

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Staff Sgt. Brian Leach, aerial port ramp supervisor from the 123rd Contingency Response Group, pushes a pallet of cargo from a C-17 during Exercise Eagle Flag at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., on March 28, 2012.



Airman 1st Class Levin Boland/USAF

Members of the 123rd Contingency Response Group join with other Airmen and Soldiers to prepare Patriot Missile Battery equipment for transport to Turkey from Altus Air Force Base, Okla., on Jan. 4.

Leading the Way

Kentucky Air Guard's Contingency Response Group named the top CR unit in the Air National Guard

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

The Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group has been named the Air National Guard Contingency Response Unit of the Year for 2012.

The group was chosen for the honor over six other contingency response units, including five airlift control flights, said Col. Mark Heiniger, commander of the 123rd CRG.

He credited the group's recent performance in the movement of a Patriot Missile Battery for helping win the award. Airmen from the 123rd deployed to Oklahoma in December to prepare the battery for shipment to Turkey, eventually loading 21 aircraft with more than 300 personnel and over two million pounds of equipment in six days.

"That was a tremendously important mission because it helped ensure the Turkish government's self-defense capabilities in response to the ongoing Syrian civil war," he said.

The group also set new standards of excellence last spring when it moved a record amount of cargo while becoming the first contingency response unit in the Air Guard to be verified by the U.S. Transportation Command as fully capable of operating

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Begin preparing now for changes to the Air Force Inspection System

The Air Force Inspection System is undergoing some changes. This is not a simple tune-up or easy make-over; it is a complete overhaul.

It is a significant change in the way business is conducted when evaluating and inspecting a wing's ability to effectively accomplish its mission.

This new inspection process is a concept awaiting final four-star approval, which is expected to happen this summer at Corona, the regular meeting of Air Force four-star generals.

Of course, there are more questions than answers regarding the new inspection process. Everyone knows it is coming, but little is written and no one is sure how best to prepare for the unfamiliar.

Let's start with what we do know or have heard. The term "Operational Readiness Inspection" is being replaced with "Unit Effectiveness Inspection." The Air Mobility Command Inspector General recently decided that AMC will no longer conduct deployed ORIs.

So what is a UEI? Well, it is not a deployed ORI, nor is it a home-station ORI. Instead, it is a compliance and readiness inspection in one visit.

It will consist of some virtual inspections, followed up with a visit to verify/validate compliance and readiness as confirmed by the Wing Commander. More details on how will emerge over the



Col. Warren Hurst
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

coming months as this concept matures.

There is more focus on the wing commander to provide oversight of the various programs under the wing via self-inspections and other internal controls. So what you are doing right now with the Management Internal Control Toolset and our preparations for the compliance inspections next month is perfect. It is exactly what we need to be doing to prepare for our UEI at this stage.

As for the readiness aspect, we will

further refine our efforts along these lines beginning in June. This is nothing new; it is simply changing the way we validate mission effectiveness. We will address our ability to accurately measure all facets of readiness.

The wing will develop a new dashboard to assist us in tracking readiness metrics. This will help us push resources to areas that require more attention, thus increasing our readiness.

The AMC/IG is restructuring the Command Inspection Calendar to line up the UEI. Some units have had their ORIs canceled and will be rescheduled for a UEI. The UEI has a scheduled Full Operational Capability date of Oct. 1, 2014. That's the same month we are scheduled for our UEI.

We are 18 months away from our UEI — plenty of time, if we plan "effectively." Keep doing what you are doing. Get smarter on MICT and stay familiar with your self-inspection checklists.

We are going down the right path, and we will help shape the design for this new inspection process by staying engaged with our functional managers and higher headquarters partners.

Thanks for all the hard work. Keep up the sharp appearance, professionalism and esprit de corps.

— 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.

123rd Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Wing Commander.....Col. Warren Hurst
Chief of Public Affairs.....Maj. Dale Greer
Public Affairs Manager.....Master Sgt. Philip Speck
Photo Editor.....Staff Sgt. Maxwell Rechel
Staff Writer.....Master Sgt. Diane Stinnett
Staff Writer.....Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
Staff Writer.....Airman Joshua Horton

Address: 1101 Grade Lane, Louisville, KY 40213-2678
Phone: (502) 413-4484 • Fax: (502) 413-4676
E-mail: 123AW.PA@ang.af.mil

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Military personnel records available online at myPers

Now that your military personnel record is electronic, you can access it 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You can view and print forms or manage your records when it's convenient for you.

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Although you may log in to myPers with a userid and password, you will need to use your Common Access Card to access PRDA.

From your myPers homepage, go to the "I Would Like To..." section and select "View my e-Records (PRDA)." After the CAC log in action, select "PRDA" from the "My Sections" area on the left.

