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Morrow, Yaple to fill key leadership positions

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

Brig. Gen. Henry C. Morrow and Col. Robert J. Yaple have been named to fill the top two leadership positions in the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Morrow, a 24-year military veteran, was selected as Kentucky's new assistant adjutant general for Air.

In this position, he will oversee operations for both the Air and Army Guard as the "J-3" officer in the new Joint Forces Headquarters Kentucky.

Yaple, who was selected to fill the vacancy created by Morrow's promotion, was named the Kentucky Air Guard chief of staff. He will become the joint-forces air-component commander in the new organization.

Maj. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, Kentucky's adjutant general, expressed confidence in the selection of the two leaders.

"The Kentucky Air Guard is in good hands with these two fine officers," he said. "Each brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to their respective positions and has demonstrated an ability to get the mission done."

"They are absolutely the right people to provide the leadership needed as we transform into a joint force that becomes even more capable of carrying out the work of defending our nation and supporting the needs of the Commonwealth."

Morrow began his military career in 1978 after

receiving a commission through the University of Clemson's ROTC program.

He is an outstanding graduate of undergraduate pilot training and has served as an F-111 Aardvark and F-16 Strike Eagle instructor pilot.

His flying assignments include tours at Lakenheath Royal Air Force Base, United Kingdom; Hahn Air Base, Germany; and Hill Air Force Base, Utah, where he served as a squadron and wing weapons officer.

In 1988 Morrow left active duty to join the Texas Air Guard, where he held various positions through the years, including commander of the 149th Fighter Wing.

Morrow received a bachelor's of science degree in administrative management from the University of Clemson in 1977 and a master's of aeronautical science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in 1984.

The general is a combat veteran and command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in trainer and fighter aircraft.

Morrow currently is deployed to the Persian Gulf region where he oversees the combined air operations center at his deployed location.

Yaple, who has served as both a navigator and a pilot in the Kentucky Air Guard, most recently was vice commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.



MORROW



YAPLE

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Air and Army Guard state headquarters combined

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air and Army National Guard's respective headquarters were combined Oct. 1 to become Joint Forces Headquarters Kentucky, as directed by the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum.

The reason for the merger, according to Blum, is the need to create more efficient headquarters for operations in a joint environment, said Col. Mike Dornbush, who serves as the state executive officer and, since the merger, also is responsible for plans and interoperability in the joint headquarters.

"Gen. Blum is looking to streamline the headquarters in every state as part of the transformation that is taking place all across the Department of Defense at the direction of Secretary (Donald) Rumsfeld," he said.

"The Air Guard, along with the Army Guard, is moving toward the future of the National Guard in recognizing we must find efficiency and ways to transform our current operating environment to a new operations environment based on jointness to maintain relevance in the 21st century," Dornbush said.

See COMBINED HEADQUARTERS, Page 3

Memorial will honor sense of duty that continues here today

A

s we prepare for Thanksgiving Day and the holiday season that follows, it is fitting that we take some time and pay thanks to all of the patri-

ots who have come before us and have made this a great organization.

On Nov. 14, we will honor all of the dedicated airmen who have served in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing and retired after at least 20 years of faithful service.

Each individual who has reached this milestone will have his or her name inscribed on a memorial in front of the Wing Headquarters Building.

We will dedicate this memorial with an appropriate ceremony, and I would like as many people as possible to attend this ceremony to honor these special Guardsmen and women.

As you know, the 123rd is the most highly decorated Air National Guard unit in the country.

That did not happen by accident or because we were just lucky.

Our reputation and heritage has been built up over the years because of the efforts and sacrifices of all of the folks who have come before us.

Their efforts were great and their sacrifices have been many.

They, like you, have done their duty; and because they answered that call to duty,



Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

Americans are able to enjoy the rights that we all hold dear.

Far too many people in our country today take their rights for granted, not realizing the sacrifice and effort that went into obtaining and maintaining those rights.

Fortunately for America, you and the people that we will honor with this memorial were and are willing to do their duty to ensure these rights.

Our predecessors did not deploy to Ko-

rea in the 1950s for the fun of it — they did it out of duty.

They didn't leave their jobs and families in the 1960s to be mobilized and deployed to Alaska, Japan and Korea because they wanted to see the far east — they did it out of duty.

They didn't get out of bed on cold January mornings and come to drill in the 1970s because they liked the scenery on old Tuberosse Avenue — they did it out of duty.

They didn't turn in the beloved RF-4 for the C-130 in the 1980s because they thought that airlift would be a cooler mission than recce — they did it out of duty.

