

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XIV, No. 5 • July 11, 1998

123rd Airlift Wing awarded 15th AF Reserve Forces Trophy

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing has been named the top reserve unit in the 15th Air Force, receiving the numbered command's 1997 Reserve Forces Trophy.

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, accepted the award from 15th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Charles Robertson during a banquet held June 11 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

The 15th Air Force is one of 20 numbered commands that divide the country's Air Force assets into geographic regions or functional specialties.

There are 29 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units in the 15th Air Force.

"This distinguished honor is a testament to the dedication of the men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard," said Brig. Gen. John R. Groves, Kentucky's adjutant general.

"At a time when our nation has come to rely on the Army and Air National Guard to fulfill its military obligations across the globe, the 123rd Airlift Wing has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to accomplish any task, no matter how demanding.

"Indeed, this award recognizes the 123rd Airlift Wing as one of our country's premier military organizations."

The wing received the trophy for its consistently high standards of excellence in everything from flight safety to mission accomplishment.

From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1997, members of the Kentucky Air Guard par-



T.C. Perkins/15th Air Force

Brig. Gen. James Sanders, mobilization assistant to the commander of the 15th Air Force, presents Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, with the numbered command's 1997 Reserve Forces Trophy.

ticipated in dozens of stateside and overseas deployments, including two major contingency operations that provided airlift services in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Saudi Arabia.

Back home, wing members responded in record numbers when unprecedented flooding hit the state, offering vital security, communications and medical skills to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

They also organized Thunder Over Louisville, one of only two marquee events nationwide honoring the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force.

"This is one more award that indicates the outstanding performance of the men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air.

"I am extremely proud of all our people and the leadership of the 123rd Airlift Wing, especially Wing Commander Col. Michael Harden.

"I also appreciate the 15th Air Force for recognizing the superb performance of our

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Mission accomplishment is our most valuable reward of all

This has been a banner year in the history of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Our list of awards — 15th Air Force Reserve Forces Trophy, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, Air National Guard Food Service Excellence Award, Military Personnel Flight of the Year Award, numerous Air Force and DoD awards for The Cargo Courier and several individual awards — is more than impressive, it is a great tribute to every person in this wing.

I consider myself very fortunate to be the guy who is the commander of this organization.

I also feel a great sense of pride every time it is announced that the wing, or someone in it, has won an award, even though I personally had little to do with it.

I feel that pride because I am a part of the unit, and if someone — or the unit as a whole — does something good and is recognized for it, I believe that we all share in it.

I want everyone in this wing to feel that pride — to know that they are a part of a unit that has a rich heritage and a tradition of going the extra mile to accomplish things.

The awards won this year document the fact that people outside our organization think we have a great unit.

This is a good thing, because to a large



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

extent our fate is decided by folks outside of our unit. It is our folks, however, who determine what those on the outside think.

I believe that if we are good, and our folks truly know that we are good and take pride in that fact, our actions will convince others much better than if we merely banged our own drum or tooted our own horn.

I am more concerned with what our airmen and NCOs think of the unit than what the Air National Guard's top leaders think, because our actions determine how they will view us.

Leaders at all levels must constantly look inward and focus their efforts on tak-

ing care of their folks and really trying to make things better here everyday.

Leaders whose focus is outward will fall into the trap of spending all their time trying to convince the higher ups how good they are at the expense of supporting their folks.

Awards are always nice because they serve to reward our folks for what they do.

The potential problem comes when awards become an end in themselves, and the focus is on the award and not on the individual effort that went into winning the award.

If we take care of business every day, and constantly strive to accomplish our mission better and better, then the awards will take care of themselves.

We've earned every award that we have received this year the right way — through our actions.

All of the sweat, long hours and time away from home made these awards happen, but more importantly, all the sweat, long hours and time away from home allowed us to accomplish our mission.

I know that we will continue to put forth the effort to accomplish our mission and make the 123rd a first-class organization and a great place to serve our community, state and nation.

Thanks Loads,

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.

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>

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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 Aug. 5



Gate Keeper

Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air, throws a lever to open the gates of the Panama Canal's first Pacific Coast lock.

Fairchild toured the canal last month after visiting an Ecuadorian construction site where members of the Kentucky Air Guard are building schools and clinics for the country's impoverished residents.

The operation, called *Nuevos Horizontes*, began April 29 and is being conducted jointly with soldiers from the Kentucky Army National Guard and every branch of the active duty military.

