

THE CARGO COURIER

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Wing supports Obama Inauguration



Nine services specialists provide 1,800 meals to security forces using new mobile kitchen trailer

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Nine members of the Kentucky Air National Guard deployed to the nation's capital last month to provide lodging and food services for hundreds of Guardsmen operating in direct support of President Barack Obama's inauguration.

The Kentucky Airmen, all assigned to the 123rd Force Support Squadron Services Flight, arrived Jan. 15 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., where they joined forces with 21 other National Guard services teams to train in preparation for housing and feeding more than 6,500 Soldiers and Airmen, according to Tech. Sgt. Ricky Odle, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the detail.

A few days later, the Kentucky group moved to McKinley Technology High School in Washington, D.C., where the Airmen began preparing for the arrival of more than 300 military police and security forces for whom they would be providing meals and sleeping quarters.

"It's a great honor to be asked to participate in the Presidential Inauguration," said Odle, a services specialist. "We brought a great and experienced group of hardworking Airmen who know the importance of such a high-profile event."

Airman 1st Class Jordan Newby, a food services specialist who — like all the Kentucky Airmen — volunteered for the mission, was excited about the opportunity.

"I wanted to say that I was a part of history," Newby said. "Even though we are here to cook for the Army, we're still a part of something bigger, something important. Later on in life, I wanted to

Above: Staff Sgt. Aja Blair of the 123rd Force Support Squadron serves hot meals Jan. 19 to military police and security forces at McKinley Technology High School in Washington, D.C., in support of the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Nine Kentucky services specialists provided more than 1,800 meals and managed lodging for over 300 deployed personnel.



Right: Airman 1st Class Reymart Relos and Staff Sgt. Richard Lyle, food service specialists in the 123rd Force Support Squadron, prepare trays of food at McKinley Technology High School on Jan. 19. Menu items included pulled pork, chicken pot pie, chili and scrambled eggs.

Photos by Senior Airman Vicky Spesard/KyANG

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Enhancing our culture of excellence

We have a culture of excellence and mission performance that goes back to our wing's beginnings. We've earned numerous awards over the past 60-plus years, thanks to a corporate culture that is based on striving to be the best.

Stagnation is not part of this unit's vocabulary. Adjustments and adaptations have occurred to keep us in the forefront as a lead unit in the Air Force and Air National Guard, whether it be changes in airframes, missions or tactics.

Today, we need to extend that competitive spirit throughout the workplace environment to ensure we are the best at treating all personnel fairly, with dignity and respect.

There is a Kentucky spirit here that makes this unit, from my perspective, one of the best places to work, but as with any large organization there are small pockets that could use improvement.

This will take everyone's effort. We have no room for any type of harassment in the workplace, and in fact we already have rules in place to deal with those occurrences.

If you see unprofessional conduct, take responsibility to help correct it. Wing, group and squadron leadership will investigate any suspected instance of unfair treatment, harassment or



Col. Warren Hurst
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

unprofessional behavior.

As you may have read, there is an Air Force-wide effort to improve the workplace environment as part of an overall effort to reduce sexual assaults and harassment.

It has now extended to what type of material we have lying around — magazines, posters, calendars — that might be offensive to individuals.

Recently, the active-duty Air Force conducted what they call "health and welfare" inspections of all government work areas to include break rooms,

heritage rooms and shared drives on government computers.

The goal was to remove any inappropriate or unprofessional materials (you can read more about it at www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123333057).

Our wing has now conducted these inspections under the direction of the adjutant general.

Your group commanders, chiefs and first sergeants will have more details on the specifics, but the definition of what is considered offensive is extremely vague.

The best way to comply with this directive is to keep it simple by limiting material in the workplace to professional publications for our jobs.

While this was a one-time inspection to document compliance, we have an ongoing responsibility to keep our work areas free of inappropriate material.

Our wing has lead the way in numerous endeavors.

Let's lead the way in this aspect of our profession by being the best at how we treat fellow Airmen, Soldiers and employees.

Thanks for what you do, and for your part in making our wing the best in the Air Force.

