

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## Agriculture team begins Afghanistan mission

Ky. Army, Air Guardsmen to help revitalize culture of self-sufficient farming

By 1st Lt. Stephen D. Martin  
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The global war on terror took on a new dimension July 6 with the departure of the Kentucky National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team for Afghanistan.

Comprised of 64 Soldiers and Airmen with a variety of skills and background in agricultural matters, the team's mission is to teach the citizens of Afghanistan to be agriculturally self-sufficient and develop their own agricultural marketplace.

A departure ceremony was held for the team on the campus of Kentucky State University, where scores of friends, family members and colleagues gathered to wish the troops farewell. The Soldiers and Airmen will receive several weeks of mobilization training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., prior to deploying overseas.

Lt. Col. Carney Jackson, chief of the public health section in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Medical Group and a civilian veterinary pathologist, said he hopes to teach the Afghans how to better manage livestock like goats and sheep.



1st Lt. Andrea Hahn/KyArNG

TV news reporters shoot video July 6 as a team of Kentucky Army and Air National Guardsmen receive a final outbrief in Frankfort, Ky., before beginning a mission to train the citizens of Afghanistan on modern farming techniques.

Decades of war and oppressive rule have eroded the agricultural knowledge base in the country, officials said. Basic management practices that are considered commonplace on family farms in the U.S. elude the nation's citizens, 70 percent of whom work to provide basic sustenance for the country.

"Most of the agriculture experience over there has pretty much been wiped out," said Col. Bill Ketterer, vice commander of the Ken-

tucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing.

"If you can imagine losing your father and grandfather to the Taliban or some other regime, and then being asked to change the oil in your vehicle, grow and harvest crops, sell your products, grow and process your animals and take them to market, you start to imagine the void that exists in Afghanistan. We're not going to feed them. The Kentucky National Guard is going there to teach them to fish."

## Governor signs law giving tax break to military members

By Maj. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Many Kentucky National Guardsmen will take home more money next year thanks to a new state law that exempts military pay from Kentucky income tax.

The measure, signed into law by Gov. Steve Beshear on June 26, applies to any military member — active duty, Guard or Reserve — whose home of record is Kentucky. All forms of pay are exempt, including temporary duty assignments, state active duty, annual training and unit training assemblies for drilling reservists, state finance officials said.

The military-pay exemption was part of House Bill 3, a wide-ranging economic-development initiative passed by the General Assembly

during the 2009 Special Session. Language specific to the military benefit was inserted into the bill during conference committee negotiations thanks to the efforts of senior legislative leaders and members of the Senate and House committees on Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection. Those committees are chaired by Sen. Elizabeth Tori and Rep. Tanya Pullin, respectively.

"The men and women who serve our state and nation as members of the U.S. Armed forces and the Kentucky National Guard make personal sacrifices every day to ensure that we are safe at home," Gov. Beshear said. "Whether it's helping the state recover from a devastating ice storm or deploying overseas in the Global War on Terror, they selflessly answer the call of duty any time, anywhere," he added. "This bill is a recognition of their commitment to the Commonwealth, and I am pleased to sign it into law."

# A great summer, a great year, a great wing

**I**t is hard to believe the summer is almost over. It's August already, and the summer has passed way too quickly!

My wife, Debby, and I just returned from vacation, and it also went by too quickly. I sincerely hope you enjoyed some down time in the sun this summer.

Soon school will start, and many of our Airmen, children or family members will return to their studies. As a wing, we've had a busy summer and a busy year.

We started the summer with the completion of the largest deployment our wing has experienced since 2003, sending seven out of eight aircraft and 200 aircrew members and maintenance troops to Afghanistan. We also deployed scores of expeditionary combat support Airmen to multiple location around the world.

Just over a month later, the wing deployed to Volk Field, Wis., and Salina, Kan., to complete an Operational Readiness Exercise and participate in USNORTHCOM's homeland defense exercise, Ardent Sentry.

Last month I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our family, friends and fellow Airmen during the unit's annual Family Day/Wingman Day.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Wing Fitness Challenge. I sincerely appreciate the support of all the unit commanders, first sergeants, chiefs, participating teams and those who cheered us on!

