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Civil engineers complete tour in Afghanistan

Airmen joined with active-duty forces to construct \$300 million in projects

By Capt. John T. Stamm and Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron completed a six-month deployment to Afghanistan July 29 when the unit's final deployed members arrived home to cheering loved ones at Louisville International Airport.

The Airmen were among more than 40 Kentucky Air Guard civil engineers who have been providing maintenance and construction services at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, since mid-December, said Senior Master Sgt. Marty Fautz, who served as the group's operations superintendent during the deployment.

Other unit members returned home as part of redeployment rotations on June 25 and July 22.

While overseas, the Kentucky Airmen comprised approximately 60 percent of Bagram's 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, a unit recognized as the Senior Airfield Authority and responsible for more than 1,000 acres of facilities, including 400 acres of concrete apron and an 11,000-foot runway, Fautz said.

During their tour, the Kentucky engineers programmed and constructed more than 60 projects, including the completion of over 2,000 in-house work orders, for a combined value of more than \$300 million.

Fautz, who was involved in the planning and coordination of all projects tasked to the 455th, said his Airmen provided "incredible service" each day, as demonstrated when the Post Office warehouse tent became flooded, breaking the conveyor system and leaving mail to float freely in the flood waters.

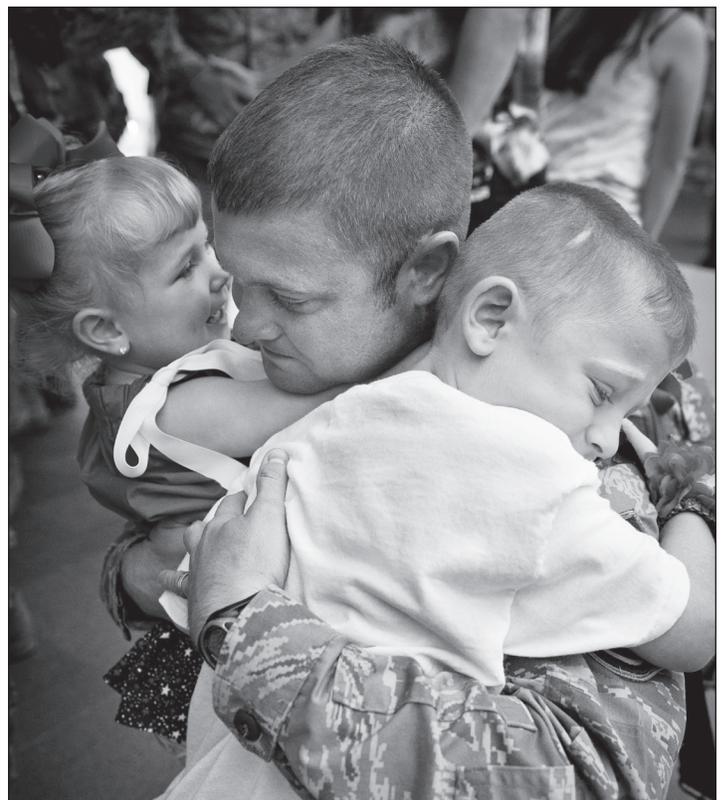
"The conveyor presented a challenge," he said. "There were several unsuccessful attempts by others to fix the conveyor before we jumped in and supported the Army in a team effort to shore up the tent and start the mail moving again."

Other major projects completed at Bagram by 123rd engineers included a new C-130 maintenance hanger, a facility for security forces, construction of a 1,500-foot road for an aircraft homing beacon and the construction of two bed-down areas to house up to 500 personnel.

Some Kentucky Airmen, like Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Blair, were recognized by wing leadership for their exceptional performance in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Family members greet Master Sgt. Shaun Cecil, an electrician in the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, June 25 at Louisville International Airport. Cecil was returning from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan.



Photos by Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

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Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing — C4!

The acronym "C4" has multiple meanings in the military, from plastic explosives to command, control, communications and computers. I'm not referring to either in this month's Commander's Call.

Rather, I want to introduce and discuss a new definition: 123rd Airlift Wing — C4 means "Customs & Courtesies = Culture & Climate."

The 123rd Airlift Wing is the best tactical airlift wing in the United States Air Force for one reason: We are a proud, professional military organization. This month, I ask you to help me hone the edge of the wing by remembering we are a professional military organization. This month, I want you to tighten up your military customs and courtesies to ensure we maintain our proud culture of being No. 1.

