

THE

# CARGO COURIER

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

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## Medical deployment a matter of ...



## Life and Death

LEFT: Maj. Connie Carrillo, assistant chief nurse of the 123rd Medical Squadron, helps stabilize a patient in the Acute Care Clinic at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer  
Cargo Courier Editor

Field training is seldom a matter of life and death, but that's exactly what some Guard members faced last month when the 123rd Medical Squadron deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The two-week exercise placed 45 KyANG medical personnel in jobs throughout Ramstein's 86th Medical Group clinic, the largest of its kind in the Air Force.

Guard members worked side by side with their active duty counterparts, treating patients and performing the kinds of real-world medical duties necessary in a busy outpatient clinic.

"We had people in every section," said Lt. Col. Karl Dick, clinic administrator for the Kentucky Air National Guard. "Our optometrist was doing eye exams; our med techs were working in the acute care clinic. We just jumped in and did what they did."

That participation wasn't limited to exams. At least two Kentucky personnel were responsible for saving a little girl's life after she stopped breathing in the clinic's emergency

See *DEPLOYMENT*, Page 7



KyANG photos by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz

Staff Sgt. Coszetta Johnson, a lab manager in the 123rd Medical Squadron, examines test samples prepared for patients at Ramstein's 86th Medical Group clinic. Johnson was one of 45 Kentucky Air National Guard hospital personnel to deploy to Germany for a two-week rotation in an active duty medical facility.

# Warriors like you provide courage and hope for our country's future

**I** am writing to tell you just how proud I am of you and your steadfast service to the nation. I greatly appreciate the fact that when our nation calls, airmen from all specialties step forward without hesitation.

Many of you deploy away from home and family to austere areas for extended periods.

Others gladly assume additional duties at their home station to fill the void left by those who deployed.

All understand that it is our duty to put service to country before self — to be willing to lay down our lives for America.

As the chief of staff, I have traveled to many Air Force installations and forward operating locations at home and abroad.

I am always impressed by the tremendous esprit, innovation and can-do attitude that you exhibit. You have vividly demonstrated that you are equal to any challenge.

We've seen our involvement in contingency operations increase nearly four-fold since the end of the Cold War.

You contained a rogue dictator in Baghdad, enforced United Nations sanctions against Iraq and helped bring peace and stability to the Persian Gulf region.

You contributed to a cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and the implementation of peace accords there.

You continue to deter aggression by North Korea while reassuring friends and



**Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman**  
*Air Force Chief of Staff*

allies in East Asia and the Pacific Rim.

And you continue to counter the flow of illegal drugs into the United States.

Meanwhile, through extensive relief operations, you helped save lives in the four corners of the globe. You have met the challenge.

The recent terrorist bombing at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, highlighted both the importance — and the danger — of our increased involvement around the world.

I was particularly impressed by the decisive actions taken in the face of great adversity.

Immediate rescue operations, buddy care

and emergency medical treatment helped save lives and mitigate the costs of this terrible tragedy. Moreover, the 4404th Provisional Wing quickly swung back into action to generate sorties and help enforce the no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

When I visited the unit July 3, I was extremely impressed with the professional manner in which every person was handling the aftermath of this attack on our fellow airmen.

All Air Force commanders have been directed to redouble their efforts to guard against such terrorist threats to our people, and we will do all that is humanly possible to protect you, our most important resource.

However, our operations are just too important to the security interests of the United States for us to be deterred from them by the threat of terrorist or even conventional attack.

Such risks are an inherent part of our military profession. Ultimately, your continuing commitment to duty has not gone unnoticed.

The American people, as well as the nation's leaders, recognize and appreciate all that you do for our great country.

In the end, they understand that it is warriors like you who give our nation courage, faith and hope for today and the future.

It is an honor to be associated with the outstanding men and women in today's Air Force.

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, call or stop by the PA office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Oct. 1.

# Thunder Roars



KyANG photos by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

**TOP:** Thousands of visitors lined up to look inside a KC-135 Stratotanker at last year's Planes of Thunder display.



**LEFT:** A-10 Thunderbolts were one of the 1996 show's top draws.

## Show to serve as top Air Force event in '97

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor  
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force, Kentucky Air National Guard and Louisville International Airport will celebrate their 50th birthdays next year with the largest annual fireworks demonstration in the world and a comprehensive airshow featuring the Thunderbirds.

The celebration, scheduled for April 19, will be part of Thunder Over Louisville, the opening ceremony of the Kentucky Derby Festival.

