

THE CARGO COURIER

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Wing completes back-to-back deployments

Kentucky Air Guard provides C-130 theater airlift in Europe, Caribbean and Central and South America

By Maj. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The 123rd Airlift Wing completed two back-to-back overseas deployments this month that delivered more than 145 tons of cargo and over 500 troops to locations across Europe, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The first deployment saw 72 Kentucky Air Guardsmen and two of the wing's C-130 aircraft deploy to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from Aug. 17 to Sept. 5 for Operation Joint Enterprise.

That ongoing mission grew out of an operation to fly troops and supplies into Bosnia-Herzegovina in the mid-1990s, but it has since expanded to include support of military operations across Europe, Africa and the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

The Kentucky Air Guard has now sent Airmen and aircraft to Germany more than a half-dozen times since the 1990s to support Operation Joint Enterprise and its predecessor campaigns, each time staffing the deployments with an all-volunteer cadre of troops, said Col. Greg Nelson, wing commander.

This time, Kentucky Airmen flew 60 sorties into 18 countries, delivering troops and cargo to such locations as Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, England, Kosovo, Sardinia, Serbia, Romania and Turkey, said Lt. Col. Scott Wilson, mission commander.

The second overseas mission took place Sept. 12 to Oct. 10 when more than 100 Kentucky Airmen and four C-130s deployed to San Juan, Puerto Rico in support of Operation Coronet Oak.

Working from Muniz Air National Guard Base, the Airmen provided theater airlift for U.S. government and Southern Command military operations throughout the Caribbean and Central and South



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Troops load a pallet of cargo aboard a 123rd Airlift Wing C-130 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base on Aug. 17 prior to the plane's departure for Germany in support of Operation Joint Enterprise.

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Ceremony to stand up new Force Support Squadron today

Cargo Courier Staff Report

When it comes to people programs, community support and quality of life, there is now one organization on base to handle it all — the 123rd Force Support Squadron.

The new unit, which will be formally activated today during a 2:30 p.m. ceremony in the Base Annex, is the result of an ongoing Air Force-wide merger of mission support

and services squadrons. The revised structure will help streamline processes, maximize customer service and cut costs associated with maintaining separate organizations, said Lt. Col. Kathryn Pfeifer, 123rd FSS commander.

"Because we're a leaner force, we need to focus on getting our people and organizations to operate at maximum efficiency," Colonel Pfeifer said. "This reorganization puts our manpower, personnel and services capabili-

ties under one leadership 'hat,' which reduces overhead and gives our people the flexibility to be more responsive to customers' needs."

The new FSS includes four flights: force development, manpower and personnel, Airmen and family services, and sustainment services.

The structure combines similar functional areas that already work closely together, Colo-

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Get ready for a year of historic achievements

Happy New Year! Or, at least Happy New Fiscal Year. Welcome back for our October Unit Training Assembly.

We took a nice break in September after completing a record fiscal year. Thanks again, but get ready! Fiscal Year 2010 will be historic for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

For the first time in our history, we will demonstrate our combat readiness to respond to a homeland security emergency or homeland defense enemy attack under an Air Mobility Command Inspector General Operational Readiness Inspection.

This will not only be a first for the 123rd, it also will mark the first time that any Air Mobility Command or Air National Guard unit will perform a homeland security/home-land defense ORI.

We will prove that we are just as ready to do our mission in support of the Commonwealth or another state as we are in support of our allies abroad.

But that's not all. After we complete our ORI, we will deploy in support of multiple overseas contingency operations around the world during our next Aerospace Expeditionary Forces rotation.

So: Get ready now!

Beginning this month we will build on a foundation we set last fiscal year: readiness of mind and body; personal and professional accountability on and off duty; and service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our great nation.

Additionally, we will hone the skills we need for immediate response when called. Beginning with a culture of "safety first" in everything we do, we will ensure we are



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

manned, complete necessary training and acquire the equipment needed to perform our mission. We will ensure we have our personal affairs in order so we can deploy immediately, knowing our family and loved ones will be fine while we are gone.

We will train to survive any enemy attack and continue to perform our operational mission, while insuring security of operations, communications, our forces and infrastructure.

We will demonstrate in an outstanding manner that we can mobilize, deploy,

operate and survive attack, win, and return victorious.

