

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXIII, No. 4 • Sept. 6, 2008

## Contingency response group exercises crisis skills

### California deployment showcases Air Force's emergency airlift ability

By Army Col. Phil Miller  
State Public Affairs Officer

SALINAS, Calif. — More than 80 members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group deployed here July 11-18 for Exercise Hydra '08, as the US Air Force showcased its emergency airlift capabilities in the only major contingency response exercise to be held on the West Coast this year.

Focused on humanitarian relief operations following a simulated magnitude 8.2 earthquake in the mythical country of "Califon," Hydra involved more than 1,000 Airmen, Soldiers and Marines and 20 aircraft operating out of five airfields throughout Central California — Salinas Municipal Airport, Travis Air Force Base, Schoonover Field in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles Municipal Airport and Castle Field in Merced.

In Salinas, 116 personnel from the Louisville-based 123rd CRG and the Travis-based 572nd CRG lived in a "tent city" erected at the airport where they provided air and ground support for the C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft participating in the exercise.

The Airmen trained in communications, command and control, aircraft maintenance, civil engineering, meteorological support, force protection security and aerial port operations. Additionally, two Kentucky C-130s and four aircrews provided airlift for the CRG deployment and also supported several of the exercise's humanitarian relief scenarios.



Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group off-load equipment (above) and erect shelters (below) during a deployment to California in July as part of an exercise to test the Air Force's emergency airlift and reaction capabilities.



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Photos by Army Col. Phil Miller/KyArNG

# *Teamwork and discipline form the bedrock of any effective military organization*

**O**n Aug. 12, we welcomed General Norty Schwartz as the 19th Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force!

I am excited about our partnership, and I look forward to working with him as we lead the world's finest Air Force.

As part of my responsibility to you, America's Airmen, I have initiated several actions to focus our efforts over the coming months.

Along with General Schwartz and other senior leaders, I am reviewing a range of issues that require immediate attention, as well as some that will require a deeper and longer look.

Current issues with leadership interest include:

- The Air Force nuclear enterprise
- End strength
- Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance posture
- Incorporating Unmanned Aerial Systems into tomorrow's Air Force



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

- Acquisition excellence
- Cyber Command
- Global wing reorganization concept
- Common Battlefield Airmen Training

Teamwork and discipline form the bedrock of military organizations, enabling key accomplishments such as fielding and deploying Unmanned Aerial Systems earlier than programmed.

Congratulations to the Total Force on the MQ-9 Reaper's first combat mission in Iraq in July.

Each of us depends on the actions of others, and we expect that all Airmen hold themselves, their teammates and their organizations to the highest standards of performance, ethics and accountability.

Thank you to you and your families for your devotion to duty.

As we move forward with our new leadership team, my charge to every Airman remains steady: to ensure that your every action adheres to the highest standards of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do.

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

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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 submissions to the next issue is Sept. 7.

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## Evans selected for Chief's Council scholarship

Kara Evans, daughter of Chief Master Sgt. Kris Mullaney of the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, has been named as the recipient of this year's Kentucky Air Guard Chiefs' Council Scholarship.

Ms. Evans is an honors graduate of DuPont Manual High School in Louisville, where she was extensively involved with extracurricular student and athletic activities, said Chief Master Sgt. Jim Smith.

In addition, Ms. Evans accomplished a substantial amount of volunteer work that benefited the local community.

She currently is enrolled in the pre-veterinary science curriculum at Murray State University and hopes to pursue a career in equine veterinary medicine.

The scholarship, in the amount of \$500, is awarded annually to a dependant of an enlisted member of the Kentucky Air Guard to help offset first-year college expenses.

## Wing to play host to Air Guard Bass Tournament

The 123rd Airlift Wing will play host to the 14th Annual Air National Guard Bass Tournament next year.

Scheduled for April 29 and 30, the tournament will be held at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, with fishing to be conducted on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.

Official practice days are April 27 and 28.

This is an Air National Guard-sanctioned event, so participation is limited to Air Guard members, retirees and employees, and their immediate family members

For more information, visit [www.angbasstourney.com/1.html](http://www.angbasstourney.com/1.html).

