

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Hurst selected next wing commander

Change-of-command ceremony on Sunday

By Maj. Dale Greer
Chief of Public Affairs

Col. Warren H. Hurst will assume command of the 123rd Airlift Wing during a ceremony scheduled to take place at 3 p.m. Sunday in the base Fuel Cell Hangar.

He will succeed Col. Gregory L. Nelson, who has been named deputy director of strategic plans and policy at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

"The Kentucky Air National Guard has placed great emphasis on building a great bench of leaders capable of maintaining our position as the best airlift wing in the nation," said Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, in announcing Hurst's selection Aug. 7. "Colonel Hurst will continue Kentucky's national reputation of unequalled excellence and unbridled service into the future."

Hurst has served for the past five years as commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group, a unit designed to be an early responder in the

event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other major emergency anywhere within a 400-mile radius of Louisville. The group also is capable of supporting military contingency operations worldwide.

Described as an "airbase in a box," the 123rd CRG has all the personnel, training and equipment needed to deploy to an austere site, open a runway and establish airfield operations so that aid or troops can begin to flow into affected areas.

The 123rd CRG is one of only 10 CRGs in the entire Air Force and the first fully operational CRG in the Air National Guard.

Tonini credited Hurst's leadership of the unit for setting a new standard of excellence in the disaster-response community and for "developing policy in this high-profile mission area."

Hurst is a command pilot who has flown C-130 combat, combat-support and humanitarian relief operations worldwide while serving for the active duty Air Force and Air National Guard. He has participated in numerous missions, including Operations Provide Promise, Restore Hope, Provide Relief, Joint Forge, Coronet Oak, Red Flag-Alaska, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Prior to assuming command of the 123rd



Col. Warren H. Hurst

CRG, Hurst served a three-year temporary duty tour on the Tanker Airlift Control Center Battle Staff at Air Mobility Command Headquarters, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

He also has an extensive background

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Bullard to be Kentucky Air Guard chief of staff



Col. Steven P. Bullard

By Maj. Dale Greer
Chief of Public Affairs

Col. Steven P. Bullard has been selected as the next chief of staff at Headquarters, Kentucky Air National Guard, the adjutant general announced Aug. 23.

Bullard, who currently serves as vice wing commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing, is expected to assume the post in December, following the retirement of Brig. Gen. Michael J. Dornbush.

"Colonel Bullard excelled as vice commander and 123rd Mission Support Group commander for the 123rd Airlift Wing," Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini said in making the announcement.

"He also served successfully in several mobilization assignments, including NATO senior airfield authority and 451st Air Expeditionary Group Commander at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan; deputy director, Air Component Coordination Element, and USAF liaison with Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan and the government of Afghanistan."

"Colonel Bullard's success is a direct reflection of the level of professionalism and the deep talent base representative of

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Thanks for the memories: The 123rd Airlift Wing will always stand ready

This will be my last Cargo Courier column as your commander. I can't believe how fast these four years have passed.

Just 48 Unit Training Assemblies ago, I was given command of the best tactical airlift wing in the United States Air Force. Though the time passed quickly, I also can't believe how much you accomplished.

In just four quick years, the 123rd Airlift Wing participated in three Air Expeditionary Force rotations overseas; "Excellently" completed a first-ever homeland security/homeland defense Operational Readiness Inspection; deployed our Special Tactics Squadron and Contingency Response Group to the Haiti earthquake; flew over 10,000 accident-free hours, including record-breaking combat mission ready rates and airdrop operations; and deployed countless Mission Support and Medical Group Airmen whenever and wherever needed around the globe.

This is the 123rd Airlift Wing, and these are the professional men and women who serve in the Kentucky Air National Guard.

I can't thank you enough for what you have done during my time as your commander.

I am proud of each and every one of



Col. Greg Nelson
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

you for what you have done in the past, and for what you will do in the future.

I am thankful for all the support you have given me, and I am thankful for the support your families give you.

I want you to know just how much you have meant to me. You have been my inspiration to fight for new missions and the growth of our wing.

