

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XX, No. 11 • Nov. 6, 2004

Wing's Rosa named top USAF airman

Special tactics troop has made a career out of seeking new challenges

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Jon Rosa gazed out the window of the control tower at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., and wondered if life shouldn't offer something more.

The air traffic controller had been thinking about little else for months, and now, in the fall of 1991, he decided it was time to find out.

After an accomplished 10-year career directing air traffic for the Air Force, Sergeant Rosa filed for a discharge from active duty and prepared to enter the uncharted waters of the civilian workforce.

Fatefully enough, his journey would bring him right back to a full-time job with the U.S. military just a few years later, and in 2004 the Kentucky Air Guard combat controller would be named one of the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

But back in 1991, Sergeant Rosa needed a new challenge. He relished air traffic control — especially the opportunity it offered to see



Senior Airman Phillip Speck/KyANG

See ROSA, Page 4 Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa is one of the 12 USAF Outstanding Airmen for 2004.

Morrow selected as assistant to NORAD commander

Cargo Courier Staff Report

FRANKFORT, KY — Brig. Gen. Henry C. Morrow has been selected as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, located at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Donald C. Storm, announced Sept. 28.



MORROW

General Morrow leaves his former position as the assistant adjutant general for Air for the Kentucky National Guard to become the senior National Guard officer at NORAD.

He will advise the commander and his staff on wartime and peacetime operational capabilities of the National Guard.

"Gen. Morrow is a fine officer and well

deserving of this position," General Storm said. "His contributions have helped transform the Kentucky National Guard into a viable force in the face of the War on Terror and no doubt will represent the National Guard well in this new position."

General Morrow will remain affiliated with the Kentucky National Guard but will be assigned to NORAD in Colorado. On an interim basis, Col. Robert Yaple will assume Morrow's former duties while a nationwide search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

The general received his Air Force commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Clemson University in South Carolina in 1977.

He continued his education in Europe at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, completing a master's degree in Aeronautical Science in 1984. An outstanding graduate of undergraduate pilot

See MORROW, Page 3

'Service Before Self' demonstrates the depth of our resolve

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rom the moment we raised our right hands and repeated the oath of office or enlistment, we signed up to the premise of "Service Before Self."

We freely accept that sacred trust of the military profession from the American people in what Gen. Sir John Hackett called "the unlimited liability clause."

We swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and in so doing, we formally set ourselves apart from the general populous.

Service, by the very nature of the word, imbues a sense of sacrifice of something — of self will, of time, of talent or skill — to another.

Literally defined, it is the employment in duties or work for another; an act of assistance or benefit to others.

With the embodiment of Service Before Self as an Air Force core value, we are told that professional duties take precedence over personal desires, and that, at the very least, includes the following behaviors:

Rule following. To serve is to do one's duty, and our duties are most commonly expressed through rules. While it may be the case that professionals are expected to exercise judgment in the performance of their duties, good professionals understand that rules have a reason for being, and the de-



Col. Mark Kraus
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

fault position must be to follow those rules unless there is a clear, operational reason for refusing to do so.

Respect for others. Service Before Self tells us also that a good leader places the troops ahead of his/her personal comfort. We must always act in the certain knowledge that all persons possess a fundamental worth as human beings.

Discipline and self-control. Professionals cannot indulge themselves in self-pity, discouragement, anger, frustration or defeat-

ism. They have a fundamental moral obligation to the people they lead to strike a tone of confidence and forward-looking optimism.

Faith in the system. To lose faith in the system is to adopt the view that you know better than those above you in the chain of command what should or should not be done. In other words, to lose faith in the system is to place self before service. Leaders can be very influential in this regard: If a leader resists the temptation to doubt 'the system,' then subordinates may follow suit.

"Airmen," former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman noted, "are part of a unique profession that is founded on the premise of service before self. We are not engaged in just another job; we are practitioners of the profession of arms. We are entrusted with the security of our nation, the protection of its citizens, and the preservation of its way of life. In this capacity, we serve as guardians of America's future. By its very nature, this responsibility requires us to place the needs of our service and our country before personal concerns. No other profession expects it's members to lay down their lives for their friends, families or freedoms.

