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Wing manages airshow despite deployments

Remaining airmen pull together to support Thunder '03

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

Thunder Over Louisville may have been scaled back this year because of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but the April 12 airshow still featured nearly 20 military fighters, trainers and transport aircraft—thanks to the efforts of the Kentucky Air Guard.

With about 400 KyANG troops deployed overseas for the Global War on Terror, wing leaders initially thought there weren't enough people left behind to deliver the support necessary for so many military aircraft to operate from the base.

In the end, however, they decided to try.

The show's ultimate success is a testament to the hard work and positive attitudes of wing members, said Capt. Cheryl Meffert, a pilot in the 165th Airlift Squadron and the airshow operations coordinator.

"We decided we had enough people left behind to do it, and because the community enjoys the show, we decided to put some extra hours in and try to make it happen," Meffert said. "With the tremendous effort of our people, it was a success."

Meffert said it usually takes about four months to coordinate the military's role in Thunder Over Louisville. This year, KyANG planners did it in just three weeks.

Wing commander Col. Michael Harden said the unit pulled together for the benefit of all area citizens.

"Because of the allegiance our folks have to the local community, they stepped forward and put on an airshow for everyone to enjoy," he said.

"Even though we were shorthanded, they thought that Thunder was so important to the community that it was well worth the extra effort."



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard and the F-15 Eagle demonstration team meet the aircraft upon its arrival here. KyANG personnel supplied logistical support for a broad range of military aircraft participating in the Thunder Over Louisville airshow.

KyANG troops continue to be tasked

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard continue to trickle out to undisclosed locations after the wing was hit with a major deployment in March, when nearly 400 troops were tasked for overseas missions.

The latest deployments are taking place on a much smaller scale, said Senior Master Sgt. Elke Adams of the Wing Plans Office.

"They don't involve as many people, but they are still going on," she said.

"Two people may be going to one location, and then 20 more to another location."

The 123rd Aerial Port Squadron is one group that was tasked recently to support the Global War on Terror.

Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs, the squadron's superintendent, said about 25 of his troops left in April.

"They were happy to do their jobs," he said.

"They're a very patriotic bunch and were ready to go when called. We actually had a lot more volunteers than those who were able to go."

Deployment coverage

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Air Force customs and courtesies apply to Kentucky Air Guard members

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he Total Force concept is more evident now than ever before as Air Guard and active duty personnel perform vital missions as one team.

The Kentucky Air Guard, being a vital part of the Total Force, will undoubtedly have active duty visitors, just as our members perform missions on active duty bases.

As we work more closely with our active duty counterparts, it is imperative we have a greater awareness of our Air Force customs and courtesies.

Commonly, KyANG members work together for years, giving them a great advantage in technical expertise and continuity over their active duty counterparts.

This familiarity has a downside, however: Often, there is a relaxing of standards with regard to Air Force customs and courtesies.

As members of the unit, it is important to remember that we wear the Air Force uniform and are required to follow the same guidelines set forth for our active duty counterparts.

The Air Force is impressed with our ability to perform the mission, and we must ensure they are equally impressed with our observance of Air Force customs and courtesies.

Recognition of military rank and use of military titles is an integral part of customs and courtesies.

The Air Force places much emphasis on the use and recognition of military titles, and the Kentucky Air Guard must as well.

If a senior ranking individual — enlisted or officer—enters your office you should come to attention for the officer and stand for the enlisted member as a sign of respect.

Always address your counterparts by their ranks and always be respectful by using “sir” or “ma’am” in conversation.

When engaging in a conversation with an officer outdoors, remember to salute before and after the conversation. You should salute properly marked staff cars as well.

These are but a few of the customs and courtesies we were all taught in Basic Military Training and over time seem to forget.

We all have a responsibility to observe customs and courtesies as a way of life, therefore promoting discipline and continuity within our Air Force.

If you are interested in learning more about customs and courtesies, refer to Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide.

We recommend you become familiar with its content as a basis for a highly successful career.

Please remember that common acts of courtesy are appreciated by everyone.

—This column was co-authored by
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Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is May 27.

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Pistol team successful at state combat match

Cargo Courier Staff Report

FORT KNOX, Ky.— With a lengthy record of winning state titles, members of the wing pistol team once again proved their mettle by scoring top honors against the Kentucky Army Guard at a recent state match here.

This year’s Air Guard team was composed of 1st Lt. Chris Bishop, Chief Master Sgt. Ken Bernardi, Master Sgts. John Martin, Dave Selby and Darryl Loafman, Staff Sgt. John White and Senior Airman Conley Moore.

Thirty-three participants fired in the two individual pistol courses and one team match to see who would be this year’s top pistol shooters.