Every time I challenged you, you answered beyond my greatest expecta-

tions. Whenever I led a battle cry, you answered ready to fight.

I asked you to accept change, and you wholeheartedly embraced every new direction.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I will miss each and every one of you. I will miss command, but I am thankful I've been given the opportunity to continue to serve.

I promise you I will do my best in my next assignment, and I challenge you to support Col. Warren Hurst and take the 123rd Airlift Wing to the next level.

Strive every day to do your best, and expect others to do the same. Make sure the 123rd Airlift Wing continues to be the best.

I wish you good luck in all future endeavors. I know you will do well on your inspection next year, and I know you will be ready for whatever challenges come your way.

Please stay ready, and you will be there when our nation or our allies abroad need you.

Remember your heritage, be proud of yourself, fight hard and be ready.

Thanks for the memories. The 123rd Airlift Wing will always stand ready!

— Col. Greg Nelson

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We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Our office is located in room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building.

Publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is Oct. 6.

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Fini Flight

Members of the 123rd Airlift Wing douse Col. Greg Nelson with water and champagne on the base flight line Aug. 12 after Nelson completes his final flight as wing commander. A master navigator, Nelson has been named deputy director of strategic plans and policy at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., where he will serve as a brigadier general. Piloting Nelson's "fini flight" was Col. Warren Hurst, who will replace Nelson as commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing during a change-of-command ceremony to be held here Sunday.

For more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/kyngpao/sets/72157631191787862/

Photo by Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Guard Bureau selects Lally for top safety award

By Maj. Dale Greer
Chief of Public Affairs

The National Guard Bureau has selected a Kentucky Air Guardsman for a prestigious flight-safety award.

Lt. Col. Todd Lally, chief of the 123rd Airlift Wing Safety Office, is the 2011 recipient of the Air National Guard Outstanding Individual for Flight Safety Award.

The award is given annually to the top safety professional in the Air National Guard, according to Col. John D. Slocum, director of safety for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

"Colonel Lally has far surpassed his peers in showing his exemplary commitment to safety," Slocum said in announcing the award. "His far-reaching contributions in leading various Safety Investigation Boards has helped improve procedural operations across the Air Force.

"Colonel Lally has proven himself as being dedicated to safety, thus enriching the well-being of those around him."

Slocum added that Lally's selection is a "direct reflection of the professionalism and culture" of the 123rd Airlift Wing that "sets the bar for other wings and safety professionals in the Air National Guard."

Lally joined the Kentucky Air National Guard as an enlisted fuels specialist in 1988. He later cross-trained to become a C-130 loadmaster before earning a bachelor's degree in aerospace studies. Lally was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1994 and completed undergraduate pilot training the same year.

He has deployed numerous times to the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom; and to Panama in support of counter-drug and U.S. Embassy-support missions.

Lally became the Air Operations Officer for the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group in 2009 before

assuming his current post this year.

As an aircraft mishap investigator, Lally has investigated Class A, B and C mishaps in Afghanistan and the United States. His latest investigation involved the Class A mishap of a remotely piloted aircraft that collided mid-air with a C-130H at a forward operating base in Afghanistan. He also served as investigating officer of the 13-member Safety Investigation Board.

In his civilian life, Lally serves as a pilot with United Parcel Service in Louisville.



Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

Col. Greg Nelson, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, presents Lt. Col. Todd Lally with the 2011 Air National Guard Outstanding Individual for Flight Safety Award during a ceremony at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base May 19.

Wing makes motorcycle safety a priority

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

Motorcycle accidents continue to be one of the leading causes of death among members of the Air Force, with seven Airmen having lost their lives in bike crashes since Memorial Day alone, according to data from the Air Force Safety Center.

But safety officials across the Kentucky National Guard are now better prepared than ever to reduce motorcycle accidents, thanks to a motorcycle safety train-the-trainer course conducted at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base from Aug. 20-27.

The eight-day course, facilitated by members of the 123rd Airlift Wing Safety Office and taught by an instructor from the National Motorcycle Safety Foundation, drew more than 20 students from the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard, said Tech. Sgt. Luke Piro, 123rd ground safety technician.

