

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## Bluegrass engineers support combat operations in Afghanistan

### Staff Report

Kentucky Airmen from the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron are sustaining combat operations and maintaining one of the most important airfields in Afghanistan.

At Bagram Airfield, the Airmen are supporting Emergency Management, base operations and facilities engineering.

“The importance of the mission is to keep the sorties flying,” said Lt. Col. Phillip Howard, who commands the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. According to the colonel, the opportunity to support efforts to “fly, fight and win” is a motivating factor for the deployed engineers.

“They feel what they are doing is great. They are supporting a war effort and doing a job they love. We have already had a few members recognized for outstanding work.”

Colonel Howard said the Airmen’s emergency management technicians were responsible for potential Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive threats on the base, spills and other emergency operations.

The operations team include work on structures, utilities, heavy equipment, power production, electrician work and heating, ventilation and air conditioning. They maintain all of the equipment that keeps the base operational.

Meanwhile, in terms of engineering, Kentucky Airmen are providing a vital service in managing the planning, design and construction of all airbase facilities.

The colonel said his Airmen trained extensively for their mission and their preparedness was paying off.

“I feel they are producing exactly as I felt they would,” he said. “They are the best civil engineer squadron in the Air National Guard and show it every day.”

“The hours are long and the work is hard, but we are proud to represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky and getting this unique mission done,” agreed Maj. Keith Smith, a deployed squadron member.

Despite the challenges they face, the Airmen are exceeding expectations, Colonel Howard reported.

“Wing members should be proud of us. We are doing a job that we train for all the time and now we get to show how good we are,” he said.



Courtesy photos



**ABOVE:** Tech. Sgt. Kyle Petty inspects Emergency Management equipment at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

**TOP:** Airmen from Kentucky’s 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron salute in formation at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

**LEFT:** Structures technicians from Kentucky’s 123rd Civil Engineers Squadron retrieve the colors during a retreat ceremony.

# Diversity is the strength of the 123rd!

The strength of the 123rd Airlift Wing is our vast diversity. We are diverse in every aspect from our missions, our skill sets, and our people. We need to recognize our diversity, understand how it makes us strong, and continue to grow with this in mind.

The 123rd is home to a very diverse mission set. Tactical airlift is our primary mission, but we have over twenty other organizations within the Wing that either directly support or compliment our airlift mission. This is the best thing we can do from a business perspective.

Businesses will add component manufacturing or service offerings necessary to support their first or largest programs. They will also add complementary offerings in order to expand their share of a specific market.

This is business diversification, and the 123rd Airlift Wing is doing this every time we pick up a new mission. We need to continue to look for new mission opportunities that harmoniously support and compliment our overseas and homeland tactical airlift mission in support of the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Air Force.

The 123rd has a vast array of diverse skills. We have everything from pilots to plumbers, audio visual to avionics maintenance, munitions, moral, medi-



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

cal, personnel records and pararescue.

Each skill set is critical to our mission success. Our aircraft cannot fly without a multitude of maintenance skills. Our base and facilities require countless diverse skills for construction, maintenance and repair. Most importantly, our Airmen could not function without basic care, feeding, shelter, health and welfare. Though diverse and different in almost ev-

ery way, these skill sets fit together seamlessly enabling the 123rd AW to accomplish our mission.

Lastly, and most important are our people. Here we represent diversity in every way. The 1,200 members of the Wing comprise a diverse mix of age, sex, race, national origin, religious faith and cultural backgrounds.

I discussed our diversity with one of our members and she reminded me that our Wing has changed through the years. We don't look at whether an Airman is male or female anymore, we look at what that individual can bring to the mission and how we can work together.

The diversity and differences of our people make us stronger. Different people bring renewed ideas, difference in perspective, management skills, and understanding. We are all recruiters and we know the caliber of men and women we want and need in the 123rd.

We need to understand the strength of diversity and look for opportunities to recruit someone that will bring new strength to our missions, skill sets, and force structure. We need to continue to seek opportunities to expand our missions, skills, and people diversely, but harmoniously.

*The strength of the 123rd Airlift Wing is our diversity!*

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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 Feb. 23, 2011.

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## New camouflage for deploying Airmen

Airmen deploying to Afghanistan will be issued yet another new uniform as part of their deployment gear beginning in March.

The uniform resulted from a joint initiative that ensures all 'outside-the-wire' deployers, regardless of branch of service, have the most effective ground combat uniform.

Called the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern, it's the same uniform recently fielded for Soldiers.

## Guard Association conference Feb. 18

Tickets are still available for the 80th Annual Joint Conference of the National Guard Association of Kentucky Feb. 18 to 20 at the Galt House in Louisville.

