

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXV, No. 3 • April 24, 2010

123rd completes Operational Readiness Exercise



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Amber Spratt-Jones takes cover from a simulated enemy attack by ducking into a fortified bunker April 24 during an Operational Readiness Exercise at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/U.S. Air Force

Airmen from the notional 104th Air Expeditionary Wing render simulated self-aid and buddy care to a wounded troop April 24 following an enemy attack during the ORE.

Historic inspection to test wing's homeland defense role in May at Gulfport training site

By Maj. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

GULFPORT, Miss. — The 123rd Airlift Wing and two other Air Force units completed their final training exercise here March 20-26 in preparation for a historic Operational Readiness Inspection that will, for the first time ever, test a deployed wing's effectiveness in a homeland-security/ homeland-defense environment.

That upcoming Air Mobility Command ORI, also scheduled to take place in Gulfport, is now just three weeks away, said Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, which is serving as the lead unit for the inspection.

Last month's training deployment — called an Operational Readiness Exercise, or ORE — saw more than 180 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing demonstrate their ability to mobilize, fly to a remote site, operate in a hostile stateside environment and re-deploy back home as inspectors evaluated every phase of the operation.

The Kentucky Air Guardsmen were augmented by 16 troops from the Air Force Reserve's 70th Aerial Port Squadron, which provided aerial port capabilities during the exercise; and more than 160 Airmen from the active-duty Air Force's 317th Airlift Group, which provided aviation assets and C-130 aircraft.

The 70th Aerial Port Squadron is based at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., while the 317th Airlift Group is stationed at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. The 123rd Airlift Wing is headquartered in Louisville, Ky.

See ORE, Page 4

Be ready to fight hard — like a Kentuckian

Last month's Operational Readiness Exercise was good. We identified the things we need to improve for the Operational Readiness Inspection in May.

Next month, we will perform our ORI.

This month will be our last chance to fine-tune our readiness. Now is the time for you to ensure you are ready!

This UTA weekend will be dedicated to individual and unit readiness. Work with your commanders, supervisors and fellow Airmen to ensure you will perform your wartime mission in an outstanding manner during the inspection.

Review the ORE after-action report. Ensure any taskers within your responsibility are complete and corrected.

Then, look for any additional improvements you can make.

Ultimately, your readiness is your individual responsibility.

Please read your Airman's Manual — again. Know the sections of the manual and how to refer to them if needed during our inspection.

The more you read it, the more you will know the information without having to look it up.

Inventory your training gear. Ensure your chemical warfare suit is marked for training use only, and that you have



Col. Greg Nelson
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

all the components.

Inspect and clean your gas mask, document the date, then ensure you know how to adjust the straps for extended wear.

Remember safety in everything you do. We will wear our reflective belts at all times during the inspection.

Remember to put on gloves and goggles when you are working with equipment, building pallets or performing work where additional safety

equipment is required.

Always ensure safe operations around vehicles and aircraft. Perform your mission and duties with a sense of urgency — but in a safe manner.

Know what you need to do immediately during and after an attack. Know your responsibilities during different alarm conditions, MOPP levels and force-protection conditions.

Know how to put on your chemical protection equipment, and then know how to help others around you.

Perform "buddy checks" every time you have to don your equipment.

Know what to do to continue to operate. This is the goal. Mask on, fight's on, launch the aircraft.

Know how to survive the attack and continue to do your job as soon as possible.

Lastly, maintain a good, positive attitude throughout the inspection.

Your positive attitude will show the Inspector General that you not only know your job; but you know it with confidence; you believe in what you do; and you enjoy your mission.

This is the key to an outstanding inspection.

Fight hard! Fight as a Kentuckian!

We are the 123rd Airlift Wing, and we are ready!

— Col. Greg Nelson

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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 May 20.

