

THE

CARGO COURIER



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

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KyANG scores again for charity

By Lt. Col. Richard Frymire
123rd Airlift Wing Chief of Staff

The Thoroughbred Express won two divisions of the Kentucky Special Olympics Plane Pull last month, repeating its 1996 victories in the women's and coed categories.

The Air Guard men's team again finished second in the contest, which pitted eight community organizations against one another in a race to pull a 60-ton jet 12 feet.

The men did, however, take home a Combined Events trophy, which rewarded participants for their team-building skills.

The Kentucky women's team hauled their United Parcel Service 727 over the finish line in 8.17 seconds, edging out the University of Louisville's Kappa Delta Sorority by eight tenths of a second.

The wing's coed team bested their rivals from Humana by just four tenths of a second, and the UPS men's team took home first by the same margin.

The event, which was held on base for the second consecutive year, raised \$11,000 for Kentucky Special Olympics.

The organization will use the funds to provide safe sporting competitions for children with physical and mental disabilities.

Photos courtesy of
Kentucky Special Olympics



Air Line

TOP: The Kentucky Air Guard women's team struggles to bring a United Parcel Service 727 across the finish line first in last month's Kentucky Special Olympics Plane Pull.



LEFT: Tech. Sgt. Pat Rippey and Staff Sgt. Michelle Holcomb, both of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, display their tug-of-war paint.

BOTTOM: The KyANG men's team races against the clock to challenge United Parcel Service.



Wing working to make 1998 'Year of the Enlisted Force'

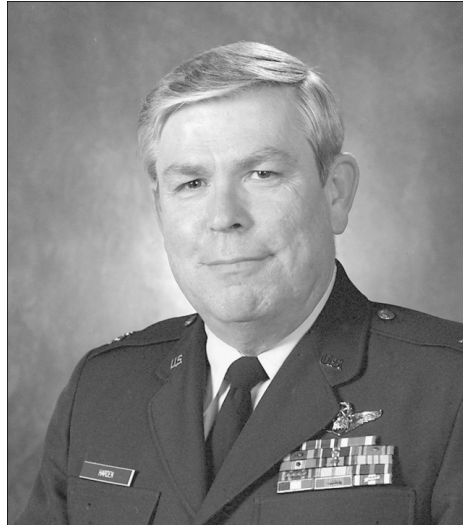
Recently, I attended the Air Mobility Command's Commander's Conference where AMC commander Gen. Walter Kross announced that the 1998 fiscal year would be known as the "Year of the Enlisted Force."

The goal of this theme is to positively impact the career and quality of life of each enlisted person in the command by identifying and implementing initiatives that are relevant, timely and actionable; and to create a legacy of attention to the backbone of our command — the enlisted force.

I would like to adopt this theme and apply it to the 123rd Airlift Wing in an effort to positively impact the life and Guard experience of every enlisted member of the Thoroughbred Express.

I want every member of this unit to take pride in our accomplishments and to feel that he or she actively participates in our successes in the defense of our country.

I have asked the wing's senior enlisted advisor, Chief Master Sgt. David Orange, to spearhead these efforts and concentrate on initiating action that would:



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

- Increase the feeling of job satisfaction among our enlisted people
- Ensure that enlisted members are recognized for their efforts
- Ensure that they clearly understand what is expected of them
- Ensure that the leadership clearly understands what the enlisted force expects of them.

We realize that the enlisted force makes things happen.

You fix the airplanes, order the parts,

prepare the food, cut the orders and protect our people and our assets.

You maintain our facilities and make sure that we are paid, trained and healthy.

You do all of the things for which I get credit, and it is high time that we stand up and take notice.

Chief Orange and I have discussed some ideas, and we are looking to you for some more.

We will kick off the Year of the Enlisted Force very shortly with the dedication of a memorial to our first wing senior enlisted advisor, Chief Master Sgt. Al Gering.

Chief Gering epitomized all of the qualities that make the enlisted force great, and it is fitting that he be the focal point of our efforts this year.