Airmen and their spouses are invited to attend. Members can sign up for the conference by visiting [www.ngaky.org](http://www.ngaky.org). For hotel reservations, contact the Galt House at (502) 589-5200.

## Officials respond to repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said a three-step process describing the implementation of the repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law was held last month.

The first phase finalized changes in regulations and policies and provided a clearer definition on benefits.

The second phase is to prepare training materials for use by personnel specialists, chaplains, commanders and other leaders. The third phase, the secretary explained, is the actual training for service members.

# New inspector general greets Airmen

By Lt. Col. Scott Quinlan  
123rd Airlift Wing Inspector General

As the 123rd Airlift Wing Inspector General, I intend to be the "eyes and ears" for the commander on matters that are indicative of systemic, morale, or other problems that impede efficiency and mission effectiveness.

My military career is quite varied starting upon being commissioned as a Marine officer upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy where I was the punter for the 1985 Navy football team.

I served 12 years on active duty as a Marine F/A-18 Hornet fighter and attack pilot. During those years, I deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm and graduated from Navy Fighter Weapons School.

My final tour on active duty was with the Canadian Air Force 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron. As the U.S. Marines exchange pilot, I served as the Weapons and Tactics Officer and deployed for combat again this time for Operation Deny Flight over Bosnia.

After Active Duty I moved to Kentucky and transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserves for another six years, commuting to Ft. Worth, Tex., where I served as Maintenance Commander for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112.

I cross-commissioned to the 157th Air Operations Group, Missouri Air National Guard after 9/11.

Most recently, I transferred to the 123rd



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**Lt. Col. Scott Quinlan recently replaced Col. Jeff Peters who now commands the 123rd Mission Support Group.**

Airlift Wing as the Wing Plans Officer and Exercise and Evaluation Team Chief.

My hope is to function as the ombudsman, fact-finder and honest broker in the resolution of complaints. I also hope to educate and train our members on their rights and responsibilities in regard to the Air Force IG system.

In addition, my mission is to assist commanders in preventing, detecting, and correcting fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement. I look forward to serving you as your new Inspector General.

I can be reached at (502) 413-4430.

## New HR rep supports force development

By Senior Master Sgt. David W. Selby  
Human Resources Advisor

Talented people go where they feel welcome and businesses around the world have already attracted some of the most talented people through a commitment to leadership and diversity.

There is a clear connection between effective development training and an inclusive military culture where each person's values and inputs are understood and truly appreciated.

As the 123rd Airlift Wing Human Resources Advisor, I work closely with Airmen, leaders, retention professionals and trainers to promote an environment of leadership and development.

I advise the commander on a multitude of issues affecting the unit, ensure compre-

hensive diversity training, and do my utmost to help the unit reach its diversity potential.

Diversity, leadership and Force development, contrary to popular opinion, is not about affirmative action, compliance EEO training, or the recognition of just minorities. It is about recognizing the differences and qualities of each and every member and using those differences and qualities to create a cohesive organization where all benefit from one another's wisdom and knowledge.

As your new HRA, I am absolutely committed to ensuring Airmen are fully supported through proactive force development, integrated and equitably distributed Force Management, and the active practice of Air National Guard Diversity Objectives.

For more information on my philosophies, contact me at [david.selby@ang.af.mil](mailto:david.selby@ang.af.mil) or (586) 307-2658.

# Medical Group Airmen to handle critical care transports

New capability allows Wing to evacuate patients during war, homeland emergencies

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air National Guard will soon be in the Critical Care Air Transport Team business.

With rising demands on active duty forces, the Air National Guard was recently asked to field 13 teams to support global medical evacuations.

The Kentucky Air National Guard was the first to respond to the request and volunteered to stand up two teams, 123rd Airlift Wing leaders said. The ANG plans on standing up 18 full CCATTs from 17 states altogether.

In addition to supporting the active duty – 14 teams are required to be tasked full time in support of current combat operations – the unique capability will advance the push by Col. Greg Nelson, 123rd AW commander, to give his unit and the Air National Guard a prominent role in the event of an attack on the nation or a natural disaster.

“For Kentucky to be represented in the [combat area of operations] says a lot about what this state brings to the fight. It’s a specialized mission, a low-density, high-value mission,” said Maj. Brian McMorro, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Medical Plans and Operations Officer.

“If CERFP is stood up to respond in homeland defense instances, the medical group will be able to bring that capability to the fight. A Kentucky team would be able to transport a patient to the doorstep of Walter Reed [Army Medical Center] or anywhere, no matter what the distance via our C-130s,” said Major McMorro.

