

THE CARGO COURIER

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CERFP conducts first field-training exercise

Air and Army Guard forces create team for disaster response

By Maj. Amy Mundell
123rd Medical Group

GREENVILLE, Ky. — More than 40 members of a Kentucky Air National Guard disaster-response team deployed here to the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center recently, joining forces with Kentucky Army Guard Soldiers to participate in their first field-training exercise.

The Guardsmen collectively formed a Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP for short, said 2nd Lt. Jessica Ellis, medical operations officer. A CERFP is comprised of medical personnel, a search-and-recovery team, a decontamination team and a command-and-control element.

Their mission is to provide immediate response capability to the governor of a state affected by a terrorist or enemy attack, searching an incident site, rescuing and decontaminating casualties, and performing medical treatment to stabilize patients for transport to a medical facility.

The exercise, which took place Nov. 28 to Dec. 4, allowed personnel to become more familiar with the equipment they will use in a real-world disaster-response situation, Ellis said.

Various exercise scenarios also gave the Air Guard troops an opportunity to perform their duties in a structured learning environment while working with the decontamination team, which is comprised entirely of Army Guard personnel.

According to Ellis, the event was held in preparation for a larger exercise sched-



Photos courtesy CERFP

Army and Air Guard personnel work together to set up medical tents and receive simulated patients from a chemical decontamination line during a disaster-response exercise held Nov. 28 at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Ky. The troops are part of a CERFP — short for Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive Enhanced Response Force Package — that provides immediate response capability to the governor of a state affected by a terrorist or enemy attack.



Lt. Col. David Worley (left), chief nurse of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Medical Group, leads CERFP Airmen as they position medical tents at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. The CERFP is capable of searching an incident site, rescuing and decontaminating casualties, and performing medical treatment to stabilize patients for transport to a medical facility.

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Year of Improvement' requires everyone's input

Last month, we introduced "2012 — The Year of Improvement." It's February already, and the year is moving fast.

We have started several improvement initiatives, and we will continue striving every day to look for ways to improve our readiness and capabilities. The initiatives we've started begin with a specific function or program improvement goal, while supporting our two main goals for this year:

- Improving communications
- Improving the relationship between our traditional and full-time forces

Teams have formed, representing various organizations, to improve multiple areas that support everyone in the wing.

Representatives from our medical group, mission support group, finance and legal are working to improve our Line of Duty Medical Program.

Members from our maintenance and operations groups are researching cold-weather procedures to improve aircraft readiness during winter months.

Our Wellness Team joined the Yellow Ribbon Program to ensure that our returning deployers know about all the support assets available to them and their families.

Lastly, we are going to solicit members from across the 123rd Airlift Wing to form a 123 AW Diversity Improvement Team. They will work to continue the strength of diversity across the Kentucky Air National Guard, from recruiting through retention for a successful military career.

Our improvement must include continuous education and training. Next Friday, our adjutant general will host Leadership Professional Development Day. All officers and senior non-commissioned officers (E-7, 8 and 9) will receive information critical to the successful leadership and command of all 1,200 men and women in



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

the 123rd Airlift Wing. As part of our Year of Improvement, this will include USAF/ANG-specific guidance, along with joint KYNG Army operational updates.

Last week, we hosted our Human Relations Office from Frankfort for a half-day training session of the full-time force, teaching us how to improve as individuals, supervisors and as an organization.

We also started Air Force Smart Operations (AFSO21) training in January. Lt. Col. Robert Hamm attended a senior leader course at Air University and will lead our 2013 Unit Compliance Inspection preparation using AFSO21 improvement processes in concert with the USAF Management Internal Control Toolset.

Throughout the year, we will teach AFSO21

to representatives from every group in the wing. We also hope to host an Air University AFSO21 course here at our base.

Improvement starts with you and me. Our Year of Improvement will involve all 1,200 Airmen in the 123rd Airlift Wing, individually and together. You and I have to look at everything we do and ask, "How can I do this better?" You and I need to look at what we call "normal operations," or "the way we've always done it," and ask ourselves if this is the best we can do. We cannot be content with average, and definitely never accept the minimum. The 123rd Airlift Wing is the best because we profess to be the best. We strive to be the best, and you and I must continue to work to be the best in everything we do.