"But our profession readily expects its members to willingly risk their lives in performing their professional duties. By voluntarily serving in the military profession,

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

Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 12.

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Base honors Lt. Col. Rhodes

The 123rd Airlift Wing is honoring Lt. Col. Paul Rhodes tonight with a dinner in the Base Annex.

Colonel Rhodes, the wing's deputy vice commander, is retiring this month after more than 32 years of military service.

The colonel joined the Kentucky Air Guard in 1976, following a four-year tour in the active duty Air Force. He has served as RF-4C weapons system operator and is a C-130 master navigator with more than 4,500 flying hours.

For more information on the dinner, contact the 123rd Airlift Wing Orderly room at ext. 4404.

Morrow

Continued from Front Page

training, General Morrow has served as an F-111 and F-16 instructor pilot.

His flying assignments include two tours in Europe — one in the F-111F, and one in the F-16. After completing the USAF F-16 Fighter Weapons School in 1985, he was assigned to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and served as both a squadron and wing weapons officer.

General Morrow's assignments have included time with the Texas Air National Guard as the 182nd Fighter Squadron Commander; 149th Fighter Wing Operations Group commander; director of operations, Headquarters, Texas Air National Guard; vice commander, 147th Fighter Wing, Houston; and wing commander, 149th Fighter Wing, San Antonio.

He joined the Kentucky Air National Guard in March 2002 and previously served as the chief of staff, Headquarters, KyANG.

The general is a combat veteran and command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in trainer and fighter aircraft.

Louisville Sluggers



Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Bradley Michael

The 123rd Airlift Wing took top honors in the 4th-annual Adjutant General's Easter Seals Softball Tournament, which was held Sept. 25 in Frankfort, Ky. The KyANG men beat out six other teams from Army Guard units across the state.

Weather suspends Oak airlift

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Bad weather forced KyANG officials to temporarily suspend Coronet Oak flying operations in Puerto Rico from Sept. 14 to 16 while Tropical Storm Jeanne passed through.

Jeanne, which was later upgraded to a hurricane and caused more than 1,000 deaths in Haiti, buffeted Puerto Rico with winds in excess of 70 miles per hour, said Maj. Jeff Harrison, a pilot in the 165th Airlift Squadron and the mission commander in Puerto Rico during the storm.

All C-130 aircraft were evacuated to Florida on Sept. 14 and returned on Sept. 16, the day after Jeanne made landfall on the island commonwealth.

About 30 Kentucky maintenance troops and support staff stayed behind in Puerto Rico during the storm, including Major

Harrison.

Island officials cut off all power the morning of Sept. 15 and didn't restore electricity until Sept. 18, he said. In the meantime, people survived on non-perishable food.

"It was like Survivor," he said. "We had no power in our hotel rooms, and there wasn't a lot to eat."

Major Harrison, who was in his hotel room when Jeanne hit, described a storm typified by extremely heavy rain, low clouds and strong winds.

"Standing on the balcony was like riding in your car with the window down at 70 miles per hour," he said.

Coronet Oak is an airlift mission that supports U.S. military operations and government agencies in the Southern Command Area of Responsibility.

The wing is providing airlift for the mission through January 2005.

Rosa

Continued from Front Page

exotic aircraft and travel the world on short-tour exercises, including assignments in Germany, Honduras, Korea and Panama.

Things were, however, becoming a little too routine. Sergeant Rosa enlisted as an airman basic right out of high school, and he steadily advanced through the ranks until he'd fully mastered his job. Now, Sergeant Rosa was beginning to assume more management responsibilities — writing airmen's performance reports and serving as a team leader — which signaled an increase in paperwork and a decrease in operational engagement.

"I had risen to a seven-level, I was a watch supervisor, and I was starting to get into management," Sergeant Rosa recalled. "But it just wasn't enough. I needed something more exciting."

And so he left the world of BDUs to seek a new challenge from an alphabet soup of federal agencies, applying to the CIA, DEA, FBI, FAA, U.S. Customs and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

In the meantime, he got a job managing a private airport in Key Largo, Fla., near Homestead. He also heard about an Air Force Reserve pararescue unit there that seemed to offer the kind of challenge and excitement he was seeking.

