

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Kraus named Kentucky Air Guard chief of staff



Col. Mark Kraus



Col. Greg Nelson



Col. George Scherzer



Col. William Ketterer

Nelson, Ketterer to serve as wing commander, vice; Scherzer, Perry go to HQ

By Lt. Col. Kirk Hilbrecht
Joint Force Kentucky Headquarters

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Col. Mark Kraus has been tapped as the next chief of staff of the Kentucky Air National Guard, and long-time Guardsman Col. Greg Nelson has been named to replace him as commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, effective tomorrow.

Colonel Kraus, who has served as wing commander since June 2004, brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the headquarters job, said the state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, who announced the appointments along with a number of other

personnel changes earlier this summer.

In 2003 and 2007, for example, Colonel Kraus deployed to the Central Command Area of Responsibility to lead expeditionary units that were engaged in around-the-clock wartime operations.

"Colonel Kraus is a true military professional and continues to represent the Kentucky Guard in a superb fashion," General Tonini said. "He'll do great things at the state level as well."

As chief of staff, Colonel Kraus will be responsible to the assistant adjutant general for Air and to the adjutant general for coordination of policy, guidance and the direction of more than 1,300 Kentucky Air Guard members and Kentucky's joint forces.

Colonel Nelson, the new wing commander, also has proven his mettle in numerous

See **LEADERSHIP** on Page 7

Wing coordinates airlift for Hurricane Gustav evacuees

Hundreds of Gulf Coast residents arrive at base

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

As Hurricane Gustav continued to gain intensity in the Gulf of Mexico, hundreds of New Orleans-area evacuees began arriving by aircraft at the Kentucky Air Guard Base Aug. 30 for transportation to a Red Cross shelter at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

The first airplane, a commercial 757, arrived from New Orleans at 9:20 p.m. with 178 Louisiana Gulf Coast residents. A U.S. Navy C-9 followed about an hour later with 71 passengers, and more than 1,200 additional evacuees arrived aboard a variety of civilian and military aircraft during the next 24 hours.

Kentucky disaster preparedness of-

See **GUSTAV** on Page 6



Capt. Dale Greer/KyANG

The first group of Hurricane Gustav evacuees boards a bus at the Kentucky Air Guard Base for transportation to a Red Cross Shelter on the night of Aug. 30. The 178 New Orleans-area residents arrived at the base aboard a commercial airliner.

Being wing commander is the honor of a lifetime

With a change of command, we turn a page into the history of the 123rd Wing and begin a new chapter.

Forty years ago, the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing was nearing deployment after mobilization following the Pueblo Incident.

Then, as now, our nation was at war, and in a personal note to members of the wing, commander Brig. Gen. Jack Owens reflected on his personal pride at the cooperation in the months of preparation leading up to the deployment.

He remarked that everyone had “responded to the initial call with an admirable spirit and a can-do attitude.”

Fast-forward 40 years, and much has changed at the Kentucky Air National Guard.

The base is located on a different part of the airfield, our mission has changed (as have the aircraft we fly), and our leadership and membership have changed.

That is what time does as it passes: It makes change.

Some things however, have remained constant from the inception of this great organization through the decades of service to the Commonwealth and the nation.

An admirable spirit and a can-do attitude are on that list.



Col. Mark Kraus
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

Like General Owens, who reflected on “his” Airmen before me, I, too, continue to marvel at your ability to adapt to any circumstance, meet any challenge and accomplish any mission with the same spirit, drive and dedication of those from a generation before.

I can only beam with pride as I recall your accomplishments of the past four

years, and I hope you feel it too.

We have walked the long road together, step by step, through deployments to combat zones, endured seasons of inspections and countless operations of humanitarian and community service.

Through it all, you never wavered, reeled, rocked or relented.

With every new tasking, you delivered, with overflowing portions of determination, dedication and an eye for excellence.

I could not rightfully have asked for more, and you would never have given any less.

I’m grateful to have served alongside you, humbled by your accomplishments and consider it the honor of a lifetime to have been your wing commander.

My sincere thanks for your great support!

This weekend, my journey with the wing on that long road draws to a close, but a new assignment at Joint Force Headquarters will give me the opportunity to run ahead, scout new opportunities and help clear your path to a bright horizon. I look forward to the challenges that will bring.

Godspeed.

— Col. Mark Kraus

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Our office is located in room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is Sept. 7.

