

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XVIII, No. 6 • June 8, 2002

YGOF campaign goes USAF worldwide

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Guard members joined with their families, employers and the local media near the base flight line May 22 to hear Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini announce that the "Your Guardians of Freedom" communications campaign was going Air Force-wide.

The general, who is the Kentucky Air Guard chief of staff, originally conceived the program for KyANG troops, but the National Guard Bureau quickly jumped on board, followed the Air Force reserves. Now, the active-duty Air Force is participating.

The campaign was designed to bolster community support and provide timely, accurate information to the six core constituencies vital to the continued success of the Air Force and its reserve components as they wage the war on terrorism. These groups are the family members, civilian employers and educators of airmen participating in the war on terrorism, as well as local media, community leaders and members of Congress.

All six constituencies receive letters, posters and other items as a way of expressing the military's appreciation for their support.

"When Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom were launched, it became essential that we communicate effectively to these groups, all of whom are so intimately connected to our membership," Tonini said.

"What we are trying to do with 'Your Guardians of Freedom' is to solidify the support structure over the long term. This integrated program is the foundation for a family and community support initiative underway across America. It's designed to remind families and employers of the important role they and airmen play at home and overseas in the nation's fight against terrorism."

The communications campaign was enhanced by the National Guard Bureau, KyANG and Doe Anderson Inc., a Louisville advertising and public relations agency that helped developed Web sites, posters, postcards, magnets and other collectibles.



Master Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini briefs Guard members, families, employers and local media on "Your Guardians of Freedom" at a press conference here May 22.

Diversity speaker visits KyANG

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Motivational diversity speaker Samuel Betances, Ph.D., visited Kentucky National Guard troops here May 17 to deliver a simple but significant message.

During two presentations that drew hundreds of Guard members, Betances loudly and passionately repeated, "Change is inevitable, growth is optional."

With the ever-changing demographic makeup of military troops and with the National Guard celebrating 2002 as the

year of diversity, his visit couldn't have come at a more appropriate time.

"As we continue in the 21st century, change is going to occur," agrees Col. Cora Jackson, the wing's vice commander and a former human resource enhancement advisor to the Air National Guard.

"Just look how the military has changed in the past 50 years. Change is inevitable in everything we do.

"To grow, one must take a look at where they fit into the picture and what they need to do to move along in the

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Fairchild's commitment to the Ky. Air Guard will not be forgotten

T

his weekend we say farewell to a very special member of our Kentucky Air Guard.

Maj. Gen. Verna Fairchild is retiring after

more than 34 years of service to her country, including 28 years in the Kentucky Air Guard.

Over the years, she has performed her duties with skill, grace and honor while serving as a role model for many young, and not so young, officers — male and female.

I have personally known the general for more than 20 years and have worked with her as a contemporary when we were both squadron commanders arguing over shots and physicals for aircrews.

I have known her as my boss when she was the assistant air general for air, and surprisingly we argued less frequently.

When she went to Washington as a major general working for the director of the Air Guard she never forgot about her home unit and would call me to find out how things were going in the real world.

If we had a problem, she would weigh in and help fix things when she could without compromising her position or her integrity.

In all capacities, she was the consummate professional and Guardmember.

Together with her husband, Byrnes, himself a retired Air Force major, she has been invaluable to this unit, the Air Guard and the entire Air Force.



**Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander**

She will be missed, but her quiet manner and ability to get things done will be long remembered and will become part of the honorable heritage of the KyANG.

This unit has been blessed over the years with legions of people who have served their state and nation with dedication, honor and integrity — as did Maj. Gen. Fairchild.

Some were recognized for their service with ceremonies, such as the one we will

have for her, and some were recognized only by their peers and contemporaries.

Whatever the level of recognition, it is important that every member of the Thoroughbred Express feel as much a part of this organization as the general and I do.

Everyone should feel the same pride that we feel when we think about the 11 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, or the three Spaatz Trophies, or the six Distinguished Flying Unit Awards, or the three Solano Trophies, or the two Rusty Metcalf Trophies.