Six of those students are now certified instructors who can teach the course to other service members at their home units.

"The National Guard Bureau put out a Guard-wide email looking for volunteers to host this event, and the 123rd Airlift Wing is always ready to take on new missions," Piro explained.

"We're making a push to change the culture in the world of motorcycle safety."

The Kentucky course, funded by the National Guard Bureau, included four days of classroom instruction and four days of hands-on training covering everything from basic riding skills to defensive driving.

Instructor-trainees also were given the opportunity to teach the material to other students while receiving coaching from the MSF expert, Tim Cody.

The course was broken into 17 exercises, the first nine of which dealt with basic riding skills like straight-line driving, shifting, stopping and turning, Piro said.

The final eight covered advanced skills in those same areas, as well as situational awareness and obstacle avoidance.

The course placed a high emphasis on situational awareness and defensive driving, so that riders would be better conditioned to respond quickly to unsafe conditions as they develop.

"When you're riding, you definitely want to know how to be seen, where to be seen and how to anticipate where that next threat



Above: Tech. Sgt. Don Yeats, a radio maintenance specialist in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, weaves past cones Aug. 23 during a motorcycle safety train-the-trainer course held on base. Part of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's RiderCoach Program, the course was designed in part to train student instructors so they can go on to teach motorcycle safety to other service members. The course was sponsored by the 123rd Airlift Wing Safety Office.



Left: Lt. Col. Armand Bolotte, operations officer for the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, demonstrates his control of motorcycle maneuvering during the course, which was held Aug. 20-27. Students learned skills in 17 areas, including shifting, stopping and turning, as well as situational awareness and obstacle avoidance.

Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

is coming from," said Lt. Col. Todd Lally, 123rd Airlift Wing chief of safety.

"That is what this training will teach you."

Cody said it's important for riders to remember that highways were made for four-wheeled vehicles, not motorcycles.

"Nothing on the road is designed for motorcycles, so we have to operate a motorcycle within the realm of highways that are designed for cars and trucks," said Cody,

who has been teaching the MSF course for 17 years.

"Motorcycles only represent 2 percent of miles traveled on highways, but represent about 14 percent of the deaths on the nation's highways."

The student instructors attending the course said they decided to become teachers

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Employers get first-hand look at Air Guard

Bosslift provides insight into wing's mission sets

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

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — More than 30 civilian employers flew aboard a Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., June 8 as part of program to teach them more about the Air Guard mission.

Called a “Bosslift,” the event was designed to show appreciation to the employers of Guardsmen while exposing them to the kinds of missions their employees perform when they leave their civilian jobs and put on an Air Force uniform, according to Philip Miller, an employer support specialist with the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

“The Air National Guard is included in everyday business as an integral part of the U.S. Air Force global mission,” Miller noted. “In fact, Air National Guard and Reserve airlift units are running 59 percent of the Air Force’s airlift missions around the world.

“So this Bosslift provided a great opportunity to showcase Kentucky Air Guardsmen and explain to employers how they fit into the U.S. Air Force’s big picture. The employers were able to see the importance of the missions being conducted by their traditional Guardsman employees.”

Those missions continue this summer and fall, with more than 90 members of Kentucky’s 123rd Airlift Wing and two C-130 aircraft having been deployed to an undisclosed air base in Southwest Asia. The Airmen will be conducting military airlift missions across the U.S. Central Command Area of Operations for approximately four months before returning home.

Participating “bosses” represented a broad range of employers, from Humana and United Parcel Service to WDRB Television, Louisville

Gas & Electric and the Al J. Schneider Co.

Their day began with a 123rd Airlift Wing mission brief at the Air Guard Base in Louisville, followed by the flight to Scott.

While in Illinois, the employers met with top Air Force officials, received a briefing about how the U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command perform their missions, and toured the Air Mobility Command Tanker Airlift Control Center. The facility is the nerve center for airlift, aerial refueling and aeromedical evacuation operations across the globe.