When the smoke cleared, Martin, the KyANG team captain, had captured the individual pistol championship as the “Top Gun” shooter, while Bernardi placed first in the novice category and third overall in the pistol category.

In team competition, the 123rd shootists took top honors for the fifth consecutive year—and their ninth win in the last 11 years.

Along with Bernardi and Martin, the other team-category competitors were Selby and Moore. Bishop and Loafman served as time keepers.

The same shooters took home third place overall in the rifle team category, with Loafman winning a second-place individual award and Selby earning the novice award.



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. Ken Bernardi, chief of security forces, placed first novice and third overall in the pistol category.

ROTC cadets shadow Ky. Air Guard officers

**By Staff Sgt. Mark Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer**

More than 30 ROTC cadets from the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky visited the Kentucky Air Guard base April 5 for officer Shadow Day.

According to 1st Lt. Bob Geary, the program’s coordinator, Shadow Day is designed to familiarize future leaders with the Air Guard while letting them explore different jobs and get a better idea of what it’s like to be an officer.

“The driving force for the program is to acclimate future Air Force officers to what the Air Guard is all about,” Geary said.

“The majority of the cadets are in their freshman or sophomore years, so it’s convenient for them to come out and see the end results of the ROTC program. It gives them that extra incentive to stay with it.”

Shadow Day actually involves two phases and begins when a senior officer visits an ROTC unit to make a presentation on the makeup of the Air Guard and how the Guard and Reserve act in

concert with the active duty military.

Phase two is the base visit, when cadets tour the facilities, going from one organization to another. At each stop, a commander talks to the cadets and answers their questions.

“The cadets get to shadow officers who do jobs they’d like to do,” Geary said. “ROTC stresses flying, so most of them want to be pilots.

“The cadets need to understand that the flying community wouldn’t exist without the various organizations that support it,” Geary said.

“Also, Shadow Day gives them options. This program prepares them for the possibility that they might have to choose another career if they don’t make pilot.”

Geary said he was pleased with this year’s program, noting that the cadets seemed very engaged.

“A lot of them asked good questions about what certain officers did. I think a lot of them were glad they got out of bed on a Saturday, came out and saw the facility instead of sleeping in,” he added.

“They were really glad to be here.”



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Kentucky Air Guard 2nd Lts. Randall Hood and Danielle Lewis talk with ROTC cadets Jonathan Cummins Jr., Joseph Akridge and Natalie Shick during Shadow Day here April 5. More than 30 cadets from the University of Louisville and University of Kentucky spent the day touring the base and talking with officers about career opportunities.



ABOVE: Tech. Sgt. Ron Thomas, right, of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron and another NCO work on the brakes of a C-130 Hercules at the deployed location.



TOP: Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard who are deployed to Southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terror mark their way home. The troops have been at their undisclosed location since March.

BOTTOM: KyANG troops from the 165th Airlift Squadron gather together outside their tent. The group is providing airlift support in what could be a yearlong deployment.



Desert WARRIORS



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Tracy Willen, a supply troop from the 123rd Logistics Squadron, takes a break from work to send e-mail to her family and friends back home in Kentucky.



ABOVE: Capts. Charlie Hans, Shawn Dawley and Clint Banning, all pilots from the 165th Airlift Squadron, gather with other deployed troops for a meal.

LEFT: Senior Airman Chris Knight, a crew chief from the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, carries all his necessary gear, including his chemical warfare suit and flak vest.



ABOVE: Deployed Kentucky Air Guard members participate in the normal coming and goings of desert life in a tent city.

LEFT: Maj. Larry Bolton, Maj. Warren Hurst and Lt. Col. Kell Rogers, aircrew members from the 165th Airlift Squadron, prepare for a mission on a C-130 Hercules.



*Photos courtesy of
deployed KyANG troops*



Photo courtesy of the VFW 1170

Operation GOODIE BOX

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's Family Readiness Team, Paula McLain, Lt. Col. Rich Frymire and Darlene Swanner, received a \$1,000 check from the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1170 on April 1. The money will be placed in the unit's family readiness emergency relief fund.

Post members also assembled 300 gifts boxes under their Operation Goodie Box program. The boxes were given to deployed airmen from the Kentucky Air Guard.

For more than a year, post members have donated 50 to 100 such boxes every three to four months.

Promotions & separations



The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- Kevin Austin,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Brandon Boggs,
123rd Services Flt.
- Lucas Coffey,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Leumas Cowherd,
123rd Services Flt.
- Rosanna Crowdus,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Ann Fangman,
123rd Services Flt.
- Aaron Foote,
123rd Services Flt.
- Destin Judy,
123rd Services Flt.
- Jessica Martin,
123rd Services Flt.
- Ricky Odle,
123rd Services Flt.

