

THE

CARGO COURIER



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

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Exercise tests wing's accident response

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

After nearly six months of planning and intense coordination with dozens of community agencies, the Kentucky Air Guard put its new disaster preparedness plan to the test last month with an accident response exercise.

By all accounts, it passed with much higher marks than anyone expected.

"This just went very well — better than we ever anticipated," said Senior Master Sgt. Glenn Farquhar, the wing's NCOIC of disaster preparedness.

"We now know that we can pull off something like this. We know that we are prepared."

The scope of the exercise, which involved a simulated collision between a KyANG C-

See **EXERCISE**, Page 5



TOP: The 123rd Medical Squadron's Senior Airman Anita Marks, Senior Airman John Miller and Staff Sgt. Kristina Swenson prepare a patient for medical transport.

LEFT: Makeup, complete with a disgorged eyeball, was applied to this "victim" to make medical training more realistic.

BOTTOM: Maj. Andrea Kristofy and Staff Sgt. Kristina Swenson assess a patient's wounds in triage.



KyANG photos by
Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson



Commitment of Air Force members makes service the world's best

Now that my tour of duty is up and I prepare to transition back to academic life, I want to tell each one of you what a fantastic tour I have had as your secretary.

Today as you read this, I want to be clear in my message — the Air Force's enlisted and officer corps and the civilian workforce have made the past four years the most rewarding of my professional life.

As a youngster, I dreamed of being a part of the aviation world.

As most of you are aware, my dreams became a reality at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. However, as a child I had no idea as I watched B-29s fly over my house in Washington state that I would someday be the secretary of the mighty force those B-29 crews belonged to — the United States Air Force!

Millions of men and women have served in Air Force blue since that time. Through it all, the one human quality that stands out both yesterday and today in all of you is that quality we call commitment: commitment to the Air Force team, commitment to our core values, commitment to the mission. Commitment of people in its many forms has allowed the Air Force to exist and flourish as the world's preeminent air and space force.

In my travels I have witnessed this commitment. Whether in the desert, at Aviano Air Base, Italy; Kunsan Air Base, Korea; or Minot Air Force Base, N.D., I have seen it. It is at the Air Force Academy and Basic Military Training.



WIDNALL

It is on the flightline at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and the Space Warfare Center at Falcon Air Station, Colo. Most recently I saw it in the faces and actions of the Thunderbirds' crew chiefs and life support technicians as they prepared me for my "finis flight" at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., in October.

Many reasons for this commitment exist — patriotism, pride, belonging, personal integrity, knowing that what you are doing makes a difference — these are just a few.

Whatever the reasons, I thank heaven they exist — for the sake of the Air Force and our nation.

I am also well aware that the contemporary military missions that we are carrying out in the national interest have been very

stressful. With the highest taskings seen during peacetime, I have asked you to conduct and support operations in Southwest Asia, Bosnia and Africa, and you have performed flawlessly.

These contemporary military missions have created many new challenges, and I commend you for reaching down deep to pull them off with innovation and style.

I firmly believe that while we are putting up with many frustrations and irritants in dealing with these missions, we are writing new chapters in the conduct of Air Force and joint military operations.

While we do not know what the future will bring, we will learn lessons in Southwest Asia, in Bosnia, in Africa and all those other places where we may become involved, that will one day provide the foundation we depend upon to pull the nation out of the fire of a war.

I have had the time of my life flying in formation with all of you.

I thank you and your families for your unwavering support. I also thank your families for their commitment and support of you and the Air Force.

When I came in as secretary and traveled to bases I heard comments like, "We're glad you came to the Air Force."

Now as I leave, I want to tell you that I'm very glad I came to the Air Force and I'm very proud to have been on your team. Continue your climb higher, farther and faster!

Dr. Bill and I wish you all the best. God bless you all.

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Wing Commander
Cargo Courier Editor
Digital Image Editor

Col. Michael Harden
Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the PA office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 21.



Johnson takes prize for sharpshooting

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Tech. Sgt. James Johnson demonstrated his combat skills Sept. 27 by scoring a sharpshooter's award during a rifle match held at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Johnson, a combat controller with the 123rd Special Tactics Flight, carefully placed 20 shots from the standing position with his M-14 to score 183 out of a possible 200 points.

