

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Top Flight

Airmen represent best of the Air Guard

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Three Air Guard members have been selected as Kentucky's best, according to Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air.

The unit's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 1995 are Master Sgt. Danny E. Brooks, Tech. Sgt. Delano "Lanny" Jewell and Senior Airman Juanita Kirker.

Brooks serves as deputy fire chief in the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron. He is also a shift supervisor for the base's state-employed firefighters.

"Master Sgt. Brooks has consistently exceeded the standards I expect from my senior NCOs," said Lt. Col. Tom Marks, commander of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

"His dedication to the unit and its mission is second to none."

Brooks is a recognized expert in the Air Force firefighter community, Marks said. He was requested by name to serve as Air Force test manager for a new fire truck design at Tyndall Air Force Base.

The wing's top junior NCO, Tech Sgt. Jewell, is a security policeman with the 123rd Security Police Squadron and a Kentucky State Trooper. He was singled out as an outstanding performer during opera-



ABOVE: Senior Airman Juanita Kirker, an administrative specialist with the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, was named one of three top airmen in the Kentucky Air National Guard for 1995.



LEFT: Master Sgt. Danny E. Brooks, another outstanding airman, is recognized throughout the Air Force as an expert firefighter. Brooks also is assigned to the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

See AIRMEN on Page 7

KyANG photos by
Senior Master Sgt.
Dave Tinsley

To accomplish our mission, we must treat everyone with respect

The following message from Maj. Gen Shepperd, the Director of the Air National Guard, came across my desk last month. It emphasizes some points that I think are basic to our way of life as members of the profession of arms. I would like to add my endorsement to what he says and offer some further comments on what I hope is, or will become, our way of life.

Everyone should not just be treated equally, everyone should be given special treatment! Everyone in this wing, this Guard and this Air Force deserves to be treated with fairness, respect and honor. Special treatment means that we must be attuned to the needs and desires of our members and we should strive to meet those needs.

Mission first — People always! We are members of this wing for one reason and that is to accomplish the mission. We cannot accomplish our mission without our people, so the way they are treated should be foremost in our mind. I submit that fairness does not mean that all people are treated the same, rather it means all people are treated special, based upon the values of honesty, trust, dignity, duty and honor. I urge you to think about these words, and put these principals to use every day.

We have come a long way in ensuring that all our Air Force people are treated fairly and given equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

This is a Total Force issue that applies to the active, reserve and Air National Guard components.

However, recent events have made it clear that some of our units are not embracing this basic right of all members to fair and respectful treatment.

Such a concept is a guiding principle within the military, where the men and women must function as a team, unified by special bonds of trust, mutual respect, loyalty and sacrifice.

It's also one of the founding principles of our great nation — a principle our military was sworn to defend. We cannot give lip service to the ideals of individual dignity and opportunity, and then discount them in

our daily lives.

As most of you know, the success of our Air Force mission depends upon the degree of trust and accountability that exists among the people in the unit.

Military people often find themselves in situations where a moment's hesitation — a second of doubt about another member of the team — can mean disaster.

Thus, unit *esprit de corps* is critical, and commanders must create and sustain environments free from discrimination and harassment to ensure unit effectiveness.

Any conduct, in any unit, which creates a disadvantage based on race, ethnicity or gender will not be tolerated.

Malicious or inappropriate behavior, as well as different training standards, cannot be permitted.

Any indications that such behavior is occurring within a unit will prompt an immediate investigation.

Those responsible for such actions, as well as commanders who fail to correct these problems, will be held accountable.

We are dedicated to eliminating unfair and discriminatory behavior from the Air Force.

People do their best when they know they will be rewarded for their individual effort and not held back by prejudice.

Our goal is an organization that allows its members to reach their full potential and to perform to the best of their abilities.

The men and women of today's Air Force deserve — and we will tolerate — nothing less.

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Call the PA office if you have a story idea, photo or article to submit. Deadline for our next issue is Jan. 16, and our office is located in the wing headquarters building.

Martin wins top Air Force pistol award

By Lt. Col. Dan Wells
Base Marksmanship Coordinator

Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin has been awarded the Bronze Pistol Badge after placing in the top 10 percent of shooters at a National Guard match last year.

Martin, the 123rd Airlift Wing's historian and a security police augmentee, competed against several hundred of the Guard's top pistol shooters during the 1994 National Guard Championships in Little Rock, Ark.

The contest also included several international competitors.

Martin fired a 9mm Baretta at a distance of 45 feet and scored 124 out of a possible 160 points.

