

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXVI, No. 3 • March 12, 2011

## 123rd Airlift Wing honors its top troops tonight

### Kennedy, Kinlaw and Pelletier selected as Airmen of the Year

By Maj. Dale Greer  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Kentucky Air National Guard will recognize three of its most exceptional Airmen tonight, honoring Senior Airman April Kennedy, Staff Sgt. Jeff Kinlaw and Master Sgt. Gary Pelletier as the organization's top troops for 2011 at the annual Outstanding Soldier and Airman of the Year Banquet.

The three were chosen because of their excellence in leadership, job performance, self-improvement and community involvement, according to the Kentucky Air National Guard Chiefs' Council, which selects the winners each year from a pool of eligible nominees.

Airman Kennedy, winner of the Airman category, is a material management handler in the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron. During the past year, she performed superior quality-control checks on 35 deploying aircraft, ensuring the safe delivery of 409 short tons of cargo. She also expertly conducted the inventory and re-stocking of chemical warfare protective equipment valued at more than \$198,000, and coordinated with multiple clothing distributors to track thousands of mission-critical items issued to personnel deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Senior Airman Kennedy represents the best of the best in the Kentucky Air Guard," said her supervisor, Lt. Col. Armand Bolotte. "Shortly after joining the unit, she wasted no time establishing herself as a dedicated member with true leadership potential. This was evident by her performance during the 123rd Airlift Wing's 2010 Operational Readiness Inspection and her support of



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

**Master Sgt. Gary Pelletier, the Kentucky Air Guard's senior non-commissioned officer of the year, is a special operations weather specialist in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.**



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

**Staff Sgt. Jeff Kinlaw, the Kentucky Air Guard's non-commissioned officer of the year, is a combat controller in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.**

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# Everyone in the wing should understand our Initial Response Hub concept

Last month, I wrote about the diverse strengths of the 123rd Airlift Wing. This month, I want to tell you how we combined and developed our complimentary capabilities to create an Initial Response Hub, or IRH, for homeland security and homeland defense, unique to the 123rd Airlift Wing in Louisville.

First, we need to recognize and understand that regardless of the emergency, whether a natural disaster or enemy attack, the United States will require massive airlift. We saw this during the Hurricane Katrina, Haitian earthquake and Pakistan flood response efforts.

The United States will need immediate airlift for pre- or post-event evacuation, the delivery of supplies and equipment, and the provision of medical care or other specialty functions.

The 123rd Airlift Wing has successfully built a unique set of capabilities that allows us to rapidly open an airfield; establish communication and coordination with the local, state or federal lead agency; analyze search, rescue and medical requirements; and report to all higher headquarters that the airfield is open and operational.

This Initial Response Hub contains elements from all five of our Groups.



Col. Greg Nelson  
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

The capabilities we provide are generator power, satellite communications, air traffic control, weather forecasting, aircraft load/off-load equipment and personnel, search and rescue, and medical analysis and response.

While these capabilities are available elsewhere in the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard,

only the 123rd Airlift Wing offers all of them in one wing with the C-130 aircraft to move them.

This is the key concept of the 123rd Airlift Wing Initial Response Hub. We want to be the "911" first-responder who can immediately open an airfield and provide airlift support for any emergency in the United States. With just one phone call, the 123rd Airlift Wing IRH can respond to a hurricane from the northeastern United States to Southern Texas in three hours via our C-130 tactical airlift. Similarly, we can provide support to an earthquake on the west coast or in the Caribbean — as we did in Haiti — in only five hours' flight time.

Nowhere else in the United States military can you get this kind of response with one phone call.

You need to know that this is not a notional capability or a strategic initiative. This is an operational capability today.

We deployed our IRH during Operation Unified Response in support of the Haitian earthquake, and we validated it during our Operational Readiness Inspection last year. We also will exercise

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

Our office is located in room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is March 28.

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## Ky. Air Guardsman selected to coach USAF volleyball team

Tech. Sgt. Dale Grupe, who manages the Base Fitness Program for the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Services Squadron, has again been selected to serve as head coach of the All-Air Force Men's Volleyball Team.

Sergeant Grupe, who has been affiliated with USAF volleyball in one fashion or another since 1989, led the men's team to DoD-wide victories as head coach in 2009 and 2010.

This year's team will take on squads from the other services during the Armed Forces Men's Volleyball Championship, scheduled to take place April 6 to 15 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

The All-Air Force men's team has won tournament gold in four of the past six years — 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2010 — and finished second in 2006 and 2008.

