

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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KyANG answers call to Bosnia

Guard returning to former Yugoslavia to secure peace

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Nearly two years after keeping Bosnians and Serbians alive through the massive humanitarian airlift called Provide Promise, members of the 123rd Airlift Wing are back in Bosnia again. This time, their mission is to secure the peace resupplying NATO forces assigned to Op-



KyANG photo by Maj. Ralinda Gregor

Brig. Gen Verna Fairchild, assistant adjutant general for air, greets Tech. Sgt. Peter Rendon of the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron as he returns from Bosnia-Herzegovina.



eration Joint Endeavor.

Thirty-six airmen departed Louisville April 12 for Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in the first rotation of a mission that is to last until mid-July.

Brig. Gen. John "Russ" Groves, the adjutant general of Kentucky, praised the 36 volunteers for their willingness to "step forward and make this world a better place."

"You are bringing more than supplies — you are bringing democracy to the people of Bosnia," he told the airmen as they prepared to leave for Europe.

Twelve different Air National Guard units have joined forces to provide airlift within Europe for the NATO forces, said Maj. Greg Nelson, wing logistics plans officer. The

KyANG graphic by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

145th Airlift Group of Charlotte, N.C., has been tasked as the lead unit for the first 45 days of the deployment.

In this capacity, the unit is responsible for managing the flights and day-to-day operations of the units that comprise the provisional 38th Airlift Squadron, known as Delta Squadron.

The various units worked well together during the first rotation, said Col. Dave Moreman, 123rd Operations Group commander, who returned April 29.

Flight crews flew 16-hour days shuttling in and out of Tuzla, Tazsar and Dubrovnik, Moreman said.

See VOLUNTEERS on Page 7

The Thoroughbred Express is a team effort that requires everyone



I hope that everyone enjoyed their long break from UTAs. You certainly earned it by your performance on the operational readiness inspection. With that behind us, let's now take a look at what is in store for us down the road.

As you already know, we will be involved in Operation Joint Endeavor until at least mid-July. In addition, we will support two Coronet Oak rotations to Panama, the hospital folks will go to Germany and civil engineering will deploy to Silver Flag.

Our Combat Comm Squadron is heavily involved in state disaster response exercises and our Airlift Control Flight, Combat Control Team, aerial port and services folks constantly support real world tasking. We do this in addition to our mandate to support Guardlift and local flying designed to keep our aircrews current and qualified.

We do this well, and you have my thanks for your excellent response.

You have done — and are doing — your job. It is time for my staff and I to now make a major effort to ensure that you are supported when you volunteer to take on one of these missions. You deserve to be paid



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

on time, you deserve to have the proper equipment, the proper training and to be treated like the valuable asset that you are.

Each one of us needs to support every other member of the Thoroughbred Express. No matter what your job is, take a minute to think about who you are supporting and how you can do it better.

What we do out here is real and has a defi-

nite national significance. You have proven your readiness, and I will now try to ensure that you have the support that you need and deserve.

While the emphasis may shift from time to time, as I have constantly stressed readiness is what we are about. In order to ensure that we maintain readiness, look for a local mobility exercise and a local ATSO exercise at least once a year on UTA weekends.

In addition to these local exercises, I want to take the wing on a week-long deployment once a year where we will again practice our mobility and ATSO skills and improve unit cohesion.

The tentative plan is to have a local mobility exercise in October, a local ATSO exercise in November and a Deployment to Savannah, Ga., in June 1997. We will endeavor to have specific details of the exercise nailed down and published well in advance to allow you to make plans with your families and employers.

I look forward to the future knowing that you will continue to respond as long as you receive the support that you deserve from your commanders and their staff agencies.

Thanks loads!

The Cargo Courier earns top national honors

The Cargo Courier was recognized recently as being one of the top newspapers in the National Guard.

The publication placed second in the category of best overall funded newspaper af-

ter being evaluated by a panel of news and public affairs professionals earlier this year.

It marked the first time in more than five years that The Cargo Courier has placed in

any of the National Guard Bureau's media contest categories.

Funded newspapers are those that do not depend on advertising revenue for operating expenses.

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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 May 20.

Tuition aid bill passed, signed into law

Lobbying effort highly effective, state rep. says

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Every two years, Frankfort is overrun with lobbyists and well-funded special interest groups.

