

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Wing honors best in Airmen of the Year

Sgts. Meuser, Hoagland and Tenney selected as unit's top troops for 2007

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Matthew Meuser, Tech. Sgt. John Hoagland and Master Sgt. James Tenney have been selected as the Kentucky National Guard's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2007, besting a field of 39 other troops who were nominated by their supervisors for exceptional performance.

"We always have a strong group of Airmen for this competition, but every candidate was truly outstanding this year," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Grant, state command chief master sergeant, who helped evaluate the contenders along with other enlisted leaders from the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard.

"Their accomplishments, including deployments for the war, volunteerism, community service and self-improvement, were just amazing," he said. "I'm very impressed with all of them."

The three winners — representing Airman, NCO and senior NCO categories — will be honored tonight during an awards banquet at Churchill Downs. The Kentucky National Guard's 2007 Outstanding Soldiers of the Year also will be recognized.

The recently promoted Sergeant Meuser is an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician in the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron, a highly demanding career field by any measure. Currently deployed to Afghanistan, where he defeats improvised explosive devices on a daily basis, Sergeant Meuser made a name for himself in Louisville by establishing a "pattern of overall excellence," said his supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Lou Corner.

In 2007, those accomplishments included a flawless performance as an EOD member assigned to the 133rd Kentucky Derby, where he helped ensure the safety of the Queen of England and 150,000 other racegoers. Sergeant Meuser also was recognized by the U.S. Secret Service for excellent work providing hazardous-device countermeasures during a Louisville visit by President Bush.

Back at the EOD shop, Sergeant Meuser disassembled and repaired a damaged EOD robot, restoring \$150,000 worth of equipment to service; and fabricated a tie-down system so EOD robots could

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Top right: Staff Sgt. Matthew Meuser, an explosive ordnance disposal technician in the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron, is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

Bottom right: Master Sgt. James Tenney excels as a squad leader in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron.



Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester/USAF



Tech. Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Motivated and professional Airmen are hallmark of our efforts in the Central Command AOR

To our warriors stateside and around the world, I salute you! I just returned from my third trip to the Central Command AOR, and once again I am both re-energized and incredibly impressed by the consistently motivated, innovative and professional Airmen I had the privilege to meet.

I am truly humbled by their warrior spirit and dedication to mission readiness as they continue to answer our nation's call so admirably in the face of personal sacrifice.

Airmen contributions

At bases such as Balad, Ali Al Salem, Bagram, Al Dhafra, Al Udeid and Ramstein, I witnessed firsthand the critical contributions our stateside and deployed Airmen are making to the Joint team's accomplishments in the AOR.

For example, our UAVs are providing the unblinking eye of vigilance that eliminates any refuge for enemy combatants and protects our Joint and Coalition forces on the ground.

In parallel with the surge in ground forces, air-strike taskings have also surged dramatically throughout both Iraq and Afghanistan. Our CAOC continues to integrate reachback support with operations throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa to maximize the combat power we provide the Combined and Joint fight.

Meanwhile, Airmen are representing our Air Force proudly to the Joint team in inte-



Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

grated Air Force positions and 'In Lieu Of' taskings across the AOR.

You are making history

For such fledgling democracies to succeed, the people in Iraq and Afghanistan must feel secure enough in their environment to self-stabilize their countries. Whether integrated in coalition operations,

interacting with the local populace or bringing Air Force innovation to Provincial Reconstruction Teams, our Airmen are ambassadors across the AOR.

Many of the indicators and reports from the field are positive, but every Airman must continue doing his or her individual part to ensure success of the entire Joint team.

We are hopeful that the transformation of self-governance will continue to succeed, and we know this will require the dedication of our Airmen to help make it happen.

Make it better

I am so impressed that every Total Force Airman — Guard, Reserve, Active Duty and Civilian — has made it a personal mission to make the environment better and tasks easier for future rotations.

From the maintenance and operations Airmen improving mission accomplishment to the CE Airmen improving quality of life, each AEF rotation continues to make life better for their successors.

In just two years since my first visit, I have seen unprecedented progress across the AOR that makes me proud to lead our great Air Force.

To our Airmen who are either deployed or supporting theater operations from home station, thank you for your contributions to the Joint Team in defending our nation and providing the security these newly free societies need to flourish.

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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 April 7.

