

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XIX, No. 3 • March 1, 2003

Aiming *HIGH*

Ketterer, Sprake and Malone named 2002 Airmen of the Year

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

All members of the Kentucky Air Guard are held to extremely high standards.

Living the Air Force core values—integrity, service before self and excellence—is not an option for KyANG troops but a way of life.

With more than 1,000 deserving airmen on base, identifying the wing's top enlisted performers each year is an extremely difficult



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

task, said State Command Chief Master Sgt. Kenny Fogle, who headed the selection board for the Kentucky Air Guard's 2002 Airman of the Year competition.

"There were about 25 airmen who were nominated and met the board, which made the selection process like splitting hairs," Fogle said. "We have so many great troops and unknown heroes on this base, to even be nominated in this group of 25 is an honor itself."

That says a lot about the Kentucky Air Guard as an organization, Fogle added.

"While all of the candidates were exceptional, three shone through with their positive outlooks and enthusiasm," the command chief said.

After extensive evaluation by the review board, Senior Master Sgt. Pat Malone, Tech. Sgt. Bill Sprake and Senior Airman Josh Ketterer were named the "best of the best."

Ketterer, who has been in the unit less than three years, is a

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TOP: Senior Airman Josh Ketterer, a command post controller in the 123rd Airlift Wing, twice made the dean's list at the University of Louisville while mobilized and serving full-time in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

LEFT: Tech. Sgt. Bill Sprake, a combat controller in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, received several decorations after deploying overseas and serving in combat as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Fogle reflects on his career in the Guard

As my career in the Kentucky Air National Guard comes to a close, I look back and reflect on just how proud I am to have served this unit as a true traditional Guardsman—the symbol of what the founding fathers had in mind when framing the United States Constitution.

In wartime we fight, in peacetime we train, this being the longtime motto of the training professional.

In these times, this should be modified because in order to remain successful, we must continue to train even during wartime.

No other concept can equal readiness, strength, safety and effectiveness than a good training program and good people to watch over it.

In no other profession is blind trust so important, because keeping the faith with your leadership, both military and political, is essential in order to have positive outcomes.

Not only this, you must keep the faith of your comrades (who are watching your back while at the same time you are watching theirs) and keep the faith in our younger generation—those who will follow us and keep our country strong and free while those of us in retirement age can live a good life and know that our children and grandchildren will also be able to enjoy the fruits of the American democracy.

“We’re not in Kansas anymore” — a great line from the movie “The Wizard of Oz” and a great line for us here who know that we now have a global mission added to the duties we have always had here closer to home.



**Command Chief Master Sgt.
Kenny Fogle
Kentucky Air National Guard HQ**

All of us, young and old in the Kentucky Air Guard, are a part of a proud, remarkably outstanding heritage.

The tradition of the KyANG alone can be both a tremendous burden to carry on and a glorious base to build upon for even greater success stories to come.

Whether you were part of the Kentucky Air Guard when it was conceived in 1947, served during the Korean conflict, the Gulf War or any other time in the unit’s more than 55-year history, or whether you are just coming on board, we are all forever linked together as members of one of the greatest military organizations in our country’s history.

As I wrote in a previous column, you can take the airman out of the Kentucky Air Guard, but you can’t take the Kentucky Air Guard out of the airman.

Whether you served only one year or retired after 25 years, the KyANG will always remain a highlight of your life on Earth.

In my 20 years with the Guard, I’ve met many wonderful, professional people.

I was convinced when I joined in 1982 straight out of the active duty Air Force that the unit here was a top-notch organization, and I am even more of that sure today.

If I have been successful in this job in any way, it’s because I’m not foolish enough to think that I can do any job of any significance in the Kentucky Air Guard alone.

Morale is high on this base, and it is high for many reasons, primarily because any other attitude is simply not acceptable.

Whining and complaining are not part of the mindset of the Senior Enlisted Leadership here at the KyANG.