He also excelled in the final stage of match, which required him to fire two shots at each of three targets within four



KyANG photo by Master Sergeant Terry Lutz

Col. Michael L. Harden, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, presents the Air Force Bronze Pistol Badge to Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin last month. Martin scored in the top 10 percent of competitors at a National Guard contest last year that featured some of the country's best marksmen.

seconds. Martin is a member of the Kentucky National Guard Pistol Team, which includes top shooters from both the Army and Air National Guard.

Officer records don't reflect quality force

By Capt. Deborah J. Foster
KyANG Personnel Director

The Director of the Air National Guard came to a stark and disturbing conclusion in a recent letter sent to all state commands: "Our officers' records do not portray outstanding officers."

Maj. Gen. Donald W. Shepperd's analysis stemmed from work done by a recent selection board, where board members found serious flaws in the records of many officers considered for promotion.

While Gen. Shepperd's comments were broad, a review of Kentucky Air National Guard records indicates that they also apply very clearly to many officers' records here.

Gen. Shepperd noted that narrative comments on performance reports tend to be very weak and brief.

They also often tended to resemble job descriptions more than explanations of the impact an officer has had on mission accomplishment.

Professional Military Education and awards and decorations received particular attention. Gen. Shepperd said that many offi-

cers are not completing the appropriate level of PME, and appropriate recognition is not being given for outstanding performance.

In recent years, virtually every officer "passed over" for promotion has been lacking in PME.

That trend is likely to continue unless changes are made.

For example, 40 of 59 Kentucky Air Guard captains have not yet completed Squadron Officer School; 29 of 52 majors have not completed Air Command and Staff College; and 18 of 25 lieutenant colonels have not completed Air War College.

Officer Performance Reports, or OPRs, generally require more attention to detail and a better understanding of how the reports are used to evaluate officers under consideration for promotion. A class on OPRs is currently being planned for the March UTA.

A new reference manual for awards and decorations also is near completion and distribution is expected in March.

This manual will provide additional guidance on the proper formats and processes for award recommendations.

For information on OPRs, contact Master Sgt. Sissy Green at ext. 114; for PME, call Master Sgt. Mark Green at ext. 619; and for awards and decorations, call Tech. Sgt. Julie Webb at ext. 545.

Ability To Survive

IS CRUCIAL TO COMBAT SURVIVAL



Use 2-inch masking tape or olive duct tape to simulate M9 tape. Place around one bicep, wrist and ankle, alternating left and right sides in a 'Z' pattern. Write "Simulated M9" on all three pieces. Also write the time and date the tape was applied.

Print your name on 2-inch masking tape and place on the front and back of your hood and helmet as shown. NO SUBSTITUTIONS.



BELOW: Also write your name on another piece of tape and place it on the front right side of your ground crew ensemble jacket.



REMEMBER:

- Always process in and out of the clearing house every time you enter or leave the war zone. That includes leaving for rest cycles, lunch or the end of your shift.
- Use the Buddy System. Help each other don your chemical warfare ensembles and provide needed medical aid.
- Always display your line badge prominently while inside a secure area, but remove it after leaving the area.

KyANG Photos and Illustrations by

e and Operate ...

RVIVAL — AND ORI SUCCESS



Make sure your gas mask has a DD Form 1574.



ABOVE: Use atropine and 2 Pam Chloride as a treatment for nerve agent only. Inject atropine first, hold for 10 seconds at the injection site, then follow with an injection of 2 Pam Chloride. Hold that for 10 seconds, also.

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RIGHT: If you don't know the correct response to a question or input from the Inspector General, say, "I don't know, but I will look it up right now." Then pull out your Ability to Survive and Operate booklet and look it up. ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BOOKLET.

Date Insp.	Date Due Next Insp.	Insp By
13 Jun 94	13 Dec 94	John Doe
12 Dec 94	12 Jun 95	John Doe
12 Jun 95	12 Dec 95	John Doe
10 Dec 95	10 Jun 96	John Doe

ABOVE: Inspect your mask every six months during peace, and every seven days during war. Note the inspection on the back of the DD 1574. Also note when filters are changed following an attack with blood agents.

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

Chaplain's Column

Perseverance key for success in '96

That time of year is here again when we make New Year's resolutions. By now, we probably even have broken a few.

As we enter the new year, I am reminded of the man who visited a local psychologist. When the doctor asked him what had prompted the visit, the man said, "I am suffering from an inferiority complex."

"I have the best intentions and make resolutions, but I don't keep them."

After several weeks of therapy, the doctor called the man and said, "I have good news for you: You don't have a complex. You *are* inferior."