Congratulations again to the 123rd Security Forces Squadron for its first-place team finish. Additionally, we all owe a special thanks to the 123rd Force Support



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

Squadron's Services Sustainment Flight, whose hard work made it a great day for everyone.

The 123rd Airlift Wing has been busy throughout fiscal year 2009, and we will continue to be busy for the remainder of the year. We have directly supported Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, as well as Joint Enterprise and Coronet Oak. We can honestly say we support every current overseas contingency operation. At the same time, we also participated in the largest

state activation of the Kentucky National Guard ever for the January ice storm.

We jointly train and operate with our Kentucky Army National Guard brethren in preparation for and in response to the security and defense of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Last week we completed our annual Kentucky National Guard joint exercise by combining resources to respond to a simulated influenza pandemic and a terrorist attack.

We truly are a great Wing!

This past year, we concentrated on continuous improvement of our readiness, accountability and growth.

We are always ready to deploy in support of Kentucky, any other state or our allies abroad. We are always compliant through our individual, unit and wing accountability. We are currently 102 percent manned and growing! We are filling a few remaining positions through precision recruiting, demonstrating our ability for continuous growth.

We continue to transform existing capabilities and expand into new mission areas including the first Air National Guard Contingency Response Group and, soon, the newest Intelligence Detachment — all working toward our strategic goal to be the initial response hub for homeland security and homeland defense.

Thanks again for everything you do. It has been a great summer, a great year, and you are a great wing!

— Col. Greg Nelson

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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. 30.

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## Special tactics assists with flood relief

Seven members of the wing's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron deployed across Louisville Aug. 4 to assist emergency-management officials with swift-water rescue operations after storms dumped a record six inches of rain on the city in less than two hours.

The Airmen were dispatched to multiple neighborhoods to rescue stranded residents and motorists trapped by rising flood waters, said Chief Master Sgt. Pat Malone, 123rd STS chief enlisted manager.

As it turned out, no one ultimately needed assistance, but Chief Malone was pleased by the unit's response nonetheless.

Kentucky Air Guard pararescue-men and combat controllers were out with Zodiac boats less than three hours after receiving the call for help from Metro Louisville officials.

## Outstanding Soldier and Airman Banquet tonight

The Kentucky National Guard's Outstanding Soldier and Airman of the Year Banquet will be held tonight at Churchill Downs.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7, followed by dancing at 10:30.

Attire is mess dress or service dress for officers; mess dress, semi-formal or service dress for enlisted members; and semi-formal for civilians. Tickets are available for \$20 from any chief master sergeant.

This year's Air Guard honorees are Staff Sgt. Patrick E. Nethery of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Robert L. Woods of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron and Master Sgt. Larry D. Burba of the 123rd Contingency Response Group.

## 123rd's Woods named top ANG troop

By Master Sgt. Mike Smith  
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Air National Guard named a member of the 123rd Airlift Wing as one of its six Outstanding Airmen of the Year, beginning a weeklong celebration June 6 as the honorees arrived here to receive their awards.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Woods, an explosive ordnance disposal technician in the wing's 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, won top honors in the non-commissioned officer category from among scores of nominees across the nation.

The five other winners for 2009 were:

— Master Sgt. Tyrone Bingham (senior noncommissioned officer category), 170th Operational Support Squadron; Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

— Staff Sgt. Jonathan Sawmiller (Airman category), 124th Civil Engineering Squadron; Boise, Idaho

— Master Sgt. Lorene D. Kitzmiller (first sergeant category), 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; Berry Field Air Guard Base; Nashville, Tenn.

— Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Onesto (honor guard program manager), 121st

Services Flight; Rickenbacker Air Guard Base; Columbus, Ohio.

— Staff Sgt. Terrence Mananes (honor guard member); 163rd Reconnaissance Wing; March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

"They are the best of the best," Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air Guard, said during the award ceremony at the Air Guard Readiness Center on Andrews Air Force Base. "But I am sure they will tell you that they would not be here today were it not for (their families)."