This month, we will complete a mobility exercise that will test our immediate readiness to deploy within the Commonwealth, the United States or overseas.

The success of our MOBEX begins with your readiness.

Have you completed the multiple training events necessary, ensuring that you will know what to do when deployed (self-aid and buddy care, Law of Armed Conflict, weapons qualification, information/communications security training, etc.)?

Are you physically prepared to endure the hardships of an austere deployed location (immunizations, medical exams, physical fitness tests, etc.)?

Are you prepared to perform your specific mission (Career Development Course completion, currencies, specialty qualifications)?

Is your equipment ready (personal baggage and protective equipment)? Are our aircraft, vehicles and support equipment ready?

We will find out this weekend.

Our MOBEX is the first step toward next year's inspection. Later, we will train under an Ability to Survive and Operate exercise.

We will have a couple of MOBEX and ATSO exercises before we perform a deployed exercise and our inspection.

At the same time, every day, we must be ready for the call from our governor here at home or from our allies abroad asking for help. We will be there. We are the 123rd Airlift Wing. Get ready!

— 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 Oct. 25.

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

Executive order bans texting while driving

A new executive order, signed recently by President Barack Obama, prohibits on-duty federal employees from texting while driving, effective Oct. 1.

Executive Order 13513 states that “federal employees shall not engage in text messaging (a) when driving (government-owned or privately owned vehicles) while on official Government business, or (b) when using electronic equipment supplied by the Government while driving.”

The executive order defines texting in section 6 (b): “‘Texting’ or ‘Text Messaging’ means reading from or entering data into any handheld or other electronic device, including for the purpose of SMS texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, obtaining navigational information, or engaging in any other form of electronic data retrieval or electronic data communication.”

The bottom line is that if you are on duty as a federal employee, you are banned from texting while driving.

Research has shown that the distraction caused by texting while driving is equivalent to the impairment caused by having a blood-alcohol level of twice the legal limit.

While Kentucky has not passed a law prohibiting texting while driving, all the surrounding states except Ohio have. It is only a matter of time before all states ban texting while driving, so we should stop any bad habits today and practice safety in all aspects of our lives.

The text of the entire executive order is available at the 123rd Airlift Wing (Open) Community of Practice Web site, in the “News and Info” folder; or on the public Web at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-24203.pdf>.

— *Maj. Charles Hans,*
Base safety officer

Wagner named top security civilian

Cargo Courier Staff Report

Senior Airman Windy Wagner, a security forces troop who serves as the 123rd Airlift Wing’s full-time civilian security program manager, has been named the top security forces civilian in both the Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

The awards, bestowed in 2008, recognize Airman Wagner’s exceptional accomplishments in a wide range of essential activities, according to Chief Master Sgt. Dan Radke, base security forces manager.

These include providing superior service for the pass and vehicle registration section, which issued more than 1,200 decals during the evaluation period while keeping wait times under five minutes; outstanding supervision of the personnel security section, which expertly processed more than 170 security clearances in compliance with Air Force regulations; and proactive management of the information security program, which conducted 12 program reviews to

ensure that classified accounts were being properly maintained.

Airman Wagner also contributed to the unit’s being selected as the 2006 Air National Guard Outstanding Security Forces Squadron by excelling in her role as the organization’s primary computer support administrator and by helping secure more than \$780,000 in additional funding as the squadron resource adviser.

The money was used to purchase badly needed deployment gear and upgrades for the base alarm system, Chief Radke said.

Her other duties include serving as a functional area records manager, squadron computer security monitor, information technology equipment custodian, orderly room clerk and orders preparation clerk.

Airman Wagner is an active supporter of local youth baseball leagues and volunteers much of her spare time to Janet’s Helpers, a civilian charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged Appalachian children.



Photo courtesy 123rd Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Windy Wagner, who serves as the 123rd Airlift Wing’s full-time civilian security program manager, receives the Outstanding Air National Guard Security Forces Civilian of the Year Award for 2007 from Col. Bill Albro, former director of A-7 at the National Guard Bureau, during an annual security forces symposium held in Annapolis, Md., on Nov. 6. Airman Wagner also won the same honor at the Air Force level.