123rd Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

- Wing Commander.....Col. Greg Nelson
- Wing Public Affairs Officer.....Maj. Dale Greer
- Deputy Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. John Stamm
- Public Affairs Manager.....Master. Sgt. Philip Speck
- Cargo Courier Editor.....Tech. Sgt. D. Clare
- Photo Editor.....Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora
- Staff Writer.....Tech. Sgt. Diane Stinnett
- Staff Photographer.....Staff Sgt. Jason Ketterer
- Staff Photographer.....Airman 1st Class Max Rechel
- Staff Photographer.....Senior Airman Malcolm Byrd II

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

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

Commander names Wing fitness champs

Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, commends the following Airmen for accomplishing a perfect score on their 2009 annual fitness assessment:

165th Airlift Squadron

- Master Sgt. John Hodge
- Lt. Col. Grant Lane
- Maj. Cheryl Meffert
- Maj. Catherine Newell

123rd Airlift Wing

- Maj. Charles Hans
- Tech. Sgt. Melanie King
- Tech. Sgt. Holly Moore
- Maj. Todd Shugart

123rd Civil Engineer Squadron

- Senior Airman Jacob Fogle
- Staff Sgt. Chad Rodgers
- Master Sgt. Mark Shaughnessy
- Airman 1st Class Justin Smith

Joint Forces Headquarters

- Lt. Col. Dawn Muller
- Tech. Sgt. Kathleen Romito

123rd Medical Group

- Maj. Christopher Howell
- Master Sgt. Kenny Richards
- Lt. Col. Christan Stewart

123rd Force Support Squadron

- Senior Airman Rocio Perez
- Lt. Col. Kathryn Pfeifer

123rd Operations Support Flight

- Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Brown

123rd Special Tactics Squadron

- Tech. Sgt. Jason Cordy
- Tech. Sgt. Ryan Darnell
- Senior Airman Jeff Kinlaw
- Master Sgt. Aaron May
- Capt. Sean McLane

The commander applauds the outstanding performance of these Airmen and encourages all members to incorporate fitness and healthy practices into their daily lives.

MOPPING UP

An Airman's ability to survive and operate (ATSO) is important at the Operational Readiness Inspection and in all deployed environments. The proper wear of mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) equipment ensures survival and success.

HELMET

It must be worn — *and buckled to your chin*. You're not staring in a John Wayne movie. Keep your pockets closed. If your web gear is on, it should be strapped.

IDENTIFICATION

Your service (USAF), abbreviated rank, first and last name should be written on four strips of olive drab duct tape. They should be affixed to the front and back of your helmet, and on your protective suit and body armor on the upper right side of your chest.

WEB BELT

Organize your combat gear. At a minimum, your web belt should comfortably store your simulated first aid kit (ammo pouch), ammo pouch, canteen and mask carrier.

BOOTS & GLOVES

Ensure your boots and gloves fit and are serviceable before the inspection and after each use. Be sure they fit by trying them on.

RIGHT LEG POCKET

Your Airman's Manual, rubber gloves and cotton inserts all go in the right pocket of your protective suit. Keep your pockets closed when not in use.

ARM BAND

You will deploy with an arm band for your military ID. It will go on your left upper arm. The unit will direct any other additional materials that need to be added.

M9 TAPE

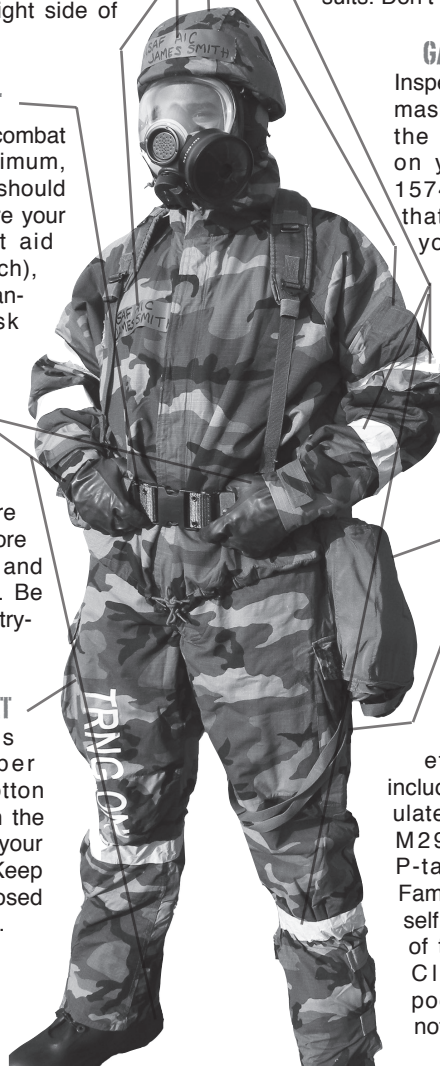
Once MOPP2 is directed, members will apply masking tape simulating M9 protective tape on the shin, upper arm and forearms of protective suits. Don't apply early.