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An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — www.kyang.ang.af.mil

MEO gets new name, expanded role

The Military Equal Opportunity Office has changed its name to Equal Opportunity following the merger of related career fields in the active-duty Air Force.

Meanwhile, a change in training requirements has resulted in the consolidation of Human Relations Education and Diversity Training. Human Relations Education previously was conducted by the EO office, while Diversity Training was the sole responsibility of the Human Relations Advisor.

Diversity Training currently is provided on CCTV during UTA weekends, but stay tuned for a newly developed training class that will feature both human relations and diversity at its best.

In the past few months, we've had the opportunity to embrace diversity by observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 15, Black History Month during February and Women's History Month in March.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established by Public Law 98-144, designating the third Monday in January as a federal holiday commemorating Dr. King's birthday. Since the first King holiday on Jan. 20, 1986, the observance has been an occasion for people to remember Dr. King's life and dedicate themselves anew to implementing his dreams.

Black History Month was created by presidential proclamation in 1976. The first ethnic observance was the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson, an African-American scholar who established Negro History Week in 1926. It later evolved into today's month-long celebration.

Women's History Month originated in March 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week. That was expanded to a full month in 1987.

—Capt. Latonia Trowell
Wing EO Officer

Squadron assists Yemeni Air Force

Ky. maintenance unit evaluates republic's C-130 airlift operations

By Tech. Sgt. Diane Stinnett
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

A team of Kentucky Air National Guardsmen from the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deployed to Sena, Yemen, recently to help the Yemeni Air Force improve maintenance operations on C-130 aircraft.

The six-person team, which was deployed in country from Nov. 2 to Nov. 6, included experts on aircraft engines, electronics, communications equipment and navigation gear, said Lt. Col. Barry Gorter, commander of the 123 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

While there, the Kentucky Airmen evaluated all aspects of the Yemeni maintenance operation and offered advice on ways to improve efficiency, using Kentucky's operations as a benchmark, Colonel Gorter said.

The Yemenis were "very receptive" to

the input, he added.

"They really had open arms to what we had to say. We went there basically just saying this is the way the United States Air Force does C-130 operations, and they wanted every bit of information they could get.

"They are a group of people working very hard to try to establish better operations. Unfortunately they have much less resources to draw from."

The Yemen Air Force operates with two C-130 H models, one of which was undergoing major maintenance during the deployment.

This is not the first time that Kentucky has been called upon to assess the operations of a foreign ally.

"Earlier in the year we were in Kuwait, and I have been to Ecuador on the same type of mission," said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Noel, who also went on the Yemen deployment. "I think it is more or less a goodwill gesture for these countries."

The deployment also provided an opportunity to interact with the Yemenis outside of working hours, Colonel Gorter said.

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Photo courtesy 123rd AMS

Lt. Col. Barry Gorter, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, deployed to Sena, Yemen, with five other Kentucky Airmen in November to provide advice to the Yemeni Air Force on C-130 maintenance operations.

Top troops

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be transported off base on an improvised trailer.

He also completed numerous training seminars throughout 2007 on such varied topics as radiological hazards and combat first-aid while still finding time for community service, volunteering 100 hours at a local domestic abuse council and helping raise funds for the Shriner's Hospital.

"Staff Sgt. Meuser is outgoing, intelligent and motivated," Sergeant Corner said. "He is capable of thinking outside the box and finding solutions to complex problems, which is an important characteristic in this career field.

"It's not a single act that makes him an Outstanding Airman, but rather a compilation of minor acts — coupled with a positive attitude. Examples include things like identifying that the EOD flight did not have the proper safety equipment to transport explosives. He acquired the needed equipment and set up the EOD vehicle to comply with Air Force safety instructions. Staff Sgt. Meuser also attended

training conducted by local law enforcement, and during that training he was able to teach law enforcement personnel some EOD robot manipulation techniques that they do not currently practice. Again, these are not major accomplishments as stand-alone items, but they're still part of a pattern of overall excellence. He's accomplished a lot of things in the last year, all of which have contributed to the success of the Kentucky Air Guard's EOD team.

"Right now, he is living in a tent on a forward operating base in the mountains of Afghanistan with a pack full of explosives and a rifle in sub-freezing temperatures. His team is working with U.S. and coalition forces, defeating IEDs and killing terrorists, so that the average person at home can argue over the Wildcats and Cardinals and not worry about a jet crashing into the stadium."