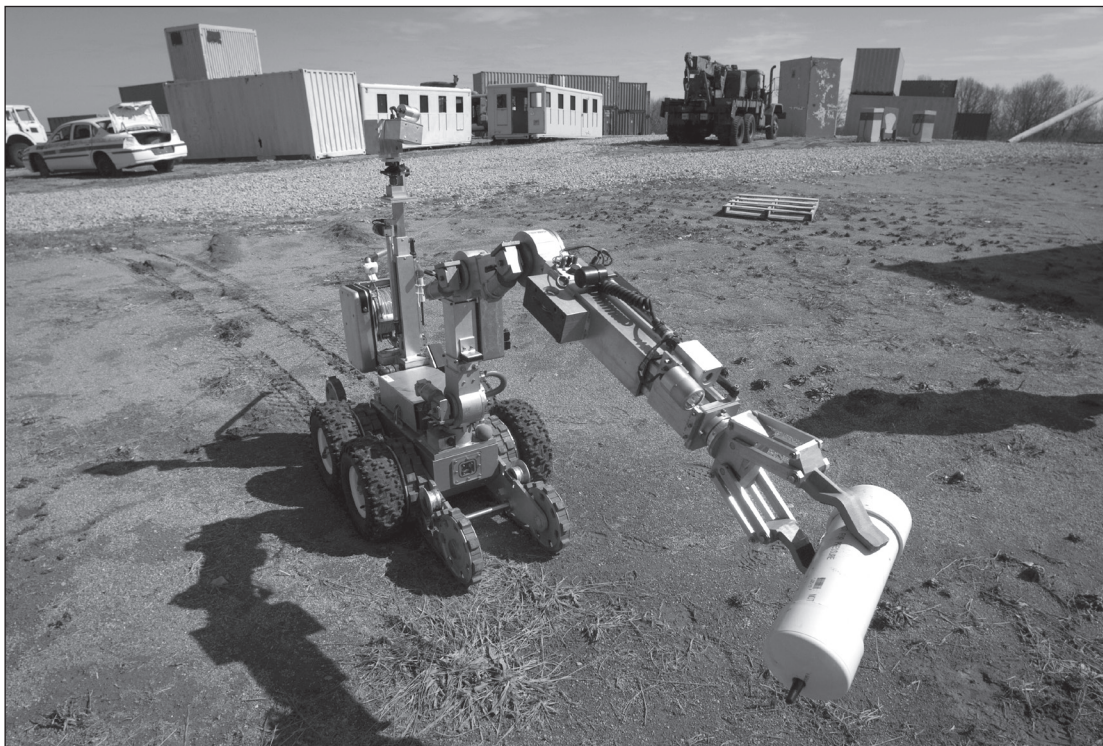
Joint mission showcases 123rd Airlift Wing



Clockwise from left: Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods attaches C-4 plastic explosives to a row of 25-pound practice bombs at the Camp Atterbury Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range in Indiana.

Staff Sgt. Matthew "Mouse" Meuser, a Kentucky Air Guard explosive ordnance disposal technician, controls a Remotec MK VI Andros robot as he checks a simulated suspicious vehicle during a training evolution at Camp Atterbury.

The Remotec robot carries a simulated pipe bomb to a secure location to be x-rayed. By x-raying the suspect device, Airmen are able to determine its explosive capabilities and properly disrupt it.



Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. D. Cargo Courier Editor

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — There's a suspicious vehicle parked in front of the Indiana National Guard's primary training facilities.

Military and civilian authorities have no other options or any chances. They call the closest military unit they know — the Kentucky Air National Guard's explosive ordnance disposal team.

Within moments of a briefing from the incident commanders, responders, the Airmen deploy their Remotec MK VI Andros robot. From a safe distance, the robot uses its camera to survey the scene.

They find a suspicious tube in the trunk, remove it with the robot and place it in a safer location.

Now it's time to sweat. Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods, a seasoned explosive ordnance disposal technician, dons an 80-pound "bomb suit" to protect the body's vital organs in the event of an explosion. That's an eventual possibility, Woods would rather not contemplate.

To safely destroy the probable pipe bomb, Woods must hand-carry an x-ray device to scan the object and determine the best way to disarm or destroy it. Years of training and experience, coupled with an hour of extreme physical and careful planning, come to a close with a seemingly uneventful shell pop. Plastic from the pipe bomb is scattered to the winds.

The exercise is over.