## Top Flight



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, inspects the wing's Mini C-130 during a tour of the base Aug. 10. Built on the chassis of a golf cart, the replica "aircraft" makes regular appearances at festivals across the state. General McKinley also visited maintenance, base services, the wing safety office, public affairs, special tactics, intelligence, the medical group and the contingency response group during his tour, which was conducted by Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, adjutant general, and Col. Mark Kraus, 123rd Airlift Wing commander.

# Civic leaders 'Go Guard'

### Employers, others receive introduction to military life, C-130 flights and MREs

By Capt. John Stamm  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Area employers and local civic leaders received a first-hand introduction to National Guard life July 17 when they participated in a civic leader/employer support tour hosted by the Kentucky National Guard.

After some initial briefings, participants flew out of the Kentucky Air Guard base aboard one of the unit's C-130 aircraft en route to the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Ky.

There, they received an overview of the Kentucky National Guard mission, a lunch of Meals Ready-to-Eat and orientation flights on a Blackhawk helicopter.

The Greenville facility, operated entirely by the Kentucky National Guard, was estab-

lished in 1969 as a 29-acre weekend training site. Today, it has grown to become a premier mechanized infantry and armor training location, providing effective and cost-efficient facilities for National Guard, Reserve and active-duty units from every branch of the service, officials said.

An aerial tour of the facility — aboard a Blackhawk helicopter — was one of the day's highlights, according to participants.

"It was really cool," Ms. Karen Albers of the Mirazon Group said of the flight. "It's kind of like floating."

Ms. Albers said she learned a lot about the Guard and its mission during the day's events.

"I couldn't sleep last night waiting for this," she said. "The MREs were amusing, and the ride up here on the C-130 was amazing. I've never been on a plane like that."

Each guest had his or her own reasons for attending the tour. Harold Hall, a scout master for local Troop 315 of the Boy Scouts

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# Field training boosts wing's combat readiness

## 200 Kentucky Airmen deploy to Gulfport, Miss.

**By Capt. John Stamm**  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

GULFPORT, Miss. — The only potential threat was intense heat and humidity, but the combat-readiness training was as real as it gets for about 200 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing who deployed here to the Air National Guard training complex from July 20-26.

Those Airmen fired weapons, donned chemical warfare suits, decontaminated equipment and attended multiple classes on operational subjects like self-aid and buddy care, The Law of Armed Conflict and anti-terrorism.

Much of this training is routinely conducted in Louisville on drill weekends, but the July deployment gave commanders an opportunity to knock out a large amount of ancillary training all at once. More than 1,200 training events were logged in Gulfport, said Lt. Col. Matt Stone, deputy commander of the 123rd Mission Support Group.

That will now free Airmen to concentrate on mission-specific jobs during regular Unit Training Assemblies.

"On drill weekends," he said, "troops can concentrate on being a crew chief, a civil engineer or whatever their particular AFSC is."

Gulfport offered other benefits, too.

"If we did this on base, we'd have to put people up in hotels," Colonel Stone said. "You also have to factor in that the dining facility may not be available. Here the lodging and dining are readily available. There's also a live-fire range for weapons training."

One of the deployment's most successful aspects was the Ability To Survive and Operate, or ATSO, training, officials said.

The wing's 123rd Readiness and Emergency Management Flight decided to try something new by conducting portions of chemical warfare training before requiring participants to "suit up."

"No one has ever done this before," Colonel Stone said. "Before, we would put troops in chem gear and then give them instructions on how to perform duties. Now, we're training outside the chem gear, teaching them the correct things to do and say and, once they learn that, we put them back in the suits and they practice what they've learned."

Retired Lt. Col. William MacPherson, the Counter-Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear and



**Above: Tech. Sgt. Colin King, a squad leader in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron, conducts M-16 marksmanship training at the rifle range in Gulfport, Miss.**

**Below: Maj. Armand Bolotte and Lt. Col. Scott Quinlan of 123rd Airlift Wing Headquarters, practice self-aid and buddy care skills.**



Photos by Capt. John Stamm/KyANG

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# Gulfport

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High-Yield Explosives program manager for the Air National Guard, said the new approach was beneficial.