Tech. Sgt. Hoagland, this year's winner in the NCO category, uses x-ray equipment to analyze C-130 parts as a non-destructive tester in the 123rd Maintenance Squadron.

His supervisor, Chief Master Sgt. Tim Atwell, described him as a "great troop who volunteers for everything."

Sergeant Hoagland performed more than

200 equipment inspections in 2007, attaining a 100 percent pass rate on all quality assurance evaluations and providing coverage for 1,311 sorties with no missions delayed or canceled due to mechanical failure.

He also directed the purchase of equipment designed to monitor radiological exposure during testing, resulting in a safer work environment for KyANG personnel; and volunteered for an overseas deployment as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant Hoagland played a key roll in training other Airmen for that deployment, directly contributing to the successful completion of 580 combat sorties that delivered 5,489 passengers and 3,226 tons of critical cargo to austere locations throughout the Central Command AOR. Kentucky aircraft achieved an impressive fully mission-capable rate of 88.33 percent during the deployment and lost no missions due to maintenance issues, Chief Atwell said.

In the meantime, Sergeant Hoagland received a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science and an associate's degree in non-destructive inspection techniques. He also is pursuing a master's degree in aviation business administration.

His community involvement is equally noteworthy. Sergeant Hoagland coached youth soccer and softball teams in 2007, volunteered for local environmental associations and honored fallen servicemembers by helping place more than 2,000 flags on graves at Cave Hill Cemetery.

He also coordinated charity fund-raising efforts for the Kentucky Air Guard's 2007 Combined Federal Campaign, collecting \$35,000 and surpassing the previous year's effort by 27 percent.

"Sergeant Hoagland never says no anything," Chief Atwell said. "No matter what the job is, he just jumps right on it, does excellent work and gets it done."

The final KyANG honoree, Master Sgt. James Tenney, was unit training manager for the 123rd Security Forces Squadron throughout 2007.

During that time, unit personnel logged no failures on any 5- or 7-level upgrade training courses — an achievement that his supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Dan Radke, called "outstanding."

He also completely revised the base anti-terrorism plan and provided exceptional security support during visits by the governor, the president and the Queen of England.

Overseas, Sergeant Tenney received

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Tech. Sgt. John Hoagland is a non-destructive tester in the 123rd Maintenance Squadron here. His leadership in unit training helped secure an 88.33 percent fully mission-capable rate for Kentucky C-130s during a deployment to the Central Command AOR in 2007.



Tech. Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

123rd CRG leads nation with formal training

First Contingency Response Group in Air National Guard attends 22-day course

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs

FORT DIX, N.J. — Airmen assigned to the first-ever Contingency Response Group in the Air National Guard — the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd CRG — have completed 22 days of formal training at the Air Force Expeditionary Center’s Mobility Operations School here.

Fifty-six Airmen from the 115-person 123rd Contingency Response Group attended a comprehensive, four-module course covering all the phases of CRG operations, including subjects like air base assessment, initial airfield operations, force protection and Alaskan shelter construction.

The 22-day stay included 10 days in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course, taught by the Center’s Expeditionary Operations School, learning convoy operations, military operations in urban terrain, combat patrolling and tactics, and related subjects.

“The training they received is designed to provide newly-assigned Airmen to contingency response wings, groups and airlift control flights with a firm understanding of the ‘contingency response’ mission,” said Lt. Col. Richard Elkins, the course director.

“The course prepares them for rapid deployment and equips them with the basic expeditionary skills needed to function across the full spectrum of military operations and in a wide variety of bed down and operating environments,” he said.

Capt. Ash Groves, a 123rd CRG maintenance officer, said the course gave him the exposure he needed to learn the “many facets of expeditionary operations.”

