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Hoyt, Youdell and Rosa named wing's 2003 Outstanding Airmen of the Year



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tommy Downs/KyANG

TOP: Mason Hoyt, who was recently promoted to staff sergeant, is the Outstanding Airman of Year winner in the airman category. Sergeant Hoyt saved the lives of 500 Kurdish fighters and his own team while deployed in Iraq.

BOTTOM: Staff Sgt. Joe Youdell, a pararescueman from the 123rd Special Tactics Flight, was responsible for providing emergency medical care in Iraq after 1,000 U.S. soldiers parachuted into the country.

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Cargo Courier Editor

Being a member of one of the most highly decorated Air National Guard units in the country is no easy task. In fact, it's quite a challenge, wing leaders say.

That's because the Air Force core values — integrity, service and excellence — aren't optional in an organization of this caliber. They're essential.

That commitment to excellence is apparent each year when enlisted leaders gather for the difficult task of selecting who will be named the unit's Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Grant described the 2003 selection process as grueling, adding that each airman was scrutinized for leadership traits, significant self-improvement, and base and community involvement.

"The successes of the 123rd Airlift Wing are due to an extraordinary team effort," Chief Grant said. "However, in the midst of this team, there are those who distinguished themselves as leaders and outstanding performers.

"Of this elite group of airmen, there were 25 individuals nominated for the Outstanding Airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the Year for the Kentucky Air National Guard."

While all of the candidates were exceptional, Grant said, three were deemed a cut above the rest — Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa, Staff Sgt. Joe Youdell and Senior Airman Mason Hoyt.

Hoyt, who recently was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant, is a combat controller in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron here. Sergeant Hoyt's job requires him to deploy into remote locations, where he establishes and controls aircraft landing and drop zones, sets up communications links, and provides command and control of aircraft. He also uses demolitions to clear obstacles and can provide surveying capabilities and weather observations.

The correct application of these skills saves lives, said Senior Master Sgt. Tom DeSchane, a fellow combat controller and Sergeant Hoyt's supervisor here.

Last year while deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant Hoyt "showed outstanding professionalism and

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Wing is comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms

A

powerful, harmonious military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms, prepared to successfully wage war,

and provide world-class service to community, state and nation.

In the last issue of The Cargo Courier, I began to break the vision statement of the 123rd Airlift Wing into its various parts in an attempt to make sure that every member of the wing understands what we want to be, so that we can all travel down the same road to get there.

At that time we talked about what kind of an organization we want to be — “a powerful, harmonious military organization” — and what that entailed.

This month I want to talk about the kind of people we need to fulfill the second part of the vision — “comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms.”

We must never forget that every member of the wing joined us because he or she wanted to. Some of our members joined because they liked the extra money and educational benefits, or because they liked airplanes and wanted to fly or be around them. Others joined because they wanted the camaraderie of a military organization.

One thing that we all have in common, however, is pride in our country and a sense of obligation as citizens of this great country. Because we are fortunate to be a part of this great state and nation, we feel an obligation to serve.



Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

That is why we never lack for people to volunteer and answer the bell when we are called to support contingency operations abroad or emergency operations in Kentucky.

We are, and always want to be, an organization that responds not because of coercion or arm-twisting or fear of the boss, but because of a sense of obligation and duty to community, state and nation.

We must continue to capitalize on this concept of citizenship and the pride that results when people realize the obligations inherent in the concept, and

then fulfill that obligation.

Never before in the modern history of our country has such a small percentage of our population served in the military.

This is true in our neighborhoods, as well as City Hall, the Statehouse and Congress. Because of this we can only survive and flourish if our pride in citizenship is so visible that it creates a very positive impression and has a lasting effect upon our neighbors as well as our leaders.

Our pride and enthusiasm must be contagious if we are to recruit our neighbors and win the support of our elected officials.

Along with pride in citizenship, our folks must be dedicated to the profession of arms. We must realize that the military is not merely a job, it is a way of life.

All members of this organization must look at themselves not as part-time airmen, NCOs or officers, but as full-time airmen, NCOs and officers with part-time availability. We are members of the military all the time; we are on duty only some of the time.

