

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Global Plan

*KyANG photos by
Senior Master Sgt.
Dave Tinsley*



New adjutant general brings world view to job

*By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor*

As an architect, lawyer and teacher, Brig. Gen. John Russell Groves Jr. has built his civilian career on service to the global community.

That career has taken Groves, the state's new adjutant general, from his hometown of Lexington, where he once taught college classes, to locales as far-flung as South America and the Pacific Rim.

In Ecuador, Groves helped the government develop more stringent building codes, so that structures would better withstand earthquakes. In Indonesia, the former University of Kentucky administrator, oversaw the construction of a provincial university for the Asian Development Bank.

And closer to home, Groves helped establish Kentucky's Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction following the 1977 Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in Northern Kentucky that claimed more than 165 lives.

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TOP: Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, presents Kentucky's new adjutant general, Brig. Gen. John Russell Groves Jr., with a Louisville Slugger baseball bat during the general's first official visit to the Kentucky Air National Guard in December.

BOTTOM: Groves, who was named to his new post Nov. 22, toured the base and talked to guardsmen about their jobs. Here, Staff Sgt. Steve Leffler Jr., a mechanic in the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, explains the operation of an aircraft turbine.

With the wing focused on one agenda, we can improve readiness, quality of life

W

e have all put in a tremendous effort this past year to improve our combat readiness.

This month's Operational Readiness Inspection simply will validate the fact that the Thoroughbred Express is able to go to war, win and come back home with pride.

Let me thank you in advance for your efforts.

I am confident you will give your best in the proud tradition of the 123rd.

Although it may not seem possible, there is life after the ORI.

Let me share with you the things that I believe we must accomplish and work for in the coming year.

What follows is the agenda I have set for the wing in 1996.



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

INCREASE COMBAT READINESS

- Continue to emphasize large aircraft formations and actual airdrop loads
- Maintain proficiency in ATSO — Ability To Survive and Operate — skills
- Ensure all flying, ground and ancillary training is accomplished
- Maintain and exercise the mobility machinery
- Increase emphasis on tactical flying in a threat environment

CONTINUE SUPPORT OF REAL-WORLD MISSIONS

- Maintain readiness so the Kentucky Air National Guard can continue to serve as an integral part of the Total Force

IMPROVE THE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND THE GUARD EXPERIENCE

- Place a major emphasis on making facilities available for a credit

union, snack bar, club and exercise area

- Increase communication flow, both up and down the chain
- Strive to keep the traditional guardsman in the loop
- Make policy aimed at the best performers, not the worst

INCREASE ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

- Look at the manning and make sure it makes sense
- Stress accountability of funds and property
- Evaluate information processes and the products that they generate
- Make bureaucracy customer-friendly
- Be ready to exploit Cyberguard and other information systems

FOSTER AN IMPROVED WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

- Use Western Kentucky training site
- Fly Army Guard when it makes sense
- Strive for more blue-suiters on the staff of the Adjutant General

I ask for your help in improving our readiness, while at the same time improving our quality of life.

Thanks *loads!*

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, call or stop by the PA office, located in the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 8.

Meals on Wheels



ABOVE: Tech. Sgt. Scott Cummins and Senior Master Sgt. Frank Green of the 123rd Airlift Control Flight load box lunches onto a pickup truck during the Jan. 7 unit training assembly.



LEFT: Maj. Ken Ellis, commander of the 123rd Airlift Control Flight, prepares the lunches for transport.

200 box lunches hit the road following last month's snow storm

Food surplus benefits city's homeless

By Senior Master Sgt. David Orange
123rd Airlift Control Flight

More than a foot of snow kept several Air Guard members at home last month — and scores of homeless people inside shelters across Louisville.

Because of the low turnout here, the base dining facility had a surplus of box lunches on Jan. 7.

But members of the 123rd Airlift Control Flight decided the food shouldn't go to waste.

Instead, they loaded about 200 lunches

onto a pickup truck and took them downtown to the Wayside Christian Mission on East Market Street.

Mission director Rodney Young said he welcomed the unexpected donation, noting, "In this business, one day you get chicken, the next day you get feathers."

On this day, at least, the mission's patrons got bologna and turkey sandwiches.

Elsewhere across the state, National Guard members provided transportation for stranded medical personnel and directed disaster relief efforts.

