

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Wing passes 9th Air Force inspection

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

After a year of intense training and preparation, members of the 123rd Airlift Wing can take a moment to congratulate themselves.

The unit received the stamp of approval from the 9th Air Force Inspector General's office, passing its operational readiness inspection in Savannah, Ga., last month with high marks in key areas.

"You should feel good about what you did," Lt. Col. Kenneth Alley, inspector general, told more than 200 airmen gathered on base for the ORI outbriefing Feb. 14th.

"When I go back to see my boss, I'll tell him the Kentucky Air National Guard is ready to go to war and do it well."

Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air, praised the unit



9th Air Force photo

Tech. Sgt. Delano Jewell patrols the security police training site at Ft. Stewart, outside Savannah, Ga.



KyANG photo by Tech Sgt. Charles Simpson

The unit's C-130s deployed 856 personnel and 200 tons of cargo for the ORI.

for its hard work and said the inspection report was "one of the best I've seen."

She also recognized Col. Michael Harden, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, for his "leadership, ability and diligence."

"He overcame a lot of obstacles in a short period of time," Fairchild told the crowd.

Harden, who was greeted with a standing ovation as he approached the podium, said the report was "dynamite."

"I've been here almost 20 years," Harden said. "I've seen some good times, and I've seen some bad times. This is one of the by-God good times."

"If you look at what we've accomplished over the past year, it's been almost phenomenal.

"About a year ago, we got up to Volk Field (Wis.), and we didn't know how to spell ATSO or ADAT or BDAT or WHODAT. It snowed 10 inches the first night, we were a

little bit disorganized, and we were a little bit confused.

"But we learned a heck of a lot. We came back home and immediately started the base move, which was infinitely more difficult than I ever imagined.

"When we went back to Savannah in June, things started coming together."

Harden said the unit's performance was especially noteworthy because it followed some of the most trying times in the history of the Kentucky Air Guard. In addition to the base move, the unit converted its aircraft twice in the past seven years.

The hard work, though, has been worth it, Harden told the crowd.

"I've never been prouder of a bunch of folks, and prouder to be anywhere than I am right now.

"Thanks loads, folks."

O R I
96
Savannah, Ga.

•MORE
COVERAGE,
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Inspection results validate our own sense of combat readiness

Well, the ORI is over! We are a combat-ready airlift unit, and each one of you has my heartfelt thanks for the effort and enthusiasm that you showed under some of the most adverse conditions that I have seen.

I could never be more pleased or prouder to be your commander than I am right now.

It was important that this ORI validate our combat readiness in the minds of Air Combat Command, 9th Air Force and Air National Guard headquarters.

To me, however, it was more important that our combat readiness be validated in the minds of our own folks — our folks who changed three props and launched aircraft in skin-freezing temperatures; our folks who loaded the cargo in the same bitter cold; our folks who flew the missions and got the loads on the target on time; our folks who cooked the meals,



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

counted the dead, treated the wounded, kept the intruders at bay, and did all of the unsung things necessary to make a combat-ready outfit.

Since becoming your commander this

past June, I have stressed readiness, and you have responded superbly.

Make no mistake, I will continue to stress readiness everyday. We will not return to the days where the focus was on the niceties, and not on flying and fixing airplanes — when readiness was an afterthought and mobility and ATSO exercises were only distant memories.

My one job as wing commander is to ensure that if called, the men and women of the Thoroughbred Express are ready to go to war, win and return home with honor.

Your actions during the ORI show that we can now do that superbly in the grand tradition of those who have gone before us in the 123rd.

I am proud to have the honor to serve with you as your commander and look forward to working with each of you in the coming years.

There is no other place I would rather be.

Thanks *loads!*

Family Support Program needs spouses, retirees to volunteer

A part of readiness is making sure that we have taken care of our families as well as being prepared to serve our country.

The needs of the family and their concerns are the foundation of purpose behind the Kentucky Air National Guard Family Support Program.

It is an important resource for families

whose members are subject to deployment.

It provides information, refers questions to appropriate offices and agencies, and follows up to ensure that help has been provided.

I encourage all spouses and retirees to give of your time and talents to enhance the Kentucky Air National Guard Family Support

Program.

Please contact Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar at (502) 364-9604 to join.

We need your involvement to help us support our Air National Guard family.

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

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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 April 1.

Hail to the Chief



RIGHT: President Clinton made Louisville International Airport his first stop in January after delivering the State of the Union Address.

LEFT: The visit gave Col. Michael Harden, wing commander, a chance to roll out the red carpet.