Sergeant Rosa took and passed the unit's mandatory Physical Ability and Stamina Test, or PAST, a kind of pre-screening for special tactics candidates, and he completed a flight physical before being told he would have to wait for funding to send him through the pararescue training course.

Then an old friend told him about the Kentucky Air Guard's relatively new 123rd Special Tactics Flight, which was home to the only combat control unit in the Air National Guard.

Combat controllers deploy into austere environments, establish and manage forward-deployed airfields, and guide munitions onto enemy targets — a job description that certainly appealed to Sergeant Rosa.

He wasted no time phoning up the unit and asking the training manager about possible vacancies.

"He gave me the line that he undoubtedly said so many times before: 'It takes a

lot of training, and you're going to have to take the PAST test,' " Sergeant Rosa recalled.

"And I said, 'Well, I've already taken it.' I faxed it to him, and he said, 'That's Great!'"

"Then I told him I was already an air traffic controller, so I wouldn't have to get qualified. He said, 'Great! Fax me that, too!'"

"Then I said I already had a class-three flight physical. He said, 'Great!' again. So I faxed him that!"

And just like that, by early 1994 Sergeant Rosa was back in the military — this time as a Kentucky Air Guardsman — and on his way through the combat control "pipeline," a year-and-a-half-long series of specialized training courses that included Airborne School, Special Forces SCUBA school, USAF Survival School and high-altitude parachute training.

The most difficult part, however, might have been the first component, a three-month "selection course" designed to push candidates to their limits with constant mental and physical stress.

Sergeant Rosa described the experience as "12 weeks of heinous pain and agony to see if (the candidates) have the intestinal fortitude to do these jobs."

The training is so difficult, in fact, that between 80 and 90 percent of the candidates wash out before graduation — the highest rate of any of the Special Operations schools, Sergeant Rosa said.

Such a high attrition rate rightfully concerned him, but Sergeant Rosa thrives on facing new challenges — a mindset he developed in part by competing aggressively in track and field events as a high school athlete in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"I was concerned about it, but the only way to allay my fears was to be in the best shape that I could be," Sergeant Rosa said. "I had a very structured training program, based on the recommendations of other combat controllers, and that helped me prepare for the experience."

"The whole time I was in the pipeline, I never failed any of the running, swimming or physical events."

"I just took each day as an individual challenge. I told myself: Today, I'm going to do the best that I can on whatever task I have before me."

That attitude got Sergeant Rosa through the combat control pipeline, and it has served him well in the nine years since.

He accepted a full-time position with the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Flight in 1995 (the unit is now a squad-

ron) and hasn't looked back.

During that time, he's participated in scores of classified missions and deployed to dozens of countries around the world, including sites on every continent save Antarctica.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began to gear up in 2003, Sergeant Rosa deployed to Northern Iraq to train Kurdish rebels as part of an Army Green Beret team. He arrived just days before fighting began and was in direct contact with the Iraqi military, taking enemy mortar fire while controlling more than 40 close-air support sorties.

Sergeant Rosa was credited with 110 confirmed enemy kills before being re-deployed to Afghanistan two months later as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

While in Afghanistan, Sergeant Rosa was assigned to protect the life of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Because of an earlier assassination attempt by Karzai's Afghan bodyguards, the president's security detail was now staffed entirely by Americans, and Sergeant Rosa was the only military member on the force.

As a combat controller, he assisted with counter-terrorism measures and coordinated medevac resources in a hostile environment, ultimately earning a bronze star for his actions.

Maj. Jeremy Shoop, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, said Sergeant Rosa's selection for the detail speaks volumes about his performance and the skills that combat controllers bring to the table.

"That was an immense statement of faith in Jon's ability, as well as a real shot in the arm for the reputation of the 123rd STS and all combat control personnel across the Air Force," he said.

Rosa, now a senior master sergeant, was further recognized earlier this year when he was named one of the U.S. Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year — an honor that he said "humbled" him.

"I never thought I possessed a collection of attributes that sets me apart," Sergeant Rosa said. "I work with a bunch of people who always excel, every day in everything they do. That ethos is prevalent throughout our unit."

Major Shoop agrees about the quality of his troops, but he has no doubt that Sergeant Rosa earned his title.

