

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Nuevos

HORIZONTES

Kentucky Air Guard delivers jungle medicine

By Specialist Aaron Reed
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LATOLA, Ecuador — Dr. Ralph Matacale bent over his patient and, through his surgical mask, said: "OK, you're going to feel a little pressure now."

The woman, 50-year-old Tereza Canizaris, nodded quietly as the dentist's words were translated into Spanish, and Matacale began the bloody business of extracting the first of two badly decayed teeth from her mouth.

Just another day at the office for the Evansville, Ind., dentist. Only, behind the friendly man in the pink surgical scrubs, a small white-faced monkey chattered between the bars separating the impromptu operating room from the jungle. Outside, pigs rooted on the muddy, rutted road. And beneath the scrubs, Matacale wore a camouflaged battle dress uniform.

Matacale, a major in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Medical Squadron, was one of five Thoroughbred Express members who took part June 12-28 in a medical readiness training exercise, or MEDRETE, in northern Ecuador.

The makeshift clinic, set up in an open-sided school on the northwestern coast of Esmeraldas province about 200 miles north of the equator, was just one component of a much larger U.S. military exercise called Nuevos Horizontes '98.

The five-month mission to provide military training and humanitarian assistance to this South American country, which was devastated by the flooding of El Niño this winter and spring, was the largest-ever joint U.S. military operation on the continent.

Planned and implemented by the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard, more than 2,100 guardsmen, reservists, active-duty soldiers, airmen and marines deployed this summer to build schools, clinics and latrines for the country's impoverished residents.

The exercise also provided Kentucky troops with the kind of real-world training they can get only in remote third-world locations.



Specialist Aaron Reed/100th MPAD

Maj. Ralph Matacale, a dentist in the 123rd Medical Squadron, prepares to extract two badly decayed teeth from the mouth of Tereza Canizaris as Maj. John Isaacs of the Kentucky Army Guard assists. Canizaris was one of several hundred Ecuadorian villagers who sought treatment at a National Guard medical clinic this summer.

"I was on active duty in the Air Force for seven years," Matacale said, "but I never really had the opportunity to go out and work in the field like this."

The former high school teacher also said he was impressed with the equipment that had been packaged for the MEDRETE, which

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Diversity and fairness are critical to building a harmonious organization

I recently returned from the Air National Guard Diversity Conference that was held in Houston, Texas.

For three days, the entire leadership of the Air National Guard met and discussed the sometimes-fuzzy concept of diversity and how it relates to the future of the ANG.

We heard speeches from four star generals and had some good and bad presentations from civilian contractor gurus who make a living talking to organizational leaders about things that we already know.

I must admit that it was like spending three days in a dentist's chair.

Now, before everyone goes off and says that Harden doesn't like diversity—or dentists for that matter—let me say for the record that I do.

Heck, I even made a dentist the commander of the hospital squadron.

If we can get by all of the hype and keep it simple, the concept of diversity is nothing more than the "powerful, harmonious military organization" that I talked about in our vision statement.

In order to be harmonious, everyone in the wing must feel that he or she is a viable part of the organization. To ac-



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

complish that, we must ensure that everyone is treated fairly and has every opportunity to succeed.

No one should be excluded from the privilege of serving his or her country because of gender or race.

On the other hand, we also must ensure that no one is given this privilege solely for the same reasons.

We all know what fairness is, just like we all know right from wrong.

We cannot have a harmonious military organization unless everyone believes that he or she is being treated fairly, and we cannot continue to recruit and retain a force that fulfills our mission—and mirrors our community.

This means that we must be open and honest in our communication. Supervisors must relay the good and the bad to the folks for whom and to whom they are responsible.

If people do not know where they stand, it is very easy for them to feel that they have been treated unfairly.

Fairness, harmony and diversity are not difficult concepts.

We all know what they are, and that they are vital for an organization to thrive.

Sometimes we make things more difficult than they are.

I give everyone in this wing credit for having the character and sense of honor to do what is necessary to make our vision of a harmonious military organization a reality.

Thanks Loads,

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Sept. 23.