For nearly a year, Kentucky aircrews have supported CCATT training by taking active duty and reserve component students training at the University of Cincinnati on simulated aeromedical evacuation missions.

Already, Lt. Col. David Worley, a critical care nurse, is with the first composite Air National Guard team providing life saving evacuations for patients evacuated from the combat theater. He stands on alert at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany now.

Nationwide the ANG teams, consisting of a specially trained physician, nurse and enlisted respiratory technician, will be fully trained and online for service within two years, according to



Photos by Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

**ABOVE: A Kentucky loadmaster briefs active duty Critical Care Air Transport Team students from the University of Cincinnati prior to an aeromedical training sortie. The Wing will soon have two similar teams capable of supporting combat operations and available to respond to homeland defense missions.**



**LEFT: An active duty anesthesiologist and respiratory therapist “resuscitate” a medical-training mannequin aboard a Kentucky C-130.**

Col. Brett Wyrick, the air surgeon for the ANG.

According to Major McMorro, Kentucky’s close relationship with Colonel Wyrick helped the Commonwealth in its bid to secure two teams for global and stateside missions. Further, Kentucky already had ground critical care units trained in place. All that will be required for the Kentucky teams to qualify and be ready for missions is aeromedical qualification training just up the road in Cincinnati and follow-on schooling in San Antonio.

The CCATT concept was introduced by the Air Force surgeon general about 10 years ago to meet a need for transporting the most critically injured patients in the aeromedical evacuation system.

The concept and advances in battlefield medicine and initial care are largely credited for the unprecedented survivability rate among those wounded in the current wars.

“This is a mission where we actually bring

... everything that you would find in an intensive care unit to the air frame,” Colonel Wyrick said. “And it gives us the ability to move injured and wounded Soldiers and Airmen, Marines ... from the forward areas of the battlefield back to a tertiary care facility either in Europe, the Pacific or the United States.”

Tech. Sgt. George Plaza, Cardio Pulmonary Noncommissioned Officer in Charge for the 123rd Medical Group and future CCATT member, said he looks forward to the challenge.

“Everyone is looking forward to this. It’s another opportunity for the Kentucky Air National Guard to provide our services with our counterparts on active duty and fellow Guardsmen,” said Sergeant Plaza. “It’s another chance for Kentucky Airmen to put our best foot forward.”





Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

A C-130 Hercules aircraft brings home Kentucky aircrew members, maintainers and other Airmen who supported Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Airmen return, leaders reflect on historic AEF deployment

### Staff Report

Aircrew, maintainers and other support Airmen returning from the recent Air Expeditionary Force deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan reportedly were part of one of the busiest deployment rotations in the history of the current war, according to 123rd Airlift Wing leaders.

“The recent deployment broke theater records for airdrops and for the amount of cargo and personnel transported. The professionalism of the flight crew and maintenance personnel was stellar and was noticed by all at Bagram,” said Lt. Col. Barry Gorter, 123rd Operations Group Commander.

As Airmen reunite with families and reintegrate into stateside life, Colonel Gorter said downtime for the Airmen is well-earned.

“Our schedule was a lot busier this time, more so than past deployments,” said Master Sgt. Brad Simms, a loadmaster.

“Each mission flow is extremely demanding,” Colonel Gorter said. “The crews land at austere zones which take a heavy toll on the aircraft. The crews were flawless, and the maintenance personnel provided aircraft in miraculous fashion. Personally, I am proud to be associated with such an incredible collection of men and women.”

The commander isn’t alone. Many returning Airmen are celebrating the holidays late this year. However, all have been embraced by their communities and family members who supported them during their deployments.

“My husband makes me proud that he supports and defends the country, way over there to do that, during Christmas and the holidays,” said Amelia Nethery, spouse of returning Staff Sgt. Patrick Nethery.



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

Family members and Airmen hold signs and American flags as they wait to welcome home a chalk of Airmen returning from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Col. Greg Nelson, 123rd Airlift Wing commander said he couldn’t be more proud of how his Airmen performed.

“From surviving base attacks to breaking all airdrop records, their performance was nothing short of outstanding!” Colonel Nelson said.

While deployed himself, the colonel met the first aircraft when it arrived in the combat theater.

“I can personally tell you, they hit the ground running from day one, and weren’t given a break until the day they left,” he said. “Our maintainers suffered through some undue hardship, but they kept their heads up and did the job they know better than anyone.”

“These great Airmen fought hard, and fought like Kentuckians. I am thankful they are all home safe, but we need to continue to support and pray for the other 123rd men and women deployed today.”