More than 1,300 Kentucky guardsmen will participate in the 18-week exercise.

Photo by John Flavell/Ashland Daily Independent

Internet access requires responsible use

By Senior Airman Amy Carr
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Personal computers have revolutionized the way the Air Guard operates.

It's hard to imagine life without the convenience of e-mail or the incredible access of the Internet, which can deliver a world of information to your desktop.

But that computing power also carries with it a responsibility to use the Internet appropriately.

Misuse of government computers is an area of increasing concern for the Air National Guard, said Maj. Mary McCallie, commander of the 123rd Communications Flight.

Government computers are authorized for official business only, and anyone who violates that policy can face disciplinary

action, McCallie said. Punishments, which would be determined by the wing commander, can range from verbal counseling to discharge.

McCallie said the Communications Flight is able to monitor PC use across the base by employing a firewall.

"A firewall is a piece of equipment that sits in the Base Network Control Center that runs specific software to monitor every location that is visited from any personal computer connected to our base," McCallie explained.

"In addition to being monitored by the Communications Flight, we can be monitored by Gunter Air Force Base in Alabama."

So far, the Kentucky Air Guard hasn't had any serious cases of misuse, but monitors at Gunter Air Force Base did record

several instances of unauthorized surfing during a recent three-day audit.

Tech. Sgt. Chuck Smith, a computer maintenance technician, said unauthorized surfing clogs the base's data lines, which can prevent wing members from transmitting official information.

"The Guard Bureau spends a lot of money on computers for official business, and this equipment is not here for everyone's entertainment," Smith said.

Unacceptable uses include:

- Sending or receiving e-mail for personal financial gain
- Sending harassing, abusive or offensive e-mail
- Sending chain letters or broadcasting messages of an unofficial nature
- Surfing for personal use
- Surfing pornographic or racist sites

205th merges ORI with Global Patriot

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

In an era of increasingly tight budgets, self-contained inspections have become a thing of the past.

That's why the 205th Combat Communications Squadron is currently undergoing the second phase of its Operational Readiness Inspection while it also provides real-world communications for Global Patriot '98.

Dozens of Army and Air National Guard units have deployed nearly 5,000 personnel across the country for the live-fly exercise, which will test their ability to defend South Korea from a simulated invasion.

The 205th's role in Global Patriot is to establish initial communications at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah, where it is supporting an air expeditionary force of 12 F-16 fighters, 350 support personnel, an air traffic control squadron and the KyANG's own Tanker-Airlift Control Element.

Meanwhile, the unit will be scrutinized by inspectors from Air Combat Command.

Forty-five combat comm personnel deployed to Dugway this week to begin operations for Global Patriot, which will conclude June 17.

The ORI began Thursday and will end tomorrow, just in time for Global Patriot's flight operations to begin, said Maj. Neil



Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Airman Basic Dave Roby and Staff Sgt. Chris Tellis of the 123rd Mission Support Flight prepare dog tags for Staff Sgt. Gary Hampton during mobility processing last month. Hampton and his fellow unit members from the 205th Combat Communications Squadron were completing the pre-deployment phase of their Operational Readiness Inspection during the June drill.

Mullaney, the squadron's detachment commander.

"The actual live-fly portion of Global Patriot won't begin until after our ORI is complete, but our customers are arriving and expecting service as we're going

through the inspection, so it's a real-world test of our abilities," Mullaney said.

"That means we've got an extremely large customer support requirement, but I think it will be to our benefit because it shows that we're leaning forward to provide service."

Marksmen hit bull's-eye again in state shoot-out

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Kentucky Air Guard marksmen again took top honors in a state shooting competition, out-scoring more than 50 Army competitors to claim the title of All-State Pistol Team.

Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin and Staff Sgts. Jason Lainhart, Perry McDaniel and Darryl Loafman scored a team-high 409 points in the Spring Marksmanship Pistol Match, held March 31 to April 1 at Fort Knox, Ky.

The team, which claimed its fourth such title in five years, outscored its nearest competitor by 11 points.



Tech. Sgt. Rich Martin and Staff Sgts. Jason Lainhart, Perry McDaniel and Darryl Loafman took top pistol team honors.

Loafman and Martin also earned individual honors, placing third and fourth, respectively, in the pistol shoot-out.

The wing's riflemen earned accolades, as well.