KyANG photos by
Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley



Effort to pass college bill hits Capitol rotunda

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

The National Guard Association of Kentucky presented hundreds of petitions cards to the state legislature last week in a show of support for the college aid bill.

The cards, filed in boxes and presented to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Marshal Long, in the Capitol rotunda, were signed by guardsmen from across the Commonwealth.

The bill would pay full tuition for Kentucky Guard members who attend state-supported universities, colleges or technical schools.

It was expected to be approved by the house Education and Appropriations & Revenue committees by this week. If passed, it will proceed to the floor of the House for a full vote.

Organizers said they are optimistic about the measure's chances in the General Assembly.

"I really don't see anything that will stand in the way of it passing," said Lt. Col. Norman Arflack, executive director of the association.

Arflack was less sanguine, however, about the governor's response.

"The biggest factor we've been concerned about all along is funding. Had we got it in the governor's budget, I think we already

concession where we would accept the bill with less money and then have the ability to increase the funding at a later date," he said.

Arflack encouraged guardsmen to stay in touch with their legislators.

He emphasized that the benefits of the bill — both as a recruiting tool and a revenue enhancer — would more than outweigh its costs.

"The Kentucky Army Guard right now is some 1,600 people short," Arflack said.

"The state's losing \$9 million a year (in federal money) as a result of that."

He said the bill offers a win-win situation for the Guard and the state.

The Guard boosts recruitment and retention; the state gets a fully staffed National Guard.

Guardsmen also have access to college educations, and state employers get access to better schooled, more disciplined workers. Arflack said.

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

would have seen a vote on it."

The bill seeks \$5 million a year for funding.

But Arflack said it probably won't cost that much initially because it will take some time for people to become aware of the benefits.

"We may have to look at some kind of a



9th Air Force photo

Staff Sgt. Charles Kelton, of the 123rd Security Police Squadron, carries a comrade to safety.



KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. D.



KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson

RIGHT: Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar briefs troops at the clearing house as they arrive in theater.

Ready for War

SUPERIOR PERFORMERS

Personnel Deployment Function Team, Ambush/Security Patrol Team, Moulage Team: Staff Sgt. Anthony Foll, Staff Sgt. Roy Frazier, Mr. Vance Fulkerson, Tech. Sgt. Beverly Glover, Staff Sgt. Harold Godlett, Staff Sgt. John Grimes, Staff Sgt. Jeffery Greenwood, Staff Sgt. Robert Hatfield, Tech. Sgt. Delano Jewell, Tech. Sgt. Roger Kelty, Tech. Sgt. Donald Overton, Staff Sgt. Melisa Silvers, Senior Airman Danny Sledge, Senior Airman Patrick Sledge, Airman 1st Class Mark Smith, Staff Sgt. Timothy Smith.



KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson

LEFT: A clearing house technician decontaminates an airman who has been exposed to chemical agents.

RIGHT: Senior Master Sgt. Larry Fowler delivers medical aid to a wounded airman.



KyANG photo by Staff Sgt.

LEFT: Staff Sgt. Paul Grimes takes cover as he calls in a report after artillery hits the base.



KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Fritz

Aerial Port Squadron members supervise the offloading of a spare turbo prop.



LEFT: A flight line worker prepares to decontaminate ground equipment that has been exposed to chemical agents.

KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Fritz

RIGHT: A fireman pulls an unconscious victim from a burning structure.



KyANG photo by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz

Inspectors pleased with medical unit

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

While everyone else spent January preparing for the wing's operational readiness inspection, the 123rd Medical Squadron already was undergoing a combination ORI and Quality Air Force Assessment.

The Air Force Inspection Agency evaluated the medical squadron Jan. 28-29 during a Health Services Inspection, the unit's first such inspection in five years. Inspectors examined the unit's past two years of training and mission performance.

They were pleased with what they found.

"I'm impressed with the hard work that's done in a short amount of time by your Guard members," said Lt. Col. Junior Tilley, inspection team chief. "The professionalism in the hospital is exceptional."

The squadron exceeded quality Air Force health care standards in all four areas of evaluation — leadership/executive management; health and support services; human resource utilization and development; and medical readiness.

Col. Charles O. Bruce III, commander of the medical squadron, praised the pride, hard work and teamwork the squadron displayed.

"It was a highly successful effort," he said. "We feel a great sense of relief that it's over."

The hospital's performance is exceptional in light of the numerous exercises the unit supported, said Col. Michael Harden, wing commander.

Coat Crusade

Chaplain (Maj.) Tom Curry and Senior Airman Patrick Barnes of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron deliver winter coats to Way-side Christian Mission during the February unit training assembly.