So is a four-day, real-world mission. The training evolution that cleared the Indiana National Guard's Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range here of ordnance and sharpened the skills of Kentucky Airmen and Indiana State Police hazardous devices technicians.

"This is a win-win situation for both states," said Kentucky Air National Guard, said Staff Sgt. Craig Haggard, Commander, Joint Air Force Component, Detachment 1, Indiana National Guard. "By regulation, we have to have pipe bombs on our range. We don't have a dedicated team. Kentucky does, and when they're here they're able to do training they can't do at home."

According to Colonel Haggard, the training range clearance is increasing in demand based on worldwide demands for explosive ordnance disposal. By incorporating Indiana emergency response teams, the Kentucky Airmen and Indiana State Police improve their abilities for both states.

"There's only so much you can do in a room," explains Master Sgt. Shane Meuser, a noncommissioned officer in charge of the EOD shop. "This is a chance to help them and give our young guys the opportunity to learn from the best."

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According to Sergeant Lagrone, the real-world mission of range maintenance is one of EOD's core tasks. It's a "bread-and-butter" job that involves identifying ordnance that may still contain explosives, lining these bombs up, connecting C-4, triggering a fuse and driving a safe distance away to watch the fireworks.

Safe, expended ordnance is then recycled or otherwise removed from the range.

Sergeant Lagrone, who was twice awarded the Bronze Star for combat service, said that, in the hands of professionals, the EOD job is safe — safer at least than two tours spent clearing Iraq's highways of improvised explosive devices while under fire.

He said the opportunity to perform the mission in Indiana helps the Airmen build credibility with leadership in both states.

"Sometimes people think of us as cowboys," he said. "They think we just want to run off base blow stuff up — knock down trees and everything. The truth is that, yes, we're going to race off base and do our job just like anybody else would. But we're very careful and educated about what we do. Our biggest fear is losing someone on a call."

In fact, one of the highlights of the deployment to Indiana was something that wasn't on anyone's agenda.

Shortly before the trip, Sergeant Squier was given an unfired piece of military ordnance that was in an aging Indiana woman's home. Senior Master Sgt. Lou Corner, EOD superintendent, was able to identify the ordnance and confirm the danger it posed in civilian hands.

According to Sergeant Squier, as World War II veterans pass on, their survivors occasionally inherit hand grenades, shells and other dangerous explosives that were brought home as souvenirs. Training with the Kentucky Airmen not only allowed the sergeant and a fellow officer to take a potentially deadly piece of weaponry out of the community, it helped them improve their skills at assessing military ordnance.

This exchange and experience working together may be especially important if military EOD members are ever tasked to respond to statewide emergencies.

"Everyone on our team has deployed at least once," Sergeant Corner said. "And we know it's just a matter of time before we go again. Being able to answer the nation's call is something we're proud of. At the same time, we want to be the best possible asset we can be for our Commonwealth if the state or our neighbors need our help. We're confident we can answer that call and perform whenever and wherever we're needed."



Left: Staff Sgt. Matthew "Mouse" Meuser helps explosive ordnance disposal technician Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods adjust his EOD 8 bomb suit before proceeding to x-ray a simulated pipe bomb at Camp Atterbury. KyANG Sergeants Meuser and Woods were on a training evolution after clearing the Indiana National Guard's range of expended ordnance.



Above: Tech. Sgt. Lowery Woods attaches C-4 plastic explosives to a 500-pound practice bomb at Camp Atterbury.



Left: Staff Sgt. Matthew "Mouse" Meuser secures detonation cord that has been inserted into C-4 plastic explosives at Camp Atterbury. Cutting open the ordnance verifies that it does not contain high explosives and that the items are safe to be removed from the range.

Shoop honored for national excellence

By Capt. Amy Mundell
123rd Medical Group

Col. Diana Shoop has been named recipient of the 2008 Brig. Gen. Donald Wagner Administrative Excellence Award, which is bestowed annually on a reserve-component Medical Service Corps officer for outstanding administrative contributions to the Air Force Medical Service.

Colonel Shoop, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Medical Group, won the national award in recognition of her

outstanding achievements last year.

Among these, Colonel Shoop designed and developed a demanding but inspiring two-year preparatory initiative to ensure unit compliance for a scheduled Health Services Inspection. That program led to the 123rd Medical Group receiving the highest inspection marks in unit history.