The higher in rank you achieve, the more you understand that to be successful in this organization, you must be willing to accept what comes to you in a positive, upbeat manner.

To be any other way simply will not be tolerated by your peers. When you are not worried about who gets the credit, there is no limit to what you can do.

Quiet accomplishments by average people are what truly make the difference in success and failure in a project.

There are many more people who simply do their jobs and do them well than those who excel beyond normal expectations.

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

Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is March 19.

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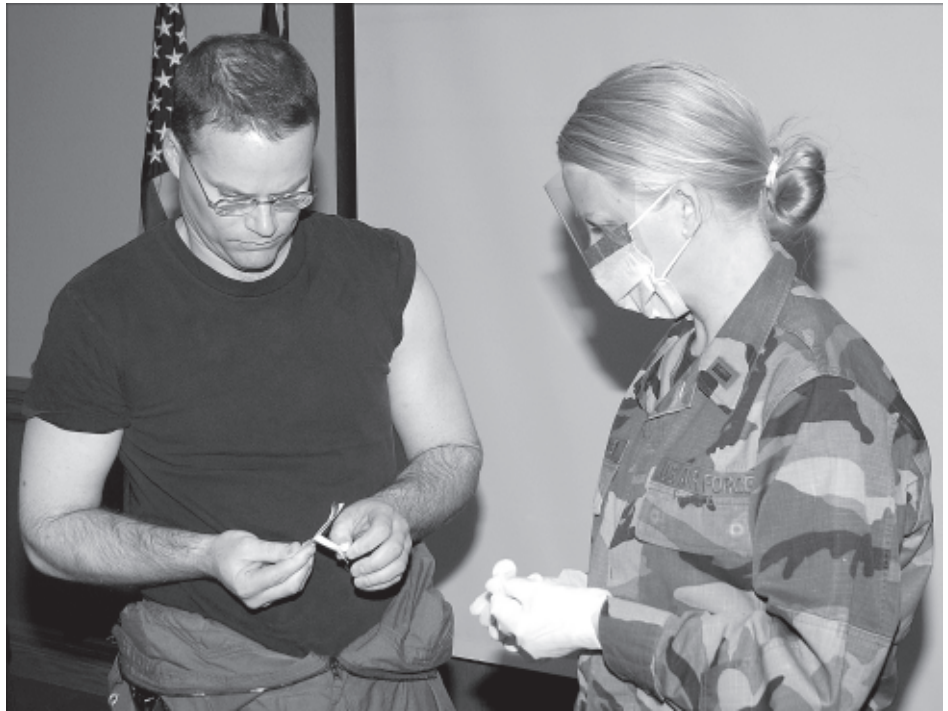
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Preventing smallpox

1st Lt. Robin Stokley, a nurse in the 123rd Medical Squadron, administers a smallpox vaccination to Physician Maj. Louis House during a Feb. 2 demonstration for the wing's commanders.

The vaccination will be given to members of the Kentucky Air Guard who deploy to high-threat areas.

Photo by
Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG



Promotions, retirements & separations



The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS (E-3)

•James Thuss,
165th Airlift Sq.

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

•Craig Davis,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
•Nicholas Dobson,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
•James Egner,
123rd Student Ft.
•John Wadsworth,
123rd Student Ft.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

•Casey Carmichael,
123rd Logistics Sq.

•Dana Walker,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

•Embry Heil Jr.,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)

•Christopher Burt,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

•Master Sgt. Donald Briney,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Tech. Sgt. Ronald Carlisle,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
•Lt. Col. Deborah Foster,
123rd Mission Support Ft.

