

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## Kentucky Airmen complete Coronet Oak mission



Tech. Sgt. Diane Stinnett/KyANG

Master Sgt. Carl Shaffer of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron positions ground equipment to load onto a C-130 aircraft during the wing's successful airlift support of Southern Command operations.

## Puerto Rico deployment provides airlift for U.S. SouthCom operations

By Tech. Sgt. Diane Stinnett  
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — More than 120 members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing deployed to Muniz Air National Guard Base here this summer to support Operation Coronet Oak, a mission that provides vital airlift capabilities throughout the Southern Command Area of Responsibility.

By ensuring the readiness of aircraft and resupplying U.S. government and military operations in Central and South America, the Kentucky Airmen helped support important national interests, said mission commander Lt. Col. Rick Shelton, who also is commander of the Global Mobility Readiness Squadron in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group.

"The most important mission we do is the alert bird," he said. "What that means is that we always have a plane that we can launch within three hours, 24/7, for medical emergencies and, if necessary, to get troops in."

According to Lt. Col. Jeff McQuillen, director of operations for Coronet Oak, the airlift mission began in Panama in 1977. It is supported entirely by Guard and Reserve assets and remains essential in maintaining U.S. capabilities in the region. Aircrews provide theater mobility, embassy support and airdrops.

"Kentucky's been outstanding," Colonel McQuillen said of the unit's performance. "I never have to say, 'Hey, you guys need to come and do the mission.' Everyone is willing to work as many hours without complaining to get the mission done. It's fun working with them. (They have a) good attitude which really makes everything happen."

# *We must all recommit ourselves to the Air Force's own high standards*

I am honored to be back serving with you in the world's finest Air Force. You deliver Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power, defending and protecting the United States and its global interests. You excel in the domains of air and space, and you are growing a critical capability in cyberspace.

My immediate focus has been on gaining a clear sight picture on key Air Force issues and meeting with the Headquarters Air Force staff.

I have also visited with our wounded comrades at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Their personal courage and determination to return to active duty is inspirational.

Right now, we need to direct much of our attention to the Air Force nuclear enterprise, which is facing cultural, systemic and institutional challenges.

To begin restoring our inner confidence and credibility, I have directed the establishment of a Nuclear Task Force to examine the nuclear enterprise through the lens of Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel and Facilities. We will deliver a clear vision and strengthened performance — as an Air



**Michael B. Donley**  
**Acting Secretary of the Air Force**

Force and as Airmen — to the president, secretary of defense, and the American people.

Recommitting to our own high standards is the foundation for our success in every mission area, not just our nuclear enterprise. To this end, I charge the Air Force to:

- Continue leaning forward in every respect in support of joint operations
- Ensure that our core values of Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do underpin every action, by every Airman, at all times
- Commit to individual and organizational accountability
- Critically examine our internal processes, restore discipline, identify weaknesses and aggressively solve problems
- Overcome any challenge that impinges on our credibility, readiness or the trust placed in us by others
- Do our mission for the Nation, and do it well

America's Airmen are known the world over for upholding high standards of excellence. From the Berlin Airlift to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, our Air Force has served with distinction and honor.

I am absolutely confident in your ability to strengthen our performance, rebuild our nuclear enterprise, win today's fight and prepare for tomorrow's challenges. Integrity, Service and Excellence are our hallmarks — past, present and always.

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Our office is located in room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Publication deadline for the next issue is Aug. 22.

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*An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — [www.123aw.ang.af.mil](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil)*

## Base selects 2 Airmen for USAF Marathon

The 123rd Services Flight Fitness and Recreation staff have selected two Airmen for sponsorship in the 12th Annual United States Air Force Marathon at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, in Dayton, Ohio, on Sept. 20.

Master Sgt. Wrensey Gill will be representing the 123rd Airlift Wing for the full marathon, and Master Sgt. John Hodge will represent the wing for the half-marathon.

Sergeants Gill and Hodge were selected based on their participation and times in regional races.

## Kentucky Guard eMuseum site goes to the movies

The Kentucky National Guard eMuseum has added a new section devoted to depictions of the KYNG in the movies.

It currently features home movies from the Kentucky Air National Guard's Pueblo Crisis Deployment in 1968-69 and a video history of the Kentucky National Guard created by KG-J6.

Officials at the eMuseum hope others will loan copies of videos or home movies of the Kentucky Guard in action so they may be posted on the site.

Other recent additions to the eMuseum include a major expansion showcasing depictions of the KYNG in the arts.

The Kentucky National Guard and its predecessors have, over the years, been represented many times in poetry, songs, paintings and other art forms. This begins an effort to gather these works so they may shed their own particular illumination on the history of the Kentucky National Guard.

The site now features a search function which makes it easier to find specific content. The eMuseum address is <http://kynghistory.ky.gov>.

# Program pays for recruiting

## Members can earn \$2,000 for a successful enlistment in the Kentucky Air Guard

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

For Senior Airman Nicholas Ketterer, a member of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron, the paycheck couldn't have come at a better time.

