

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXV, No. 7 • October 16, 2010

Program benefits Special Tactics Airmen, Ecuadorians

Partnership brings South Americans to Kentucky for underwater search and rescue exchange

By Staff Sgt. Jason Ketterer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

ALBANY, Ky.-- Kentucky Air National Guardsmen hosted an underwater search and rescue exchange with Ecuadorian military members and their National Police Sept. 17 at Dale Hollow Lake here.

The event was part of the State Partnership Program – a cooperative that allows Bluegrass guardsmen to interface and learn from their Ecuadorian counterparts.

“The State Partnership Program is widespread across the Guard because of the continuity and longevity of relationships our Guardsmen can provide,” said Maj. Matt Groves, Kentucky National Guard State Partnership Program Director.

“Kentucky formed our partnership with Ecuador in 1998. We were one of the first states to go in the [United States Southern Command area of operations] and we have had a mutually beneficial relationship with Ecuador for over a decade,” Major Groves said.

Representing the Commonwealth in the exchange and hosting of the event were pararescuemen from Kentucky’s 123rd Special Tactics Squadron. They operated alongside and exchanged information with narcotics police, port inspectors and Marines from Ecuador.

Together, they dove at the lake, practiced with underwater radios and discussed techniques for performing search sweeps while submerged using a search grid.

“I believe this is going to make a tremendous difference for me when I return,” said an Ecuadorian Narcotics Police Officer, who will use the training for duties that require him to do counter drug inspections



Staff Sgt. Jason Ketterer/KyANG

ABOVE: Master Sgt. Mario Romero, pararescueman for the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, jumps into Dale Hollow Lake during a military exchange with Ecuadorian military and civil authorities through Kentucky’s State Partnership Exchange Program.



LEFT: Staff Sgt. Elmer Quijada, also a Kentucky pararescueman, explains search and rescue tactics to Ecuadorian partners. The exchange between the countries allows both nation’s partners to learn from each other.

on the hulls of naval vessels and search and rescue missions near his port in the future. “There is a great benefit for me to learn how [Kentucky Airmen] operate. Truly, this is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to grow and share,” he said.

While the latest installment of the program focused on search and rescue, the Commonwealth and Ecuadorians have worked together on other exchanges such as aircraft maintenance, officer training, counter drug programs and munitions disposal, storage and transportation. Even though the dive subject matter expert exchange was led by the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron,

officials said the Airmen benefit extensively from the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to travel south and learn from the Ecuadorians.

“Ecuador is very geographically diverse,” Major Groves said. “Their country has 20,000-foot mountains, the Amazon jungle, the Galapagos Islands and the Coastal Range. It offers a lot of benefit to our personnel to be able to go down there and operate in those diverse regions,” he said. “Search and rescue will definitely be a continuing theme in our Partnership with Ecuador and it’s an area where we can develop a great relationship.”

Kentucky Air National Guard: Posturing for the Future

When addressing the Air Force Association last month Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, spoke of the National Guard as a national treasure and went on to say, "The citizens of the United States expect the full might of the armed forces to come to their aid in the event of a natural disaster, and the National Guard has been there every time."

It has been the focus of the 123rd Airlift Wing to not only provide forces for missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti, the Horn of Africa, Kosovo and generally everywhere CNN travels overseas – but also to focus on providing that same capability here at home. Our most recent success in the operational readiness inspection points out that the Kentucky Air National Guard stands ready to play the home game.

Uniquely suited by our central location and with critical capabilities from several different mission sets, the Wing is optimally situated to respond to a domestic crisis during the early phase of any effort. The Initial Response Hub (IRH) is a concept developed specifically for our organization to harness the variety of capabilities currently present in our unit and quickly package them together to provide immediate disaster response assistance. No other Air National Guard unit or even active duty unit



Col. Bill Ketterer
Interim 123rd Airlift Wing Commander

has the same elements in one location to provide a quick and ready first-in force.

There are only two Contingency Response Groups and two Special Tactics Squadrons in the Air National Guard. Only one unit has both together – Kentucky.