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Baltic Challenge '98

Combat controllers parachute into Lithuania

By Tech. Sgt. Jon Rosa
123rd Special Tactics Flight

Parachuting into the first country to break away from the Soviet Union was all in a day's work for five Kentucky combat controllers.

The airmen deployed to Lithuania for Baltic Challenge '98, a NATO exercise involving 11 nations and 5,000 troops that was held in the former Soviet Republic of Lithuania from July 10 through 28.

Parachutists from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the United States donned their respective countries' equipment for airborne training from Soviet aircraft.

Tech. Sgt. Will Hill, Staff Sgt. Chris Baker, Staff Sgt. Duke Danforth, Staff Sgt. Bill Sprake and Senior Airman Matt Stearn of the 123rd Special Tactics Flight participated in Baltic Challenge, and they came away from the exercise impressed with their Lithuanian military hosts.

"The 7th Dragoon Coastal Defense Battalion hosted many of the ground and support personnel," Hill said.

"They have a Combat Swimmers platoon and Explosive Ordnance team which provided role players for the scenario portion of the exercise."

The 123rd STF was responsible for controlling many of the international drop zones.

"Clearing airspace was especially challenging due to the lack of English-speaking soldiers," Stearn said.

"We had a Polish helicopter fly through airspace reserved for our drop zone, but we eventually got in touch with the pilot."

All the participants received training in tasks commonly required during peacekeeping missions — check point control and observation, land convoy operations, mine awareness and counter-sniper techniques.

In the midst of those classes, specialty parachuting and humanitarian relief courses also were taught.

"We cross-trained with our Baltic aircrews and focused on familiarization and standardization in airborne operations," Sprake said.

"Later, we were evaluated on how well we learned and applied our peacekeeping skills."

The final event was a demonstration jump for the Lithuanian Minister of Defense held



Staff Sgt. Bill Sprake/KyANG

A Lithuanian Air Force crew prepares to take Staff Sgt. Duke Danforth, Senior Airman Matt Stearn, Tech. Sgt. Will Hill and Staff Sgt. Chris Baker on a parachute insertion mission aboard a Russian MI-2 helicopter.



Staff Sgt. Chris Baker/KyANG

Hill, Danforth, Stearn and Staff Sgt. Bill Sprake (kneeling from left) worked directly with scores of Lithuanian and NATO troops during the exercise.

at Palanga International Airport.

The controllers agreed that taking part in this exercise was an outstanding opportunity.

"We received great training and hospitality, and made friends — all in the spirit of Partnership for Peace," Hill said.

Staff Sgt. Jamie Smith prepares a set of dog tags for a fresh recruit during family day last drill.



Family Day '98

KyANG photos by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz

Senior Airman Dale Elliott of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron shows Scotty Robards around the base.



Jeana Adams and Rachel Gregor practice their budding artistic skills on a pair of Herkybirds.

Wing earns service award from church

Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, accepted Walnut Street Baptist Church's William R. Pettigrew Dedication to Service Award on June 28.

The award is given annually to honor an individual or group that has "exhibited extreme dedication to the community," said pastor Robert H. Long.

It is named after the church's pastor 1946 to 1965, who was a driving force in many community service projects across Louisville.

Life insurance premiums drop

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premiums were lowered effective July 1, the Department of Veteran's Affairs has announced.

The new rate is 80 cents per \$10,000 of coverage — a reduction of nearly 6 percent.

The reduction is a result of improved management efficiency and low fatality rates.

For more information, contact the base personnel office at ext. 4114. ☎

Address changes must be made within 30 days

Law mandates that all Guard members who move must update their residential addresses in the Defense Department's Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System within 30 days.

To ensure that your DEERS file is correct, contact Tech. Sgt. Chris Tellis at ext. 4745. ☎

Kentucky medics provide care to Ecuadorian villagers

Continued from Page 1

also included 30 medical personnel from the Kentucky Army National Guard.

"In terms of treating this population, or in terms of a battlefield situation, we have what we need to do the job," he said. "I've never set up one of these portable (dentist's) chairs before, and I've never worked in this kind of environment. This is great training."

Matacale said the simple procedure he performed on Canizaris was a good example of how the training opportunities benefit the U.S. military.

