

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXVI, No. 1 • January 8, 2011

## Kentucky Airmen support Operation Enduring Freedom

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

With the first chalk of Bluegrass Airmen anticipated to return to Louisville, Ky., Wing leaders said the Commonwealth should be proud of the historic contributions it's Air National Guard members continue to make in Afghanistan.

According to Lt. Col. Barry Gorter, 123rd Operations Group commander, the more than 160 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing who supported the airlift mission for Operation Enduring Freedom were part of record-setting effort.

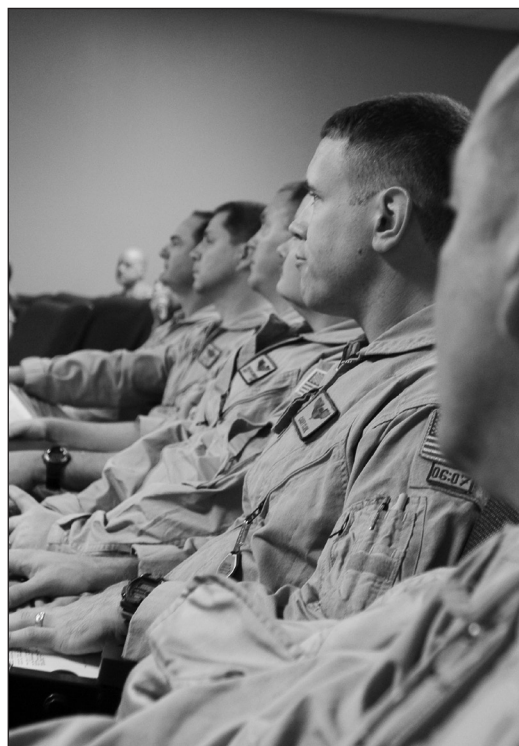
"The Kentucky Air National Guard was part of a rotation that set records for [Central Command] in the theater for air drops and tonnage moved. This is one of the most productive [Air Expeditionary Force rotations] that the C-130 community has ever seen," Colonel Gorter said. "We've done extremely well."

Colonel Gorter said the deployed Airmen were instrumental in resupplying soldiers at forward operating bases throughout the area of operations. "At many of these remote locations, the only way to get supplies is via air. We saw our crews delivering people, ammo, food, water, medical supplies and fuel."

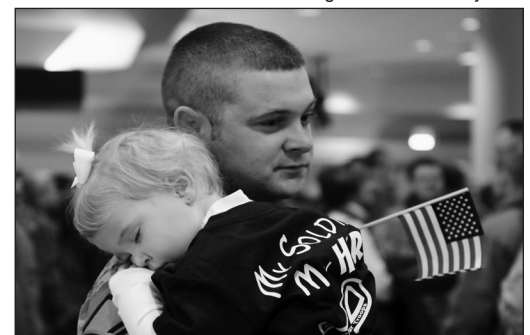
The more remote the location, the poorer the runways and more demanding the maneuvers became for pilots and aircrew. The aircraft "took a beating," Colonel Gorter said. And yet, the mission capable rate of aircraft remained at a level that astonished the



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**ABOVE:** Master Sgt. Shaun Cecil, a member of the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron, receives a departing hug from his loved one before departing for Afghanistan on Dec. 8.

**TOP:** An Airman from the 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron gives a wave as several members depart Louisville International Airport for Afghanistan. Dozens of engineers are supporting airbase operations on six-month tours of duty.

**LEFT:** 123rd Operations Group Airmen sit for a briefing before departing for their tour of duty to Afghanistan. Aircrew and maintainers were part of historic airlift operations supporting the war.

See OEF, Page 8

# The 123rd Airlift Wing is Resolute!

Happy New Year to 2011, and welcome back. I hope everyone enjoyed a great holiday season. I was especially glad to be home with my family this year after my deployment. I spend a lot of time thinking about our deployed members and their families, and I know we will all be glad when they get home safe.

I've also been thinking about how to write my New Years article for 2011. Last year at this time, we were hot and heavy in preparation for our inspection. We were 100 percent focused on honing our readiness skills to respond to any emergency in the United States, and that was the concentration of my New Years article. We performed excellently and immediately prepared for, and executed our next Air Expeditionary Force deployment. The 123rd Airlift Wing stands proven ready.