Planning already has begun for a two-day static display at the base and an airshow over the Ohio River, said Col. Ed Tonini, KyANG Chief of Staff and base coordinator of the event.

Virtually every type of aircraft in the active Air Force inventory and a host of historic Air Force aircraft will be featured in the airshow and static display.

Thunder Over Louisville drew more than 600,000 spectators last year. A static display of military aircraft, "The Planes of Thunder," drew 30,000 visitors to the Air National Guard base in a single day. Plans for next year's event are even more ambitious,

"We'll be hosting one of two marquee events for the year-long celebration of the Air Force 50th anniversary," Tonini said. The national theme for the 50th anniversary is "Golden Legacy, Boundless Future...Your Nation's Air Force."

"Thunder Over Louisville is a great opportunity for the Air Force to show America our quality people and equipment," said Lt. Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton, the Air Force's assistant vice chief of staff. "I encourage all Air Force activities to support all facets of this event wherever possible."

Wayne Hettinger, president of Visual Presentations Inc. and producer for Thunder, said the airshow will be world-class.

"The Thunder Over Louisville show will receive national attention as it salutes the Air Force and the Kentucky Air National Guard golden anniversaries," he said. "It promises to be the biggest and best airshow and fireworks display you have ever seen."

The Air Force and Air National Guard are giving this event their full support, Tonini said.

"We have the added benefit of working

with experienced professionals like Wayne Hettinger and Ben Harper of the Kroger Co., who outdo themselves every year in planning and hosting the Thunder Over Louisville show," Tonini added.

Plans call for taxiways and part of a runway to be shut down to make room for static displays of current and historical Air Force aircraft, along with some of the premier Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aircraft, Tonini said. A special homecoming for past and present KyANG members also is planned.

Volunteers will be needed to help in planning and executing the details of this massive undertaking, Tonini said.

"We need everyone to get involved to make it happen," he added.

Volunteers are needed in operations (including maintenance support and logistics); legal; VIP reception; concessions (to benefit the Thoroughbred Foundation); security; protocol; FAA coordination; Air Board coordination; United Parcel Service coordination; transportation; KyANG reunion/homecoming activities; public/media relations; the total force display; television programming; recruiting; and a 50th anniversary yearbook.



# Brig. Gen. Smith buried with honors

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer  
Cargo Courier Editor

Friends and family gathered at Zachary Taylor National Cemetery last month to pay their final respects to Brig. Gen. John L. Smith, former commander of the 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing.

Scores of visitors attended the Aug. 9 burial service, which included a 21-gun salute, a color guard presentation and a C-130H fly-by.

Smith, who died at 58 following a brief struggle with cancer, had dedicated his life to serving his country.

Chaplain Thomas Curry described Smith as "an unforgettable man who accumulated more than 5,300 flying hours during his Air Force career, some of them during dangerous combat missions in Vietnam."

"Gen. Smith was also an unforgettable leader of people," Curry said.

"I personally owe my career in the Guard to him for hiring me in 1986 to serve as chaplain. He lifted people up to greater challenges and opportunities."

Curry noted that Smith was a devoted friend and father who attended University of Louisville basketball games with his son, even as he became weakened by the disease.

"He took time to develop relationships with his family and friends," Curry said. "He placed friendship at a premium."

Lt. Col. Gary Napier, staff judge advocate for the wing, agreed.

Napier described Smith as an open and caring friend who "just wanted to be one of the guys."

Both men belonged to a small hunting and

fishing group they called The Liars Club, named, Napier said, for "the ones that got away."

"He was the last in our little group that we put together," Napier recalled. "It was an afterthought that we asked him, and he accepted readily. I know you hear about



male bonding and think it's poppycock, but that's exactly what happened: We took probably two hunting trips a year, and I have a lot of fond memories.

"It transcended just mere friendship," Napier said. "He became like a brother."

The club plans to take another hunting trip this fall, and Napier said Smith's presence will be with them.

"We're going to do some special things in his memory," Napier said.

"There will be a few pictures of Smitty around the camp."

Col. Michael Harden, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, remembered Smith as a gentleman and a patriot.

"Gen. Smith typified a long line of pilots who grew up in the post-World War II era prior to the turmoil of the 1960s," Harden said.

"When Vietnam came along, he saw his duty, went to war — and he continued to do his duty to his country all of his life.