We all began learning military customs and courtesies on the day we began our military careers. They are acts of respect that represent good order and discipline. Our customs and courtesies go beyond just being polite. They play a critical role in our morale, esprit de corps, and mission effectiveness. We must demonstrate them to our fellow 123rd Airlift Wing Airmen every day we wear the uniform.

Air Force Pamphlet 34-1202 provides guidance for Air Force customs and courtesies. It might be a good idea to review the basics of the hand salute, along with the history and traditions of Air Force customs and courtesies. It is our responsibility to follow the customs established by military



Col. Greg Nelson
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

leaders throughout our nation's history, and afford the courtesies appropriate to our positions as individual Airmen, within our unit, flight, squadron, group and wing.

Adhering to our customs and demonstrating the proper courtesies acknowledges our position in rank, recognizes the next higher authority and reinforces our chain of command. These are critical to successful military operations. They are evidence of a disciplined organization ready for orders, able to execute the mission, whenever called. Sounds like the

123rd Airlift Wing.

How we treat each other with military respect is evidence of our culture. Again, our strength is built from our heritage of proud military professionals. The 123rd Airlift Wing from Kentucky carries a reputation around the world. We are known for being ready for the call, showing up fully prepared and performing professionally, second to none. This is our discipline. This is our culture. We must strive to maintain this edge every day.

Finally, we need to check our temperature now and then. We need to test the waters to see if we are on track. Are we doing things the right way — individually, as an organization, as leaders and as followers?

This month, I've asked our Military Equal Opportunity Office and Human Relations Advisor to conduct a Climate Survey. Your participation in the survey is voluntary, but I hope you will take a few minutes to answer some questions and provide your honest opinion and feedback.

We need this survey to provide a vector check for the 123rd Airlift Wing. Please be honest with your answers and provide input for ways we can improve.

We are the 123rd Airlift Wing. We are the best tactical airlift wing in the United States Air Force. Help us stay number one.

The 123rd Airlift Wing stands ready!

— Col. Greg Nelson

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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 Aug. 26.

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



Rolling Thunder

A Kentucky Army Guard Blackhawk hovers nearby as a U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor taxis to its parking spot on the flight line of the Kentucky Air National Guard Base April 14. The Raptor, piloted by Maj. Henry Schantz and assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Va., appeared in the Thunder Over Louisville air show on April 16.

Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Employers visit Kentucky Army Guard troops bound for Iraq

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — Civilian employers and news media from all over Kentucky got a taste of military life while visiting Soldiers from the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade during the Kentucky Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve 2011 “Bosslift” to Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 29.

The 149th MEB is currently mobilized for a deployment to Iraq. The Bosslift was an opportunity to bring employers of these Soldiers to a military training environment and allow them to see first-hand what their employees do for the military.

Employers were flown to Camp Atterbury, where the Soldiers are conducting pre-deployment training, aboard Kentucky Air Guard C-130 aircraft.

Bosslifts provide employers with experience in the training, skills and leadership that their employees obtain through service in the Guard and Reserve, officials said.

Climate Survey seeks input from every Airman in wing

Equal Opportunity Office wants your feedback on environment in the 123rd

Cargo Courier Staff Report

The 123rd Airlift Wing Equal Opportunity Office, in coordination with wing command staff, will be conducting Unit Climate Assessment Surveys during the months of August and September to help evaluate the wing’s human relations atmosphere.

The surveys are used to assist commanders in assessing positive and negative factors of the human relations climate in their organizations, according to Maj. Latonia Trowell, base EO officer. The EO office is required to conduct the surveys every four years, within six months of assignment of a new commander or upon request.

The surveys will touch on cohesion and pride, supervisory support, motivation and morale, overt discriminatory behaviors, perceived discrimination, and command policy.

“Your concerns are important to your commander, the EO office and the wing commander,” Trowell said. “We need the participation of everyone. If you have something to say, or feel that you have not been heard, this is one way to express what matters to you.

“We need your honest responses. Each individual will be receiving a unique password that will allow responses to be strictly anonymous.”

The Equal Opportunity Office seeks to eliminate unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment against military personnel, family members and retirees based on race, color, national origin, religion and sex, to include sexual harassment.

“These are the areas that fall in our purview,” Trowell explained. “If, however, your concern does not fall within the EO purview, we will assist in referring you to the appropriate agency for assistance.

“For more information about the Unit Climate Assessment Surveys, please feel free to visit the wing Equal Opportunity Office during monthly Unit Training Assemblies.”