•Master Sgt. David Goatley,
123rd Logistics Gp.
•Master Sgt. Johnny Holton,
165th Airlift Sq.
•Master Sgt. Charles Jones,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
•Master Sgt. Dianna Nelson,
123rd Mission Support Ft.
•Chief Master Sgt. William Smith,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
•Tech. Sgt. Norman Thomas Jr.,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
•Master Sgt. Michael Webb,
123rd Logistics Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:

•Senior Airman Jessica Farquhar,
123rd Communications Ft.
•Airman First Class Jeff Gora,
123rd Student Ft.
•Senior Airman Robert Grzech,
123rd Medical Sq.
•Master Sgt. Barbara Swann,
123rd Airlift Wing
•Staff Sgt. Guy Weis,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

Smith selected as first sergeant of the year

By Senior Airman Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Master Sgt. Keith Smith of the 165th Airlift Squadron recently was recently named the Kentucky Air Guard's First Sergeant of the Year.

Smith, who was activated last year in support of Operations Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom, said he was quite surprised to be nominated.

"I really didn't know my commander put me in for the award until I got a letter notifying me I'd been nominated," Smith said.

"It's really an honor to be selected. All the other first sergeants I've worked with are top-notch.

"There's only one person who can be selected, but looking at how the first sergeant position has evolved, it's difficult to determine who should get the award," he said.

As a first sergeant, Smith is responsible for acting as a liaison between the enlisted troops and the commander.

"My job is to take care of the people, particularly the enlisted force," he said.

Smith also serves as the first sergeant for the 123rd Airlift Wing Headquarters, the 165th Weather Flight, the 123rd Operations Support Flight, the 123rd Operations Group and the 123rd Airlift Control Flight.

According to Smith, handling the first sergeant's duties for six units isn't as difficult as it might seem because of the competence and professionalism of the unit members themselves.



Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Master Sgt. Keith Smith, who was selected as the wing's First Sergeant of the Year, serves as the first sergeant for six units.

"Some of these units run so well, there's usually little I need to do," he said.

Smith joined the wing in 1984 and worked in civil engineering before taking his current position with the 165th in 1997.

Spring brings us help and hope

I predict that Spring will come, eventually.

My hope lies in 49 years of personal experience with the seasons of life.

Experience also reminds me that one of winter's hazards is depression.

You may know someone suffering prolonged periods of sad feelings or the blues.

Depression has been a part of the human condition since the beginning of time.

Evidence of the illness appears even in Scripture.

"Is it nothing to all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me." (Lamentations 1:12)

Depression has several symptoms which point to the need for proper attention.

Among these are:

—Feelings of sadness or irritability

—Loss of interest in sex and activities once enjoyed

—Changes in weight or appetite

—Feeling guilty, hopeless or worthless

—Inability to concentrate, remember things or make decisions

—Fatigue or loss of energy

—Restlessness or decreased activity noticed by others

—Thoughts of suicide or death

Managing depression may involve a combination of spiritual, psychological and medical attention.

Be aware of the symptoms and take advantage of the tremendous resources available to treat depression.

Remember, Spring is coming! We have help and hope.

—Lt. Col. Tom Curry
Wing Chaplain

Chaplain's Column

Fogle reflects

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I'm most proud of the humble airman who doesn't really know that he's making a difference, but does the best he can because it's simply the right thing to do and he doesn't know it any other way.

The world is run by common, average people doing the best they can and not receiving great praise but feeling a sense of pride and accomplishment in themselves and being ready to get up the next day and do it all over again.

These are my thoughts while reminiscing over a 25-year career and the people I've had the fortune to meet and know in the Kentucky Air Guard. Keep up the good work.

—Command Chief Master Sgt.
Kenny Fogle

Aiming High

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command post controller in the 123rd Air-lift Wing and a full-time student at the University of Louisville, majoring in Human Resource Development.

In his KyANG position, Ketterer handles message traffic, developing checklists and coordinating information for the base.

Ketterer's supervisor, Master Sgt. Curtis Meurer, attributes much of the airmen's success on the fact the he places so much ownership in command post operations.

"Josh is always willing to go the extra mile," Meurer said. "He is quality-focused and, even outside of duty hours, he always remains available.