Take a look at your individual improvement plan. Personally, I plan to improve my readiness both physically and mentally this year. In 2011, I gained weight that I intend to lose in 2012 through improved physical training and a healthier diet. This month I will attend AFSO21 training in order to understand how you and I will use this program to achieve our two primary goals — improving communications and improving relations between our traditional and full-time forces. I will look for other education opportunities to help me improve personally and professionally.

What's your improvement plan? What are your individual and organizational goals to support the 123 AW's two primary goals this year? How will you improve in 2012?

Start your improvement with established goals in mind, use a process for measurement and guidance, and you will be successful in your "Year of Improvement."

When you succeed, we succeed.

The 123rd Airlift Wing stands ready!

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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 March 2.

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Tonini to advise Guard's at-risk youth program

WASHINGTON — General Craig R. McKinley, director of the National Guard Bureau, has announced the appointment of Maj. General Edward Tonini, the adjutant general of Kentucky, to the National Guard Youth Challenge Program General Officer Advisory Council Board.

Tonini joins four other adjutants general on the board. They will collectively provide the Guard Bureau with counsel, advice and strategic focus regarding the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

"I look forward to working closely with you in taking this program to the next level," McKinley wrote to Tonini in his appointment letter.

The Challenge Program is a community-based effort that mentors at-risk youth by teaching military values, codes of conduct and discipline.

Its mission is to "intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16- to 18-year-old high school dropouts, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens," according to the organization's web site.

In 1993, the Challenge Program began as a three-year pilot initiative in 15 states. Today, Kentucky is one of 28 states with a Youth Challenge program.

Located on Fort Knox, the Bluegrass Challenge Academy has graduated more than 1,600 students since it opened in July 1999.

In July, Kentucky will open a second Youth Challenge Academy in Harlan to better serve youth in Eastern Kentucky.

For more information on the Youth Challenge Program, visit www.ngycp.org

General Interest



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Gen. Raymond Johns (left), commander of Air Mobility Command, listens to a briefing on the 123rd Airlift Wing Initial Response Hub concept from Col. Greg Nelson, wing commander, during a tour of the Kentucky Air Guard Base Dec. 19. Under the concept, the wing would deploy all the assets necessary to establish an airlift hub at a remote location within hours of a natural disaster or enemy attack, enabling relief supplies to flow in and medical evacuees to flow out. The 123rd Airlift Wing is the only unit in the U.S. military with all the necessary capabilities, housed in a single location, and the aircraft to transport them on short notice.

KYADT4 prepares to deploy

Ky. Airmen and Soldiers to assist Afghan farmers

By Army Capt. Stephen Martin
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

MIDWAY, Ky. — More than 60 members of the Kentucky National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team 4 were honored here during a farewell ceremony Jan. 3 at the Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church.

KYADT4 is charged with sustaining the relationships built between former KYADTs and Afghan farmers to ensure Afghanistan becomes agriculturally self-sufficient. The task force is comprised of Kentucky Army and Air National Guardsmen with a variety of skills in agricultural matters.

"This mission for the Guard is unique because of the assets we have in our ranks,"

said Maj. Walt Leaumont, executive officer for the ADT. "Our Soldiers and Airmen work full-time civilian jobs that give them the skill set necessary for what we're doing here... which is helping to build viable businesses."

The unit will train at Camp Atterbury, Ind., for several weeks before deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This is the fourth agribusiness mission for the Kentucky National Guard. KYADT3 is currently in Afghanistan and is expected to return home in the coming weeks.

"Our first three agribusiness development teams have proven themselves as warriors and as peacemakers," said Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, adjutant general of Kentucky.

"You all have done an outstanding job in preparing for this mission, and I know that you will go above and beyond what your sister teams have accomplished."

Wingman Challenge

Kentucky's security forces test their mettle while building esprit de corps



Photos by Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

Staff Sgt. Ed Nooning and Master Sgt. Josh Devine, members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron, help Tech. Sgt. Jesse Smith over an obstacle at Southern High School in Louisville Dec. 10. Airmen from the 123rd SFS were at the high school to use the Junior ROTC obstacle course for a team-building exercise as part of Wingman Day activities.



Master Sgt. Josh Devine, a member of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron, climbs over a tire tower at the Southern High School JROTC obstacle course.

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

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron spent Dec. 10 navigating an obstacle course at Louisville's Southern High School as part of a team-building exercise held in conjunction with Wingman Day.