The marksman beat out seven other military and civilian and contestants from Kentucky and Indiana for the award, scoring four points above his nearest competitor.

Johnson and Lt. Col. Dan Wells, the base marksmanship coordinator who also competed, finished the match with average scores of 706 and 736, respectively.

The National Match Course required four different shooting events from 200 to 500 yards using open sights.

Tech. Sgt. James Johnson and Lt. Col. Dan Wells display the tools of their trade following a marksmanship competition in Indiana.

Enlisted members now eligible for insurance through USAA

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Enlisted members of the Kentucky Air Guard are now eligible to purchase automobile, homeowners' and renters' insurance through the United Services Automobile Association.

The association, which previously offered insurance only to officers, now sells competitively priced coverage to enlisted members in 13 states, with plans to expand nationwide by the end of next year.

"We are pleased circumstances permit us to reach out to enlisted people and their families," said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilson Cooney, who is president of the association's Property and Insurance Casualty Group.

"We have considered inviting enlisted members to join the USAA family in the past, but, historically, their large numbers have

made it impractical.

"Those circumstances have changed," Cooney noted. "Defense Department downsizing has given us the smallest enlisted corps the nation has had in about 50 years.

"This smaller number of potential policyholders made us confident we could phase in new business while we maintain the high level of quality service USAA is known for."

The association has more than three million members and is the fifth largest automobile insurer in the country.

"This is a pocketbook issue that can have a positive effect on the personal finances of enlisted Guard personnel and their families," USAA spokesman John Walmsley said.

For more information, contact Walmsley at (800) 531-8080. ☎

First Shirt Opening

The 123rd Maintenance Squadron is seeking candidates to serve as the unit's first sergeant. Applicants must:

- Hold the rank of master sergeant or be a technical sergeant eligible for promotion
- Have completed Command NCO Academy and hold a 7-level CAFSC
- Agree to attend the Air National Guard First Sergeant Academy within 12 months of assignment
- Meet the standards of AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel; and NGR (AF) 35-11, Weight Management Program
- Speak distinctly and be highly motivated
- Be available for additional days prior to Unit Training Assemblies

All interested personnel should submit a resumé to Maj. Johnny Jones no later than tomorrow. For more information, call ext. 4450. ☎

Ford hails Guard training site as one of the best in the country

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

GREENVILLE, Ky. — U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford hailed the Kentucky National Guard's newly expanded Western Kentucky Training Site last month as one of the best in the nation.

"We are here today to dedicate a facility that plays a tremendous role in training our men and women to be their best when things are at their worst," Ford told an audience of more than 200 Army and Air Guard members gathered here Oct. 17 for a ceremony renaming the site in his honor.

"And that makes this facility one of the most valuable weapons that our military could have.

"When commanders come to this facility, they know their men and women will find no better simulation of what they can expect in a wartime situation."

The Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, as it is now known, has grown from a 29-acre site in 1969 to nearly 3,500 acres today. Built on a reclaimed strip mine, it includes housing for nearly 500 troops, a 400-seat dining hall, computer simulator training, five live-fire ranges, hardened bivouac sites and a 4,200 foot grass runway.

Nearly 14,000 troops were trained at the facility last year, which has received \$11

million in federal funds since the expansion began.

Plans call for additional construction to enhance the site as one of the premier training facilities in the Eastern United States, offering services to everybody from active duty troops and law enforcement agents to the Boy Scouts and foreign nationals.

"Today, we are witnessing the start of a new era in military training — an era where the nation will look to Kentucky for much of their training needs," said Ford, who was instrumental in funding the site's expansion.

"I can't begin to tell you how proud I am to have my name associated with a facility of this caliber — a facility that will not only prepare today's armed forces for whatever they might face, but will continue to be a leader in training future generations."

Ford also spoke highly of the men and women of the National Guard, noting that many have made personal sacrifices to keep America's military strong.

Because of such sacrifices, he pledged his continued support of the National Guard.