As members of the military we have certain obligations, such as adhering to regulatory requirements and living up to the tenets of duty, honor, country and the core values of integrity, service before self, excellence in all we do, empathy and a spirit of fun.

NCOs and officers must think of themselves as leaders and live up to the responsibility of leadership. Airmen must con-

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123rd Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Wing Commander.....Col. Michael Harden
Wing Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. Dale Greer
Editor.....Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell
Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Mark Flener

How to contact us:

Phone: (502) 364-9431
Fax: (502) 364-9676
E-mail: amy.mundell@kyloui.ang.af.mil



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Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

Happy Homecoming

Staff Sgt. Ryan Russell, a crew chief in the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is greeted here Jan. 17 by his wife, Amanda, and son, Drew, following a 45-day deployment to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

Sergeant Russell is among more than 400 Kentucky airmen who deployed last year in support of the Global War on Terror. The deployment was Sergeant Russell's third in less than a year.

Tired of failed relationships?

February is the time for valentines, flowers, special cards and gifts that express our love to that someone special.

It's also one of the biggest days for chocolate sales, except maybe Halloween.

Some of us mistakenly think that the right gift to the right person will produce the right relationship for a lifetime.

Yet, again and again, relationships fail. Why?

The answer can be illustrated by two models for building relationships.

One can be called the Hollywood method. It has four easy steps: (1) Find the right person; (2) Fall in love; (3) Fix your hopes and dreams on that person; (4) If failure occurs, repeat steps 1, 2 and 3.

The typical Hollywood marriage lasts about as long as the milk in your refrigerator.

A better approach to lasting relationships is published in an insightful book by Chip Ingram titled "Love, Sex, and Lasting Relationships."

Pastor Ingram presents God's model for lasting relationships.

After all, God created men, women and

the institution of marriage.

The model says, instead of finding the right person, become the right person.

You will be attracted to healthy relationships instead of manipulators.

Second, instead of falling in love, walk in love.

Be imitators of God, who loves us with unconditional and faithful love.

Love grows over a long period. Infatuation dies away when you stay away.

Third, instead of fixing your hopes and dreams on that person, fix your hopes and dreams on God's purpose for the relationship.

God's desire for your relationship is everything you've always wanted: personal growth, intimacy, passion, fidelity and security.

If you have a failed relationship, take time to become the right person, walk in love and fix your hopes on God.

This is part of the abundant life God intended for you to enjoy.

—Lt. Col. Tom Curry
Wing Chaplain

Chaplain's Column

Citizens

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stantly strive to learn more and become the best orders clerks, wrench-benders or services people in the Air Force.

We all must remember that we are a part of the strongest military in the world. We represent, and are a product of, all of those proud airmen who came before us, and we must never do anything that will bring dishonor on this unit and those who served before us.

The profession of arms, like citizenship, has some unique obligations that take dedication and commitment to fulfill.

Just as we are citizens all the time, we are members of the profession of arms all the time. They both require dedication, pride and commitment.

Next month we will talk about the final piece of our vision — and when we're through maybe we will all have an understanding of what we really want to be.

Thanks Loads!

Ky. father-and-daughter duo deploy together

Farquhars support civil engineering mission in Baghdad

By Capt. Carrie Clear
447th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs Officer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — It's been said that a family which prays together, stays together. But what about the family that deploys together?

One family here might be able to answer that question.

Chief Master Sgt. Glenn Farquhar and his daughter, Airman First Class Desiree Farquhar, both belong to the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

Both deployed in November in support of ongoing operations at Baghdad International Airport.

Chief Farquhar, who has served nearly 34 years in the military, is a member of the readiness office. Airman Farquhar, who works in the supply section, has less than four years' military service under her belt.

The Farquhars are an Air Guard family from Kentucky's 123rd Airlift Wing.

Chief Farquhar's wife, Senior Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar, recently retired from the Kentucky Air Guard.

They also have another daughter who served in the same unit, as well as twin boys, age 13.

"I tell them there's no pressure to join," the chief said. "There's been a Farquhar in the Kentucky Guard for 50 years."

Not only is this the first time the father-and-daughter team have deployed together, this is the first time Airman Farquhar has even been TDY.

