

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XVIII, No. 11 • Nov. 2, 2002

Most Ky. Air Guard troops demobilize

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Most Kentucky Air Guard troops who were called to federal active duty after the horrific attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001, recently hung up their blue suits and pulled out civilian work attire.

Nearly all of the more than 500 activated members of the 123rd Airlift Wing were demobilized last month, leaving behind a small cadre of other unit members in specialized career fields who will begin their second year of active duty.

Since the call-up, KyANG troops have participated in or provided support for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom as part of America's global war on terror.

Col. Michael Harden, wing commander, said those contributions had a direct impact on the U.S. military's far-reaching campaign.

"The men and women of the 123rd went above and beyond the call of duty to end terrorism," the colonel said.

"Whether they were combat controllers or pararescuemen who deployed to the mountains of Afghanistan, maintenance troops deployed to Kansas or personnel specialists right here at home station, I couldn't have



Staff Sgt. Tommy Downs/KyANG

Staff Sgt. Norma Kern of the 123rd Mission Support Flight helps Kentucky Air Guard troops through the demobilization processing line Oct. 2 at the Base Annex.

asked for a better performance."

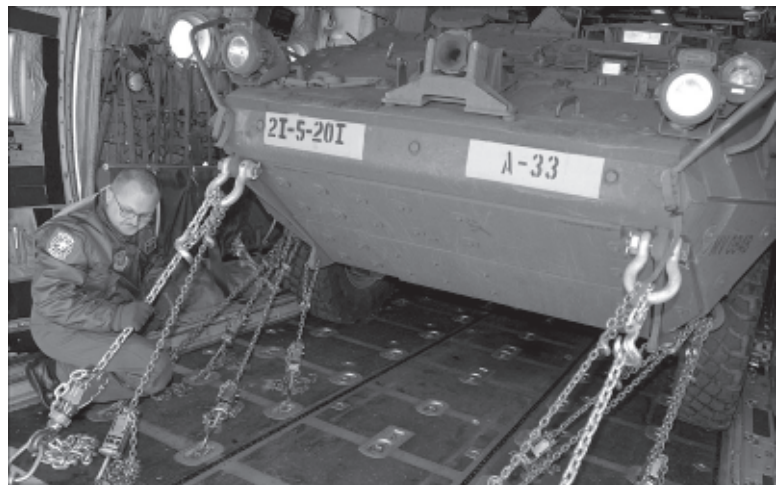
Meanwhile, Harden said, the men and women of the wing can only wait to see what taskings lie ahead.

"While we don't know what the future holds," Harden said, "we should stand ready as always and be prepared to stand this wing back up if called upon to do so."

Army, Air Force test Stryker capabilities

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — Master Sgt. Roy Self, a C-130 Hercules loadmaster from the Kentucky Air Guard's 165th Airlift Squadron, checks the hold-down chains after uploading a Stryker infantry carrier vehicle during a demonstration here Oct. 16.

The Stryker belongs to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry, Alpha Company from Fort Lewis, Wash. Senior Department of Defense and congressional leaders witnessed firsthand the Air Force's capability to quickly deploy Strykers to the most austere locations worldwide.



Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi/USAF

No such thing as a part-time Guard member in the 123rd Airlift Wing

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any of you have heard me say over the years that there is no such thing as a part-time Guardsman or a part-time commander.

I have always believed that once you make the commitment to become a part of this unit, you are a Guardsman all of the time, although your availability to perform your military duties may be somewhat limited because of your civilian job and family demands.

The same thing is true if you become a commander or supervisor—you are the commander or supervisor all of the time but with somewhat limited availability.

This system of providing military might through the use of volunteer citizen-soldiers and -airmen has proven to be effective, cost efficient and one that our nation will increasingly rely upon to ensure its defense.

But it will only work as long as we have people who exhibit the age-old military values of duty, honor and country.

Last month we said good-bye to an individual who epitomizes this concept. Lt. Col. Bob Abell “commanded” the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron for a lot of years.