GAS MASK

Inspect your gas mask and note the inspection on your Form 1574. Ensure that card and your fit test card are in the pocket of your mask carrier. Keep the carrier closed.

LEFT LEG POCKET

Keep your ATSO wallet in this pocket. It should include your simulated injectors, M291, M295, P-tab and M8. Familiarize yourself with the use of these items. Close your pockets when not in use.



ORE

Continued from Front Page

Together, the three units formed the notional 104th Air Expeditionary Wing, whose assignment during the ORE was to provide theater airlift to civil authorities in support of a simulated G8 summit in New Orleans. While deployed, the 104th AEW also had to defend against violent attacks by multiple unknown terrorists.

All three units will fill the same rolls again when they return here May 15-22 for the ORI, said Colonel Nelson, who praised the manner in which Airmen from each of the Air Force components interoperated during the ORE.

“It was a pretty seamless Total Force experience, and we all worked very well together,” he said. “The 317th Airlift Group and the 70th Aerial Port Squadron are good people who are combat-tested, just like the Airmen of the 123rd Airlift Wing.”

Nelson also was pleased with the wing’s overall effectiveness, noting that the combined unit “performed well despite being put through the mill by the exercise evaluation team.”

“We successfully survived multiple attacks and continued to operate throughout, flying several airlift missions while simultaneously providing command, control, communications and base security and support functions.”

Looking ahead to the ORI, the wing will focus on a select few areas identified for improvement, such as chemical-warfare defense skills.

“One area we can improve on is in the performance of ‘buddy checks’ when we don our chemical defense gear,” Colonel Nelson said. “Our Readiness folks have done an outstanding job training us.”

“Now we need to demonstrate what we know and make sure we help each other survive and continue to fight.”

In the final days leading up to the inspection, Colonel Nelson encouraged all participants to “fine-tune their responses to specific wartime tasks and read their Airman’s Manuals.”

“Everyone also should be checking their training bags to ensure they have a full complement of gear; ensuring that chemical suits are marked ‘Training Use Only;’ and inspecting their gas masks for serviceability, cleanliness and proper fit during extended wear.”

The just-completed ORE and the upcoming ORI both feature novel homeland-defense scenarios that differ markedly from typical readiness inspections. Standard ORIs have always required wings to deploy to simulated overseas locations and fight a conventional military enemy, Colonel Nelson noted.

The new approach, which is being implemented here by the Air Mobility Command Inspector General on a trial basis for the first time, was proposed by leaders of the 123rd Airlift Wing several months ago. According to Colonel Nelson, it represents a fundamental shift in thinking that more accurately reflects the military realities of a post-9/11 world in which homeland defense has taken center stage.

“Our actions during the ORE and ORI are aimed at assisting federal, state and local agencies in response to hostilities or attacks against U.S. citizens; defending national sovereignty; and maintaining a regional response capability here in the United States,” he explained. “Those operations demonstrate the interoperability and capabilities of DOD, federal, state and local agencies, as well as our nation’s commitment to defend the homeland.”

“The overall command and control aspects are completely different from those of an overseas operation. Everything we do in the United States is performed in support of a lead civilian authority.”

“Because of that, our ORI will be a unique opportunity for us to validate how we provide tactical airlift during an emergency in the United States.”

“The Air Mobility Command Inspector General agreed to our Homeland Security/Homeland Defense ORI as a test. We have worked closely with them in developing the scenario and unique aspects of our inspection.”

“I know we will be successful, and I believe the IG will consider this inspection scenario for other units in the future.”

