

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXV, No. 2 • Feb. 6, 2010

## 123rd supporting earthquake relief in Haiti



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**Personnel from the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group help off-load wounded Haitian refugees and medical personnel from a Puerto Rico National Guard Black Hawk helicopter at an air hub in Barahona, Dominican Republic, on Jan. 25. Volunteers and medical professionals from nongovernmental relief organizations are pouring in to the Dominican Republic to help wounded refugees of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti.**

### More than 45 deploy to establish initial air hub

**By Maj. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer**

More than 45 members of the Kentucky Air Guard are playing a key role in Haitian earthquake relief efforts after deploying to the Caribbean last month to set up an air hub, facilitating the arrival of more than 600 tons of critical supplies like medicine, food and water.

The Kentucky Airmen — all members of the 123rd Contingency Response Group — established the hub in Barahona, Dominican Republic, on Jan. 22 as part of Operation Unified Response. Wasting no time upon arrival from Louisville aboard C-130 aircraft, they were ready to accept inbound cargo planes in just two hours, according to Lt. Col. David Mounkes, CRG element commander.

The Barahona hub is one of three air terminals currently being operated by the U.S. military to provide humanitarian aid to Haiti, where the Jan. 12 earthquake killed more than 120,000 residents and caused massive devastation.

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## Wing wins extraordinarily rare 14th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

**By Maj. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer**

The U.S. Air Force has awarded the 123rd Airlift Wing its 14th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award — an extraordinary achievement that confirms the wing's standing as one of the most decorated units in the United States military, said Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general.

Wing officials believe that no other Air Guard unit has won as many Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. The North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing has 13 such honors, and the 116th Air Control Wing, a joint active-duty/Air National Guard unit based in Georgia, has 14.

The Kentucky unit's previous honors were bestowed in 1970, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2006 and 2008.

"This latest award is only the most recent in a long series of honors — stretching back decades — that recognizes the 123rd Airlift Wing as one of the finest units in the Air National Guard or the U.S. Air Force," General Tonini said.

"Whether they're deploying to Afghanistan to provide crucial airlift for Operation Enduring Freedom or delivering life-saving assistance during last year's devastating ice storm in Kentucky, the men and women of the 123rd Airlift Wing have shown repeatedly that they are ready to answer the call to duty, any time, anywhere, and perform their mission with a level of excellence that is unsurpassed in the U.S. military."

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award recognizes exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement. It is bestowed on the top 10 percent of all Air Force organizations each year.

The new award recognizes the 123rd Airlift Wing's accomplishments from Oct. 1, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2009. During those two years, the wing stepped up to perform numerous critical missions at home and abroad, deploying 759 personnel to 62 locations in 20 countries — many of them in harm's way.

For example, about 300 Kentucky Airmen and multiple C-130 aircraft were deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, from March

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## 123rd Airlift Wing answers the call — again

Last month, we practiced our ability to mobilize, generate aircraft and prepare personnel and equipment for deployment in support of any natural disaster or enemy attack in the United States. We completed this training in spite of snow and below-zero wind-chill conditions, demonstrating the 123rd Airlift Wing is ready!

Throughout last year, we continuously prepared, trained and honed our readiness skills. At the same time, we deployed all over the world supporting multiple overseas contingency operations. Exactly one year ago, we answered the call to help our family, friends and neighbors here in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by immediately responding to one of the worst ice storms in our history. Super Bowl Sunday last year, we had Airmen knocking on doors in areas without power, providing food, water and supplies throughout the state. The 123rd Airlift Wing answered the call!

Since our last Unit Training Assembly, we continued our readiness preparation planning for another mobility exercise. At the same time, we flew training and airlift missions for the National Guard Bureau and Air Mobility Command. Then the earthquake hit Haiti, and the 123rd responded.

Immediately, our Operations and Maintenance Groups provided aircraft and crews for alert airlift missions. Two combat controllers from our Special Tactics Squadron immediately deployed, providing emergency air traffic control at Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They controlled the first airdrop mission and established multiple



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

helicopter landing zones.

Our Contingency Response Group commander and three staff deployed as the AFNORTH deputy director of mobility forces for Air, coordinating all the airflow in and out of Haiti. After one week of global response, the Port-au-Prince airfield was full. AFSOUTH then identified two additional airfields in the Dominican Republic to provide more air mobility support under Operation Unified Response.

They called the 123rd Contingency Response Group to open operations at Maria

Montez International Airport in Barahona.

In less than two days from tasking, three 123rd Airlift Wing C-130s deployed 46 personnel and equipment from the 123rd CRG. Within two hours after they landed, the airfield was open for operations. As of this writing, they are still providing humanitarian relief and disaster assistance supplies, equipment and personnel flow from the United States into Haiti.