"It's the first time I've seen it happen where a hundred and seventy-odd people came in here and were able to go through the Counter-CBRNE and the decontamination," Colonel MacPherson said.

He also praised the 123rd for the addition of a practical exercise to ATSO instruction.

During this phase of training, participants were divided into teams that staffed an Installation Command Center, an Emergency Operations Center and several Unit Control Centers. The teams were given a situation briefing and had to decide what to communicate up and down the chain in order to accomplish the mission.

"It exposes people who are not normally exposed to the command and control environment to what is happening in that environment," Colonel MacPherson said. "Hopefully that gives them an appreciation for what is really happening while they're in (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) 4."

Self-Aid and Buddy-Care courses followed the lead of the ATSO training by having troops practice with each other. Staff Sgt. Stephanie L. Murphy, a medical technician and SABC advisor, stressed the importance of hands-on training.

"They need to get their hands on the equipment and know how to use it," Sergeant Murphy said. "You don't want to panic when you're in the thick of things, so the more hands-on you get, the better."

The deployment wasn't, however, all work and no play. In off-duty hours, Airmen spent time socializing to develop camaraderie.

"In the evenings troops got to hang out, play sports or just talk," Colonel Stone said. "It's a great team builder."

# Airmen to get new travel cards

## Citibank accounts to replace BOA in Nov.

By Capt. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

New government travel cards have begun arriving in Airmen's mailboxes as the Department of Defense prepares to hand off charge-card services to a different vendor.

The old travel cards, issued by Bank of America, will continue to work through Nov. 29, said Master Sgt. Jon Lundergan of the base financial management office. After that, however, all transactions must be made using the new VISA Travel Card issued by Citibank.

The new cards are being mailed to addresses currently on file with Bank of America, so Airmen should ensure that their information is up-to-date. Mail will not be forwarded. Airmen who don't receive their cards by Oct. 31 should contact their unit orderly rooms, Lundergan said.

Airmen must confirm receipt of the card before it may be used. The confirmation process can be completed over the phone or online by following instructions included in the mailing.

Cardholders will need to pay all undis-

puted, outstanding balances on their Bank of America accounts before Nov. 29.

Likewise, no credit balances may remain on the old cards after Nov. 29. Airmen with credit balances should call Bank of America to request a refund.

Airmen who are traveling on Nov. 29 and 30 should charge all official expenses, up to and including Nov. 29, on the Bank of America card and then pay off the balance during the next billing cycle. Charges on or after Nov. 30 should be made on the Citibank card.

For more information, visit [www.defense-travel.dod.mil](http://www.defense-travel.dod.mil).



**New cards like this one are now arriving in Airmen's mailboxes. The Citibank VISA cards replace Bank of America cards effective Nov. 30.**

# Civic leaders

Continued from Page 3

of America, noted that several of his former scouts went on to join the military.

"A lot of the older boys that I'm affiliated with have aspirations of joining when they get of age," he added.

The Jefferson County public school system was represented by Ms. Jennifer Shumaker, a volunteer there. Ms. Shumaker, who grew up in San Diego near a heavy military presence, has a son in the Air National Guard.

"I'm very patriotic," Ms. Shumaker said. "I wanted to see what good the National Guard does for us. I'm very much in favor of it."

She added that the National Guard has had a very positive impact on her son.

"It helped him focus on the develop-

ment of his personal life and the growing up process," Ms. Shumaker said.

After the Blackhawk flight, the group toured other facilities at the Wendell H. Ford training center, including a mock forward operating base, before returning to Louisville via C-130.

According to tour coordinator Col. Steve Bullard, the Kentucky National Guard's director of doctrine and training, the program was designed to develop community support.

"We want to bring (employers and civic leaders) out and show them what (Soldiers and Airmen) are sacrificing on behalf of their country and state," Colonel Bullard said.

"It's an opportunity for them to see the real mission these Soldiers and Airmen do when they're out here flying these aircraft and setting up a tactical operations center in 94-degree heat and full combat gear to prepare them for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan."

"It's not a game that we do," he said. "It's not G.I. Joe. This is real."