Everyone should take pride in being in a combat-ready unit that has set the standard for readiness and availability since it was founded in 1947.

I have been here for a lot of years and I am proud of every minute of it.

I never want to do anything that will tarnish the reputation and heritage of this wing, built by people like Maj. Gen. Fairchild and thousands of others.

I ask that you join me in continuing the tradition of excellence, readiness and availability built by our predecessors.

I never want Maj. Gen. Fairchild, or anyone else who has served, to come back and ask me why I messed up their unit.

Let's do what we can to carry on the tradition.

Thanks Loads!

This funded Air Force newspaper is published for members of the military services. Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited and prepared by the public affairs office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville International Airport, Louisville, Ky. 40213-2678.

If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is July 1.

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



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

Diversity

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transformation. Is education needed, or do you need certain skills, things that help you to grow professionally as well as personally.

"If an individual doesn't do those things to make themselves relevant, growth has not taken place. Growth is not automatic," Jackson said.

Demographic changes also are playing a big part in why diversity is so important, Jackson said.

"As these changes take place, our pool of recruits has changed to include women and minorities. In particular, recruiting is important because for us to be viable, we have to continue to recruit."

Workplace demographics, Jackson said, have been changing for about the past 10 years, but some people have been reluctant to accept them.

Betances, who has trained National Guard members in nearly every state, was invited to speak to KyANG members on these matters because they are so crucial to the Guard's future success, Jackson said.

Betances, who is biracial, bicultural and bilingual, dug his way out of inner city poverty and eventually received a doctorate from Harvard University.

He spreads words of inspiration for individuals to aim high, reject rejection and embrace themselves and each other as powerful team members working toward a more prosperous future.

Problem-solving is a gift

"Deal with it" were the watch words from my dad whenever I faced an insurmountable problem.

Without further instructions, I was allowed to confront my problems and learn the hard way to resolve them.

Sometimes I succeeded and sometimes I just suffered through it.

God, according to scripture, is like a Father to us.

He doesn't remove our problems but guides us in dealing with them.

The following acronym, PROBLEM, is a way of helping us "deal with it" successfully.

P—Predictor. God is already at work in every problem.

R—Remember to ask God for a solu-

tion. No miracles without problems.

O—Opportunities, discovery, growth and wisdom come with every problem.

B—Blessings are given to those who face and resolve the problem.

L—Lessons are learned that can prevent you from repeating the problem.

E—Everyone has problems. Don't run, "Deal with it."

M—Messages of hope and good news come to us from heaven in our problems.

S—Solvable. Every problem has a solution. Don't give up.

Wear the problem down.

Remember, God is like a Father giving good gifts to His children. Problem-solving is one of His best gifts to us.

*Lt. Col. Thomas T. Curry
Wing Chaplain*

Chaplain's Column

Retirement ceremony for Fairchild today

Maj. Gen. Verna Fairchild will be honored today during a retirement ceremony to be held in the Base Annex at 2 p.m.

Currently, the general serves as the Air National Guard assistant to the director for base operational support readiness—a post she has held since February 1999.

Prior to this position, Fairchild served as Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air for nearly six years.

Her total service in the Air Force reserves and KyANG is more than 34 years.

All Kentucky Air Guard members, friends and family are invited to attend the ceremony.

Formal mentoring program to develop and retain troops

Wing participates in NGB pilot study

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air Guard has joined with units from four other states to participate in a formal mentoring pilot study for the National Guard Bureau.

While mentoring has always taken place at the KyANG, it's mostly been performed on an ad hoc basis.

The pilot program takes mentoring to a new level by systematically including everyone who wishes to participate, said Chief Master Sgt. Bob Wagner, state headquarters human resource advisor.

"While informal mentoring is good and should continue, we need to add a formal mentoring program to assure that we are not excluding anyone from the mentoring experience," he said.

Participation will, however, be voluntary.

