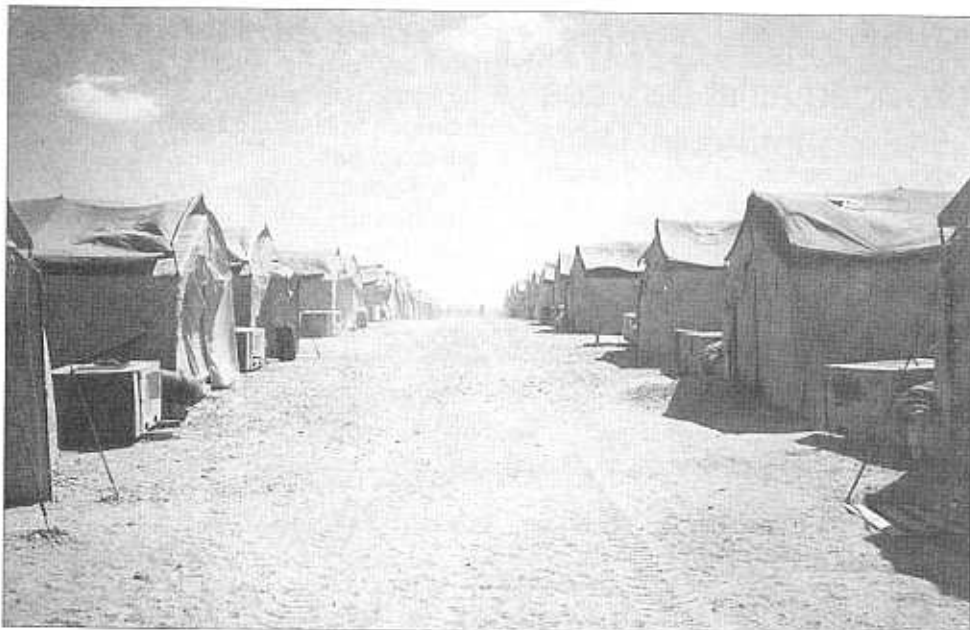
"We got pretty friendly with a sergeant in the Egyptian security forces and two of his associates," Hall said.

"We ate some Egyptian food that he brought in for us, and he showed us pictures of his family.

"The day that we left, he had tears in his eyes, and that surprised me.

"It was a little sad when you get on an airplane and this guy is standing there hollering your name as you're going up the steps.

"He was really upset to see us go because we had become good friends."



ABOVE: Kentucky Air Guard members were housed in air conditioned 'tent cities' during their deployment to Cairo West, Egypt. Each tent accommodates up to 10 people.

LEFT: Tech. Sgt. John Martin, the 123rd Airlift Wing historian, finds time on the deployment to try this local mode of transportation.

December ends year of global achievements

Thoroughbred Express provided airlift services in 10 countries in 1997

By Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Airlift Wing Historian

The year has been an especially active and significant one for the Thoroughbred Express.

The Kentucky Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force both celebrated their golden anniversaries this year amid unprecedented global change.

The growing importance of peacekeeping efforts and regional contingencies has continued to place the 123rd Airlift Wing at the forefront of these changes, from Europe to Southwest Asia.

Since January, the wing has deployed personnel to Ecuador, Venezuela, Belize, Saudi Arabia, Panama, Canada, Japan, Egypt, Germany, Spain, Nevada, Virginia, Georgia, Indiana, Wyoming, Hawaii and Arkansas.

That's 10 countries and eight states.

Meanwhile, the unit has renewed its commitment to helping those in need at home.

After some of the worst flooding of the century rolled through northcentral Kentucky this spring, the unit deployed more than 90 security forces, medical personnel and civil engineers to Franklin and Pendleton counties.

Things weren't quite so busy in 1973, however.

The country was in the midst of a crushing fuel shortage, with gasoline prices skyrocketing (hitting nearly 80 cents a gallon!) and every form of energy use coming under scrutiny.

That included the military operations of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Starting Dec. 17, the 123rd enforced a base stand-down of its aircraft that was to last until mid-January 1974.

Luckily, this energy crisis, as President Nixon termed it, didn't last too long, and the unit soon returned to normal operations.

Those operations reached a turning point in December 1988, when the wing flew its first C-130 mission and began a transition from aerial reconnaissance to military airlift.

A Kentucky aircrew flew the unit's lone Hercules to Rickenbacker Air Force Base, Ohio, on Dec. 6.

Four days later, Gov. Wallace Wilkinson was given an orientation flight in one of the wing's soon-to-be extinct RF-4Cs.

Wilkinson's flight was only the second such trip for the chief magistrate of the state.

Gov. Louis B. Nunn was given the other flight in the 1960s.

Trivia from November: How many KyANG members have achieved the rank of Major General?

Answer: There have been just five. They are, in order, Philip Ardery, Richard L. Frymire III, John Conaway, Carl Black and, most recently, Stewart Byrne.

Question for January: Does the name Samuel Joseph ring a bell to anyone?

What is his Kentucky connection to the military? Hint: He held a certain record that few, if any, would want to have.

See the answer in next month's *Retrospect*.

NIGHT FLIGHT



KyANG Historical Archive

A Kentucky aircrew prepares for a pre-dawn sortie in their RF-4C aircraft during Operation Best Focus 1982. The international competition, which was sponsored by NATO and held in Denmark, tested the abilities of reconnaissance units from West Germany, Denmark, Norway, Britain and the United States. First place was awarded to a KyANG team comprised of Don Goley, who later served as commander of the 165th Airlift Squadron, and Paul Rhodes, the unit's current commander.