- Ashlee Richards,
123rd Services Flt.
- John Shrader,
123rd Services Flt.
- Natasia Smith,
123rd Services Flt.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

- Mark Black,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Jeffrey Dickson,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Garry Dukes,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Mark Flener,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Michael Skeens,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

- Derek Hebner,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Jon Lundergan,
123rd Medical Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:

- Staff Sgt. Antony Brashear,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Christian Cobler,
123rd Special Tactics Sq.
- Airman 1st Class Laura Cooper,
123rd Student Flt.
- Senior Airman Walter Cosby Jr.,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Maj. Joseph Deboskey,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Jeremy Francis,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Graves,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. David Hammer Jr.,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
- Senior Airman Stanna Hourigan,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Maj. Kristie Jones,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Senior Airman Jason Likens,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Senior Airman Christopher Marriott,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Senior Airman Megan Massey,
123rd Logistics Sq.

ONW fighters say final goodbye to Incirlik

**By Tech. Sgt. Tammy Brubaker
39th Wing Public Affairs**

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey—The last Operation Northern Watch mission flew March 17, but the end of the operation was not obvious until the last fighter aircraft roared out of here April 7.

The last fighter planes, eight F-16CJ Fighting Falcons from the 55th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., left for home and did their last traditional “wave” good-bye by tilting their fighters from left to right shortly after takeoff.

As part of the regular air and space expeditionary force rotation, the 55th had been part of more than 1,400 British, Turkish and American troops and approximately 50 aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone in northern Iraq. Enforcement began in 1991.

“I’m honored to be one of the last to leave Incirlik,” said Lt. Col. Jack Forsythe, 55th commander, as he prepared for his final flight.

“I’m disappointed we weren’t able to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom, but I’m ready to move on to something else.”

Since ONW began in 1997, more than 40,000 troops had rotated through here to support the mission and more than 36,000 sorties were flown.

Its predecessor, Operation Provide Comfort, began shortly after the Gulf War in 1991 and ended in 1996. More than 42,000 sorties were flown during that time. Iraqi

surface-to-air missiles and other anti-aircraft systems targeted ONW aircrews on nearly every flight.

ONW aircraft patrolling the no-fly-zone responded to Iraqi attacks and when Iraqis threatened their ability to do the mission.

During the operation, the coalition forces at Incirlik experienced a 700 percent turnover rate each year.

Deployed active duty, Guard and Reserve airmen rotated through here an average of every 90 days as part of the air and space expeditionary force structure.

“We had an outstanding team here—great pilots and a phenomenal maintenance team,”

Forsythe said. “I worked with people I’ll never forget. Coming back after flying a sortie and seeing an excited ground crew is what I’ll miss most and always remember.”

About half of the people who were deployed to Incirlik to support ONW have returned home, while the other half will return home soon or are awaiting further instructions.

Over the last decade, a generation of aircrew, maintainers and support teams sharpened their wartime combat skills while supporting ONW and performing the daily routine of deploying, flying, fighting and controlling the Iraqi skies.



Airman 1st Class Joseph Thompson/USAF

Three F-16CJ Fighting Falcons from the 55th Fighter Squadron taxi here for the last time April 7. The fighters are returning home to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., after supporting Operation Northern Watch. Aircraft flew the last ONW mission March 17.

Massive gathering

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM—A row of C-130 Hercules are parked along the 485th Air Expeditionary Wing’s ramp at a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia.

Seven C-130 units combined here to form the largest collection of Hercules aircraft in the world, officials said.

*Photo by Senior Airman
Manuel Martinez/USAF*



Retirements



Senior Airman Alecia Willis/KyANG

ABOVE: Retiring Chief Master Sgts. Bill Smith, Jim Swanner and Kenny Fogle were honored during a flightline formation here March 2. Each chief was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal.

TOP RIGHT: Col. Michael Harden, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, awards Lt. Col. Deborah Foster the Meritorious Service Medal on March 1. Foster, now retired, served as commander of the military personnel flight.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Lt. Col. Bob Abell, outgoing commander of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, receives a shadow box Feb. 2 from Maj. Doug Rose and the squadron's former commander, Retired Maj. Dan Jones.



Senior Airman Alecia Willis/KyANG



Master Sgt. Mike Nagel/KyANG

Ky. House passes resolution to honor Guard members

The state House of Representatives on Feb. 11 approved Resolution No. 128 honoring members, families and employers of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard.

In the document, the House recognizes and applauds the duty, bravery and self-sacrifice of Kentucky service members.

It also recognizes the commitment and sacrifice of family members and applauds employers for their outstanding patriotism and support.

In closing, the House offers "thanks and heartfelt gratitude to the men and women who serve in the Guard for their great gift of service and sacrifice."

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