

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## Chaplain praised during deployment to UAE



Ky. Air Guard troop ministers to hundreds as part of AEF rotation

By Capt. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

It may have been his first deployment to Southwest Asia, but Lt. Col. Tom Curry's outstanding performance made the mission seem like old hat.

During a 67-day deployment to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, the Kentucky Air Guard's top chaplain earned accolades from seemingly everyone in his chain of command — including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, who presented Colonel Curry with a pentagonal coin of excellence.

The chaplain also received glowing reviews from the commander of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, to which he was assigned, for being an inspirational communicator during protestant worship services that reached 975 Airmen.

The commander further praised Colonel Curry for initiating a program to personally visit every Airman assigned to the 380th on Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

The visits were well received, in part because of the high operation tempo at the 380th, which provides tanker and reconnaissance services in support of operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

But the one task Colonel Curry enjoyed the most, he said, was his effort to rejuvenate the praise band, which lost its leadership when previous members completed their Air Expeditionary Force cycles and returned home.

Within days of arriving, Colonel Curry assembled enough members to field two praise bands — one for day-shift churchgo-



Photos courtesy Lt. Col. Tom Curry

Top: Lt. Col. Tom Curry, a Kentucky Air Guard chaplain, served for nearly 70 days at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, operating out of the Seven Sands Chapel.

Bottom: Chaplain Curry was assigned to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, which flies KC-10 and KC-135 tankers, the SU-2 reconnaissance aircraft and the Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

See **CHAPLAIN**, Page 3

# Tips provide '10 Ways to Dazzle the IG'

**A**

s we continue our preparations for an Operational Readiness Inspection in April, I thought it would be appropriate to share some tips provided by the Air Force Tanker Air-lift Control Center.

If we take these suggestions to heart, the wing will be well on its way to another outstanding ORI performance.

## 10 WAYS TO DAZZLE THE IG

### 1. Competence

- Know your job, inside and out
- Perform your duties to the best of your ability

### 2. Responsiveness

- Show a sense of urgency!
- Propel yourself into every activity

### 3. Attitude

- Display a positive attitude
- Enthusiasm is contagious
- Problems can be overcome

### 4. Readiness

- Ensure personal bags are packed with appropriate items and mandatory clothing
- Ensure that all mobility requirements are met
- Have all paperwork and procedures in order



**Col. Mark Kraus**  
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

- Utilize all training effectively and infallibly

### 5. Aggressiveness

- React authoritatively to Ability To Survive and Operate (ATSO) and Self-Aid and Buddy Care (SABC) scenarios
- Effectively continue mission-essential activities in all Force Protection Condition (FPCON) levels
- Treat inspections and exercises as the real thing

### 6. Appearance

- Look people in the eye
- Pop that sharp salute
- Exceed all personal appearance standards

### 7. Safety

- Approach duties with a safety-oriented mindset
- Know your limitations
- Apply Operational Risk Management (ORM) techniques

### 8. Leadership

- Demonstrate leadership through words and actions, both formally and informally
- Motivate, communicate and set a positive example

### 9. Followership

- Follow taskings and orders quickly and effectively
- Employ team-building skills
- Always keep the objective in sight

### 10. Pride

- Demonstrate pride in all activities
- Look and feel like a winner! You will be!

As you can see from these suggestions, a positive attitude will go a long way toward ensuring success in the ORI.

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Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is March 6.

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## Youth camp applications due April 15

The deadline for applications to attend the Kentucky National Guard Family Program Youth Development Week is April 15.

The week's activities will be held in a camp-like setting at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Ky., from June 17 to 24.

Planned events include instruction in drill and ceremonies, flag etiquette, team-building exercises, first aid, gun safety, rappelling, archery, swimming, fishing and a field-training exercise.

Campers will be assigned to platoons according to age and will be accompanied by a platoon sergeant, assistant platoon sergeant and counselor at all times.

Applications must include all attachments and a non-refundable camp fee of \$75.00 per child.

Organizers also are seeking volunteers to serve as counselors and camp staff.

For more information, contact Sonia Roach, state youth coordinator, at (800) 372-7601, option 1; or [Sonia.Roach@ky.ngb.army.mil](mailto:Sonia.Roach@ky.ngb.army.mil).