Add capability provided by the 123rd Medical Group – Expeditionary Medical Support Basic and the new Chemical, Biological, Explosive, Radiological

and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package from the 123rd Mission Support Group and the domestic capabilities increase several fold. Again, no other unit has all these ingredients.

Along with the Wing's organic C-130 Hercules Aircraft mission, our team of experts can get to the crisis area ahead of any other response force of like capabilities. This just scratches the surface of Kentucky's mission capability and ability to meet a domestic crisis head on.

Additionally, that capability expands when one considers the additional areas of expertise from other units within the Wing and tenant organizations such as the 41st Civil Support Team, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Civil Engineering and Security Forces – just to name a few.

And finally, when considering our great working relationship with the KY Army National Guard our ability to quickly expand to a joint operation is within easy reach.

The Kentucky Air National Guard is truly a polished gemstone in the national treasure chest! Please remember that as our senior leadership continues to advertise and expand the IRH concept, it wouldn't be possible without you!

Thanks for all you do!

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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 Oct. 29, 2010.

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For more information on the 123rd Airlift Wing, visit the Wing's official Web site – www.123aw.ang.af.mil

Air Force launches new legal assistance website

Members needing a will, power of attorney, or who have legal questions can now seek assistance online.

The Air Force JAG Corps' new Air Force Legal Assistance Website, <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>, is designed to help members, retirees, and dependents.

Because it is a public site, clients may access the site's features from the comfort of their homes without a common access card. The site's features include articles on legal topics and online questionnaires for wills, living wills and powers of attorneys.

It also features an online survey to track customer satisfaction.

As a resource, the site should prevent legal customers from the frustration that comes with driving to seek legal assistance without necessary documents or answers to questions that need to be answered by a spouse or other party.

Online, a customer can learn more about an issue, fill out a worksheet and the site will generate a ticket that he or she can take to the legal office for assistance.

On base, an attorney or paralegal can call up the customer's ticket and be poised to offer immediate, efficient assistance.

The 123rd Airlift Wing legal office is open from 9 to 11 a.m. on drill Saturdays and from 1 to 3 p.m. drill Sundays.



<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

New system delivers energy savings

Courtesy Article

In time for Energy Awareness Month, a new system will come on line at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base before the end of October. Through collaborative partnership with Harshaw Trane and FacilityOne, the Energy Awareness Model (EAM) envisioned by Lt. Col. Phil Howard, Base Civil Engineer, will allow accurate accounting of energy use across the base, helping the 123rd Airlift Wing meet new federal energy mandates.

Executive Order 13423, which requires federal facilities to reduce Electricity and Natural Gas use by 30 percent plus saving 20 percent in water over the next decade posed considerable challenges for facilities government wide.

According to Colonel Howard, the new system is a tremendous improvement on the initial solution of installing utility meters on each building. Meters, he said, generated daily readings, producing mountains of data that was time consuming to analyze and would only be available to a few personnel on the base.

The Energy Awareness Model goes beyond required mandates and creates a "Base Energy Awareness Culture" that automates data collection and makes energy usage information user friendly.

Through this change, anyone on base can access information on energy usage and become involved in saving energy and improving efficiencies.

Colonel Howard said incorporating energy awareness into the military culture

is critical. The new Energy Awareness Model and the method of presenting energy consumption is an exciting innovation, he said.

Under his direction, the model combines Trane systems and controls with customized FacilityONE diagnostic software. Colonel Howard and base leadership can monitor and control energy usage through the system and make decisions on a moment's notice. In addition, easy access to historical data on use provides trend analyses that are critical in comparing performance over time, identifying areas for particular focus and overall reduction in the Kentucky Air National Guard's carbon footprint.

During development of the system, Colonel Howard kept constant sight on the energy target for the base and believes the solution will help the wing meet energy mandates for years to come.