## Harrison honored by Louisville Metro Council

Lt. Col. Jeff Harrison, an instructor pilot in the 123rd Airlift Wing, has been recognized by the Louisville Metro Council as an "Outstanding Community Member."

Colonel Harrison "has made significant contributions to improve (his) district as well as our overall metro community," said Dr. Barbara Shanklin, Metro Council representative for District 2.

He was recognized Feb. 24 during a ceremony at City Hall.

## White House welcome



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard greet Vice President Joe Biden Feb. 11 as he descends the stairs of Air Force Two on the tarmac at the Kentucky Air Guard Base. From left to right are Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air; Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing; and Col. Steve Bullard, the wing's vice commander. Mr. Biden was in town to speak at the University of Louisville.

## Brig. Gen. Davidson interred in Frankfort

### Staff report

Brig. Gen. Taylor Davidson Sr., who served as Kentucky's deputy adjutant general for Air in the 1970s, was buried with full military honors at Frankfort Cemetery on March 3, two days after passing away at his Frankfort, Ky., home.

A native of Oneida, Ky., General Davidson joined the U.S. Air Force following graduation from the University of Kentucky in 1947.

He was assigned to the 90th Bombardment Squadron, 3rd Bomb Group, during World War II and served in the Pacific Theater.

After the war, General Davidson held multiple positions in the Kentucky Air National Guard and Kentucky Depart-

ment of Military Affairs before returning to active duty in 1968, where he served as state director of the Selective Service System and, later, regional director of the Selective Service System for the entire southeastern United States.

General Davidson was named Kentucky's deputy adjutant general for Air in 1978, a post he held until retirement.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Roberta Neal "Bobby" Davidson.

General Davidson is survived by three sons, Taylor Davidson Jr. of Knoxville, Tenn.; Rowland Davidson of Atlanta; and Paul Davidson of Cincinnati; two daughters, Jane Greenman of Winchester, Ky.; and Sue Bourne of Nicholasville, Ky.; 12 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

# Ecuadorians tour 123rd to study facilities, ops

## Visit is part of State Partnership that fosters bilateral exchange between Guard, foreign militaries

By Maj. Dale Greer  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Five members of the Ecuadorian Air Force toured the Kentucky Air National Guard Base last week to learn more about the challenge of moving an airlift wing from a decommissioned base to a new facility.

The Ecuadorian Air Force's 11th Airlift Wing, a mixed-aircraft unit with C-130 assets, is slated to relocate to a new commercial airport in Quito, much as Kentucky's 123rd Airlift Wing did in 1995 when it moved to a brand-new site at Louisville International Airport.

"The theme of their visit is civil engineering and logistics subject-matter exchange, but it's driven by the fact that they are in the process of constructing a new civilian international airport in Quito, and they will be relocating the 11th Airlift Wing as part of that," said Maj. Matt Groves, a pilot in the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"They are very interested in looking at our facility, which is similarly sized in terms of personnel and aircraft operations. They're hoping to seek out some of the lessons we learned when we relocated here in 1995 and also want to talk to our personnel about what they would do differently if they had the clean-slate opportunity the Ecuadorians are looking at now."

The Ecuadorians arrived in Louisville on Feb. 27 and departed March 4.

Last week's visit is not the first time Kentucky Air Guardsmen have interacted with members of the Ecuadorian military, Major Groves noted. The two groups actually have been working together on a variety of projects since 1997 as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, an effort to foster closer ties with foreign military organizations around the world.

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron helped build schools and clinics in rural Ecuador in the late 1990s, for example. Today, the main focus has shifted to theater security cooperation.

"We're now in our 14th year of conducting collaborative events with the Ecuadorians," said Major Groves, who is director of the Kentucky National Guard's State Partnership Program with Ecuador. "The intent is that we design interchanges with input from multiple sources, including the U.S. ambassador to Ecuador, U.S. Southern Command and the adjutant general of Kentucky, so we can provide a symbiotic benefit to both parties."

"The Ecuadorians certainly have a lot they can teach us. They have to deal with a challenging fiscal environment, which is something we're having to do more and more. And at the tactical level, they routinely operate in extremely difficult terrain, which makes it a major challenge to sustain operations."

Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, agrees



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

**Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, meets with members of the Ecuadorian Air Force during a tour of the Kentucky Air Guard Base March 1. The Ecuadorians were visiting as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, which fosters stronger relations between the United States and foreign governments by promoting bilateral military cooperation.**

that the program offers tremendous advantages to both parties.

"The State Partnership Program is hugely beneficial to us, as well as the Ecuadorians," he said. "We can learn a lot from their best practices, just as they can learn from ours."

Major Groves noted that such bilateral cooperation is one way Kentucky Airmen are making a real difference around the world.

"The State Partnership Program creates an opportunity for us to build strong personal and organizational relationships with our military counterparts in Ecuador," he said. "I believe that's one of the best ways the United States can conduct diplomacy in the region."



# Sowing seeds of hope

## 3rd Kentucky National Guard Agribusiness Development Team prepares for overseas deployment to aid Afghan farmers

By Army Capt. Stephen D. Martin  
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

Nearly 60 members of the Kentucky National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team III and their families were honored March 4 during a farewell ceremony at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

The team, also known as Task Force Hurricane, is slated to deploy to Afghanistan in early April, where its members will provide training and advice to provincial ministries and local farmers so the country can become agriculturally self-sufficient through the development of an agricultural marketplace.

The task force, which is composed of Army and Air National Guardsmen with a variety of skills in agriculture, will build on the work of two earlier Kentucky Agribusiness Development Teams that also deployed to Afghanistan.

"I am deeply humbled to be allowed to serve alongside these Soldiers and Airmen," said Col. Neil Mullaney, a Kentucky Air Guard officer who will serve as commander of ADT III. "But the real heroes among us are the troops' families that we leave behind. They did not volunteer for this sacrifice; they are our heroes, and we applaud them."

Army Guardsman Sgt. Adam Reints will deploy as a part of the security team for Task Force Hurricane.

"I'm proud to have been one of the ones selected and am anxious to get started," he said. "It's such an important mission over there, and we're making such a huge difference."

While he is in Afghanistan protecting members of the team, Sergeant Reints knows his extended Guard family will also look after his wife, fellow Guardsman Sgt. Christy Reints.

"As a family member and a fellow Guardsman, I definitely support my husband and the ADT mission," she said. "It will be a hardship for us, just like all the other families, especially because we're now expecting our second baby."

Sergeant Christy Reints said she will lean on Kentucky National Guard resources to help her through the deployment.

"The Kentucky Guard has such a great support system ... and I know I can count on the family programs as well as my Family Readiness Group," she said.

This is the third agribusiness mission for the Kentucky National Guard. Agribusiness Development Team II is currently in Afghanistan and is expected to return in the coming weeks.

According to Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky, the agribusiness development mission is one that was seemingly made for the Kentucky National Guard.

"When asked by the National Guard

Bureau if we could provide an ADT for the mission, I emphatically said 'yes' and, in fact, would likely provide the best ADT in the nation," he said.

"That has held true for the first two teams and continues to hold true for this team," he said.

Some members of Task Force Hurricane bring years of personal agriculture experience with them, but every team member has received formal training in a wide range of agribusiness subjects in preparation for the deployment.

These subjects include bee keeping, soil composition, irrigation, plant disease, food preservation, halal slaughterhouse processing, and marketing and branding.

The training was provided by a variety of partners, including the University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University, Brown Foreman, the University of California — Davis, and Brewer's Livestock in Scottsburg, Ind.

The objective was to provide the Guardsmen with the ability to mentor and advise Afghans on potential shortfalls in local education, processes and resources, Colonel Mullaney said.

The team also has more than a dozen specialists with especially valuable training, including a microbiologist, a veterinarian and a pathologist.

The Kentucky National Guard currently has more than 170 Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. Nearly 14,000 Kentucky troops have mobilized for the War on Terror since 2001.



Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler/KyArNG

Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from Agribusiness Development Team III stand at parade rest prior to a farewell ceremony held in their honor March 4 at the Kentucky Air Guard Base. Nearly 60 Guardsmen will be deploying to Afghanistan as part of the team.

# Graham: Guard 'irreplaceable'

By Tech. Sgt. John Orrell  
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON — The National Guard is a treasure that brings irreplaceable skills to domestic support, to civil authorities and to overseas operations, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham told fellow senators and senior Guard leaders here March 3.

"A Guard unit can do more in Afghanistan and Iraq than almost anyone, because every problem has to be fixed in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "You're a (Guard member) by day, a plumber by night ... and the skills you bring to the fight are irreplaceable."