The strength of our Wing Plans, Mission Support and Medical Groups enabled their rapid deployment. The 123rd Airlift Wing answered the call — again!

I could not be more proud to be a member of the greatest wing in the world! We provided our Initial Response Hub to the country of Haiti. We will demonstrate this again to the Air Mobility Command Inspector General during our Operational Readiness Exercise in May.

As the adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini says when asked about our Initial Response Hub capabilities, "This is what we do!"

Our adjutant general and Joint Forces Headquarters-Kentucky leadership watched closely as we responded to the Haitian disaster, and their only question was: Why weren't we called first?

Oh yeah, I almost forgot — we also won our 14th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for all the great work you do! We are truly an outstanding wing, and I cannot thank you enough.

The 123rd Airlift Wing stands ready!

— Col. Greg Nelson

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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 March 29.

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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](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil)



## ANG bass tourney scheduled for spring

The 15th Annual Air National Guard Bass Fishing Tournament will be held April 28 and 29 on Lake Sinclair in Milledgeville, Ga.

This year's event will be hosted by the 116th Air Control Unit of the Georgia Air National Guard.

Organizers anticipate approximately 100 participants. Active and retired Guard members and immediate family members are eligible to participate.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Chris Carbajal at (478) 201-3201 or e-mail him at [carbajal@ang.af.mil](mailto:carbajal@ang.af.mil).

## Free online tutoring for military families

Active duty or deployed National Guard members and their families are eligible for free, online tutoring through a Defense Department service.

A Web site offers 24-hour professional tutors who can assist with homework, studying, test preparation, resume writing and more.

Participants can chat with their tutors, draw on an interactive whiteboard, browse web resources and get study help at no cost to the member.

Visit [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military) for more information or to participate.

## Dependent scholarship deadline approaches

Students interested in assistance through the 2010 Scholarships for Military Children Program must apply by Feb. 17.

Dependent, unmarried children younger than 21 (or 23 if enrolled as a full-time college or university student) of active-duty, Reserve, Guard or retired military members and survivors are eligible.

Applications are available at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

## Award

### Continued from Front Page

through May 2009 to provide key airlift support for U.S. forces engaged with the enemy in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit maintained an unprecedented 100 percent mission-capable rate during the deployment, never missing a single scheduled flight due to aircraft maintenance issues while completing more than 1,500 combat sorties that delivered 3,900 tons of cargo and transported 20,000 troops throughout the theater of operations.

The wing also deployed more than 120 Airmen and two C-130 aircraft to the Caribbean in support of Operation Coronet Oak, an ongoing U.S. Southern Command mission to provide theater airlift capability for U.S. military and government agencies in Central and South America.

A third major overseas deployment saw more than 200 Kentucky Air Guardsmen and three C-130 aircraft deploy to Ramstein Airbase, Germany, from January through March 2008 and August through September 2009 as part of Operation Joint Enterprise.

Kentucky aircrews transported more than 200 tons of cargo and 700 troops to 18 nations across Europe and Africa during their tours.

The unit was equally engaged back home. When Hurricane Gustav began closing in on the Gulf Coast in August 2008, the 123rd

Airlift Wing provided the facilities and support for relief agencies to evacuate more than 1,400 New Orleans residents to Louisville and then repatriate them after the danger had passed.

The wing also stood up the Air National Guard's first Contingency Response Group — a rapid-reaction "airbase in a box" with all the personnel, training and equipment needed to deploy to a remote site, open up a runway and establish airfield operations so that aid and troops can begin to flow into affected areas after a disaster.

The group was instrumental in responding to the statewide ice storm last year that left nearly 770,000 households without power and water for days. All told, the wing deployed more than 380 Airmen across the Commonwealth to clear roads, distribute food and water and conduct house-to-house "wellness checks" credited with saving two people from death by carbon monoxide poisoning.

The wing's combat readiness also was validated by an Air Mobility Command Unit Compliance Inspection, which awarded the 123rd with an overall rating of "excellent."

"Our men and women stand ready to do their job anywhere, any time we are called," said Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"I am proud to be a member of the 123rd Airlift Wing, and I am humbled to be their commander.

"The 123rd is truly the greatest tactical airlift wing in the United States Air Force."



Maj Dale Greer/KyANG

A Kentucky Air Guardsman displays the colors as a Kentucky C-130 taxis onto the base flightline after returning from Afghanistan in May, 2009. The 123rd Airlift Wing transported more than 3,900 tons of cargo and 20,000 troops throughout the theater of operations during the deployment.