"Obviously, she's a civilian," he said. "But if she had been a chief master sergeant who was absolutely essential to the mission and couldn't be evacuated, we would have taken care of it right here and had her back to work the same day."

The immediate benefits of the training were not lost on the villagers of La Tola, who lined up by the hundreds under a blazing tropical sun to await free medical care and medications being dispensed by citizen-soldiers.

"This is a great labor that the medics are doing in a community that has been abandoned," said local leader Jairo Castillo, director of the La Tola School.

"The community hasn't seen anything like this in a long time."

In fact, the government recently closed the public health clinic here, and the villagers — most of whom do not own cars — have to travel nearly 20 miles to the closest large town for treatment.

"I guess I was a little naive," said Matacale as he took a water break between treating patients. "Sometimes in private practice, you get caught up in running a small business. Here, you get back to the basics — helping people."

The villagers' first point of contact at the clinic was Senior Airman Emilia Agrisonimalave, a paralegal in the 123rd Airlift Wing who served as Matacale's interpreter.

In many ways, La Tola is closer to Agrisonimalave's native San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, than her current hometown of Elizabethtown, Ky.

"This is what Puerto Rico was like maybe 65 years ago," she said of the village, which was hit hard by recent flooding and mud slides. "I think the saddest thing for me is the old people here. Many can't read or write, and they have difficulty expressing themselves."

Living in one of the Army's canvas tents at

the edge of the jungle brought back memories for the airman.

"I spent seven years in the Army, so working with the Army is nothing new to me," she said.

Working with rural residents of Ecuador was, though.

"You try not to get emotional, because you can't do that and still do your job," Agrisonimalave said. "But it still happens. Maybe it's harder for me because I'm a Latin person."

Whatever emotions she was holding close, Agrisonimalave's pleasure translating for villagers was evident. As the first person the Ecuadorians talked to at the clinic, she patiently explained to them what each had to do to successfully navigate the clinic's "stations" — from administration and vital signs, through the health-care providers, to the pharmacy.

"The patients are thankful, but at the same time, they don't know what to expect," Agrisonimalave said. "They are a little bit nervous."

In a day that typically started at 6 a.m.,

with a jolting, one-hour ride over pot-hole filled trails in the back of an Army truck, Agrisonimalave would talk to as many as 300 patients per shift. The person who welcomed them in their native tongue, she also was often the last person they talked to as she translated doctors' orders and prescriptions at the pharmacy.

But for Agrisonimalave, the long days were not merely a way to fulfill a military obligation. Her motivation was simpler, more personal.

"These are my people," Agrisonimalave said as she shrugged her shoulders.

For Matacale, the impact of the exercise was just as personal.

The father of three teenagers said it was hard for him to witness the living conditions of La Tola's children, and he wished they could have the same opportunities as American youth.

"In America, the average person lives like a king or a queen compared to these people," he said.

"That's probably really what I'll take home with me."



TOP: Celia Perez clutches bottles of anti-parasite and topical skin medications prescribed by Kentucky doctors at the La Tola clinic.



RIGHT: Senior Airman Emilia Agrisonimalave instructs Ecuadorian children about navigating the clinic's various treatment stations.

Photos by Specialist Aaron Reed/100th MPAD

Davis confirmed as Guard Bureau chief

Career pilot was ANG's first black general officer

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

A career aviator who grew up in the eastern Alabama city where black Americans were first trained to be military pilots has become the National Guard's first African-American leader.

Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, 59, was confirmed by the Senate as the 25th Chief of the National Guard Bureau July 30 after being nominated by President Bill Clinton earlier in the month.

Davis was promoted to lieutenant general in August. He succeeds Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, who retired on July 31 after nearly four years as the Guard Bureau's chief.

"I could not think of a better person to pass the baton on to," said Baca during his retirement ceremony.

Davis, who has earned a law degree, has been vice chief of the bureau since December 1995.

Born in Tuskegee, Ala., in 1938, he was two years old when the Army Air Corps began training African-American pilots at the famed Tuskegee Institute, founded by black educator Booker T. Washington, and at the Tuskegee Army Air Field.