Two years ago, I suggested we make a New Years' resolution to increase our combat readiness by ensuring we are both physically and mentally prepared to accomplish our mission through readiness of body as well as readiness of mind. Senior Master Sgt. Ken Richards and our Unit Fitness Monitors helped all of us improve our Physical Fitness Test scores, and helped us institute a culture of physical fitness throughout the Wing.

This year I don't think we need to make any specific New Year's resolution, because I believe the 123rd stands resolute



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

in our readiness. Let me explain what I mean. I thought about the 123rd Airlift Wing and how we continuously step-up to every challenge. I looked up the definition of resolute and it exemplifies the 123rd Airlift Wing – firm in purpose and belief. Next week we will welcome home some of our aircrew and aircraft maintainers the same day we say goodbye and good luck to some of our engineers as they depart for their deployment. This is the resolute

readiness of the 123rd.

Some synonyms for resolute perfectly illustrate the Airmen of the 123rd Airlift Wing; stanch, unbendable, unyielding, determined, unwavering, definite, steadfast, strong, persevering and purposeful. During my deployment, I crossed paths with 123rd Airmen serving in six countries in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Last unit training assembly, I talked to five of seven Airmen from the Logistics Readiness Squadron recognized by the Air Mobility Command Inspector General for outstanding performance during our Operational Readiness Inspection in May. Only five were available, because two are currently deployed. Of the five present, two recently returned from deployment and one will deploy this year. That is the resoluteness of the men and women of the 123rd Airlift Wing!

We are resolute from the heritage our predecessors founded, to the history we will make during our time of service. However, there is one aspect of a traditional New Year's Resolution we can and should embrace in everything we do – a commitment for improvement. This year we will continue to stand resolute. We will be ready when called, and we will look for and take advantage of every opportunity to improve our readiness. Because – *the 123rd stands ready!*

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 Jan. 21, 2010.

### 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.....Master Sgt. Diane Stinnett
- Staff Photographer.....Staff Sgt. Jason Ketterer
- Staff Photographer.....Senior Airman Max Rechel

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

For more information on the 123rd Airlift Wing, visit the Wing's official Web site – [www.123aw.ang.af.mil](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil)



## Community sends 68-foot scroll to deployed troops

Light Up Louisville attendees were invited in November to send holiday greetings to deployed Kentucky Airmen and Soldiers by signing a community greeting card.

Hundreds signed a scroll that grew to be 68 feet long before it was delivered to deployed troops by Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, Adjutant General of the Kentucky National Guard.

“It’s hard to comprehend how much this means to these men, so far from home, at this time of year,” General Tonini said. “Thank you.”

## Scouts tour base

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from across Louisville visited the Kentucky Air Guard Base Dec. 21.

“For nearly 100 years, the Boy Scouts has created a strong foundation of leadership, service and community for millions of America’s youth,” said Maj. George Imorde, executive officer for the 123rd Airlift Wing. “It’s no surprise that many Boy Scout alumni are a part of the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Airlift Wing here.”

The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts visited various units at the Air Guard base, talked with the Airmen and received demonstrations of the equipment regularly used at the base.

“The Cub Scouts wanted to learn more about the Air National Guard and what they do,” said John Froehlich, Cub Scout grandparent. “They wanted to see the planes more than anything.”

# Blood drive memorializes Chief Downs

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

Wing medical officials said a blood drive held in honor of deceased Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs, former 123rd Airlift Wing command chief, Dec. 6 and 7, was a resounding success.

With Kentucky Airmen donating 70 units of blood, nearly tripling base averages, around 210 community members are expected to benefit from the drive.

The drive is in response for the wishes of Chief Downs’ surviving family members.

“Chief Downs had an impact on a lot of the enlisted folks on this base. Everyone thought very highly of him. He worked hard for the enlisted force,” said Chief Johnie Cherry, health systems specialist for the 123rd Medical Squadron. “This was a tribute to what he did and a way to pay respect to his family.”



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

A Kentucky Airmen donates blood at a drive held in honor of Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs, former 123rd Airlift Wing Command Chief.