They didn't learn to love the Herk and volunteer to fly, fix and support it all over the world in the 1990s because they wanted to miss Christmas at home or their kid's birthday — they did it out of duty.

They — and you — didn't go to Topekastan, Afghanistan, Pakistan the desert and Germany in the 2000s because they (and you) wanted to fry in 120-degree temperatures and sleep in a tent with 10 best buds. They — and you — did it out of duty.

Thank God for them, and Thank God for you!

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Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 17.

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An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — www.kyloui.ang.af.mil



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Michael Bradley

Let's play ball...

The Kentucky Air Guard softball team placed fourth out of 16 teams in a National Guard tournament held in Radcliff, Ky., in late September.

The team included (front from left) Master Sgt. Freddie Logsdon, Master Sgt. Chris Tellis, Tech. Sgt. Jason Smith, Derek Hoffheins, (back from left) Staff Sgt. Scott Terrill, Staff Sgt. James Fox, Staff Sgt. Michael Bradley, Jeff Tedder, Staff Sgt. Eric Hamilton and Army Sgt. Jason Adams.

Combined joint headquarters

Continued from Front Page

In addition, the creation of a joint-forces headquarters will facilitate the state's potential for becoming a NORTHCOM-gained organization under homeland defense missions.

Blum has given states some latitude in how they migrate to joint headquarters over the course of the next 24 months, Dornbush said. During this time, the new joint headquarters will be developing its roles and responsibilities.

The initial guidance handed down is to follow Blum's vision by combining the two headquarters, since military operations are much more joint in nature today, Dornbush said.

While the two organizations work to become one as a provisional unit, officials will look for duplications and service disconnects.

As for how members of the 123rd Airlift Wing will be affected, Dornbush said the merger should be transparent.

One new position within the joint-forces headquarters will be the joint-forces air-component commander.

This person will serve to coordinate all aviation assets within the state and provide linkage between the commander of the joint-

forces headquarters at Boone Center in Frankfort and the 123rd Airlift Wing in Louisville.

The wing will, however, continue to receive the same direct support from headquarters, Dornbush said.

The merger also brings new directives regarding leadership.

The structure of Joint Forces Headquarters Kentucky will include seven directorates — personnel; intelligence and security; operations; logistics; plans and interoperability; communications; and the dual position of comptroller and U.S. property fiscal officer.

One possible change is that Air Guard personnel assigned to joint headquarters may begin pulling drill weekends in Frankfort as part of the joint headquarters staff.

The joint-forces air-component commander and his staff, meanwhile, may continue to work here in Louisville.

An additional initiative is the expectation that joint headquarters eventually will include members from every branch of the reserve component — Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard.

For now, however, joint headquarters officials are working to iron out the details of the initial merger, Dornbush said.

NEW JOINT DIRECTORATE POSITIONS

Personnel (J-1)

— Army Lt. Col. Judy Greene-Baker

Intelligence and Security (J-2)

— Col. Bill Ketterer

Operations (J-3)

— Brig. Gen. Hank Morrow

Logistics (J-4)

— Army Col. Mike Sebastian

Plans and Interoperability (J-5/7)

— Col. Mike Dornbush

Communications (J-6)

— Army Lt. Col. Raymond Latendresse

Comptroller and U.S. Property Fiscal Officer (J-8)

— Army Lt. Col. Mike Jones

STS troop protects Afghani president



TOP: Hamid Karzai, the Afghani president, meets with the town elders in Ghazni, Afghanistan, prior to giving a speech in town. Master Sgt. Jon Rosa, one of Karzai's bodyguards, took this photograph.

RIGHT: Rosa talks on a satellite radio back to Bagram Air Base, while in the city of ChaghCharan. He served as a "one-man" command and control element providing the only communications link back to Kabul at the State Department and the U.S. military.



Photos courtesy of Master Sgt. Jon Rosa/KyANG

**By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor**

Serving as a bodyguard for a high-ranking political leader who is targeted for death is an extremely difficult and dangerous job — just ask Master Sgt. Jon Rosa.

Rosa, a combat controller in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron here, spent about three months in Afghanistan protecting the country's president, Hamid Karzai.

Prior to that, Rosa pulled a two-month stint in Iraqi. But just as combat operations there were coming to a halt, he was reassigned.

Some might think Rosa's new mission would have offered relief from the war-fighting in Iraq, but Rosa said it was anything but relaxing.

"It was infinitely more dangerous than Iraq," Rosa said. "In Iraq, it was plain to see who the enemy was."

But Afghanistan was a different story, he explained. Karzai faced threats not only from the Taliban and al-Qaida, but also from some of his own bodyguards.