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

Col. Greg Nelson, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, left, and Brig. Gen. Mark R. Kraus, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Kentucky Air National Guard, greet returning Airmen on the base flightline.



Courtesy photos

# KENTUCKY AIRMAN U.S. MARSHAL

*Security Forces member  
ranks among the elite  
in federal law enforcement*



Master Sgt. Josh Devine, &  
Senior Airman Tracey Devine

**By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
Cargo Courier Editor**

When Master Sgt. Josh Devine, a squad leader for the 123rd Airlift Wing, reported last summer to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga., he wore a suit. After all, it was a new job.

“Within the first five minutes, we were all doing pushups,” said Sergeant Devine. “Stuff was flying around the room and we were being told we’re all a bunch of mag-gots.

“Here I’m thinking to myself, ‘Have you really done this to yourself again?’”

The introduction was all too familiar to the sergeant. He’d accomplished basic military training, security forces training – one of the more physically intensive schools in the military – and basic training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training Branch in Richmond, Ky.

That day the sergeant began one of the most physically and mentally demanding training evolutions in law enforcement.

“At 34, I was getting a little long in the tooth to be climbing up ropes and jumping over walls. It seemed like we ran everywhere, we’re talking nine and ten mile runs. Climbing ropes and jumping over walls felt a little different than it was when I was 18,” Sergeant Devine said.

Five months later, after two intensive courses, the Sergeant emerged from his

training as one of the elite; he was a Deputy U.S. Marshal.

His graduation marked a milestone in 13 years of law enforcement that began when he enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard. In 1999, he began his civilian law enforcement career as a member of the police department in his hometown of Harrodsburgh, Ky.

In 2003, he was called to active duty and joined his fellow 123rd Security Forces Squadron members for service during the invasion of Iraq.

The Kentucky Airmen were among the first in the fight, setting up airfield operations at Baghdad International Airport days into the war. Then-Staff Sgt. Devine was leading men in war and securing a vital resource for continued combat operations.

He returned home and joined the Commonwealth Attorney General’s office, where he served as a Medicaid and Fraud Control Unit investigator while finishing his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Eastern Kentucky University and his Community College of the Air Force degree.

“He has a reputation for being dependable and reliable,” said Senior Master Sgt. Rhett Perdue, superintendent of operations for the squadron. “He gives it to you straight and he takes care of his troops. He’s always looking out for their best interests and he’s always going to do the right thing.”

Sergeant Devine said he considers his

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Courtesy photo

Then-Staff Sgt. Josh Devine, 123rd Security Forces Squadron, far left, takes a break with his fellow Airmen at Baghdad International Airport following the invasion of Iraq. Master Sgt. Devine, who began his law enforcement career when he enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard serves as a Deputy U.S. Marshal.



# Force Support Airmen provide free personal training

## Staff Report

The 123rd Force Support Squadron offers a fitness program that provides airmen the opportunity to receive a customized workout training program. Tech. Sergeants Dale Grupe and Shaun Cowherd, of the 123rd Force Support Squadron Sustainment Services Flight, are available to work one-on-one with Airmen at the base fitness center on normally scheduled drill dates to help them improve their physical fitness.

The sergeants are both certified Personal Trainers and Fitness Specialists by the Cooper Institute through a nationally accredited program and graduates of the Air Force Fitness Fundamentals course.

They offer services tailored to the needs of members who have different fitness goals and abilities. They can help Airmen develop an exercise regimen specific to the member's body composition that will not only help the individual pass the Air Force fitness test, but will enable the member to create a new lifestyle, decrease stress and make them feel better about themselves as a whole.

These plans focus on the four major components of muscle endurance, flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance.

The free service comes at a critical time for the Air National Guard when fitness is a top priority and a necessity for mobility readiness. As the Air Force fitness standards continue to evolve over time, it is critical for each airman to maintain a peak fitness level in order to be fit to fight and to meet the Air National Guard's mission readiness and increasingly high operational tempo.

If you are interested in improving your overall health, reducing stress, losing weight, or even gaining lean muscle mass, the Force Support Squadron can help. The base gym is a great place to work on these areas and houses a wide selection of cardio, nautilus, and free weight options available for use.

Gym hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. The gym is closed for one hour weekdays at 9 a.m. for cleaning. On weekends and most holidays, the gym is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**Senior Airman Evan Pacholik, 123rd Communications Flight, runs during a Wing fitness challenge. Personal trainers are available to help Airmen meet all fitness goals.**

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Sergeants Grupe or Cowherd, 123rd Force Support Squadron, at (502) 413-4120.