The squadron collected more than 75 coats during the drive, which has become an annual tradition.

KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson



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)

James Richey Jr., 8123rd Student Flight

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)

Melanie Bowling, 123rd Security Police Sq.

To Senior Airman (E-4)

Travis Silvers, 123rd Security Police Sq.

To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

James Ferguson, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.

Emil Jeffers, 123rd Security Police Sq.

Ricky Logsdon, 123rd Security Police Sq.

William Sprake, 123rd Airlift Wing

To Technical Sergeant (E-6)

Charles Peck Jr., 123rd Airlift Wing
Terry Collard, 123rd Civil Engineer Sq.

To Master Sergeant (E-7)

John Siebert, 165th Airlift Sq.
Thomas Sullivan, 123rd Airlift Control Flt.

To Captain (O-3)

Elizabeth Leistensnider, 123rd Airlift Wing

To Major (O-4)

Steven Cochran, 165th Airlift Sq.
Mariano Floro III, 165th Airlift Sq.
Jeffrey Gagnon, 165th Airlift Sq.
Mark Heiniger, 165th Airlift Sq.
John Hogan, 165th Airlift Sq.
James Simpkins, 165th Airlift Sq.

To Lieutenant Colonel (O-5)

Timothy Gump, 165th Weather Flt.
Teresa Harden, HQ, KyANG
Mark Kraus, 123rd Operations Grp.

KyANG graphic by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

Recruiting position open

Are you a confident guardsman who's looking for a personally rewarding military career?

Would you enjoy helping young people develop character and pride?

If you answered "yes," the Kentucky Air Guard recruiting office has an opening you might be interested in.

The office is accepting applications for a full-time recruiter.

For more information and eligibility requirements, call Tech. Sgt. Dorinda Stackhouse at 364-9422, extension 4; or Master Sgt. Dianna Nelson at 364-9668.

The deadline to apply is Thursday.

Runners Club seeks members

Anyone interested in becoming a member of a KyANG Runners Club should contact Lt. Col. Dan Wells at 364-9650, extension 4.

The club will accept anyone interested — fast, slow, in-between, trainers, or coaches.

The club also seeks guardsmen who would be interested in running in the 13.1 mile Kentucky Derby Mini Marathon.

Disciplinary action taken against C-141 crew

By Master Sgt. Gary Pomeroy
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has determined that Reserve personnel from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., misused a C-141 aircraft and a government van by attending professional basketball games at Charlotte, N.C., and Indianapolis during a training mission in November.

The 446th Airlift Wing crew conducted appropriate training during flights to Charlotte International Airport and Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., but "a number of irregularities and unacceptable standards of performance" were found, according to a Feb. 2 statement by Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh, Air Force Reserve chief.

Planning directives were disregarded, flying maneuvers for which the navigator was not qualified at the time were flown, "and additional unjustified expense to the Air Force was incurred in order to accommodate personal preference," McIntosh's statement said.

The commander of 4th Air Force (AFRES), who headed the investigation, has recommended Article 15s for two crew members involved in the incident.

They have one month to decide whether to accept the nonjudicial punishment.

If not, the convening authority will determine whether the case will be pursued through courts-martial or some other administrative action.

The 4th Air Force commander also issued two letters of reprimand, seven letters of admonishment and one letter of counseling to crew members.

Air National Guard facilities at Charlotte International Airport could not provide parking or refueling for the C-141, but the plane's crew chose Charlotte as a training site anyway because they wanted to attend a pro basketball game.

— Air Force report

One supervisor was notified of the commander's intent to recommend reassignment to a lower-grade civilian position.

Among the findings in the investigative report:

- Charlotte International Airport was selected as a destination even though the Air National Guard facility there could not provide parking or refueling.

- The fuel purchased at the airport — from a commercial firm with no government contract — cost \$5,832. Fuel purchased from the Air National Guard would have cost

\$2,248.

- Evidence showed that Charlotte was selected in order to accommodate crew members who wanted to attend a professional basketball game between the Seattle Super Sonics and the Charlotte Hornets.

"This conduct was in violation of Air Force policy," McIntosh's statement said.

- A military van transported on the aircraft was used to drive 60 miles from Grissom to attend a basketball game between Seattle and the Indianapolis Pacers.

"While travelers are allowed to use government transportation to obtain meals and lodging while traveling, they must do so in a reasonable manner," McIntosh said.

"Use of the van in this instance to attend the basketball game violated Air Force standards."

- Relevant facts about the flight were not made known to approval authorities, who believed the aircraft would use the Air National Guard ramp at Charlotte.