Wingman Day is an annual event designed to promote resilience and focus attention on the physical, spiritual, social and psychological health of Airmen while building esprit de corps, said Master Sgt. Larry Bristow, unit training manager for the 123rd Security Forces Squadron.

The idea is for Airmen to learn the importance of taking care of themselves and their fellow troops — a goal which made the obstacle course a natural choice for Wingman Day activities, Bristow said.

He came up with the idea of using the obstacle course — maintained by Southern's Army Junior ROTC program — while attending his son's soccer game at the campus last year.

"When Wingman Day came around, we thought this would be a good event for the whole squadron to work together and become more familiar with each other," he said.

Maj. Grant Simpson, commander of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, said the course was a welcome change of pace from normal training at the Air Guard Base, which typically focuses on security patrols or other solitary activity.

"We get so sequestered in our computer training and everything else that a lot of times when you come to drill, you don't get a chance to interact with people on another fire team or a different group," he said.

The course features an unanchored rope climb, low crawl, tower climb, tigtrope and 10-foot vertical wall.

"I think everybody did real well, but they're going to be hurting tomorrow," Simpson added with a chuckle.

Ceremony re-dedicates MWR facility

Site now known as
'The Winner's Circle'

By Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard came together Jan. 7 to reopen the base Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility under a new name: "The Winner's Circle."

The facility, which features pool and foosball tables, a kitchen and a volleyball court, is designed to boost morale and foster camaraderie between organizations, said Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing.

"I think it's a great facility, and a great opportunity for people to get together after Saturday's drill," Nelson said following a ribbon-cutting ceremony to re-dedicate the site. "They can share experiences of the day and talk about the weekend, and it's a great time to interact between organizations."

The facility's new name was selected from more than 100 suggestions offered by wing members, said Lt. Col. George Imorde, 123rd Force Support Squadron commander.

The MWR facility had been underutilized for some time, and base leaders hope renewed emphasis will lead to better esprit de corps across the wing.

"We talked about getting a solid MWR back up and running for the enlisted," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Greenwood, "and we saw it as nothing but a good thing. This is just a start, and hopefully we can make it grow bigger."

The 123rd FSS will open The Winner's Circle every Saturday of drill weekends, following the end of the duty day.

Meanwhile, the hospitality of snacks, drinks and food items will be provided by a rotating system of units on base, Imorde said.

He noted that many Guard units don't have the MWR resources of active-duty bases, which offer concerts, movie theaters and bowling alleys, so facilities like The Winner's Circle take on even more importance here.

"This is just a small piece we can do and hope to make bigger," he said.



Above: Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Carpenter, command chief of the 123rd Airlift Wing, cuts the ribbon officially reopening the Kentucky Air National Guard's Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility here Jan. 7. The facility, now known as "The Winner's Circle," features pool and foosball tables, a kitchen and a volleyball court. It is operated by the 123rd Force Support Squadron.



Left: Airman 1st Class Reymart Relos, a food service specialist with the 123rd Force Support Squadron, plays pool Jan. 7 during the reopening of "The Winner's Circle." The facility's new name was selected from more than 100 suggestions provided by wing members over the past several months.

Photos by Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

Greet the Chief

Air Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy speaks to enlisted members of the Kentucky Air National Guard during a town hall meeting here Nov. 20. Muncy was in Louisville to take part in a ceremony honoring three Kentucky Air Guardsmen who earned Bronze Star medals for their achievements as Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians in Afghanistan.

Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel/
Kentucky Air National Guard



CERFP

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uled for May, when the Kentucky CERFP will be required to demonstrate its ability to manage a coordinated response to a simulated attack involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive agents.

“We’re taking a ‘crawl, walk, run’ approach to our training,” Ellis said, “so this exercise was our initial stage.”

The first day of training was focused on equipment familiarization, such as assembling and breaking down tents, coordinating with the Army decontamination unit, organizing teams and preparing medical supplies.

The remainder of the time was spent practicing scenarios in which the CERFP was activated by an incident commander. Participants were tasked with securing the site of an attack; and coordinating the movement of search-and-recovery teams, the decontamination team and the medical unit.

“This was the first time we’ve really gotten together in the field as a team, and

for most people it was the first time they had seen the equipment,” Ellis said.

