

THE

CARGO COURIER



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

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Almost 1 million attend Air Force birthday celebration

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Nearly a million people gathered here last month to celebrate the Air Force's 50th anniversary and witness Thunder Over Louisville, one of the largest air shows in the history of North America.

The two-day event, which kicked off the city's two-week long Kentucky Derby Festival, focused unprecedented attention on the history and future of the U.S. Air Force.

More than 700,000 residents and visitors — including Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman — gathered along the banks of the Ohio River on April 19 to see the aerial acrobatics of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, parachute demonstrations by the AFSOC Stars and U.S. Air Force Academy Wings of Blue and fly-bys of virtually every aircraft currently in the Air Force fleet.

The eight-hour birthday bash also included appearances by several warbirds, as well as aircraft from the U.S. Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

The Thunderbirds proved to be the highlight of the show for many.

See AIRSHOW on Page 6



Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KyANG

Thunder booms



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley/KyANG

ABOVE: The precision aerobatics of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds was a crowd-pleasing highlight of Thunder Over Louisville.

LEFT: This young fan points out some of the Thunderbirds' more intricate maneuvers to his father at the Louisville riverfront. The two were among the 700,000 visitors who gathered along the banks of the Ohio River for the eight-hour airshow.



16 compete in Derby marathon

By Lt. Col. Dan Wells
205th Combat Communications Sq.

While most of us enjoyed a beautiful Saturday morning in bed, at least 16 KyANG members ran the 13.1-mile Kentucky Derby MiniMarathon on April 26.

The top runner for the wing was Senior Airman Travis Silvers of the 123rd Security Police Squadron, with a lightning time of 1 hour, 24 minutes.

The 165th Airlift Squadron fielded the most runners, with eight; Master Sgt. Jeff Brown, Capt. Jeff "Shemp" Dowling, Capt. Barry Gorter, Maj. Ted Parero, Maj. Chris Reymann, Maj. Kell Rogers, Senior Master Sgt. Jim Smith and Maj. Ron Whelan.

The other Guard members who completed

the course were Tech. Sgt. Barry Steenbergen, 123rd Airlift Wing; Tech. Sgt. Kris Evans, Master Sgt. Katrina Kerberg and Tech. Sgt. Valencia Martin, 123rd Logistics Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Mack, 123rd Mission Support Flight; Staff Sgt. Hugh Dougan, 123rd Maintenance Squadron; and Maj. Neil Mullaney, 205th Combat Communications Squadron.

Before the race, many runners paused to remember former runner and Guard member Al Gering, who died last year.

The race, which began in Iroquois Park and finished downtown at Sixth and Market streets, drew a near-record 5,500 entrants this year.

The winner posted a finishing time of 1 hour, 6 minutes, 23 seconds.



Photo by Lt. Col. Dan Wells/KyANG

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Smith and Major Ted Parero near the finish line.

Wing members honored at state conference

By Maj. Steve Bullard
165th Airlift Squadron

Three KyANG members were honored at the National Guard Association of Kentucky's 66th General Conference held Feb. 21 in Louisville.

Lt. Col. Richard Frymire III, executive staff officer to the 123rd Airlift Wing commander, was presented the General John Hunt Morgan Award for exemplary performance and outstanding service to the association.

Frymire, a former president of the association, devised, implemented and maintains a program that recruits sponsors who want to exhibit their products at the annual conference and raises additional money through advertisements in the association's newspaper. The program generates between \$15,000 and \$18,000 a year for the group.

Capt. James L. Nelson, a pilot with the 165th Airlift Squadron, received the George Rogers Clark Outstanding Young Officer Award, which is presented to a junior officer who performed exceptionally outstanding service to his unit.

In preparation for the 1996 operational readiness inspection, Nelson ordered severe cold weather gear for the Airlift Control Flight, which was a critical factor in the flight's ability to perform its mission in the weeks before the ORI.

During the inspection, he worked the deployment and redeployment phases as part of the Cargo Deployment Function while still serving as a primary crewmember during airdrops. Nelson also deployed to Operation Joint Endeavor for a longer period than any other KyANG officer, flying more than 25 combat sorties into Bosnia.

Nelson also distinguished himself as an

aircrew scheduler for the 165th Airlift Squadron, modifying the flying schedule to better accommodate aircrew availability.

Other nominees included 1st Lt. Pam Thomas of the 123rd Medical Squadron, who developed the Roving Immunizations Program; and 1st Lt. Matt Stone, commander of the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, whose unit helped the wing achieve an outstanding rating in aircraft generation during the 1996 ORI.

