

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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OPERATION Deep FREEZE

Kentucky Air Guardsmen deploy to bottom of the world in support of Antarctic mission

By 1st Lt. April Conway
Support Forces Antarctica

MCMURDO STATION, ANTARCTICA — Most Louisvillians got their first taste of winter this season when an arctic storm front dumped up to six inches of snow and ice on the city a few days before Christmas.

For Master Sgts. Jeff Romig and Scott Wanner, however, the chilly white stuff had been a daily part of their routines since mid-November, when they first arrived at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, a scientific outpost located on the bottom of the world.

The Kentucky Air Guardsmen deployed here as part of Operation Deep Freeze and Support Forces Antarctica, both of which are tasked with supporting the National Science Foundation and the many research projects that take place in Antarctica each austral summer.

Sergeant Romig, a member of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, volunteered for his six-week rotation after seeing a request for cargo inspectors come down through the National Guard Bureau. He believes an open mind and willing attitude earned him the experience of a lifetime.

"It's amazing here," he said. "The job that's done in this

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Top Right: Master Sgts. Jeff Romig and Scott Wanner inspect a series of pallets before they're loaded onto an LC-130 for transport out of McMurdo Station.

Bottom Right: Sergeant Wanner tightens the straps securing these 55-gallon drums of gasoline.



Photos by 1st Lt. April Conway/SFA

ORI offers chance to show passion for excellence

A

quick turn from the January UTA and we're back for February. All indications are that last drill was productive in many different areas of training.

As the wing begins its countdown to the Operational Readiness Inspection in April 2006, we should be ever mindful to devote time and energy to those things that will lead to the successful completion of this inspection.

The calendar is set with month-to-month activities from now until then that will build the skills required.

Last month it was Chemical Warfare Defense Task Qualification Training. This month, we will exercise the Cargo Deployment Function and in March the Personnel Deployment Function.

Teams are being formed that will take us to and through the "Big Game '06," and each of us has an important part to play.

I don't know about you, but I won't be satisfied with "Satisfactory" when the books are closed on this Inspection.

The Air Force Core Value of "Excellence in all we do" is our guiding principle, and the thread of excellence is tightly woven into the fabric of our wing. Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, commander of the Air Combat Command, personalizes the Core Value of Excellence this way:

"Inherent in 'service before self' is a desire for excellence. Now excellence in all we do doesn't mean that we're excellent all the time. It just means that we try, and we try our best. Budget cuts, deadlines and expediency too often attempt to out-shout and



Col. Mark Kraus
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

out-run excellence. Conformity is too easy. Mediocrity is too safe. Too many settle for less than their best and convince themselves quality and integrity are negotiable. But I believe excellence is a commitment to constant improvement. There are only two directions to move in life, either forward or backward; it's impossible to stand still — standing still means you're actually falling behind. To constantly see problems and challenges as opportunities involves a passion for excellence. In the words of Vince Lombardi: 'Unless you put everything you have into your pursuits — your mind, your body, your total dedication — what is life worth? The quality of life is in direct proportion to your commitment to excellence.'

Live your life with a passion for excellence and you can make a difference."

I recently read an article about six-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong. His is a story of incredible courage, commitment and an insurmountable desire for excellence.

To be sure he has an innate talent for cycling, but it would be too easy to explain away his success to that talent alone.

What struck me about the article are the things you don't see that culminate in his victory at the finish line — the months of prior physical, mental and emotional conditioning; the meticulous planning; preparation of equipment; research for a technological edge; team-building exercises and rehearsals, riding the courses months in advance to memorize every hill, pothole or road wash.

The precision of the preparation is what propels him ahead of the competition to the degree that talent alone never would. The employment of these time-tested tools have made Lance Armstrong an athletic phenomenon, but these same tools are transferable to any endeavor where failure is not an option.

Our goal is clear, the timetable is set, the plan is formulated and our focus is narrowing to achieve that goal. Lance Armstrong is the embodiment of General Hornburg's encouragement to "live your life with a passion for excellence (so that) you can make a difference." Excellence awaits us in April 2006, but the work comes before.

LIVESTRONG!