— Col. Warren Hurst

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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 March 4.

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Clarke named director of Air National Guard

ARLINGTON, Va. — Lt. Gen. Stanley E. “Sid” Clarke III, commander of the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region and 1st Air Force, has been confirmed by the Senate to be the next director of the Air National Guard.

Clarke replaces Lt. Gen. Harry “Bud” Wyatt, who retired in January. Wyatt has led the Air National Guard since February 2009.

Clarke said he is eager to take charge of an organization that comprises 106,000 people.

“I look forward to the opportunity to lead the best Air National Guard in our nation’s history,” he said. “The Air National Guard, and the 106,000 men and women who make it work, has served our nation and our communities with great distinction in combat and during numerous domestic crises.”

As Air Guard Director, Clarke will be responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting more than 106,000 Air Guard members in more than 88 flying wings and 200 geographically separated units throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Clarke is no stranger to key leadership positions. He has served as the Deputy Director of the Air National Guard and as assistant adjutant general for Air for the Alabama Air National Guard. At 1st Air Force, he commanded four direct reporting units, 10 aligned Air National Guard units and a large number of active air defense alert sites including aircraft, air defense artillery, and up to 15,000 active duty, National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian personnel.

Wing Facebook site now offers expanded news, daily updates

Page designed to enhance public awareness of mission

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 123rd Airlift Wing has re-launched its official Facebook Page with an improved version that features more content, expanded news coverage and daily updates.

The page now has links to more than 230 news articles and hundreds of photos dating to 2006, according to Maj. Dale Greer, 123rd Airlift Wing chief of public affairs.

“We’ve had an official Facebook page since 2011, but it wasn’t much more than a placeholder with basic contact information,” Greer explained.

“The new page has a complete archive of the content that we’ve posted to our wing website over the past six years. Moving forward, we’ll be making daily updates to the Facebook page to keep the content fresh.”

Greer encouraged all Airmen to “like” the page as an effective way to keep up-to-date on wing news.

“We’ve seen a tremendous change in the way people consume information over the past few years,” he said. “Many folks today simply don’t rely on traditional sources like TV newscasts, magazines or newspapers. They’d rather have their news delivered digitally — on a computer, smart phone or tablet — so they can read it at their convenience while it’s still relevant.

“Moreover, people are getting a lot of news through social networks, by reading things that their friends have posted or recommended.”

Greer cited a recent study by the Pew Research Center which found that 20 percent of Americans now get their news from Facebook and other social networks. Among users of social networks, the figure was one-third.

“This is a sea-change in behavior, and we’re moving to ensure that the wing has an active presence in the social media space,” Greer said.

He noted that Facebook surpassed 1 billion users last September at a time when such venerable publications as Newsweek and the Christian Science Monitor have suspended print editions.

“One in every seven people on the planet now uses Facebook regularly,” Greer said. “That’s a huge number of people reading and sharing news and photos with each other. We want to be able to harness some of that power to tell the public about the mission and the Airmen of the 123rd Airlift Wing.”

Greer said the Facebook page will work in conjunction with the wing’s public website by promoting new content as it’s posted online.

“In this way, we can use Facebook’s ‘word of mouth’ to drive traffic to the website, where we can post lengthy stories and extensive photo galleries. Meanwhile, shorter news items will

go directly on Facebook.”

Greer said the wing website traditionally logs about 1,500 unique visitors per week, but he has already seen a substantial jump in visitors since the new Facebook page went live in January.

Facebook offers other benefits, too, Greer said.

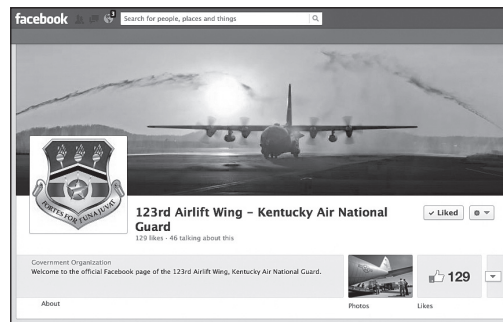
One is the creation of a platform for two-way conversation with members of the community. Anyone is free to post comments to the wing page as long as they adhere to stated guidelines of decorum and courtesy.

