

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Burba, Woods, Nethery named top troops

123rd's Airmen of the Year to be honored Aug. 15 at Churchill Downs banquet

By Capt. John Stamm
Deputy Wing Public Affairs Officer

Master Sgt. Larry D. Burba, Tech. Sgt. Robert L. Woods and Staff Sgt. Patrick E. Nethery have been selected as the Kentucky Air National Guard's 2008 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

The winners were chosen from 26 nominees, competing in three categories, for exceptional performance in leadership and primary duty performance, significant self-improvement and base and community involvement.

The senior non-commissioned officer of the year honoree, Sergeant Burba, is the production superintendent for the 123rd Contingency Response Group. According to his commanders, he demonstrated exceptional performance by developing and implementing the aircraft maintenance training program for the 123rd CRG and by leading the first contingency response element from the wing to McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Capt. Ash Groves, director of operations for the 123rd Global Mobility Squadron, said Burba is "driven to excellence" and called him a "highly productive" mentor who has facilitated more than 4,600 joint-training hours with active-duty counterparts. He also implemented a wellness program that improved the unit's fitness-test success rate by 30 percent.

"Master Sergeant Burba is relatively young for a senior NCO, but he has a maturity well beyond his years," said Captain Groves. "He is an obstacle destroyer. Whenever he encounters a roadblock that he can't work around, he works through it."

Sergeant Burba is pursuing a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics while completing an associate's degree in aircraft systems maintenance from the Community College of the Air Force. He volunteers at the Nelson County School System, where he supports academic programs and serves on the parent-teacher organization.

Sergeant Woods, the non-commissioned officer of the year, is an explosive ordnance disposal journeyman for the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron. He recently deployed to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southeast Asia, where he saved lives and improved safety for deployed personnel by



Above: Tech. Sgt. Robert L. Woods, an explosive ordnance disposal journeyman in the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron, receives assistance donning the EOD 8 bomb suit during a training exercise. Sergeant Woods was named NCO of the year for lifesaving work while deployed and for his service to the community. (KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare.)



Left: Master Sgt. Larry D. Burba, production superintendent for the 123rd Contingency Response Group, attaches an antenna to a military vehicle. Sergeant Burba was named senior NCO of the year. (KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck.)

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Remember to honor our fallen heroes on May 25

Memorial Day is the day we remember those who died in our nation's service.

On Memorial Day, we honor our fellow service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of the United States of America.

First called "Decoration Day," Memorial Day originated in the 1860s, according to the Web site www.usmemorialday.org.

There are many stories as to how our celebration of Memorial Day actually began. More than two-dozen cities and towns could rightfully claim to be its birthplace, with the citizens of each gathering to honor the war dead of our nation's Civil War.

In 1868, General John Logan, then national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed Memorial Day in his General Order No. 11. General Logan hoped Memorial Day would help heal relations between the North and South.

The first Memorial Day celebration was May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1971, Congress legislated the last Monday in May as Memorial Day.

This year, May 25 is Memorial Day.

Observance of Memorial Day is important to our nation. Sometimes it gets lost in the first three-day holiday celebrating the beginning of summer. Some people confuse it with a remembrance of all who have died, and some confuse it with Veteran's Day, which thanks all who have served their country.

Lest we forget, we in the United States



**Col. Greg Nelson
123rd Airlift Wing Commander**

military need to remember Memorial Day by honoring those who came before us and gave their lives during their time of service. We in the 123rd Airlift Wing especially need to remember those who lost their lives while serving in the Kentucky Air National Guard. We have been blessed, but we have lost some. Remember them and their families this Memorial Day.

I ask that you celebrate it appropriately. Please enjoy the day with loved ones and friends, but help them understand the honor

of the day — the price paid for the freedom of the celebrations we will all enjoy.

If you have a flag, please fly it at half-staff from sunrise until noon (or from whenever you get up until noon). Then raise it briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, honoring our nation's battle heroes!

There will be Memorial Day celebrations throughout the area that you may attend, or you might consider visiting the grave site of one of our fallen brethren.

Lastly, I ask that you honor Memorial Day by observing the "National Moment of Remembrance" set aside by Congress in December 2000.

Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, at 3 p.m. local time on May 25, pause to remember our fallen heroes. Just for one minute.

Ask those you are with to join you in this act of national unity, and ask them to remember those who have died for them.

On Memorial Day, I will give thanks for those who died serving their country — thanks to those who died way before my time providing and protecting the freedom I enjoy today.

I will give thanks for you, who serve today, and those who will serve tomorrow.

Thank you from our Commander and Chief, and all our senior military leaders. Thank you from all the individual citizens you serve. And thanks from me.