Chief Orange and I solicit your ideas and support for this effort.

There can be no better goal than to focus our efforts to honor the enlisted force.

We want to improve the lot of our dedicated enlisted members.

Thanks loads,

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Our phone number is (502) 364-9431. ☎

An electronic version of *The Cargo Courier* is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.kyang.win.net>

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Cargo Courier Editor
Digital Image Editor

Col. Michael Harden
Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the PA office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Oct. 31.

Military Issue

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard will have another way to show their pride when the state Transportation Cabinet begins issuing new National Guard license plates in December.

The plates, designed by Master Sgt. Terry Lutz, a graphic artist in the wing's 123rd Communication Flight, now feature images of fixed-wing aircraft in addition to the traditional minuteman. Unit members whose vehicles bear the old National Guard plates will be able to exchange them for the new design by paying standard renewal fees in person at their county clerk's offices by Dec. 31.



Members who wait until January or who want to purchase a plate for the first time will be charged \$28.50. Yearly renewals are only \$3 — a considerable savings over the standard renewal rate.

Recruiting efforts pay off

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

The 123rd Airlift Wing recruiting office just completed one of its most successful years ever, filling 159 vacancies and boosting the unit's manning to 100.2 percent.

The surge represents the first time since 1991 that manning has been so high, said Master Sgt. Dorenda Stackhouse, recruiting supervisor for the Kentucky Air Guard.

The wing's manning has hovered near 95 percent for the past several years, she said.

Stackhouse attributed the upswing to a variety of factors, including the new educational assistance program that pays undergraduate tuition at state colleges.

But Stackhouse said the program can't account all of the increase because many prospects who call her office don't even know about it.

"There are a lot of other factors at work here," she said. "Thunder Over Louisville was a big one. When you have 230,000 people out here on base, you're going to generate some interest.

"We've also had a lot of positive publicity in the media. There's been more coverage in the Courier-Journal this year than we've

ever had over the years."

Another contributor, Stackhouse said, has been the continued support of unit commanders who ensure that potential recruits feel welcome.

Perhaps the most important factor, however, has been a concerted recruiting effort to target minorities with direct-mail campaigns and advertisements in publications like the Louisville Defender and a minority-owned-business guide.

"By 2010, the Air Guard expects its members to be composed of 40 percent minorities," Stackhouse said.

"So we need to target that audience and do what we can to mentor these young people in.

"We've been fishing on the same side of the pond for a number of years, and we've decided to cast our line out and fish on the other side."

If preliminary figures are any indication, it seems like the plan is working.

"October already is looking like a banner month for recruiting," she said. "We're on a roll, and we're going to push as hard as we can until we exhaust that surge. Our goal this year is 102 percent, and I think we can make that."

Joint Guard wrapup

The Thoroughbred Express completed its participation in Operation Joint Guard this month when the last KyANG member returned from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Oct. 4.

More than 40 Kentucky airmen participated in the unit's 10-week rotation, providing ground support and airlift services for U.S. and NATO peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Wing aircrews flew 54 sorties and logged more than 102 hours of flight time delivering passengers and cargo to locations throughout the theater, including Taszar, Hungary, and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The mission marked the third time since 1994 that the Kentucky Air National Guard has sent personnel to Europe to support operations in Bosnia.

Equal Opportunity training to make debut in Air Guard

By Capt. Beth Leistensnider
123rd Airlift Wing Social Actions Office

EO 2000, a four-hour-long Air Force training program designed to focus on equal opportunity and human relations, is now making its debut in the Air National Guard.

The program, which was first implemented for active bluesuiters in 1995, emphasizes the service's reaffirmed commitment to equal opportunity for all members.

It will offer military personnel the opportunity to examine how the workforce is predicted to change in the next century and prepare them for facing these changes harmoniously.

Shifting demographics will be a critical issue as the Air Force enters its second half-century of service, said Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, the former director of the Air National Guard.

By the year 2050, for example, women and Hispanics are predicted to compose the majority of new workers.