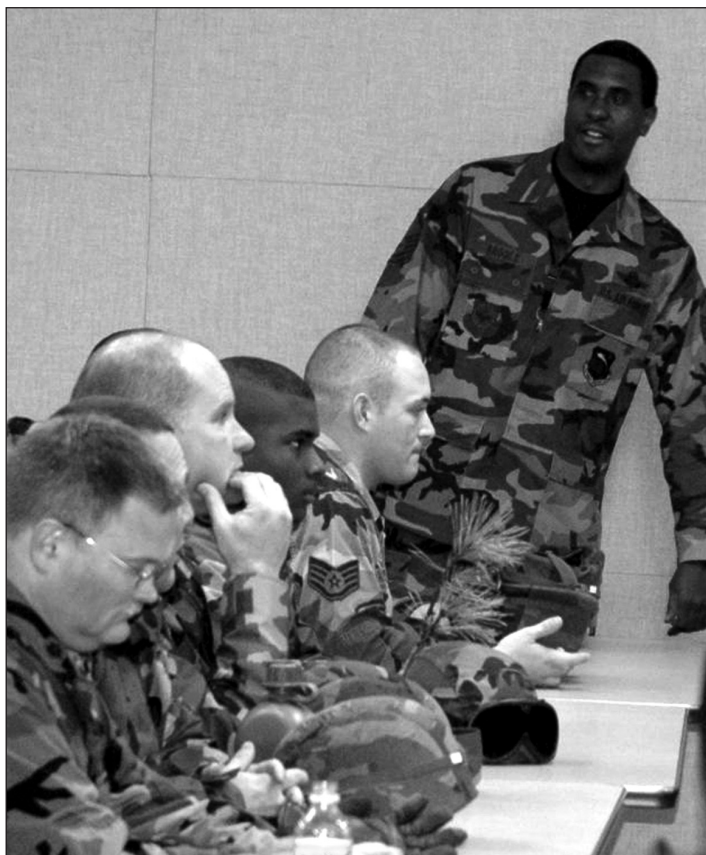
“Many of the skills learned will take time for us to become proficient at, however, with the initial ground work accomplished, we can continue to build on our capability (as a unit),” Captain Groves said.

The directive to form the 123rd CRG came just over one year ago, on Nov. 28, 2006, in Louisville. The unit formally activates on April 1, 2008, and Airmen assigned to the 123rd CRG say the training offered here has definitely helped build on the knowledge of the mission they are tasked to do.

“We are expected to be self-sufficient when we hit the ground and capable of operating in nearly any environment,” said Capt. Gregory Shanding, a 123rd CRG civil engineer officer. “In the training, I learned a lot about what the other CRG functions will focus on as we work together accomplish our mission. I also received an excellent ‘big picture’ perspective on how the CRG fits into how the Air Force fights.”

“We have to be able to go anywhere in the world in a matter of hours,” said Tech. Sgt. Mike Skeens, an air transportation craftsman for the 123rd CRG. “Most Airmen have days, weeks or even months to do the same. The training reiterated the fact that you have to be prepared at all times for contingencies anywhere, anytime.”

Senior Airman Ryan McNary, a 123rd CRG load planner, agreed.



Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol/USAF

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Contingency Response Group receive training on night-vision operations during a class taught by Master Sgt. John Brooks at the Air Force Expeditionary Center’s Mobility Operations School at Fort Dix, N.J., on Nov. 15.

“We could hear about our deployments just days before we have to leave,” he said. “We have to be ready at a moment’s notice and always be current on our training.”

Staff Sgt. Tyler Marks, also a 123rd CRG load planner, compared the type of effort it takes for a CRG to deploy with the normal process.

“Normally when Airmen deploy, they pack bags with gear and clothing to perform a duty at a down-range base,” Sergeant Marks said. “With a CRG, they pack an entire unit, load it on to aircraft and go open a base that is nothing more than a deserted airstrip when they arrive. For us to be able to do this, training is everything.”

Lt. Col. Warren Hurst, 123rd CRG commander, said the ultimate goal is for his CRG to be among the best, and the center’s training will help accomplish that goal.

“Kentucky has selected our most experienced and motivated people for our CRG,” Colonel Hurst said. “We have a unique opportunity to establish a corporate culture that sets a high standard of excellence. The Expeditionary Center provided an outstanding and standardized starting point for us to do just that.”

Panel recommends big changes to Air Guard

Repositioning would support reserve forces' current operational role

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON — An independent commission has recommended changes for the National Guard and the five other reserve components to reflect their transformation from a strategic reserve to an operational force.

“At the core of these changes is the explicit recognition of the evolution of the reserve components from a purely strategic force, with lengthy mobilization times designed to meet Cold War threats from large nation-states, to an operational force,” the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves (CNGR) wrote in a letter that accompanied the report to senators and congressmen on the Committee on Armed Services.