## Farewell to the Chief



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**Col. Howard Hunt, left, commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group, presents Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Mitro with a membership in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels during Chief Mitro's retirement banquet here Feb. 4. Chief Mitro, command chief master sergeant for the 123rd Airlift Wing, has spent more than 35 years in service to America's military. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1968 and is a veteran of the Vietnam War. During his tenure at the Kentucky Air National Guard, Chief Mitro served as line chief for the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, isochronal inspection chief for the unit's C-130s, and flight chief for both C-130s and RF-4Cs.**

## Chaplain

### Continued from Front Page

ers and another for night-shift worshipers.

"Everyone pitched in and made a joyful noise," he recalled.

One of the bands even performed for Gen. Buck Buchanan, commander of US CENTAF, who lauded Colonel Curry's work.

"General Buchanan was only scheduled for a 10-minute visit, but we sang 'I'll Fly Away,' which is an old Southern gospel song, and he just loved it," Colonel Curry said. "He ended up staying a half-hour."

The chaplain described his desert deployment as "one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

"I got to be around some of the most in-

spiring people — people who really wanted to be there, doing that mission. And it was a Total Force operation, with Airmen from the active duty, Guard and Reserve forces. Everyone had something of value to contribute."

Now that he's home, Colonel Curry will resume dividing his attention between the Airmen of the Kentucky Air National Guard and his civilian congregation at Louisville's Parkland Baptist Church, where he is pastor.

During his deployment to Al Dhafra, those civilian churchgoers kept Colonel Curry well-stocked with cookies, cakes and fudge to pass out among the Airmen of the 380th — a circumstance that made him something of a popular Santa Claus around base.

Colonel Curry returned the favor by

making a weekly "morale call" home to his church.

The call was patched through to his church's public address system, giving him the opportunity to begin each Sunday morning service back home in Louisville before turning the reins over to an assistant pastor.

"I would call the church, and our sound technician would plug me in to the sound system right there during the service," Colonel Curry said.

"I'd begin by saying, 'Hello, Louisville!' and I could hear the congregation hollering back over the phone.

"I also would send them pictures each week showing where I was, and those would be put up while I was talking.

"It just got to be a real hoot. It kept a connection between us that generated enthusiasm and boosted morale."

# Silver Flag Alpha

The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron spent 10 days in field conditions recently to hone their critical combat skills.

Thirty-one members of the unit deployed to Camp Matthews, W. Va., from June 9-18 as part of regular Silver Flag Alpha training, said Master Sgt. Rhett Perdue, the squadron's superintendent.

The training, which was conducted along with 74 Guardsmen from New York and West Virginia, tests a unit's ability to deploy into a hostile environment, clear the area of enemy forces, establish a command post and defend the position.

The training is required every three years, Sergeant Perdue said.





**Clockwise from top left: Tech. Sgt. Larry Bristow Jr. sets up a defensive fighting position; a fire team engages the enemy; Capt. Mary Decker, unit commander, gathers intelligence; the squadron marches to its destination, where it will establish a command post; smoke provides cover against hostile forces; Staff Sgt. Collin King coordinates mission objectives with other security forces via two-way radio.**

**KyANG photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Tommy Downs**



# Chief: Guard transformation is ‘remarkable’

**American Forces Press Service**

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Today’s National Guard is dramatically different from the National Guard of even five years ago, the Guard’s top officer said in a speech to journalists here Feb. 16.

“What I’m watching in the last two years is absolutely unprecedented, unexpected and absolutely remarkable,” said Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

General Blum’s comments came during a University of Maryland conference titled, “U. S. Military at Home and at War.”

“The National Guard that I joined was strategic reserve — deliberately under-resourced, deliberately under-manned and deliberately under-equipped,” the 38-year guardsman said. “That was part of our national military strategy.”

If war broke out during the Cold War era, the United States felt it could win because it would fight against a threat-based force “that we really understood very well, because they were copying us to a large degree. So it was going to be like fighting your own sparing partner.”

Back then, it would have been a time-phased war, where the National Guard was to be called in the later innings of the game, General Blum said. “We were going to be the second or third people that report to the field,” he noted. “And we weren’t going to be fully manned, because 34 years ago we had something called a draft.”

When the draft ended in the early 1970s, everything changed, General Blum said.

“What exists today is a volunteer, recruited force,” he said. “We don’t have ample time for a big buildup; we often get called with no notice or very limited notice.”

General Blum said the Guard goes almost anywhere and at any time.

“And we’re not fighting a threat-based force that we clearly understand,” he noted.

The general said today’s world requires a capabilities-based force and fighting in modular units.

“The units on the field today are nothing like the units that were on the field even ... when we went in for Desert Shield and Desert

Storm” in the early 1990s, he said.