Although experienced individuals will be solicited to become mentors, and less experienced individuals will be solicited to become protégés, the final decision to become part of the program will be up to the individual, Wagner said.

The program has been designed to help young troops develop into the leaders of tomorrow by providing them with the support they need, Wagner explained.

"If the newest and least experienced unit members are placed in positions of responsibility without adequate guidance, they may feel overwhelmed," Wagner said.

"A successful mentoring program will give these individuals the support necessary to prepare them to accept the responsibility they are expected to assume.

"As they grow into their positions with the help of their mentor they will feel more comfortable with the additional responsibilities they are given and will feel proud of their achievements."

The pilot program also has been designed to address shifting demographics, which can pose mentoring challenges for more traditional approaches, Wagner said.

"The change in the area's demographics will affect the demographics of the unit. In the past, informal mentoring would match individuals who would look alike, think alike or act alike.

"With the change in demographics, individuals with noticeable differences will be put together in work situations.

"The old method of pairing individuals in an informal mentoring situation will no longer be adequate as we move into the future."

The new program will provide a mechanism to match mentors and protégés even though they may look or act differently, Wagner said.

"The formal mentoring program will help us in pairing up those individuals who share interests, values and styles," he said.

It also will provide experienced personnel with a method for leaving their legacy of knowledge and wisdom with the unit.

This ultimately will lead to a more visionary and powerful force, Wagner said.

Another expected benefit is improved mission readiness through higher retention.

"Not only will mentoring enhance mission readiness by having a better-prepared force, it also may elevate the mission readiness of the unit as a result of a higher retention rate," Wagner said.

"As our young people become more familiar with their duties and tasks and build pride in their accomplishments, they will be more likely to stay with the unit and not separate after one enlistment."

Wing Vice Commander Col. Cora Jackson, who helped develop the new mentoring program while at the National Guard Bureau, said the program is intended to incorporate a "whole-person" concept.

"The process is meant to help the person grow personally as well as professionally," Jackson said.

"If I'm your mentor, I'm not only going to talk to you about AFSCs and schools but about things I think could help you grow personally."

The formal mentor, Jackson said, takes care of more than just half a person but rather a whole person.

For information on mentoring, call Chief Master Sgt. Bob Wagner at ext. 4135.

First Sergeants Council selling ONE/OEF T-shirts

The Kentucky Air Guard First Sergeants Council is selling Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom T-shirts for \$10 each.

Col. Michael Harden, wing commander, has approved the T-shirt for wear on base with both flight suits and BDUs.

The T-shirts will be on sale drill weekend from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Individuals also may purchase shirts during the week by calling Master Sgt. Keith Smith at ext. 4295, Master Sgt. Mark Ferris at ext. 4034 or Master Sgt. Scott Roche at ext. 4818.

G.I. Bill benefits now require monthly check

Students who receive benefits under the select reserve G.I. Bill program are now required to verify school enrollment each month in order to continue receiving checks, according to new rules put in place by the Department of Veterans Affairs on June 1.

In the past, individuals were automatically sent a payment at the first of each month.

As a result of the new policy, payment dates will change based on the day each student submits his or her verification.

To make the process as convenient as possible, students may verify their enrollment via the Internet or touch-tone telephone.

Up-to-date information on the verification program is available by accessing the department's Web site at www.GIBILL.va.gov.

Man overboard

Nine members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics squadron jumped from a C-5 Galaxy at Fort Knox, Ky., on May 9-10.

Besides giving the KyANG troops more jump experience, the exercise allowed the C-5 crew to fulfill training requirements for rapid on- and off-loads.



Photos by Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

KyANG troops are responsible for base security

By Chief Master Sgt. Ken Bernardi
123rd Security Forces Squadron

Imagine a terrorist threat on base — maybe a suspicious package found in your work area, someone without a restricted area badge unescorted on the flight line or a vehicle stopping by the back gate.

Who will be the first to detect these events?

If you answered “security forces” you may be wrong. If you thought “security augmentee,” wrong again. Chances are, if a threat exists you or a coworker may be the first to identify it.