In the spirit of the Kentucky Derby, the pre-inspection project was known as the "HSI Derby." Each duty section created a symbolic race horse to represent its progress toward completion of 13 "homework" assignments. The assignments were designed to move sections closer to the "finish line," representing total compliance.

Colonel Shoop also composed and published rigorous standards for medical ethics and the treatment of patients, as well as a Customer Bill of Rights to protect patient confidentiality and promote superior service.



Amanda Marshall/NGB

Left: Maj. Gen. Raymond Webster, Air National Guard assistant to the surgeon general, presents Col. Diana Shoop with the 2008 Brig. Gen. Donald Wagner Administrative Excellence Award in August during the Readiness Frontiers medical conference in Snowbird, Utah.

Squadron

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nel Pfeifer said. For example, the sustainment services flight contains the food operations, fitness and wellness, and lodging branches.

"This is basically a behind-the-scenes change and should appear transparent to most Airmen here at the Kentucky Air Guard," Colonel Pfeifer said.

"If someone needs to go get an ID card, that person will still go to the same location they're familiar with today. What we'll have, however, is a more effective force structure in place to better support our Airmen in the long run."

To make sure the Air Force wouldn't "break anything" by merging the mission support and services, six Air Force bases across six commands were selected early last year to test the new squadron model, officials said.

The test bases — Edwards, Eielson, F.E. Warren, Grand Forks, Laughlin and Minot — helped establish where specific responsibilities and processes should be placed within the organizational structure and how they should be set up.

"The end-of-test reports from the test sites indicate that this merger has not been without its challenges," Colonel Pfeifer said. "They had to re-establish lines of communication, move some people around and overcome cultural differences between the functions. But, even with the difficulties, we're already see-

ing the benefits of combining these assets."

Colonel Pfeifer cited the new force development flight as an example of positive changes coming.

"The new force development flight commander is responsible for all education, training, professional development and professional military education," she said. "It's advantageous for the wing to have one person overseeing and integrating the learning opportunities for the installation."

The merger also is advantageous for the careers of future force support officers and civilians.

"This reorganization opens up career opportunities that we haven't had before," Colonel Pfeifer said. "With our training plan in place, our people will be able to gain valuable experience across different functional areas."

"The bottom-line is that there is now a new name at the Kentucky Air Guard — the 123rd Force Support Squadron — in place of what once were the 123rd Mission Support and 123rd Services Flights.

"One thing will not change: The dedicated people of this newly merged organization will continue doing their best to support commanders and provide first-class support to their customers."

Colonel Pfeifer comes to the job with a background in missile maintenance and civil engineering. She earned her commission through Air Force ROTC in 1988 and joined the Kentucky Air National Guard in

2000 after serving 10 years on active duty.

In 2003, she was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and spent a tour of duty at Camp Sather, Baghdad, Iraq, supporting civil engineer operations. Prior to assuming her current position, Colonel Pfeifer served as inspector general for the Kentucky Air National Guard.



Lt. Col. Kathryn Pfeifer

Wyatt: Guard needs to adapt to new missions

The future will provide “great opportunities” for the Air National Guard, but it also will require a different way of thinking, the ANG director said Oct. 15 at the ANG Maintenance Group Mega-Conference in Boise, Idaho.

“For those in this room, we’re going to rely on your skills as great maintainers, but you may be maintaining something you never thought you’d put your hands on,” said Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III to the conference attendees.

Adapting to changes in the active-duty Air Force is critical, General Wyatt added. There are new platforms and new missions, including unmanned aircraft systems, and the Air Guard needs to be an integral part of these changes.

“All services are looking beyond the challenges we face today, and the ability to adapt to a changing environment really begins and stops with our people,” he said.

Air Guard members need to understand these new roles and command organizations in current operations. That understanding exists to a certain degree, “but we need to elevate that presence into command and higher levels of responsibility to be the Airmen of the future,” General Wyatt said. “I need your help in doing that.”

Commanders should provide their officers and enlisted personnel with a more joint professional military education.

“We need (you) to develop our younger Airmen by taking (them) under your wings and giving them the opportunities to succeed and exceed expectations,” he said. “We need to have more flexible and adaptable Airmen.

“I know we have the ability, the skills and expertise, because every time the Air Force gets into a pickle, they call upon the Air National Guard,” General Wyatt said.