"He came into the shop as a very junior member but very quickly became a full-time asset," Meurer said. "Josh is a very high-energy and motivated individual."

Despite being activated in 2002, Ketterer still managed to make the dean's list twice at U of L and also remained active in the base Honor Guard.

"We are exceptionally proud of Josh," said Meurer, who noted that the command post now has back-to-back Airman of the Year winners.

Senior Airman Philip Guptill was a 2001 award-winner.

Tech. Sgt. Bill Sprake is a combat con-

troller in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, where he serves as the close air support instructor and the assistant team leader of the combat control team.

He pulled two rotations in Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002 and has been recommended for a bronze star with valor for his actions in the Global War on Terror. Sprake exemplifies the highest standard of excellence and demonstrates the strengths of an exceptional leader, according to his supervisor, Master Sgt. Tom DeSchane, the combat control team leader.

"Bill always exceeds the expectations of his peers and supervisors," DeSchane said. "When he is forced into adversity he shines through it and presses on.

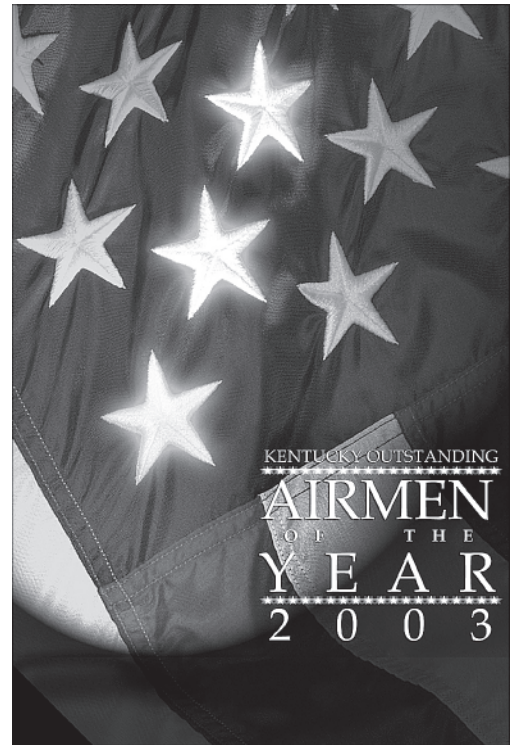
"When Bill was told he could pack up and return home from his first rotation to Afghanistan, he made a request to stay because he felt things were not complete there yet — but was quickly denied."

Upon returning home from the war for a second time, Sprake began a training program for the 123rd's pararescuemen to train them in emergency close air support.

Bill always goes "above and beyond" and places service before self, DeSchane added.

Senior Master Sgt. Pat Malone is the pararescue superintendent for the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, where he's served since joining the unit in October of 2000.

Malone has put together a winning com-



bination of younger pararescueman and continues to build what can only be described as a "dream team," mixing experience with exuberance, said Maj. Jeremy Shoop, the unit's commander.

Malone also has been "absolutely indispensable" as the unit continues its conversion from a small flight to a full squadron, Shoop said.

"He is a consummate professional and brings a huge amount of pararescue experience with him, including that gained in combat operations and deployments around the world," Shoop noted.

While participating in Operation Enduring Freedom last year, Malone was essential to establishing and maintaining combat search and rescue capability for the Joint Special Operations Aviation Component-South, Shoop said.

Based at a classified location in Southwest

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Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

LEFT: Senior Master Sgt. Pat Malone, a pararescueman in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, has put together a "dream team" since the unit began its conversion from a small flight to a full squadron.

USAF releases MC-130H accident findings

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla.— An accident investigation board cites an uncharacteristic loss of situational awareness by the flight deck crew and the subsequent lack of an appropriate response to obstacle warning tone as the cause of an MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft accident Aug. 7 in Puerto Rico.

The mishap occurred while the aircraft and crew were taking part in a training mission, conducting low-level training at night in mountainous terrain.