Even prior to Sept. 11, you have always been the first line of defense for security. You just didn't always know it.

Since the nation was attacked by terrorists, security has been increased across the country.

As a result, members of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron have been called to active duty not only here to protect the base but to participate in other homeland defense missions and overseas operations.

Even now, more than 30 security forces troops are deployed away from home.

Just like the police in the civilian world, security forces cannot be everywhere at once.

We depend on you to recognize what does or doesn't seem right in your work area. If something doesn't seem right, report it to security forces right away at ext. 4477. For emergencies, use ext. 111.

In the security forces squadron, we have an unwritten rule: “If it doesn't look right, feel right, sound right or smell right, it's not right until proven otherwise.”

That should not only apply to security troops but to all KyANG members.

Operations security, which many of you refer to as OPSEC, doesn't have hard, fast rules, but it is a methodology or mind-set that can be applied to any operational activity to prevent exploitation by potential adversaries.

While most of you may be thinking, “Nothing will happen here,” remember this: Those individuals who were in those planes, in the twin towers or at the Pentagon on that fateful day probably never, ever expected such an attack to occur either.

Combat controller recalls Operation Anaconda

**By Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
Air Force Special Operations Command
Public Affairs**

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — On a small hilltop in a remote region of Afghanistan, an Air Force combat controller put his training to the test to save the lives of his teammates and those they were sent in to help.

Staff Sgt. Gabe Brown was part of the response force sent in during Operation Anaconda on March 4.

What began as a rescue mission would end with a fierce firefight during the battle of Takur Ghar.

Operation Anaconda was part of the ongoing effort in Afghanistan to root out Taliban and al-Qaida forces holed up in the Pakitia Province area of the country.

The operation began March 3 with the insertion of U.S. and coalition forces into the region south of Kabul. The helicopters took fire, landing a few miles away from their objective area.

Miles away at the base camp, Brown was roused from sleep and told to start “spooling up. A helo is down.”

Knowing little more than that they were flying out for a rescue operation, Brown grabbed his gear and headed to the departing helicopter.

“We only had a bit of information on what was happening,” said the sergeant, a nine-year combat controller assigned to an operating location of the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Nearing the scene of the downed helicopter, Brown and others on board prepared for the landing.

The other Air Force special tactics people on board the helicopter with Brown were Senior Airman Jason Cunningham and Tech. Sgt. Keary Miller, both pararescuemen.

“(Our) helo was (hovering close to) the ground when we took fire,” said Brown. “We were shot at by several (rocket-propelled grenades) and small arms fire. The padding that lines the inside of the helicopter was flying around like confetti. All I could think of was, ‘Here we go!’”

The downed helicopter had landed on a flat area of mountainside.

Half the area faced a cliff with a drop off of more than 1,000 feet. The other half was dotted with trees, rocks and pathways.

Less than 20 meters from where the heli-

copter came to rest, a hostile group started shooting nonstop, Brown said.

Four members of the rescue team were killed instantly as the rest scrambled out of the helicopter seeking cover.

“One of the Rangers opened fire and killed one of the enemy troops,” Brown said. “The shots were coming from every direction.”

Knowing air power was essential, Brown took cover by a rock near the landing zone. He grabbed his communications gear and linked up with airborne aircraft.

“All I kept thinking was we needed (close air support) and we needed it now,” Brown said.

“My job was to concentrate on bringing in the bombs to knock out the enemy, and I knew I needed to do it fast. It was almost surreal in the sense I didn’t feel as if I was in the middle of all that was happening.”

From his position, the combat controller could see the enemy fire coming from a small bunker off to his left.

“I had an aircraft overhead carrying 500-pound bombs, but the ‘bad guys’ were too close to our position to drop that much ammo without risking our lives. I waved the pilot off the bomb run. I had him come around and strafe the area with guns,” the sergeant said.

The aircraft made a low and hard sweep over the entrenched area, popping off rounds at the enemy troops.