"If we don't look like America, they will not support us, and there will not be an Air Guard," Shepperd said in a recent speech to top Guard personnel.

"If we don't believe in minorities and women, if we don't become multilingual, we have no future."

EO 2000 will offer participants more interaction than the old Social Actions curriculum, which has been phased out.

The program extends traditional lecture techniques to include case studies, videos and classroom exercises.

The goal is to make participants' experiences more interesting and thought-provoking.

The 123rd Airlift Wing Social Actions Office is working to obtain the needed equipment, materials and space to conduct the training.

Our goal is to begin sessions by year's end and complete training for all KyANG members within 48 months.

New dental, eye care benefits available for military reservists

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Air Guard members now have access to two key health benefits: low-cost dental coverage and eye care.

Humana Military Healthcare Services has announced a national dental program for Guard members that costs participants less than \$5 per month.

The voluntary program offers up to \$1,000 in basic dental coverage per year, and membership cannot be denied to anyone who has at least one year remaining on his or her enlistment.

Dental health is an important factor in determining readiness for deployment. To assure this readiness and keep members' expenses below \$5 a month, the Department of Defense is paying 60 percent of the policy's actual cost.

More than 36,000 dentists have agreed to participate in the program by offering services

at a reduced rate. Humana will pay for services provided by other dentists but cannot guarantee the lowest out-of-pocket costs for Guard members.

Policy holders will only be billed for their share of expenses when they use dentists who belong to Humana's network.

For more information call 1 (800) 211-3614. ☎

The eye care package, which covers glasses and contacts for Guardmembers and their families, is available for \$15 per year from National Guard Association of U.S.

The program also is open to inactive members of the Air National Guard.

Applications for the plan can be picked up in the Civilian Payroll Office.

For more information on the Preferred Vision Care plan, call Carol Morris at ext. 4426. ☎

Members eligible for VHA

Guardmembers who were on active duty orders for recent contingency operations are eligible for Variable Housing Allowance regardless of tour length.

The contingencies are Restore Hope, Joint Endeavor, Decisive Edge, Decisive Enhancement, Joint Guard, Southern Watch and Northern Watch.

To receive reimbursement, submit a copy of your orders and mortgage or rent statements to Military Pay along with an Air Force Form 3502.

CFC drive offers prizes

A fund drive will be held this weekend to give traditional Guard members the opportunity to contribute to the unit's Combined Federal Campaign.

The campaign provides funding for more than 100 local health and social service agencies, some of which have aided our own troops in their time of need.

Donating to the effort could have a more immediate benefit, however. The unit is offering prizes to anyone who signs a pledge card and makes a minimum donation this weekend of \$5.

The prizes include round-trip airfare for two to anywhere in the United States or Caribbean. Drawing for the prizes will be held this UTA.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Latonia Trowell at ext. 4637. ☎

First shirt job open

The 123rd Maintenance Squadron is seeking a new first sergeant. The job is open to all technical sergeants and above who hold a 7-level AFSC and have completed Command NCO Academy. For more information, call ext. 4450. ☎

Eyes on the Prize

Runner completes first Air Force Marathon

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Master Sgt. Katrina Johnson didn't win a gold medal in the first Air Force Marathon.

She didn't even place in the top 10 percent.

But Johnson did finish the grueling 26.2-mile race, earning a personal reward more valuable than any precious metal.

She left Wright-Patterson Air Force Base that day with the knowledge that she had set out to accomplish a mentally exhausting, physically brutal task.

And she had succeeded.