Senator Graham, along with fellow co-chair of the Senate National Guard Caucus, Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, commented on the relationship they have with Guard officials and their plans to showcase the Guard's talents and necessity to fellow members of Congress.

"The Guard caucus in the Senate is more important than it ever has been," Senator Leahy said. "The Guard seems like a tailor-made solution for those who want to just cut the budget and for those looking to increase military capabilities, while the citizen (Soldiers and Airmen) can accomplish both of these together."

Senator Graham said he realizes the neces-

sity for budget cuts and drawbacks.

"The budget is going to be reduced because we are deep, deep, deep in debt," he said. "We're going to have to start making some decisions that are long overdue."

"You have our pledge that we will protect this budget the best that we can," he said.

"We will stand up and shout to the high heavens when we think your role is becoming diminished or you're becoming second-class citizens again when it comes to equipment and training," Senator Graham said.

"The National Guard does every mission there is," Senator Leahy said. "Now those of us in Congress will make sure you have what you need to do it."

Senator Leahy added that the reach of the Guard is one of the reasons it is a reliable and affordable option.

"We could not be deployed in all the places we are in the world without the Guard," Senator Leahy said. "You're always ready during war and peace to defend our nation."

Senator Graham proposed a question to the group that he felt would open some eyes if people asked themselves the same question.

"What would happen to the country if the Guard all of a sudden said, 'We're tired and we don't want to do it anymore'?" he asked. "It would be devastating."



Tech. Sgt. John Orrell/U.S. Air Force

Co-chairs of the Senate National Guard Caucus, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont (center right), and Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina (right), talk with Gen. Craig McKinley (left) and Lt. Gen. Michael Dubie, after Senators Leahy and Graham spoke to fellow senators and senior National Guard leaders Mar 3. General McKinley is the chief of the National Guard Bureau. General Dubie is the adjutant general for the state of Vermont.

## IRH

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the wing's IRH in May during U.S. Northern Command's National Level Exercise-11. (I will provide more details on NLE-11 next month.)

Our IRH is in both the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Transportation Command's hurricane plans this year. We will be there when we are called.

We have briefed our IRH at the highest levels, including Gen. Norton Schwartz when he was USTRANSCOM commander, and again as USAF chief of staff. We have briefed the chief of the National Guard Bureau and the director of the Air National Guard. We have briefed multiple levels at U.S. Northern Command, AR-NORTH and AFNORTH.

Last week, Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, and our assistant adjutant general for Air, Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, joined me in briefing senior leadership at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the president's Advisory Staff at the White House.

I also briefed the IRH to all Kentucky National Guard officers and senior enlisted members at our Professional Development Day last month, and wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Carpenter has sent a copy of our briefing to all commanders and chiefs. This briefing is not classified; please ask your commander or chief to brief you on its contents.

We should all be familiar with the 123rd Airlift Wing Initial Response Hub concept. You are part of it. You need to know it. Tell everyone that when there is an emergency in the United States, the 123rd Airlift Wing IRH will be there!

— Col. Greg Nelson



# Service to begin ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ training

**By Maj. Joel Harper**  
**Secretary of the Air Force PA**

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials will soon begin training Airmen in anticipation of the repeal of the law and policy commonly known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

This training will help Airmen understand what is expected in a post-repeal environment, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz.

“I know our Airmen will approach this issue professionally, and will continue to adhere faithfully to our core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do,” General Schwartz said. “Implementing this change while fighting a war is challenging, but I have no doubt that the Air Force will do this in a way that minimizes operational impact and successfully accomplishes the important task of training our force.”

The first tier of training will focus on Air Force experts responsible for implementing policy changes and personnel providing repeal-related services to Airmen. This group includes several functional communities including chaplains, judge advocates and benefit counselors. This training explains guidance

for implementing policy changes, and includes tools and information to help these experts answer Airmen’s questions about the repeal.

The second tier will focus on Air Force leaders, and will assist commanders, senior NCOs and civilian supervisors in preparing for and implementing repeal. The final tier will train and prepare the broader force while reinforcing expectations of professional and personal conduct through engagement by experts and leaders at all levels.

“We need to ensure our changes in policy happen in a professional, deliberate manner,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy. “This training is an important part of making the transition, and it should answer many questions that Airmen at all levels have been asking.”

Airmen will have ample training opportunities, said Col. Jeff White, the leader of the education and training working group for the Air Force repeal implementation team. The training is a standardized program developed by armed services officials working in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Defense repeal implementation team.