Air Mobility Command stands up blended units

Active-duty, Guard and Reserve elements merge for a total force concept

By Master Sgt. Angie Sarchet
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command officials here continued their total force integration efforts Oct. 1 with the stand-up of three active associate units that now combine active-duty units and Airmen who accomplish the KC-135 Stratotanker air refueling mission with their Reserve and Guard counterparts.

The three units that stood up are at Scott Air Force Base, Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., and Birmingham Air National Guard Base, Ala.

Total force integration, an effort initiated by AMC officials several years ago, maximizes resources while increasing operational effectiveness in support of warfighters.

Simply defined, an associate unit is where active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members combine forces and missions using total force integration.

Normally, people think of an associate unit when the active duty owns the aircraft and the Reserve or Air National Guard co-locate with them to provide only manpower.

On Oct. 1, however, that relationship evolved with great success as AMC broke the old paradigm.

In the past, active-duty units were not placed at Reserve or Guard “unit equipped” locations. To take advantage of synergies and aircraft, active duty units are now being stood up at these locations.

This enables the Air Force to be more productive in meeting the global demands for mobility air forces.

Recent active associate success stories can be found for the C-40 mission at Scott Air Force Base; for the C-130 mission at

Cheyenne Municipal Airport, Wyo.; and for the KC-135 mission at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

AMC officials will continue to capitalize on the success of these units and apply lessons learned to the new units the command brings on line.

“Having the KC-135 active association unit stand up at Scott Air Force Base is another testimony of how we enable combat power,” said Col. Gary Goldstone, the newly established 375th Air Mobility Wing commander.

“As part of the total force integration, this transition allows better use of resources and manpower to ensure we better accomplish the mission both at home and during contingency deployments.”

Active associations are a win-win for AMC, officials said.

The total force integration concept builds on state and regional capabilities, increasing economic efficiencies and enhancing the Air Force’s ability to defend the homeland against emerging threats, respond to natural disasters and meet the requirements for contingency operations.

As the Air Force realigns and consolidates, the use of total force integration has helped enhance unit operations and optimize mobility partnerships, particularly in AMC.

While some units are moving, deactivating and reactivating due to the last round of Base Realignment and Closure Commission actions, this creates unique partnerships not normally seen in the Total Force community.

At Scott Air Force Base, Air National Guard leaders agreed about the capability provided by building associate units.

“The Illinois Air National Guard’s 126th Air Refueling Wing is an outstanding unit with a great history,” said Maj. Gen. William Enyart, the Illinois National Guard adjutant general.

“Our Illinois Airmen have an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience that makes the 126th Air Refueling Wing ideal to be an associate unit with the Air Force.”

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Deployments

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America, said Maj. James White, mission commander.

Both deployments follow on the heels of a third overseas mission this spring in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

About 200 Kentucky Airmen and multiple Kentucky Air Guard C-130s were deployed to Afghanistan in March, April and May, flying more than 1,500 combat sorties to deliver approximately 6,000 tons of cargo to forward operating bases in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. The Kentucky Airmen also airdropped vital equipment and supplies to U.S. and coalition forces on the ground, and transported more than 20,000 Soldiers across the theater of operations.

While the wing's aviation assets have been active in Europe, Asia, and Central and South America, scores of other unit members have deployed to Iraq and dozens of other locations around the world this year for missions ranging from civil engineering to public affairs.

"We can honestly say that the Kentucky Air National Guard supports every current overseas contingency operation," Colonel Nelson said.

The unit has been equally busy at home, providing extensive support for disaster relief operations after a statewide ice storm paralyzed the Commonwealth in January and record flooding struck Louisville in August.

The operations tempo isn't expected to slow much in the coming months, with an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for May and additional overseas deployments slated to follow next summer.

"Name a mission, and we're most likely playing a vital role, whether it be homeland defense or overseas contingency operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere," Colonel Nelson said.

"That is a testament to the men and women of the 123rd Airlift Wing, who are always ready to answer the call to duty, any time, anywhere. I'd like to thank our members for their continued dedication to the Air Force and Air National Guard mission all over the world."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 10,000 members of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard have deployed worldwide.



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Tech. Sgt. Matt Atkinson, a loadmaster in the 123rd Airlift Wing, checks C-130 passenger manifests at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base on Sept. 12 prior to a flight to Puerto Rico.