Mark R. Kun

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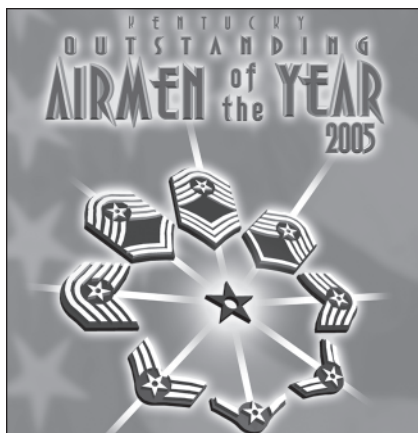
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March banquet to honor wing's Airmen of the Year

The Kentucky Air Guard's 2005 Outstanding Airmen of the Year will be honored at a banquet scheduled for March 5 at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center in Shepherdsville, Ky.

Tickets for the banquet, which will feature entertainment by the Kentucky Army National Guard Band, are \$20 each and may be purchased from any chief master sergeant.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

This year's honorees are Master Sgt. Rhett Perdue, interim training manager in the 123rd Security Forces Squadron; Staff Sgt. Amanda Blackburn, an information management specialist in the 123rd Airlift Wing Headquarters; and Senior Airman Sharon Foster, a relocation employment and readiness technician in the 123rd Military Personnel Flight.

Winners were selected from a pool of 30 nominees from across the base.

The Paroquet Springs Conference Center is located at 395 Paroquet Springs Drive.

CORRECTION

The rank of Chief Master Sgt. Mike Mitro was incorrect in the January 2005 edition of The Cargo Courier.

Kazakhstan defense officials visit wing to evaluate C-130s

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

A delegation of officials from the Republic of Kazakhstan visited the Kentucky Air Guard base on Nov. 18 and 19 to see a top C-130 unit in action and explore the possibility of purchasing Hercules aircraft from the United States.

The delegation included Maj. Gen. Bolat Sembinov, Kazakhstan's deputy minister of defense, who attended several briefings as part of his fact-finding mission, said Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

General Sembinov also flew on an orientation flight that included a heavy-equipment drop and an assault landing. He completed the visit with a tour of base operations, aircraft maintenance and the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron.

The visit was so productive that one Ken-

tucky Air Guard member, Col. Howard Hunt, was invited to visit Kazakhstan two weeks later as part of a U.S. team tasked with evaluating the capability of the former Soviet republic to support C-130s.

"The primary reason I was selected to go was because the Air Force representative who was here in Louisville with General Sembinov liked what he heard and saw at the Kentucky Air Guard," said Colonel Hunt, commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group.

"He wanted someone from the C-130 maintenance community to go over and really scrub their capabilities."

Colonel Hunt spent a week at Almaty Air Base attending briefings and evaluating the Kazakhstani operations.

"Their presentation was designed to assure us of their professionalism, both from

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Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Ashley of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron shows a C-130 turbine module to Maj. Gen. Bolat Sembinov, deputy defense minister of Kazakhstan, during General Sembinov's visit here in November.

Operation Deep Freeze

Continued from Front Page

environment by so many different people from different backgrounds is great.”

Similarly, Sergeant Wanner heard about Deep Freeze two years ago and kept it on his radar screen.

“My goal is to hit every continent (while serving on military deployments),” he said. “Antarctica is my fourth — and probably the toughest one to get.”

While military duty at McMurdo isn’t necessarily foremost in the public’s mind, Operation Deep Freeze has been a military staple since 1957 and largely a Guard mission since 1998.

The 109th Airlift Wing from Scotia, New York, flies LC-130 aircraft that have been modified with skis, allowing them to take off and land on the slick ice and compacted snow that is up to two miles thick at the South Pole.

Sergeant Wanner, who deployed here for five weeks, was impressed by the joint nature of the mission, which is overseen by the U.S. Transportation Command.

“We’ve got people here from the Mississippi, Washington, California, Maryland, Ohio, New York and Nevada Guard units,” he said.

“Along with the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Navy Sealift Command and, later in the season, Coast Guard cutters, it’s really a total-force mission.”

Both Sergeants Romig and Wanner are seasoned aerial port troops, but their joint cargo inspection duty was unlike anything they’d ever imagined.