Let's start the new year with a prescription — four Rs for people who begin with the best intentions but feel inferior because they don't think they measure up.

- Realize that you were prescribed before birth. You are unique.

- Remember, the development process is still going on.

- Refuse to compare yourself with others.

- Respond correctly to your weak points.

We all have them.

What it all boils down to in this new year is what you choose to think about yourself.

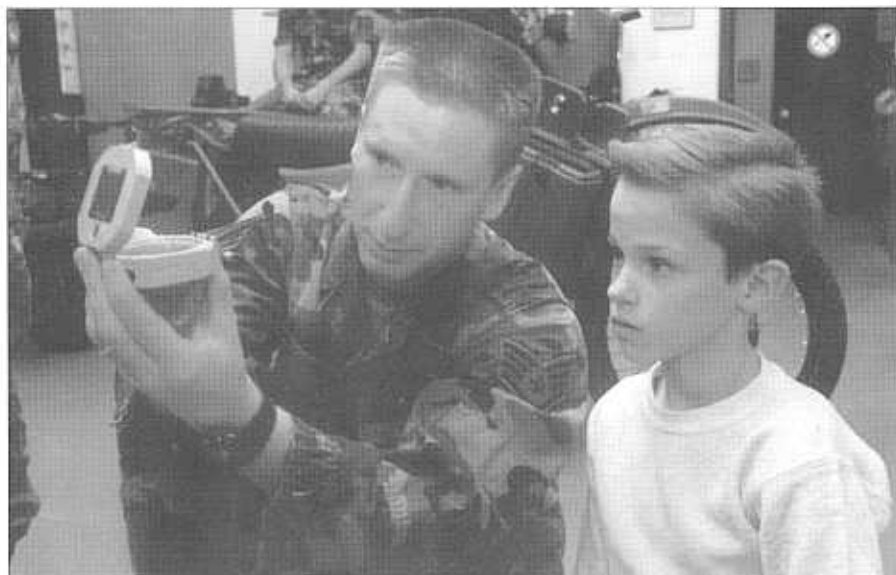
Let's don't worry about keeping resolutions.

The one who frequently feels inferior is the one who concentrates on the part that isn't finished rather than on the part that is being completed or has already been shaped.

God is working on you — He hasn't finished yet.

And remember: The key word in 1996, or any year for that matter, isn't *resolve*, it's *persevere*. Happy New Year.

— Chaplain Charles Smith



KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Fritz

FAMILY DAY

TOP: Larry Robertson III gets instruction on how to use a compass from Combat Control Team member Staff Sgt. Jim Johnson.



KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson



KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Fritz

CENTER: Alexandria Bolton shares a holiday story with Donna Harrod of the National Guard Association as sister Danielle and father Capt. Larry Bolton look on.

BOTTOM: Twins Wesley and Geoffrey Chapman laugh with Santa Claus.

Patton to speak at Guard association conference

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Speeches by Gov. Paul Patton and Kentucky's new adjutant general, Brig. Gen. John Russell Groves, are two of the highlights planned for next month's National Guard Association of Kentucky conference.

The conference, which will be held Feb. 23-25 in Ft. Mitchell, Ky., also will feature an awards ceremony and an address by Brig. Gen. John Bradley on the topic of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Bradley is deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserves.

For spouses, organizers will be providing trips to area shopping malls and the Cincinnati Museum Center, which features an OMNIMAX film presentation on ocean life.

The conference will wrap up with dancing, dinner and the observations of Scottish Brigadier Duncan MacLeod, who offers an interest-

ing and offbeat perspective on American life, said Steve Bullard, chairman of the association's conference committee.

The association is now accepting applications for its awards, which are bestowed in several categories designed to recognize guardsmen for their dedication.

"Generally, we give outstanding guardsmen insufficient recognition," said Julius R. Berthold, a retired brigadier general who is chairman of the association's awards advisory group.

Berthold said the awards are one way to ensure that guardsmen get the recognition they deserve.

Nominations must be submitted by Jan. 31.

For more information on the awards or the conference, call the association at 1-800-251-2333.

Airmen named as outstanding

Continued from Page 1

tional readiness exercises at Volk Field, Wis. and Savannah, Ga. this year.

He was also selected by the 9th Air Force inspector general team as an augmentee to conduct the Toledo, Ohio, operational readiness inspection.

On his own initiative, Jewell learned how to use the unit's new Global Positioning System equipment and is developing a training plan to teach those techniques to 123 Airlift Wing security police and civil engineers.

