

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Tech. Sgt. Harley Bobay (above), a combat controller in the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, has been named the Kentucky Air Guard's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Senior Airman Vincenzo Lafronza (below), a C-130 crew chief in the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is the winner in the Airman category.



Photos by Master Sgt. Phillip Speck/KyANG

## *Tip of the Spear*

### **Lafronza, Bobay, Foster named Kentucky Air National Guard's Airmen of the Year for 2013**

**By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

Strong leadership, a commitment to self-improvement and a passion for community service are just a few of the reasons why Senior Airman Vincenzo Lafronza, Tech Sgt. Harley Bobay and Master Sgt. Sharon Foster have been named the Kentucky Air National Guard's 2013 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"I am extremely proud to announce the selections for this year's Airmen of the Year," said Chief Master Sgt. James Smith, state command chief for Joint Forces Headquarters—Kentucky. "As with every year, the competition was keen, and the winners of each category were selected by the slimmest of margins. Each nominee is amazing, both in their respective duties here at the Guard and within their communities."

Lafronza, the winner of the Airman category, is a C-130 crew chief for the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He was selected, in part, because of his exemplary knowledge of the Hercules aircraft, according to Senior Master Sgt. Tim Nash, Lafronza's supervisor and a flight chief in the 123rd AMS.

"When I first met him, he was coming to us from a different unit working on different aircraft," Nash said. "I thought he might have difficulty learning

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# New approach to fitness will help Kentucky Airmen gain the edge to succeed

The Air Force fitness test has always been a source of concern to both active-duty members and Guardsmen.

While the fitness program has periodically changed, we have always had fitness standards.

When I first joined, chin-ups were part of the fitness test. Over the years, we went from the run to the steps to the exercise bike, then back to the steps and now back to the run.

It is unlikely that standards will remain the same.

Regardless, my expectation is that all members assigned to this unit will maintain a level of fitness in accordance with the current standards set forth in AFI 36-2905.

It is the duty of every commander at each level to ensure compliance with the Air Force Fitness Program. Some things are quite clear in the AFI, while others are subjective in their application.

We are addressing those options and attempting to standardize a process wing-wide. The goal is to enforce the standards and assist those needing improvement.

My best advice is to never give up on any portion of the fitness test. If you fail, do your best to show improvement



Col. Warren Hurst  
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

next time with more pushups or more sit-ups. Follow the Fitness Improvement Program.

It is my goal to provide every Airman of the 123rd Airlift Wing with ample opportunity for success concerning their physical fitness.

I have taken steps designed to give folks the edge in making a better score. The plan is to conduct a fitness test using the hangar and flight line twice a

year when the weather is the best for maximizing performance — April and October.

We will start in the hangar for push-ups and sit-ups. We have purchased new mats for use when maxing out your sit-ups. No more hard tile floors, unless that is your preference.

Instead of running four circles around the Headquarters Building, we have coordinated to run two laps around the flight line.

Why? Because it is flat, smooth and has fewer turns. You horse fans know the condition of the track matters. This “track” should give you the edge to make a better time.

This mass fitness test will occupy the better part of the morning, but individual participation will take less than 30 minutes.

The maximum number of participants is 50 per session for a total of 300 for the day. This means we will still be conducting smaller fitness tests every UTA weekend.

However, I encourage you to give this ramp run a try. If you are unsure about it, come out and try it for practice.

Gain the edge!

— 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.

The publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is April 19.

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# Roy selected as wing's first sergeant of the year

## Security Forces Airmen dedicated to mentorship

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Kevin Roy of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron has been named the Kentucky Air National Guard's Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year for 2013.

As first sergeant, Roy provides oversight and guidance to more than 85 Security Forces Airmen, assisting with any pay, personal and family issues that may arise. He has revamped the squadron's Dependent-Care Program and operates a Family Liaison Program that facilitates regular interaction with the family members of deployed troops.

A full-time Louisville Metro Police officer, Roy joined the Guard in 1999 and has served as the squadron's "first shirt" since March 2011.

It's a position he is well qualified for, according to Chief Master Sgt. Dan Radke, chief enlisted manager for the 123rd Security

Forces Squadron.