John Brown, vice president of Medicare Service Operations at Humana, said he appreciated the perspective he gained from participating in the Bosslift.

“This is my first time behind the scenes at this level,” he said. “I usually only see it or hear it through the eyes or the lenses of someone else.

“But literally being on the aircraft that our

Guardsmen are on and seeing how things are run — that gives me a deeper appreciation for what I normally get as a sound bite on television. It gives me a much deeper perspective and appreciation for everything that goes into the work they do and the service they provide every day.”

Joe Kuhn, a power plant manager for Alcoa, described the briefings as eye-opening.

“I had no idea the Guard and reserves were so integral to our daily defense,” Kuhn said. “I assumed they were a supplemental force to cover peak demand. The day was very informative, professionally executed and made me feel proud to be a small part of the effort.”

ESGR, which co-sponsored the Bosslift with the 123rd Airlift Wing, is a federal agency that works to create a culture of support for National Guard and Reserve members by recognizing outstanding employer support and increasing awareness of laws and policies regarding Guardsmen and Reservists.



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Employers of Kentucky Air National Guardsmen flew to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., aboard a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 on June 8 as part of an ESGR-sponsored Bosslift. The program is designed to enhance relations between civilian employers and the National Guard.

Motorcycle

Continued from Page 4

because they wanted to give back to the military biker community, making Soldiers and Airmen safer riders.

“Every day that we’re out there on the road, there are people who don’t pay at-

attention to you, people talking on cell phones who don’t know you are there,” said Master Sgt. Mark Williams, non-commissioned-officer-in-charge of vehicle operations for the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Lt. Col. Armand Bolotte said he wanted to become a coach because he felt an obligation to mentor younger troops.

“I felt like it was a way to give back, to help those who need to know how to

ride safely,” said Bolotte, operations officer for the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

“Motorcycle accidents are one of the biggest killers of Airmen in the Air Force, and we can help the younger generation by doing a better job of teaching the basics of good riding.”

See more photos at flickr.com/photos/kyngpaol/sets/72157631306755160/

Airmen bring ‘Xtreme’ football to Louisville

Professional team backed and coached by members of the 123rd Airlift Wing

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

They’ve worked together for years as fellow Airmen in the Kentucky Air National Guard, deploying overseas to support the war effort or mobilizing at home in response to natural disasters. Now, they’re giving back to the community by displaying athletic prowess on the gridiron.

A group of Kentucky Air Guardsmen is fielding an indoor and outdoor football team called Kentucky Xtreme.

“A few of us thought it was a pretty cool idea to own a football team — a way to give back to the community and to help guys live out their dreams,” said Staff Sgt. Victor Cole, the majority owner, general manager and coach.

Cole, a maintenance analyst for the 123rd Maintenance Operations Flight at the Kentucky Air National Guard in Louisville, Ky., played football for Kentucky State University, followed by minor league ball until 2008. While on deployment to Afghanistan as part of Agribusiness Development Team 3, Cole learned about the Kentucky Xtreme concept and wanted to get involved in football again.

Cole was joined in the effort by Dave Rooney, manager of the base Airmen and Family Readiness Program, who serves as the team’s head offensive coordinator. Other Air Guard co-owners are Chief Master Sgt. Victor Dry, 123rd Communications Flight maintenance chief; Staff Sgt. Aaron McGahee, a fire team member for the 123rd Contingency Response Group; and Tech. Sgt. Terrance Jones, a crew chief for the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The Kentucky Xtreme outdoor team is part of the Interstate Football League, a minor-league group comprised of teams from Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky.

The outdoor league, which plays from June to September, is basically a skills-development effort with players who don’t get paid to play, Cole said. This summer, Kentucky Xtreme practiced a couple of times a week at Doss High School in Louisville, and played their home games at Jeffersonville



Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Dave Rooney, head offensive coordinator for the Kentucky Xtreme football team, discusses plays during a game in Jeffersonville, Ind., on July 28. Rooney is the Airmen and Family Readiness Program manager for the 123rd Airlift Wing.