Senior Airman Max Rechel/KyANG

ABOVE: Col. Jeff Peters, right, assumes command of the Mission Support Group on Dec. 4

BELOW: Lt. Col. William Christmas, right, assumes command of the 123rd Medical Group. Colonel Christmas replaces Col. Diana Shoop, who was named Deputy Surgeon General over Medical Service Readiness Programs and Strategy at the National Guard Bureau.



Senior Airman Max Rechel/KyANG

## Officers move up, another moves on



Senior Airman Max Rechel/KyANG

Col. William Ketterer, who most recently served as interim Wing Commander, retired after nearly 35 years of service on Dec. 4. The colonel enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1976 and was commissioned in 1978. He is a veteran of the War on Terror. He was named vice wing commander in 2008 and served as interim commander of the Wing during Col. Greg Nelson’s recent combat deployment.

# Holiday Party

Family members  
get day of their own



Photos by Senior Airman Max Rechel  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Children and family members of Kentucky Air National Guardsmen celebrated the holidays with a special party Dec. 5.

“It was an incredible event. We had an outstanding turn out of volunteers and tremendous turn out,” said David Rooney, Airman and Family Readiness Program manager.

Some 20 volunteers facilitated the event that hosted around 150 Wing family members for games, face painting, prizes and a visit from Santa.

According to Mr. Rooney, family support volunteers are always needed. Contact Brandy Wardrip at [b.wardrip@insightbb.com](mailto:b.wardrip@insightbb.com) if you’re interested in participating.



A dependent has her face painted during the children’s party.



**ABOVE:** The daughters of Master Sgt. David Malone, 123rd Maintenance Squadron, color Christmas trees and other festive designs during the holiday party



Tech. Sgt. Tracy Cordy, 123rd Logistics Squadron, prepares her daughter to meet Santa.

**Below:** A dependent has her face painted during the children’s party.







Senior Airman Max Rechel/KyANG

Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, Adjutant General of the Kentucky National Guard, speaks to deployed Airmen and Soldiers via video teleconference.

## Governor, TAG show support for Airmen, families

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, Adjutant General of the National Guard, have made a point to thank Kentucky's Soldiers, Airmen and their families for their service and sacrifices during the holiday season.

On Dec. 4, they visited the base for the third consecutive year during the holidays and paid special tribute to the spouses of deployed Airmen during a luncheon. Families were given the opportunity to video conference with their loved ones and thanked for their support.

Governor Beshear was effusive in his praise of National Guard members. He noted the importance of their stateside mission, noting contributions made during the 2009 ice storm that devastated the state.

"You saved some lives, there was never a greater service to the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky than what our Guard did during the ice storm," he told the spouses.

Speaking of duty in harm's way, the governor praised the impact Airmen and Soldiers have made in combat. At the time of his address, some 210 Airmen were deployed to 11 countries around the world.

"Kentucky has a proud tradition of military service," he said.

The adjutant general assured the spouses he would do his utmost to support their loved ones during their deployment and after they return home to transition back to their civilian lives. In early December, he visited Airmen and Soldiers in the combat theater.



Senior Airman Max Rechel/KyANG

Gov. Steve Beshear speaks with the parents of Master Sgt. Philip Puckett, a member of the 123rd Communications Flight.

According to Dave Rooney, Family Readiness Program manager, the families of deployed Airmen haven't come forward with any major issues.

He credits the experience and planning of the families, many of whom have faced deployments several times in the past. He also said involvement with commanders and first sergeants helped family support professionals be more proactive.

As many deployed members return, Mr. Rooney said it's critical that family members are aware of the services that are available.

The transition from life in the combat theater to civilian life may present new challenges. Mr. Rooney said Cecil Goodloe, Yellow Ribbon

Program manager, would be working with transitioning members and their families.

"Reintegration is critical and it's what Mr. Goodloe is focused on right now. We're here on the back end. We have numerous referrals we can make – a whole network of people and resources we can go to," he said.

For more information, contact Mr. Rooney at (502) 413-4647 or david.rooney@ang.af.mil. For information on the Yellow Ribbon Program or reintegration, contact Mr. Goodloe at Cecil.Goodloe.ctr@ang.af.mil.