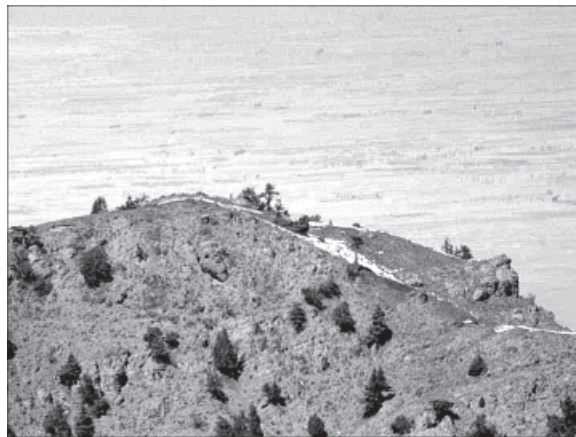
“You could see the snow flying off the ground near the bunker, and I knew he was hitting it,” Brown said.

The aircraft made several more passes at the enemy before the pilot indicated he was out of ammo.

Despite the thousands of rounds pitting the area, the al-Qaida forces kept firing.

“I kept yelling across the area at the platoon leader about our options to eliminate the bunker,” Brown said.

“We coordinated on what we needed to do to ‘frag’ out the enemy and blow the bunker. We knew the bad guys were still hiding in the bunker. We were already two hours into the fight and it was only going to get



Courtesy photo

The Department of Defense released this image of Takur Ghar taken the day after the fierce firefight. The helicopter in which Combat Controller Staff Sgt. Gabe Brown was riding can be seen just below the top ridge of the mountain.

worse if we couldn’t take down their position.”

Using his close-air-support training and skills, Brown targeted the spot using precision bombs. The need was urgent as additional al-Qaida troops were pulling up the mountain top toward the U.S. team.

“If we couldn’t kill the bunker, we were going to be surrounded,” Brown said. “We knew that we had enemy soldiers hiding in the terrain to our (right). Effectively, they were moving in on us, and we had nowhere to go.”

The “danger-close” call proved effective as the bombs skidded across the side of the mountain just in time and collapsed the bunker.

“The noise was just like it sounds in the movies,” Brown said. “You could smell the burning pine off the trees and see the snow kicking off the ground.”

Staying on the comm link with his airborne support, the sergeant kept glued to the rock protecting himself from the volley of enemy fire.

The temperatures were extreme, barely hovering above freezing. Minutes seemed like hours, and hours passed in minutes.

“It is not a stress I’d recommend to anyone,” he said. “Our training prepares us for

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Murray discusses position as new CMSAF

**By Tech. Sgt. Barb Lavigne
15th Air Base Wing Public Affairs**

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — A dream has come true for the man who soon will be vacating his post as Pacific Air Forces command chief master sergeant.

“Becoming chief master sergeant of the Air Force is a young airman’s dream,” said Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Murray, the newly selected 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

That dream became a reality for Murray on May 24 when Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, called and asked if he would accept becoming the next chief master sergeant of the Air Force. Murray said yes and will become the 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force on July 1.

“My heart nearly jumped out of my chest,” Murray recalled. “I was filled with a lot of emotion as I contemplated the awesome responsibility that he just bestowed upon me. What an honor.”

Looking back over his career, Murray said what he has gleaned over time is that it is important to set goals — and that the enlisted career path is not one that leads everyone to actually become the chief master sergeant of the Air Force. After all, only 13 have served.

Murray, who enlisted in the Air Force on Oct. 31, 1977, did not set out to make the Air Force a career.

Even at his four-year point, when he re-enlisted for the first time, he said he wasn’t sure. One thing he was sure of, though, was that he wanted to do the very best he could.

“It wasn’t until my second enlistment, at my 10-year point, that I clearly knew I wanted to make the Air Force a career and set my goal to become a chief master sergeant,” he said.

“I enjoyed my job as (an) aircraft maintenance mechanic working on fighters and the flight line.

“Making rank was fairly easy for me, in a sense,” Murray said.