Kirker, the winner in the airman category, is an administrative specialist who recently came off active duty and joined the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

During the week she is a state-employed secretary for the squadron's administrative section.

"Airman Kirker is extremely talented and very team-oriented," Marks said.

"She really looks out for the welfare of the men and women in this squadron by making sure that their orders are done and their travel vouchers are complete."

In a departure from years past, Brooks, Jewell and Kirker will not compete for Kentucky Outstanding Guardsmen of the Year, said KyANG senior enlisted advisor, Chief Master Sgt. Martin Anderson.

Instead they will be nominated for the Air National Guard's outstanding airmen competition.

The enlisted members selected in that competition will be nominated for selection as one of the Air Force's Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"We have some outstanding people in this unit who should do very well in the Air National Guard competition," Anderson said.

Aerial Port collecting coats

The 123rd Aerial Port Squadron is again conducting its winterwear drive this weekend.

Each year, the unit collects old coats, gloves and any other usable cold weather items for donation to local charities.

Last year, with only members from the 123rd APS participating, 88 coats were collected.

This year, the drive is being opened up to everyone on base so that we can help even more needy people.

If you have any items that you feel you can donate, please call ext. 473 and a squadron representative will come by and pick them up.

Interest-free loans available for college tuition

The Retired Officers Association will be providing 800 college students with interest-free loans during the 1996-97 school year.

The \$2,500 loans will be awarded annually for up to five years of undergraduate study to unmarried students who are selected. A limited number of grants also are available.

The students must be under the age of 24 and the dependent of reserve, active-duty, or retired service personnel.

Students are selected based on their scholastic ability, participation in extracurricular activities and community services, and financial need.

Applications must be postmarked on or before March 1. For more information, write TROA Educational Assistance Program Administrator (O9D); 201 N. Washington St.; Alexandria, Va. 22314-2539.

New year begins with historical significance

Crashes and activations both occurred in January

By Tech. Sgt. John Martin
123rd Wing Historian

Historically, January has been one of our more active months. From aircraft crashes and activations to charity events and major inspections, January has seen it all.

Sadly, our first aircraft crash occurred this month in 1948. Capt. Thomas F. Mantrell was flying his aircraft near Franklin, Ky., when he reported something unusual in the sky.

To get a closer look, Mantrell flew his aircraft to nearly 30,000 feet and reported a "flying disk."

Within moments, Mantrell's aircraft crashed to the earth, claiming the KyANG's first victim.

The crash may have occurred due to a lack of oxygen for the pilot, but this theory has never been confirmed. To this day, no one knows exactly what Mantrell thought he saw, or why he gave chase to the object.

It has been suggested that his UFO was a Navy Sky Hook balloon, but this could not be confirmed either.

The incident was featured just last year in an episode of TV's "Unsolved Mysteries."

One year later, Kentucky flight crews were invited to participate in the inauguration parade of President-elect Harry S. Truman. This two-day mission was staged out of the Philadelphia airport.

Forty years ago this month, another sad chapter was written in our history when the KyANG lost its wing commander, Lt. Col. Lee J. Merkel, when the P-51 he was flying crashed in a field near Bedford, Ind.

Colonel Merkel had been commander since 1948, and he was a much-decorated combat veteran of World War II.

Merkel was a Louisville native, having graduated from DuPont Manual High School and the University of Louisville. His death marked the third fatality for the wing.

Concerning federal activations, this month in 1968, the entire wing was called to service for the Pueblo Crisis in Southeast Asia.

The activation lasted a total of 18 months, and earned the Wing one of its Air Force Outstanding Unit awards.

One of our time-honored traditions broke with tradition in 1975 when the annual Bean Soup Feast and Open House was held in January instead of the usual March-April time frame.

More than 1,700 turned out for this charity event — the fifth to be held at the base — with proceeds of about \$3,000 going to underprivileged children.

This month in 1989, 57 members from the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to Honduras for their first real-world mission since the KyANG became a C-130 unit earlier in the month.

Working in 100-degree heat and extreme humidity, the CE workers labored in 12-hour shifts to construct shower and toilet facilities — features that were much needed in this small nation of more than four million.

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Trivia from December: What two great events occurred in KyANG history on January 23, 1965?

Answer: One was a change in aircraft from RB-57s to RF-101s, and the other was that it was this writer's 13th birthday.

Question for February: The 16th of next month is another major date in our history. Why?



KyANG historical archive

Lt. Col. Lee J. Merkel was killed Jan. 30, 1956, when the F-51 he was flying crashed in a field near Bedford, Ind. Merkel had been wing commander since 1948 and was a highly decorated World War II combat veteran.