“Our ultimate goal here is to raise public awareness of the important mission we perform in service to the nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky,” Greer said.

“And social networking is the key to awareness and mindshare today. It allows us to engage directly with the public in a powerful and immediate way — without going through intermediaries like traditional news media — while leveraging the power of a global social network.

“One billion people can’t be wrong.”

The wing Facebook page address is www.facebook.com/123AWKY. The wing public website is located at www.123aw.ang.af.mil.



The 123rd Airlift Wing’s official Facebook page address is www.facebook.com/123AWKY.

Bombs Away

41st Civil Support Team trains to combat terrorists and weapons of mass destruction

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Philip Speck
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Members of a highly specialized Kentucky National Guard unit demonstrated their skill in combating weapons of mass destruction during an emergency-response exercise held here Oct. 2.

The 41st Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction, a unique group of Kentucky Army and Air National Guardsmen, was called in to participate in a U.S. Army North training scenario in which hunters stumble across a bobby-trapped cabin laden with simulated explosives, said Kentucky Army Guard Maj. John Cline, the team's commander.

The hunters contacted local authorities, triggering a police special-response team to clear the building. When police discovered more bomb-like materials, they asked the 41st CST to investigate.

The scenario is a perfect example of the kinds of threats the unit was created to address, Cline said.

One of more than 50 National Guard CSTs located around the country, the 41st was established in 2000 to support civilian emergency preparedness programs and to respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks and the deployment of nuclear, biological, radiological or chemical weapons, Cline said.

The Kentucky unit features 22 full-time Airmen and Soldiers with expertise in 15 career fields, including medical, communications, logistics and environmental operations.

The U.S. Army North exercise required the 41st CST to carefully survey the scene, determine what kinds of chemicals were being used, and assess the threat they posed to the surrounding area.

Team members took samples of all the materials on the scene and analyzed them at their temporary base of operations.

"Being exposed to this type of scenario allows us to hone our core skills of WMD exploitation while dealing with the austere environment of terrain and extreme distance from target area to our footprint," Cline said.

"This created challenges for navigation,

communication, personnel management and security."

The scenario was designed by Cline, who coordinated with U.S. Army North, the agency that oversaw and evaluated the team's performance in executing the exercise.

The 41st CST performs similar exercises at least once a month to prepare for any kind of incident, Cline said.

The unit can be called upon at any time to support civil authorities at a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident by identifying agents, assessing the current and projected consequences, advising authorities on how to respond, and assisting in saving lives, preventing human suffering and mitigating property damage.

Headquartered at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, the unit has supported many local events such as the Kentucky Derby, Thunder over Louisville, the 2010 World Equestrian Games and the 2009 Ryder Cup. Its members also have been called to support national events such as the Presidential Inauguration and the Super Bowl.

The 41st CST's first commander was Kentucky Air National Guard Col. Neil Mullaney, who currently is director of air staff for Joint Force Headquarters--Kentucky.

Mullaney previously served as commander of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron and Kentucky National Guard Agribusiness Development Team III.

The unit is always seeking current Active Guard-Reserve Airmen who would be interested in joining, Cline noted.

"It takes a joint effort to develop a team of this type and of this caliber," he said. "We are always looking for the right people that have the potential to be a member of this team. Having Army and Air members allows the 41st to be a well-rounded, successful organization."

For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/kyngpaol/sets/72157632347745848/



Above: Members of the Kentucky National Guard's a cabin where bomb-making substances may be North training exercise held Oct. 2 in Frankfort, Ky.

Right: Kentucky Air National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Michael Davis conducts decontamination procedures on Kentucky Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Joe Cloutier.