"I served with Gen. Smith for some 16 years," Harden said. "He was dedicated to the 123rd and, more specifically, the people of the 123rd. He truly cared about each person in the wing."

Smith, a native of Glasgow, Ky., began his military career after earning a mechanical engineering degree from U of L in 1961.

He received a commission through Air Force ROTC and later attended pilot training at Webb Air Force Base, Texas.

After a tour as a C-123 pilot in Vietnam and an instructor pilot in Florida, Smith joined the Kentucky Air National Guard.

He was called up for the Pueblo Crisis in 1968 and served in a variety of posts here before being named wing commander in 1983.

He retired from the Guard in 1991.

Smith is survived by his wife, Sherri Stovall; a son, John L. Smith Jr.; a stepson, Jay Stovall; a sister, Charlene Lewis; and three grandchildren.

## TUITION FORMS DUE

Spring applications for the Kentucky National Guard Tuition Program must be received in the base retention office no later than Oct. 1. Call extension 604 for more information.

## RETIREES TO DINE

The Kentucky Air National Guard retirees have scheduled a dinner for Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. Reservations must be confirmed by calling 361-0696 or 239-3961.

## CLUB DELAYED

Plans to open the new base club in August were scuttled because liability insurance proved too expensive. The club's board of directors is examining other financial arrangements.

# Family Day to offer fun for all ages

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor  
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

Tomorrow, KyANG members, families and retirees will be treated to one of the best family days ever, thanks to the efforts of Tommie Duke.

Duke, president of the Family Support Group, has worked with a dedicated team of volunteers to make sure the event is fun for everyone.

She said she is excited about two new events this year — a coloring contest for the kids and a cute baby contest for Guard members.

Col. Mike Harden, wing commander, will judge the coloring contest today, and the winners will be announced tomorrow, she said.

In the baby contest, Guard members will have an opportunity see how their cowork-

ers looked in swaddling cloths and cast a vote for the cutest baby photo.

"Guard members can bring their baby photos to our booth next to the dining hall today between 10:30 and 1," Duke said. "Everyone will have the opportunity to cast 25-cent votes for the cutest baby tomorrow."

Family Day kicks off at 10:45 with unit picnics throughout the base.

Games and displays will start at noon, and door prize and contest winners will be announced at 3.

While younger children are busy running from the moonwalk to the face painters and the ring toss, their teenage siblings can enjoy volleyball, tug of war and a balloon toss behind the Logistics Building.

Units will sponsor displays throughout the base and aircraft static displays will include several historic planes, including a

P-51. Visitors also will get a chance to try their marksmanship with the Firearms Training Simulator.

Guard members have been busy working on several demonstrations to entertain and impress their families, said Maj. Richard Frymire, base project officer for the event.

The Combat Control Team will rappel out of a helicopter at 1 and 3 p.m., he said. The best viewpoint will be on the flightline side of the Operations Building.

Security police will stage mock attacks next to the headquarters building at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30.

Guard members are asked to park at Male High School tomorrow morning and ride the shuttle buses to the base, Frymire said.

Plenty of on-base parking will be available for family members, but if the lot fills up, they also can park at the high school and ride the shuttle buses to base, Frymire said.

## Promotions and honors in the KyANG



*The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the United States Air Force. Officer promotions are pending federal recognition.*

### To Airman (E-2)

•Melody Hensley,  
8123rd Student Flt.

### To Airman 1st Class (E-3)

•David Murray,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.  
•Lewis Walker,  
123rd Communications Flt.

### To Senior Airman (E-4)

•Michelle Perkins,  
123rd Services Flt.  
•Mark Smith,  
123rd Services Flt.

### To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

•Joseph Clark,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.  
•Richard Kerr,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.  
•Brian Payne,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.  
•Ildico Reeckman,  
123rd Logistics Sq.  
•Steven Shultz,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

### To Master Sergeant (E-7)

•Michael Buckley,  
123rd Airlift Wing  
•James Carlile,  
123rd Airlift Control Flt.

### To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)

•Thomas Downs,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.  
•Donna Walz,  
123rd Mission Support Flt.

### To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9)

•Gary Cline,  
123rd Logistics Support Flt.

### To Major (O-4)

•Patrick Wimsatt,  
123rd Logistics Sq.

*The following servicemembers have distinguished themselves by outstanding achievement.*

•Staff Sgt. Heather Milette, 123rd Combat Control Flt. — honor graduate of Supply Management Apprentice School, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

•Senior Amn. Mimi Roy, 205th Combat Communications Sq. — top honor graduate of Airman Leadership School, Ike Shelton National Guard Training Site, Jefferson City, Mo.