# Substance abuse rep says Kentucky Airmen keeping clean

## By Master Sgt. David Gentry Joint Substance Abuse Program Coordinator

The Kentucky Air National Guard is made up of approximately 1,200 Airmen, each of whom seemingly face an ever-increasing operational tempo. With this increase in demands as a result of war mission requirements, assistance during natural disasters and new stateside missions, the Adjutant General and the leadership of both Air and Army National Guard have strengthened Commonwealth policy in regards to drug testing and retention.

The "Kentucky National Guard Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program Policy," signed by the Adjutant General on Nov. 12, 2009, coupled with the Air Force's "zero tolerance" policy on drug abuse, has had a positive impact on drug testing rates. Since implementation, the 123rd Airlift Wing has not had a single airman test positive for an illegal substance; resulting in no discharges for drug use.

This has followed a steady decrease from 2007, when four Airmen were discharged as a result of illegal drug use. This policy has also shown positive effects on the Kentucky Army

National Guard side as well.

While positive drug testing rates have decreased, testing rates have increased.

Under the direction of the National Guard Bureau (NGB), a minimum of 50 percent of all Airmen will be drug tested per fiscal year; with some with unique specialties facing mandatory testing.

To handle the increased state and federal testing requirements, the Wing has increased the personnel that are implementing tests. These personnel are appointed by unit commanders and trained by the State Substance Abuse (SA) office.

Through this program, safeguards are in place to protect Airmen who might test positive as a result of legal prescription medication use.

No one is more proud of our remarkable record in this area than our leadership.

"I am very glad and extremely proud that we didn't lose anyone last year due to illegal drug use," said Col. Greg Nelson, 123rd Airlift Wing commander. "This is a direct result of our education, prevention, and testing program; along with our commanders, super-

visors, and first sergeants watching out for our Airmen. Every man and woman in the 123rd Airlift Wing is too valuable to lose to drugs."

If that is not enough to motivate members to stay away from substance abuse, the commander offered an additional incentive.

"We know illegal drugs are the primary funding source for our enemy, so the purchase of drugs buys ammunition for the terrorist we are fighting," he said. "We will continue to educate our Airmen, and ask them to watch out for each other, their families, friends, and loved ones."

Substance Abuse is everyone's business and does not have a place in today's military. The Substance Abuse Office is here to help all Soldiers and Airmen before they test positive for drug use. And though the Air Force has a "zero tolerance" policy, Airmen can get assistance through the Chaplain's office if they have a problem.

Like all the issues we face during these critical and challenging times, if you see someone in our Wing family who needs help, please step up and direct them to get the assistance they deserve.

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**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

## MARSHAL

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fellow Kentucky Airmen friends and family. In his case, it couldn't ring more true.

In 2005, while on a training evolution at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., he met his future wife Tracey. They were dating for just weeks when Hurricane Katrina struck her hometown of Gautier, Miss.

Sergeant Devine didn't hesitate.

"She called and I told her I was on my way. I don't think she was all that impressed with the military when I met her, but I think (the hurricane response) made all the difference," Sergeant Devine said.

"The first thing he did was propose to me," Tracey recalls. He spent the rest of his stay assisting her community.

On the scene in civilian clothes, he set up a landing zone for UH-60 Blackhawk

helicopters delivering relief to her neighborhood. The experience made an impact in both of their lives.

In 2006, they married. By 2007, she had enlisted in the unit. Now a senior airman, she serves as an emergency management specialist with the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

"I was tired of him having all the fun. My experience with Katrina helped me decide my field," she said.

Together, they commute for military duty from Virginia where Sergeant Devine is completing his first tour of duty with the agency. He said no matter where his federal job takes him, he's going to stay a Kentucky Airman for as long as he can.

"I love what I do. I spent the last week assigned to the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force serving warrants with multiple federal and state agencies," he said. His second day in the office last summer, he was involved with the highly-publicized spy swap with Russia. From hunting fugitives to

protecting federal judges and witnesses, he said his job is constantly changing.

The experiences he gains make him a better Airmen and improve the readiness of his squadron, said Lt. Col. Robert Holdsworth, his commander.

"Sergeant Devine enhances the credibility of our unit and is a mentor for our younger Airmen to emulate," he said. "He shows what is possible and you're seeing others follow in his footsteps."

Currently, Staff Sgt. Mike Meier, a security forces specialist with the Contingency Readiness Group, is training to be a U.S. Marshal.

When Kentucky Airmen are called to support global or domestic emergencies, the civilian law enforcement experience of members makes them better prepared, Colonel Holdsworth said.

"We always say we're the best of the best. It's nice to have people like Josh out there proving it," he said.