

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## Ky. unit holds precision jumpmaster course

### Pararescuemen from across the Air Force attend 123rd training

By Master Sgt. Philip Speck  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Special tactics pararescuemen from across the Air Force came to Louisville recently to attend a Precision Jumpmaster Course taught by members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

The course, offered June 2-23, provided pararescuemen with the skills needed to rescue anyone by parachuting into any site, on land or water, said Master Sgt. Joe Youdell, the Kentucky Air Guard's lead instructor. Other instructors included Senior Master Sgt. Karl Grugel, pararescue superintendent; and Master Sgt. Billy Hardin.

The course covered jumpmaster techniques and procedures, inspections, and static-line and military freefall jumpmastering. Students began with four days of ground training here in Louisville to familiarize them with rigging and inspections. They then traveled to Camp Atterbury, Ind., where they conducted two weeks of static-line and military freefall jumps from a C-130 aircraft. The Airmen completed their training by conducting a week's worth of jumps into water in Selfridge, Mich.

Kentucky's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron was selected to teach the course because of the experience of its members and their access to local airlift, Youdell said. The squadron is co-located at the Kentucky Air Guard Base with the 123rd Airlift Wing, which flies the C-130 Hercules aircraft and can easily accommodate the kinds of sorties needed to conduct a jumpmaster course.

This means students were able to com-



Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

**Master Sgt. Corey Kuttie (right), an active-duty pararescueman from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., inspects a parachute for Staff Sgt. Travis Brown of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron prior to their jump from a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 on June 19. The training was part of a three-week Precision Jumpmaster course taught by Guardsmen from the squadron.**

plete the training, which is necessary for the award of a Craftsman skill level, in just a few weeks, rather than the months or even years it sometimes takes.

"I can't say enough about how much we appreciate the aircrew and the 123rd Airlift Wing for picking up the tasking and supporting us for this training," Youdell said. "We were able to put together a very complex course, but it has been a combined effort to be able to pull this off."

Rescue jumpmastering differs from regular jumpmastering in that participants aren't dropping into a predesignated location, Youdell said. Instead, the Airmen have to fly around and look for downed aircraft or survivors on the ground, deploy wind indicators, and then determine in real time the best location to parachute into.



**A pararescueman parachutes in to Camp Atterbury, Ind., during the Precision Jumpmaster course June 14. Eleven pararescuemen, including active-duty troops from across the Air Force, attended the course, which offered training on static-line, freefall and water jumps.**

See **JUMPMAS**TER, Page 4

# 123rd Airlift Wing stands ready with our families

The 123rd Airlift Wing is a strong organization because of our Airmen and the families who support them.

This Sunday, we will honor our families with our annual Family Day celebration. Mr. Dave Rooney and our Family Support Group have a great day planned with lots of activities and information for us to share and enjoy.

We will start the day with our Fitness Challenge between teams representing all our groups, squadrons, flights, units, chiefs and colonels.

Bring your family early if they would like to watch this friendly competition. Afterwards, we have Church Services open to everyone present, followed by lunch and a full afternoon of activities.

Mr. Cecil Goodloe will have representatives from our Yellow Ribbon Program available to answer any questions our family members may have concerning deployment preparations, assistance that family members may need while their Airmen are deployed, and post deployment support. Please take a few minutes to visit this area with your family. Your family may have some questions you didn't know about or aren't able to answer.

We also will welcome a new member of the 123rd Airlift Wing family on Sunday — Ms. Linda Ringleka, the unit's director of psychological health. She will introduce the members of our Wellness Team and give them the opportunity to talk with you



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

and your family. Please introduce your family to Ms. Ringleka and the Wellness Team, and let's make them feel at home.

The main thing we will do Sunday is honor and thank our families for all their support. A Guard family is very unique. Spouses and children, along with the Airmen they support, have volunteered to give up part of their lives in service to Kentucky and the United States of America. Guard families know their Air-

men will miss some birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, sports events, first steps and graduations. Nevertheless, they understand. Moreover, they love each other for the sacrifices they are willing to give.