"I like having dad here, except when the sirens go off and I have to worry where he is," she said.

She did admit, however, that her mother likes the fact that her father is there with her.

In addition, Airman Farquhar said that having her dad with her takes away some of the homesickness she might feel if he weren't around.

Chief Farquhar, who has participated in numerous deployments throughout his career, agrees.

"It's a little bit of home being together,"



Staff Sgt. Levi Collins/USAF

Chief Master Glenn Farquhar and his daughter, Airman 1st Class Desiree Farquhar, perform during a holiday candle-light service at Camp Sather in Baghdad, Iraq.

The Farquhars, both from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron, deployed in November in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. More than 50 members of the squadron remain deployed at Camp Sather.

he said. "I worry less about her because I'm here."

—Tech Sgt. Amy Mundell contributed information to this article.



Photo courtesy of the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron/KyANG

A little bit of Bluegrass in BAGHDAD

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron cheer their home state rivals as they watch the University of Kentucky-University of Louisville basketball game here Dec. 27 on the Armed Forces Network. The unit currently is deployed here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hoyt, Youdell and Rosa named wing's top airmen

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knowledge for his grade," Sergeant DeSchane said.

In one incident, while Sergeant Hoyt was near Mosul, Iraq, he and his team encountered heavy artillery fire but managed to maneuver behind enemy lines. Sergeant Hoyt then coordinated coalition aircraft to the target and destroyed the enemy's effectiveness, saving the lives of about 500 Kurdish fighters and his own team, Sergeant DeSchane said.

In addition to Sergeant Hoyt's military duties, he is a full-time student at the University of Louisville's Speed School of Engineering.

Despite such a busy schedule, Sergeant Hoyt remains dedicated to the unit and his team, Sergeant DeSchane said.

"On school days during the week after class, he always stops by the unit to check on training schedules and see how he can help out," Sergeant DeSchane said.

Sergeant Hoyt joined the unit after leaving the active-duty Air Force in 2002. He is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1170 and works to recruit new special tactics personnel.

Staff Sgt. Joe Youdell, the second Outstanding Airman of the Year, is a pararescueman in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

Sergeant Youdell's primary mission is to provide civil and combat rescue services in all environments, including mountain terrain, the open ocean and swift water. He participates in search and recovery missions, provides emergency medical care and may even act as an aircrew gunner and/or scanner aboard aircraft.

The former active-duty combat controller cross-trained into pararescue after joining the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1999.

His supervisor, Master Sgt. Ryan Schultz, said Sergeant Youdell's contributions to the mission have been exceptional.

Sergeant Youdell deployed into Northern Iraq last year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, moving behind enemy lines and into Bashur. While there, he provided medical support for the largest tactical airborne jumps since World War II, with more than 1,000 soldiers participating.

He immediately treated and evacuated



Staff Sgt. Tommy Downs/KyANG

Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa spent three months in Afghanistan guarding the country's president, Hamid Karzai, last year. Prior to that, Sergeant Rosa spent two months in Iraq, arriving in the northern part of the country just days before Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

three critically injured parachutists. Moreover, Sergeant Youdell also assisted in the establishment and continued operations of a critical airfield in Northern Iraq.

He set up airfield lighting equipment necessary for takeoffs and landings and marshalled aircraft to critical off-loading points, directly contributing to the airfield's success, Sergeant Schultz said.

As a result, more than 100,000 metric tons of equipment and more than 10,000 troops were able to enter the combat zone and establish the northern front in Iraq.

Back home, Sergeant Youdell cares deeply about his community, Sergeant Schultz said. He regularly volunteers at Louisville's Habitat for Humanity, a charity that builds homes for disadvantaged families, and volunteers at a church-sponsored soup kitchen.

"Joe is an outstanding performer who sets very high standards and goals for himself, Sergeant Schultz said. "He strives to excel in all that he does, whether it has to do with his job or his personal life."

The third KyANG member to be honored with an award is Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa, the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron's

combat control superintendent.

Sergeant Rosa is responsible for leading, equipping and managing combat control assets, supervising forward-deployed airfields and guiding munitions onto enemy targets.