“We’ve all read the Concept of Operations and know our mission, but when you’re actually setting up the equipment and doing the mission, you discover better ways of doing things and things you need to adjust,” she added.

The highlight of the exercise was the final scenario, during which the unit met all of its training evaluation timelines while processing patients and communicating movement through command-and-control channels, Ellis said.

“At the end of the week, all of the new members who took part in their first CERFP exercise were able to completely set up the medical portion of the team and were ‘patient-ready’ after just 29 minutes,” said Maj. Brian McMorrow, the CERFP’s medical plans and operations officer.

That’s more than an hour sooner than required by exercise evaluation standards, he noted.

McMorrow attributes the team’s success to the attitudes of its members.

“Most things were new and there were things that did not go as planned, but everyone had a smile on their face,” he said. “The work effort was awesome all week.”

Kentucky to host 17th-annual ANG Bass Tourney

Kentucky will serve as host for the 17th-annual Air National Guard Bass Tournament, scheduled for April 18 and 19.

The event will take place on lakes Barkley and Kentucky, utilizing the Old Kattawa Boat Ramp for the launch and weigh-in.

Maj. Kristin Hamilton, tournament director, has opened this year’s event to include Army National Guard members in order to enlarge the competition field and spotlight joint endeavors off duty.

Participation is open to Air and Army Guardsmen and their immediate family members; retirees; state and federal employees of the Air and Army National Guard; and active-duty personnel assigned to an Air or Army Guard unit.

For more information, visit www.angbasstourney.com

Panetta announces initiatives to prevent sexual assault and assist victims

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Sexual assault has no place in the Defense Department, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said Jan. 19, calling the crime “a stain on the good honor of the great majority of our troops and their families.”

Panetta announced four initiatives Wednesday designed to aid victims and strengthen prosecution of military sexual assault cases. He said a “broader package of proposals” soon will follow two new sexual assault policies the department announced in late December.

“When I was sworn into the office of secretary of defense, I said that I had no higher responsibility than to protect those who are protecting America,” Panetta told reporters at the Pentagon. “Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line every day to try to keep America safe. We have a moral duty to keep them safe from those who would attack their dignity and their honor.”

The secretary said 3,191 sexual assaults were reported in the military last year, but because historically only a fraction of such crimes are reported, the true incidence of sexual assault likely approaches 19,000.

Troops willing to fight and die for their country “are entitled to much better protection,” he said.

Some of the proposals rolled out in coming months may require legislative action, the secretary said, but he noted he already has worked with department, Joint Staff and service leaders to develop and launch four approaches aimed at strengthening

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NGB now statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON — The chief of the National Guard Bureau is now a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With the stroke of a pen, the same month the nation’s oldest military institution celebrated its 375th birthday, President Barack Obama signed legislation Dec. 31 that includes a provision adding the CNGB to the Joint Chiefs.

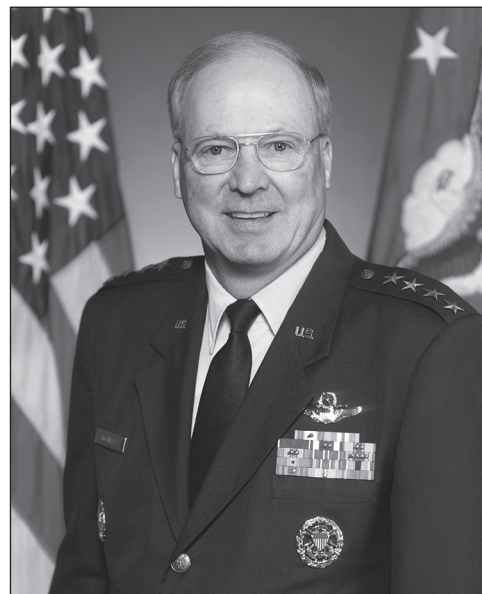
The provision — part of the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act — ushers in a change some National Guard historians have called the most significant development since the Militia Act of 1903 codified the modern day dual-status structure of the Guard.

“We are grateful for the efforts the executive and legislative bodies have gone to in placing the chief of the National Guard Bureau on the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” said Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

“We look forward to working alongside the other Joint Chiefs to provide our nation’s senior leaders with a fuller picture of the non-federalized National Guard as it serves in support of homeland defense and civil support missions,” McKinley said.