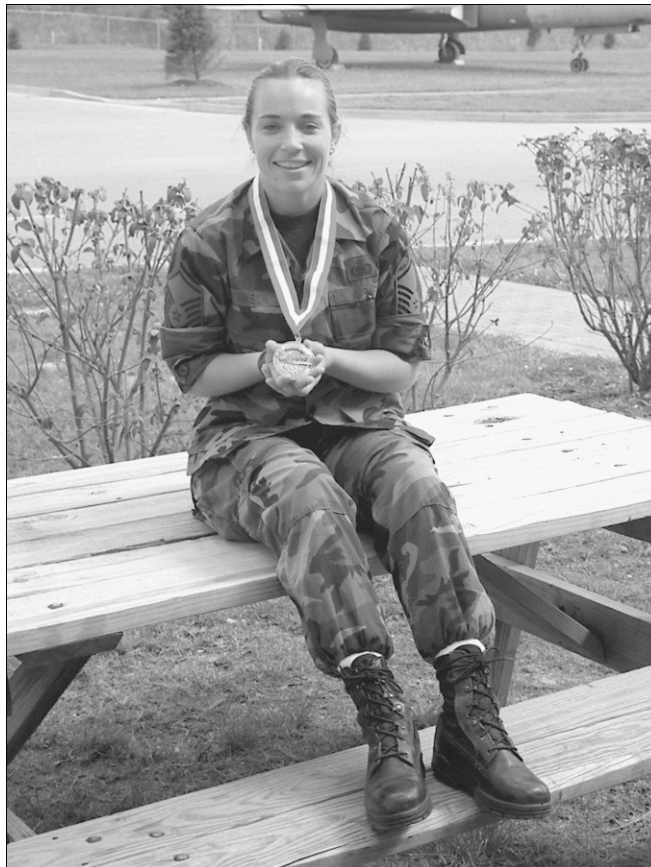
Nearly half of the contest's 2,750 starters did not.

"The Air Force Marathon was a personal challenge for me to see if I could do it," said Johnson, a supervisor in the 123rd Logistics Squadron.

"I didn't get as good a time as I wanted, but I was really, really happy when I crossed that finish line. I got a lot of satisfaction from that."

Johnson doesn't consider herself a competitive runner, although she's completed mini-marathons before. She runs mostly because it helps relieve stress.

But the prospect of testing herself in the first Air Force marathon was too appealing to pass up. Johnson began training months



Staff Sgt. Dale Greer/KyANG

Master Sgt. Katrina Johnson displays the commemorative medallion she earned for completing the first-ever Air Force Marathon last month.

in advance of the Oct. 20 race, spending 12 to 15 hours a week running and lifting weights.

Meanwhile, she continued to work at her full-time job and take a complete load of college classes.

The driven 29-year-old managed to squeeze it all in somehow, finishing her last semester at McKendree College with a straight-A average.

Her final test of the semester, however, came as she approached the marathon's finish line three months later.

"The run was a lot tougher than I thought it was going to be," Johnson recalled.

"My legs, my feet, my calves — everything from the waist down was just killing me.

"But every time I thought about quitting, I just told myself, 'The pain is not going to last forever. Keep trudging it out.'"

Johnson said her body is still recovering from the race, but she's already looking for another challenge.

"I think I'm going to start on triathalons next year," Johnson said, laughing.

"Who knows? In a couple of years, I might qualify for an Ironman competition."

Wing members take home golf, rifle honors

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

A group of Kentucky golfers and the wing's marksmanship coordinator both have proved to be exceptionally good shots recently.

Lt. Col. Dan Wells won the master's class division at 600 yards in a rifle match at Fort

Knox, Ky., on June 29. Wells scored 194-8x out of a possible 200 points in the event.

Five other Air Guard members and two retirees joined together last month to capture the 33rd Annual Western Invitational Golf Tournament in Tuscon, Ariz.

The participants each earned enough points in their respective flights for the

Kentucky group to claim the tournament's traveling trophy, which is on display in the Operations Building.

The golfers were Capt. Jeff Dowling, Maj. Rich Finan, Maj. Mark Heiniger, Tech. Sgt. Johnny Holton, Maj. Tom Sandberg, John Thomas and Scotty Vanarsdale.

Security Forces trace roots to early Air Police

By Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Airlift Wing Historian

If the 123rd Security Forces Squadron's new moniker still sounds a little strange to you, how about the Air Police?

That's what Air Force called its police troops 50 years ago when the wing first opened its doors.

It seems, however, that no Air Police — or any daily security force — was assigned to the Kentucky Air Guard.