After 2 1/2 years of work, the commission delivered its final report to Congress, the Pentagon and other agencies Jan. 31, calling it the most comprehensive independent review in 60 years.

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said many elements of the CNGR report are valuable.

“This commission has made some very significant proposals, many of which have great merit, many of which actually validate some of the policies and the advancements that we have made in the Department of Defense in the last four years,” General Blum said during a press conference at the Pentagon Feb. 1 with Paul McHale, assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense.

The report has six broad conclusions and 95 recommendations based on 163 findings.

• Conclusion One: “The nation requires an operational reserve force. However, DoD and Congress have had no serious public discussion or debate on the matter, and have not formally adopted the operational reserve. Steps taken by DoD and Congress have been more reactive than proactive, more timid than bold, and more incremental than systemic. They thus far have not focused on an overarching set of alterations necessary to make

the reserve components a ready, rotational force. Congress and DoD have not reformed the laws and policies governing the reserve components in ways that will sustain an operational force.”

• Conclusion Two: “The Department of Defense must be fully prepared to protect American lives and property in the homeland. DoD must improve its capabilities and readiness to play a primary role in the response to major catastrophes that incapacitate civilian government over a wide geographic area. This is a responsibility that is equal in priority to its combat responsibilities. As part of DoD, the National Guard and reserves should play the lead role in supporting the Department of Homeland Security, other federal agencies, and states in addressing these threats of equal or higher priority.”

• Conclusion Three: “Current law and policy still reflect a Cold War-era vision of the employment of valuable military manpower assets and do not adequately support an operational 21st-century force. A new integrated personnel management structure is needed to provide trained and ready forces to meet mission requirements and to foster a continuum of service for the individual service member.”

• Conclusion Four: “The reserve components have responded to the call for service. Despite shortages in equipment, training, and personnel, they have once again proven their essential contribution to meeting national security requirements in a time of need. To sustain their service for the duration of the global war on terror will require maintaining the force at a new standard of readiness. Current policies cannot accomplish this task. A ready, capable, and accessible operational reserve will require an enduring commitment to invest in the readiness of the reserve components. This commitment will necessitate service integration, additional resources, and new constructs for employing the reserve components and for assessing readiness.”

• Conclusion Five: “To maintain an operational reserve force over the long term, DoD must appropriately support not only the service members themselves but also the two major influencers of members’ decisions to remain in the military - their families and employers. Significant improvements in cur-

rent programs in all three areas are essential to sustain an operational reserve force both today and in the future.”

• Conclusion Six: “The current reserve component structure does not meet the needs of an operational reserve force. Major changes in DoD organization, reserve component categories, and culture are needed to ensure that management of reserve and active component capabilities are integrated to maximize the effectiveness of the total force for both operational and strategic purposes.”

General Blum said that equipment shortages mentioned in Conclusion Four are improving because of “an unprecedented, historic commitment” by the president, Congress and the Secretaries of Defense, the Army and the Air Force.

In 2006, equipment readiness was at 40 percent, General Blum said. In 2007, it was 49 percent. Today, it is 61 percent. A \$45 billion taxpayer investment will increase it to 69 percent by the end of 2009 and 77 percent in the year 2013.

“This is a tremendous success story of cooperation among our Congress, the White House, the departments and the end users, the National Guard,” General Blum said before pointing to a statue of the Minuteman, the symbol of the National Guard. The Minuteman holds a plow and a rifle, symbolizing Citizen-Soldiers’ and -Airmen’s ability to set down the plow and take up the rifle at a moment’s notice in defense of the homeland or for an overseas mission.

“That Minuteman,” General Blum said, “would smile if he knew that the leadership of this nation was devoting that kind of resources to him for the first time in history.”

The National Guard’s structural transformation to a mirror image of the active component combined with improved training, experience, commitment and recruiting success make it the most effective force it has ever been, General Blum said.

More than 115 witnesses testified before the CNGR during 17 days of public hearings. Commission members also conducted more than 850 interviews with subject-matter experts and made site visits.

The full text of the final report of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves is available at: <http://www.cngr.gov/>.

Air Guard Web sites to share USAF look

The Air National Guard has joined the Air Force in consolidating its main public Web pages under one publishing system.

The Air Guard site — www.ang.af.mil — now has a look and feel similar to other sites using the Air Force Public Information Management System, or AFPIMS, a Web-based content management tool that standardizes the appearance of Web pages across the Air Force and eliminates the need for Web-development expertise.