The University of Louisville student said he was strapped for cash recently before he cleared a \$4,000 bonus through the Guard Recruiter Assistance Program.

He earned the sum by identifying two potential candidates for enlistment — one of whom was his cousin — and helping them through the entry process during his off-duty time.

"This is a big help, especially for students who need the money," said Airman Ketterer, who is studying engineering. "It has helped me out a lot and it wasn't that hard."

Through participation in the program, members receive \$2,000 for every identified recruit who successfully enlists and reports to basic training, and \$2,000 for

every prior-service enlistee who qualifies for membership and successfully participates for 90 days.

Retired Guard members and all traditional Guardsmen who are not on orders are eligible to participate in the program, recruiting officials said.

"It's easy to apply, and you never know how much money you could make," said Master Sgt. Cynthia Rogers, base retention office manager. "In addition to the money recruiter assistants can make, they are performing a tremendous service for the wing and the state."

According to Sergeant Rogers, the program is particularly successful for current members who are college students.

Those members, most of whom benefit from the state's 100 percent tuition assistance program, are in a unique position to influence quality men and women to join the Kentucky National Guard and would benefit immediately by enlisting.

Interested recruiter assistants are encouraged to visit [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com) for more information on GRAP eligibility and requirements.

Within an hour, members can complete online training and start identifying prospective members.



Airman 1st Class Max Rechel/KyANG

Staff Sgt. Anthony Walker of the base Recruiting Office discusses the Guard Recruiter Assistance Program with Senior Airman Nicholas Ketterer. Airman Ketterer recently earned \$4,000 for identifying two prospective Airmen who became wing members.



# Colonels receive Bronze Star for combat service

**By Tech. Sgt. Dan Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor**

Two Kentucky Air Guard colonels have been awarded the Bronze Star for combat service in Afghanistan.

Col. Mark Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Steven P. Bullard, Kentucky Joint Force Headquarters director of joint doctrine and training, were recognized for their leadership in the face of the enemy during a ceremony held on base July 12.

Both honors were presented by Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general.

Colonel Kraus received his award for meritorious achievement as deputy commander of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group while the unit was engaged in ground operations against enemy forces at Bagram Air Field from May to September 2007.

In support of the Global War on Terrorism, Colonel Kraus supervised six flying squadrons providing close air support, electronic attack, combat airlift and aeromedical evacuations throughout the Afghanistan theater of operations.

His award citation noted a special accomplishment when the colonel took up a position in the Air Traffic Control Tower of the airbase following a rocket attack.

During that period, he orchestrated more than 55,000 air traffic movements.

Colonel Bullard was recognized for his command of the 451st Air Expeditionary Group at Kandahar Air Field from September 2006 to March 2007.

During his deployment, coalition forces faced the most intense combat in the nation since the start of the war in 2001.

The colonel led 39,000 fighter, unmanned aerial vehicle, rotary wing and transport operations.

During this intense period of the war, he facilitated the construction of an unmanned aerial vehicle ramp, advised international leaders and oversaw the delivery of critically needed equipment and supplies to facilitate coalition combatants.

"This recognition is long overdue," General Tonini said during the ceremony. "What you did and accomplished made a major difference for the world."



**Top: Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, presents a Bronze Star award to Col. Mark Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, for the colonel's service in Afghanistan last year.**



**Right: General Tonini congratulates Col. Steven Bullard, Kentucky National Guard Joint Force Headquarters director of doctrine and training, after presenting him with the Bronze Star for combat service as commander of the 451st Air Expeditionary Group at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.**

Photos by Airman 1st Class Max Rechel/KyANG

# Medical Group, maintenance change commands

Shoop, Bishop, Tomica selected to lead units

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

Three change-of-command ceremonies saw new commanders take the helm of the 123rd Medical Group, 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 123rd Maintenance Squadron here last month.

Col. Diana Shoop was promoted to her current rank before assuming command of the medical group from Col. J.D. Moore on July 13.

That same day, Maj. Chris Bishop assumed command of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron from Maj. George Tomica. In turn, Major Tomica assumed command of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron from Lt. Col. Barry Gorter, who was named deputy maintenance group commander.

Col. Mark Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, promoted Colonel Shoop and officiated her assumption of command.

The commander noted Colonel Shoop's experience and praised her leadership during the medical group's recent Health Services Inspection — during which it earned an "excellent" rating — calling her a "spark plug" for action.

"At each juncture in her career, she's met every challenge in a way that marked her for greater leadership," he said.

During the subsequent changes of command, Col. Neil Mullaney, 123rd Maintenance Group Commander, congratulated Majors Bishop and Tomica on their promotions.

"I wish you both the best of luck in your new roles," he said.

"You deserve this opportunity, and there's nothing more rewarding for an officer than serving your Airmen.

"May God give you the strength and discernment to meet the challenges that lie ahead with passion and conviction."



Above: Col. Mark Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, passes the 123rd Medical Group guidon to Col. Diana Shoop, formally transitioning authority from Col. J.D. Moore, who will remain in the group.