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Left: Afghan President Hamid Karzai meets with town elders in Ghanzi, Afghanistan, prior to giving a speech. (Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa/KyANG)

Below: Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa talks on a satellite radio to Bagram Air Base. (Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Jon Rosa/KyANG)



Stephen P. Condon, president of the Air Force Association, presents the Airman of the Year Award to Senior Master Sgt. Rosa with his Airman of the Year Award in Arlington, D.C., on Sept. 13. (Photo by Larry McTighe/USAF)



on to the mission, a dedication to
ession of arms and a warrior spirit,”
hoop said.
se are all things that make him a
erator, a good leader and a good
tel.
a sterling performer.”

Blum: Guard plays big role in war on terrorism

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — America’s citizen soldiers are taking an unprecedented role in the global war on terrorism, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said here Oct. 8.

While the National Guard has always been in the homeland-defense business, it is being used in a new and different way, Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum told media at the Foreign Press Center.

He noted that the Guard bureau acts as an operational force supporting the Army and the Air Force overseas and defending the homeland in the United States — and doing both simultaneously.

The Guard is deployed around the globe in support of every combatant commander. At home, it has responded to DoD missions and state missions, such as assisting in cleanup efforts after natural disasters.

“You can see the National Guard is participating in every single aspect of our national-security strategy,” General Blum said. “(Defense of the homeland) is always Job One for the National Guard. But it doesn’t always mean we have to defend the homeland here at home.”

At the request of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, the National Guard is becoming a more meaningful and useful tool in the global war on terrorism.

To this end, the Guard transforming from a strategic reserve — to be called only in the event of World War III — to an operational force to be called up as needed for any reason, both at home and abroad, General Blum said.

But, he cautioned, this presents challenges.

“We still have a mandate to the govern-

nors to provide them the right force capabilities ... in the right mix and the right size and the right place so that they can handle Hurricane Ivan or they can handle al Qaeda should they visit a neighborhood in the United States,” General Blum said.

To meet these needs, the Guard has established a Joint Force Headquarters in all 54 U.S. states and territories to leverage the capabilities of both the Army and Air National Guards, he said. They are set up to provide capabilities in command, control,

it were attacked or if it suffered a tragedy.”

To become more relevant, ready, accessible and essential to the defense of the country, the National Guard Bureau is taking on some specific initiatives.

One is the development of chemical- and biological-response teams that have special training and equipment to perform mass decontamination, treat mass casualties and extract victims from collapsed buildings.

Each state and territory also has immediate quick-reaction and rapid-response teams capable of delivering a battalion-sized force in less than 24 hours.

Some 32 civil-support teams are trained to identify various weapons and advise local first responders.

Eventually, 54 such teams will be set up. General Blum said these teams “can offer an immediate communications bridge so that the local first responders can plug in to the Department of Defense communications system immediately.”

All elements are tied together through a secure information-technology system, and the Department of Homeland Security’s information network has been integrated for maximum effectiveness.

General Blum called the Guard’s efforts “a tremendous capability that has been developed in the last three years that most people in our own nation don’t even know about.”

“I think we have delivered what we promised: a ready force, a reliable force, absolutely an essential force, and an accessible force — accessible to both the governors here at home and to the president and the secretary of defense and the services when they need them abroad.”

“

(Defense of the homeland) is always Job One for the National Guard. But it doesn't always mean we have to defend the homeland here at home.

”

— Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum,
Chief of the National Guard Bureau

communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance — known in the military as C4ISR.

Each is a tactical joint task force-capable headquarters able to manage any military service element — including active duty, Reserve or National Guard — individually or in combination with other agency and government responders, needed to respond to an incident in any given state or territory.

If needed, the Guard can synchronize responses from across the nation, pulling resources from other areas.

General Blum called it a “very, very powerful model, which means that there is no part of our country that is not protected and would not have the capability to respond if

Members asked to provide data for employer support effort

Cargo Courier Staff Report

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, has directed all Guardsmen to provide the bureau with information on their civilian employers.

The Civilian Employment Information Program is designed to give Guard leaders

access to information that will assist in strengthening the operations of the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR.

“The information will be used for employer outreach programs as we seek to promote community support for our mission and our people,” said Lt. Col. Steve Bullard, di-

rector of administrative services for the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

Members may provide their employer information by visiting <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal/>.