"Part of his responsibilities include ensuring Airmen in the security forces are well trained and have all of the unit's resources available to them," Radke said.

"Roy does more than that. He has an open door for these guys. He is a confidant, a mentor and professional colleague. He really strives to know each member of the squadron. They know that whatever issue they might be experiencing, their first sergeant is there to help."

Roy also places a high level of emphasis on making sure his Airmen are properly trained.

"It is very important for them to stay current in their military education to be promotable to the higher enlisted levels," said Roy, a certified Taser instructor and civilian Active Shooter Response Team member who is certified to conduct field sobriety tests and holds a bachelor's degree in business management.

"I am also stressing to my Airmen the value of a good education, both within the military and law enforcement."

Being a mentor and community leader outside the Air Guard is another priority for Roy, who encourages civic involvement among his Airmen.

He is a volunteer with the Explorers Program and an instructor at Merit Badge University, which assists Boy Scouts in earning merit badges.

"I have to lead by example," he said.

"My father told me to surround myself with good people, and I encourage my Airmen to do the same thing. Get involved in the community; surround yourself with people who become a positive influence on you. That is my goal every day: to be a positive influence and good example to my guys."



**ROY**

# Huynh is the top Honor Guard member for 2013

## NCO's professionalism key to high public standards

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Bao Huynh of the 123rd Force Support Squadron has been named the Kentucky Air National Guard's Outstanding Honor Guard Member of the Year for 2013.

A 14-year veteran of the Air National Guard, Huynh had always admired the Honor Guard for its commitment to excellence, and he jumped at the opportunity to join the base squad when the opportunity presented itself two years ago.

"When I first saw what the Honor Guard did and how sharp they looked, I knew I wanted to be a part of what they stood for," said Huynh, unit training manager for the 123rd FSS.

"When I learned how much they mean to our veterans and the people we serve, being a part of the team began to mean something

more for me."

Huynh's duties include presenting the colors at public events and performing military funeral rites such as the presentation of the American flag to fallen service members' families — a role he takes to heart.

"When I see the pride in the families' faces that they have for their loved one, it makes me want to do my best for them," Huynh said.

"It is my job and my responsibility to look the best that I can, to be the most professional that I can be and to give as much honor to that family member as I can. They deserve that for the sacrifice that was made."

Huynh's attention to detail is one of many things that led to his selection as Outstanding Honor Guard Member of the Year, according to Master Sgt. Jennifer Thiery, services superintendent.

"Every day when he comes in, he has a smile on his face and he is ready to work," Thiery said.

"Not only is he prepared, he ensures that other members of the Honor Guard are

ready as well. He is constantly helping them to train for Honor Guard duties because it is that important to him. He understands the value of what the Honor Guard does."

That understanding is a trait Huynh believes should be passed down to each member of the team.

"It is important for each of them to know that we are the face of the Air Force," he said. "We are the ones front and center that everyone sees."

"It is our responsibility to look our best, to perform with precision, and to set a high standard of expectations."



**HUYNH**

# Command Interest

## AMC leader visits Kentucky Air Guard

The new commander of Air Mobility Command visited the Kentucky Air National Guard here Feb. 5 to learn more about the mission of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Gen. Paul J. Selva, who assumed command of AMC Nov. 30, attended a mission briefing and visited with Airmen from multiple Kentucky units, including the 165th Airlift Squadron, the 123rd Contingency Response Group, the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron and the 123rd Force Support Squadron.

Accompanied by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Air National Guard assistant to the commander of AMC, and Chief Master Sgt. Andy Kaiser, AMC command chief master sergeant, Selva also viewed demonstrations of the wing's new Mobile Emergency Operations Center, a new Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer and a C-130 Hercules aircraft configured for disaster-response operations.

See more photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/kyngpaol/sets/72157632757215609/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/kyngpaol/sets/72157632757215609/)



Above: General Paul J. Selva (left), commander of Air Mobility Command, takes a bottle of water from an F-6 Adros Robot during a demonstration Feb. 5 by members of the 123rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight.



Left: Master Sgt. Carol Davis, emergency manager for the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, explains the functionality of the Mobile Emergency Operations Center.

Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Speck



Above: Selva tours the 123rd Force Support Squadron's new Disaster Response Mobile Kitchen Trailer. Unit members deployed with the state-of-the-art field kitchen in January, serving more than 1,800 meals to troops supporting President Barack Obama's inauguration.

Left: A member of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron discusses unit capabilities.

**Chiefs' Group seeking applicants for scholarships**

The Kentucky Air National Guard Chiefs' Group is seeking applicants for its 2013 College Scholarship Program.

Multiple scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500, but the awards may be increased based on demonstrated need and availability of funds, according to Chief Master Sgt. Johnie Cherry of the 123rd Medical Group.

Applicants must be dependents of a current, retired or deceased enlisted member of the Kentucky Air National Guard. Applicants also must be graduating high school seniors who are scheduled to attend an accredited undergraduate program at a college or university this fall.

Awards will be based on high school academic achievement and demonstrated community involvement, Cherry said.

Each applicant is required to submit an application form, a high school transcript and a one-page essay on educational goals and long-range plans.

The deadline to apply is May 1.

For more information, contact Cherry at (502) 413-4413.

**Free services available from financial counselor**

The Kentucky National Guard's Joint Family Support Assistance Program is now offering free financial counseling through its personal finance counselor, Regina Harris.

Services include confidential assistance with money management, spending plans, savings and investments, debt management, home purchasing, retirement planning and tax planning.

To set up an appointment, call Harris at (502) 607-1680.

**Kentucky Military History Museum reopens after extensive renovations**

By Chelsea Compton  
Kentucky Historical Society

FRANKFORT, Ky. — After extensive renovations, the Kentucky Military History Museum reopened to the public here March 9.

The Kentucky Historical Society's "Kentucky Military Treasures" exhibition returns to the museum for the grand reopening, including artifacts and stories of Kentuckians who fought in battles spanning nearly 200 years of conflicts, from the War of 1812 to more recent engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A recently restored piece of the Fighting Falcon, the first American glider to land at Normandy on D-Day, is a featured exhibit.

The final phase of the building's renovations allowed the return of the Old Wars Records collection, which houses records from before 1912 and is managed by the Military Records and Research Branch of the Department of Military Affairs.

A new main entrance also was created and accessibility features were improved, including revisions to the parking lot, stairs and sidewalks.

Funding was provided by the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation and the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund.

The goal of the multi-phase, five-year project was to restore the building as nearly as possible to its original appearance.

The museum is housed in the State Arsenal, which was constructed in 1850 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Before becoming the Kentucky Military History Museum in 1974, the building was used as a warehouse for the Kentucky State Guard's military equipment and munitions.

During the Civil War, it housed a cartridge factory that employed many women and was a point of defense for the capital city. In 1933, a fire destroyed the roof and damaged the second floor.

The Kentucky Military History Museum is operated jointly by the Kentucky Historical Society and the Department of Military Affairs.

The museum is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All visitors must check in at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, 100 W. Broadway in downtown Frankfort. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for veterans and AAA members, and \$2 for students. Admission includes entrance to the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History and a tour of the Old State Capitol.

**Hotaling new ANG command chief**

**Top enlisted troop to speak tonight at Louisville banquet**

**Cargo Courier Staff Report**

Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling was selected as the Air National Guard's newest command chief Jan. 8.

Hotaling, who is scheduled to speak tonight at the Kentucky National Guard's Outstanding Airman and Soldier of the Year Banquet in Louisville, previously served as command chief for the Continental U.S. NORAD Region — 1st Air Force (Air Forces Northern).

As ANG command chief, he will serve as senior adviser to Lt. Gen. Sid Clarke,

the incoming director of the Air National Guard, on matters concerning the readiness, morale and welfare of more than 90,000 enlisted Airmen.

Hotaling succeeds Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, who retired in September after serving almost four years as the Air National Guard's command chief.

Hotaling will be the Air Guard's 11th command chief. Prior to July 1998, the title was senior enlisted advisor.

He's spent nearly 24 years in various Air Force Special Tactics and leadership positions. He also serves as a member of the Air Guard's Enlisted Field Advisory Council and the Combat Control Association. Hotaling enlisted in the Air Force in 1987 and joined the Oregon Air Guard in 2003.