Left: Maj. George Tomica addresses maintenance group troops after assuming command of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



Left: Maj. Chris Bishop, left, receives the 123rd Maintenance Squadron guidon, officially taking command of the squadron.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG



## Senate confirms Schwartz as Chief of Staff



Gen. Norton A. Schwartz

WASHINGTON — Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, a 35-year veteran in special operations, will be the 19th Air Force chief of staff, according to a U.S. Senate confirmation vote Aug. 1.

General Schwartz provided testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee on July 22, before the full Senate voted on his confirmation. Now the president must appoint the general before he can assume his new position.

“I intend to embody the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence as I lead the Air Force at this critical transition period,” said General Schwartz.

General Schwartz, who now serves as the commander of United States Transportation Command, or USTRANSCOM, will assume the position of Air Force chief of staff.

Gen. Duncan McNabb, also confirmed by the Senate, will assume command of USTRANSCOM.

In his current position, General Schwartz’ command is the single manager for global air, land and sea transportation in DOD.

# Wing recalls ‘Pueblo Crisis’

## Ceremony commemorates activation to Korea in ‘60s

By Capt. John Stamm  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

More than 100 veterans, civilians and wing members gathered in the base Annex June 24 to observe Kentucky National Guard Day and mark the 40th anniversary of the Kentucky Air Guard’s deployment in support of the “Pueblo Crisis.”

The historic Pueblo Crisis began on Jan. 23, 1968, when the USS Pueblo, a spy ship, was captured by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. More than 80 crewmembers were held prisoner by the North Korean Army until their release nearly a year later.

Retired Col. Ed Hornung, who served as a technical sergeant in Kentucky’s 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing when the unit was activated, said he first heard rumors of the pending call-up while he was playing ping-pong at the wing’s mess hall. Official notification soon followed, said Colonel Hornung, who attended the commemoration ceremony.

“We started doing what we had to do: plans we had to cut, forms we had to process the (troops) with,” recalled Colonel Hornung. “Essentially, we had to put people on active-duty orders, get them out the back door and on to a plane.”

Days after the capture of the Navy vessel, the wing’s headquarters and an augmented 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron were moved from Shewmaker Air National Guard Base in Louisville to Richards-Ge-

bour Air Force Base near Kansas City, Mo.

The troops were then rotated to a base in Japan, where they completed more than 20,000 hours of aerial reconnaissance missions over Korea.

“It was harder on the wives and families then it was on the men,” said Lt. Col. Bill Hamilton, a retired pilot and maintenance officer who was mobilized. “One day you’re a civilian and the next you’re on active duty — and I had three kids at the time.”

The June ceremony also honored civilian personnel who have made outstanding contributions to the troops of the Kentucky National Guard.

Ms. Sherri Smith, a member of the Patriot Guard Riders, was presented with the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal for her exceptionally meritorious service to the Kentucky National Guard from Oct. 2000 to June 2008.

Ms. Smith has participated in nearly 100 percent of the Patriot Guard Riders’ Honor Flag lines, military funerals, departures and welcome-home ceremonies for Kentucky’s Guard members. She also is the largest contributor for deploying troops and their families, having donated more than \$10,000 worth of items.

“You feel like you just have to contribute, you have to be a part of it,” she said. “I’m not fighting a war like you all are, and this is my way of giving back.”

Kentucky National Guard Day was established on July 14, 2000, through an act by the state legislature. It recognizes the contributions of Kentucky Guardsmen since the War of 1812. The Kentucky National Guard has been in existence since 1792.



Brig. Gen. Howard P. Hunt, Kentucky’s assistant adjutant general for Air (left), and Col. Mark Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, recognize retired Col. Ed Hornung during a ceremony held on base June 24. Colonel Hornung is a veteran of the Pueblo Crisis.

Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

# Wing members earn free degrees through CCAF

## Cargo Courier Staff Report

Thirteen member so the 123rd Airlift Wing were presented with associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force during a ceremony held on base June 7.

The degrees, which ran the gamut of subjects from aviation maintenance and weather technology to social services and human resources, are a free benefit available to all enlisted Airmen, said Senior Master Sgt. Will Blackwell, base education and training manager.

In the past year alone, the CCAF has awarded 8,394 associate's degrees in applied science, all at no direct cost to the individual, school officials said.

Applicants merely need to have completed enough USAF technical schools and correspondence courses to attain 24 hours of CCAF credit in their career fields, and they must have completed 40 hours of general course work at an accredited college or university.

Those college credits — in such subjects as communications, math and the humanities, are transferred to the CCAF and combined with Air Force technical training to bestow associate degrees on Airmen.

For more information on the Community College of the Air Force or to enroll in a CCAF degree program, contact Sergeant Blackwell at 413-4421.



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**Col. Mark Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, presents Tech. Sgt. Jesse Martin with an associate's degree in aviation maintenance technology from the Community College of the Air Force. Sergeant Martin was one of 13 Kentucky Air Guardsmen who received degrees during a ceremony held on base in June.**

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