# Bluegrass Airman, state trooper awarded for valor

Security forces member takes, returns fire in civilian law enforcement job

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

A traditional Kentucky Air National Guard member and State Trooper was awarded the Kentucky State Police Citation for Bravery for heroism as a civilian law enforcement officer.

Master Sgt. Charles Kelton, who serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Operations for the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, was recognized for his actions on June 24, 2008, when he responded to a reported domestic assault in Milton, Ky.

Arriving on the scene, he discovered an injured woman and assisted in helping her get treatment.

After the victim was taken to a local hospital, Sergeant Kelton went to the perpetrator's residence where he witnessed the man retrieving a firearm.

The Trooper quickly directed the establishment of a perimeter.

"The suspect then began firing rounds at the responding units for several hours," the award citation read. "Trooper Kelton attempted to initiate dialogue with the suspect, but that only resulted in shots being fired directly at [him]."

Trooper Kelton could eventually see that the suspect was firing rounds from underneath a pickup truck. He returned fire with his M-16 rifle striking the assailant in the arm and chest.

The injured suspect fled back into his residence as two fellow law enforcement officers arrived to provide support, the citation said. As the suspect advanced on them, he was fatally wounded.

Sergeant Kelton said it was the first time in 10 years that he'd taken direct fire on the job, though it is not uncommon for troopers to be required to use force in the line of duty.



Courtesy photo

**Master Sgt. Charlie Kelton, center, a member of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, was awarded the Kentucky State Police Citation for Bravery for valor in the line of duty when circumstances required him to exchange fire with a domestic violence perpetrator in Milton, Ky.**

"I was just trying to make it home to my family," said the husband and father, who resides in Bedford. "If they want to give me an award for that, it's great. But I was just doing my job."

The KSP Citation for Bravery is an honor bestowed on officers who "perform acts of bravery, without regard for personal risk, of clear and obvious peril above and beyond the call or risk of ordinary duty."

Sergeant Kelton, who is a member of KSP Post 5 in Campbellsburg, received the honor last summer. He has been a state trooper for 12 years and has served in the Guard for 21 years. He's been activated twice since 9/11 to military duty.

"It is a natural reaction to run away from danger. Law enforcement officers are trained to run toward danger and they do so without

hesitation," KSP Commissioner Rodney Brewer said of Sergeant Kelton and other award recipients. "We salute all those who have chosen a life that makes a difference."

Lt. Col. Robert Holdsworth, 123rd Security Forces Squadron commander, said the award is a testament to the sergeant's courage and dedication to duty.

"We talk a lot about the quality of our Airmen. Master Sgt. Kelton is a Kentucky warrior who proved his courage under fire," Colonel Holdsworth said. "He's a tremendous asset to the Commonwealth as a State Trooper and Security Forces staff noncommissioned officer. He is a dynamic leader who contributes tremendously to our combat readiness as a unit."



## Guardisman, civilian law enforcement officer warns of epidemic

Abuse of prescription drugs hurting families, impacting Airmen and contributing to violent crime

By Master Sgt. Charles Kelton  
123rd Security Forces Squadron

There is a growing epidemic in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that could potentially touch every family that resides within its borders. Unlawful use of prescription medication has taken Kentucky by storm and it doesn't look like it's going to ease up any time soon.

As a guardsman for 20 years and a Kentucky State Trooper for more than a dozen, have been a member of the Kentucky Air National Guard for over 20 years and a Kentucky State Trooper for a dozen, I have seen drug trends come and go.

At the same time, I've observed how they affect communities throughout the Commonwealth and the military members of the KY National Guard.

In my opinion, we are looking at a crisis that far outweighs drug epidemics of the past such as crack cocaine and heroin.

According to the Office of Drug Control Policy, Kentucky had the dubious distinction of being ranked the top state in the country for prescription drug abuse in 2008.

In that year alone, Kentucky lost 485 people due to overdose of these killers.

Medical examiners' records for that year



File photo

indicate the most common drugs abused in these cases were Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Xanax, Morphine and Fentanyl.

Not only do the drugs affect the people that abuse them -- across age groups -- they also affect everyone that lives in the state by serving as causal factors for other types of crime. Addiction drives drug abusers to often-violent crimes, such as burglary, robbery, driving under the influence and domestic abuse.