The Equal Opportunity Office is located in the Base Annex.

Engineers

Continued from Front Page

Blair, a material control specialist involved in ordering parts and materials needed to complete work, solved a deficiency in the supply of barrier cables used to slow aircraft during emergency landings at Bagram Airfield.

“I remembered that the barriers we use at home during the Thunder Over Louisville air show come from Minot Air Force Base, so I gave them a call to get in touch with someone that could help us,” she said. “I was able to get them to send us five more cables that we were in dire need of.”

Despite such personal accomplishments, Blair was quick to offer praise for her fellow 123rd Airmen.

“Our guys work hard and take pride in everything they do, which is why our quality of work is so high,” she said. “We are a collection of the best the Air Force has to offer.”

Over a period of six months, Bagram typically will support more than 19,000 sorties, process over 200,000 personnel and move 1.2 million pounds of cargo, Fautz said, making it the busiest airfield in the world operated by the U.S. military.

That also makes it one of the largest challenges to support, from a civil engineering standpoint, but it was a challenge the Kentucky Airmen were ready to conquer, Fautz said.

“We have outstanding and very skilled personnel with us at every position,” he said. “These Airmen are not afraid to take on anything. They don’t give up or quit when the task seems impossible. They just rally together, dig in and get it done. Then they ask, ‘OK, what’s next?’”



Above: The Kentucky Air Guard’s Tech Sgt. Gregory Smith uses an excavator March 16 to remove while assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. The 455th ECES cleared out a t construction in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Smith was deployed from the Kentucky Air



Staff Sgt. Desiree Blair/KyANG

Left: Chief Master Sgt. Steve Peters directs Airmen of the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron as they construct an Alaskan Shelter at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The unit completed more than \$300 million worth of construction projects during a six-month tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Senior Airman Sheila deVe



Senior Airman Sheila deVera/U.S. Air Force

debris at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, temporary structure to make way for new Guard's 123rd CES.



Senior Airman Sheila deVera/U.S. Air Force

Left: One of the construction projects completed at Bagram Airfield during the deployment was the base's first permanent hangar for C-130 aircraft. The 60,000-square-foot, \$18 million facility means aircraft maintenance will no longer need to be performed outside in Afghanistan's harsh weather.



Left: Master Sgt. Russ King, a Kentucky Air Guard electrician, reviews a wiring schematic March 2 to ensure that electrical installations are complete in a new building being constructed at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. When not deployed, King is assigned to the Louisville, Ky.-based 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

Senior Airman Sheila deVera/
U.S. Air Force



Courtesy photo

Above: Kentucky Airmen executed more than 2,000 construction and maintenance work orders during their tour in Afghanistan, including a project to build housing for more than 500 personnel, a new facility for security forces and a 1,500-foot road.

165th provides airlift for Alaska Guard



Multiple sorties supported Operation Joint Patriot, Wisconsin-based exercise

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

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's 165th Airlift Squadron flew to Kulis Air National Guard Base here July 7 to provide airlift for the Alaska Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team.

The Kentucky Airmen were responsible for transporting four troops and a 19,410-pound communications truck from Anchorage to Volk Field, Wis., for Operation Joint Patriot, a multi-service training scenario designed to test homeland-defense capabilities.

The Alaskan contingent's primary job was to respond to a simulated radioactive dispersal device, said Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Dutton, communications team chief for the 103rd CST.

The communications truck — delivered courtesy of a 10-hour flight aboard a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 Hercules — played a crucial role in the scenario, Dutton noted.

"This truck provides reachback for our unit to establish both secure and unsecure Internet connections through satellites, and also interoperability for radio communications," he said.

The 3,000-mile airlift sortie and subsequent download of the truck was just one of hundreds of airlift missions the Kentucky crew and their C-130 aircraft will execute this year.

While many of those missions will support other units and military operations around the world, the 165th Airlift Squadron also provides rapid-response airlift for the operational capabilities of its parent unit, the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Those capabilities include special tactics search-and-rescue, expeditionary medical care and one of only two dedicated crisis-response groups in the entire Air National Guard.

Above: Master Sgt. Clint Stinnett and Staff Sgt. Jerry Passafiume, loadmasters assigned to the 165th Airlift Squadron, secure a 19,410-pound communications truck inside a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 aircraft July 10. The truck was being flown from Alaska to Wisconsin to participate in Operation Joint Patriot, a multi-service training scenario designed to test homeland-defense capabilities.