# KyANG troops direct air flow, drops in Haiti

123rd combat controllers set up LZs and DZs that support delivery of aid

## Cargo Courier Staff Report

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Two combat controllers from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron have been hard at work since arriving here Jan. 16, setting up drop zones and helicopter landing zones, and providing airfield operations and air traffic control at Toussaint Louverture International Airport.

The airmen are augmenting a special tactics team from the 720th Special Tactics Group, based at Hurlburt Field, Fla. Their names are not being released in accordance with a policy protecting the identity of special operations group members.

"These Airmen are doing a remarkable job," said Lt. Col. Kirk Hilbrecht, public affairs officer for the Kentucky National Guard, speaking from the Dominican Republic.

"In addition to their work at Port-au-Prince, they have scoured the country in helicopters to identify and survey suitable drop zones for the airdrop of relief supplies in otherwise unreachable areas.

"The combat controllers have to take careful consideration to ensure safety for the aircraft, Haitian citizens on the ground and remaining structures," he said. "They are doing everything possible to guarantee the relief makes it into the hands of those who are desperately in need.

"Last Tuesday, one of the combat controllers coordinated the first military C-17 airdrop of relief supplies into Haiti."

Both Airmen are continuing with their mission to locate suitable drop zones as well as provide air traffic control at Toussaint Louverture International Airport.

The deployment of the two combat controllers was followed Jan. 22 by the deployment of 46 members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group, which is currently operating an air hub in Barahona, Dominican Republic. (See story on the front page.)



Tech. Sgt. James L. Harper Jr./USAF

A combat controller from the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, right, teams up with his active-duty counterpart to establish a relief-supply drop zone near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Jan 18. More than 50 members of the Kentucky Air National Guard have been deployed for the relief effort following a magnitude-7 earthquake that hit Haiti Jan. 12.



Tech. Sgt. James L. Harper Jr./USAF

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III airdrops humanitarian aid into the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan 18. The airdrop was coordinated by special tactics operators from the Kentucky Air National Guard.



# Response

Continued from Front Page

The Barahona hub and another terminal in San Isidro, Dominican Republic, were established 10 days after the earthquake when the first hub, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, became saturated with staged cargo and could accommodate no more air traffic, Colonel Mounkes said.

Barahona is unique, he noted, because it is the only air terminal in theater to be run by Air Guard personnel.

"It's quite an honor for Kentucky to have the only Contingency Response Group in the Air National Guard that was called up to run an air hub," Colonel Mounkes said.

"This is a mission we're well-equipped to perform, and it's one that we take very seriously. We've been running 24-hour-a-day operations since we arrived in an attempt to get relief supplies to the earthquake victims as soon as possible. Every minute counts."

The Barahona hub is based at Maria Montez International airport, a seldom-used airfield that was only semi-operable when the Kentucky Airmen arrived, Colonel Mounkes said. Although some military aircraft had already flown into Maria Montez prior to the Kentucky Air Guard's arrival, none were Air Mobility Command transports capable of the kinds of heavy lifting needed for humanitarian relief.

"When we first arrived, we met with a joint assessment team from U.S. Southern Command that had been here just over 24 hours," Colonel Mounkes said. "They had already set up minimal operations. But our capabilities added satellite voice and data communications, aircraft command and control, and the personnel and equipment necessary to off-load air cargo, including a 10,000-pound all-terrain forklift. We also established night-time arrivals for inbound aircraft."

"All this allows us to facilitate the handling of AMC and coalition aircraft so that cargo can be rapidly processed and staged for distribution."

Since establishing the air hub at Maria Montez, the 123rd Contingency Response Group has controlled the arrival and off-loading of more than 35 U.S. and coalition aircraft, Colonel Mounkes said. The cargo is being staged at the airport for subsequent transport into Haiti by civilian-contracted trucks.

To speed up cargo processing, airfield workers are pulling pallets of supplies off incoming aircraft while the planes'

engines are still running, said Master Sgt. Larry Burba, a contingency response team chief. These EROs — short for engine-running off-loads — reduce the amount of time an aircraft sits on the flightline, occupying space that could accommodate another in-bound flight, Sergeant Burba said.

"We're downloading these aircraft in record time," he added. "The other day, we downloaded a C-130 in just 4 1/2 minutes, which is unheard of. The guys are just getting out there and knocking it out."

Among the material already processed for shipment into Haiti was highly perishable human plasma, said Lt. Col. Kirk Hilbrecht, director of public affairs for the Kentucky National Guard.

The plasma had a 24-hour shipping window when it arrived at the hub, meaning it needed to arrive in Haiti by the next day to be of any use in medical care.