At the same time he worked full time as a pharmacist and also found enough time to spend with his family that they remembered what he looked like most of the time.

Before that he served in the hospital, was



**Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander**

the wing executive officer, and then the aerial port operations officer.

Bob was there when APS was born, and under his leadership he has seen it grow into a premier organization.

Over the years, he never sluffed off or used the excuse of “don’t ask me, I’m just a part-timer.”

Bob was a full-time Guardsman, and a full-time commander, in the truest sense.

He spent the time necessary to ensure

the readiness and well-being of every member of his squadron.

Bob did this out of a sense of duty and responsibility that is hard to define, teach or instill, yet you know it when you see it. When Gen. Ronald Fogleman announced that one of the Air Force core values was service before self, he could have had Bob Abell in mind.

This unit has been fortunate to have had a long line of people like Bob Abell, such as Dan Jones, John Fleming and Donn Ryan. These men served as traditional Guardsmen and full-time commanders who gave of themselves for the betterment of the wing and the nation.

These folks know that command is very serious business, and those who successfully undertake the responsibility understand that command means full-time responsibility and full-time commitment to that responsibility.

It’s also a heck of a lot of fun.

Bob Abell will be missed—but his sense of duty and honor will remain. Just as he learned from his superiors, sometime in the future someone he touched as a commander will accept the responsibility of command and benefit from his example.

Thanks loads, Bob, for making the Thoroughbred Express what it is.

Michael Harden

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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 Nov. 22.

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Kentucky Air Guard honored with 2002 Aviation Achievement Award

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air Guard was honored Oct. 4 as the 2002 Aviation Achievement Award recipient by the Aviation Museum of Kentucky and the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame in Lexington.

Each year four individuals and one organization are enshrined into the Hall of Fame, according to the museum's executive director, Ret. Air Force Col. Steve Parker. This year's obvious organization winner, he said, was the Kentucky Air Guard.

"This unit is one of the most award-winning in the country and very deserving of this honor," Parker said.

Parker noted that he has firsthand knowledge of the wing's accomplishments, having worked with the KyANG when he was on active duty.

"I was in Bosnia with them," he recalled. "I know how good the guys and gals from this unit are."

Parker said that inducting the unit into the Hall of Fame will help boost Kentuckians' awareness of the unit's many accomplishments.

"I'd like citizens of the state to say, 'Wow, I didn't realize just how great our Air Guard here really is,'" he said.



Photo courtesy of the Kentucky Aviation Museum

George Gumbert, the president and co-founder of the Aviation Museum of Kentucky, Lt. Gen. John Conaway, former chief of the National Guard Bureau, Brig. Gen. Rick Ash, assistant adjutant general for Air, and Brig. Gen. Dan Cherry, former leader and commander of the Air Force Thunderbirds, gather at the Oct. 4 induction ceremony in Lexington.

So many people, Parker added, don't have exposure to the unit and, therefore, don't understand how outstanding it is.

Because about 30,000 people visit the museum each year, Parker hopes the situation will change soon.

The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (859) 231-1219.

Anthrax vaccine immunization program resumes

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The Air Force announced last month that the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, also called AVIP, would resume immediately with a few minor changes.

KyANG members who fall into the group to be immediately vaccinated are personnel deploying for more than 15 consecutive days to any designated higher-threat area, primarily in Southwest Asia.

AVIP was created to be used as a commander's force protection measure

against deadly biological warfare agents.

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, said the program was essential to combat readiness.

"Because the threat of these agents is deadly and real, it's important KyANG members are vaccinated," he said. "The health and safety of our folks is the number one concern."

The vaccination offers a layer of protection not available with antibiotics and other measures.

AVIP will be phased in to incorporate other groups as directives and availability

dictate. The program was initiated originally in 1998 for personnel assigned or deployed to Southwest Asia and Korea.

Since then the program has undergone a number of changes. Most notably, administration of the vaccine was restricted to a relatively small number of personnel as part of a slowdown resulting from production and supply issues.

With these issues being resolved, the re-introduction began.