The Kentucky Air National Guard is known nationally as a leader in this area. It has received a monetary award for energy effectiveness from the Air National Guard Civil Engineer Technical Support Center in Minot, N.D. It may soon be eligible for Energy Star Awards also.

"It's not about the awards," said Colonel Howard. "It's about being recognized by experts that our efforts in energy consumption are the right approach to the problem while answering mandated requirements."

For more information about the Energy Awareness Module, contact Colonel Howard at phillip.howard@ang.af.mil or (502) 413-4461.

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HONORING THE FALLEN

Drop zone named after Kentucky loadmaster

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare
Cargo Courier Editor

Kentucky Airmen, family, and friends gathered at Fort Knox, Ky., Sept. 14, to honor one of their own who died in the line of duty nearly two decades ago.

While past mentions of Master Sgt. John Medley, a loadmaster, often harkened to one of the greatest tragedies in Kentucky Air National Guard history, this day they honored him by naming a drop zone in his honor.

“It means a lot to the family it means a lot to all of us to think that 18 years later they still remember him and think of him the way that we do. It’s very special,” said Nancy Kursewicz, sister of the sergeant who died in a crash on Feb. 6, 1992. “The guard was really important to [John].”

Planning on the drop zone began around a year ago, said Maj. Randall Hood, an instructor pilot with the 123rd Airlift Wing who helped establish the drop zone. An Army brigade combat team commander at the fort asked the Air National Guard to help design a drop site that would help his soldiers meet requirements demanding them to see different types of drops.

In addition to helping Soldiers meet one of their requirements, the major saw an opportunity to enhance training opportunities for Kentucky aircrews. With their closest drop zone at Camp Atterbury, Ind., a second site down the road would give the wing an even more convenient alternate for joint training and in cases where weather in Indiana would impede operations.

The Fort Knox airfield and paved roads nearby the DZ make it an even more ideal site for Soldiers and Airmen.

A former loadmaster who knew Sergeant Medley personally, Major Hood said two names came to mind as plans for the drop zone fell into place. He thought of Sergeant Medley and Master Sgt. William Hawkins, the enlisted men who died in the same crash.

According to Brig. Gen. Michael J. Dornbush, Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Kentucky Air National Guard, the naming of the drop zone and the plaque commemorating the names of the aircrew who died in the crash represents the

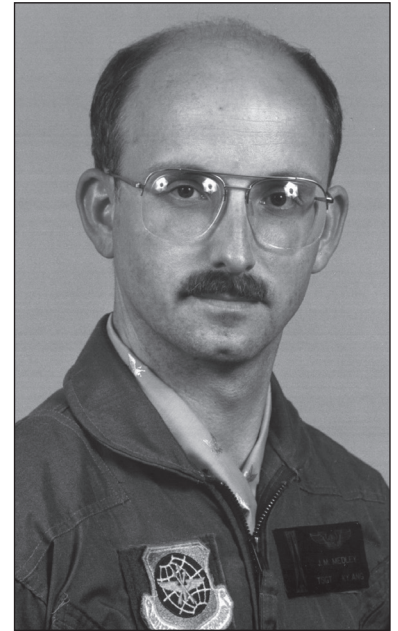
enduring respect and legacy a new generation of guard members have for their forbearers.

“John was a passionate Airman,” he said. “He was the perfect example of the heart and soul of what we do.” According to the general, his attitude about his “part time” military career was an example ahead of its time, as traditional Airmen are being asked to do more and more as part of an ever-increasing operations tempo today.

“Because of John’s passion for his career, his dedication, commitment and professionalism, we are here today. All of the men who died that day were professional Airmen,” said General Dornbush.

Altogether, five Airmen were killed in the crash in Evansville, Ind., when their C-130B struck a motel and restaurant, killing 11 civilians.

“Any time a plane was going to take off, he wanted to be on it,” recalled Tony Medley, brother of the fallen. “The day of the event he wasn’t even supposed to be on that plane. But they needed somebody and he went. That’s just the kind of person he was.”