"The 123rd in Louisville — the Air National Guard — is the best in the country," Ford said. "It makes it easy to defend them and fight for them. They have the highest volunteer rate. They flew in Haiti and



TOP: U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford and Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, chief of the National Guard Bureau, stand near a marker dedicating the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

BOTTOM LEFT: Tech. Sgt. Todd Swenson and Staff Sgt. Eric Mills of the 123rd Special Tactics Flight control the approach of a KyANG C-130.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The 8,500-acre site can house nearly 500 troops.



Exercise provides learning experience for wing

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130 and a civilian DC-9 at Louisville International Airport, was unprecedented.

Because the simulation involved civilian as well as military aircraft, major players included the Regional Airport Authority; the Coroner's Office; and city and county fire departments, police departments and Emergency Medical Services.

Other participants included the American Red Cross; Audubon Hospital, which provided simulated medical treatment to transported patients; and scores of Explorers, Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol members, who served as victims.

In all, the scenario involved 18 fire trucks, 10 ambulances, 125 military personnel and 100 civilian participants working in concert to douse fires, treat victims and secure the accident scene.

"We had never really tried it on this scale, but most crashes occur off-site and the first people on the scene are usually civilian agencies," said Maj. Ken Peters, executive officer with the 123rd Support Group.

"So this exercise gave us the ability to interface with civilian agencies and really helped us understand how all these agencies can interact with each other.

"You can paper-talk these types of incidents all day long, but the only way you can learn is by actually doing it. That way, we can learn from our mistakes and try to fix them."

Master Sgt. Danny Brooks, assistant chief of operations for the base fire department, said the exercise gave his firefighters the kind of training they seldom have the opportunity to accomplish.

"In fire protection, we've been concerned with our ability to interface with the community agencies for some time," Brooks said.

"We've constantly done war games and we've practiced for the ORI and military scenarios like that. But when it comes to an unfortunate incident like of one aircraft going down here in the community or out in the state, our response wouldn't work the same way because the actual command of the accident scene would belong to the fire chief in the district where it crashes.

"So this gave us a unique and very valuable opportunity to train for that kind of scenario."

The exercise provided the same kind of training for medical personnel, said 2nd Lt. David Martin, who served as EMS commander



TOP: Staff Sgt. Kristina Swenson, Senior Airman Shelley Kruse and Lt. Col. Richard Kimbler treat accident victims on the flightline before arranging for transport to Audubon Hospital.



LEFT: Kentucky Air Guard firefighters carry a wounded civilian to the triage site for medical evaluation.

**KyANG photos by
Tech. Sgt.
Charles Simpson**

for the exercise.

"This exercise gave us a civilian-military crossover and a unified command system where everyone worked together to pull this thing off," Martin said.

"It was a very, very valuable experience for our medical technicians and nurses. Our plan was to have the junior players — tech sergeants on down — make the decisions to help them become leaders."

The exercise did, however, reveal a few glitches in the wing's plan.

Military litters, for example, are too large

to fit in civilian ambulances. And many of the civilian agencies' radios are incompatible with their military counterparts because they transmit on different frequencies. But Brooks said the wing will work to address these problems, some of which might never have been revealed without the exercise.

"That's why you do these types of exercises," he said. "I think we learned a lot, and if we apply what we learned, we'll be even better prepared to deal with incidents like this."

November brought Voodoo developments

By Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Airlift Wing Historian

November has been a productive month for developments regarding one of the wing's former missions — photo reconnaissance.

In November 1966, for example, the unit began installing its first aerial cameras in the wing's RF-101 Voodoos, providing right, left, vertical and oblique images of ground-based objects.

Six years later, those same aircraft and cameras provided photographic evidence of the wing's combat capabilities during Operation Bronze Shield III.

KyANG pilots who participated in the exercise, which was held in conjunction with the 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, included former wing commanders Joe Kottak and Stewart Byrne (who now is ANG assistant to the commander of Pacific Air Forces) and current wing vice commander Bill Leslie.

The unit's photo lab processed 3,920 feet of film for the exercise and developed nearly 1,600 photographic prints.