Just months prior to Rosa's arrival, one of Karzai's Afghan bodyguards, now known to be a former Taliban, attempted to assassinate the president and was successful in killing the vice-president.

Because of such uncertain loyalties and the fact that Karzai's protection force was multinational in nature, it was hard to determine who the good guys were, Rosa explained.

As a result of the assassination attempt, Karzai requested that the United States provide his protection detail.

Rosa, who was selected for the job because of his aviation expertise and close air-support capabilities, said he'd never been involved in a mission quite like this.

"It was a different type of mission than I'd ever pulled, but I enjoyed working with the diverse group of people," he said.

Security for the president was handled by various agencies of the U.S. government, he added.

See PROTECT KARZAI, Back Page

HEAT Wave

Staff Sgt. Tracy Willen and Tech. Sgt. Andrew Bush, both KyANG supply troops, tough it out in the extreme heat while deployed to Baghdad International Airport in Iraq.

Airmen from the logistics readiness squadron continue to pull 30- to 90-day rotations there as part of Air Expeditionary Forces Blue.



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Tracy Willen/KyANG

State Pistol Team seeking new recruits

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky State Pistol Team, which consists of both Army and Air Guard members, is seeking a few new shooters.

According to the team's captain, Master Sgt. John Martin, membership offers numerous advantages besides improved shooting skill.

"It's really a good time, and it's also very enlightening," Martin said. "You always come away from the competitions better than when you went."

For example, regularly scheduled shooting matches promote teamwork and discipline, he said.

"You get an opportunity to learn how to be part of a team while representing the Kentucky Air Guard.

"Also, you have an opportunity to compete against some of the best marksmen in the country," Martin said.

In order for the team to compete, it must have the same number of new shooters as experienced shooters, which is why Martin is always looking for new recruits.

The matches in which the team competes are held about four times a year at locations across the country.

The team usually practices one a month at Fort Knox.

Interested Guard members should contact Martin on base at ext. 4337.



Lt. Col. Steve Allison/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. Ken Bernardi, from the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, collects his target after shooting in the National Guard's Winston P. Wilson National Championship recently at Camp Robinson, Ark.

Bernardi won third place overall in the last State Championship competition and won silver and bronze medals at the Bluegrass Games earlier this year.

Key positions

Continued from Front Page

He began his military career in 1980, receiving a commission through the University of Vermont's Army ROTC program.

Yaple initially served in the Vermont Army National Guard but soon transferred to the Kentucky Air Guard to pursue a flying career.

He served here as an RF-4C weapons system operator until 1985, when he cross-trained to become a pilot.

Yaple has held various leadership positions through the years, including command post officer, flight commander, headquarters director of operations and commander of the wing's 123rd Operations Group.

Yaple received a bachelor's of science degree in business administration from the University of Vermont in 1980.

He has more than 3,000 flying hours in the RF-4C and C-130 aircraft.



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Bill Sprake

Simply the Best

Master Sgt. Bill Sprake, a combat controller in the 123rd Special Tactics Flight, was honored as the Air National Guard NCO of the Year during a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., in late September.

Unit members and family who attended the National Guard Bureau ceremony included, from left to right, Col. Mark Kraus, 2nd Lt. Sean McLane, Jane Sprake, Bill Sprake, Chief Master Sgt. Pat Malone, Col. Michael Harden and Capt. Katrina Johnson.

Promotions, retirements & separations



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

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- Nicholas Owen,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Jeffrey Perry,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- John Posten,
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
- Charles Scott,
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

- Christopher Buzard,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Rondall Carpenter Jr.,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- David Floyd,
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.

- Virgil Gipson,
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
- Michael Helton,
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq.
- Collin King,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Chad Rager,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

- Mark Atkins,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Mark Motsinger,
123rd Special Tactics Sq.
- Wilmer Halfill II,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

- Paul Bowling,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Derek Williams,
123rd Operations Support Flt.

FIRST LIEUTENANT (O-2)

- Joseph Hood,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Jason Johnson,
165th Airlift Sq.

CAPTAIN (O-3)

- Kevin Thornsberry,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:

- Airman 1st Class Timothy Allen,
123rd Student Flt.
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Mackowiack,
123rd Communications Flt.
- Airman 1st Class
Joseph Scroggum III,
123rd Student Flt.

Guard, Reserves essential to war effort

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — National Guard and reserve forces “have been absolutely essential” to the war on terrorism, the commander of U.S. Central Command told the Senate Appropriations Committee during a Sept. 24 hearing about the fiscal 2004 supplemental funding request for Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We couldn’t get the job done without them,” Army Gen. John Abizaid said.