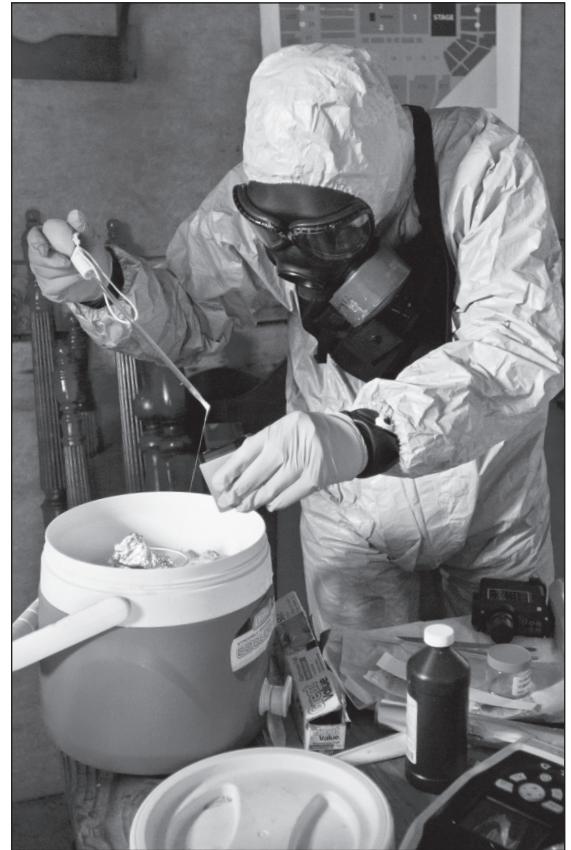


Below: Cloutier calibrates a remote air-monitoring device at the incident scene.





41st Civil Support Team survey present as part of a U.S. Army y.



Above: Kentucky Army National Guard Sgt. Jacob Beach (left), a survey team member for the 41st CST, adjusts protective equipment prior to entering the "hot zone" outside the cabin; Kentucky Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Scott Terrill (right) samples a potentially explosive substance inside the cabin.



Above: Members of the 41st Civil Support Team search for a full spectrum of bomb-making substances.

Hundreds honor Dornbush at retirement

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 300 family, friends and co-workers packed into the Annex at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base Jan. 13 to pay tribute to Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush as he completed his last official act — a formal retirement ceremony.

Dornbush, the outgoing director of Joint Staff for Joint Forces Headquarters--Kentucky, served in the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Kentucky Air National Guard for more than 40 years, rising from the rank of Airman Basic to Brigadier General.

Along the way, he helped shape the future of the 123rd Airlift Wing, said Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general.

"I have watched Mike, and I believe that he has been a leading mentor of both officers and enlisted members throughout his career," Tonini said. "He has made a tremendous difference in their careers and personal lives."

Tonini presented Dornbush, a former vice commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing and past Kentucky Air National Guard chief of staff, with the Distinguished Service Medal and a Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) in recognition of his outstanding leadership from Dec. 1, 2006 to Dec. 1, 2012.

During that time, Dornbush molded separate Air and Army staffs into a cohesive joint team, according to the award citations. In 2009, for example, he directed the formation of a Joint Task Force that successfully responded to an unprecedented ice storm that paralyzed much of the state for several days, leading to the largest call-up of National Guard forces in state history.

Dornbush also served on the director of the Air National

Guard's Strategic Planning System Steering Committee, where he was instrumental in revamping the Air Guard's strategic planning process. His work in developing a Future Missions Database, Air National Guard Roadmap and Air National Guard Flight Plan allowed the Air Force and Air National Guard to integrate planning efforts, and attain balance, alignment and proportionality between the two forces.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air, offered congratulations to his long-time friend and colleague, whom he called a superb leader.

"For many years, we have walked this road together, sometimes at a distance, and sometimes close, but always in step with a shared horizon," an emotional Kraus said. "You have finished well my friend, exceedingly well. I wish you continued good health and good fortune in wherever life takes you next. If you hear footsteps behind you, those will be mine, as it always has been."

After presenting Dornbush with a few mementos, Kraus invited him to offer his own remarks.

"I'd like to share a quote," the retiring general said. "'Being a warrior is not an (Air Force Specialty Code). It's a condition of the heart.' Throughout my career I have seen those traits developed and practiced by the men and women in this wing."