KyANG graphic by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

# Partisanship and the Guard don't mix well

*Editor's note: Because Guard members have answered the call to serve in the military, we march to a slightly different beat than our civilian counterparts. Along with that cadence comes a unique set of expectations and requirements. This column, a new feature of the Cargo Courier, is designed to help Guard members better understand their rights and responsibilities, as well as to explain benefits and offer career guidance.*

*This month, we discuss your obligation to remain politically neutral as the presidential election approaches, and how you can avoid any conflicts of interest.*

By Lt. Col. Gary L. Napier  
123rd Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate

Don't you just hate it when you ask a lawyer a simple question and he answers with, "It depends."

We always do, and it always does. In this case, the question is the permissible scope

of participation in political activities.

Well, it depends!

Participation in civil affairs is laudable. You must, however, know the rules. If you don't, you may find that you are being accused of wrongdoing when you thought you were being a good citizen.

Caution is the order of the day.

Never before in the history of the military has ethics been so much in public view. Congress recently amended the Hatch Act, which governs political activities by military members.

The Department of Defense recently adopted a new Joint Ethics regulation that applies to everyone in whatever status.

The mood of the country is clear: We will "clean up" government.

Unfortunately, the question of political participation by military members is addressed in many legal sources, and no single source has all the rules.

Furthermore, the laws and regulations are not always consistent and seldom factually specific.

To make matters worse, what a traditional Guardsman may do in his or her private status may be criminal if performed by a full-time Guard technician or Air Guard Reservist.

Let's start with the underlying concept: The goal is a politically neutral military through avoidance of partisan politics.

To put teeth in the concept, violations are chargeable as crimes under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Kentucky Code of Military Justice.

As a general rule, traditional Guardsmen may do almost anything of a political nature as long as they don't accomplish the task on a duty day or while in uniform.

For full-time technicians and Air Guard Reservists, the water muddies a bit. Prohibited activities include

- Participating in partisan political management, campaigns or conventions
- Speaking before a partisan political gathering or participating in any radio or television program as an advocate for a political party or candidate

- Distributing partisan political petitions, literature, badges or buttons

- Performing clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee

- Marching or riding in a partisan political parade

- Selling tickets to or otherwise actively promoting political dinners and fund-raising events

Any Guard member may contribute to political parties or election committees, but he may not contribute directly to a political candidate.

Under federal law, a Guard member's cash contributions to an individual campaign may not exceed \$100, and total contributions, including checks, may not exceed \$1,000.

As for seeking office, the guideline is relatively simple.

Enlisted Guardsmen and reserve officers may campaign for and hold a partisan civil office as long as that position is held in a private capacity and does not interfere with the performance of military duties.

## Permissible acts

- Promoting and encouraging voting without influencing for whom the vote is cast
- Expressing personal opinions as a private individual
- Joining a political club and participating while out of uniform
- Wearing badges and buttons in civilian attire
- Displaying a political bumper sticker on a private automobile
- Contributing to political parties or committees
- Attending partisan political gatherings as a civilian spectator

## Prohibited acts

- Using official authority to influence or solicit votes for a candidate or issue
- Using official authority to solicit campaign contributions
- Attending, as an official military representative, partisan political events, even without actively participating
- Displaying large political signs or banners on personal vehicles
- Soliciting or receiving campaign contributions from other members of the military or from anyone on a military base
- Campaigning on a military base



# Deployment offers real-world medical training



KyANG photos by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz

**A member of Ramstein's 86th Medical Group watches as Tech. Sgt. William Harbin examines a patient's heart rhythms.**

## Continued from Page 1

room. Capt. Bill Adkisson was working in the family practice section of the clinic when he saw a father enter with a child in his arms. The six-year-old girl, Cathryn, was slumped on her father's shoulder, and her eyes were unresponsive, Adkisson recalled.

"As soon as I saw her, I thought she had cerebral palsy," he said. "But the father said her condition had developed overnight. That's when I knew there was something seriously wrong with this kid."

Adkisson, a physician assistant, rushed her to the acute care clinic, but Cathryn had stopped breathing by the time they arrived.

Working quickly to resuscitate her, Adkisson and Tech. Sgt. William Harbin, a Kentucky medic, inserted a breathing tube to re-establish her airway. Cathryn then was stabilized with intravenous fluids and transferred to Landstuhl Army Medical Center five miles away.