Tech. Sgt. James McKenzie of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron received the association's Community Service Award for his efforts in fighting for children's rights and combating sex and violence on television.

The awards were presented by the Adjutant General of Kentucky, Brig. Gen. John R. Groves.

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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. The deadline for the next issue is July 1.

Flood Control

Air Guard helps Kentuckians recover

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

FALMOUTH, Ky. — Flood waters still covered this small town of 2,700 when Kentucky Air Guard troops arrived March 5, three days after the Licking River first spilled from its banks.

It was a sight that's still hard for Capt. Chuck Mayfield to comprehend.

"When we got here, we found devastation of a kind most people probably could not imagine," said Mayfield, commander of the 123rd Security Police Squadron.

"You don't realize the power of the force of water. It looked like the type of damage you would see from a tornado, except it wasn't limited to a single path."

Charged with restoring order in the face of such chaos, Mayfield's 22 security police and support troops joined forces with the Army Guard's 198th Military Police Battalion. Together, they established a command center at Pendleton County High School, just outside of town.

By the time flood waters receded enough for anyone to enter Falmouth the next morning, Guardmembers had secured the town's perimeter with entry control points and initiated patrols to protect citizens' property from looters. Only emergency workers were allowed to enter, but that didn't stop others from trying.

"We had a lot of incidents of people trying to gain illegal entry," Mayfield said, "and we caught others in town and escorted them out."

Potential looters weren't the only challenge. A more difficult task involved trying to explain to citizens why they couldn't enter town immediately after the water receded.

"A lot of the residents wanted to get in," Mayfield said, "but they didn't understand the magnitude of the destruction and the danger



Photo by Tech Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Capt. Chuck Mayfield, commander of the 123rd Security Police Squadron, confers with local police near an entry control point in Falmouth, Ky. Air Guard troops provided security and maintained the control points to keep out unauthorized personnel during the initial cleanup.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

See GUARD on Page 4 Flood waters left devastation everywhere in Falmouth.

Guard helps citizens recover

Continued from Page 3

of gas leaks, standing water and mud."

Senior Airman Melanie Owens, one of the Air Guard security police in Falmouth, said she was sympathetic to the residents' frustrations and found that many just needed someone to talk to.

"If you let most of the people talk about what they're going through, they seem to feel better," Owens said.

Many residents were adamant about seeing their property, however, so the Guard arranged for bus rides through town. No one was allowed to leave the buses, but the devastation was clear enough.

Mud-streaked cars were strewn about like toys. Tractor-trailer rigs lay broken on their backs. Clothing and garbage hung from the trees. Houses, shorn free of their foundations, sat squarely in the middle of the street while others were smashed to bits. And everywhere, a thick goo of mud coated the streets, sidewalks and yards, oozing from the doorways of homes and dripping off the tables of the local Dairy Queen.

Before residents could be allowed back into town, the Guard still had to complete one of its more grisly tasks — searching for bodies. Five were recovered, including three who were trapped in the Hometown Pizza parlor when flood waters roared through downtown.

"Initially, we were the only people who could get into town because we had humvees and all-terrain vehicles," Mayfield said. "So we transported the search and rescue teams and assisted with the search."

That task, coupled with a trying ops tempo, made the mission a challenging one, Mayfield said in an interview four days after the Guard's relief efforts began.

"The first few days, everybody was pretty much going 18 to 20 hours a day and performing a very difficult mission," Mayfield said, his voice still cracking from fatigue.

"You got a couple of hours sleep before you came back in to work another 18-hour shift."

That pace eased considerably after the first week, when residents were allowed to re-enter town.

The Guard then began focusing on helping Falmouth's residents get back on their feet, aiding with the cleanup, directing traf-

fic and distributing food and water.

"Our troops assisted in everything from rescuing cats in trees to helping people wade in their houses to retrieve property — whatever we can do to help people in their time of need," Mayfield said.

One task involved aiding a resident who wanted to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash from his home, Mayfield recalled.

"It made me feel good that his money was still there to be rescued when people were allowed to go back in to town," he said. "I think that really validated why we were here."

The wing's 123rd Medical Squadron also set up shop in Falmouth during that second week, providing a first aid clinic that administered inoculations and treated more than 100 patients for cuts and scrapes.

"It was extremely dirty and dusty, and there were some injuries that occurred as people went in their houses to clean up the mess," said Col. Charles Bruce, the squadron's commander. "Tetanus was one of our primary concerns."