As military members, we must recognize and appreciate that it is not any easier for our families than it is for us.

As members of the 123rd Airlift Wing, we must be as proud of our families as they are of us.

Honor them this Sunday. Show them where you work. Tell them what you do here at our base. Explain how you train to be able to do your job anywhere in the world, any time you are needed. Tell them how much their support means to you.

I have to close this article by celebrating the wonderful fall weather we have had the past few weeks. This is truly the most beautiful time of the year to be in Kentucky. The leaves have turned colors, the weather has cooled, and the shorter days bring clear, star-filled nights.

I hope you and your family are enjoying this time of year, and I hope we have a great fall day this Sunday when we host our families here at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base. Thank you and your family for everything you do, and for all your support.

The 123rd Airlift Wing Stands Ready — with our Families!

— 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 Nov. 4.

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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](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil)

## Rapid Response

Col. Warren Hurst, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group, briefs a dozen federal officials on the disaster-response capabilities of the 123rd Airlift Wing during a tour of the base Sept. 21. The officials represented the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Transportation Command and the National Guard Bureau.

Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG



# Wyatt: Air Guard a top-flight, bargain force

Organization provides 34 percent of combat capability for 7 percent of budget expenditures

By Tech. Sgt. John Orrell  
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — The Air National Guard is the affordable, operational, fully accessible force the Air Force needs during uncertain economic times, the director of the Air National Guard said here Sept. 28.

“The Air Guard provides to the United States Air Force 34 percent of the combat capability on 7 percent of the budget,” Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt said. “I like where the Air National Guard is positioned.”

Speaking during the Air Force Association's 2011 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition, Wyatt explained how the Air Guard has, is and will continue to be America's homeland force with a federal capability.

“It started in the mid-1990s when the Air Force recognized that (they) could no longer afford the luxury of having an operational

force and a strategic reserve force that could be placed on the shelf.”

After the first Gulf War and Operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch in Southwest Asia, the active-duty forces were beginning to stretch thin trying to do all the missions the U.S. expected the Air Force to do.

The Air Force turned to the Air Guard to join in the fight. But equipment, training and funding for the Air Guard at that time was nowhere near what it would need to be to achieve those missions, Wyatt said.

“Think of the transition the Air Guard has made since I joined in 1977 when it was a strategic reserve, to what the Guard did on Sept. 11, 2001, to what the Guard has done for the last 10 years to today,” he said.

The Air Guard is present in the majority of Air Force missions for a fraction of the cost, Wyatt said. It conducts 43 percent of the air-refueling mission, 33 percent of the fighter mission, 30 percent of the cargo and transport mission, 20 percent of the remotely piloted aircraft mission, and 20 percent of the distributive common ground station mission.

The Air Guard operates 66 of 89 wings from civilian airfields for about the same amount of money it costs to run a large Air Force base, Wyatt said. “And we're dispersed

in 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. We are an operational force.”

Wyatt said the facts — the cost effectiveness, preparation, skill levels, experience, training and quality of Guard members — are all that is needed in any debate of whether or not the Guard is fully operational.

“I've told my Airmen that the Air National Guard is positioned exactly where it needs to be at this critical time to provide the most combat capability for the least amount of money,” he said.

Wyatt said he does not want the Defense Department to look at these numbers and think the Air Force needs to shrink in size, just continue to utilize the Guard to fill the holes and shrink the budget.

“I'm not advocating reducing the active-duty end strength,” he said. “I am advocating looking at the platforms that we have ... instead of doing what we normally do in times like this — make all the components smaller.

“We have an opportunity to not make this United States Air Force smaller, but with a little bit of force structure adjustment, maybe maintain those highly trained, combat-skilled warriors that reside in our United States Air Force right now,” he said.

# Jumpmaster

Continued from Front Page

Senior Airman Christopher Bailey of Moody Air Force Base, Ga., one of 11 active-duty or Air Guard pararescuemen who came to Kentucky for the course, called it “a great school.”

“We were able to get some very thorough training here that we couldn’t do back home because of a very busy deployment schedule. It will result in us being better team leaders, being able to prepare a group of guys to insert via parachute and accomplish the mission successfully.