Their aim is to influence the legislative agenda, and their power often allows them to be heard.

Seldom does a grass-roots campaign pack the same kind of political punch.

But this year, hard work and determination made the difference for guard members across the Commonwealth.

The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a tuition assistance package for guard members, and the governor signed it into law last month.

The package, which many observers thought had little chance of surviving, provides enlisted guard members with free tuition at state-supported colleges, universities and technical schools.

Although the details of the plan are still being worked out by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, guidelines might be available as early as June 1, officials said.

State Rep. Marshall Long, the bill's sponsor in the House, said the lobbying effort was one of the most effective grass-roots campaigns to hit Frankfort in years.

He credited the efforts of the National Guard Association of Kentucky for its success.

"They did two things that were important," Long said.

"They got a lot of people calling in, and they got out early on the issue. It was a very

successful effort."

The association began its lobbying campaign 18 months ago, and it never let up, said Lt. Col. John Heltzel, the group's legislative coordinator.

One of the biggest challenges for the association, Heltzel said, was educating legislators about the Guard.

"I was really amazed at the lack of understanding about the Guard," Heltzel said.

"The legislature got behind this better than we had any right to expect, but they were extremely uninformed about what the Guard does, how it works, the monies involved, and the missions we support."

Heltzel said the efforts of individual guardsmen also was crucial to the campaign's success.

There were people when we started this who said, 'It ain't gonna happen.' We got part of what we asked for, and it made it all the way through the legislature. I feel good about that.

— Lt. Col. Norman Arflack
National Guard Association of Ky.

The letters and phone calls to Frankfort kept the issue in front of legislators and made it real, he said.

Lt. Col. Norman Arflack, executive director of the guard association, agreed.

"The organization that John Heltzel put together and all the work of the Guard members throughout the state — writing letters, making phone calls and personal contacts — was reflected in the vote," Arflack said.

"We went through two houses with only one negative vote. That's almost unheard of."

The one negative vote was cast by Sen. Nick Kafoglis of Bowling Green, who opposed any measure that called for new funding.

As it happened, Kafoglis almost sank the

measure before it reached the Senate floor.

Kafoglis also was a member of the five-person Senate Rules Committee, which had to approve the measure before it went to the floor for a full vote.

Kafoglis convinced another committee member to oppose the measure, and a third senator was on the fence.

Personal calls from guardsmen and daily contacts with all the committee members eventually swayed the vote in the Guard's favor, Arflack said.

"It was a real struggle to get it out of that committee," He added.

The association didn't get quite everything it asked for, however.

Full funding was not provided, and the package currently does not offer tuition for officers.

Heltzel said the association is hoping to include officers during next year's special session.

As for the money, Arflack said he believes there still will be enough to pay full tuition for everyone who wants to go to school this year.

The association's role now is winding down as state agencies try to figure out how to implement the law.

Looking back over the past year and a half, Arflack said he is pleased with the accomplishment.

"There were people when we started this process who said, 'It ain't gonna happen,'"

"We got part of what we asked for, and it made it all the way through," he said. "I feel good about that."

Heltzel agreed, and said the outcome demonstrated the integrity of the Kentucky National Guard.

"I was gratified to see that the commanders got behind it and made it happen," he said.

"To me, that says we can do anything we set our mind on. If we choose to be the best National Guard in the United States, we can be.

"And in this instance, we did."

THUNDER OVER LOUISVILLE



Air show brings 30,



Crowds found a tarmac filled with 16 types of aircraft, ranging from Apaches to a KC-135 Stratotanker.



Capt. John Taylor spent much of the day helping children in and out of his T-34's cockpit.

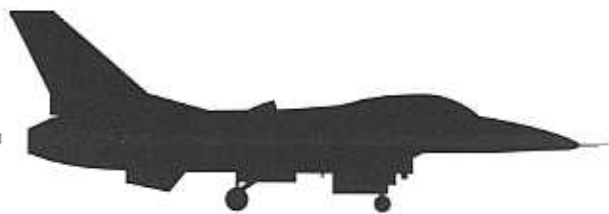


ABOVE: This F-14 Tomcat was one of several Navy aircraft on display.

RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Wade Zinsmeister explains the principles of a turbo prop to a group of Harley-Davidson aficionados.



Capt. M...
ana Air...
a young



000 to base for close-up look



Michael Bobo, an F-16 pilot with the Indiana National Guard, signs an autograph for a young admirer.

*What kind of plane is this?
Why is it gray? How fast can you fly?
Where's the gas go? Is that a guided missile?*

For Capt. Scott Boswell, last month's Thunder Over Louisville air show provided a different type of combat experience — rapid-fire questions from 30,000 inquiring kids of all ages.

But Boswell, an F-16 pilot with the Indiana Air National Guard, didn't mind answering the public's questions at the static display held on base April 20. It's just another part of the job, he said.

"It's a lot of fun for me," Boswell said, "and it gives people a chance to see what their money is going for. They get to actually talk to the guys who do it and see the airplanes.

"That makes a big impression on a lot of people — especially the kids."

Sixteen different types of aircraft were on display, from F-18s to Apache helicopters. The crowd favorite, however, was the F-117 stealth fighter.

It certainly made an impression on six-year-old Meagan Miller of Louisville, who described it succinctly as "neat."

Miller's father, Dan, said the family had a model of the plane at home, but Meagan noted that the actual plane is "a lot bigger."

Richard Hubbard also enjoyed the stealth display.

"It's great to be able to see something like that up close," the Louisville native said.

Another popular stop was Capt. John Taylor's Navy T-34 trainer. The propeller plane didn't have the sex appeal of a Tomcat, but it did offer youngsters the opportunity to sit in an actual cockpit.

In fact, Taylor lifted children in and out of the trainer all day. By his estimate, he hoisted some 1,000 potential pilots.

A sore back, however, didn't detract from the fun of the air show, Taylor said.

"The kids are one of the reasons I like to do these air shows. They come out and ask all these questions, and you really get wide-eyed expressions."

Plans call for an even bigger air show next year, with more aircraft and displays.



This F-117 Stealth Fighter, displayed behind a rope in the hangar, was a crowd favorite at the air show.

*Story, photos and graphics
by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer*

Tonini named as headquarters chief of staff

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Col. Ed Tonini became the new chief of staff for Kentucky Air National Guard headquarters April 17.

Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, assistant adjutant general for air, selected Tonini after Brig. Gen. Pete Snyder announced his retirement from the headquarters post earlier this year.

As the chief of staff, Tonini serves the adjutant general of Kentucky through the assistant adjutant general for air.

He will act as principal adviser on matters pertaining to the Kentucky Air National Guard, as well as oversee operational activities of the unit and its staff agencies.

"Col. Tonini has a strong vision for the future role of the Kentucky Air Guard," Fairchild said of the former public affairs chief.

"His enthusiastic and dedicated leadership

will be an asset to our staff."

Kentucky's adjutant general, Brig. Gen. John R. Groves, expressed his confidence in the appointment, citing Tonini's service as a public affairs officer.

"It is obvious that Col. Tonini's past contributions have laid the groundwork for the future," Groves said.

"From Africa to Eastern Europe and Latin America, the reputation of the 123rd Airlift Wing is superb, and I know for a fact that Ed played no little part in creating that image. I look forward to seeing Ed enact his vision of what the future will be."

Brig. Gen. Stewart Byrne, Air National Guard adviser to the Pacific Air Forces and a former 123rd Airlift Wing commander, also praised Tonini's far-reaching accomplishments as chief of public affairs.

"When we were going through a period of rebuilding, Ed focused the media's

attention on all the good things we were doing," Byrne said.

"From the conversions to the C-130 H-model to our response to Hurricane Andrew in Florida, Provide Hope in Somalia, Provide Promise in Bosnia, and Support Hope in Rwanda, he helped build excitement about our mission.

"His efforts were crucial in helping employers understand and support what their Air Guard employees were doing on active duty. We couldn't have sustained such a high ops tempo without that strong employer and community support."

Tonini has been a member of the Kentucky Air National Guard for 27 years. He started in the enlisted ranks of the information career field before earning a commission in 1970.

Tonini is a past president of both the National Guard Association of Kentucky and the Junior Officers' Council of the Kentucky National Guard. He and his wife, Carol, have two children, David and Kathleen.