Air Guard sites at the state and unit levels will be next to adopt the AFPIMS approach.

Yemen

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“The last day we were there, they took us out for a traditional Yemeni dinner. It was really interesting — there was one long table with probably 30 people around it with all these different dishes. There were no utensils, so everyone was eating with their fingers, which is the traditional Yemeni way. It was fun. It was interesting, everyone sharing finger food essentially at a big banquet table.”

2nd Lt. James Embry, an aircraft maintenance officer with the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said the deployment was a success.

“I would love to have the opportunity to go back after some of the changes hopefully are made and they get some of the equipment and technical data and things that they need.

“We weren’t really sure how much good we would do by going there and having them look a little bit at how we do business, as well by interacting with them, but by the time the trip was over, we felt like we made some headway.”

AMC welcomes tanker pick

KC-45s will replace fleet of Eisenhower-era aircraft

Air Force News Service

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The commander of Air Mobility Command hailed the Air Force’s recent aerial tanker source selection announcement as an important first step toward ensuring America maintains its global reach capability.

Air Force officials announced Feb. 29 that Northrop Grumman Corporation was selected to build the new tanker, designated the KC-45. The new tanker will replace the Air Force’s aging fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers.

“The KC-45A is the tanker of the future,” said Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, AMC commander. “It will enable us to carry more fuel and cargo, and allow us the flexibility to refuel any type of receiver on every mission. It will come equipped with systems to take this capability closer to the fight while protecting our Airmen as they operate in hostile skies.”

The backbone of America’s existing

tanker fleet is the KC-135, which was built during the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations. Replacing this aircraft has been the top acquisition priority for the Air Force for several years.

“The KC-135s have served us well and will have to continue to fly for decades until this recapitalization is complete,” General Lichte said. “It is vitally important to ensure this recapitalization effort is fully funded and stays on track, to ensure this capability so critical to our national security is always there.

“I look forward to seeing the first KC-45A in the field. The success of this program will require a strong commitment from our national leaders, and I’m confident they understand and appreciate what an important asset this modernized tanker is to America’s defense,” he said.

Tanker aircraft have played an essential role in the war on terrorism. Since Sept. 11, 2001, Air Force tankers have passed more than 1.2 billion gallons of fuel to other aircraft.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley calls tankers “the single point of failure for everything we do.”



Kevin Robertson/USAF

A KC-135 Stratotanker refuels an F-22 Raptor. The KC-45 will replace the Air Force’s Eisenhower-era KC-135s, which average about 47 years old.

Adjutant general awarded a second star

Staff report

Gov. Steve Beshear pinned Adjutant General Edward W. Tonini with his second star during a ceremony in the governor's office on Jan. 17, signifying his promotion to the rank of major general.

General Tonini, a Louisville resident and Kentucky Air Guardsman, was appointed by Governor Beshear in December to serve as the 52nd Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Prior to his appointment as adjutant general, General Tonini was the director of the Your Guardians of Freedom program, Headquarters, United States Air Force.

As director, he was responsible for strategic and tactical outreach programs designed to build and maintain public support for the work of the Air Force and its personnel in the Global War on Terrorism. General Tonini also served as chief of staff of the Kentucky Air National Guard and spent 26 years in the public affairs arena, with extensive experience dealing with local, regional, national and international news media around the globe.



Photo courtesy of The Governor's Office

Gov. Steve Beshear congratulates Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini during a pinning ceremony held in the governor's office on Jan. 17 as General Tonini's wife, Carol, applauds.

Top troops

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praise as a member of an antiterrorism/force-protection cell assigned to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. While deployed, he assisted in the investigation of a missing officer; coordinated security plans that have been identified as benchmarks for the AOR; and conducted readiness exercises that surpassed CENTAF standards by 300 percent.

His performance led to Sergeant Tenney's selection for the Mission Hacker Award, which goes to the top 10 percent of NCOs during each AEF rotation.

Back in Louisville, Sergeant Tenney helped organize homecoming ceremonies for returning Army troops and served as a reserve deputy for the Clark County, Ind., Sheriff's Office, where he was promoted to sergeant.

"Sergeant Tenney is such an outstanding troop and an excellent role model for everyone in the unit," Sergeant Radke said. "He does everything right the first time."

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