The Kentucky Air National Guard also

showed its giving spirit two weeks earlier, making the holiday season more cheerful for five Louisville-area families.

When members of the Combat Control Team decided to adopt a family for Christmas, their idea soon spread across the base.

Members of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron and 123rd Logistics Squadron joined with the Combat Control Team, and, working with a Louisville-area church, the units adopted a total of five families.

The families received gifts and holiday food that they would not otherwise have been able to afford.

ATSO Update

Alarms can come in unpredictable combinations

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

When Big Voice echoes threatcons and alarm signals start to wail in Savannah later this month, guardsmen need to pay attention.

The signals, MOPP levels and threatcons sometimes follow unpredictable sequences, said Staff Sgt. Cynthia Hasselback, a member of the wing's Unit Battle Staff.

No matter how strange the announcements and signals may seem, however, guard members must not second-guess them, Hasselback

said. Inspectors will be watching to ensure that guardsmen take the necessary protective measures.

The four alarm conditions are

- WHITE: All clear
- YELLOW: An attack — either chemical or conventional — is probable

- RED: Hostile forces are inbound

- BLACK: An attack has occurred.

The terrorist threat levels are

- ALPHA: A general warning of possible terrorist activity

- BRAVO: A warning that an increased or more predictable terrorist threat exists

- CHARLIE: An incident has occurred or intelligence indicates one is imminent

- DELTA: A localized warning applying to the area where an incident has occurred or one is imminent

The five MOPP levels are

- 0: Equipment kept nearby

- 1: Overgarment and helmet worn

- 2: Footwear covers also worn

- 3: Mask and hood also worn

- 4: Gloves also worn

KyANG Promotions



The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the U.S. Air Force. Officer promotions are pending federal recognition.

Congratulations for a job well done.

To Airman (E-2)

Kristopher Beasley

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)

Christopher Harding, 165th Airlift Sq.

Michelle Perkins, 123rd Services Flt.

Andre Provencher, 123rd Maint. Sq.

William Robertson, 123rd Maint. Sq.

Mark Smith, 123rd Services Flt.

Mark Wilson, 123rd Medical Sq.

To Senior Airman (E-4)

James Barker, 165th Airlift Sq.

Patrick Barnes, 123rd

Aerial Port Sq.

Shelly Curtsinger, 123rd

Medical Sq.

Larry Daugherty Jr., 123rd

Aircraft Generation Sq.

Billy Fields, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

Karla Hathaway, 123rd

Support Grp.

Bryan Keating, 165th Weather Flt.

Shelley Kruse, 123rd Medical Sq.

Jimmie Nelson Jr., 123rd

Aerial Port Sq.

Calvin Rowe, 123rd Maint. Sq.

Jason Vardemen, 123rd

Aircraft Generation Sq.

To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

Paul Bowling, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

Ronald Bricking, 123rd Maint. Sq.

Jerome Buehner, 123rd

Logistics Group

Yogi Edlin Jr., 123rd Medical Sq.

Lawrence Graves, 123rd

Sec. Police Sq.

Charles Kelton, 123rd Sec. Police Sq.

Paul Keys, 123rd Maint. Sq.

Darren Reinhardt, 123rd

Aerial Port Sq.

Terry Riddle, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

James Stover, 123rd Maint. Sq.

Stephen Travis, 123rd Maint. Sq.

To Technical Sergeant (E-6)

William Hill, 123rd Airlift Wing

James Strasinger, 165th Airlift Sq.

To 1st Lieutenant (O-2)

Terri Smith, 123rd Medical Sq.

To Major (O-4)

Ronald Whelan, 165th Airlift Sq.

To Lieutenant Colonel (O-5)

Robert Abell, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

Kerry Towe, 165th Airlift Sq.

KyANG graphic by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

Education bill in committee

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

A legislative coordinator with the National Guard Association of Kentucky says he is "cautiously optimistic" that a measure to provide guardsmen with free tuition will pass its first hurdle.

House Bill 137, which is sponsored by Rep. Marshall Long of Shelbyville, has been sent to the House Education Committee, where it must be approved by a majority before progressing.

"I'm cautiously optimistic the bill will be approved by the committee, but with this kind of thing, you never know how it's going to turn out," Maj. John Heltzel said.