“I think it’s unique,” he added, “that the National Guard has set aside time to train the active duty. It’s something we don’t have the manpower to do.”



Above: Staff Sgt. Jeff Gantt, a pararescueman from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., prepares his gear June 19 before jumping from a Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 as part of the Precision Jumpmaster Course taught by members of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron. The training is mandatory for all pararescuemen to attain a Craftsman skill level.



Above: Master Sgt. Ed McKenna (right), a pararescueman and instructor for the Kentucky Air Guard, inspects the parachute gear of Senior Airman Ryan Belew, a fellow 123rd Special Tactics Squadron pararescueman, before a jump from a C-130 aircraft June 19. The course was designed to provide instruction in the skills needed to



Left: A pararescueman parachutes in the drop zone at Carterbury, Ind., June 19, during the Precision Jumpmaster Course taught by members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron. The three-day course also includes ground training at Moody Air Force Base in Louisville. The water jump training was held at Selfridge, Mich. The course was unique in that active-duty forces were trained by members of the National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, said.



Guard's Precision Jumpmaster Course, checks out a pararescuer, as Belew prepares to jump from a C-130 to rescue anyone on land or water.



Above: Two pararescuemen guide themselves to the drop zone at Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 14 during the second phase of their Precision Jumpmaster Course. The course condensed into three weeks the same amount of training that often takes years to complete.

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Left: Staff Sgt. George Reed, an Air Force active-duty pararescuer from the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., checks his fellow pararescuer's parachute gear June 14 before they parachute into Camp Atterbury, Ind., during the Precision Jumpmaster Course. The training, conducted by members of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, was made possible in part because of the squadron's access to C-130 airlift provided by the 123rd Airlift Wing, the Kentucky Air Guard's main operational unit.

# Historians catalog Ky. Air Guard artifacts

## Items to be exhibited at Frazier in 2013

By Master Sgt. Philip Speck  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Historians have begun cataloging the Kentucky Air National Guard's vast treasure trove of military artifacts in preparation for a 2013 exhibit of memorabilia at the Frazier History Museum.

The items, which range from old photographs and uniform patches to an oxygen mask and pilot's helmet, are currently displayed in Heritage Hall, a mini-museum that lines the hallways of the 123rd Airlift Wing Maintenance Hangar here. Heritage Hall was created by retired Chief Master Sgt. Kenny Coogle and is currently maintained by Master Sgt. John Wardrip. It features cabinets built by retired Lt. Col. Paul Stone and retired Chief Master Sgt. Billy Milburn.

Those cabinets contain many one-dimensional items like newspaper clippings and other documents, but the items that really shine are the three-dimensional artifacts such as flags, coins, models and equipment, said John Trowbridge, the Kentucky National Guard's command historian.

One such item is the helmet of former base detachment commander Lt. Col. Lee J. Merkel, who died during a test flight when his F-51 Mustang crashed near Bedford, Ind., on Jan. 31, 1956. Prior to joining the Kentucky Air Guard, Merkel was a highly decorated World War II pilot who saw service in North Africa and Europe before being shot down behind enemy lines in Italy.

"There are some very unique artifacts here," said Trowbridge, one of two historians carrying out the cataloging survey. "How many places can you see the helmet that Colonel Merkel was wearing when he died in that crash? If Chief Coogle hadn't taken the initiative and saw that history needed to be preserved, we may not have had any of this to see today.

"This is the single largest collection of Kentucky Air Guard artifacts anywhere, and it tells the complete story of the Kentucky Air National Guard."