“Ultimately, the inspection process is all about validating readiness, and we must be ready to perform our mission wherever it takes us, at home or abroad.”

As the Kentucky Air National Guard makes final preparations for the ORI, Colonel Nelson also offered some last words of advice.

“If everyone maintains a good attitude, performs their wartime missions as they’ve been taught, fights hard against the scenario and the enemy — and not the IG — we will have an outstanding ORI.”



Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard’s 123rd Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., on March 22, 2010, along with members from two other units, the active-duty 317th Airlift Group at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and the Air Force Reserve’s 70th Aerial Port Squadron at the Air Force Reserve Station, Fla. All three units combined during the ORE. Their simulated mission was to provide theater airlift to New Orleans.



Members of the notional 104th Air Expeditionary Wing stand during the ORI at the Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., as the unit stands up for the notional Readiness Inspection.



Maj. Dale Greer/U.S. Air Force

rd Airlift Wing arrive at the Gulfport Combat
 rch 21 as they prepare to stand up operations
 duty Air Force's 317th Airlift Group from Dyess
 0th Aerial Port Squadron from Homestead Air
 g the ORE to form the 104th Air Expeditionary
 r airlift services in support of a G8 Summit in



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/U.S. Air Force

fill sandbags at the Gulfport Combat Readiness
 p operations March 21 for the deployed Opera-



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/U.S. Air Force

Airman 1st Class Craig Brandy works to stop the bleeding from a simulated chest wound April 24 following a scenario at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center in which security forces were attacked by armed terrorists. The scenario was part of a recently completed Air Mobility Command Operational Readiness Inspection.

Tips to survive, operate and thrive at the ORI

By Col. William Ketterer
123rd Airlift Wing Vice Commander

We've prepared long and hard for this Operational Readiness Inspection. We've practiced mobility so much so that we should be able to do it in our sleep — and some do!

We've been to Gulfport, Miss., and are familiar with our facilities and local flying area. We've seen nearly every trick that the inspector general has up his sleeve — though I'm sure there will be one more.

Nothing will take us farther than a positive attitude. To quote Winston Churchill, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Make a difference; keep a positive attitude — it's contagious!

Up-Channel Early

Problems don't get better with age. Instead, they rot and stink. If you identify a problem, work it through your chain of command and don't sacrifice safety.

Fight G.O.S.

"Game Over Syndrome" is something we must avoid at all costs. We must remember that the inspection is not over until everyone is home safely. Keep your head in the game throughout! I've been with the IG when a unit lost an overall "outstanding" evaluation due to a safety incident on redeployment. What a disappointment.

Be Familiar with Ground Rules

You simply cannot play any game (and win) if you don't know the rules. Read and know the IG Ground Rules and be familiar with the Airman's manual and the Deployment Guide.

Don't "Self-MSEL"

Some events are meant for specific personnel and don't need to be everyone else's problem. They are called "off-line" events. If you have doubts, ask your inspector if it's offline or needs to be up-channeled. During last month's ORE, someone found a broken leg from a chair and called it in as unexploded ordnance (UXO). This was a prime case of a self-created Master Scenario Event Log incident. The IG's UXOs will look like the real thing.

The "O" is for OPERATE

Our Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) skills are extremely important. Whether a threat is conventional or chemical, we need to mitigate the hazard and get back into the fight. During conventional attacks when we are placed in alarm red, we duck and cover.

Once the immediate threat subsides, we go to condition black and, when directed, post-action reconnaissance, airfield damage assessment, base damage assessment and nuclear, chemical and biological teams identify hazards such as UXOs, craters and

structural damage. Once the hazards have been identified, marked and mitigated, we will return to condition yellow or green and continue to operate.

When a chemical threat is near our base you will be directed into an appropriate mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) level. If we are attacked while in MOPP, assume the worst: go to MOPP 4, duck and cover. Once the immediate threat subsides, we will go to condition black. When directed, our post-attack response teams will identify hazards such as the presence of chemicals, UXOs, craters and structural damage. Only after hazards have been identified, properly marked and mitigated will members be directed to return to a more operational alarm status and carry on the mission.

Don't ATSO alone!