“We’re working cargo with civilians from the U.S. Antarctic Program, with New Zealand Defense Force people and with ramp folks from Raytheon,” Sergeant Romig said.

“Many things are done with a handshake instead of a form, but it’s friendly and, more importantly, it works.”

The hours are long. Most days, the men were in the warehouse at 3 a.m. and worked until 5 p.m. or later. Sundays were the only days off.

While much of life on the ice is structured, both found time to take in other activities like hiking trips into the many valleys and peaks that surround McMurdo.

Both also visited the historic areas on Ross Island, including some of the camp huts used by Antarctic explorers more than 100 years ago.

“I liked putting myself in the shoes of the early explorers and imagining myself in that era,” Sergeant Wanner said.

“Their experiences down here are so different than ours, but in a way, just the same.”

Other polar pursuits took on new meaning below the 60th parallel.

“We went sledding one day and I scared myself with how fast we got going,” Sergeant Romig said.

“There aren’t any trees or bushes to slow you down.”

Duty lengths for military personnel range from five weeks to six months.

The military community, however, makes up only a small portion of McMurdo residents in the summer.

Hundreds of scientists, researchers, heavy equipment operators and those simply wanting to experience life on the harsh continent make up the diverse population of the station.

On any given day, a lunch table in the dining facility may host the foremost ozone depletion expert in the world, an Air Guard mechanic, a university professor working as a custodian on the ice and a professional dive instructor from Hawaii who now gathers mollusk specimens from frigid polar water.

“The personalities here are very different from military folks but very friendly,” Sergeant Romig said.

“Everyone has been new here at one time or another and has helped out any time I’ve asked.”



1st Lt. April Conway

Master Sgt. Jeff Romig checks the restraints on a pallet of petroleum distillates headed to a deep field Antarctic site.



Courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Barry W.

Airlift into and out of McMurdo Station is provided by the New York Air Guard’s LC-130 transport aircraft, which feature modified landing gear. Special skis have been fitted to the plane’s wheels to allow for landings on packed ice.

Airman gains naval experience at South Pole

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Senior Master Sgt. Barry Wright's recent deployment to Antarctica gives new meaning to the phrase "career broadening."

The Kentucky Air Guardsman is serving as the safety manager for Support Forces Antarctica through the end of February. As such, he is part of a small cadre of U.S. military personnel that supports research conducted by the National Science Foundation at McMurdo Station.

The military presence includes members of the Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve, U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard, all under the control of the U.S. Transportation Command.

"This is truly a joint operation that's fast-paced and diversified," Sergeant Wright said.

"You get to do a lot of things that you wouldn't normally have the opportunity to do, like learning about ship operations and pier fleet operations.

"The other day, I learned how to moor a ship and cast lines. That's something an E-8 would probably never do unless he or she joined the Navy or Coast Guard.

"But we're all one team here, and you have to fill in where you can to get the mission done."

Sergeant Wright also had the opportunity to assist aircraft maintenance troops, which he described as an "interesting" experience.

"The flightline is 10 miles out on the ice, and working conditions are always a challenge," he noted.

Flight operations include airlift sorties flown by the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard, which transports passengers and cargo aboard modified LC-130 aircraft.

The planes' landing gear are fitted with special skis that allow the aircraft to land on packed snow or ice, Sergeant Wright said.

Other airlift is provided by C-141 rotators based at Christchurch, New Zealand.

Sergeant Wright's deployment, which began in mid-January, is his second to Antarctica. He also deployed in support of the scientific mission in last year.

"Last year was a learning experience," said Sergeant Wright, who normally serves as ground safety manager for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"This year, I pretty much hit the ground running because the learning curve wasn't as steep.

"It's the chance of a lifetime, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of it if given the opportunity."



Left: Senior Master Sgt. Barry Wright receives a briefing on ship operations aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star.

Photos courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Barry Wright



Above: Sergeant Wright helps moor the Nathaniel B. Palmer (shown in the background at left) in McMurdo Sound. The icebreaker is used by the U.S. Antarctic Program as a scientific research vessel.