Because of the uncertainty, he said, guard members should continue to make their voices heard in Frankfort by contacting their legislators directly.

The association also has set up a toll-free message line.

"You can call and leave a message for any legislator," Heltzel said.

"You can even leave multiple messages, and we'll see that the legislators get them."

Heltzel credited guardsmen's backing for keeping the bill alive.

"We've probably had better grass roots support out of this than anything we've ever tried to do before."

The results, he said, are beginning to show.

"I've not had a negative response from a legislator yet. Everybody I've talked to has been positive and wants to support it."

The problem, as usual, is funding.

"It all comes down to money and whether there are enough people (in Frankfort) who want to spend it for this issue."

The bill seeks to establish a \$5 million trust fund that would pay tuition for guardsmen who attend state-support universities, community colleges or vocational schools.

Heltzel said the investment would more than pay for itself by helping Guard units with recruiting and retention.

Because of a drop in manning over the past few years, Heltzel said, Kentucky National Guard units have been unable to fill hundreds of vacancies.

Those vacancies amount to \$9 million a year in lost income for the Commonwealth — money that would be funneled into the state economy through purchases and taxed as income.

The state also would have a fully staffed National Guard force to aid in times of natural disaster or emergencies.

Currently, the Army Guard is at about 83 percent of its manning. The Air Guard is at about 96 percent.

Heltzel warned that something needs to be done before National Guard Bureau officials begin to take manning away from Kentucky units.

"We're looking at a dramatic reduction in Guard capabilities because of the loss of Guard strength," he said.

Other states have successfully implemented tuition-assistance programs to bolster their Guard forces.

The effort was so successful in Louisiana, Heltzel said, that Guard units were taken away from other states and assigned to Louisiana because it could staff them.

If HB 137 is approved by the education committee, its next stop will be the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

Members of the House Education Committee are Joe Barrows, Versailles; Joe Clarke, Danville; Jack Coleman, Burgin; Barbara White Colter, Manchester; Freed Curd, Murray; H. "Gippy" Graham, Frankfort; Thomas Kerr, Taylor Mill; Bill Lile, Valley Station; Harry Moberly Jr., Richmond; Richard Murgatroyd, Villa Hills; Anne Northup, Louisville; Kenny Rapier, Bardstown; Ernesto Scorsone, Lexington; Charles Siler, Williamsburg; Mark Treesh, Philpot; and Charlie Walton, Florence.

Coins honor women who served

The U.S. Mint has transferred the remaining 38,000 silver dollars commemorating women veterans to a private foundation.

More than 270,000 of the coins were sold by the end of the mint's one-year issue date.

The remaining coins were in storage at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia until they were transferred to the Women in Military Service for America Foundation Inc.

The mint agreed to sell the coins to the foundation so the public could continue to purchase them.

Proceeds will be used to build the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Through June 30, the foundation will sell the proof versions for \$35 each, and the uncirculated versions for \$32 each.

The silver dollar is the only legal tender coin ever issued by the United States to honor military women.

The coin's face includes the profiles of five servicewomen, representing the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

The reverse includes a depiction of the Women in Military Service Memorial, scheduled for completion in late 1997.

A limited number of three-coin sets, which add the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and American Ex-Prisoners of War coins, also are available for \$91 per set.

Coins may be purchased with a credit card by calling the foundation at (800) 222-2294.

**To leave a message
for your legislator**
(800)-372-7181

Air Force NCO preserving past

Sergeant won't let Buffalo Soldiers' story die

By Tech. Sgt. Clint Williams
Air Force News Service

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, WYO. — When the first black U.S. Cavalry soldiers rode into the still-untamed Western plains during the late 1800s, few realized the impact they would have or the legend they would create during their service on the frontier.

On blue-suiter, however, is committed not only to rediscovering and preserving their heritage, but also to building a legacy that pays tribute to the men known as Buffalo Soldiers.

Their abilities as soldiers and their fierce fighting spirit earned them the respect of the American Indian tribes that they encountered.

It was those tribes that nicknamed them Buffalo Soldiers — because of their curly hair and the buffalo-hide coats they wore in the winter, said Master Sgt. Cornelius A. "Doc" Settles, a member of the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Efforts to recount the Buffalo Soldiers' service in the West proved to be a challenging task, Settles said.