To address those concerns, the clinic's 22 personnel took their services to the streets, delivering cleaning supplies to residents and providing on-the-spot medical assistance wherever needed.

The squadron's public health officer, Maj. David Granstrom, also helped locate and identify toxic waste that had been washed ashore by the flood waters — something Bruce called a "potentially serious health threat."

The unit's most valuable service, however, may have been the genuine concern it showed for the residents of Falmouth, said Master Sgt. Johnny Cherry, assistant hospital chief.

"When we walked through town, going door to door, we offered a lot of TLC, and that was something that a lot of the people needed. They really responded to our concern."

The desire to help made the mission an important one for security police members like Owens, too.

"Everyone here has lost so much, you almost can't fathom how they'll be able to put it back together," she said.

"But quite a few people have come up and told me they really appreciate what we're doing to help.

"We've made a difference here, and that's a good feeling."



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Darryl Brown of the 123rd Medical Squadron uses a shovel to clear debris from a home in Owen Sound.



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Kristina Swenson of the 123rd Medical Squadron walks through Falmouth providing medical assistance wherever needed.



Photo by Senior Airman Tom...

Flood Control



Photo by Tech Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

23rd Civil Engineering Squadron
County Kentucky.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Charles Kelton of the 123rd Security Police Squadron patrols Falmouth to prevent looting.



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the 123rd
th, deliver-



Photo by Senior Airman Tom Downs/KyANG

ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Willie Hatfield of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron dumps a load of debris along the banks of the swollen Elkhorn Creek near Frankfort.

LEFT: Dozens of Falmouth homes were ripped free of their foundations.



Downs/KyANG

Crisis results in record activation

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

The flooding that hit Kentucky in March was so severe Gov. Paul Patton ordered the largest state activation of Air Guard troops in the wing's 50-year history.

In addition to the security police and medical personnel who served in Falmouth, almost 90 blue-suiters responded from the 123rd Airlift Wing, delivering communications and civil engineering skills to four Kentucky counties.

In Owen County, nine members of the 205th Combat Communications Squadron provided vital telephone links between an emergency operations center and state National Guard Headquarters in Frankfort.

And in Owen, Carroll, Christian and Franklin counties, 80 Guard members offered the services of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron.

Lt. Col. Tom Marks, the squadron's commander, said plumbers, electricians, firemen and heavy equipment operators spent a week helping residents and state workers recover.

"We basically worked with road crews to open roads and help the residents to get back on their feet by cleaning mud off the streets," Marks said.

In some cases, that mud was two feet thick, making for dirty work.

But Marks said public response to the Guard's efforts also made it rewarding work.

"You got instant gratification," Marks said. "You could see the residents go from a sense of hopelessness to a feeling that things were going to be all right."

Statewide, the flooding, which one National Weather Service meteorologist termed the "flood of the millennium," claimed 21 lives and destroyed \$265 million in property.

Airshow draws nearly a million visitors

Continued from Page 1

but the grand finale — a 30-minute fireworks extravaganza — offered a compelling anniversary salute.

More than 44 tons of rockets illuminated the Louisville skyline in a demonstration that dwarfed the displays of the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

It was the largest such event on the continent this year.

Thunder also included a static display of aircraft that gave citizens a chance to see these military machines up close and talk to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to the defense of freedom.

More than 230,000 attended the display, held on base April 19-20.

Paul Gold, a Louisville native who attended both events, appreciated the opportunity to examine so many exotic aircraft first-hand, describing the static display as "incredible."

"It's a wonderful collection, and I think it's great that everybody can see a little bit about the airpower we have and where our tax dollars are going," Gold said.

Gold was particularly impressed by the Thunderbirds.

"Their demonstration proves that the Air Force is recruiting excellent men and women to fly these airplanes and that their training is fantastic.

"It's a good investment for the American people to keep this commitment going.

"My hat is off to the Air Force for the outstanding job they're doing."

Cindy Hettinger, another Louisville native, who attended the static display with her 10-year-old daughter, Ashley Blackburn, spent the day talking to aircrew members about the jobs they perform.

"The medical plane was really nice because one of the guys on it told us all about their missions and what they do," she said. "That was really great."

But Hettinger said the best aspect of the airshow was the positive feeling it gave her about her nation's military.

"It makes me really proud," Hettinger said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Dills/USAF

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Moore, a member of the KyANG's 123rd Special Tactics Flight, livened up the static display with a high-altitude parachute descent (ABOVE) and perfect landing (BELOW) at Louisville International Airport.

"When we were at the airshow at the river, and they had the flag flying and all the planes were going over, it really gave me a sense of patriotism.