November also brought good news to former wing commander Carl Black, who was appointed major general. Black is only the fifth person in Kentucky Air Guard history to achieve that rank.

More recently, November was truly a time for thanksgiving when efforts began in 1995 to pass legislation that would provide full tuition payments to any Guard



KyANG historical archive

RF-101 Voodops like this one provided the wing with aerial reconnaissance ability throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

member who attends a state-supported college or technical school. The measure, which was designed to aid recruiting and retention efforts, was approved by the state General Assembly in the 1996 session.

Trivia question from October: In the

early years of the National Guard, only one type of profession kept a man from military service — a minister of the gospel.

Trivia for December: Who are the other four KyANG members who have attained the rank of major general?

Guard facility named for Sen. Ford

Continued from Page 4

Panama and Somalia and Bosnia and the Persian Gulf.

"And so I'm not a bit bashful about stopping the promotions of the Air Force generals if I don't get what I want," Ford added, referring to his actions in 1995 to deter the Air Force from cutting the wing's aircraft by one-third.

"I was not a bit bashful about it because, as I've said, when you're fighting for the best, nothing ought to deter.

"And so we will continue to do that as long as I am in the United States Senate, and I hope whoever follows me will have the same love of the military that you and I have had together. If that happens, then the future of this great country will be strengthened right here."

A KyANG combat controller observes the approach of a Kentucky C-130 to the training site's grass landing strip during a demonstration of the wing's abilities.



Input sought on C-130 incidents

Air Force officials are seeking input on incidents in which C-130 aircraft experienced engine rollbacks or power loss.

The Secretary of the Air Force has directed the review of the aircraft to help enhance flight safety.

The team conducting the review is especially interested in any information regarding fuel flow, torque and RPM instrumentation readings during these incidents.

Anyone with information can relay his account anonymously by calling (800) 343-0280.

Officials ask that callers leave detailed descriptions of the incidents, including date, aircraft model, location and any corrective maintenance action taken.

Callers also should note if the incidents were reported.

U.S. buys MiGs from Moldova

WASHINGTON — The United States has purchased 21 MiG-29 fighters from the former Soviet republic of Moldova, defense secretary William Cohen announced earlier this month.

The purchase of the nuclear-capable aircraft was part of an agreement with governments of the Newly Independent States, which formerly were part of the Soviet Union, to ward off threats from "rogue states."

"This is a joint effort by both governments to ensure that these dual-use military weapons do not fall into the hands of countries that might use them against us, our friends or allies," Cohen said Nov. 4.

The aircraft were transported to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in C-17 cargo planes.

Kross stresses Total Force

Aircrews may get raise

By Staff Sgt. Amy Hickey
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Nearly 1,500 bluesuiters and their civilian counterparts listened last month as Gen. Walter Kross, commander of the Air Mobility Command, emphasized the importance of the Air Guard to worldwide mobility efforts.

In his closing remarks Oct. 25 at the Air-lift/Tanker Association Convention, Kross said Guard, Reserve and active-duty members from all fields must work side by side to accomplish the airlift mission.

"We need aircrews, maintainers and support personnel; we need active, Guard, Reserve, civilian and contractor team members, as well as our industry partners," Kross said. "It's a really big team — over 150,000 strong — which means unless we're all using the same play book, we're not going to succeed."

Kross also said he is impressed with efforts the command has made in the area of readiness, but he expressed concern about the current operations tempo.

"We've done a good job in the readiness department. Our 'anything, anywhere, anytime' attitude is readily apparent. Our readiness is tested often, and we always pass the test."

He added, however, that maintaining readiness means being able to say "no" to certain taskings and cutting back on other non-essential missions.

"We can't continue to demand more and more of the air mobility team without readiness suffering ... and I believe it's beginning to suffer because of that demand."

He discussed several efforts to help counter increasing operations tempo, including eliminating unnecessary training requirements and overcoming aircrew turbulence.

"Turbulence interferes with the family. And turbulence makes it very difficult for us to work with the Guard and Reserve units."

Much of Kross' speech focused on improving quality of life for those he calls his No. 1 priority — the men and women who work for him.