Everyone sort of just policed themselves by locking doors to prevent temptation.

The earliest documentation of full-time Kentucky SPs dates to the mid-1950s, when the wing moved to the facility that later became the Bremner Biscuit Company.

Since that time, the Security Forces have become an indispensable part of our daily

operation, and they maintain their readiness by regularly participating in training exercises like Derby King 80-3.

That event, which took place in October 1980, involved a mock civil disturbance at Bowman Field and simulated assaults on KyANG property.

A joint operation between the 123rd Weapons System Security Flight, as it was then known, and the 100th Division Army Reserve, the exercise was anything but routine.

It included aerial attacks by Army helicopters, commando raids on the base's main entrance, conventional and chemical bombings, and our own Fire Department's unique method of rapidly dispersing unruly demonstrators (Hint: it involved a lot of water).

Trivia Question from August's paper:

Who was Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner and what was his claim to fame?

Answer: Buckner was the son of a Confederate general by the same name who had the distinction of leading U.S. troops during the crucial battle of Okinawa in World War II.

The Kentuckian's claim to fame was that he had the distinction of being the highest ranking officer killed in action during that war or any other war in which America had fought in.

His father also fell in battle at Shiloh in 1862 — possibly the highest-ranking father-son battle casualties ever in two separate wars.

Trivia question for November: Only one type of occupation could keep one from military service during the early years of the Kentucky National Guard. What was it?

Look for the answer in next month's *Retrospect*.

Kentucky marks 50th at birthday ceremony



Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley/KyANG

Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, assistant adjutant general for air, unveils the Air Force commemorative stamp design with Louisville Postmaster Bob Lochhead and former wing commander Maj. Gen. Stewart Byrne.

The Kentucky Air National Guard joined with its active duty counterparts around the world last month to celebrate the Air Force's 50th birthday.

Air Guard and Postal Service officials gathered in the base hangar Sept. 18 to unveil a commemorative postage stamp hon-

oring the golden anniversary.

The wing's newest recruits, Alexandra Crick and Darrell Roof, also participated in the ceremony, cutting birthday cake with an Air Force sabre to mark the beginning of the unit's next half century of service.

Changes effective for wear of uniform items

If your BDUs still bear air-crew-style leather name patches, you're out of uniform.

The patches were formally phased out by the Air Force on Oct. 1.

Air Guard members are now required to wear traditional name tapes on their BDUs.

U.S. Air Force tapes should be centered above the left breast pocket, and personal name tapes should be sewn over the right breast pocket.

KyANG members also are required to wear subdued Air Mobility Command patches centered on their right BDU breast pockets.

The Air Force also has introduced a new service dress hat for women.

The hat, which is solid blue and has a removable band, is mandatory for field-grade officers and optional for company-grade officers and enlisted personnel.

Officer hats bear clouds and darts on the band and large antique-finish officer insignia on the front.

Enlisted members' hats bear the encircled insignia.

A new women's mess dress blouse has been authorized for wear, as well.

The new blouse, which will be available with either barrel or French cuffs, may be worn in place of the current pleated design.

The Cargo Courier incorrectly reported in September that enlisted rank insignia for use on Goretex rain jackets would be available in base supply this month.

Please contact your unit orderly room for availability information.

Ryan named Chief of Staff

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON— The Senate has confirmed Gen. Michael E. Ryan to serve as the Air Force's 16th chief of staff.

Ryan, who most recently was commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and commander of Allied Air Forces Central Europe, also becomes the first son to follow in his father's footsteps as senior military leader of any U.S. military service. Gen. John D. Ryan served as Air Force chief of staff from 1969 to 1973.

Upon nominating Ryan for the post in July, President Clinton said that Ryan "brings to the job of chief of staff broad operational and joint experience as well as proven leadership ability and a deep concern for the men and women of the U.S. Air Force."

Ryan takes the place of Gen. Ronald R.

Fogleman as the senior military leader in the Air Force and becomes the service's representative on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Ryan claims San Antonio as his hometown. He entered the Air Force after graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1965 and has commanded at the squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command levels.