The categories of your record will display. Instructions on the page give you different options for accessing your forms.

MyPers should be your first stop for conducting any kind of personnel business.

It's your Total Force source for Air Force personnel information and services.

Applications due May 1 for chiefs' scholarships

Applications are due May 1 for the Kentucky Air National Guard College Scholarship Program, sponsored by the KyANG Chiefs' Group.

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.

Contact Cherry at (502) 413-4413 for application forms or more information.

Kraus named ANG assistant to commander of AFCENT

Kentucky officer to advise on operational readiness matters

Cargo Courier Staff Report

Brig. Gen. Mark R. Kraus has been appointed to the position of Air National Guard assistant to the commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command, at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., effective June 1, 2013, Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini announced April 17.

Kraus has served the Commonwealth of Kentucky as the assistant adjutant general for Air since October 2008.

In his new role, Kraus will advise the AFCENT commander and Combined Force Air Component Commander for U.S. Central Command, Lt. Gen. David L. Goldfein, on Air National Guard operational readiness matters and serve as a catalyst between AFCENT, the National Guard Bureau and ANG units in the field, Tonini said. He will additionally serve as a special projects officer for the AFCENT commander.

"General Kraus has truly excelled over 40 years of years of service to our nation and Commonwealth," Tonini said.

In addition to his role at assistant adjutant general and commander, Kentucky Air National Guard, General Kraus currently serves as the Intelligence Directorate assistant to the director, Air National Guard, and as the ANG assistant to the commander, Air Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency. He will continue in these roles of national responsibility until replacements are assigned, Tonini said.

Kraus served as commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's Louisville-based 123rd Airlift Wing from November 2004 to October 2008. He was mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. While deployed for Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Kraus served with U.S. Central Command as commander of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing and Deputy Commander of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group.

The general first entered active-duty



KRAUS

service with the U.S. Air Force in December 1972 as a Supply Inventory Management Specialist at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. He transferred through the Palace Chase program to the Kentucky Air National Guard in April 1974 in the same role, rising to the rank of staff sergeant. Kraus received his commission through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1979 and became an RF-4C "Phantom II" aircraft weapons systems officer with the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in Louisville following graduation from Air Force navigator school in May 1981.

His positions with the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing and, after the wing's conversion to the C-130 aircraft in 1989, the 123rd Airlift Wing, include 123rd Operations Group commander, 165th Airlift Squadron commander, chief of standardization/evaluation, chief of weapons and tactics, airspace manager, and flying training officer.

"General Kraus' selection to this prestigious position continues a long history of outstanding accomplishment by Kentucky National Guard members," Tonini said. "He clearly represents the 'Unbridled Service' commitment of our nation's finest Air National Guard Wing."

Groves selected top CRG officer in ANG

Guardsman excelled both at home and overseas in '12

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Ashley Groves of the 123rd Contingency Response Group has been named the National Guard Contingency Response Performer of the Year for 2012.

As director of operations for the 123rd Global Mobility Squadron in Louisville, Ky., Groves is responsible for overseeing every aspect of the group's operations, including preparation for training exercises and mission readiness.

"Ash is recognized in both the Guard and active-duty CRG community as a proven leader with exceptional expertise in his field," said Lt. Col. Dave Mounkes, deputy commander of the 123rd CRG. "He has a proven track record of being an innovator and leader in improving and expanding the CRG mission.

"I have worked with Ash for more

than six years," Mounkes continued. "He is a clear choice for this award, and it is phenomenal to see his efforts acknowledged at the national level."

Groves' accomplishments over the past year include his superior performance as CRG operations officer at Eagle Flag, a U.S. Transportation Com-

mand exercise that tested the group's ability to establish and operate a Joint Task Force-Port Opening in an austere environment. A JTF-PO is a deployed logistics hub that combines an Air Force aerial port of debarkation with an Army trucking and distribution unit.

The 123rd CRG set new standards of excellence during Eagle Flag, moving a record 465 pallets of cargo in just 72 hours, Mounkes said.

Groves also was hand-picked to lead a multidisciplinary team that conducted airfield surveys at four Tennessee airports on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The surveys, conducted in 1/8th the amount of time normally required, provided FEMA with critical information about the airports' ability to support relief operations after a hurricane.

Groves was equally productive overseas, deploying to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, for four months to serve as the liaison to the U.S. Central Command's Tanker Airlift Control Center director of mobility forces.

During his deployment, Groves "flawlessly enabled" 1,000 C-17 and C-5 missions, Mounkes said, receiving extensive praise from the commander at Kandahar.