Promotions and honors



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)

Jeremy Kapka, 123rd Maint. Sq.

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)

Thomas Downs, 123rd Comm. Flt.
Margaret French 8123rd
Student Flt.

To Senior Airman (E-4)

Jamie Huffman, 123rd Services Flt.
Neal Jones, 123rd Medical Sq.
Dennis Johnson, 123rd Maint. Sq.
Timothy Keehner, 123rd Maint. Sq.
Anita Marks, 123rd Medical Sq.
Nichole Mason, 123rd Logistics Sq.
Gregory Mattingly, 123rd
Aerial Port Sq.

To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

Kelley Blair, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
John Carrico, 123rd Medical Sq.
Jimmy Childress, 123rd Security
Police Sq.

Brook Corey, 123rd Civil Eng. Sq.
Mark Hamilton, 123rd Aerial Port Sq.
Shawn McNeill, 205th Combat
Communications Sq.

Clint Rich, 123rd Maint. Sq.
Bret Schlansky, 123rd
Aerial Port Sq.
Mark Wall, 123rd maint. Sq.

To Technical Sergeant (E-6)

Jeffery Anderson, 123rd Airlift Wing
Scott Andrews, 123rd Airlift Wing
Maurice Carlisle, 123rd
Aerial Port Sq.
Karen Hendrickson, 165th Airlift Sq.
Monte Montgomery, 123rd
Airlift Wing

Patricia Rippy, 123rd Maint. Sq.
Daniel Skees, 123rd
Mission Support Flt.
Tony Sizemore, 123rd Maint. Sq.

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)

Michael Moore, 123rd
Combat Control Flt.
Howard Rutledge, 123rd Logistics Sq.
Jenny Smith, Headquarters, KyANG

The following members distinguished themselves for outstanding achievement.

Amn. 1st Class William Robertson,
123rd Maint. Sq.: Technical School
honor graduate
Maj. Ralinda Gregor, 123rd Airlift
Wing: 1995 Outstanding
Reserve Component Public Affairs
Officer

KyANG graphic by Staff Sgt. Dale Gre

Guard outpaces Derby pack



KyANG photo by Lt. Col. Dan Wells

Master Sgt. Jim Hood, center, began the Kentucky Derby MiniMarathon last month with a blast from this mbo-sized starter pistol.

Volunteers keeping the peace

Continued from Page 1

Unlike some of the missions flown during Provide Promise, crews encountered no ground fire, he added.

"We had a 100 percent success rate on all our missions," Moreman said. "The aircrews and maintenance did a great job."

Some crews flew sobering missions into Dubrovnik to remove pieces of the T-43 that crashed April 3, killing commerce secretary Ron Brown and 34 others.

"We shot the same approach they did," said Maj. Brad Greschel, a navigator with the 165th Airlift Squadron who had the opportunity to fly into Dubrovnik on a picture-perfect day. "It was really sad."

Other missions focused on the morale of NATO troops.

"We carried mail, the Stars and Stripes, passengers, you name it," said 1st Lt. Doug Lander, a copilot with the 165th Airlift

By Lt. Col. Dan Wells
123rd Support Group

Twenty Air Guard members completed the Kentucky Derby MiniMarathon last month, posting impressive times in the 13.1-mile race.

The 165th Airlift Squadron led the way with five serious runners, including Jeff Brown and Barry Gorter.

For the first time, the Guard also entered the four-man Corporate Cup division.

The team, which was composed of Kell Rogers, Jim Smith, Chris Tellis and Jeff Dowling, earned an unofficial 11th-place finish in the 33-team contest.

Rogers clocked the fastest time, with an unofficial finish in 1 hour, 33 minutes, 18 seconds. He was followed closely by Smith, last year's top Guard contender.

The other participants were Bob Abell, Glen Bellou, Kris Evans, Nate Mack, Valencia Martin, Steve May, Neil Mullaney, Ernie New, Larry Rogers, Sherra Rogers, Travis Silvers, Walter Smith and Barry Steenbergen.

Squadron.

"The weather was great, and we got a lot done."

The list of volunteers scheduled to serve during the first 45 days of the mission has grown to 77.

Guard members have the option of volunteering for rotations as short as two and a half weeks, but at least 10 people have volunteered to stay the entire 45 days, Nelson said.