“It will be even more different in the coming years,” he added. “We’re fighting an asymmetric threat. There’s no general that can accept surrender. There’s no head of state that can admit defeat and sign a truce document with us to end what we’re involved in.”

General Blum said Guardsmen currently are in about 40 countries around the globe.

“About 75,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen this morning are deployed all around the world,” he noted.

He said many Guardsmen are serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. The National Guard has taken over the entire mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Kosovo, as

the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Fifty-four of the 54 National Guards sent troops to Mississippi and Louisiana post-Katrina. It was absolutely the largest and fastest military response to a domestic event in the history of this nation.”

General Blum said 133 Army National Guard helicopters were responsible for saving 17,443 people’s lives.

“I’m not talking about moved, I’m talking about saved,” he emphasized, “taken from deep water where they were going to drown to dry spaces where they were going to live.”

The Air National Guard moved 70,000 Americans out of the affected area to other places around the country so they had hope to restart their lives.

“A lot of people missed that,” the general noted. “That’s almost 90,000 Americans that were moved or saved by the National Guard. That’s bigger than a small city.”

And when Katrina hit, the Guard was fighting floods in New Hampshire and Vermont, forest fires in Idaho and Montana and blizzard conditions in North Dakota; dealing with issues on the southwest borders

of the United States; and guarding critical infrastructure in New York. Simultaneously, 13,764 guardsmen from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida were overseas fighting.

General Blum said a snapshot in time taken Sept. 1, 2005, shows 78,000 National Guard soldiers deployed overseas, and at the same time, 50,000 deployed to Katrina.

“That’s almost 140,000 National Guard soldiers deployed out of an inventory of a total of 460,000,” he said. “When you count all the people making it happen, it probably goes to about 190,000. So about one out of every two National Guard soldiers were either deployed overseas or working to support the Katrina effort.”

General Blum closed with a mix of pride and optimism.

“We’re trying to be a ready force, and I think your Guard today is more ready than it has ever been,” he said. “When you call out the Guard, you truly do call out America.”

“

*Your Guard today is more ready than it has ever been. When you call out the Guard, you truly do call out America.*

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— Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau

well as counter-terrorism activities in the Horn of Africa and the Sinai peacekeeping mission between Egypt and Israel.

“Last year, we provided more than 50 percent of the combat forces on the ground in Iraq,” the three-star general noted. “This is a different paradigm, a different National Guard than any of us in this room ever envisioned being even possible, let alone being practically employed.”

General Blum said the National Guard and the Coast Guard are the only organizations he knows of that haven’t been criticized for their efforts in Hurricane Katrina. For Katrina, the National Guard had 8,500 citizen-soldiers called to duty and in place to respond before the hurricane made landfall.

“We thought we had what we needed; we were wrong,” General Blum admitted. “We needed four times that. So in the next six days I sent 42,000 additional citizen-soldiers from every single state in the nation and the territories of Guam, the Virgin Islands and

# Most reservists make more while in uniform

## Study finds that earnings jump 25% for nearly two-thirds

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Despite general perceptions that Guardsmen and Reservists lose income when called to active duty, most actually earn more in uniform than as civilians, a new Rand Corp. study reveals.

The nonprofit research organization's study, commissioned by the Defense Department and released Jan. 25, shows that 72 percent of the more than 100,000 troops surveyed saw their earnings jump 25 percent when called to active duty.

Their average pay hike amounted to about \$10,000 a year, Rand officials said.

However, Rand researchers also found that 28 percent of Reservists studied lost pay after being called to active duty.

About one-fifth of the survey group lost 10 or more percent of their normal income.

DOD commissioned the study to determine the financial effect of mobilization and deployment on reserve-component members, said Army Lt. Col. Bob Stone, DOD Reserve affairs spokesman.

Survey results and anecdotal reports had suggested that a large fraction of mobilized Guardsmen and Reservists lost income while serving on active duty, but DOD wanted empirical evidence, Colonel Stone said.

The study shows that while some

reserve-component members lose money during mobilization and deployment, many are actually better off financially, Colonel Stone said.

"Our findings contradict the prevailing belief that most reservists lose pay when called to active duty," said Jacob Klerman, a Rand senior economist and lead author of the study.

"But there is a group of reservists who experience a drop in income when activated."

Rand researchers based their findings on a review of pay records of more than 110,000 Army and Air Force reservists mobilized in 2001 and 2002.

The calculations factor in military pay and allowances and the fact that members who were deployed to a combat zone are not subject to federal income taxes.

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