For more information on AVIP, contact the wing public health office at ext. 4678.

123RD CIVIL ENGINEERS SQUADRON

Bivouac



TOP LEFT: Staff Sgt. Doug Green and Master Sgt. J.D. Green, both equipment operators in the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron, receive training on backhoes.

BOTTOM LEFT: Staff Sgt. Danny Skaggs prepares to act as an aggressor during the squadron's force-protection training.

TOP RIGHT: The engineers, led by Maj. Connie Allen, gathers to discuss the field training.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Fire fighters train on mock C-130.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Tech. Sgt. Terry Tate, a fire fighter instructor, talks with his troops about the training.

More than 60 members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron participated in the unit's annual bivouac field training, held Sept. 12-15 at Fort Smith, Ark.

Photos by Senior Airman Philip Speck/ KyANG

MOWW seeks a few good men and women

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The Military Order of World Wars Major General Ben Butler Chapter is looking for a few good men and women.

The organization is sponsoring several special events this year aimed at leadership, team-building, free enterprise and patriotic education for area high school students, said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, chapter commander.

"This a great opportunity for our members to share their own experiences and help grow the next generation of leaders for our nation, state and community," Frymire said.

Upcoming events include a single-day Youth Leadership Conference to be held Oct. 29 and a multi-day Youth Leadership Conference expected to take place in the spring of 2003.

Both conferences will feature guest speakers from the military, law enforcement, politics and local corporations.

Also on tap is the Massing of the Colors, a Veterans' Day celebration scheduled for Nov. 10 at Bowman Field.

The massing of the colors is expected to attract 50 to 60 color guard units representing the Kentucky Air Guard, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, high school ROTCs, the Boy Scouts of America, the Jefferson County Police and other organizations.

With almost 70 percent of its members



Senior Airman Phillip Speck/KyANG

Members of the group welcome Brig. Gen. Rick Ash, Maj. Phil Palmer and 1st Lt. Pat Pritchard, the chapter's newest members, during the October MOWW luncheon. From left to right, Chapter Commander Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, Ash, Palmer, Maj. Jeremy Shoop, the guest speaker for the event, Col. Mike Dornbush and Pritchard. The chapter is the fastest growing of the four chapters in the commonwealth.

coming from the Kentucky Air National Guard, the General Ben Butler chapter is the fastest growing of the four Kentucky chapters. The other chapters are located in Louisville, Fort Knox and Frankfort.

Membership is open to any commissioned or warrant officer—currently or formerly on active duty—who has served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Monthly luncheons always feature guest speakers and recently included Lt. Gen. Russ Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Ret. Col. Steve Parker, Director of the Aviation Museum of Kentucky.

Any officer interested in joining MOWW should contact Lt. Col. Frymire at ext. 4589 or 2nd Lt. Latonia Trowell at ext. 4637.

Kids Care

Students from Anchorage Public School present the wing with more than 125 cards and a banner to show their support of Kentucky Air Guard members who are helping wage the global war on terror. The group included, front row from left, Thomas Barefoot, Kirby Roberts, Sara Dryden, Emma Dryden, Blake Burger, Anna Dryden, Jackie

Walthall, Brittany Lebhar, Charlie Hill. In back, from left, are Vice Commander Col. Cora Jackson, teacher Phyllis Watson and Wing Commander Col. Michael Harden.



Photos by Senior Airman Valerie Gholson/KyANG

Chaplain now calls the Ky. Air Guard home

Louisville native leaves active duty to minister to the 123rd

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The wing's newest chaplain, Fred Ehrman—a former active duty intelligence officer, German studies professor and now minister—has come full circle during his military career.

For most of his life the Louisville native had thought about studying theology, but he continued to pursue different areas of interest including German studies.

His interests also included the military—in 1984 Ehrman received his commission as an Air Force intelligence officer, and he served four years on active duty before leaving to join the Reserves as an IMA.

During this time, Ehrman continued his studies in German, earning both a master's degree and a Ph.D.

His original plan, Ehrman said, was to return to active duty as an intelligence officer after completing his education.