“To some degree it was a matter of timing, similar to what’s afforded airmen serving today. Because retention was down in the early 80s, promotion rates were high like they are today. Staff (sergeant) was about 48 percent and technical sergeant was still higher than the average when I made it. When I made staff, tech and master sergeant all on the first attempt, I felt that making chief was definitely attainable.”

With that realization, Murray said he set out to become the best noncommissioned officer and supervisor he could be. Becoming a chief master sergeant of the Air Force was still just a fleeting dream.

“The Air Force and my family gave me all the chances I needed to attain my goals,” he said.

“I developed my leadership and supervisory skills through experience, college courses and Professional Military Education. PME cannot be matched for teaching those skills. I feel I’ve been successful in attaining the goals I set, and my career has shown that.”

Murray received distinguished graduate honors from each level of PME he attended and is well decorated.

He is proud of the Gen. Lew Allen Trophy he received in 1991, the highest award given for aircraft sortie production.

His deployment with the 353rd Fighter Squadron to Desert Storm led to the award. He also was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service during the war.

Those accomplishments may have been what led him to become a senior enlisted adviser (later to be renamed command chief master sergeant) for the 347th Wing at Moody Air Base, Ga., in April 1996, forever changing his career path.

Anaconda

Continued from Previous Page

the worst possible scenarios, and this was one of those scenarios you pray is never a reality. The intensity is there and the longer it goes on the harder you fight.”

But with the bunker out of action and the enemy forces moving up toward the Americans, Brown turned his attention to the rock and tree cluster on the other side of the landing zone.

“Since I couldn’t use target designators, I needed some marking to be able to ‘talk’ the bombs onto target,” Brown said.

“I used a small tree I referred to as the bonsai tree as a reference point.”

Brown cleared a fighter pilot to drop

bombs. When the smoke cleared the tree was now just a stick in the ground, he said. Enemy resistance waned, and Brown took a breath. The reality of the fire fight sank in. Somewhere in the midst of the battle his friend and teammate, Cunningham, had been hit, the wounds fatal.

The pararescueman was among seven killed on the mountainside that day.

“A lot happened in those 14 to 15 hours,” Brown said. “There will always be the variables you can’t control. Throughout the events you are mentally tired and mentally alert. You can only focus on what needs to be done right then and there. You grieve later.”

As the Americans gained control over the maddening firefight, other teams were cleared to come in and pull them out.

“We should all stand tall and take pride in

knowing that all our men — those who made it off the mountain and those who did not — are heroes,” said the senior ranking special tactics officer in theater.

“In sacrificing their lives and facing down a numerically superior enemy, they set the standard for all of us. I can tell you unequivocally that everyone performed with great valor. On that there is no question.”

The close-air support had stopped the enemy from overrunning the Americans on the mountain and provided a show of force against those seeking to reinforce the enemy troop movements.

With the landing zone cleared and darkness falling, the Americans were extracted from the mountain top. Two helicopters moved in to pull out the wounded, the survivors and those who had given their lives in the fight against terrorism.

Promotions, retirements & 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:

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

- Nicholas Dobson**,
123rd Student Flt.
- Ashlee Richards**,
123rd Student Flt.

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- William Adams**,
123rd Student Flt.
- David Flannery**,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Joshua Hammons**,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Matthew Parker**,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Kenneth White**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Timothy Zozula**,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

- Matthew Atkinson**,
123rd Operations Support Flt.
- Christopher Harlan**,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Dustin Pennington**,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Bernard Quill**,
123rd Logistics Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

- Andrea Binkley**,
123rd Communications Flt.
- Baron Bodner**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Heather Miller**,
123rd Logistics Sq.

MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

- Wallace Garner**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Harold Givens**,
165th Weather Flt.

- Robert Kelly**,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Jeffrey Sarver**,
165th Weather Flt.
- Scott Wanner**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

- Maj. Kenneth Peters**,
123rd Support Gp.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:

- Airman 1st Class Mitzi Morgan**,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Nigh**,
123rd Services Flt.

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