Groves' military career began when he enlisted in the Air Force in 1997 as a hydraulics specialist on the KC-135 tanker before being cross-utilization trained as a crew chief.

He attended Officer Training School in 2000 and became an F-15E maintenance officer in 2001.

Three years later, Groves left active duty and joined the 123rd Airlift Wing as a traditional Guardsman, serving in the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 123rd Maintenance Operations Flight.

In 2006, he was selected as the project officer for a detachment that would eventually become the newly created 123rd Contingency Response Group,



Maj. Ashley Groves joined the wing in 2004.



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

Groves tracks cargo operations at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., during an Eagle Flag exercise in 2012. The 123rd CRG set new records during the deployment.

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Greenwood concludes 32 years of service

Chief deployed multiple times, was key player on 2010 ORI

By Airman Joshua Horton
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Greenwood retired from the 123rd Airlift Wing with honors during a ceremony here Jan. 13, concluding a career that spanned 32 years of service in the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard.

Greenwood, the wing's vehicle fleet manager, received a Meritorious Service Medal and a Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony, which drew a crowd of more than 200 friends, family and coworkers to the Base Annex.

"My fear today is that I cannot adequately illustrate the career and accomplishments of Chief Greenwood," said Maj. Kevin E. Thornberry, commander of the 123rd's logistics readiness squadron.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to officiate today's retirement ceremony for not only a great chief, but a great husband, father, grandfather and friend."

Greenwood's career began Nov. 19, 1980, when he enlisted in the active-duty Air Force and served as a vehicle operator and trainer at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. He transferred to the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1985, joining the wing's Resource Management Squadron as a vehicle operator.

Greenwood later cross-trained to vehicle maintenance and was hired as a full-time technician in 1996.

The following year, he became a member of the Active Guard-Reserve program, filling the post of vehicle manager and analyst.

Under his leadership, vehicle operations maintained a mission capability rating of more than 90 percent.

"I'm here to tell you that if there was a job to get done or a mission to execute, there was no one better for the task than Chief Greenwood," Thornberry told the audience.



Airman Joshua Horton/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Greenwood (right) is presented with a Meritorious Service Medal by Maj. Kevin E. Thornberry, commander of the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, during a retirement ceremony held in Greenwood's honor at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Ky., on Jan. 13, 2013. Greenwood, the 123rd Airlift Wing's vehicle fleet manager, served in the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard for 32 years.

"Although a great leader and a great mentor, Chief Greenwood's greatest strength is his warrior ethos."

Greenwood's leadership skills were exemplified when he served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the wing's Cargo Deployment Function during multiple Operational Readiness Inspections, including the first-ever Homeland Security/Homeland Defense ORI in 2010 when the wing received an overall rating of "excellent."

Greenwood deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in 2003, 2007 and 2008 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

He also has been an integral part of homeland support for Air Expeditionary Force deployments from 2001 to 2012, Thornberry said.

His expertise was highly regarded, with

Greenwood serving on the Vehicle Management Advisory Group for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region Four district office from 2010 to 2012.

"Chief Greenwood, you've touched many lives in the Kentucky Air National Guard," Thornberry said. "Although it will be difficult to replace you, we know that those who you've mentored are ready to step in. Good luck to you Chief. Sit back and enjoy your retirement knowing you did well."

Greenwood said he's looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children and four grandchildren, and to enjoying long weekend golf outings.

"I want to especially thank my family," he said. "I couldn't have done this without all of your support over the years. Thank you very much."

GENERAL *interest*

USTRANSCOM leader visits base

The commander of U.S. Transportation Command toured the base March 12, marking the second time in little more than a month that a four-star general has visited the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Gen. William M. Fraser III, who was on hand to learn more about the unit and its Airmen, received a mission brief from Col. Warren Hurst, wing commander, and Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general.

Fraser also talked with troops and examined a range of static displays that showcased the wing's disaster-relief capabilities, from special tactics and contingency response to a new Mobile Emergency Operations Center, a state-of-the-art field kitchen and Kentucky's Fatality Search and Recovery Team.

Gen. Paul J. Selva, commander of Air Mobility Command, viewed the same displays when he visited the 123rd Airlift Wing on Feb. 5.