Master Sgt. John Medley



Photos by Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

ABOVE: A C-130 makes a cargo drop at the Master Sgt. John Medley Drop Zone at Fort Knox, Ky.

LEFT: Nancy Kursewicz, sister of Sergeant Medley, receives an American flag at the ceremony commemorating the naming of the drop zone in her brother’s honor. Another sister and brother of the fallen loadmaster attended the event. The sergeant was killed during a training flight in 1992.



Kentucky Airman guides volleyball team to gold

Traditional guardsman leads active duty team to win armed forces tournament

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare
Cargo Courier Editor

The Air Force men's volleyball team earned another gold medal finish at this year's Armed Forces Volleyball Championship at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., with a Kentucky Airman leading the way.

Tech. Sgt. Dale Grupe, a 123rd Force Support Squadron Airman, coached the men's team and a two-man beach volleyball team that took home a silver medal at the military's first beach competition.

Sergeant Grupe, who teaches and is a winning coach at Henry Clay High School in Lexington, has been involved in Air Force volleyball since 1989. As an active duty officer, he played competitively for the Air Force for five years.

After that, he coached until 1998 when he left active duty as a captain.

He enlisted in the Kentucky Army National Guard in 2003, joined the Air National Guard a year later, and returned to the sport he loved when members of the reserve component were invited to participate.

After two weeks of training his team at Warner-Robins Air Force Base, Ga., the Airmen headed south and won five games to one to repeat as indoor champions.

It was the men's third armed forces title in the past four years with Sergeant Grupe at the helm.

As a head coach for the Air Force, Grupe has now earned five gold and two silver medals. As a player, he's earned three gold and one silver medal. As an assistant coach, he's earned another silver medal and two gold medals coaching the Air Force women's team.

This year, the sergeant said, was particularly challenging.

"We started off with our smallest number of athletes at camp in the past 30 years due to deployments and other conflicts," said Dale Grupe. "The small numbers



Courtesy photos

ABOVE: The 2010 Air Force men's volleyball team who won the Armed Forces Volleyball Championship.



LEFT: (From right) Tech. Sgt. Dale Grupe, a Kentucky Airman and coach of the Air Force men's volleyball team, and Marine Col. Douglas Denn, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., congratulate Staff Sgt. Kevin Krooner, a member of the Air Force's championship team. Sergeant Grupe began his involvement with Air Force volleyball as a player while he was on active duty.

coupled with the requirement of not just putting together an indoor team, but also outdoor beach teams, added to our challenges."

Three players from the indoor team and the coach had double duty preparing for the beach competition.

The indoor men's team started with a difficult loss to the Navy's team before running the table to win the tournament. The Navy and Army teams fought to the wire in subsequent games, with the sergeant's players rallying with a 15-12 victory over the Army in the fifth set of the last match to clinch the championship.

"That initial loss to the Navy was tough because we lost big leads in two of the sets and doing that can shake the confidence of a team," said Sergeant Grupe. "It was great to

see how this team rebounded from that early setback to win many close sets and matches down the stretch."

The new requirement of fielding a beach team added additional challenges, but Air Force competitors stepped up to the competition and finished that tournament in second place.

Coaching has not gotten in the way of other military duties for the Kentucky Airman. Sergeant Grupe himself had to rally past the operational readiness exercise to take on temporary duty the next month as head coach and then to return to pass the readiness inspection.

"It was a busy spring but a good one," he said, thanking his commanders, supervisors and fellow Airmen for their support.

Senior enlisted boss talks mentorship, wellness & readiness

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare
Cargo Courier Editor

Command Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Carpenter, the voice of the 123rd Airlift Wing's enlisted force, isn't afraid to speak plainly. For instance, he'll be the first to tell you he never seriously considered becoming command chief. Especially when there were such big shoes to fill with his predecessor – the now deceased and much revered Command Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs.

"My goal was to finish up in the communications arena, where I'd spent most of my career," he says.

Ironically, it was Chief Downs who had groomed the Wing's current top boss before illness took his life. The late Chief's mentorship, the support of his family and the endorsement of his command took him away from his initial "dream job" as the 123rd Communications Flight Chief.