As a result of the incident, Air Force Reserve now requires that off-station missions be under oversight of the AFRES command post. Additionally, Reserve numbered air forces must approve all off-station training profiles and AFRES headquarters will approve missions that remain overnight on a civilian ramp.

Air Force officer named to Joint Chiefs of Staff

By Tech. Sgt. David P. Masko
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. senators liked what Gen. Joseph W. Ralston had to say during his brief visit to Capitol Hill Jan. 26.

After little debate, they confirmed the Air Force officer's nomination as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Lawmakers asked Ralston, commander of the Air Combat Command, for his views on what America must do to maintain mili-

tary forces that are sufficient to deter today's threats and, when necessary, to fight and win against potential adversaries.

"We must continually monitor the levels of operations and their efforts to ensure we maintain a ready and capable force," Ralston said.

One of the greatest challenges confronting the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he said, is how to balance limited resources with the "appropriate amount of force readiness and modernization to provide for the strongest

national defense."

Given funding barriers that may affect quality-of-life and modernization programs, Ralston said he will look for ways to constantly reinforce the following message: "Never lose focus on the welfare of our young soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines while maintaining the appropriate balance of readiness and modernization."

As the new vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ralston replaces Adm. William A. Owens.

Brig. Gen. Snyder announces retirement

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Last month Brig. Gen. Austin "Pete" Snyder, KyANG headquarters chief of staff, announced he will retire April 16. Snyder has served 34 years in the Air National Guard.

"I've had a rewarding career," Snyder said. "The Guard has been good to me and my family."

Snyder held the civilian position of logistics management manager when he retired as a KyANG technician in 1994. He remained in the unit as a traditional guardsman and has served as the chief of staff since 1993. In this position he serves as a principal advisor to the assistant adjutant general for air.

"Pete has had a long and distinguished career," said Brig. Gen. Verna D. Fairchild, assistant adjutant general for air. "I've enjoyed working with him. His extensive operational background has made him an invaluable member of my staff."

A command pilot with more than 5400 hours in the T-33, T-37, F-84, F-100, RF-101, RF-4C, C-130B/E/H and C-131, Snyder's resume chronicles a host of accomplishments in operational, logistics and support positions.

He joined the Indiana Air National Guard in 1962. After attending undergraduate pilot training and combat crew training, he returned to the 113th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Terre Haute, Ind., in 1964 as an F-84 pilot.

As a first lieutenant, Snyder won "Top Gun" and was named as Tactical Air Command's "Outstanding Fighter Pilot of the Year," one of the highlights of his career.

He also flew the most harrowing mission of his career while assigned to the Indiana Air National Guard. He successfully landed a disabled F-84 at night using only a flashlight between his legs for illumination after flying the instrument approach on the wing of a C-130. The feat earned him Tactical Air Command's "Well Done Award."

Snyder joined the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1970 and held every key position in the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. He transferred to the Nebraska Air National Guard in 1977 to serve as the 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group director of operations. He returned to Kentucky the following year and served as the wing chief of operations and training, commander of the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, chief of command post and wing director of operations.

While serving as the wing director of operations, Snyder led the KyANG to a first place finish at Best Focus '82, an international reconnaissance flying competition in Denmark.

His tenure as director of operations was also marked by the rare "outstanding" rating the 123rd earned during an operational readiness inspection conducted by 12th Air Force. Snyder said it was the highlight of his career in the KyANG.

In 1983, Snyder left operations to serve as the deputy commander for maintenance and deputy commander for resources. As the deputy commander for maintenance, he was at the helm of maintenance's smooth conversion from the RF-4C to the C-130.

Col. Gary Logan, now the logistics group commander, worked for Snyder for almost 10 years in maintenance.

"I have found there's no greater gentleman or better friend to have in this unit than Gen. Snyder," Logan said. "He's a professional officer in every respect, and he always



Brig. Gen. Austin "Pete" Snyder
KyANG Chief of Staff

puts the good of the unit first. I join the rest of the logistics group in wishing him and his family all the best in his retirement."

The general and his wife, Olympia, live in Louisville. They have two daughters and a son. One daughter is an Air Force captain stationed at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Their son is attending Marine Corps boot camp and will graduate in May.

The headquarters staff is planning a dinner to honor the general. The date had not been set as of press time. Wing members should consult future issues of the wing bulletin and Cargo Courier for details on the retirement dinner.

Retirees who wish to attend should contact Chief Master Sgt. Jim Turpin in Frankfort at (502) 564-8489.

Brig. Gen. Fairchild will announce Snyder's successor by the end of the month.