# Wing takes home four national PA awards

**Speck, Greer each win two categories at NGB competition**

Airmen assigned to the 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office have won four first-place awards in the 2012 National Guard Bureau Media Contest, officials announced Feb. 14.

The highly competitive event, which recognizes the best work of public affairs professionals across the National Guard, receives hundreds of entries from the 54 U.S. states and territories every year.

Master Sgt. Phil Speck, the wing's public affairs manager, won first place in the sports story and news photo competitions, while Maj. Dale Greer, the wing's chief of public affairs, won first place in the feature photo and picture story contests.

The new honors reflect a continued tradition of Public Affairs achievement at the 123rd Airlift Wing, which has earned more than 75 national awards of excellence from the National Guard Bureau, U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense since 1995.

**Left: This photo, by Master Sgt. Phil Speck of the 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, won first-place news photo in the 2012 National Guard Bureau Media Contest. The photo depicts a member of the 123rd Airlift Wing receiving a welcome-home hug from loved ones on the flight line Nov. 10. The Airman was one of 58 Kentucky Guardsmen returning from a four-month deployment to the Persian Gulf.**



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

**Top right: This photo, by Maj. Dale Greer of the 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, won first-place feature photo in the 2012 National Guard Bureau Media Contest. The image shows medical personnel offloading a simulated patient from a Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 at Fort Campbell, Ky., as part of a Critical Care Air Transport Team training course conducted by instructors from the Air Force Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills at the University of Cincinnati. The Kentucky Air Guard's 165th Airlift Squadron began providing C-130s to use as a CCATT training platform in 2009.**



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

## Airmen

Continued from Front Page

a different aircraft, but he didn't. He hit the ground running and hasn't stopped to look back."

A Quality Assurance Honor Roll recipient for logging zero defects on 100 percent of assessment inspections, Lafronza had no idea he had even been nominated for the award.

"I thought I was just coming in every day and doing my job," he said. "I just wanted to do the best I could, and someone took notice. I was very surprised and excited to be chosen."

Lafronza is currently a student at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and a volunteer for the New York Cares organization, which provides assistance to victims of Hurricane Sandy.

"I was checking on him during his leave after he returned home from a recent deployment," Nash said, "and there he was, at a clothing distribution center, handing out clothes to people affected by the hurricane. He has a big heart, always ready to learn something new and the first to volunteer to help."

Bobay, the winner in the Non-Commissioned Officer category, is a combat controller for the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron and a recipient of both the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

Deployed for 175 days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Bobay sacrificed personal safety to save the lives of coalition forces while under constant enemy small-arms and mortar fire, according to Chief Master Sgt. Tom DeSchane, chief enlisted manager for the 123rd STS. Bobay helped neutralize every insurgent attack in his area and protect a local village from Taliban insurgency.

Aside from his tactical duties, Bobay is a mentor to younger, less-experienced members of the squadron.

"He is constantly passing down his knowledge to the younger guys," DeSchane said. "He is always on the go, always training, always moving forward

and looking for the next challenge. He is a hard worker who encourages those around him to work harder."

Along with his mission responsibilities, Bobay balances family life with community volunteering. He is a wrestling coach for a local elementary and middle school and a fund-raiser for the Wounded Warrior Project.

"I was very surprised when I was chosen for the award," Bobay said. "There are so many other people that I work with every day that do the same job as me, and do it better. It is very humbling to be chosen from among such a hardworking and dedicated group like these guys."

Foster, who was selected as senior NCO of the year, is the non-commissioned officer in charge of force management for the 123rd Force Support Squadron, a customer-based organization.

"I have always had the upmost trust and confidence in Sergeant Foster's ability to assist our customers," said Chief Master Sgt. Lori Zinsmeister, chief enlisted manager for the 123rd FSS. "She takes the time to counsel each of them to give them the best information that she can."

Some of Foster's responsibilities include ensuring retirement, promotion and re-enlistment packets are put together

correctly and accurately.

"I know that when I give her an assignment, or if one of our patrons asks for her assistance, the job will get done," Zinsmeister said. "She is always doing work at a chief's level: accurately and timely. I can trust her to get the job done."

For Foster, who also won Airmen of the Year at the NCO level in 2005, the newest honor is confirmation of a continuing job well done.