Kentucky Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Victor Cole, an analyst for the 123rd Maintenance Operations Flight, talks to one of his players during a Kentucky Xtreme football game in Jeffersonville, Ind., on July 28. Cole is majority owner, general manager and coach for the Kentucky Xtreme outdoor football team, a minor-league squad based in Louisville, Ky.

High School in Jeffersonville, Ind.

The Kentucky Xtreme indoor team is, by contrast, a professional arena football squad that belongs to the Continental Indoor Football League, Cole said. Arena football is normally played from February to June, and the Kentucky squad expects to face its opponents in home games at Freedom Hall in Louisville.

Both teams are ideal for players who’ve played high school or college football and want to keep playing to hone their skills or possibly make it to the National Football

League, Cole said.

He added that his experience in the Air Guard has been crucial to developing an effective coaching style.

“Being in the Guard has taught me leadership skills, discipline and how to deal with individuals,” he said.

Cole goes on to say he’s glad he can help bring a professional, family-friendly football team to Louisville, and he encourages people to come out and support the team.

“We would love to have support from folks out at the base and their families,” he said.

Guard aims for greatness through diversity

Leaders seek volunteers for Kentucky initiative

By Col. Steven P. Bullard
123rd Airlift Wing Vice Commander

Senior leaders of the National Guard at the national and state levels are placing their stamp on diversity initiatives with the vision of achieving a culture where everyone is valued.

No military organization lays greater claim to being rooted in our communities than the National Guard, says Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau. We naturally represent all elements of the American “melting pot” and are ideally positioned to lead the military in embracing the core aspects of diversity.

To such ends, the National Guard has set the goal of creating a Joint Diversity Executive Council, or JDEC, in all 54 states and territories. The Kentucky National Guard, through the adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, has established its own JDEC and is currently seeking personnel interested in furthering this initiative. As of May, 28 states had formed JDECs.

How do you define diversity? Diversity is not a quota system based on race or preferences. It’s a commitment by everyone to embrace nuances in ideas and people, and to raise personal standards and provide extensive mentorship and growth opportunities to those we work with, at all levels. As such, diversity is very difficult to measure. As much as anything, it’s a mindset that values diversity of opinion and varied experience in professional settings.

At the NGB 2012 Diversity Conference in Reno, Nev., this past May, senior National Guard leaders emphasized the importance of diversity to the National Guard.

“We are on the verge of an explosion in diversity in the National Guard,” said the Army National Guard’s deputy director, Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy. “We are a world-class organization, and this is what world-class organizations do. Our differences make us unique and stronger. Diversity aligns perfectly with our core values and is essential to mission success.”

General Kadavy noted that the National Guard has been diverse throughout its 375 years of history, drawing from all elements of American society.

Measurement tools are being developed, he

said, but, while “charts, graphs, metrics are all an essential part of measurement of progress ... it’s the spirit that is truly essential. We are mentoring the next generation of leaders, preparing them to lead the way. In our world today, diversity is the only option.”

The director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Harry “Bud” Wyatt, added that General McKinley is “rekindling the diversity flame, and the Air National Guard is embracing it.”

General Wyatt praised the JDEC initiative and said he expects that someday diversity will be such a part of our culture that JDECs will not be necessary.

“

We are on the verge of an explosion in diversity in the National Guard. We are a world-class organization, and this is what world-class organizations do. Our differences make us unique and stronger. Diversity aligns perfectly with our core values and is essential to mission success.

— Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy
Deputy director, Army National Guard

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“The key to this initiative is our people,” General Wyatt said. “We will make it work. Any problems we see must be fixed by the people in the field.”

In Kentucky, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Dornbush and Col. Ben Adams are leading the JDEC effort, teaming with Lt. Col. Tina Gay Riddle, the full-time human resources equal opportunity/diversity director. Under the FY13 Kentucky National Guard Diversity Strategic Plan, “Diversity to Inclusion,” our state goals are to:

- Recruit our Soldiers and Airmen from a diverse and qualified pool of potential

applicants to ensure a high performing workforce

- Develop leadership skills for diverse groups as a core competency
- Promote diversity and inclusion in leadership development programs
- Cultivate a supportive, welcoming, inclusive and fair work environment
- Develop structures and strategies to ensure our ability to manage diversity, measure results, enforce accountability and institutionalize a culture of inclusion

Opportunities to participate in the Kentucky JDEC initiative include the following subcommittees: Career Management and Mentoring; Recruiting and Retention; Community Outreach and Relations; Education and Training; and Policy, Procedures and Recognition.