Their accomplishments were either ignored or never documented fully by historians and news media of the era, and few publications aside from military records even accounted for their existence.

"I'm a history buff and particularly a researcher of African-American history. I've been at F.E. Warren for nearly 15 years, and I've always been involved with local black history events," Settles said.

"But it seemed like there was a void in black history in this area, and they only focused on the achievements of men like Martin Luther King.

"One day, I took a walk through the base

cemetery and found the headstones of some black soldiers, and I knew there was a story there."

Investigating local, state and University of Wyoming archives initially, Settles said he found no sources of information that indicated any black soldiers were assigned to the area. Frustration and a need to find the facts urged him not to give up the effort, he said.

"I kept asking myself, 'Why wasn't there any information on these men?' I felt I needed to find out. It was important that

"I later found that hundreds of black troops of the 9th and 10th Cavalry, as well as the 24th Infantry Regiment, served in the Western territories that later became Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska.

"During their service, they fought in several major campaigns against plains Indian tribes, searched for the bandit Pancho Villa in the Southwest and fought with Teddy Roosevelt at San Juan Hill.

"Eventually, 23 soldiers earned the Medal of Honor," he said.

In recent years, the Buffalo Soldiers' history gained national attention when Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, credited their achievements as a source of pride in his own career.

Settles said his efforts to bring to life the soldiers who were the forerunners of today's black service members helped him gain a sense of pride and a respect for those who paved the way for him.

"In the spirit of the Buffalo Soldiers who overcame insurmountable odds, we've sought

to create a legacy that would endure long after we've gone also," he said.

"We're currently raising funds to erect a monument here at the front gate as a permanent and visible testimony to the Buffalo Soldiers' courage and commitment to duty.

"We're also working to establish a literacy and scholarship program to support the local community.

"When the black soldiers first enlisted in the Army, none of them could read or write," Settles said.

"We believe that creating this program will provide a means to help people overcome many of life's obstacles, just as the Buffalo Soldiers did out there in the Old West."



present-generation African-Americans had some role models from the era," he said.

"I eventually ran into an elderly local man named Ed Tarbell, who was an unofficial historian of the era, and he recommended I go check the microfiche at the local library."

Painstaking hours of viewing the microfiche seemed fruitless until Settles found the name of a soldier who had been seen by one of the physicians at Fort D.A. Russell, the Army post near Cheyenne, Settles said.

With the name, he later found the soldier's medical records and the unit to which he was assigned.

Further research led to other soldiers' records and, eventually, their units — and even the causes of the deaths.

Groves brings vision

Continued from Page 1

Groves, 49, now is applying that same blueprint for service to the Kentucky National Guard.

So far, the job hasn't let him down. Just weeks into his tenure as the state's top military official, a record-setting winter storm dumped more than a foot of snow over much of the Commonwealth. The adjutant general, who also serves as director of Disaster and Emergency Services, moved into his Frankfort office to coordinate relief efforts across the state.

"I spent a night or two here on the couch, but it comes with the territory," Groves said. "I love it. It's challenging, and it's good, hard work. But that's what I signed on for."

Groves first signed on with the military in 1965, enlisting in the U.S. Army because he believed it was his duty to serve.

"It was not a question of if, but when — and just how far I would take it," Groves recalled.

Today, he has taken it all the way to the top. But the satisfaction Groves derives from the job is more than just personal.

"The position of the adjutant general is sort of the nadir of what someone can achieve in the National Guard," Groves said, "but it's also a chance to advance the whole enterprise of trying to provide service, to make conditions a little bit better for the people who support us and to leave the world a little bit better place."

That global outlook also applies to his vision for members of the Army and Air Guard, whom he characterized as highly skilled, hard-working professionals.

"The turbulence after the Cold War is different from that of the Cold War itself, when we had one adversary as our focus," Groves said.

"Now the nature of an adversary is anything from a single terrorist to rouge governments who create international difficulties. As Guard members, we must shift to a position of performing any role that we might be asked to assume — along the spectrum from peacekeeping to, if necessary, traditional warfare.

"This vision can be stated in one word, and that's readiness. It's a frame of mind that says, 'As a soldier, my job is now considerably broader than it might have been previously. It means being competent and capable in my given task, more so than I've ever been before because there may be fewer of me to do my job.