Then the Berlin Wall fell, and everything changed.

Intelligence officers soon were scrambling for new positions, Ehrman said, because their value started to depreciate in the post-Cold War environment.

Instead of trying to re-enter his old active duty career field, Ehrman eventually returned home to the Commonwealth and began teaching at the University of Kentucky.

One day, while he was conducting a graduate seminar on German Pietism (an early Protestant movement in the 17th and 18th centuries), a disagreement broke out among the students, Ehrman recalled.

"At one point there was a minor rebellion and one of the students looked up at me and said, 'Fred, man, we just don't care. Maybe you should teach this at a seminary or something. Maybe they would care.'"

That's when it clicked for Ehrman, who by now was a major in the Air Force Reserves: His focus needed to be the ministry.

Although Ehrman had been educated in German studies, he'd always concentrated on the theology.

"I prayed a lot about it, and at one point I



Senior Airman Valerie Gholson/KyANG

Capt. Fred Ehrman, the wing's newest chaplain, joined the KyANG family in June after leaving the active duty Air Force. The Louisville native has been an intelligence officer, a professor at the University of Kentucky and an active duty chaplain.

just knew I had to do it."

Ehrman handed in his bronze oak leaf clusters and became an Air Force chaplain candidate, pinning on the gold bars of a second lieutenant once again.

After successfully completing the chaplain's training program and his spiritual education at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Ehrman became an active duty Air Force chaplain.

"I really liked active duty—but there were parts I didn't like, such as the moving around. My wife and I had to draw the line, especially after my son was born.

"We decided to move back to Louisville and lay down roots."

But saying good-bye to the Air Force would not end his military career. Ehrman began calling Guard units and discovered that the Kentucky Air Guard was anticipating an opening for a chaplain.

He jumped at it.

"I love it," Ehrman said of the 123rd Airlift Wing. "Immediately you see how much the people here care about one another. There's such a sense of belonging to a community. I'm grateful to be here."

Lt. Col. Tom Curry, the Kentucky Air Guard's senior chaplain, said Ehrman has a

lot to contribute.

"He's an open, energetic kind of person who takes initiative in the ministry," Curry said. "He takes time to walk around base and meet people."

Curry noted that Ehrman has "impeccable credentials as a chaplain and as a Ph.D. grad from the University of Texas."

He also has something other base chaplains do not—extensive deployment experience.

"Chaplain Ehrman brings with him a wealth of experience in the ministry, especially from serving on active duty," Curry said.

"He has up-close and personal experiences about what it's like to be deployed and the adjustments family have to make."

Because Ehrman is a husband and father, Curry said, he truly understands what it means to leave family behind.

Furthermore, Curry said Ehrman "really knows his way around the Air Force community."

Ehrman will serve full time at the 123rd Airlift Wing until the first of the year when he begins his duties as a German studies professor and a protestant chaplain at Bellarmine University.

Active duty commanders to receive additional pay

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON—Active duty Air Force squadron, group and wing commanders will soon receive command responsibility pay.

The Air Force's deputy chief of staff for personnel at the Pentagon said the new category of pay is much needed and overdue.

"Command is a unique and wonderful opportunity that demands a great deal of commitment and sacrifice," said Lt. Gen. Richard E. Brown III.

"It also demands long hours and additional out-of-pocket expenses."

More importantly, the general said, commanders are entrusted with the care and livelihood of the people in their organization.

"We don't have funds available to fully compensate commanders for everything they do for our Air Force," the general said, "but this is a first step to let them know how much we appreciate their efforts."

CRP will be \$50 per month for majors, \$100 per month for lieutenant

colonels and \$150 per month for colonels.

Although CRP was scheduled to begin Oct. 1, these field grade officers will not receive CRP until the fiscal 2003 defense budget is passed, personnel officials said.

Once funding is available, military personnel flights will begin updating the records of eligible commanders in the Military Personnel Data System.

Flag officers, vice and deputy commanders, and temporary or "acting" commanders during deployments or at home station are not authorized CRP.