"How do you put 40 years of service into a few words?" he asked. "There are so many events that are important to me, and so many people that I would like to acknowledge today that I don't know where to start. So I'd just like to say, 'Thanks for the memories.' The 123rd is a wonderful place to make a career."

He also expressed gratitude to his family and close friends for their support throughout his career, but he singled out his wife for special recognition.

"I would like to give my wife, Linda, the biggest thank you for her total support," he said. "You are simply superb. My career would not have been this successful without you."

With a final salute to family members, friends and co-workers, Dornbush took his seat only to be called back to center stage for one more gift: a rousing audience performance of "The U.S. Air Force," the official song of the United States Air Force and a personal favorite of Dornbush's.

The Southern Indiana native joined the Kentucky Air National Guard as an enlisted communications specialist in 1976 after serving more than three years in the active-duty Air Force and Air Force Reserve. He was commissioned in 1984 upon completing the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science and has served as a flight and squadron commander.

Dornbush is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, having served a tour in 2003 and 2004 as the deployed expeditionary commander of the 438th Air Expeditionary Group in Jacobabad, Pakistan.

In addition to the Defense Service Medal, his decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.



Staff Sgt. Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush (right), the outgoing director of Joint Staff at Joint Forces Headquarters-Kentucky, receives a plaque Jan. 12 in recognition of 40 years of service from Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air.

Inauguration

Continued from Front Page



Kentucky Airmen unload food and water at McKinley Technology High School in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 18.



Airman 1st Class Jordan Newby of the 123rd Force Support Squadron cooks inside a Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer for military police and security forces who were deployed to Washington, D.C., Jan 19. The trailer is a new concept that improves efficiency over previous field kitchens, officials said.

say that I had been there for this event.”

After unloading two pallets of drinking water and five pallets of food, the Airmen set up a new Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer in the school parking lot. Of the 13 different units stationed around the D.C. area to provide food services, only two had the DRMKT, a new approach to field kitchens that offers much greater efficiency than previous models, Odle said.

“We were able to test the new kitchen last summer,” he noted. “This event is a great opportunity to put it to use with a high volume of cooking. We are all very excited to break it in and see what it can do.”

“I was completely impressed with the cooking trailer that the Air Guard brought in,” said Army Sgt. Andre Miller, a military police troop from the Virginia National Guard. “I have never seen such an efficient way to cook for such a large group of people.”

With food preparation underway, the Airmen turned their attention to the task of keeping pulled pork sandwiches, chicken pot pie, chili, scrambled eggs and a variety of other foods ready to serve in the gymnasium that doubled as sleeping quarters.

“Space is a commodity with the cots, equipment and supplies that the MPs and Security Forces are bringing,” said Tech Sgt. Shaun Cowherd, who acted as lodging liaison with school personnel.

“We had to put the serving line at one end of the gymnasium, tables to eat at in the middle of the room, and sleeping areas surrounding the tables.

“I had to ask the school to open up additional classrooms for training and tactical areas. It’s a bit tight, but everyone should have a hot meal and a comfortable place to sleep.”

Army Sgt. Lashonda Castellanos, a military police Soldier, was impressed with the sleeping arrangements and cooking services provided by the 123rd.

“They were able to roll out meals for

all of us even when we were arriving at odd times,” she said. “It was hot, we have a place to sleep and we can go out to do the things that we need to do.”

Castellanos, like the majority of the 6,500 Guardsmen who deployed to the capital region, was charged with augmenting security provided by the Secret Service, Parks Authority and the D.C. Metro Police Department, said Maj. Nathaniel Church, Sustainment Services Flight commander for the 113th Force Support Squadron at Andrews.

“They are here to provide an extra set of eyes and ears for our local law enforcement,” he said. “Security at this event is our top priority.”

Each incoming military member, no matter his or her assigned mission, was given security and procedural training by the D.C. police department and sworn in as a temporary deputy.

“Even though we are here to cook, it was really surreal to listen to a briefing on the correct way to look for suspicious packages and people who might be out of place,” said Senior Airman Dwight Trowell as he was stacking bottles of water.