Maj. Jeremy Shoop, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron and Sergeant Rosa's supervisor, praised the sergeant for the huge impact he's made in the war on terror.

While deployed last year, Sergeant Rosa spent about two months in Iraq, arriving just days before fighting began.

He was assigned to an Army Special Forces A-Team, where he was responsible for bringing in firepower from Air Force fighters, bombers and gunships. During the assignment, Sergeant Rosa was in direct contact with the Iraq military, and his unit took mortar fire.

After the demand for combat controllers began to ease up in Iraq, Sergeant Rosa deployed to Afghanistan to protect the life of the country's president, Hamid Karzai.

There, Sergeant Rosa assisted the president's security detail with counter-ter-

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KyANG unit profile

123rd Communications Flight

Leadership

Lt. Col. Mary McCallie has commanded the unit since 1996.



Mission

To provide continuous communications support to the 123rd Airlift Wing, including all telecommunications, computers, radio, multimedia, information management and information assurance functions.

Personnel

The flight has approximately 50 members, about 15 of whom are full time. The remainder are traditional, part-time reservists.

Global engagement

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the flight's taskings have grown substantially due to the wing's two activations. Immediately after the attacks, the flight provided 24-hour messaging and switchboard service to support the mobilization of Kentucky airmen.

The flight currently provides deployed personnel with e-mail service and support for morale calls to family members, allowing deployed personnel to talk to loved ones on a regular basis.

The flight also has provided many deployed personnel with computers that allow them to do their jobs more efficiently.

Back home, the unit is an integral part of the base threat working group, providing information on electronic and cyber threats.

Above & beyond



Master Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Lt. Col. Dawn Muller, commander of the 123rd Military Personnel Flight, presents Staff Sgt. John Carey Jr. with the Air National Guard 2003 Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System Certificate of Excellence Award during the January drill.

Wing's top airmen honored tonight

Continued from Page 5

rorism measures, coordinated medevac and worked with intelligence personnel.

In fact, Sergeant Rosa was the only military member to serve on the detail, Major Shoop said.

In addition, Sergeant Rosa attempted to save the life of a Department of State sniper who had a heart attack while of duty.

Sergeant Rosa diligently attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation for more than 45 minutes before the man was declared dead.

For these efforts and more, Major Shoop described Sergeant Rosa as a truly exceptional member of the military and a role model for others.

"Jon obviously does a specialized job in a very elite environment and has made a major impact on a personal level, not just in the Global War on Terror, and not just in the campaign in Northern Iraq, but also by being chosen to guard president (Hamid) Karzai's life," the major said.

"Professionally, Jon has made a huge impact."

And now, he added, Sergeant Rosa is a combat-experienced senior NCO with 20 years' military service.

Sergeant Rosa currently is pursuing a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry Riddle University. He also donates time by working to protect veterans' rights and is active in the Air Force Association.

"He's a stellar performer in a unit of stellar performers," Major Shoop said.

"I'm extremely honored that special tactics personnel won for all three (Airmen of the Year) categories, because so many people did so many good things."

A banquet to honor Hoyt, Youdell and Rosa will be held tonight at the Paroquet Springs Convention Center in Shepherdsville, Ky. The event gets underway at 6 p.m. and will feature Chief Master Sgt. Vickie Mauldin, command chief master sergeant of the Air Force Material Command.

USAF logo authorized on lightweight jacket

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force Uniform Board members have introduced a new addition to the lightweight blue jacket.

“The Air Force chief of staff approved adding the Air Force logo to the existing lightweight blue jacket,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean of the Air Force Uniform Board.

About 300 jackets will be distributed Air Force-wide for wear testing in the coming weeks, Sergeant Dean said. Board members are targeting Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as a distribution point because of its high number of temporary duty officers and enlisted airmen.

“Because the TDY members come from so many bases throughout the Air Force, giving them out at Maxwell allows us to reach a large audience in a short amount of time,” Sergeant Dean said.

Airmen receiving the jackets will test them and give feedback to the uniform board about fraying or other problems with the embroidery, Sergeant Dean said.

Anyone not issued an embroidered jacket can have the logo applied to his or her jacket by a local embroidery shop — as long as certain guidelines are followed, she said.