"As much as I talk about having good equipment, I'm not worried about a C-17 putting in its papers. We need to focus hard on retention issues (for) pilots, navigators, enlisted aircrews and enlisted overall."

He received thunderous applause after he announced the command-designated fiscal 1998 "Year of the Enlisted Force."

Kross said there are currently 100 initiatives being worked by the command as part of this focus. One of the initiatives he stressed was increased pay for enlisted crew members.

"Our enlisted aircrew force needs better compensation now — not just for retention but for their quality of life. We must double their hazardous duty incentive pay, now."

The commander said he realizes that air mobility in the 21st century is dependent on bluesuiters.

"The air mobility team cannot go forward without its most experienced and knowledgeable players."

He said the command is making every effort to improve the quality of life of AMC bluesuiters, who he

said are "vital to air mobility."

"Our nation's leaders can take for granted that you will be ready in time of war.

"They can just assume you'll be ready to deliver humanitarian aid to the sick and hungry people living in a remote location, or that you'll be willing to respond on a moment's notice to evacuate American citizens from virtually any spot on the globe.

"But I know that every time we pull off another flawless performance there was Herculean effort behind the scenes, an effort that is often unnoticed and unappreciated. But the work all of you do truly matters for all who walk this planet. No nation has the incredible capabilities you demonstrate every day. You are a truly remarkable team, and I am very, very proud of you."



KROSS

Fairchild named to ANG Board of Directors

By Lt. Col. Howard Hunt
Executive Support Staff Officer

Brig. Gen. Verna D. Fairchild, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air, has been selected by the director of the Air National Guard for membership on the newly formed ANG Board of Directors.

Fairchild was nominated for the post by Kentucky Adjutant General John R. Groves in July.

The selection process was highly competitive — only 11 general officers were selected from the many considered nationwide.

Each board member represents the interests of about 10,000 Air National Guard members and is charged with helping the director of the ANG develop, communicate and implement policy directives.

Specific duties include:

- Reviewing relevant issues and recommendations that have ANG policy and strategy implications



FAIRCHILD

- Representing all Air National Guard units during the policy and strategy development process

- Facilitating National Guard Bureau

staff support during policy development

- Offering recommendations on Air National Guard policy and strategy

Fairchild has served in the military for 29 years and was the first woman to attain the rank of brigadier general in the Kentucky National Guard.

She also was the first woman and nurse to command an Air National Guard hospital and the first woman to be named assistant adjutant general for air, a position she has held since October 1994.

Fairchild previously served as ANG assistant for nursing to the Air Combat Command's surgeon general.

In addition to Fairchild's duties on the ANG Board of Directors, she is a member of the Air National Guard Human Resources Quality Board, which has worked to improve the status of minorities and women in the Air National Guard.

Fairchild's term on the ANG Board of Directors will run through September 1999.

Promotions and honors in the Kentucky Air National Guard

The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the United States Air Force:

TO AMN. 1ST CLASS (E-3)

- John Carey Jr.,
123rd Services Flt.
- Dana Corbin,
123rd Student Flight
- Travis Howard,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

TO SENIOR AMN. (E-4)

- Christopher Brawner,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Robin Stokley,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Geoffrey Shumaker,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Donald Skaggs,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)

- Robert Bratcher,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Jeffery Bryant,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Cleopatra Buckner,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Patrick Crosier,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Donald Jordan Jr.,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- James McFarland Jr.,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Steven Shircliff,
123rd Logistics Sq.

TO TECH. SGT. (E-6)

- David Pierce,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

TO MASTER SGT. (E-7)

- Randall Anderson,
205th Combat Comm. Sq.

- Debra Hall,
123rd Airlift Wing

TO SENIOR MASTER SGT. (E-8)

- Roger Hamilton,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

TO 1ST LIEUTENANT (O-2)

- Adele Guarino,
123rd Medical Sq.

TO MAJOR (O-4)

- Jeffrey Peters,
165th Weather Flt.

TO LT. COL. (O-5)

- Richard McKenzie,
165th Airlift Sq.

TO BRIG. GEN. (O-7)

- Edward Tonini,
Headquarters, KyANG