The provision is part of an annual federal law that has for the last half-century specified the Defense Department budget.

The 2012 NDAA authorizes \$670 billion in spending for Defense Department



Gen. Craig McKinley

programs and Energy Department nuclear weapons programs.

Other provisions of the bill that affect the National Guard include re-establishing the position of vice-chief of the National Guard Bureau at the three-star level while rescinding the two-star position of director of the NGB’s joint staff.

The bill also requires that National Guard general officers be considered for command of Army North and Air Force North and authorizes funding for the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Safety magazine becomes online-only

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) — Wingman, the Air Force’s official quarterly safety magazine, has a new digital home: www.wingmanmagazine.af.mil.

The Air Force Safety Center published its last hardcopy issue of Wingman in fall 2011 and launched the new website Dec. 12.

Officials transitioned to the online-only format because of a Department of Defense initiative for organizations to find greater efficiencies.

“While times are changing and funds are

short, we’ll never shortchange you — our readers,” Maj. Gen. Greg Feest, the Air Force chief of safety, said in the fall issue.

“You’ll get the same quality of safety information delivered to you online.”

The Air Force’s quarterly journal of aviation, ground, space and weapons safety has been in circulation since 2008, following the merger of Flying Safety Magazine, Weapons Journal and Road and Rec into one magazine.

The Air Force Safety Center has been producing safety publications for more than 60 years.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Assault

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victim care and protection.

"First, I've directed the establishment of a DOD sexual assault advocate certification program, which will require our sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates to obtain a credential aligned with national standards," Panetta said.

"This will help ensure the victims of sexual assault receive the best care from properly trained and credentialed professionals who can provide crucial assistance from the moment an assault is committed."

The secretary said he also has directed DOD to expand assault victim support to include military spouses and adult military dependents, who can now file confidential reports and receive the services of a victim advocate and a sexual assault response coordinator. "This was not the case before," he added.

"In addition, we're going to ensure that DOD civilians stationed abroad and DOD U.S. citizen contractors in combat areas receive emergency care and the help of a response coordinator and victim advocate," Panetta said.

The secretary's third approach increases training funds for investigators and judge advocates, "because sexual assault cases are some of the toughest cases to investigate and prosecute," he said. The funding increase is \$9.3 million over five years.

The department also is creating an integrated data system to track sexual assault reports and monitor case management, Panetta added, "so that we'll have a comprehensive database for information available later this year."

Panetta said his fourth current effort against sexual assault in the military focuses on prevention and leader training.

"Our leaders in uniform - officers and enlisted - are on the front lines of the effort," he said. "They have to be. We must all be leaders here. For this reason, I'm directing an assessment, due in 120 days, on how we train our commanding officers and senior enlisted leaders on sexual assault prevention and response, and what we can do to strengthen that training."

The secretary also summarized two new policies announced Dec. 27.

"The first ... gives victims who report a sexual assault an option to quickly transfer from their unit or installation, to protect them from possible harassment and remove them from proximity to the alleged perpetrator," he said. Defense officials explained this option is available only to service members who file unrestricted reports of sexual assault.

A restricted report, which is confidential, allows a victim to seek medical aid and counseling, but is not communicated to the chain of command.

Service members who file a transfer request under the new policy are entitled to a response from their unit commander within 72 hours, officials said. If the

request is denied, service members can appeal to a general or flag officer or senior civilian in the chain of command and receive a response within an additional 72 hours.

The second policy requires that written, unrestricted reports of sexual assault to law enforcement officials be retained for 50 years, Panetta said. "The reason for that is to have these records available so that it will make it easier for veterans to file a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs at a later date," he explained.

Records relating to restricted reports will be retained for five years, officials said.

The secretary said the new policies and other initiatives are important steps, but he is determined sexual assault response and prevention will remain a top priority.

"There's much more work to be done to prevent this crime, and we will be announcing additional initiatives over the coming weeks and months," Panetta said.

The secretary addressed his closing remarks directly to military victims of sexual assault.

"I deeply regret that such crimes occur in the U.S. military," Panetta said. "And I will do all I can to prevent these sexual assaults from occurring in the Department of Defense.

"I'm committed to providing you the support and resources you need and to taking whatever steps are necessary to keep what happened to you from happening to others."