Tech. Sgt. Jim Johnson scored 137 points in the competition's M-16 match to claim second place, while Staff Sgt. Mike Downs received a novice award with 127 points.

Ten weeks earlier, Martin helped the state's National Guard Pistol Team earn second place during an international competition at Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico.

For more information on the Kentucky Air National Guard's pistol and rifle teams, contact Martin at extension 4431 or Johnson at extension 4489. ☎

Hotel rooms expected to be scarce next drill

Louisville-area hotels rooms are expected to be in short supply Aug. 15 and 16 because of the Kentucky State Fair.

Wing members who stay in contract quarters will be unable to reserve a single-occupancy room.

If you are a non-commuter who plans to bring a guest to the dining out, billeting advises that you make alternate hotel accommodations as soon as possible.

Options include the Red Carpet Inn (\$39.98; 491-7320), Suburban Lodge (\$55; 499-9100), Red Roof Inn (\$63.99; 426-7631), Holiday Inn at I-64 and Hurstbourne Lane (\$67; 426-2600) and Club Hotel by Doubletree (\$79 KyANG dining out rate; 491-4830).

'Spirit Lifters' seeking volunteers

The Kentucky Air Guard's Spirit Lifters are seeking volunteers to help spread the word about their services.

The group offers emotional support to Guard families during deployments and educates spouses about benefits and entitlements.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar at 364-9604. ☎

Runners complete mini-marathon

More than 20 current and retired members of the 123rd Airlift Wing completed the Kentucky Derby Festival's mini-marathon April 25.

Senior Airman Travis Silvers logged the group's fastest time, completing the 13.1-mile course in 1:20:33.

Tomorrow is last day to make reservations for dining out

If you plan on attending the Kentucky Air Guard's first annual dining out, you need to submit a reply card and payment by tomorrow afternoon.

The cost will be \$18 for airmen through technical sergeants; \$25 for senior NCOs; \$27 for company grade officers; and \$30 for flag and field grade officers.

When: Saturday, Aug. 15. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m.

Where: Club Hotel by Doubletree,

9700 Bluegrass Parkway (formerly the Hurstbourne Hotel and Conference Center)

Attire: Mess dress, semi-formal dress or service dress uniform for military members. (Refer to AFI 36-2903 for guidance.) Dark business suit or tuxedo for civilian men. Long or short dress for civilian women.

Photos: A photographer will be available for portraits from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Prices range from \$12 to \$25.

An open letter to all KyANG members



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS KENTUCKY AIR NATIONAL GUARD
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

July 11, 1998

During the August Unit Training Assembly, representatives of the National Guard Bureau will be visiting our base.

Among those visiting will be Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, director of the Air National Guard; his wife, Cathylee; Col. Donna Taylor; and Col. (Chaplain) John Ellington.

This is a special opportunity for the Kentucky Air National Guard to show some of our key Air National Guard leaders how outstanding our unit is.

Mrs. Weaver will speak to our spouses Saturday afternoon, and we will be visiting as many of the units on base as possible. We hope to see them all.

Saturday's base visits will be capped off by the evening's dining out, which should be a great opportunity for socializing and enjoyment. Sunday's drill also will include a special church service.

Please help me show our guests our Kentucky pride and hospitality.

Verna D. Fairchild

Brig. Gen. Verna D. Fairchild
Assistant Adjutant General for Air

First field training included live fire

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

Deployment exercises often feature simulated assaults, but when it comes to realistic field training, nothing beats live fire.

That apparently was the motivation behind the Kentucky Air Guard's first field training exercise, held 51 years ago this month.

About 350 members of the Kentucky Air Guard joined with sister units from Ohio and West Virginia for a deployment to New Castle County Airport in Wilmington, Delaware.

While there, KyANG pilots flew battle scenarios over a former World War II POW camp and defended the East Coast from simulated bombing raids.

Nothing was simulated about the pilot's ammunition, however.

Their F-51 Mustangs were loaded with live .50-caliber rounds, which they dis-

charged at surface targets during gunnery practice off the Delaware coast.

Sadly, no amount of training can ever prepare a military organization for the inescapable realities of war.

On July 2, 1951, the Kentucky Air Guard lost its first combat casualty, 1st Lt. Eugene L. Ruiz, during a mission over Korea.

Just 13 days later at Fort Knox, Ky., another Kentucky pilot, Capt. George Condor, was killed when his plane collided in mid-air with an aircraft flown by 1st Lt. Clarence Combs of West Virginia.