"When you see the men and women who dedicate their lives to this, it kind of gets you choked up a little bit."

Public response like that is what events like Thunder are all about, said Col. Ed Tonini, chief of staff for the Kentucky Air National Guard, which sponsored the airshow along with the Kentucky Derby Festival.

"No other peacetime event in the history of this country has provided so much concentrated public exposure to any branch of the military," Tonini said.

"Thunder Over Louisville gave us an unprecedented opportunity to tell the public about the Air Force's golden legacy and boundless future — to salute the commitments of our veterans and demonstrate the dedication of the men and women who serve the cause of freedom in the Air Force today, as well as tomorrow."



Photo by Senior Airman Tom Downs/KyANG

Thunder Over Louisville 1997



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

ABOVE: This F-15 Eagle joined dozens of aircraft on static display, including the KC-10 Extender (RIGHT).



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley/KyANG

RIGHT: Thousands of visitors took the opportunity to walk through this C-5 Galaxy, one of the largest transports in the world. The C-17 Globemaster, C-141 Starlifter and C-130 Hercules also were open for guided tours.

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
★ 1947 - 1997 ★



Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KyANG

ABOVE: Gen. Ronald Fogleman, Air Force chief of staff, emerges from this private aircraft after being flown around Bowman Field by Brian Wissell, 18, a student pilot at Shawnee High School's aviation magnet program.



Photo by Senior Airman Tom Downs/KyANG

For information on other Air Force
50th Anniversary events:
<http://www.af.mil>

Pope named state senior enlisted advisor

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Dave Pope was selected as the Kentucky Air National Guard's new state senior enlisted advisor last month.

Pope, a member of the KyANG since 1976, will serve as the principal advisor to the assistant adjutant general for air, Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, on enlisted matters.

A traditional guardsman, Pope is the "C" district captain for the Jefferson County Police Department.

While serving as a police helicopter pilot, he was awarded the Kentucky Medal of Valor for rescuing a stranded motorist during a severe flash flood.

Pope was recommended by a board of chiefs, which interviewed all the applicants for state and wing senior enlisted advisor positions. He replaces Chief Master Sgt. Martin Ander-

son, whose service had reached the maximum time allowed by regulation.

Pope hopes to continue in Anderson's footsteps and increase senior NCO leadership of the enlisted corps, he said.



POPE

"I think we need to focus on professional military education and retention," Pope said. "We've got some of the best people anywhere, and I want to facilitate their success."

"I also plan to work with the wing senior enlisted advisor to continue to improve the welfare of our enlisted force."

His predecessor has no doubts that he'll be successful in doing just that.

"Dave is a man of high integrity, and I know he'll do a great job," Anderson said. "My advice to him is to work with all the chiefs to instill the philosophy that it's our enlisted corps. We need to take care of it, nurture it and, when necessary, police it."

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 FIRST CLASS (E-3)

- Shaka Bridges,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Jeremy Kapka,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Robin Stokley,
123rd Student Flt.

TO SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- David Murray Jr.,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- James Richey Jr.,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Dana Stahl,
123rd Mission Support Flt.

TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)

- William Beswick,
205th Combat Comm. Sq.
- Teddy Hall,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- William Lamkin,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Harold Moore III,
205th Combat Comm. Sq.

- James Parker,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

TO TECH. SGT. (E-6)

- Scott Crimm,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Jeffery Greenwood,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- John Zeitz Jr.,
205th Combat Comm. Sq.

TO MASTER SGT. (E-7)

- David Burba,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Jerome Davis,
123rd Communications Flt.
- Martin Mery,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Barbara Swann,
123rd Airlift Wing

TO SENIOR MASTER SGT. (E-8)

- David Fink,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

TO LT. COL. (O-5)

- Richard Frymire,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Michael Johnson,
123rd Airlift Wing

Cole recognized for service to community

Col. Wayne Cole, the Kentucky Air Guard's state air surgeon, recently was awarded the Richard Savage Award by the Providence, Ky., Chamber of Commerce.

The award recognizes citizens for years of service to the community.

Congratulations for setting the example on community leadership.

Harden retires after 20 years of service

Lt. Col. Teresa Harden retired recently from the Kentucky Air National Guard after 20 years of dedicated service.

Harden's last duty assignment was in the plans section of KyANG Headquarters, where she revised procedures for the officer promotion board so that it would better comply with Air Force regulations.

During her Guard career, Harden also served in the hospital and the Mission Support Squadron.

Harden was known for her professionalism and dedication, proving to be a valuable asset to the wing.