Left: Tech. Sgt. Greg Howard, a crew chief for the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, examines a C-130 engine before departing from Alaska.

Below: A Kentucky Air Guard flight crew prepares for a nighttime landing while supporting Operation Joint Patriot.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Ketterer/KyANG

Medical troops sharpen readiness at Texas conference

Medical personnel from the Kentucky Air Guard sharpened their preparedness skills by attending the ANG Readiness Frontiers conference held in San Antonio in June.

Conference sessions primarily focused on tasks required by the Air Force Medical Service Readiness Skills Verification Program, according to Capt. Amy Mundell, a medical administrator with the 123rd Medical Group.

This program ensures clinical competency for Air National Guard health professionals.

The conference, which is hosted annually by the Air National Guard Surgeon General, provided an opportunity for the Air Guard medical community to train together, share unit best practices and network with other health professionals, Mundell said.

KyANG Aimen who attended the conference included personnel from the 123rd Medical Group and members of the Joint Forces Headquarters Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package.

It's rare for military medics from across the country to train together, Mundell noted.

"Readiness Frontiers allowed us to come together and receive much-needed clinical and medical administrative training. The courses offered instruction in many of the core skills we need to maintain in order to be prepared for responding to situations anywhere in the world."

Equally valuable was the networking experience afforded by the conference.

"Readiness Frontiers provided the means for making contacts and establishing communication with other units across the United States," she said. "This aspect was invaluable."

Armed Forces Committee honors Kinlaw as 'Patriot'

123rd combat controller volunteered for OEF, was NCO of the Year

Cargo Courier Staff Report

Staff Sgt. Jeff Kinlaw, a combat controller in the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, was honored with the Patriot Award for outstanding military service during the 92nd-annual Louisville Armed Forces Committee Dinner, held May 20, 2011, at the Galt House in Louisville, Ky.

Presenting the award were Admiral James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr., commander of U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command; Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general; and Col. Steven Bullard, vice commander of the Kentucky Air National

Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing.

Kinlaw, who was selected as the Kentucky Air Guard's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 2011, volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan for five months in 2010.

During that deployment, he conducted 15 combat missions with NATO allies, destroyed 15 improvised explosive devices, executed 75 presence patrols and engaged 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."



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Jeff Kinlaw (second from left), a combat controller in the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, was honored with the Patriot Award for outstanding military service during the 92nd-annual Louisville Armed Forces Committee Dinner, held May 20 at the Galt House in Louisville, Ky. Presenting the award are (from left to right) Adm. James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr., commander of United States Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command; Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general; and Col. Steven Bullard, vice commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Fewer Airmen to qualify for short-tour ribbon, credit

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Effective July 1, Airmen no longer receive short tour credit for overseas temporary duty assignments of 181 consecutive days.

The change initially was announced in a memorandum signed by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz in April.

In June 2003, a temporary exception to policy was approved to award short-tour credit to Airmen who deployed to hostile environments for at least 181 consecutive days after 9/11. This exception was initiated since traditional AEF deployments at the time were 120 days. A similar exception was made for Airmen deploying in support of Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

The decision to terminate the current short-tour credit exception to policy is largely based on the number of Airmen who now deploy for longer periods of time. Additionally, with transportation delays and mandatory overlap with successors, the vast majority of Airmen deployed for 179 days remained in the area of responsibility just long enough to reach the 181-day threshold.

“The standard Air Force deployment is now 179 days,” said Col. Ken Sersun, chief of the Military Force Policy Division on the Air Staff. “Granting short-tour credit based on 181 days

deployment has become inconsistent with the short-tour credit earned by our Airmen who deploy for 365 days.”

The following guidelines apply under the new policy:

- Airmen who were previously awarded short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy will keep their short-tour credit
- Airmen who arrived in the area of responsibility prior to July 1, 2011, and serve at least 181 days consecutively in a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area will receive short tour credit under the previous criteria
- Airmen who arrive in the AOR on or after July 1, 2011, will not receive short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy
- Airmen will be awarded short-tour credit based on TDY service stipulated in AFI 36-2110, Assignments

Since the exception to policy went into effect in 2003, 16,795 Airmen have deployed more than once on 179-day taskings. Since 9/11, more than 52,000 Airmen have deployed for 181 to 200 days.

The number of 179-day taskings also has grown significantly since January 2006, from about 6,500 taskings then to about 16,600 taskings currently.

For additional information visit the AFPC personnel services website at <http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or call the Total Force Service Center toll-free at (800) 525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.