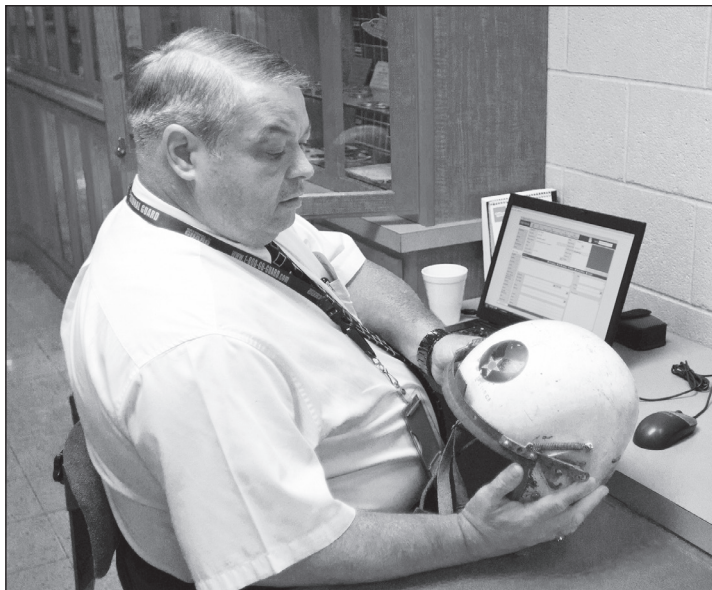
The cataloging process is the first step toward professionally managing the collection, said Tom Fugate, a cultural historian and former curator at the Kentucky Military History Museum in Frankfort, Ky. Fugate is assisting with the effort, which will take about two months, he said.

Fugate and Trowbridge are cataloging the artifacts with the help of a computer program called PastPerfect, the industry-standard software for museum record-keeping. After being populated with items, it can generate printed booklets of all the memorabilia in a collection.

Cataloging these artifacts now will help the Frazier museum to design a compelling exhibit in 2013, Trowbridge said. If the museum wants a certain item such as a signal flag, officials will be able to use the software to search for the item. The software will then track what has been loaned out, so it can be properly returned to its home in Heritage Hall at a later date.

The software also will also help curators at the Air Guard keep track of who originally provided artifacts for display in Heritage Hall, and whether those artifacts are on temporary loan or were donated to the Kentucky Air Guard's permanent collection.

Trowbridge described this stewardship of artifacts as an important responsibility.



Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

**Kentucky National Guard command historian John Trowbridge catalogs an old pilot's helmet Oct. 6 during a survey of memorabilia housed in Heritage Hall, a mini-museum that lines the hallways of the 123rd Airlift Wing Maintenance Hangar.**



**Cabinets in Heritage Hall contain hundreds of artifacts and memorabilia from throughout the history of the Kentucky Air National Guard. Historians are currently cataloging the materials in preparation for a 2013 exhibit at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville.**

"You have to document what you have here, so you don't lose accountability of these artifacts that have been entrusted to you to preserve to tell the history of the organization," he said. "You're saying, 'We accept this, and we're going to protect this forever.'"

Fugate echoed those sentiments.

"The goal of the guys here in the unit is to preserve what they have and make sure they are properly caring for it so it will last into the next generation," he said. "Without accountability for the material we have on hand, we cannot ensure for the next generation that this material will survive."

# Marksmen score big at regional contest

## Kentucky shooters take home multiple titles from MAC III

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood and Air Force Tech. Sgt. D. Clare

CAMP BUTNER, N.C. — Kentucky National Guard shooters have distinguished themselves again. Two joint teams of Army and Air Guardsmen earned top honors during the Marksmanship Area Command III Combat Regional Marksmanship Competition at Camp Butner, N.C., this summer.

Kentucky's "A" team placed first in the pistol category and the Commonwealth's "B" Team tied for first place in rifle competition. The "A" team also placed second in overall competition and the "B" team placed third.

The state marksmanship team's captain, Air Force Master Sgt. Darryl Loafman, placed second in the individual pistol competition and second overall in individual fire.

"Kentucky shooters are among some of the best in the nation," said Loafman, who has competed at the regional and national level for more than a decade. "We often say that it's important to 'fight like a Kentuckian.' When it comes to marksmanship, we prove ourselves as top-notch warriors."

According to the sergeant, this exercise is a tune-up for the prestigious annual Winston P. Wilson Rifle and Pistol Championship matches held at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark.

This week-long competition is open to all National Guard shooting teams throughout the United States and features the top shooters from every state and territory.