By year's end, four Kentucky Air Guard pilots had been lost in separate aircraft incidents.

July also has been a month for positive developments in the history of the Kentucky Air Guard.

On July 2, 1982, the wing was awarded its third Spaatz Trophy for exceedingly high standards of military performance during the previous year.

Given annually to the top Air Guard flying unit by the National Guard Association of the United States, the award is named after Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz, commander of U.S. Army Air Forces Europe in 1942.

The Kentucky Air Guard also was awarded Spaatz trophies for 1950 and 1965.

Other events of military significance that occurred in July:

- 1914 — The Aviation Section of the Army Signal Corps was created, granting military aircrews statutory recognition. Also created were the grades of junior military aviator and aviation mechanic, which provided flying pay and aviation status to unmarried lieutenants younger than 30.

- 1917 — The War Department designated a site near Shiloh Valley Township, Ill., as Scott Field, now known as Scott Air Force Base. Named after Cpl. Frank S. Scott, it is the only U.S. Air Force air facility named for an enlisted man.

- 1947 — President Truman signed the Armed Forces Unification Act, creating the Department of the Air Force as an equal with the Army and Navy.

- 1955 — The first Air Force Academy class of cadets was sworn in at a temporary campus on Lowry Air Force Base, Colo.

- 1968 — The first Women Air Force Service Pilots were sworn in the Air National Guard after passage of Public Law 90-130. The law allowed the Air National Guard to enlist women.

- 1970 — Selfridge Air Force Base, Mich., was turned over to the Air National Guard. It was the first major active Air Force base to come under control of the Air Guard.

- 1974 — The Thunderbirds gave their first aerial demonstration using T-38 Talons.

Trivia question for August: Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner's father was a Kentucky governor and a former general in the Confederate Army.

The younger Buckner, however, is also remembered for his role in the battle of Okinawa during World War II.

What distinction did the general earn?

Birthday bonus question: As our nation just celebrated its 222nd year of independence, a 21-gun salute may be in order.

What is the significance of this salute?

Look for answers in the next Retrospect.

PICTURE PERFECT



Kentucky Air Guard Historical Archives

Staff Sgt. James "Junior" Swanner and Staff Sgt. Fred White seal the first roll of aerial reconnaissance film to be processed in the Kentucky Air Guard's portable photo processing lab. The now-defunct facility opened in 1973.

Registration forms now available for Air Force Marathon

Registration forms are now available for the second annual Air Force Marathon, which will be held Sept. 19 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The forms can be requested by writing to USAF Marathon, 88SPTG/SVC, 5215 Thurlow Street, Suite 2, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-5542.

They also can be downloaded from the marathon web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/g-reg.htm>.

For more information, call (800) 467-1823. ☎

USAF Radio News gets new number

The Air Force's daily five-minute radio digest can now be heard by dialing a new toll-free phone number.

Effective immediately, the phone number is (877) AF-RADIO.

The program, which is updated Monday through Friday, allows instant access to timely news about the Air Force community.

It can also be heard on the Web at <http://www.af.mil/news/radio>.

Service to toughen basic training standards

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has approved an Air Force plan to toughen physical fitness standards for basic trainees.

The details have yet to be worked out, but physical conditioning sessions will increase to six days a week.

The Air Force also wants to introduce more robust field training exercises and combat orientation.

Service issues new guidelines on tattoos and body piercing

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — While not banning its members from wearing body art, the Air Force is setting forth new guidelines on tattoos, branding and body piercing in an interim change to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

In essence, tattoos or brands may not be excessive, and those that contain inflammatory, obscene, racist or sexist content are strictly prohibited.

Examples of those that could be considered excessive would include images or brands that cover more than one-fourth of an exposed body limb or are visible above the collarbone in an open-collar uniform.

Air Force members whose tattoos violate the new standards must keep them covered with current uniform items or volunteer to have them removed.

Commanders may seek Air Force medical support for the voluntary removal of tattoos.

The piercing guidelines state that males cannot wear earrings or any other visible body piercings while on base, in or out of uniform, on or off duty.

Piercing guidelines for females permit:
•A single, small, spherical, matching earring in each earlobe while on duty; no other body piercings should be visible.

•Conservative earrings while on base but off duty; no other body piercings should be visible.