The six Airmen later met with the Guard's other top military leaders, including Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief of the Air Guard.

"They are the cream-of-the-crop of the Air Guard's 93,000-plus enlisted Airmen," Chief Muncy said.

All six outstanding Airmen have participated in multiple overseas deployments. Woods' skill in explosives disposal earned him a place as an NCO-in-charge of those operations in Kuwait and then as a team member in Afghanistan.

Chief Muncy said their combined work overseas potentially saved many lives.



Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith/NGB

The Air National Guard's Outstanding Airmen of the Year stand outside Washington during a reception dinner June 9 with Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau. From left are Staff Sgt. Terrence Mananes; Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Onesto; Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard; Master Sgt. Lorene D. Kitzmiller; General McKinley; Master Sgt. Tyrone Bingham; Tech. Sgt. Robert Woods; Staff Sgt. Jonathan Sawmiller; and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief of the Air Guard.

## Physical competition marks highlight of Wingman Day events

By Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck  
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

The U.S. Air Force is placing renewed emphasis on physical fitness, and the Kentucky Air Guard is doing its part to promote that warrior ethos.

Nearly 100 Kentucky Airmen turned out here July 13 to compete in the 123rd Airlift Wing's first-ever Fitness Challenge.

Twenty-four teams of four Airmen each vied for top honors by completing a circuit that included a relay race, timed crunches and push-ups, said Master Sergeant Krista Lindsey, field training technician for the 123rd Services Sustainment Flight, which sponsored the event.

Col. Greg Nelson, wing commander, made the contest more interesting by adding commander's coins to the mix.

Relay runners were required to hand off the coins without dropping them, lest they incur a time penalty.

This year's top team hailed from the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, with a circuit time of 9:09. The team was comprised of Capt. Kevin Krauss, Staff Sgt. Ryan Thompson, Airman 1st Class Austin Shaffer and Airman 1st Class Jeff Hall, each of whom received a commander's coin and VIP service for a steak lunch.

They also were recognized by Colonel Nelson during a commander's call that preceded Family Day events later in the afternoon.

The Fitness Challenge was coordinated by Tech. Sgt. Dale Grupe, Staff Sgt. Shaun Cowherd and Master Sgt. Kenny Richards. Sergeants Grupe and Cowherd are certified by the Cooper Institute as qualified personal trainers. They also manage the base fitness center.

The idea was to create an event that promoted teamwork and morale as much as it promoted personal fitness, while also adhering to all Air Force fitness and safety standards, organizers said.

The entire base ultimately became involved, with many people volunteering to serve as monitors. Others offered moral support by clapping and cheering for the competitors as they pushed past their personal limits.

"It was a huge success and could very possibly become an annual event," Sergeant Lindsey said.



## FITNESS CHALLENGE



Members of the 123rd Airlift Wing pushed themselves to the limit July 13 during the unit's first-ever Fitness Challenge. The event, scheduled as part of annual Wingman Day activities, included a team relay race, timed crunches and push-ups. Top honors went to a team from the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, which completed the challenge circuit in a time of 9:09. (KyANG photos by Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora.)



## Rapid response



Maj. Ash Groves/KyANG

**SALINA, Kan.** — Members of Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group off-load a mobile command post here June 18 as part of Operation Ardent Sentry, a multi-state homeland defense exercise designed to test the military's ability to respond to enemy attacks or natural disasters. The 123rd CRG airlifted equipment and a National Guard Civil Support Team from Iowa as part of the exercise, verifying the team's mobility plan for the first time. Civil Support Teams aid local first-responders in determining the nature of an attack or incident, provide medical and technical advice, and pave the way for follow-on state and federal military assets.

## Promotions in the Kentucky Air Guard

*The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:*

### TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

**Brian Milburn**,  
165th Airlift Sq.  
**Matthew O'Bryan**,  
123rd Airlift Control Flt.  
**Ricky Odle**,  
123rd Services Flt.  
**George Burke**,  
123rd Logistics Readiness Flt.