After a few days in the hospital, Cathryn recovered fully — an outcome Dick attributed to Adkisson and Harbin's speedy response.

Harbin, who is an emergency medical

technician for the city of Louisville, said he was just doing his job, but the result gave him a tremendous boost.

"It made me feel great because I love kids," he said. "A kid is full of life, and when you see one that's stopped breathing, you think how much they have ahead of them."

Adkisson also was grateful for the opportunity to help.



**Capt. Bill Adkisson talks with a patient at Ramstein's Family Services Clinic.**

"It was probably the most rewarding thing I've done as a physician assistant because of the circumstances and the outcome," he said.

Opportunities like these are unique, he said, because most of the work he does here and in his civilian career at the University of Kentucky hospital are more pedestrian.

"We don't see things like this on our normal drill weekends, and I seldom see it in my civilian practice because I work in orthopedics and sports medicine," he said. "To be able to get this kind of exposure on active duty really helps prepare us for the kinds of things we would face if we were called up."

That kind of exposure, officials say, gives Guard personnel invaluable training.

"Our focus at the Guard base is to ensure that folks are worldwide qualified," said Col. Charles Bruce, 123rd Medical Squadron commander.

"We're very limited in terms of treating problems. But this kind of deployment gives us a chance to see the other side of medical practice and broaden our training base.

"That's why we do these missions: to ensure that we can deploy successfully and integrate seamlessly in an active duty setting."

By all accounts, the Kentucky team did, receiving kudos from top officials.

"We were basically told that we were the best Guard unit they've ever had over there," Dick said. "They were really pleased with us."

# Chaplain gave life for service in Korea

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

The Kentucky Air Guard has a long tradition of excellence in both airlift and reconnaissance missions, but one of the unit's first duties was to fly fighter and pursuit aircraft.

Just four years after the wing received federal recognition, a handful of Kentucky fighter pilots were deployed to serve as P-51 aircrew on the USS Saratoga.

The September 1950 call-up took place in the midst of the Korean War and foreshadowed the Kentucky Air Guard's later participation in the conflict.

The entire unit eventually was activated and served with distinction during the war.

Fighter aircraft continued to be the wing's main focus throughout much of the 1950s, but the end of the decade also brought the end of the unit's aircraft ordnance.

In September 1958 The Louisville Courier-Journal's Sunday magazine noted that our planes would be flying unarmed for the first time.

The reason: a mission change and new aircraft, RB-57 photographic reconnaissance planes.

The magazine wryly observed that the unit's "birds of prey are turning into a flock of ducks."

Switching our focus from planes to people, Sept. 19 marks an important date in personnel history. On that day in 1971, Lt. Col. William Hisle became the wing's first recipient of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.

No other individual could have been more deserving — Hisle literally gave his life to serve his country, having contracted a debilitating and eventually fatal disease while on active duty in Korea.

Hisle served as the wing's chaplain for many years before being called to active duty in Korea in 1968. While serving Air Force personnel at Taegu Air Base, the chaplain became interested in the plight of homeless children at a nearby orphanage and worked tirelessly to improve their lives.

During his tour, however, Hisle began having trouble with his voice, which grew increasingly hoarse. He was returned to the United States and underwent treatment at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., in 1969, but the problem worsened.

He later lost most of his motor coordination and was confined to a wheelchair, but Hisle did not let that stop him from attending his last commander's call at the old base in September 1971, when he received the prestigious medal.

When he died just a few days later, Hisle's giving spirit continued to help those in need.

In lieu of flowers, Hisle requested that mourners send gifts to the Korean orphanage he had worked so hard to aid while he was alive.

**Trivia answer from last month:** The Guard member being escorted off the flight line at gunpoint was none other than Michael Harden, our current wing commander.

It seems the young weapons systems officer had forgotten to display his restricted area badge properly.

**Trivia for October:** In the early years of the state militias, Article 15s, Letters of Reprimand and simple demotions did not exist as means of administrative punishment.

What kind of motivating factors did company commanders use in their place? (Hint: It wasn't very pleasant!)



KyANG historical archive

Lt. Col. William Hisle, weakened from a disease he contracted while on active duty in Korea, receives the Air Force Commendation Medal from wing commander Verne M. Yahne in 1969 while his son Billy watches. Hisle died from complications caused by the disease in September 1971, days after becoming the first person in unit history to receive the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.