The Tuskegee Airmen, a 1995 HBO movie starring Laurence Fishburne, dramatized the development of the 99th Fighter Squadron, which never lost a bomber to enemy action during World War II.

Davis became the Air Guard's first African-American general in



LT. GEN. RUSSELL DAVIS

December 1982. Now he will lead this country's 480,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen who are coming to grips with diversity. Air Guard officials are especially concerned that Air Guard units reflect the communities in which they are based.

Davis' appointment is the culmination of a significant transitional year for the National Guard's leadership.

Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr. succeeded Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd as the Air National Guard's director in January. Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz replaced Maj. Gen. William Navas as the Army Guard's director in late May. And Chief Master Sgt. Gary Broadbent succeeded Chief Master Sgt. Edwin Brown as the Air Guard director's senior enlisted advisor.

Davis is the third Air National Guard general to become Guard Bureau chief.

He has logged more than 5,000 hours in nine different fighter, bomber and cargo planes.

He served seven years in the active Air Force, and he spent more than 14 years in the Iowa Air National Guard.

The general holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska, and he earned his law degree from Drake University in Iowa, where he received the Jury Award in 1969.

Davis received the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Achievement Award in 1984.

Davis also has been part of the Washington, D.C., military community since June 1979 when he became the Air Guard's deputy chief of manpower and personnel at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

He was named commanding general of the District of Columbia's Air National Guard in December 1991, and he became the Bureau's vice chief four years later.

Guardlink named semifinalist in Web design contest

Site will vie for Air Force's annual Five-Star Award

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — The Air National Guard's World Wide Web homepage has won the Air Force Five-Star Award for the second quarter of 1998.

The award recognizes Air Force-related Web sites that exemplify high standards in a variety of areas, like page design and content.

The site will compete with other quarterly winners for the Air Force's

annual award later this year.

The webmaster for the Air Guard site, which is located at www.ang.af.mil, is Senior Master Sgt. Ed Tejada.

Air Chronicles (www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil) took second-place honors in the competition, while the McGuire Air Force Base homepage (www.mcguire.af.mil) placed third.

The site that eventually is selected as the annual winner of the Five-Star Award will be permitted to display a special icon identifying it as one of the

Air Force's best.

Five-Star qualifiers also are headlined as featured sites on the front page of Air Force Link and listed in the Five-Star Awards archive.

A three-member panel judges the Air Force sites against web publishing criteria set by the secretary of the Air Force's office of public affairs.

Anyone can nominate a site for consideration by visiting Air Force Link at www.af.mil/5star/criteria.htm#nom.

USAF announces fundamental restructuring

Expeditionary forces will reduce work load; improve performance

By Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Calling it “the next logical step” to support the warfighter and enhance the quality of life for all airmen, Air Force leaders unveiled details Aug. 4 for the expeditionary aerospace force.

Acting Secretary F. Whitten Peters and Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan described the EAF as “a far superior way to respond to crises.”

Under the expeditionary aerospace force, individual air expeditionary forces, or AEFs, would be on call or deployed for up to 90 days at a time by Jan. 1, 2000.

Elements would come from lead bases of “shooters,” or fighter wings, supported by people and equipment from other bases, both stateside and overseas.

Ryan said the overall EAF would consist of about 10 air expeditionary forces, with two on call at any given time to respond to contingency or humanitarian hot spots around the world.

The result, according to Peters and Ryan, will be a more responsive force for commanders in chief and better quality of life for all airmen who can plan for known deployments far in advance.

“During the Cold War,” Peters said, “the Air Force was a garrison force focused on containment and operating as wings primarily out of fixed bases in the United States, Europe and the Pacific.”

“Over the last decade, we have closed many of those fixed bases, and our operations have been increasingly focused on contingency operations in which selected squadrons deploy from [these locations] to forward base bases for the duration of the mission.”

The secretary said these units deployed on an ad hoc basis into command-and-control structures unique for each operation.

That approach, he and Ryan agreed, has taken a toll on Air Force people during frequent, long deployments and on airmen left at home station to fill the void.



Staff Sgt. Angela Stafford/USAF

Acting Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Michael E. Ryan announce the restructuring Aug. 4 at the Pentagon.