F-22 Raptor has maiden flight

The F-22 Raptor flew for the first time on Sept. 7 over northern Georgia.

The F-22's chief test pilot flew the aircraft from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Ga., lifting off the runway at 140 knots.

It reached an altitude of 15,000 feet in less than three minutes, then was put through a series of power changes to test aircraft handling characteristics and engine performance.

Midway through the flight, the pilot climbed to 22,000 feet and retracted the landing gear. He then evaluated the aircraft's performance in a "clean" configuration and flew formation on an F-16 chase aircraft to test precision handling characteristics.

The F-22 program is midway through its engineering and manufacturing development phase.

Aviators post strong safety figures

The Department of Defense has just completed one of its safest flying years on record despite a cluster of unrelated accidents during the final weeks of the fiscal year.

The aircraft major accident rate was 1.5 accidents per 100,000 flying hours, which is unchanged from the previous two years.

The number of major aviation accidents was 68, the lowest number since the department began keeping statistics in 1958.

Pay information available through new phone service

Air Force News Service

DENVER — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently unveiled "PayCall," an automated phone system that gives pay information to Air Force members.

PayCall began limited operation in October, when more than 18,000 callers dialed in to the system, and officials have since expanded the service to cover all major commands, including the National Guard Bureau.

"We are really excited about being able to provide this front-line customer service to our military pay customers," said Ron Swenka, military pay director of the fi-

nance and accounting service's Denver branch.

"I know they will find the new system extremely useful."

Information is available for all Air Force active-duty, reserve and guard personnel, plus members who have recently separated from the military.

Each first-time caller will need to answer a series of questions to validate his identity, after which a personal identification number, or PIN, will be established. The PIN must be used in all future telephone inquiries.

If a customer forgets his PIN, online assistance will be available to help reset the PIN.

The Air Force member can also establish a second PIN to allow another person, such as a spouse, to obtain pay information.

Initially, the most common problem

was establishing a PIN. To improve the service, the Denver center took several steps to clarify the process. The main initiative was to change the prompts that callers used to establish a PIN.

"We found that some callers were having problems because they didn't understand the questions or skipped a prompt," said Army Col. Max Nuxoll, deputy military pay director of the Denver branch.

"We think we've solved that issue and will be re-viewing the user statistics and surveys to make sure.

"We are putting a lot of emphasis on this system and have dedicated appropriate resources to make it work," Nuxoll added.

“

We are really excited about being able to provide this service to our customers.

”

—Ron Swenka,
Defense Finance
and Accounting Service

All eligible users can obtain the amount of their last paychecks or final pay, have W-2 forms reissued, and get federal and state tax information.

Reserve and guard personnel can also get tour dates, total debt amounts and deductions from last pay.

"We're providing PayCall for our customers so they have an alternate means to receive vital pay information," Swenka said.

All calls will be answered by an automated voice response system. The system is not staffed by customer service personnel, so customers will not have an opportunity to speak person-to-person.

If any pay questions or problems arise, the member must visit his servicing finance or pay office for assistance.

Access to PayCall is available 24 hours a day at (800) 755-7413 in the United States or DSN 926-1281 overseas. ☎

KyANG's Tonini named brigadier general

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

Edward W. Tonini, the Kentucky Air Guard's chief of staff, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general when the U.S. Senate confirmed President Clinton's nomination Oct. 30.

Tonini, a long-time spokesman for the Kentucky Air National Guard, becomes the first career public affairs officer in Air National Guard history to attain such a distinction.

He recently was awarded the Hoyt S. Vandenburg Award from the Air Force Association for the most outstanding contribution to national defense in the area of education and training for his work in connecting Thunder Over Louisville to the U.S. Air Force's 50th anniversary celebration.

Tonini spearheaded the event, which drew nearly a million spectators to the static display at the KyANG base and the massive Thunder airshow on the banks of the Ohio River.

It was designated as one of only two marquee events celebrating the U.S. Air Force 50th anniversary around the world.

A twenty-eight year member of the Kentucky Air National Guard, Tonini began his career in the enlisted ranks before receiving his commission in 1970.

He has reported on the work of the Kentucky Air National Guard around the globe and has traveled overseas with the unit to numerous sites in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The most intense period of his career came following the tragic C-130 crash in Evansville, Ind., in 1992, when the Kentucky Air National Guard was at the focus of local, regional and national attention.



Staff Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

In a pinning ceremony held on base Nov. 15, Brig. Gen Edward Tonini receives his new stars from wife Carol and Brig. Gen. John R. Groves, Kentucky's adjutant general. Also present for the service were Brig. Gen. Verna D. Fairchild, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air; and Maj. Gen. Richard L. Frymire, who served as Kentucky's only Air Force adjutant general from 1971 to 1977.

Tonini has been awarded the Meritorious Service medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with six oak leaf clusters, the Humanitarian Service medal, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster, the United Nations Service Medal, the Air Force Recognition ribbon,

the National Defense Service Medal and the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal.

He is a graduate of St. Xavier High School and received his bachelor's degree from Bellarmine College.

He and his wife, Carol, live in Louisville. They have a son, David, who is a senior at Duke University; and a daughter, Kathleen, who is a senior at Sacred Heart Academy.

Promotions and honors in the Kentucky Air National Guard

The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the United States Air Force:

TO 1ST LIEUTENANT (O-2)

- Adele Guarino,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Robert Smith,
165th Airlift Sq.

TO MAJOR (O-4)

- Dawn Muller,
Headquarters, KyANG
- Jeffrey Peters,
165th Weather Flt.