"It came in at night and already had a clock ticking on it," Colonel Mounkes said. "Our guys went the extra mile to make sure contracting coordination went through so we could get the cargo into Haiti within the 24-hour time frame."

Personnel from the 123rd Contingency Response Group also have been assisting with the transport of injured refugees aboard Puerto Rico National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

"This has been a very rewarding mission for everyone involved," Colonel Mounkes said. "All our personnel are highly motivated to be down here, we work as a team, and every person is expected to function safely and efficiently while being proactive to address issues before they become problems."

"This is what we do, and we're very good at our jobs. I think that shows the kind of Airmen we have in the Kentucky Air National Guard — Airmen who have the experience that allows them to come down here and perform a mission like this on short notice with unsurpassed professionalism. It also speaks to their spirit of volunteerism. All of these folks were able to notify their civilian employers, pack up and be ready to go within 24 hours of receiving notice."

Sergeant Burba, for one, is happy to be of service.

"I feel great to have the opportunity to come down here and help out the people of Haiti," he said. "We're just excited to do the mission. Everyone wants to get that cargo in here, download the aircraft and get it to Haiti as soon as possible. It's an awesome feeling to know that you're making a real difference in the world, for people who really need your help."



Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency response Group off-load humanitarian supplies from a Rhode Island Air Guard C-130 at Maria Montez International Airport in the Dominican republic on Jan. 23.



A Canadian Forces Soldier discusses airfield operations Jan. 24 with a Kentucky Air Guardsman at Maria Montez International Airport in Barahona, Dominican Republic.



Lt. Col. David Mounkes, right, briefs incoming troops Jan. 23 as they work to establish an air hub at Maria Montez International Airport. The airport, shown below, had been seldom used in the past dozen years.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora./KyANG



# Wing supports deploying Soldiers

**Fort Knox-based unit to provide Haiti logistics**

**By Maj. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer**

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron processed more than 90 tons of cargo and about 40 U.S. Army Soldiers here Jan. 27 for deployment to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as part of the U.S. military's response to the Jan. 12 earthquake.

The Soldiers, who began departing from the Kentucky Air National Guard Base about 8 p.m. aboard three U.S. Air Force C-17s, will form the nucleus of a Joint Logistics Task Force. They are assigned to the Fort Knox, Ky.-based 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), whose mission is to "provide logistics expertise through sustainment and distribution management, anywhere, any time, in any environment," said Army Col.

Marvin Whitaker, the 3rd ESC's chief of staff.

The deployment was a true joint-service effort, with one aircraft and aircrews being provided by the 729th Airlift Squadron, an Air Force Reserve unit from March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; and two aircraft and aircrews being provided by the Mississippi Air Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing and the Alaska Air Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron. Airmen from the Kentucky Air Guard provided passenger and air cargo services, working expeditiously to get the three flights loaded and airborne in the shortest time possible.

"The first cargo didn't start arriving until 1 p.m., and more cargo and passengers continued to arrive until about 6 p.m.," said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Nagel, air cargo superintendent for the 123rd LRS. "We had the first flight loaded and on its way within seven hours, which is a pretty impressive accomplishment."

"It's always a pleasure to support our sister services," he added.

**Tech. Sgt. Cecil Dickerson, a loadmaster from the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron, directs an Army Humvee onto a Mississippi Air National Guard C-17 aircraft on the Kentucky Air National Guard Base flightline Jan. 27.**

The Humvee, along with 90 tons of other equipment and about 40 Soldiers from the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), are deploying to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for earthquake relief efforts as part of Operation Unified Response.

The Fort Knox, Ky.-based unit is expected to stay in Haiti for up to six months.



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

## Kentucky Airmen augment Haiti ops from Tyndall

Four Airmen from the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group — including unit commander Col. Warren Hurst — deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., on Jan. 17 to coordinate humanitarian flights into and out of Haiti following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake.

Colonel Hurst is serving as the AFNORTH deputy director of mobility forces for Air, planning air flow into hubs supporting the relief mission known as Operation Unified Response.

The campaign has been so successful that the first air hub quickly became saturated with cargo and aircraft, said Col. Greg Nelson commander of the CRG's parent unit, the 123rd Airlift Wing.

As a result, AFSOUTH identified two additional airfields in the Dominican Republic to provide more air mobility support.

One of those airfields, in Barahona, is being operated by more than 45 other members from the 123rd CRG. (See story on the front page.)

## Stain-resistant green combat boot in the works

The Air Force has selected a green, full-grain leather boot that incorporates a rubber toe and heel cap for members who work in industrial settings like maintenance.

More information will be available on the approval and production of the new stain-resistant boots by early summer 2010.