Thanks and remember.

Reference: www.usmemorialday.org

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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 June 12.

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Memorial to honor fallen Kentucky Guard members

A group of Kentucky National Guard veterans and advocates is working to establish a memorial honoring all those who have served as citizen-Soldiers or citizen-Airmen — and especially to honor those who perished in the line of duty.

The proposed memorial will be built at the entrance to Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort. It will consist of a plaza with a bronze statue of Daniel Boone resting on a pedestal made from an outcropping of Kentucky limestone.

The memorial also will contain panels featuring the names of Kentucky Guard members who died in the line of duty.

Organizers have identified 88 fallen Guardsmen to date and are researching fallen members who served in World War I, World War II and other conflicts.

The memorial will focus on the modern era, beginning with March 1912 when the state guard became known as the Kentucky National Guard.

“We want to make sure 20 years or even a hundred years from now, no one will have forgotten these Kentucky Guardsmen,” said Memorial Fund Chairman John Trowbridge. “All those who have perished in the name of their nation and the Commonwealth deserve better.”

For more information, contact the Kentucky National Guard Memorial Fund Inc. via e-mail at info@kyngmemorial.com or visit www.kyngmemorial.com.

Wing aids National Strategic Stockpile

Operation distributed masks and medication for Swine Flu response

By Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Members of the 123rd Airlift Wing played a central role in Kentucky’s response to Swine Flu recently when they helped distribute medical supplies around the state.

Truckloads of surgical gloves, gowns, face masks and antiviral medications began arriving on base April 30 from multiple federal warehouses across the nation, said Senior Master Sgt. Carol Davis, base disaster preparedness superintendent.

About 15 Kentucky Airmen then worked for the next five days to break down pallets of supplies, repackage them into smaller lots and prepare them for further distribution to 56 county health departments and districts from Pikeville to Paducah.

The operation was largely wrapped up on the morning of May 4 when 75 pallets of gear were loaded onto 10 outbound trucks in less than two hours, Sergeant Davis said. The final semi, loaded with another

12 pallets of supplies, left the base later that afternoon.

All the materials were culled from the country’s Strategic National Stockpile, a collection of drugs, vaccines and equipment that can be deployed nationwide in the event of a health emergency.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tasked the 123rd Airlift Wing to serve as Receipt, Stage and Storage site whenever the stockpile needs to be tapped, Sergeant Davis said.

There are two other such sites in Kentucky — one near Blue Grass Airport in Lexington and another by Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport in Covington.

The effort is one of several steps being taken by state and federal health officials to prepare for the potential outbreak of a Swine Flu virus known as H1N1.

To date, hundreds of cases of the disease have been confirmed around the world, with most in the United States or Mexico. A handful of those cases are from Kentucky.

As of Monday, three deaths have been attributed to the disease in America.

Sergeant Davis said she was pleased with the operation, calling it “a huge success.”

“It was a very streamlined, safe operation, and everybody did a great job,” she said.



Maj. Katrina Johnson/KyANG

Senior Master Sgt. Wade Zinsmeister moves pallets of personal protective equipment and antiviral medications into the base Fuel Cell Hangar on April 30. The supplies were shipped to the base from the federal Strategic National Stockpile and were repackaged here for distribution to county health departments across the Commonwealth. The effort was part of the state’s response to the potential threat of a Swine Flu pandemic.

Top troops

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disposing of unexploded ordnance. While there, he also was credited for saving the life of a heart-attack victim by providing critical first aid and medical evacuation.

“He is a motivated self-starter and requires almost no supervision,” said Sergeant Woods’ flight chief, Senior Master Sgt. Lou Corner. “He has performed peacetime duties, deployed duties and combat duties in a manner that exceeded my expectations. He has been exposed to multiple unusual situations where he had to react, and he always made the right decisions.”

A native of Ashland, Ky., Sergeant Woods now resides in Louisville and is an active member of his church. He also volunteers time to help those in need, assisting with relief efforts to repair homes after the remnants of Hurricane Ike caused extensive damage locally in 2008.

Sergeant Woods is the recipient of numer-

ous honors during the past year. He was named Civil Engineer Craftsman of the Month, was recognized by his deployed unit as a member of the team of the month and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

Sergeant Nethery is being recognized as Kentucky’s top troop from the Airman ranks. An aircraft mechanic for the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, he recently graduated Airman Leadership School at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., where he received the John Levitow Award for Leadership and Academic Performance.