“It isn’t a matter of ‘nice to have,’ it’s a matter of ‘must have.’”

But Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the committee that such heavy reliance on the reserve components — which has a large percentage of the military’s combat service support capabilities — “doesn’t posture us very well for the 21st-century security environment we’re going into.”

Myers said Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld has ordered a rebalancing of the force to provide a better mix of capabilities between the active and reserve components.

“Because it’s inevitable (that) if we’re going to send an active ground component ... into a situation, there’s going to be a reserve piece that goes with it,” Myers said. “And that may be fine for some situations, but probably not all.”

The Defense Department’s goal is to accomplish the rebalancing within the next two years.

About 170,000 Guard and Reserve members are currently on active duty, down from a high of 223,000 during major combat operations in Iraq, Myers said.

The number could drop more if a third multinational division joins Operation Iraqi Freedom.

However, if no additional multinational division materializes, Myers said, planners might have to use other options to keep manning on track in Iraq, including the possibility of more reserve-component call-

ups. Other options, he said, involve increasing the number of active-duty troops committed to the operation or, ideally, getting enough Iraqis trained so they can assume a larger role in their defense.

Meanwhile, U.S. troops serving in or being deployed to Iraq “should expect to spend one year in Iraq,” Myers said, whether they are on active duty or in the reserve compo-

we’re fixing that system. We cannot do that to the Guard and Reserve in terms of activation.”

“We can do a better job in providing predictability,” Myers said.

“We can do a better job in communicating when people will come on active duty and when they will be leaving active duty.”

Myers said reserve-component units to be called to active duty for the next rotation already have been alerted and are preparing for their missions.

Reserve-component troops have “been doing great work all the way from combat operations to support operations. They’re all over the theater,” Abizaid said.

Myers said the war on terror demands that the military make maximum use of all its assets.

“We are relying heavily on the reserve component,” he said.

“And you would expect to do that if you’re a nation at war and the stakes are high.”

Myers said his meetings with reserve-component troops, as well as with troops he met during his recent trip to Bosnia and Kosovo, confirm that they “couldn’t be prouder of what they’re doing,” and that despite the sacrifices, they are committed to the cause.

Sen. Lloyd Bennett, an Appropriations Committee member from Utah, agreed, relaying a story about a guardsman from his state who had returned home on leave from his deployment in Iraq while his wife delivered twins.

“They were sitting there in the crowd with these two babies less than a week old, the wife holding one, the G.I. holding the other,” Bennett said.

“And in that meeting was a gentleman who wanted to make the point that everything (in Iraq) is disaster ... that nothing’s going well.

“This G.I. holding this baby spoke up and said, ‘I believe in the mission. I’m glad to be there. I’m leaving tomorrow, and I’m glad to be going back,’” Bennett said.

“

We couldn’t get the job done without them. It isn’t a matter of ‘nice to have,’ it’s a matter of ‘must have.’

”

—Army Gen. John Abizaid
Commander, U.S. Central Command

nents.

“There is an issue of fairness here, and I think the (guardsmen) will be the first to tell you that they are willing to pull their fair share,” he said.

“They always have, and they’re very proud of that.”

Defense Department policy has been to issue one-year mobilization orders to the reserve components, although service secretaries have the authority to extend that period.

Current Army policy, for example, is that mobilized reserve-component troops will spend up to 12 months in theater, in addition to active-duty time spent to train up, ship out and demobilize at the end of their tours.

And when reserve-component troops are called to active duty, Myers and Rumsfeld agree they need more notice than many have been getting.

“The system that is in place is designed for an industrial age, and as a result, a number of people were only given five, six, eight (or) 10 days’ notification of their call-up,” Rumsfeld told the committee.

“And that’s just not respectful of them and their employers and their family. And

Farewell



Photos by Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

ABOVE: Col. Michael Harden presents Lt. Col. Ken Ellis with a medal at his retirement ceremony during the October drill.

LEFT: Col. Michael Dornbush presents Chief Master Sgt. Vonnie Hood with a retirement certificate at her farewell dinner in August.

Protect Karzai

Continued from Page 4

Rosa said he considers himself fortunate because he worked with the best special operations troops in the business — and he was witness to the birth of a new, free nation.

Because his job was to protect the president at all times, Rosa attended meetings and conferences in which the country's constitution was discussed and written.

Watching the development of the nation was, he said, remarkable.

"It must have been what it was like for our forefathers in America as they gathered to write our nations' first Constitution," he added.

Although he claims he's happy to be home, Rosa said he'd like to do this type of mission again because he enjoyed the demands of the job.

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