**James Campbell**,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.

**Rachel Carter**,  
123rd Services Flt.

**Aaron Foote**,  
123rd Services Flt.

**Jessica Martin**,  
123rd Services Flt.

**Carlos Tucker**,  
123rd Special Tactics Sq.

**Mark Williams**,  
123rd Logistics Readiness Sq.

### MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

**John P. Carrico**,  
123rd Medical Grp.

**Barry Mayfield**,  
123rd Security Forces Sq.

## Wright wins AMC safety award

By Tech. Sgt. Phil Speck  
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

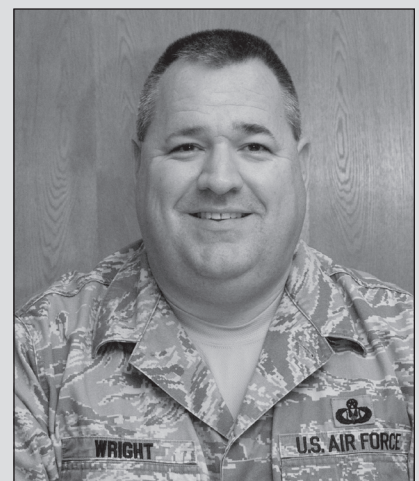
Senior Master Sgt. Barry Wright, the 123rd Airlift Wing's safety and occupational health manager, has been named one of the top safety professionals in the U.S. Air Force.

Air Mobility Command leaders recently selected Sergeant Wright for its 2008 AMC Distinguished Individual Safety Award. The honor recognizes significant achievement in mishap prevention, officials said.

Sergeant Wright previously won the same award at the Air National Guard level.

Among his many accomplishments in 2008, Sergeant Wright developed a wing safety Web site that received numerous accolades during higher-headquarters assessments, which he further promoted across the Air Guard by lending expertise to four other wings. During a Unit Compliance Inspection, Sergeant Wright also was recognized by the AMC inspector general for managing an exemplary safety program.

Sergeant Wright volunteers several hours each week by conducting child car-seat inspections at local hospitals and supporting "train-the-trainer" courses for civilian safety professionals. He also is an active member of a Civil Air Patrol wing, emphasizing safe procedures to the unit's young cadets.



Senior Master Sgt. Barry Wright

# Wing participates in historic disaster-response exercise

By Maj. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

National Guard officials stood up a joint task force command center here Aug. 3 in support of the largest disaster-response exercise in state history.

Staffed by about 40 Airmen and Soldiers from the 123rd Airlift Wing and a variety of Army National Guard units across Kentucky, the command center was charged with coordinating the activities of troops in a 30-county area of responsibility known as Joint Task Force Cardinal.

The exercise itself was designed to test the Guard's response to an Avian Flu pandemic that quickly spread across the Commonwealth, leading to mass quarantines, thousands of deaths and widespread civic unrest, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air and commander of Task Force Cardinal.

Notionally, more than 2,700 Soldiers and Airmen were assigned to the task force, which included the full assets of the 123rd Airlift Wing as well as the Army Guard's 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade, 1204th Aviation Support Battalion and 198th Military Police Battalion.

Command center officials primarily were tasked with responding to requests for help from civil authorities. Guard missions included direct support of local health departments and law-enforcement agencies, as well crowd control and mortuary operations. Guardsmen also provided real-world airlift capabilities and simulated support to civil authorities to maintain essential public services and critical commercial activities as directed by the governor.

Although many of the Guard's responses were largely academic, with no actual troop movements taking place, General Kraus said the exercise was invaluable for the opportunity it provided to develop stronger working relationships between the Air and Army Guard, as well as with civilian law-enforcement agencies, first-responders and emergency managers across Kentucky.

"These kinds of relationships will pay off in a big way the next time the Guard is called upon to provide support for disaster-response, homeland-security or homeland-defense missions," he said.

The same benefits were reaped in other regions of the state, too, officials said. Joint Task Force Cardinal was just one piece of a much larger exercise involving Guard units, state emergency-management officials and local government agencies from Paducah to Pikeville.