"It means that I need to know the capabilities of my organization, I need to be a team player, which is absolutely essential to get the job done, and I think it means that I need, more than ever before, to have an understanding of national and international affairs. I need to rise to a higher level, to be informed, to be capable."

"The Air Guard is an integrated and indispensable member of the Air Force Total Force concept," Groves said. "The Guard and the Reserve now comprise about 60 percent of the total air operations that take place any day. No longer is the Air Guard in a support role. It's in a lead role for many of the functions that the

Brig. Gen. Groves



MILITARY CAREER

- Enlisted E-1 in U.S. Army, 1965
- Commissioned 2nd Lt. in U.S. Army Reserve, 1968
- Joined KyArNG as infantry officer, 1974
- Completed Air Assault Rappel Master Course, 1988
- Served as commandant of Kentucky Military Academy, Ft. Knox, 1988-90
- Commanded 201st Engineering Battalion, 1990-91
- Taught at U.S. Army War College, 1993-94
- Awarded Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Assault Badge; Parachutist Badge; Special Forces tab

CIVILIAN CAREER

- Bachelor of Architecture, University of Kentucky, 1964
- Law degree, UK College of Law, 1972
- Doctorate in educational studies, UK, 1992
- Associate dean, UK College of Architecture, 1976-78 and 1991-95
- Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Kentucky Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction, 1978-81
- Architect and law consultant, 1988-1995
- Planning consultant for UK's Office of International Affairs, Sumatra, Indonesia, 1988-89
- Building code and construction consultant, Ecuador, 1991-93

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Wife, Barbara Groves; two sons, Matthew, 20, and Marshall, 22; daughter, Elise, 16

KyANG graphic by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

Air Force provides for the nation today."

And that, Groves said, makes everyone's job — from airman basic to brigadier general — more rewarding.

"It provides opportunities for members of the Guard to participate in a real-world, meaningful capacity. And that's something for which all of us are beneficiaries."

Hundred-hour war requires Guard call-ups

More than 60 KyANG members pull active duty for Desert Storm

By Tech. Sgt. John Martin
123rd Wing Historian

Like the previous month, February has had its share of incidents — some good, some tragic.

But we'll concentrate mostly on the highlights of our history this month.

In 1990, Colonel Joseph L. Kottak took command of the 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing at a Saturday morning ceremony held during the unit training assembly.

Present at this ceremony were Kentucky Adjutant General Michael Davidson and the outgoing wing commander, Brig. Gen. John L. Smith.

By February of the next year, we find our nation briefly at war with Iraq.

Desert Storm forces took about 100 hours to start, fight and win the battle, and though our unit was not involved directly in the overseas operation, many of our personnel performed crucial support roles.

Forty Kentucky Air National Guard medical personnel were sent to the 317th Contingency Hospital in Bicester, U.K.; Malcom Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Del.; and Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany.

Members of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron also served at Dover Air Force base.

Other call-ups included members from the 123rd Services Flight and the 165th Weather Flight.

For the record, Kentucky Air Guard flight crews logged more than 1,240 sorties between August 1990, and March 1991, 27 percent of which supported the war effort.

Another group that went the distance was composed of individuals from the 123rd Security Police Squadron.

These guardsmen were activated for

home duty for the duration of Desert Storm and its aftermath.

Not since the Pueblo Crisis of 1968-69 had any of our security police personnel been involved in a real-world activation.

Augmenting the civilian security personnel on base, 13 security police officers were placed on orders to ensure the base's protection.

The final day for any KyANG member to be on orders for Desert Storm was July 31, 1991.

Trivia from January: Why is the 16th of February so important to our base?

Answer : It was on that date in 1946 that the Kentucky Air National Guard received federal recognition — our own 50th anniversary.

The original units of the Kentucky Air Guard were Headquarters, 123rd Fighter Group; Headquarters Detachment, 223rd Air Service Group; Detachment A, 223rd Air Service Group; 165th Fighter Squadron; 165th Utility Flight; and the 165th Weather Station.

Question for March: What fantastic event took place in the history of the Kentucky Air Guard in March of 1991?

Answer next month.

Bravewarriors



KyANG historical archive

The Kentucky Air Guard's chow hall provided the perfect setting for a 1962 powwow between guardsmen and 15 braves from the Senior Scouts of St. Matthews.