All 10 people on board, including two members of the Kentucky Air Guard, Tech. Sgts. Christopher Matero and Martin Tracy, both combat controllers, were killed when the Combat Talon crashed near Caguas, Puerto Rico.

The accident investigation board was led by Brig. Gen. Vern M. Findley II, 5th Air Force vice commander, Yokota Air Base, Japan, and consisted of aircraft and aircraft systems experts.

The report found that 12 seconds before impact, the aircraft crested a ridgeline near Caguas.

At that point, the aircrew began a descent using its terrain following system, and received an obstacle warning tone.

Believing weather was the cause of the obstacle warning tone, the crew continued to descend.

Although the aircraft eventually began a climb, it impacted a ridgeline at 2,018 feet.

The aircraft was assigned to the 15th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field.

Dust in the wind



Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby/USAF

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM— An Air Force MH-53M Pave Low from the Air Force Special Operations Detachment at Camp Lemonier performs “dust-out” training in Djibouti, Africa, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Body modification guidance revised

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON—The Air Force has revised personal appearance guidelines in response to a trend involving extreme body modification and mutilation that is becoming common among a small, yet growing, segment of the population, according to personnel officials.

This change is in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

It prohibits airmen from intentionally altering or modifying their bodies in order to achieve a visible effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image, said Lt. Col. Frank Pombar, chief of the Air Force quality of life

programs and uniform branch at the Pentagon.

“The Air Force is a profession of arms and there are certain appearance standards that we must adhere to,” Pombar said. “Whether in or out of uniform, we represent the Air Force and must conduct ourselves professionally.”

Although the colonel believes very few airmen will actually be impacted by this policy clarification, it will benefit recruiters, first sergeants, commanders and airmen.

“For some time now, recruiters have been seeing a growing number of people with extreme body alterations or piercings,” he said. “Without specific guidance, recruiters often had to rely on personal opinion or taste to make a decision as to what was or was not appropriate.”

Use common sense when posting to Internet

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON—Recent advances in technology have Air Force officials urging airmen to use common sense and remember operations security when posting on the Internet.

An item of special concern is the placement of photos of forward operating bases on personal Web sites.

What has officials worried is the possibility of adversaries collecting those photos and using them to plan attacks against U.S. Forces.

According to Lt. Col. Brieuc Bloxam, Air Force operations security program manager, airmen have posted photos on their Web sites of personal living areas, common-use areas such as dining facilities and basketball courts, operations buildings, perimeter fences and guard shacks.

"It makes people very nervous when they come across those (on the Internet)."

Maintaining operations security, Bloxam said, is one of the keys to effective force protection.

"Ultimately what's important is that OPSEC can and does save lives and in-

creases our mission success rate," he said.

While there are no specific regulations or laws that prevent someone from posting unclassified information on a personal Web site, Bloxam said people should keep in mind the Internet's reach.

"At present, there is nothing that says I can't take personal photos with my personal camera and post them," Bloxam said. "But when you post something on the Web, you're posting to the world, and you don't control who has access to the information you're posting. You're open to threat, and you may put others at risk in the same way."

In a recent case, Bloxam said, personal photos taken by an airman and placed on a personal Web site were downloaded and placed on an anti-American site.

What began as "I was here" photos for friends and family became propaganda material used by an adversary.

Air Force legal officials say a commander's right to protect his forces may supersede a person's right to post.

"I would be surprised if anybody would argue that they'd have some sort of First Amendment right to publish photos... especially when we're in a heightened state of security," said Lt. Col. Timothy W. Murphy,

chief of the command doctrine and employee law branch in the office of the Air Force Judge Advocate General.