The two primary hubs of operation were located at the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Center in Frankfort, Ky., and the National Incident Management System Center



KyANG photos by Maj. Dale Greer

**Joint Task Force Cardinal officials receive a status update of relief operations at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base on Aug. 5.**



**Above: Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Joint Task Force Cardinal commander, analyzes the Guard's response to mortuary operations as simulated casualty rates approach 7,000.**

**Left: Lt. Col. Kevin Morris coordinates an airlift sortie to transport troops as needed across the Commonwealth.**

in Somerset, Ky.

Brig. Gen. John W. Heltzel, director of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, called the exercise unprecedented, both in terms of its scale and value.

"This exercise presents an opportunity the Commonwealth has never seen before, with all levels of participation to include government, the private sector and our National Guard," he said. "The exercise has been planned for quite some time, but with the H1N1 virus that is

now circulating, the timing could not have been better. We will take lessons learned from this exercise and be better prepared in the event we do face a pandemic in the future."

The exercise, which ended Aug. 7, also included a terrorist scenario in which a sniper attacked a college campus and detonated a radiological "dirty" bomb in Midway, Ky. Air Guard troops supported that scenario by setting

**See EXERCISE, Back Page**

**Guard captures  
'high-value'  
terror suspect  
in Baghdad**

American Forces Press Service

**BAGHDAD — National Guard forces apprehended a man suspected of being the leader of a bomb-making cell during a July 12 civil affairs mission west of Baghdad.**

**Civil affairs officers from C Troop, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron of the West Virginia Army National Guard, went to the man's house July 12 to pay for damages to his front door caused during a previous attempt to capture the known criminal.**

**The man attempted to flee through a field behind his house but surrendered to pursuing C Troop soldiers, who transferred him to Iraqi army custody, said Jason Chudy, a spokesman for the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.**

**"His son yelled into the window when we arrived and he squirted out the back door," said Sgt. Christopher Cooper with C Troop.**

**"It was great to capture a known Iraqi terrorist."**

**The suspected criminal admitted he is a member of an insurgency group. Iraqi soldiers had been searching for him for nearly a week, Mr. Chudy said.**

**"He was listed ninth on the (battalion's) Iraqi high-value target list, and there was a terrorist warrant for his arrest here in Iraq," said Army 2nd Lt. Jason Hickman, a C Troop platoon leader.**

**The man also is one of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team's "most wanted."**

**The 30th HBCT is the parent brigade to the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron and is made up of National Guardsmen from North Carolina, West Virginia and Colorado.**

**C Troop is based in Glen Jean, W.Va.**

**Final class graduates at AMS**

**ANG commissioning academy closes doors**

**By Master Sgt. Greg Rudl  
National Guard Bureau**

**McGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. — The commissioning bell here tolled 94 times on June 26, and 94 new Air National Guard second lieutenants were challenged to become great leaders.**

**The bell tolled for the last time for the officer candidates of class "O-2009-4," the last class to graduate from the Academy of Military Science, an officer commissioning program here at the I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center.**

**When their names were called, candidates rang the bell, stepped up on stage, received their diplomas and a set of gold bars.**

**Presenting firm handshakes and diplomas were Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard; Lt. Col. Ron Daniels, the AMS commandant; and Col. Richard Howard, commander of the Training and Education Center.**

**More than 600 guests and distinguished visitors watched in Wilson Hall as Wyatt administered the federal oath to these future leaders of the Air National Guard.**

**"It's a great day for them, for us and the entire country," said Peter Shinn, a faculty advisor for the AMS graduating class. "They have been a through a transformative experience."**

**After 38 years at McGhee-Tyson, the Academy of Military Science will move to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to form a partnership with the Air Force's Officer Training School.**

**The move will provide a shared, common experience for all officer candidates in the Total Force, Guard officials said.**

**After the commissioning ceremony, the new lieutenants marched in a pass-in-review for General Wyatt, Colonel Daniels and Colonel Howard that included a flyover of F-16 Falcon jets and a P-51 Mustang.**

**The relief and sense of accomplishment could be seen in the faces of graduates, including now 2nd Lt. Tarren Barrett, who said, "I won't stop smiling today."**