“This training explains the new poli-

cies and provides information about specific behaviors, statements and actions to our Airmen, ensuring a consistent understanding grounded in an organizational climate of dignity and respect,” Colonel White said. “When local conditions or mission requirements demand additional training, commanders may supplement accordingly. However, they must include, at a minimum, the information in the Air Force-approved briefings.”

Face-to-face training is the Air Force-preferred training method, but in the event that this is not possible, computer-based training is authorized to facilitate training completion.

Additionally, a “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” repeal site will open on the Air Force Portal and will include informational resources for leaders at all levels to include lesson plans and slide presentations, frequently asked questions, vignettes, guiding principles, and the “Top 10 Things You Need to Know,” Colonel White said.

“The Air Force will accomplish this training expeditiously, in the disciplined, professional manner our nation expects from its Airmen,” Colonel White said.

# Air Force has new weapon in the fight against ‘Spice’

**By G.W. Pomeroy**  
**USAF Surgeon General Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials instituted enhanced drug-screening methods Feb. 22 to determine whether Airmen are using Spice — the street term for a range of designer synthetic-cannabinoid products.

Air Force leaders intend to send a very clear message: use Spice, and you may lose your career, end up in jail or both.

Spice, also commonly referred to as herbal incense, is mistakenly perceived by some Airmen as a legal or safe alternative to marijuana, said Dr. Aaron Jacobs, the Air Force Drug Testing program manager.

Side effects can include panic attacks, hallucinations, delusions, vomiting, increased agitation and dilated pupils, he said.

“Additional harmful effects are still unknown, so individuals are taking significant risks to their health when they use Spice,” he said.

Drug Enforcement Administration officials recently took steps toward listing five chemicals used to make Spice as schedule I controlled substances, meaning they will be illegal to possess, distribute or manufacture anywhere in the United States.

According to the DEA Web site, this action was taken as an emergency measure due to an increasing number of reports from poison control centers, hospitals and law enforcement agencies regarding these products.

Use of these substances is strictly prohibited for Airmen. The prohibition is contained both in AFI 44-120, Military Drug Demand Reduction Program, and the AFGM to AFI 44-121, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program.

Air Force officials have taken disciplinary action against Airmen identified as using Spice and continue to aggressively enforce the prohibition through courts-martial and nonjudicial punishment.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## Top Airmen

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numerous Air Expeditionary Force deployments overseas.”

Sergeant Kinlaw, the Kentucky Air Guard’s NCO of the Year, is a combat controller in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron. During 2010, he volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan for five months, conducting 15 combat missions with NATO allies, destroying 15 improvised explosive devices, executing 75 presence patrols and engaging the enemy on numerous occasions with both small arms fire and calculated airstrikes, resulting in more than 10 enemy casualties. He also educated U.S. and Afghan National Army soldiers on air power integration, including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, munitions and tactics.

“Sergeant Kinlaw is relatively new to the unit, but he came out of the gate hungry for action,” said his supervisor, Capt. Garrett Dawson. “He’s extremely motivated and dedicated to exercising his technical skills — a true warrior committed to taking the fight to the enemy.”

Sergeant Pelletier, the winner of the senior NCO category, is a special operations weather specialist in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron. He distinguished himself in the past year by becoming a resident expert on assault-zone surveys, allowing him to deploy as a lead surveyor in support of Combined Joint Task Force — Horn of Africa. Sergeant Pelletier conducted 14 assault-zone surveys in five countries in minimal time, greatly expanding CJTF HOA’s ability to execute personnel recovery, humanitarian relief and U.S. Embassy support operations throughout East Africa.

“Sergeant Pelletier really grabbed hold of some very big programs and challenges, impacting both the squadron and the Special Tactics community as a whole,” said Captain Dawson, who also is his supervisor.

“He stepped outside the traditional lines of his weather specialty to learn more about conducting assault-zone surveys and to pioneer cutting-edge Tactics, Techniques and Procedures and technology. He then deployed as a lead surveyor on a special mission to east Africa, where he and his team truly made an impact in the region.”

*The Kentucky National Guard’s Outstanding Soldier and Airman of the Year Banquet will be held tonight at the Louisville Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel, 830 Phillips Lane. Social hour gets underway at 6, and the banquet is scheduled to begin at 7. For more information, contact any chief master sergeant.*



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

**Senior Airman April Kennedy is a material management handler in the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.**