For continuing updates on peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina, visit the Department of Defense's BosniaLink web page.

The Internet site contains operation maps, fact sheets, briefing transcripts, speeches, congressional testimony, news releases and biographies of key commanders.

The BosniaLink address is <http://www.dtc.dla.mil/bosnia/>.

Golf tournament held for ANG

All current and retired Air National Guard members are eligible to play in the Fourth Annual Eastern Invitational Golf Tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Cost is \$100 per golfer for the three-day event, which includes an awards ceremony and unlimited play during the afternoons.

Unit representatives must ensure that entry fees are turned in no later than May 31. The tournament will be held June 18-21.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. John Hourigan at 364-9469.

Flight training still covered by G.I. Bill

Flight training is a continued benefit under the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Members must have a valid private pilot's license and pass medical requirements for a commercial license before training.

For service eligibility requirements, contact Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar at 364-9604.

For VA-approved programs, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs office nearest you.

Gig Line —

JOB OPENINGS

- Tech. Sgt. — information management; 123rd Civil Eng Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. — personnel specialist; 165th Airlift Sq.
- Staff Sgt. — information management; 123rd Airlift Wing Safety Office.

Call 364-9604 for more information.

Wing's first commander recalls early years

Colorful, dedicated pilots set standard for others to follow

Editor's note: Harvard-educated lawyer Philip P. Ardery served as a World War II bomber pilot and operations officer before helping establish the Kentucky Air National Guard. The Lexington native recently shared his memories with Tech. Sgt. John Martin, 123rd Airlift Wing historian.

This is the first installment of a three-part series based on those interviews.

QUESTION: How did the Kentucky Air Guard get its start?

ANSWER: When I came back from World War II, there was a guy by the name of Henry Meigs who was on the state staff.

He was quite a hero out in the Pacific. He shot down 13 Japanese aircraft, flying P-38s out of Guadalcanal, and was on that flight that knocked out (Japanese Admiral Isoroku) Yamamoto.

He called me one day and said, "I want to get an Air Guard for Kentucky, and I want you to be the commander." And I said, "Hell, Henry, I'm a lawyer and I've got my practice to start back and I don't think I'd have time for it."

And he said we would have a regular Air Force adviser there to do all the heavy work. All I would have to do is fly on weekends, on Saturday.

So I said OK.

After we got started, we didn't need an air adviser anymore. We were good enough on our own.

I think the Air Guard units — the units in top training — are as good as the regular outfits. As a matter of fact, in some respects, they're better.

This original air adviser we got was Col. Clyde Kelsey, who didn't have a damn thing to do because we didn't really need him.

I saw him in the hallway one day and

asked him, "Clyde, how you getting along?" And he said, "Oh, I've been having trouble sleeping. At night, it's all right, but in the afternoon, I tend to roll and toss all the time."

QUESTION: Where was the base located?

ANSWER: At that time, we were in that old Bremner Biscuit Company, a wood building, and we had some real characters in there.

One of them was Bob Griswald. Bob was always flying P-51s around and using them as cargo aircraft.

He flew down to Florida one time and filled up his ammunition boxes with sea turtles that he had bought down there. He brought the airplane back and it sat on our ramp, which was as hot as hell.

He thought he'd gotten all his turtles out, I guess. But the airplane began to smell funny after a while, and the guys took it to the wash rack.

They stripped it down, and that's when

they found what was left of the sea turtles in the ammunition box.

This guy was such a character. I remember he was briefing his boys in the '50s on how to get to Miami. He said it was real easy: "All you do is fly east 'til you get over the ocean and turn right." But that was his way of doing it.

We had some weird guys, but they were all devoted to the Guard. They were awfully good pilots, most of them. I was extremely proud of that bunch.

They were loyal and hard working. They were interested in the Guard. I think in every inspection we had, we passed with great ease.

I think we were the first (reserve unit) called to active duty during the Korean War because we were in top readiness condition.

Trivia From February: What fantastic event took place in March 1991?

Answer: This history column appeared in *The Cargo Courier* for the first time!



KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. John Martin

Maj. Gen. Philip Ardery relaxes in his Louisville home as he remembers the unit's early years following World War II.