He also flew 149 combat missions in Southeast Asia, including 100 missions over North Vietnam.

As commander of the 16th Air Force and Allied Air Forces Southern Europe in Italy, Ryan directed NATO air combat operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina that directly contributed to the Dayton Peace Accord.

The general and his wife, Jane, have four children: Michael, Mary Kathleen, Sean and Colleen.

Secretary Widnall bids farewell

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Spaits
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Sheila E. Widnall bid an emotional farewell Sept. 16 at the Air Force Association's annual national convention and Air Force 50th Anniversary celebration.

Addressing a group of more than 2,000 people during a luncheon at the Washington Sheraton Hotel, Widnall said goodbye to the AFA and the Air Force, her voice wavering at times under the emotion of the farewell.

"Four years ago, I shared with you that I was anxious to get on with the job. And after I leave, I said, 'I hope you will be glad I came.'"

To that the crowd of mostly active-duty Air Force and civilian employees responded with a loud ovation.

Widnall then turned her focus to the future of the Air Force, citing innovation and technology as being the keys to the service's

destiny — the primacy of space operations.

The service's biggest challenge, however, will be overcoming the traditional cultural line of thinking, she said.

"Every member of our Air Force team needs to learn to think differently about the concept of future operations if our Air Force is to remain as viable 50 years from now as it is today," she said. "The technology is there, the time is right and, moreover, our nation demands it from us all."

Widnall also said the leadership's commitment to people has remained unchanged.

"I'm confident that my successor will continue to uphold this historic covenant with the men and women who proudly wear the Air Force blue. At the end of the day, all else pales to insignificant."

Widnall's resignation becomes effective Oct. 31, when she will return to a position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



WIDNALL

Oney brothers retire after 61 years' service

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Editor

Two brothers whose military careers spanned more than six decades retired with honors from the Kentucky Air National Guard this month.

Chief Master Sgt. Jim Oney and Master Sgt. Larry Oney both brought their lengthy military commitments to a close Oct. 1 with ceremonies honoring their dedication and service.

Jim Oney first enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1957 and spent six years as a sailor before trying on Air Force blue in August 1967.

During those 30 years in the Kentucky Air Guard, Jim served in the hospital's nursing services section before being named Enlisted Inspector General in 1992.

He is a distinguished 22-year veteran of the Louisville Police Department and currently is director of security for the Regional Airport Authority.

Larry Oney signed up for a four-year tour with the Air Force in 1967 and joined the Kentucky Air Guard in 1976. He served as an aeromedical technician and personnel specialist before being named personnel systems manager in 1994.

Oney also is retiring from his full-time job as a technician in the same office.

Both brothers received the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.



Tech Sgt. Charles Simpson/ KyANG



Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley/ KyANG

TOP: Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for air, presents Chief Master Sgt. Jim Oney with the Meritorious Service Medal last month as his wife, Carol, stands nearby.

BOTTOM: Master Sgt. Larry Oney receives his certificate of retirement from Lt. Col. Michael Dornbush, commander of the 123rd Mission Support Flight.

Promotions and honors in the Kentucky Air National Guard

The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard:

TO MASTER SGT. (E-7)

- August Damico,
205th Combat Comm. Sq.
- William Yore,
165th Airlift Sq.

TO CAPTAIN (O-3)

- Brian Abott,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Steven May,
165th Airlift Sq.

TO MAJOR (O-4)

- Charles Mayfield,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

The following servicemember has distinguished himself and his unit by outstanding achievement in Professional Military Education:

- Capt. Byron K. Morris,
165th Airlift Sq.
Distinguished Graduate,
Squadron Officer School,
Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The following servicemembers recently received their associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force:

- Senior Amn. Jason Lainhart,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Edward Moody,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. Katherine Mills,
123rd Airlift Control Flt.
- Tech Sgt. Annette Strom,
123rd Mission Support Flt.
- 2nd Lt. Quentin Moore,
123rd Medical Sq.