In his 35th year of service, Chief Carpenter enlisted in the Air Force when many of Kentucky's technical and master sergeants were in diapers. He's been around the block and around the world. He's worked in the Special Tactics community and even transferred for a short time to the Texas Air National Guard, moving when necessary for career advancement.

He's deployed at nearly every rank and grade around the world.

His personal style relies on a hands-on approach. "Know your people," he counsels. Over the years, he's prided himself on his willingness to get down in the trenches.

"I like to be involved with the people who I work with and who I train. I like to lead by example; to show them I am willing to do the job I ask them to do," he says.

In his current role as the senior enlisted advisor, his primary focus is on mentorship. Coming off active duty to enlist in the Kentucky Air National Guard in the early 1980s, he recalls having to slow down and get used to the way the guard worked.

Since 9/11, he's seen Kentucky Airmen step up to the challenge. He's never heard a complaint and a string of compliments about



Tech. Sgt. D. Clare/KyANG

commonwealth Airmen who've deployed. However, as he seen his generation grow in stripes and gray hair, he's pushing to ensure a legacy.

"We're going through a transition right now. The older Airmen – the sergeants and officers who have been here for a long time – will be retiring in the next few years," he says. "We need to mentor the young Airmen in all areas to be able to step up."

The challenges the enlisted force faces are a constant concern for the chief, who has seen stressors and standards rise as deployments have increased.

As demands intensify, he says its critical for Airmen to look out for one another. "We need to communicate with our families and we need our Airmen to communicate with us. If they have any issues or problems, we need to address them. We have lots of resources available," he says.

The chief says he's concerned, on the eve of another deployment cycle, to hear about rising incidents of suicide among men and women in uniform. He's passing out suicide awareness cards through the chiefs and first sergeants. He's letting people know that chaplains are around more frequently. He's pushing the Yellow Ribbon program and hoping that members deploying this cycle will have a smoother transition home than any previous rotation.

The advantage the Guard has over its active duty counterparts is the sense of family

he sees in the force, he says. Members need to take it a step further and look out for one another.

Chief Carpenter sees yet another change to Air Force fitness standards and believes there's a disconnect between the intent of the test and the perception among many members.

"The new standards are tighter and they honestly need to be. The idea we have to get across is that we're not trying to punish anyone. We're trying to make you healthy so when you deploy you don't have any problems," he says.

It's not a punishment. It's a necessary change that is designed to improve the wellness and readiness of Airmen, he insists.

He encourages members on orders to use the command-authorized hour to exercise. He's working with other members of the enlisted force to distribute new fitness and nutrition guides and supporting a new fitness program that will make different sporting activities more widespread and accessible.

Himself a reserve deputy sherriff for Jefferson County and a member in two bands – one an anti-drug combo called "Street Heat" – he said finding time to work out has to become part of people's lives.

"Anyone can do it. You have to put it in your schedule and make it a priority. If you take that time, it's really going to make all the difference," Chief Carpenter says.

Postal Service sets holiday mail deadline for items going overseas

Careful planning, proper shipping ensures gifts, care packages arrive on time

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

The recommended mailing deadline for sending economy-priced holiday packages to servicemembers in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world is Nov. 12, officials at the U.S. Postal Service said.

“Shipping holiday packages early helps ensure that they arrive in time for the holidays,” said Pranab Shah, the vice president and managing director of global business at the Postal Service. “They are a great morale boost for those men and women serving their country in places far from home.”

Other deadlines for arrival by Dec. 25 are Nov. 26 for space-available mail; Dec. 3 for parcel airlift mail; Dec. 10 for priority mail and first-class mail, letters and cards; and Dec. 18 for express mail military service.

Holiday packages and mail headed for Iraq and Afghanistan must be sent a week earlier than the deadlines above, postal officials said. Express mail military service is not available to those destinations.