**Lieutenant Barrett is headed to civil**

**engineering school at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.**

**"I look forward to going back to my unit ... and supporting those I've been tasked to lead," she said, adding that she is proud to be a part of the last class here, especially since she's from the local area.**

**2nd Lt. Lance McDaniel of Spokane, Wash., was practicing his about-faces in front of his mom and girlfriend in Spruance Hall before graduation.**

**"It was tough," he said about the experience. "I took it seriously, and it will give me the tools I need to be a successful officer."**

**Along with honing his problem-solving skills, he learned about traditions, such as why many officers defer wearing ribbons during normal duty days.**

**He said they do it to focus awards and accolades on their subordinates rather than themselves.**

**Lieutenant McDaniel said that he had many leadership traits before arriving here, but the six-week course taught him more, including not to interfere when someone else was in charge.**

**Being in the last class, "we felt that the bar was raised higher," he said. "Our instructors pushed us, and we as a class wanted to go further and exceed what previous classes had done."**

**Lieutenant McDaniel will report to pilot training in December to fly the KC-135 refueling tanker.**

**2nd Lt. Teah Johnson waited in the early morning for her parents, boyfriend and brother to join her for the day's events.**

**She will take her gold bars and her new-found leadership skills back to the 182nd Wing in Peoria, Ill., to become a navigator on the C-130 cargo aircraft. She was a staff sergeant and a crew chief on the plane before she came to AMS.**

**"I learned to be a good leader, but also a good follower," Lieutenant Johnson said. "The first week, I didn't like it here — that's to be expected — but it grew on me."**

**AMS has commissioned more than 14,600 officers in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. During the six-week course, students learned many lessons.**

**Officer Candidate Wayne Doyle challenged his classmates not to forget them, because "our enemies hope that we forget what we learn here about integrity, leadership and excellence."**

# Moore retires after 32-year Air Guard career

**Staff report**

Col. John D. Moore, a dentist and former commander of the 123rd Medical Group, retired from the Kentucky Air National Guard in June after a 32-year career of service to the state and nation.

Colonel Moore first joined the Kentucky Air Guard as a dentist in 1977. He was named chief of the dental clinic in 1981 and served as commander of the 123rd Medical Squadron here from 1998 to 2004. When the squadron was reorganized as a group, he continued to serve as commander until 2008.

During his three decades in the Kentucky Air Guard, Colonel Moore has deployed overseas numerous times, performing training and humanitarian missions in such locations as England, Korea, Japan and the Dominican Republic. Most recently, he lead the 123rd Medical Group to an “excellent” rating during the unit’s higher headquarters Health Services Inspection — its best score ever.

Colonel Moore’s awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Kentucky Merit Rib-



Airman 1st Class Max Rechel/KyANG

**Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, presents Col. John D. Moore with a certificate of retirement during a ceremony held on base June 6.**

bon. During a retirement ceremony held June 6 in the Base Annex, Kentucky’s assistant adjutant general for Air, Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus,

also awarded Colonel Moore The Legion of Merit and The Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal.

## Exercise

**Continued from Page 6**

up a portable patient decontamination system at Woodford Memorial Hospital, said Maj. Brian McMorrow, medical administration officer for the 123rd Medical Group.

Thirteen Kentucky Airmen processed wounded victims through the facility by removing all forms of chemical, biological and radiological contamination before admitting them to the hospital for medical care.

“This is the first time we’ve used the system in a field environment, and everything went very smoothly,” Major McMorrow said. “I think everyone now has an excellent grasp of what to expect in an operational setting.”

Kentucky Air Guard personnel also established command and control of military air traffic at Capital City Airport in Frankfort, where troops assigned to the 123rd Contingency Response Group directed helicopter airlift missions into and out of the airfield, General Kraus said.

Other Air Guard troops met with county government officials across the state to assess potential support needs in the event of a real-world disaster and explain what kinds of resources the Guard could bring to bear. Col. Mitch Perry, director of Air staff in Joint Forces Headquarters, was among the Airmen who conducted the visits, meeting with 16 circuit judges representing 29 counties. Additional Airmen visited county judge executives, emergency managers and first-responders in Bullitt, Henry and Spencer counties, General Kraus said.

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