Decontamination team part of homeland defense mission

By 1st Lt. Amy Mundell
123rd Medical Group

A 12-person team of Kentucky Air Guard members, made up mostly of medics from the 123rd Medical Group, completed a two-day patient decontamination training course on base in December as part of a new homeland defense mission.

The new mission means that every active duty and Air Guard base will be expected to facilitate patient decontamination in the event of a biological or chemical attack, said Lt. Col. Bill Adkisson Jr., the Kentucky team's leader.

The group, formally known as the In-Place Patient Decontamination Team, or IPPDT, received training in order to "establish a group of individuals on base who can teach everyone on base how to set up and use the decon equipment package," said Colonel Adkisson, a physician's assistant in the 123rd Medical Group since 1991.

Eventually, the team will train all members on base, much like base instructors teach self-aid and buddy care, he said.

During the training, the team was taught to set up an entire decontamination system in less than 20 minutes.

By the end of the training, the team's 10 medics and two firefighters were assembling the system in less than 13 minutes, Colonel Adkisson said.

As part of the training, team members learned to set up a decon tent, hook up the needed water supply and water heating device, and wear protective equipment including an ambient air filtration system.

Participants also were trained on the proper way to triage, rinse and dry both ambulatory and non-ambulatory patients.

"I think that the IPPDT training will enable the public to feel more secure in an attack, knowing that someone near them knows how to appropriately decontaminate chemical and biological agents that may occur in a (weapons of mass destruction) incident and provide them with immediate treatment," Colonel Adkisson said.

Reeves Group Inc., weapons of mass destruction consultants for the Department of Military Affairs, conducted the training.



Senior Airman Philip Speck/KyANG

Members of the In-Place Patient Decontamination Team conduct training on base during the December Unit Training Assembly.

Chaplain's Column

Today's Thought:

In military life, every Airman exercises leadership, and every supervisor has a supervisor. Successful leaders at all ranks understand the importance of improving leadership skills by developing right relationships, especially with God.

— Lt. Col. Tom Curry,
123rd Airlift Wing chaplain

Reference:

"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

— Samuel the prophet

Meditation:

"I lead as an expression of who I am, yet I must always be more than the leadership role I play. People may see me in terms of the visible leadership role which God has entrusted to me, but God knows who I really am. My integrity as a person — and as a leader — depends on seeing myself and what I do as God sees them."

— Richard Kriegbaum in
"Leadership Prayers"

Softball teams seeking members

The Kentucky Air Guard is seeking new members for the men's and women's softball teams. Spouses are eligible to participate. Contact Master Sgt. Greg Lucas at ext. 4462 or Master Sgt. Ralph Barney at ext. 4326 for details.

Officials release updated transformation plan

Road map highlights closer integration between active duty, Reserve and Guard

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Air Staff officials recently updated the U.S. Air Force Transformation Flight Plan, which spells out the transformation strategy of the Air Force.

According to the secretary of defense's transformation planning guidance, officials in the office of force transformation use the flight plan and the transformation road maps from the services and Joint Forces Command to conduct an appraisal of transformation progress.

Issues and concerns raised by this appraisal are used to form the secretary's guidance to the services when building their budgets.

"Transformation is critical to give the warfighter more capabilities to address the challenges of the new security environment," said Col. Gail Wojtowicz, chief of the future concepts and transformation division.

"The U.S. military has come a long way since the days of the Cold War when it was expecting to face a Warsaw Pact invasion from large, heavily armed forces or when we sat on alert awaiting an inbound nuclear strike from the Soviet Union," Colonel Wojtowicz said.

"We now must face new, largely nonstate adversaries such as terrorists and insurgents who do not play by the same rules as traditional nation states or conventional militaries.

"In addition, even our potential future state adversaries know they cannot compete with us in traditional combat operations and are rapidly devising new ways to challenge us, both at home and abroad.

"Transformation is essential so that our combatant commanders can effectively address these new challenges," she said.

For its part, the Air Force is pursuing transformation to address these challenges in various areas, officials said.

For example, it is improving its capabilities to deny sanctuary to adversaries any-

where through persistent global surveillance combined with the ability to quickly strike them anywhere on the globe before they can hide, officials said.