When in MOPP, have your buddy look you over and help you fix suit issues and vice versa. Don't let the IG be your buddy. They will note your issues but won't fix them for you.

Urgency vs. Panic

You have the ability to prevent and/or control your own and other's panic by disciplined thinking and training. Take a deep breath and promptly do what you've been trained to do. When in doubt, check your Airman's Manual.



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

Following a simulated attack during an Operational Readiness Exercise at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., last month, Kentucky Air National Guard members evacuate their workspaces to the safety of a "fortified" bunker outside. Attention to detail, preparation, focus and foresight will help Airmen succeed and excel in the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection, officials said.

Proper safety equipment makes all the difference

123rd experts say careful considerations can make big difference

123rd Airlift Wing Safety Office

Safety is the most important ingredient in mission success!

As the wing prepares for an Operational Readiness Inspection in May, it is essential that we remember to use proper safety gear as we complete our tasks.

Items like hearing protection, reflective belts, protective gloves, safety glasses, and canteens *full* of water are great tools that we use to mitigate the risks of damage to our most precious asset — **you!**

With that in mind, please use the next few weeks leading up to the ORI to ensure you have all the items needed to perform your duty safely.

Remember to have all required materials to complete the task at hand, use the proper checklists and, most importantly, perform buddy checks on your fellow Airmen.

It doesn't matter how quickly the job gets completed if we damage equipment or people in the process.

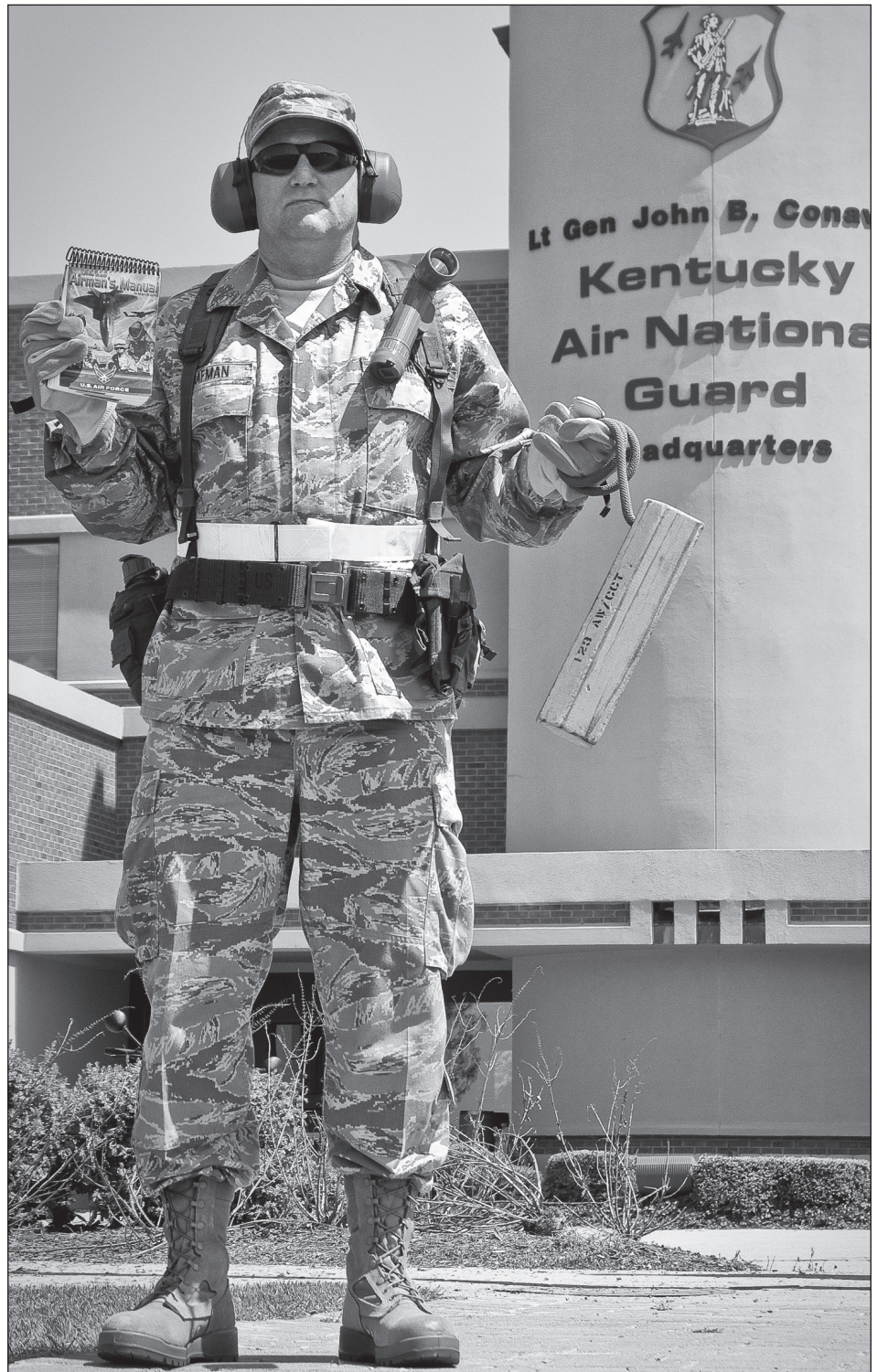
If you come across something about which you are unfamiliar, please refer to your Airman's Manual (AFMAN 10-100) or seek assistance from your peers and/or chain of command.