# CRG

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While the quake and “Califon” were fictional, and the operations were part of a drill, there was nothing artificial about the training exercise for members of the 123rd CRG, due in large part to their experience in real disasters and first-hand knowledge of the importance of staying ready.

“It is important to stay current,” said Master Sgt. Larry Burba as he worked with a team of Airmen building the tent city. “This training helps us know what to do in case of an emergency, which could potentially save lives.”

That sentiment was echoed by the unit’s commander, Col. Warren Hurst, a veteran of combat and relief operations from Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda and Iraq to disasters nearer to home such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Colonel Hurst said each of Hydra ’08’s scenarios was designed to yield valuable lessons.

“Katrina was a real learning experience,” he said. “It created such a widespread area of disaster. We found out we needed better communication (with local and other military authorities). There was a lot of duplication of effort. Part of this exercise is to make us work better together.”

Colonel Hurst was also enthusiastic about the performance of the Kentucky Airmen in tackling the training challenges of Hydra ’08. He credited their individual versatility, diverse civilian employment backgrounds and the unit’s inherent camaraderie as major contributing factors in accomplishing all assigned missions.

“There’s a real sense of esprit de corps,” Colonel Hurst said. “We’ve got airline pilots, police officers, electricians, general contractors, an attorney and corporate executives. These folks don’t ask for anything. They just do their jobs. There’s nothing else like it.

“Besides,” he said, “humanitarian relief is always more rewarding than any other mission.”



**Above: Tech. Sgt. Robert Cloyd, a crew chief in the 123rd Contingency Response Group, performs a post-flight inspection on one the Kentucky Air Guard’s C-130 turbo props during a deployment to California for Operation Hydra ’08.**

**Below: Hydra ’08 participants on the flightline at Salinas Municipal Airport.**



# Harden retires after 38 years of military service

By Tech Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

Airmen and senior National Guard leaders packed the base Annex Aug. 10 to bid farewell to Col. Michael Harden, a former 123rd Airlift Wing commander and the advisor to the commander of Air Mobility Command.

Colonel Harden's retirement marked the end of 38 years of distinguished service that included tours in Vietnam and Iraq. He commanded the wing here from April 1995 to September 1999, and again from March 2001 to June 2004.

"I've seen the sun rise over the Mekong River and I've seen the sun rise over the Euphrates (River) about 30 years apart," said Colonel Harden, who earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for service in Vietnam and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his most recent accomplishments, which ensured the Air National Guard's support of current and future operations around the world.

"In my time, the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen have remained the same," he said. But in recognizing the all-volunteer service of today's force, he noted that modern Airmen "don't have to go to war — they get to."

Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general, said Colonel Harden's service as "Wing King" resulted in the 123rd garnering multiple national awards for excellence and valor.

"Mike is many things, but first and foremost he is a great patriot — truly committed to his country, to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to the men and women with whom he has served," General Tonini said.

Colonel Harden, who received two standing ovations during the ceremony, used the forum to encourage current and future leaders to support their Airmen.

"We must nurture our young folks and provide them with mentors and make sure they have the resources to do their job safely in war and to come home safely," he said. "We're facing some challenging fiscal times. The challenge is going to be to make sure that our kids have the resources necessary to continue what they're doing."

In recognition of his dedicated service, several national leaders were on hand to present Colonel Harden with a framed National Guard Heritage Print depicting C-130 missions during Operation



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, presents Col. Michael Harden with a certificate of retirement during a ceremony held on base Aug. 10. Colonel Harden, a former wing commander, also received a Meritorious Service Medal and the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal at the ceremony.**

Coronet Oak, an airlift support operation in South America.

One of those leaders, Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, called Colonel Harden "a great American," while another, Maj. Gen. F. Dexter Tutor, praised his "magnificent passion" for the Guard mission.

"There is nothing you could ask Mike to do, personally or professionally, that he couldn't accomplish," said General Tutor, special assistant to the ANG director.

Colonel Harden is a master navigator with more than 4,000 hours of flight. He's flown the C-130, RF-4C, T-43 and T-37. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal with device and the Air Force Outstanding Unit award with nine devices.

"It's been a great run," he told his Airmen. "There's no place that I'd rather be than right here with you folks."

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