The Postal Service offers a discount on its largest priority-mail flat-rate box, a 12-inch by 12-inch by 5.5-inch carton that can accommodate laptop computers, small conventional ovens, and military care packages.

Mail sent to overseas military addresses costs the same as domestic mail, and the usual price for the large flat-rate box is \$14.50. But for packages heading to APO/FPO addresses, the Postal Service charges \$12.50 or \$11.95 for those who print the priority-mail postage label online.

Priority-mail flat-rate boxes are free at any post office and can be ordered online at <http://shop.usps.com>. Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online at the Postal Service website.

APO/FPO addresses usually require customs forms, postal officials said, and each country has customs regulations that apply to all mail, including U.S. military mail, coming into the country.

Mail addressed to military and diplomatic post offices overseas is subject to restrictions in content, preparation and handling.

Each five-digit military and post office ZIP code (APO/FPO) has specific restrictions, but the following are prohibited in the regions of Operation New Dawn in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan:

- Horror comics and obscene prints, paintings, cards, films and videotapes
- Anything depicting nude or seminude persons, pornographic or sexual items, or unauthorized political materials
- Bulk quantities of religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith, though items for personal use are permitted
- Pork or pork by-products.

According to the USPS, there are

certain factors to consider when sending packages to troops overseas.

To make sure package contents arrive in good shape, take these into consideration.

Firstly, many deployed locations have extreme temperatures. Products may be forced to sit on runways or in facilities where temperatures exceed 100 degrees or fall below freezing.

Selecting a strong box with room for cushioning is always a smart choice. On recycled boxes, cover all previous labels and markings with a heavy black marker or adhesive labels.

Cushioning should be placed all around items. Close and shake the box to see whether you have enough cushioning. Add more newspaper, styrofoam, cushioning material if you hear items shifting.

Battery powered items may get turned on during shipment. Remove and wrap the batteries separately.

Sealing is important. Tape the opening of the box and reinforce all seams with 2 inch wide tape. Use clear or brown packaging tape, reinforced packing tape or paper tape. Do not use cord, string or twine.

Include a card describing the contents: Improperly wrapped packages can fall apart during shipment. Including a card inside, listing the sender’s and recipient’s addresses plus a description of the contents, helps in collecting the items.

For specific restrictions and mailing prices to an APO/FPO address, visit the Postal Service’s online price calculator or a local post office, or call 1-800-ASK-USPS.

Air Force officials offer cross commissioning opportunities for ROTC

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

To obtain the right balance of skills across the total force, Air Force officials will begin offering alternative commissioning options for specified career fields, officials said Oct. 7.

Air Force ROTC cadets slated to commission in fiscal 2011 may volunteer and compete for positions in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Force Management Integration Bill Booth.

“Cross commissioning is a force manage-

ment tool which will allow us to right size active component accessions and balance officer accession needs across the total force, Mr. Booth said. “It offers the opportunity for some newly commissioned officers to pursue careers in the Reserve or Guard components.”

Most AFROTC cadets programmed to be commissioned in fiscal year 2011 will be eligible and may begin applying immediately, he added.

Applicants should note the program’s restricted career fields, Mr. Booth said.

Cadets majoring in computer engineer-

ing, electrical engineering and meteorology, cadets in the education delay program, graduate law program, or one-year college program of the judge advocate general corps and cadets in health professions and those with pre-health designations are ineligible at this time, he added.

For cadets graduating in fiscal 2012, restricted career fields may change, Mr. Booth said. After analyzing each career field individually, Air Force officials will determine the needs at that time.

Those cadets may start applying in June 2011.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Photos by Senior Airman Max Rechel/KyANG

Kentucky Airmen prepare for Air Expeditionary Force rotation

ABOVE: Senior Airman Rosie Perez (right), and Staff Sgt. Amanda Bedel of the 123rd Force Support Squadron receive instructions on maintaining their M-16A2 service rifles on Sept. 18.

LEFT: Senior Airman Brian Peebles, Warfare Electrician, of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, charges his M-16A2 service rifle during a training and familiarization class required for deployment.