“What stands out the most for me is Sergeant Nethery’s work ethic,” said Maj. Chris Bishop, commander of the 123rd MXS. “In December 2007, we deployed to Germany in support of Operation Joint Enterprise. An aircraft returned from a mission with an intermittent bus tie problem. The electrician on duty was working a discrepancy on another aircraft and wouldn’t be able to get to it, so Airman Nethery voluntarily reported during his time off to repair the aircraft. He ran into some challenges while troubleshooting, but

he dug into the books, found the problem, and we were able to return the aircraft to full mission-capable status.”

A constant student, Sergeant Nethery earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration at the University of Louisville and has completed the requirements for an associate’s degree in aviation maintenance technology from the CCAF.

He is a youth pastor at Southeast Christian Church and a youth leader Henry’s Ark Private Zoo, teaching teamwork and leadership to young people. Teaming with the University of Louisville, he assists with the care of homeless veterans in the area.

All three honorees, along with the Kentucky Army National Guard Soldier, NCO and First Sergeant of the year, will be honored at the Soldier and Airmen of the Year Banquet, to be held at Churchill Downs on Aug. 15.

The event is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7. Military attire is mess dress or semi-formal (enlisted only). Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased from any chief master sergeant.



Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

Staff Sgt. Patrick E. Nethery is a youth group leader, youth pastor and a Kentucky Air National Guard Airman of the Year.

Make safety a top priority this summer

The Air Force has once again teamed up with its sister services to bring you the Critical Days of Summer Joint Service Safety Campaign.

This campaign has run annually since the late 1960s and was developed to counter the traditional increase in mishaps and fatalities that occur during the summer months.

Campaign efforts attempt to increase personal awareness of risk and thereby reduce the number of summer mishaps and fatalities.

Motor vehicle accidents continue to account for a significant number of fatalities and injuries every year.

Factors in these mishaps include alcohol, speeding and failure to use seat belts or helmets.

In 2008, the Air Force experienced 16 accident-related fatalities, compared to 19 during fiscal year 2007. While we have seen a decline in fatalities since 2003, the ultimate goal is zero deaths.

This year's campaign begins May 22 and ends Sept. 8.

For 2009, we'll focus on private motor vehicle mishap prevention, alcohol-related incidents, fatigue-related accidents, water-related sports and recreation safety.

Every week, you will find new prevention materials at the Wing Safety Office Community of Practice Web site. These items can be used to supplement the prevention efforts of individual units on base.

The safety office CoP also will feature links that commanders and supervisors can use to inform their personnel about key safety issues.

Make safety a priority on and off duty.

Be smart. Be careful. Be safe!

— Senior Master Sgt. Barry Wright
123rd Airlift Wing Safety Office

Tablets honor wing retirees

Former unit members recognized for their decades of service

By Tech. Sgt. Dianne Stinnett
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

Seventy-seven former members of the Kentucky Air National Guard were honored April 18 when two marble tablets bearing their names were unveiled during a ceremony in front of the Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway Headquarters Building here.

The tablets are the latest addition to a monument that memorializes the names of all Airmen who have completed 20 or more years of military service and retired from the Kentucky Air Guard since the unit's inception in 1947.

The new names reflect members who were honorably retired or transferred from the Kentucky Air National Guard during 2007 and 2008.

Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123d Airlift Wing, thanked the retirees for their faithful service and asked for their continued involvement in the years ahead.

"We need your continued support," Colonel Nelson said during a speech before a crowd of more than 75 friends and family of the retirees. "Come back any time and every time that you can. I need your heritage, I need your knowledge and your experience. Again I thank you — I thank you every time you can come out."

The monument is maintained by the



Capt. Dale Greer/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. Terry Lutz, who retired from the 123rd Airlift Wing in 2007, looks at marble tablets bearing the names of recent retirees from the KyANG.

Kentucky Air National Guard Retiree Group Inc., a non-profit organization that raises money through donations, golf scrambles and the sale of items such as ball caps, T-shirts and jackets.

To view a video news report of the dedication, please visit <https://afpims.afnews.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-090428-088.wmv>



Capt. Dale Greer/KyANG

Recent KyANG retirees include former wing commander Col. Michael Harden (far left).



ABOVE: An F-15 Eagle streaks over the Kentucky Air National Guard flightline in preparation for the Thunder Over Louisville air show. (KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck.)

RIGHT: A Member of the U.S. Air Force Viper East F-16 Demo Team buttons up a Fighting Falcon on the base flightline. (KyANG photo by Senior Airman Malcolm Byrd.)

BELOW: U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors taxi on the KyANG ramp prior to the Thunder Over Louisville air show. (KyANG photo by Capt. Dale Greer.)



Kentucky Air Guard makes 'Thunder' roll

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Thunder Over Louisville 2009 was a big success, organizers say, thanks in no small part to support by the Kentucky Air National Guard.