A common practice for attaining these medications is called "Doctor Shopping." This is the practice of going to one doctor, obtaining a prescription, and then just moving to the next doctor until the user

stockpiles a large amount of pills.

The Kentucky All Schedule Reporting System (KASPER) is one tool used to combat this practice. This program allows participating doctors to check when the last prescription was filled and which physician prescribed the medication within the state.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says that nearly 7 million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, more than the number of addicts abusing cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, ecstasy and inhalants combined.

The DEA also reports that "opioid painkillers now cause more overdose deaths than cocaine and heroin combined."

Sadly, this new trend has already affected unit members and families of the 123rd Airlift Wing. Here at home and Defense Department wide, we're seeing unfortunate instances of drug abuse involving prescribed or illegally obtained medications.

Although the Wing's urinalysis program does test for these prescription drugs, we must lead the fight against the abuse of these otherwise useful medications.

We must monitor our Wingmen and address issues appropriately through the support systems available to us as National Guardsmen.

As a Kentucky State Police sergeant and a master sergeant of the Kentucky Air National Guard, I ask commanders and staff noncommissioned officers to educate themselves in order to be effective leaders at combating this epidemic in the unit and our communities.

## VA program helps families help returning Airmen, veterans

By Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

"Families At Ease" is a new program developed by Department of Veterans Affairs officials that works with family members and friends of veterans of any era to help them help their veteran get care.

Many veterans are reluctant to get help for the symptoms or difficulties they are having, or may not recognize their need for help.

It could be difficulty at work or at home, problems sleeping, driving too fast, or drinking too much. Or it could just be that they seem irritable or sad.

Whatever the problem, family members are often very aware of veterans' mental health difficulties and want to play a positive role in helping veterans seek the help they need.

The "Families At Ease" educational campaign attempts to reach new veterans through their concerned family members and provides information and support to help the veteran access VA facilities for services and benefits.

A multi-site call center was developed at the Philadelphia and Durham, N.C. VA medical centers to answer calls from family members and friends, as well as veterans.

Callers can get information on how to enroll in VA care. They can also get free telephone-based coaching by a mental health consultant to help when a veteran is reluctant to admit having difficulties.

"We take a positive approach to motivating the Veteran, which means while we work with the family member to motivate the Veteran, the choice to come in is always in the Veteran's hands," said Dr. Steven Sayers, the "Families At Ease" director.

Family members or veterans can reach "Families At Ease" on the Web at [www.mirecc.va.gov/FamiliesAtEase](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/FamiliesAtEase).

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## OEF

### Continued from Front Page

Airmen's active duty counterparts. An average aircrew day is typically limited to 14 hours. Yet, aircrew were routinely getting waivers to work beyond normal limitations to accomplish their mission.

Meanwhile, the ops tempo impacted maintainers who worked intensively to keep the aircraft capable of the peak performances required.

"Everyone is having a great time and doing well," Colonel Gorter said about the feedback he's received from the front. The reason for high morale is that the deployed Airmen were in their element.

"We've been preparing for this deployment for the last six months," said Lt. Col. Kevin Morris, C-130 Hercules navigator, before leaving in October for his fifth deployment. "It's what we're here for - it's what we're here to do."

"There's a feeling of accomplishment there. They are contributing to

the war effort. Despite the dangers and difficulties of long duty days and flying in challenging conditions, this is the game everyone signed up to do," Colonel Gorter said.

"Kentucky Airmen are in the fight. The greater the challenge, the higher we'll rise to accomplish the mission," Colonel Gorter said.

Aircrew and maintainers are not alone.

Civil engineers from the 123rd Airlift Wing are deploying on six-month rotations to support combat operations in the same theater.

Kentucky Airmen have deployed countless times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as supporting both state and overseas disaster relief missions.

The Kentucky National Guard currently has over 300 Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Nearly 14,000 troops have been mobilized for the War on Terror since 2001.



Courtesy photo

**Master Sgt. Clint Stinnett and Capt. Amy Busch, deployed 123rd Airlift Wing members, attached filled stockings to pallets delivered to forward operating bases on Dec. 25, 2010.**