The Air Force is also developing new non-lethal weapons that will give commanders the option to affect targets without having to blow them up, officials said.

The Air Force is also pursuing machine-to-machine integration of manned, space and ground systems so the right information gets to the right place at the right time.

When combined with precision weapons,

“

We now must face new, largely nonstate adversaries such as terrorists and insurgents who do not play by the same rules as traditional nation states or conventional militaries.

”

— Col Gail Wojtowicz,

Chief of future concepts and transformation

effective information operations and advanced intelligence capabilities, this networked capability will revolutionize the ability of U.S. forces to conduct operations by helping commanders to see, think and act much faster and more effectively than adversaries while blinding their ability to see, think or act at all, officials said.

Enhanced joint, coalition and interagency operations are also an essential piece of transformation, officials said.

For example, because U.S. ground forces must now be more agile, light and rapidly deployable, they depend far more on rapid, precise combat air support than in the past. The Air Force has worked closely with the Army and Marine Corps to achieve this by deploying battlefield Airmen with ground forces.

These Airmen can call in precise, rapid air strikes by providing Global Positioning

System coordinates to bombers and fighters. This has worked splendidly in recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

In addition, the new threats to homeland security, so vividly demonstrated during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, require dramatically improved coordination between the military and nonmilitary agencies and organizations.

The Air Force, along with the rest of the department of defense, is working hard to transform in these areas as well, officials said.

But transformation is far more than new high-technology capabilities and improved coordination, officials said.

As emphasized in the flight plan, the new security environment also requires changes in the concepts of fighting, organizing, training and overall business.

In the past, the Air Force often developed new capabilities then determined how best to use them.

Now, through the concept of operations and capabilities review and risk assessment process, Air Force officials said they methodically figure out what capabilities Airmen actually need to get the job done, then focus on gaps in capabilities and funding.

The Future Total Force initiative is dramatically transforming how the Air Force is organized to enable much closer integration and coordination between active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard units, officials said.

This is critical as aircraft inventories and future defense budgets continue to shrink, because it will allow the Air Force to man equipment at higher ratios and exploit their increased capabilities at a lower cost, officials said.

"The (plan) digs down into each of these and many other areas in detail and shows how they link together to present a logical picture of how the Air Force plans to support warfighters and joint commanders," Colonel Wojtowicz said.

The revised plan is available online at www.af.mil/library or at www.oft.osd.mil.

Nominations sought for employer award

American Forces Press Service

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is accepting nominations for its 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, given for outstanding support of employees who serve in the Reserve and National Guard.

The award was instituted in 1996 to recognize the significant contributions and sacrifices made by America's employers of National Guardsmen and reservists, ESGR officials said.

This year, ESGR officials said they are reinstating the original parameters of the nomination process in which only guardsmen and reservists may nominate employers.

"Today, in support of the war on terrorism and the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, an essential alliance has been formed, as many of America's employers have become inextricably linked to the nation's defense by sharing their most precious asset — their employees," said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR executive director.

National Guardsmen and reservists can nominate their employers online at www.esgr.mil/.

Nominations will be accepted through midnight Feb. 24. Recipients will be recognized Oct. 22 in Washington, D.C.

Kazakhstan

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an aircrew perspective and a maintenance perspective," he said.

Colonel Hunt came away from the visit with a favorable impression, which he relayed to CENTAF in an after-action report.

"The environment was much more austere than ours, but the maintenance capability was there and their facilities were impressive," Colonel Hunt said.

C-130s would represent a major leap forward for the country's tactical airlift community, which primarily flies the Soviet-era AN-12.

Colonel Hunt said he flew on "an immaculately maintained" AN-12 that was, nonetheless, "probably 50 years old."

Besides age, the aircraft is limited by a rear cargo door that doesn't drop low enough to facilitate the loading of rolling stock, and by an onboard cargo handling system that uses a crane rather than pallets and rollers.

"A C-130 would ratchet up their logistics movement culpability significantly," Colonel Hunt said.

If the Kazakhstan Air Force moves forward with a purchase of C-130s, the Kentucky Air Guard could be tapped again to provide expertise, Colonel Kraus said, adding: "I think they were very impressed with our facilities and our personnel."

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