123rd Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Wing Commander.....Col. Mark Kraus
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 Staff Photographer.....Senior Airman Malcolm Byrd II

Address: 1101 Grade Lane, Louisville, KY 40213-2678
 Phone: (502) 413-4484 • Fax: (502) 413-4676
 E-mail: dale.greer@kyloui.ang.af.mil

An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — www.123aw.ang.af.mil

Air Force re-evaluates current uniforms to fix issues

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz announced in August that he is deferring a decision on the proposed heritage service coat until summer 2009.

In the meantime, he has directed Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, to look into issues with the services' current uniform items.

General Newton said he is "going to fix, improve and upgrade uniforms in our current inventory."

Air Force leaders said they owe it to Airmen to do the research, development and quality assurance necessary to guarantee that each uniform item Airmen buy is right the first time.

The heritage coat isn't dead. The wear test will continue to its previously scheduled Oct. 31 end date.

Air Force officials will review comments and present their findings to General Schwartz, who will make a decision by next summer.

A recent Virtual Uniform Board has highlighted a number of uniform issues Airmen have.

Some highlights:

- Airmen said they wanted a lighter-weight Airman Battle Uniform for hot-weather climates, better-fitting physical training clothing and a quieter material for the physical training jacket and pants.

- Airmen also asked for a more stain-resistant and better-fitting ABU boot. Air Force officials recently certified a new manufacturer, who will also make the ABU boots in both men and women's sizes.

Airmen can continue to provide uniform recommendations by going to the Air Force IDEA Program Web site at https://ipds.csd.disa.mil/IPDS/landing_page.

Dream Team



Photo courtesy Maj. Katrina Johnson

The Kentucky Air National Guard's Co-Ed Softball Team took second place in its division at 43rd-annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament, held Aug. 6-10 in Panama City Beach, Fla. Sixty teams from across the United States participated in the tourney. For more information, visit www.angsoftball.net.

Ketterer named vice commander

Colonel currently serves as leader of support group

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Col. William Ketterer has been named vice commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, effective tomorrow.

He replaces Col. George Scherzer, who has been appointed to serve as director of strategic plans and policy at Joint Force Headquarters Kentucky.

"I asked Colonel Bill Ketterer to be our vice commander because of his vast experience in the 123rd Airlift Wing," said Col. Greg Nelson, who assumes command of the wing tomorrow.

"He has a wealth of both operational and support expertise," Colonel Nelson added. "Colonel Ketterer and I worked together years ago in wing plans, and I know and trust his ability to lead an organization in planning, training and execution of operations."

Colonel Ketterer has served as commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Mission Support Group since 2005. Prior to that, he was acting commander of the 123rd Operations Group here.

The colonel is a master navigator with more than 6,300 flight hours in a variety of aircraft, including the C-130 Hercules and the RF-4C Phantom II.

He first joined the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1976, was commissioned in 1978 and has held a variety of posts on base through the years, including chief of the command post and director of operations.

In 2003, Colonel Ketterer was deployed to Al Udiid Air Base, Qatar, where he served as director of the Regional Air Movement Control Center.

Colonel Ketterer's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the NATO Medal.

Lt. Col. Matt Stone will serve as interim commander of the 123rd Mission Support Group until a permanent replacement is named.



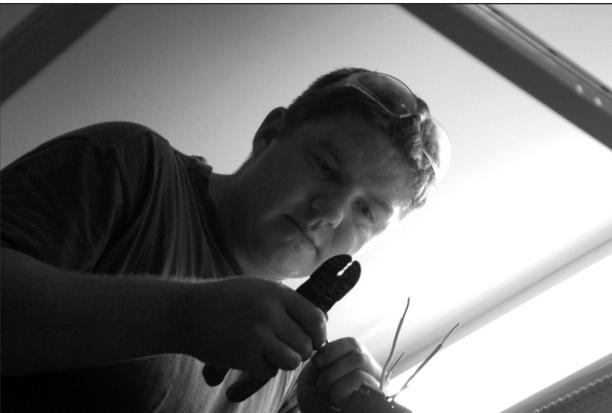
ENGINEERS HEAD

Above: Deployed members of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron.