"Basically, we've recognized the increasing popularity of body art and have adjusted personal appearance policy to set appropriate guidelines for such practices," said Lt. Col. Whit Taylor, chief of the Air Force Quality of Life Office, which is responsible for uniforms and personal appearance policy.

"The Air Force has long had dress and personal appearance standards, and they are not stagnant," he said.

"They are evolutionary and will continue to serve as minimum standards, leaving much discretionary judgment to com-

manders to determine appropriate appearance and safety requirements for their mission profiles."

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric W. Benken said the Air Force has a long-standing policy prohibiting people with excessive or offensive tattoos from joining the Air Force, but has not had a policy restricting the display of tattoos, brands and body piercing on active duty.

As with other issues, he explained, presenting a proper military image at all times is paramount.

"We've tried to provide commanders, first sergeants and supervisors clear guidance on what is acceptable," Benken said.

"They have the latitude to look at the size and extent of the tattoo and determine what is acceptable.

"I think the guidance is fair, reasonable and necessary."

Benken said most people now wearing tattoos are within the boundaries of the new policy.

"The new rules are for those who have taken body art to the extreme."

Benken said that because of the Air Force's global mission, airmen should be cautious about personal hygiene and other health-related issues that arise from wearing items on the body.

Air Force doctors back up the chief's position.

The most serious potential medical complications of tattoos and body piercing include blood-borne infections like HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis, as well as staph and strep infections.

Secondary infections also might occur during healing.

Benken added that the Air Force also is concerned about body art on people serving overseas where there are host nation sensitivities.

In all these instances, he said, people must take care to present a proper military image as well as to look out for their own safety.

For more information on this policy, contact your first sergeant, commander or military personnel flight.

Wells, Bell retire from unit

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Two longtime fixtures of the Kentucky Air Guard, Lt. Col. Dan Wells and Fay Bell, recently retired from the unit.

Wells, who was staff project officer for the wing commander until his retirement last month, entered military service in 1970, graduating from the University of Louisville's Air Force ROTC program in the same class as Col. Michael Harden, the 123rd Airlift Wing's current commander.

After a 27-month tour of active duty as a Titan II missile officer, Wells took a seven-year hiatus before joining the Kentucky Air Guard as ground safety officer in 1979.

During his nearly two decades in the Guard, Wells also served as commander of the Mission Support Squadron.

Bell first came to the Kentucky Air Guard in 1975, working as a typist in the base administration section.

She later served as a secretary to four air commanders before retiring March 30.



ABOVE: Lt. Col. Dan Wells accepts the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal from Col. Michael Harden.



LEFT: Fay Bell, who served as secretary to four air commanders, also received the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal.

Wing named top reserve unit in 15th Air Force

Continued from Page 1

people. Despite a very full schedule of missions around the world, we have maintained a high level of professionalism and unit morale."

Fairchild noted that such success wouldn't be possible without the support of Guard members' families.

"I would like to offer my personal thanks to the families of our guardsmen for their continued support as our missions require more and more time away from home," she said.

The Reserve Forces Trophy follows on the heels of two other prestigious honors for the wing.

In May, the unit was awarded the Distinguished Flying Plaque by the National Guard Association of the United States.

The plaque is given annually to the country's top five Air National Guard flying units.

Three months earlier, the wing was selected for its ninth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, making it one of the most decorated organizations in the Air National Guard.

The secretary of the Air Force presents the honor to units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of national or international significance.

Only one other Air National Guard unit — Georgia's 116th Bomber Wing — has won as many Outstanding Unit Awards.

Promotions in the KyANG

The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the U.S. Air Force:

TO AIRMAN (E-2)

- Amy Bush,
123rd Mission Support Flt.
- Patrick Bawkin Jr.,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

TO AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

- Casey Carmichael,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Sheldon Cowley,
123rd Student Flt.
- Alexandra Crick,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Michael Faulkner Jr.,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Brian Henry,
123rd Communications Flt.
- Brian Robinson,
123rd Services Flt.

- Darrell Roof,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Zakiya Taylor,
123rd Student Flt.

TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)

- Gary Uebel,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

TO MASTER SGT. (E-7)

- Todd Albin,
123rd Airlift Control Flt.
- William Mullinix,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TO 1ST LIEUTENANT (O-2)

- Richard Leslie,
165th Airlift Sq.

TO CAPTAIN (O-3)

- Wesley Cooksey,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Christopher Lally,
165th Airlift Sq.