Kentucky team member Tech Sgt. Bryan Hunt, an Air Guard combat controller who was competing in the MAC III for the first time, said the experience enhances the abilities of competitors and

improves readiness as shooters return to their duty stations.

"I feel very confident that if I ever had to pick up my rifle and eliminate a threat from a ways away, I would definitely be able to do," said Hunt, who has been deployed to Africa and on his way to Afghanistan in November. He will be attached to either a Special Forces or Navy SEALs team.

Members of the Kentucky National Guard Marksmanship team are all talented, Loafman noted.

One case in point: the state's "B" team scored more points in the combined team match than the "A" team. But rules specified that the "A" team's scores were the only ones that counted in the team competition.

According to Loafman, five out of the nine Kentucky shooters on the team were new. "Both of our teams did very well," he said.

He said these new team members demonstrated a willingness to watch, learn and compete effectively.

"Our problem this year is we had too much talent," he said. "That is a good problem to have, but we had a lot of talent on our team. Our new shooters are very good, very talented."

According to Loafman, the team is always looking for marksmen to join its ranks. Interested Airmen and Soldiers can contact Loafman at (502) 413-4107.

### 2011 MAC III Results

- 1st Place Pistol Team: Kentucky "A" Team
- 1st Place Rifle Team: Kentucky "B" Team (tied with Tennessee)
- 2nd Place Overall Team Aggregate: Kentucky "A" Team
- 3rd Place Overall Team Aggregate: Kentucky "B" Team
- 2nd Place Individual Pistol: Master Sgt. Darryl Loafman, Kentucky Air National Guard
- 2nd Place Overall Individual: Master Sgt. Darryl Loafman, Kentucky Air National Guard



Courtesy photo

Kentucky Army and Air National Guardsmen earned top honors during the Marksmanship Area Command III Combat Regional Marksmanship Competition held June 18-19 at Camp Butner, N.C. Kentucky's "A" team placed first in the pistol category, and the Commonwealth's "B" Team tied for first place in the rifle competition. The "A" team also placed second in overall competition while the "B" team placed third.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

# Holliman retires after 24 years of service

By Master Sgt. Philip Speck  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Veronica J. Holliman was recognized for more than 24 years of dedicated service to the Air National Guard recently.

Holliman, who was presented with a Meritorious Service Medal for career accomplishments during her retirement ceremony here Aug. 13, most recently served as superintendent of base services for the 123rd Force Support Squadron.

She joined the Alabama Air National Guard in 1987 and spent her first nine years working with finance. In 1996 she moved over the Alabama Guard's 187th Services Flight as services technician. In 2003 she accepted the position as services superintendent for the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Holliman served for many years at the national level in the services career field as the Secretary of both the Air National Guard Services Association and the Services Field Advisory Council. She was later elected and served as the vice president of both organizations.

Holliman was an evaluator for the Air National Guard Staff Assistance Visit Team and numerous exercise evaluation teams, and augmented both the Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command Inspector General teams during Operational Readiness Inspections. She also became a certified instructor and assisted with re-writing several courses for the Air Guard services career field, including readiness in base service, food management and mortuary affairs.

Holliman's supervisor, Lt. Col Kathryn Pfeifer, praised the senior NCO for her dedication and leadership.

"She will be sorely missed because she contributed so much, had a wealth of knowledge and many years of experience in the services career field," said Pfeifer, former commander of the 123rd Force Support Squadron. "She'll not only be missed by the Kentucky Air National Guard, but the Air National Guard in general, because she contributed a lot to other units by helping

out as an evaluator and providing guidance on how to get through inspections with outstanding marks.

"Chief Holliman was a great leader for the troops in the Services Flight. She set a professional example and encouraged younger troops to do their best, honoring and acknowledging them when they had exceptional work performance."

Chief Holliman's awards and decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal and the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal.



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

**Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush, chief of joint staff for Joint Forces Headquarters-Kentucky, presents Chief Master Sgt. Veronica J. Holliman with a Meritorious Service Medal during her retirement ceremony at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base Aug. 13. Chief Holliman served the Air National Guard with distinction for more than 24 years.**