Nearly every source of “joy” in your life will be as a direct result of a human interaction. The same thing goes for your major frustrations.

Diverse groups make better decisions. Like-minded groups — such as the National Guard — have a character trait where the leaders share the same “blind spots.”

Diversity is all things — race, gender, ethnicity, thought. Diversity is key because it covers your “blind spots.” People who don’t know how to handle or support diversity have serious “trust” issues. Loss of trust hurts productivity by slowing down actions and decision-making and driving up the associated costs.

To be successful, you must be in an organization in which employees and management trust each other. You must appreciate people’s interest and values. Statistics show that “high trust” organizations are three times more efficient, at a minimum, than other organizations.

To be successful in pursuing diversity, personnel must be committed to inclusion opportunities, be able to understand their own strengths and vulnerabilities, understand the behavior and motivations of others, act as a resource for each other, honor confidentiality when appropriate, and enjoy working with each other.

For more information on the Kentucky National Guard JDEC or to get involved with its associated subcommittees, please contact your wing human resource advisor, Senior Master Sgt. David Selby, at (502) 413-4865, (502) 618-9097 or david.selby@ang.af.mil.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Bullard

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the 1,200 Airmen in our nation's finest Air National Guard wing."

Upon accepting the position, Bullard will be eligible for promotion to the rank of brigadier general as a traditional Guardsman. He will maintain his civilian job as director of the Administrative Services Division in the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

The division is responsible for personnel administration and functions, procurement actions, accounting and fiscal functions, maintenance and storage of "War Records Bureau" documents and records, legislative activities, and state grant funding to the Civil Air Patrol.

Throughout his Air Force career, Bullard has served in numerous leadership roles, both at home and abroad. In addition to his duties in Afghanistan, the colonel served as chief of operations for the Joint Intelligence and Operations Center at Headquarters, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., from August 2008 through January 2009.

At home, Bullard served as director of joint doctrine and training, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kentucky National Guard, from April 2005 to July 2008.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he deployed as operations officer, then commander, of the 10-aircraft, 306-personnel joint Guard-Reserve 38th Airlift Squadron (Provisional) at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from March to October 2003.

Bullard has participated in Operations Just Cause, Desert Shield, Provide Promise, Restore Hope, Joint Endeavor, Joint Forge, Southern Watch, Bright Star, Coronet Oak, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He also has participated in numerous Special Operations low-level deployments and served as lead instructor during Red Flag and Green Flag exercises.

Bullard served two terms as elected president of the National Guard Association of Kentucky and was the volunteer executive director of the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve from 1993 to 2001.

Hurst

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in planning and executing expeditionary airlift operations worldwide.

Hurst coordinated civil-military air relief efforts during the 2010 Haiti earthquake and served as deputy director of mobility forces to the Pacific Air Forces commander in response to the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis in Japan.

Welsh succeeds Schwartz

Armed Forces News Service

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — The 20th chief of staff of the Air Force accepted the service's flag in a ceremony here Aug. 10.

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, a 36-year Airman, stepped into the position, taking over for Gen. Norton Schwartz, who also retired from the Air Force during the ceremony.

"Mark is respected throughout the Air Force for his exceptional leadership and ability to connect with Airmen," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said.

Raised in an Air Force family, Welsh said he found a role model in his father, a decorated combat pilot.

"Today, I think he'd be proud of me," Welsh said. "And any day a kid can make his dad proud is a great day."

Welsh emphasized the need for Airmen to understand the importance of the other services in joint operations, but also said Airmen shouldn't underestimate the combat capabilities of their own service in winning today's fight.

Welsh's nomination was confirmed by the Senate Aug. 2.