"I was very surprised to have been nominated in the senior category," she said. "It was a great feeling to be recognized the first time, but to have been nominated and selected a second time at a higher level is even better. It lets me know that the job I am doing does make a difference."

*The 2013 Outstanding Airmen of the Year will be honored, along with the Kentucky Army National Guard's Outstanding Soldiers of the Year, during a banquet to be held tonight at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.*

*The event gets underway with a social hour at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.*



**Master Sgt. Sharon Foster issues a military identification card to a dependent in the 123rd Force Support Squadron. Foster, the wing's non-commissioned officer in charge of force management, is the Kentucky Air Guard's Senior NCO of the Year for 2013. She previously won NCO of the Year in 2005.**

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

# Mullaney concludes 24-year career in Air Guard, USAF

## Colonel served in Panama, Southwest Asia; was first Airman to lead ADT in Afghanistan

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Col. Neil Mullaney was honorably retired from the Armed Forces during a ceremony held in his honor Feb. 2 at the 123rd Airlift Wing, closing out a military career spanning more than 24 years of dedicated service to the Air Force and Kentucky Air National Guard.

Hundreds of friends, family and colleagues gathered at the Base Annex to pay tribute to Mullaney, the outgoing director of Air Staff at Joint Forces Headquarters—Kentucky.

“Col. Mullaney has enjoyed a more diverse career than any officer that I know of,” said Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky’s assistant adjutant general for Air. “His accomplishments are an impressive list. He is passionate about what he does, with a relentless quest for new challenges. He didn’t just pass through from position to position. You could count on him to punch above his weight class toward mission accomplishment and serve as an inspiration to those around him.

“For those he led,” Kraus continued, “they would follow him anywhere.”

After his remarks, Kraus presented Mullaney with a Meritorious Service Medal (third Oak Leaf Cluster), a Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal and the official certificate of retirement.

A 1988 graduate of the University of Louisville Air Force ROTC program and a veteran of four different conflicts, Mullaney began his active-duty career at Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he was assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing. He soon deployed to Panama in support of Operations Just Cause and Promote Liberty, planning and executing special operations missions against Manuel Noriega’s Panamanian Defense Forces. Mullaney later deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where he was part of a special operations task force that tracked and targeted Scud Missile sites in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In 1994, Mullaney left active duty and began his Reserve career with the Kentucky Air National Guard, serving as chief of Intelligence Operations. Three years later, he was selected as detachment commander of the 205th Combat Communications Squadron, beginning a 16-year span in which he would command five different units. In 2000, Mullaney was selected to be the first commander of the newly formed 41st Civil Support Team, a unique unit designed to support civil authorities at the scene of incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

In 2003, Mullaney was named commander of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and he deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, supervising maintenance of 24 C-130 aircraft while maintaining a 99 percent mission effectiveness rate.

Mullaney was next selected as commander of the 123rd Maintenance



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Vicky Spesard/KyANG

**Col. Neil Mullaney (right), outgoing director of the Air Staff at Joint Forces Headquarters—Kentucky, receives a Meritorious Service Medal, third Oak Leaf Cluster, from Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky’s assistant adjutant general for Air, during a retirement ceremony held on base Feb. 2.**

Group in 2006, leading subject matter expert teams to Ethiopia, Kuwait and Yemen. Five years later, he deployed to Afghanistan as the first Air National Guard officer to lead an Agribusiness Development Team. During the deployment, the group of Kentucky Army and Air National Guardsmen conducted more than 250 missions in support of government stabilization.

“There are three positions you should always be in during your career,” Mullaney said, addressing the crowd. “You can have someone give you an opportunity, be there in support of that opportunity, or provide that opportunity. I think it is best to be providing that opportunity. It is so much more rewarding than anything you will receive on your own. My prayer is that I can look back on my career and see that I have helped someone else.

“There has always been someone throughout my career to give me that opportunity,” he continued. “At every stage and every unit, there have always been a group of people who wouldn’t let me fail — those people who just made things happen: a long list of chiefs and people whose names don’t get mentioned. I am deeply touched by everyone who has shown up here today. You are a huge part of my life, and I want to thank you for everything.”