As an interim solution until a stain-resistant boot is produced, commanders may authorize wear of black boots in specific industrial work areas.



# AMC promotion culminates chaplain's dream

ANG liaison position will make him 'chaplain to chaplains' Guard-wide

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

When Tom Curry was a young man, his ambition was to be an Air Force pilot. But a spiritual calling at age 16 took precedence.

When he came to Louisville in 1984 to be a pastor at a local church, he met Lt. Col. Bob Williams, the former 123rd Tactical Fighter Wing chaplain, who saw a military future for the young man from Louisiana.

"Brig. Gen. John L. Smith put me in the front seat of an F-4 jet as part of the interview," recalled now-Lt. Col. Tom Curry of his initial interview with the former Kentucky Air Guard commander. "I realized then that God had brought together my childhood dream with his plan. I have lived both dreams ever since."

With 23 years of traditional military service under his belt — most of which has been spent as wing chaplain here — Colonel Curry's future will take a new turn now as he has been selected to advise the Air Mobility Command chaplain on Air National Guard issues.

"While we will certainly miss Colonel Curry's ready presence at the 123rd Airlift Wing, it's comforting to know that his talent for serving Airmen will find a wider audience," said Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, the Kentucky National Guard's assistant adjutant general for Air. "I'm proud of him, grateful to have served closely with him and wish him the very best as he advances forward."

Wing leaders said the colonel has been a source of support for countless Kentucky Airmen through numerous deployments and natural disasters — in good times and in the face of tragedy.

In February 1992, when an entire aircrew was killed in an aircraft mishap, the colonel was a source of strength for an organization in mourning. He presided over the base-wide memorial service honoring the five fallen Airmen.

"It was one of the saddest and most exhausting times in my ministry — but it was also a defining moment," Colonel Curry



Tech. Sgt. D. Clare/KyANG

**Lt. Col. Tom Curry, 123rd Airlift Wing chaplain, closes two decades of service to the unit as he accepts a promotion to Air Mobility Command Chaplain on ANG issues.**

recalled. "Chaplains are called upon to do their duty. We offer hope and comfort for all of our members and their families."

"In 2003, when we were getting ready to deploy (for Operation Iraqi Freedom), that man was all over the base," recalled retired Col. Mike Harden, a former wing commander.

"There was a lot of turmoil. We had a member commit suicide around that time, and he was instrumental in helping us deal with that.

"Without Tommy, things during that time would have been a lot different. He kept me advised. He exemplifies what a military chaplain should be. He's in touch with the morale of the wing, and he's a tremendous advisor."

In 2005, the chaplain deployed to Southwest Asia where he ministered to Airmen supporting the Global War on Terror. "War is not good," he recently recalled. "But (deploying) was one of the highlights of my career."

The colonel presided over the last memorial service of his tenure as wing chaplain in December, honoring Command Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs Jr.

According to Dave Rooney, wing family support coordinator, Chaplain Curry showed the breadth of his experience and leadership

as preparations were made to honor the wing's senior enlisted advisor.

"He has a quiet calm about him that demands respect," Mr. Rooney said. "He was a refuge in the storm. He focused the group and reminded us of what was truly important — to honor Chief Downs' life and ensure the family was receiving the care and support they needed emotionally and spiritually."

Though the chaplain will be missed, he leaves behind a legacy with the team he built and shaped.

"We have three of the best chaplains the Air National Guard has ever had ready to go here," Colonel Curry said. "They provide world-class ministry. They are as good as we've ever had in Kentucky."

A husband of 30 years and the father of two sons — both of whom are ministers — Colonel Curry's new position will now take him away from the civilian congregation he's served since moving to Kentucky.

The Air Mobility Command is headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., while his church — Parkland Baptist — is in Louisville.

"They have always been a very patriotic and supporting congregation," Colonel Curry said. "The word out on the street is that their pastor is going to be a full-bird colonel, and they're very proud of that."



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Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG



## Hail & Farewell

### CHIEF MASTER SGT. JONATHAN ROSA

Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Rosa, a combat controller with the wing's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, closed a nearly 30-year career when he retired here Dec. 12.

His Air Force tenure started in 1981 when he enlisted as a mobility air traffic controller. Since joining the Kentucky Air Guard in 1994, Chief Rosa has deployed numerous times to countries all over the world, including Honduras, Egypt, Germany, Columbia, Panama, and, most recently, Iraq and Afghanistan for combat tours. His awards include two Bronze Stars, a Joint Service Commendation Medal and numerous personal and unit awards.

**Left: Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Rosa stands at the position of attention Dec. 12 as a presentation flag is folded during his retirement ceremony in the Base Annex.**