The Air Force logo is to be embroidered in a polyester white meridian thread with a stiff tear-off backing, according to information provided by Libby Glade, Air Force clothing office chief. The total stitch count of the logo and lettering will be between 4,200 and 5,000 stitches.

The symbol is to fit within a two-inch square. There is a one-fourth inch space between the symbol’s lowest point and the “U.S. AIR FORCE” type.

The “U.S. AIR FORCE” type is to be one-fourth of an inch high, 3.5 inches long, in all capital Arial font, 24 point.

The symbol is to be embroidered on the upper left chest.

The dot in the center of the symbol is centered vertically between the shoulder seam and where the underarm side seam joins the armhole sleeve, and centered horizontally between the zipper and the sleeve armhole seam. Rank on the jacket continues to be worn on either the collar or the sleeve.



Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi/USAF

Air Force Uniform Board members have introduced an embroidered Air Force logo as an optional-wear item on the lightweight blue jacket.

AF Medical Service strongly advises airmen to contact physician before taking Ephedra following FDA alert

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General PAO

WASHINGTON — Following an FDA alert, Air Force Medical Service officials are once again “strongly advising” airmen to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

Food and Drug Administration officials have issued a consumer alert on the safety of dietary supplements containing ephedra that calls for consumers to immediately stop buying and using ephedra products.

Besides issuing an alert, FDA officials are notifying manufacturers that they intend to publish a final rule stating dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids present an unreasonable risk of illness or injury. The rule would have the effect of banning the sale of these products as soon

as it becomes effective, 60 days after publication.

“FDA will publish a final rule as soon as possible that will formalize its conclusions that dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids present unreasonable risks to those who take them for any reason,” said Tommy G. Thompson, health and human services secretary.

“(The action) puts companies on notice of our intentions, and it tells consumers that the time to stop using ephedra products is now,” Mr. Thompson said.

“We are taking action today to notify Americans about the unreasonable risk of ephedra as currently marketed in dietary supplements,” said Dr. Mark B. McClellan, FDA commissioner. “Our action is based on diligent and thorough work by the agency as required by the challenging legal standard in the dietary supplement law.

“We worked hard to obtain and review all

the available evidence about the risks and benefits of ephedra, including its pharmacology, studies of ephedra’s safety and effectiveness, adverse event reports, and reviews by independent experts,” Dr. McClellan said.

In September 2002, the Air Force surgeon general issued a revised policy covering dietary supplements containing ephedra that strongly discouraged the use of such supplements and highlighted associated risk factors.

In November 2002, the Air Force’s surgeon general issued a notice to airmen on the potential risks associated with dietary supplements containing ephedra, following the death of a young airman.

These medical notices are released by the AFMS clinical quality management division to disseminate lessons learned from medical incident investigations and other pertinent events.

Romans selected as first sergeant of the year

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

Master Sgt. Gregg Romans of the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron has been named the Kentucky Air National Guard's 2003 First Sergeant of the Year.

As a first sergeant, Sergeant Romans is responsible for serving as a liaison between the enlisted troops and the commander, ensuring that their concerns are voiced.

Sergeant Romans, who was activated last year for Operation Iraqi Freedom, said he was surprised to discover he won.

"I'm elated and humbled at the same time," Sergeant Romans said. "There are so many really good first sergeants on this base. I was surprised, to say the least."

During his activation, Sergeant Romans served for six months as the lead first sergeant supporting deployed units at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He was responsible for about 350 maintenance, operations and support personnel.

Sergeant Romans attributes his success during the mission to watching over and providing support to the airmen.

"We made sure troops had as little distraction as possible and people were taken care of," Sergeant Romans said.

Lt. Col. Johnny Jones, commander of the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, said Sergeant Romans was highly



Master Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Master Sgt. Gregg Romans, from the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named 2003 First Sergeant of the Year.

deserving of the award.

"I'm very delighted he's been selected," Colonel Jones said. "I have received nothing but compliments from people who deployed with him in regards to his service as first shirt."

Sergeant Romans is a 16-year member of the Air Guard. Prior to that, he served three years on Air Force active duty.

**123rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs Office
Kentucky Air National Guard
1101 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY 40213-2678**

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