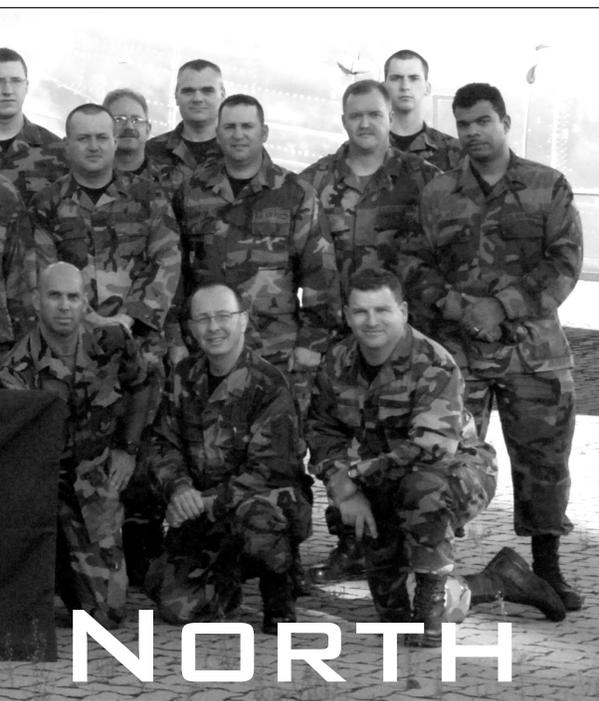
Right: Heavy equipment operators work together to move gravel and earth to construct a parking lot at the Fort Garry Horse Armory.

Bottom Left: Senior Airman Mark Thompson, a power production specialist, strips wires during electrical upgrades to the Mintos Armory.

Bottom Right: Tech. Sgt. Sean Cecil installs fluorescent bulbs into a light fixture for one of the newly renovated classrooms at the Mintos Armory.



Abor
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Kentucky Airmen upgrade allies' facilities, hone teamwork on deployment to Canada

Story and photos by
Senior Airman Jason Ketterer
 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

WINNIPEG, Canada — Three-dozen Civil Engineers from the 123rd Airlift Wing upgraded Canadian Armed Forces facilities during Exercise Winged Beaver here in July.

Over the course of two weeks, the Airmen completed renovations and improved the usability of facilities at the Canadian Army's Fort Garry Horse and Mintos Armories.

In addition to helping neighbors and allies, CE team members said the Airmen benefited from hands-on training and teamwork through the exercise.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning services, electrical work, carpentry and basic construction improved the Canadian facilities while giving the Airmen the opportunity to gain new skills and refine existing ones.

According to Senior Master Sgt. John Green, a project leader during the deployment, younger Airmen were initially tentative about operating some of the seldom used or unfamiliar heavy equipment like the bulldozer.

However, that uncertainty soon turned to enthusiasm, he said.

"They got some real good training, and we progressed (on the mission) at the same time," Sergeant Green said.

"They feel a lot more comfortable with it now."

Lt. Col. Connie Allen, who commands the engineers, said the exercise required participants to work outside their typical specialties.

By working together and conducting cross training, the Airmen learned new skills that will better prepare them for future operations, said Tech. Sgt. Todd Edelen, a project leader during the exercise.

"Overall, everybody worked really well together, got the job done and finished just a little bit ahead of schedule," he said. "Everyone did a really good job."

Colonel Allen agreed.

"They did another fantastic job," she said. "Their host is going to be very happy with the work they did."

"(Our Airmen) just need to know how much I appreciate them," Colonel Allen added.



Above: Master Sgt. Larry Broyles trims ceiling tile during a facilities upgrade at the Mintos Armory.



Above: Senior Airman Nick Ketterer uses an odometer to measure the slope at the Fort Garry Horse site.

Gustav

Continued from Front Page

made arrangements to accept up to 4,250 evacuees statewide, said Brig. Gen. John W. Heltzel, director of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, but the number ultimately topped out at about 1,500.

More than 160 Kentucky Air Guard troops volunteered over the Labor Day weekend to assist with the relief effort, said Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general, and others stood ready to assist if needed.

"I'm extremely proud of the commitment that our Kentucky Air Guard troops have made to help their fellow Americans in this time of need," General Tonini said. "These citizens are facing the prospect of devastating hurricane damage for the second time in just three years, and we're happy to help in any way we can."

The evacuees's stay in Louisville was relatively short-lived, thanks in part to hurricane damage that was less severe than anticipated. The Federal Emergency Management Agency made arrangements to fly the displaced citizens back home a week later, with flights departing from the Kentucky Air Guard Base on Sept. 6 and 7.

Right: Col. William Ketterer, commander of the 123rd Mission Support Group here, helps a child don a wrist strap Aug. 31 as evacuees prepare to board a bus headed to a Red Cross shelter at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Below: Evacuees step off an Air Force C-17 Globemaster at the Kentucky Air Guard Base on Aug. 31. Nearly 1,500 Gulf Coast residents arrived here between Aug. 30 and 31.



Tech. Sgt. D. Clare/KyANG

Above: Tech. Sgt. Brian Milburn helps a young evacuee after the child's flight from the Gulf Coast to the Kentucky Air Guard Base on Aug. 31.



Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG



Tech. Sgt. D. Clare/KyANG

Above: Maj. Fred Ehrman, a chaplain in the 123rd Airlift Wing, greets evacuees as they arrive on the base flightline Aug. 31.



Tech. Sgt. D. Clare/KyANG

New battle gear designed for Airmen ‘outside the wire’

By Staff Sgt. Andrea Thacker
Air Forces Central Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Battlefield Airmen will soon receive a new equipment item that will improve their ability to execute their combat duties.

The new Airman Battle System-Ground is a tactical ensemble for Airmen who perform their mission outside the wire in close coordination with ground forces.

“It will provide Airmen with the right level of safety combined with a fully functional, tactically proficient ensemble, thereby increasing their confidence and ability to perform their mission,” said Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff, the 9th Air Force and Air Forces Central command chief.

Airmen are operating outside the wire in an increasing number of ground-centric traditional and nontraditional Air Force missions. The ABS-G was created to fulfill an

urgent operational need to enable Airmen to function effectively in ground combat operations.

“The safety and confidence provided to our ground-combat Airmen from the development of the ABS-G is a key ‘outside-the-wire’ priority,” said Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, Air Forces Central commander.

“Today, more than ever, we have Airmen conducting operations in the ground battle space,” General North said.

“Our effort to provide them with our Airman ground combat ensemble provides them with the highest level of utility, comfort and protection. This is key to our ability to work outside the wire in an ensemble that is optimized for the environment our Airmen are facing.”

The core of the ABS-G is the Airman Battle Ensemble, or ABE. The ensemble was designed with the tactical configuration in mind, said Col. Lawrence Jackson

II, expeditionary ground combat support adviser.

“We spoke to members in the field to find out what changes would be tactically efficient. These inputs guided the design,” he said.

The ensemble is comprised of a coat, pants and battle shirt. It is basically a tactical-fire-resistant version of the ABU.

“It wasn’t designed to replace the Airman Battle Uniform,” Chief Dearduff said.

“It was designed to give us a fire-retardant tactical ensemble that is fully integrated through multiple layers of clothing and equipment to provide maximum fire protection, warmth and tactical functionality.”

The Air Force will issue an ABE only if it is needed. It will not be for sale in the military clothing sales stores.

The ABS-G is expected to be distributed in February 2009. Airmen are wear-testing the ensemble in selected units now.

Leadership

Continued from Front Page

operational and administrative jobs, General Tonini said.

Colonel Nelson’s military career spans more than 33 years, including nine years of enlisted service prior to his commissioning as an officer through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1984. Since then, he has served as an RF-4C weapon systems officer and C-130 instructor navigator, as well as deputy chief of the command post, chief of logistics plans, chief of wing plans and commander of the 123rd Airlift Control Flight.

Most recently, Colonel Nelson was the strategic plans and policy officer at Kentucky National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.

During his KyANG career, Colonel Nelson has participated in Operations Desert Storm, Desert Watch, Southern Watch, Provide Promise, Joint Forge, Joint Guard, Coronet Oak, Phoenix Oak, Bright Star, Partnership For Peace and Red Flag. He also was mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

“Our Kentucky Air Guard is combat-tested and ever-ready to handle emergencies, both stateside and abroad,” General Tonini said. “The wing’s leadership has always kept the Airmen battle-ready. The 123rd a world-class unit.”

In other moves:

- General Tonini selected Col. George Scherzer,

the wing’s current vice commander, to serve as executive support staff officer at state headquarters; and Lt. Col. Mitch Perry, the wing’s current chief of staff, to serve as state judge advocate general. Both changes are effective tomorrow.

- Col. William Ketterer, current commander of the 123rd Mission Support Group, will replace Colonel Scherzer as wing vice commander (see story on Page 3), while Lt. Col. Matthew Stone has been named acting commander of the support group, effective tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush will assume the duties of assistant adjutant general for Air, taking over for Brig. Gen. Howard P. Hunt III, who retired from the Kentucky National Guard on Tuesday.

As assistant adjutant general for Air, General Dornbush represents Gov. Steve Beshear and the adjutant general as the principal advisor on matters pertaining to the Kentucky Air National Guard. He also serves as the commander of Headquarters, Kentucky Air National Guard. In this capacity, he has command-and-control responsibility of all Air National Guard units in Kentucky.

“I’m extremely proud of the commitment that these Kentucky Air Guard leaders have made to our Commonwealth,” General Tonini said. “Very proud.”

General Hunt’s retirement ceremony is scheduled to take place today at 3 p.m. in the Base Annex. A reception will follow.

The wing change-of-command ceremony is slated for tomorrow at 3 p.m. on the base flightline.



Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush



Brig. Gen. Howard P. Hunt III