Remember, before vehicles are put into motion, everyone must have their seat belts fastened. Always set the parking brake when the driver exits and use wheel chocks when and where appropriate.

As we say in the flying community, know to identify and avoid the three Ds: situations that are dumb, dangerous or different.

We train the way we fight, and the ORI will validate that philosophy. We have the utmost confidence that we will excel, provided we do things safely.

Remember: Safety starts at the top, but it carries through where the rubber meets the road — with you!



Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

In addition to an understanding of military specialties and tasks, Airmen attending the Operational Readiness Inspection in May will be expected to utilize proper protective equipment like gloves, chocks, reflective belts, goggles and hearing protection.

123rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs Office
Kentucky Air National Guard
1101 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY 40213-2678

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

CLEP: College-level exams offered free on base for members

Tests allow members to earn CCAF degrees, achieve other goals

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare
Cargo Courier Editor

The 123rd Airlift Wing Education and Training Office is now offering College Level Examination Program, or CLEP, exams free of charge to service members interested in advancing their military and civilian educations.

The exams allow members to save time and money by earning credit for knowledge acquired through independent study, prior course work, job training or life experience. By passing a test to prove a knowledge base in one of 52 subjects, members may be eligible to satisfy proficiency requirements and gain college credit.

“Normally, this is something that is

offered at active-duty military bases,” said Senior Master Sgt. Brenda Stroud, wing education and training manager. “The tests can make a major difference for people pursuing their degrees, and we hope many of our members are going to take advantage of this opportunity.”

According to the Sergeant Stroud, the exams offer Wing members the easiest path toward completing the five general education classes they need to finish their Community College of the Air Force associate’s degrees. The CCAF degrees help members advance professionally in their military careers and pursue advanced degrees through civilian institutions.

“This is really a good deal for our members, the wing and the state,” said Lt. Col. Dallas Kratzer, director of personnel for the Kentucky Air National Guard. “In addition to helping members achieve their goals, it’s going to save the state money on tuition. It’s

a great way to get recognition of what you’ve already accomplished.”

The idea for providing the tests on base was the project of Senior Master Sergeant Willis Blackwell, the former education and training manager.

Interested participants are encouraged to contact the education and training office. Tests must be ordered in advance. Once exams are ordered, members can schedule a time to complete their tests Monday through Friday at 1 p.m. Tests will not be offered during drill weekends. More information on CLEP examinations is available on the Wing Community of Practice site. To schedule a test, contact Sergeant Stroud at brenda.stroud@ang.af.mil or at (502) 413-4421.

Veterans and retirees are eligible for reimbursement for CLEP exams and other national tests through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Visit www.gibill.va.gov for more information. On-base tests are only offered to active, Reserve or National Guard members.