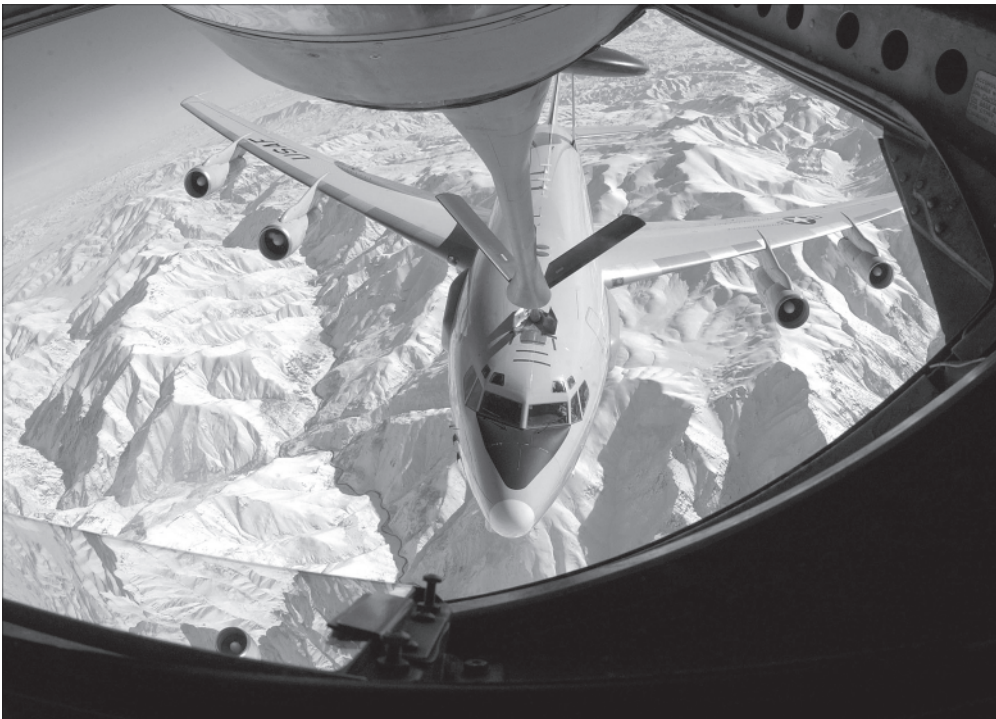
"National security and the security of personnel are compelling reasons... to prevent this type of speech," he said.

Murphy said if a commander determines there are legitimate security concerns, he can prohibit personnel from posting to the Internet from his location, even if that means curtailing "morale call" types of e-mail access.

"When you put security concerns together with the fact that you're using government Internet access time, it's reasonable for the U.S. military to say 'No pictures,'" he said.

While commanders may have the ultimate responsibility, Bloxam said, maintaining operations security and force protection is everyone's business.

"Security, ultimately, is everyone's responsibility," he said. "It's everyone's duty to protect themselves and the U.S. armed forces, even if that means you don't send out a photo over the Internet. That 'innocent' picture of you standing outside your dorm may provide an adversary all kinds of information."



Staff Sgt. Jason Gamble/USAF

Border Patrol

OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH—An E-3B Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft refuels along the Iraqi border as part of an Operation Northern Watch mission of enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

The AWACS is assigned to the 513th Air Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Farewell



Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Col. Mike Dornbush, executive support staff officer for state headquarters, presents Senior Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar with a silver cup during her retirement ceremony here Jan. 12. Farquhar was the recruiting and retention supervisor for state headquarters and spent more than 22 years in the Kentucky Air National Guard.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Asia, he not only was the ranking enlisted pararescueman but also was responsible for combat search and recovery in his geographic area of operations.

Malone flew aboard rotary-wing assets on notable combat missions, where his medical knowledge was paramount in saving the lives of American and friendly host-nation personnel who had been wounded, Shoop said.

A banquet to honor Ketterer, Sprake and Malone will be held tonight at 7 at the Bullitt County Convention Center in Sheperdsville, Ky. The guest speaker will be Heather French Henry, former Miss America and wife of Lt. Gov. Steve Henry.

For more information, contact Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Mitro at ext. 4465.