“It really reminds you that we are really here to support the president.”

Throughout the course of the deployment, which ended Jan. 21, the Kentucky team served more than 1,800 meals to Army Guard MP units from Manassas and Fredericks, Va.; and an Air Guard Security Forces unit from Langley Air Force Base, Va.

“It’s definitely true what they say,” said Army 1st Lt. Lloyd Weaver, executive officer of the 266th Military Police Company. “The Army does move on its stomach. We are very grateful when we can get a hot meal and a place to sleep. It’s really great that we can have another military organization be able to come in and provide that to us.

“We don’t always get that chance to work side-by-side with the Air Force. This is a great opportunity for us to work together on something this momentous.”

For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/kyngpao/sets/72157632592353475/

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Shepherd retires, ending 32 years of dedicated service

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

With 32 years of outstanding service to the 123rd Airlift Wing, Chief Master Sgt. Michael W. Shepherd was honorably retired from the U.S. Air Force during a ceremony Dec. 1 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

More than a hundred friends, family members and fellow Guardsmen, both active and retired, attended the ceremony, which was punctuated by laughter and tears as the chief looked back on his career.

Capt. James Embry, an aircraft maintenance officer who has worked with Shepherd for the past 15 years, spoke at the event, praising him as a natural leader.

"He has the ability to rally the troops and lead them to a common goal greater than themselves," Embry said.

When he asked others to describe Shepherd's character, Embry received many telling responses: willingness to help; someone who takes care of his people; a father figure; a person of integrity; the ability to unite; a team player; down to earth; not afraid to make tough decisions; full of humility and respect.

"Your legacy here at the Kentucky Air National Guard will live on by all the lives you've touched or helped mentor throughout your career," Embry concluded. "Your career truly lives up to the Air Force core values: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all you do."

After graduating from Manual High School in Louisville in 1978, Shepherd was an aspiring mechanic. One day after passing the base while working at a local car dealership, he noticed a C-5 Galaxy parked on the tarmac. He stopped in during an open house a few weeks later and was asked if he would like to work on aircraft.

"The rest was history," Embry added.

Shepherd joined the Kentucky Air Guard in 1980 as a traditional aircraft maintenance crew chief on the RF-4C Phantom II. He was hired full-time in 1983 and was later named Airman of the Year. From 1985 to 1989, he was assigned to the Maintenance Operations Center within the 123rd Maintenance Group. In 1989, he was a key



Staff Sgt. Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. Michael W. Shepherd (right), 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent, receives his certificate of retirement from Col. Ken Dale, commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group, during a ceremony held on base Dec. 1.

player in the wing's conversion from the RF-4C to C-130B Hercules aircraft as the Kentucky Air Guard transitioned its mission from photo reconnaissance to military airlift.

In 1991, Shepherd was named crew chief for a factory-fresh C-130H aircraft, tail no. 91-1238, which is widely considered to be one of the best in the fleet. From 1995 to 2003, he filled the position of isochronal dock chief for the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, and in 2001 he was again named Airman of the Year. Shepherd's unit was activated following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and he deployed to multiple locations across the globe in support of the Global War on Terror.

Shepherd led the 123rd AGS as flight chief, and the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron as production superintendent, through numerous inspections and deployments from 2004 to 2008. In 2008, he was promoted to chief master sergeant and became the superintendent of the 123rd AMXS, deploying in support of Operations

Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"Along the way, his career was filled with — well let's just say if he was a professional athlete, he would have a favorable stat sheet," Embry said.

Shepherd, who was presented with a Meritorious Service Medal and the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony, thanked his many friends and family members for their support through the years.

"Thanks to my family," Shepherd said as his voice strained with emotion. "You obviously can't have a career like I've had, and not have good support at home. And that's family and friends."

Under his leadership, the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron successfully met 100 percent of the unit's taskings in support of the Global War on Terror, supporting over 10,000 sorties, 22,000 flying hours and more than 218,000 mission-capable hours.