Additionally, law prohibits those officers already receiving special pay, such as medical and dental officers, optometrists and veterinarians, from receiving CRP.

Because entitlement of CRP for Air Reserve Component commanders differs from that of active-duty commanders, the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard will release the eligibility criteria and guidance at a later date.

Service dress nametag back

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON—The Air Force's service dress uniform welcomed back an old friend Oct. 1: the nametag.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and other senior leaders selected a new nametag for the uniform at the 2002 Corona Top conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The new service dress nametag has a brushed satin finish and blue letters. It is slightly larger and heavier than the blue plastic nametag worn on the blue shirt and medical white uniform.

It will only feature the wearer's last name and will only be worn on the service dress, on the right side parallel to the ribbons and medals.

Air Force officials decided last year that a nametag was needed on the service dress uniform.



Several proposals were reviewed and feedback was gathered from across the Air Force during several wear-tests.

The new nametags will be available in military clothing sales stores at a future date when stocks become available.



Unprotected nevermore

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM—An Air Force security forces Phoenix Raven stands guard as a C-130 Hercules from the 320th Air Expeditionary Wing taxis at an austere landing zone in Afghanistan.

Ravens are groups of specially trained security forces people who provide force protection for aircrews and resources that transit high terrorist and criminal threat areas.

*Photo by
Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon/USAF*

Local chapter of NCOAGA reorganizes

By Senior Master Sgt. Elke Adams
123rd Airlift Wing Plans Office

Many Kentucky Air Guard troops may not know an organization called the NCO Academy Graduates Association exists, much less that there is a local chapter in Louisville.

Recently this organization has begun efforts to revitalize itself, and KyANG members are invited to join.

The NCOAGA's main purpose is to promote education and training to develop professionalism, instill pride and promote camaraderie while encouraging volunteerism among the enlisted force.

The group's vision is to always maintain a highly motivated and professionally educated enlisted work force to accomplish the mission of the Air Guard.

The Air Guard Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduates Association was organized in 1968 by a group of recent graduates from the Air National Guard's Non-Commissioned Officer Academy.

Membership in the Association consists of graduates from in-residence professional military education (PME) courses—Airman Leadership School, NCO Preparatory Course, NCO Leadership School, NCO Academy and Senior NCO Academy.

In 1997, associate membership was extended to those who completed the NCO Academy or Senior NCO Academy by correspondence course.

Through Dec. 31, all members who complete an in-residence or correspondence PME course are automatically extended a free one-year membership in the NCOAGA.

KyANG members who would like to join the organization may do so during November's drill.

For information contact, Senior Master Sgt. Elke Adams at ext. 4616.

Activated reservists have legal rights to return to civilian jobs

By Lt. Col. Stephen Allison
KyANG Staff Judge Advocate

Air Guard personnel activated to support the global war on terror have an absolute legal right to return to their civilian jobs after deactivation.

People ask, "What do I need to do to get my old job back?"

It's very simple. Provided you meet certain minimum requirements, just inform your employer, preferably in writing, that you want to return to work and be there on that date at the beginning of your regular shift.

The requirements:

- You had a civilian job that was projected to continue for a definite period of time or was considered permanent.
- You gave your employer notice that you were leaving to go on active duty.
- You were not on active duty away from that employer for more than five cumulative years.
- You were released from active duty un-

der honorable conditions.

— You report back to work within the proper time frame. For those who served 180 days or less, you must report back within 14 days. For those that served more than 180 days, you must report back within 90 days. The time frames begin depending on the date shown on your DD 214.

If your employer does not have your exact job available, he or she must find you a similar job with like pay and benefits.

If you were injured and can't do your old job, he or she must find you a job you can do with comparable pay and benefits.

There are some unique situations that arise because of injury or inability to return to work, and those should always be referred to the base legal office or the Employer Support for Guard and Reserve for advice.

If your employer says you can't come back immediately call the wing's legal office or the ESGR representative on base.

If those efforts fail, contact ESGR directly at (800) 336-4590.

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