For more information on ESGR, visit www.esgr.org or call Colonel Bullard at (859) 245-1100.

Overseas mail deadlines near

The dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays are fast approaching, according to officials at the Military Postal Service Agency.

Recommended deadlines for sending mail to all overseas military mailing addressees are:

- Parcel post — Nov. 13.
- Space-available — Nov. 27.
- Parcel airlift mail — Dec. 4.
- Priority — Dec. 11 (Dec. 6 for APO 093).
- First-class — Dec. 11 (Dec. 6 for APO 093).
- Express mail military — Dec. 20 (Not applicable for APO 093).

People sending mail to an overseas APO or FPO should not use a geographical location, which will cause the mail to be placed into the international mail system and may cause severe delays.

Because of security restrictions, mass-mailing operations such as Operation Dear Abby or "Any Servicemember" programs currently are not being supported.

Service delivers USAF news

Air Force officials announced a new e-mail service Oct. 20 that gives subscribers an easy to use news summary with links to extensive news and information, as well as audio and video news reports.

Those wishing to receive the free e-mail news summary, called "AF Today," can subscribe by going to Air Force Link at www.af.mil and clicking on "Subscribe" on the right side of the site's banner.

AF Today was developed after analyzing user trends and surveys showing news customers wanted useful information with less clutter.

Utility uniform gets 'pixelated'

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Based on feedback from a six-month wear test, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper decided to expand the current utility uniform testing program to include a pixelated tiger-striped pattern in a new color scheme.

The expansion does not involve a full test; instead, there will be a limited production to test pattern and color, said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, the uniform board superintendent.

"The color scheme is only one of many improvements we are testing," Sergeant Dean said.

A small, select group of testers will wear the newest pattern.

The solid tiger-striped pattern with its dominant blue overtones is gone. The latest pixelated test pattern has a more subdued color scheme and is not nearly as distinctive as the one unveiled at the start in August

2003; yet it provides the distinctiveness Airmen have requested, officials said.

"We have sufficient input from Airmen throughout the Air Force to ensure that our uniform decisions are on target with regard to wear, ease of maintenance and fit," Sergeant Dean said.

"We kept hearing throughout the test that Airmen loved the wash-and-wear feature and the fit. The design of the uniform will essentially stay the same, with minor modifications based (on) the wear-testers' recommendations."

General Jumper will announce the final decisions regarding the new utility uniform once the test data are analyzed and presented. Determination is expected within the next two months, officials said.

The new design represents a uniform that could be universally worn in all environments, fits better than current Battle Dress Uniforms, or BDUs, and is easier and less expensive to maintain.

The Right Stuff



Photo courtesy Air Force Association

Leaders from the 123rd Airlift Wing accept the Air Force Association's Air National Guard Outstanding Airmanship Award during a ceremony held Sept. 13 in Washington, D.C. The award is given annually to the top Air National Guard flying unit. Pictured from left to right are Brig. Gen. Charles Ickes II, chief operating officer for the Air National Guard; the 123rd Airlift Wing's Lt. Col. Paul Rhodes, Col. Michael Harden and Col. Mark Kraus; and John J. Politi, AFA chairman.

Casing of the Colors

Lt. Col. Jeff Peters, commander of the 165th Weather Flight, cases the unit's colors during an inactivation ceremony held in the base annex Oct. 2. The flight was stood down as part of a reorganization of weather assets across the Air Guard. Most of the unit's members will be absorbed into other KyANG duty sections, which are gaining organic weather capabilities.



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

Service

Continued from Page 2

we accept unique responsibilities. In today's world, service to country requires not only a high degree of skill but a willingness to make personal sacrifices."

There have been periods in the history of our nation where relative peace or stability in the world didn't require much of us beyond the minimum level of inconvenience of our personal lives for our military service as citizen airmen.

I don't really have to tell you that this isn't one of those times. The last three years since 9/11 have awakened us to the limits of our obligations on the opposite end of the scale. The recent release of Osama Bin Laden's latest videotape serves to remind us that he and the terror-mongers that follow his lead intend to continue to test our collective will for freedom.

As long as we, together, steadfastly place service before self, we answer the challenge on the depths of our resolve and commitment to defend our families, our friends and those values we hold dear as Americans.

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