A near-record crowd of 700,000 spectators lined the banks of the Ohio River April 18 to see demonstrations by a broad range of aircraft, including more than a dozen state-of-the-art planes and helicopters from the U.S. Armed Forces' current arsenal.

The vast majority of those aircraft were based on the Kentucky Air Guard flightline, as they have been since the air show's inception more than 15 years ago.

This year, as always, scores of Kentucky Air Guardsmen provided logistical coordination, aircraft refueling, security and other essential services in support of the air show, explained Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's Louisville-based 123rd Airlift Wing.

That support is a crucial factor in bringing so many military aircraft to Louisville each year for the public's enjoyment, Colonel Nelson said.

"Thunder Over Louisville is a great opportunity for the public to see America's unparalleled military aircraft in action, but it's also an opportunity to honor the contributions of the men and women who serve in our nation's armed forces," he said. "We're pleased to play a key role in making this event happen, year after year."

This year's air show included appearances by the F-15 Fighting Falcon, the F-16 Eagle, the F-18 Hornet, the CV-22 Osprey and the U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor Aerial Demonstration Team.

For a photo gallery of Thunder aircraft, visit www.123aw.af.mil/photos/index.asp?galleryID=7057

AAFES offering online travel

Military officials are helping troops take a break without going broke, thanks to a new partnership between AAFES Online Mall and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Now, authorized exchange shoppers can log on to the AAFES Web site to book a vacation — including seven-night Alaskan Cruises from \$399, Cozumel from \$28 per night and an 11-day European Dream vacation — through the Government Vacation Rewards program.

The program offers access to special military pricing on thousands of cruises, tours, vacation packages, resorts, hotels, air travel and cars. For more information, visit www.aafes.com.

VA accepting applications for post-9/11 GI Bill

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that Veterans can begin submitting applications online for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Veterans, service members, reservists and National Guard members with active-duty service since Sept. 10, 2001, may be eligible for this benefit.

Veterans will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from the date of last discharge or release from a period of active duty of at least 90 continuous days.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most extensive educational assistance program authorized since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

For many participants, it also provides a housing allowance and a stipend for books and supplies.

Information about the new program and VA's other educational benefits can be obtained at www.GIBILL.VA.gov or by calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

Senior enlisted leader named

James A. Roy to be USAF's new top Chief Master Sgt.

Air Force News Agency

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley have announced the Airman selected to be the service's next enlisted leader.

Chief Master Sergeant James A. Roy will become the 16th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force during an appointment ceremony on June 30, 2009, which will coincide with Chief McKinley's retirement.

"This is a good day for all Airmen," General Schwartz said. "While they will lose a tremendous leader and advocate in Chief McKinley, they gain a worthy successor in Chief Roy. Given his record and reputation, I am confident that Chief Roy will carry the best interests of our Air Force family forward to our nation's leaders as we support today's joint fight and rebalance our force for the challenges ahead."

Chief Roy and his wife, Paula, will come to the Pentagon from Camp Smith, Hawaii, where the chief currently serves as the senior enlisted leader and advisor to the U.S. Pacific Command combatant commander, representing more than 200,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

Chief Roy joined the Air Force in 1982. His career includes assignments as a heavy equipment operator in the civil engineer career field and then in leadership positions at the squadron, group and numbered air force levels. He has served as the command chief master sergeant at wings in the Air Education and Training Command, Air Mobility Command and Air Combat Command. He was also deployed as the command chief master sergeant of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia. Prior to assuming his current position he was the command chief master sergeant for U.S. Forces Japan and Fifth Air Force at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Chief McKinley will retire next month after serving for 30 years. He has served as the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force since June 30, 2006.



U.S. Air Force photo

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley (right) introduces his replacement, Chief Master Sgt. James A. Roy, to attendees of the Senior Enlisted Forum on May 8 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Chief Roy, who currently is the senior enlisted advisor to the U.S. Pacific Command combatant commander, was selected by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz to become the 16th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. He will assume his duties on June 30, following Chief McKinley's retirement.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Max Rechel/KyANG



Hail to the chiefs

ABOVE: Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth B. Coogle, quality assurance superintendent of the 123rd Maintenance Group, receives a Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal from Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt (retired), Kentucky's former assistant adjutant general for Air, during the chief's retirement ceremony in the Base Annex March 14. Chief Coogle first enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1968 and logged more than 40 years of exceptional service to his state and nation.

LEFT: Senior Master Sgt. Curtis Muerer, NCOIC of the base Command Post, stands at the position of attention April 14 while his order of promotion to chief master sergeant is published during a ceremony held in the Aircrew Briefing Room.

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