Ryan explained that the solution lies in recognizing that the many, relatively small contingencies the Air Force has supported in recent years will be the way the Air Force can expect to operate in the foreseeable future.

He cited last fall's rapid build up of forces in Iraq as a good demonstration of how individual AEFs, using the light, lean and lethal concept, would operate in a joint environment.

The expeditionary aerospace force concept, Peters, Ryan and other Air Force leaders decided, is the logical answer as the Air Force prepares for the 21st century.

“The kind of contingencies we've been supporting are not going to go away,” Ryan said.

“We have a world-class Air Force, and this is a natural evolution in the way we organize, train and employ aerospace forces.”

“We need to transition to the EAF so we can better meet the mission and take care of our airmen in the future.”

The chief of staff emphasized that the Air Force would continue to respond to contingencies around the world, using better scheduling of people and resources.

As the general explained, the expeditionary aerospace force, drawing on individual

AEFs, “is the best use of aerospace power for the warfighting CINCs.

“The Air Force will do that by more efficient use of the total force — active-duty, civilian, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve — which allows us to decrease operation tempo on our folks.”

The Air Force, Peters said, wants to build on the system already in place in which guardsmen and reservists pull regular temporary duty within a deployment.

In the AEF, members of the reserve components can rotate to meet their normal military commitments.

Moreover, all operational units will have a schedule of deployments — for training and exercises, as well as known contingency deployments — up to a year or more in advance.

This will provide guardsmen, reservists and their employers much better notice of deployments, allowing better use of those forces.

Units assigned to AEFs also will train as they will fight.

During certain periods, active, Guard and Reserve units will train together using integrated command and control provided by a lead wing plus command elements from constituent units.

Chief Anderson retires after 24 years' service

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
KyANG Public Affairs Chief

After more than 24 years of military service, Chief Master Sgt. Martin Anderson celebrated his retirement during the July drill.

A member of the Kentucky Air National Guard for 20 years, Anderson served as the state headquarters' senior enlisted advisor and was a driving force in starting the Chief's Council.

Anderson was presented with the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal by Brig. Gen. Verna D. Fairchild, who praised his commitment to nurturing and developing the enlisted corps.

Speaking to his fellow chief master sergeants during the ceremony, Anderson said, "It's our duty to take care of the enlisted people. The enlisted force is our force."

Anderson also was known for his patriotism and dedication.

"He was in the Guard for the right rea-



Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild presents Chief Master Sgt. Martin Anderson with the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal during his retirement ceremony in July.

sons," said Chief Master Sgt. Jay Lowe, NCOIC of the military personnel flight. "He was here to serve God and his country."

Anderson began his military career in

1969 as a personnel specialist in the Air Force. When his enlistment was up, he returned home to Kentucky, attended college and began his career in state government.

In 1978, he enlisted in the KyANG and served in a variety of positions in the personnel flight, including first sergeant of the Mission Support Squadron.

He moved to state headquarters in 1988 to be the assistant NCO of the personnel division.

After a highly successful tenure as the senior enlisted advisor, where he served the maximum allowable term of five years, he transferred to the 123rd Support Group as assistant NCOIC of the personnel flight.

A state government employee for more than 24 years, Anderson serves on the staff of the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

Promotions 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 AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

- Kevin Dean,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Joven Looney,
123rd Logistics Sq.

TO SENIOR AMN. (E-4)

- Christopher Bensing,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- John Carey Jr.,
123rd Services Flt.
- Dana Corbin,
123rd Medical Sq.

- David Faulkner,
205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Aaron Motley,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Travis Howard,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Robert Mack,
123rd Operations Support Flt.
- Gerald Murphy Jr.,
123rd Security Police Sq.

TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)

- Sheila Battenfeld,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.
- Nathan Fetz,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Dennis Flora,
123rd Security Police Sq.
- Bryan Keating,
165th Weather Flt.

- Beatrice Matamcintire,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Chad McDowell,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Michele Sanderson,
123rd Operations Support Flt.
- Robert Stevens IV,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Kerry Wentworth,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TO TECH. SGT. (E-6)

- Lawrence Graves,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Anthony Long,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.
- Sandra Merriweather,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Damon Williams,
165th Airlift Sq.