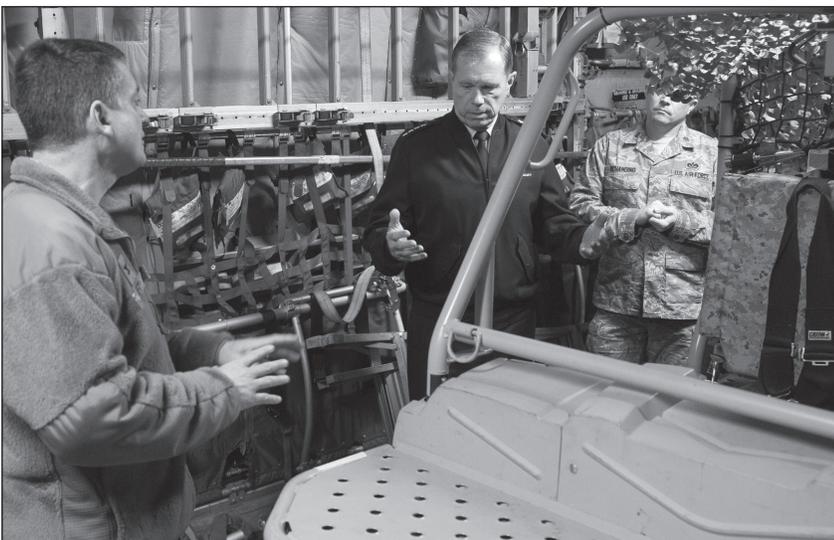
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Above: Gen. William M. Fraser III (right), commander of U.S. Transportation Command, speaks with Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, during a visit to the Kentucky Air National Guard Base on March 12.



Right: Staff Sgt. Aja Blair, a services training assistant in the 123rd Force Support Squadron here, shows off the unit's new Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer.



Photos by Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Above: Col. Warren Hurst (left) commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, shows Fraser a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 configured with a load of disaster-response equipment.

Right: Senior Airman Dwight Trowell, a Fatality Search and Recovery Team member in the 123rd Force Support Squadron, discusses FSRT protective gear.



Peters retires after 3 decades in Guard, USAF

Chief oversaw CE operations during '11 tour in Afghanistan

By Airman Joshua Horton
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

After 30 years of dedicated service to the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Steven Peters retired during a ceremony held in his honor Feb. 2 at the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Lt. Col. Phil Howard, commander of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, officiated the service, calling Peters a true professional who “always got the job done.”

“I’m honored to have this opportunity today to say a few things about the chief on his retirement after 30 years of service to the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard,” Howard told an audience of more than 200 friends, family and coworkers in the Base Annex.

“I want to thank everyone here for taking their time to pay tribute to a true patriot, a leader, a veteran, a brother, a son and, most importantly for me, a great friend.”

Peters, chief of operations for the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, decided to join the Armed Forces during his junior year of high school. While working odd jobs, he came to the conclusion that his talents would be better served elsewhere after an Air Force recruiter visited his school. Peters enlisted a year later.

After attending technical training as a plumber at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Peters was stationed at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas, for four years. Following a downsizing of the Air Force enlisted ranks, he left active duty and joined the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1986.

Peters’ first deployment was to Hawaii in 1988. After that, he deployed to multiple locations around the world, including England, Spain, Central America, Germany, Ecuador, Bagdad and Afghanistan.

Peters said his proudest moments

were his participation in Operation Enduring Freedom, the war in Afghanistan; Operation Iraqi Freedom, the war in Iraq; Operations Jump Start 1 and 2, the National Guard-led effort to enhance border security with Mexico; and Operation Neuvos Horizontes, a Kentucky National Guard mission to build a school and other infrastructure in Ecuador while enhancing relations with the Ecuadorian military.

“The thing I remember is that he always did things neatly, always maintained great military bearing and always, always got the job done,” Howard said.

Peters demonstrated his leadership in 2004 when he was selected as distinguished graduate at a Pavements and Equipment Training Course. He declined to accept the honor so a younger, up-and-coming troop could receive the award instead. For his selfless actions, Peters was given the commander’s award for Leadership in Excellence instead.

“You always took care of the men, and that was your key role,” Howard said, calling it an especially critical function when the unit was deployed in 2011 to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan — a site that receives regular enemy fire. “You quickly nailed down everyone’s location during rocket attacks, making sure we were all safe. You made sure everyone got credit for their hard work, personally processing 60 awards.”

Thanks in part to Peters’ persistence and character, Howard added, the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron received its first “excellent” rating during a 2010 Operational Readiness Inspection.

“I appreciate that you left this place better than you found it,” Howard said. “Most importantly, you met the prime objective, which is to always take care of the men and women of this unit. I want to salute you for your great contributions and a job well done.”



Airman Joshua Horton/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. Steven Peters (right) is presented with a Meritorious Service Medal by Lt. Col. Phil Howard, commander of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, during a retirement ceremony held on base Feb. 2.

123rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs Office
Kentucky Air National Guard
1101 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY 40213-2678

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

CRG

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a Joint Task Force-Port Opening — a logistics hub that combines an Air Force Aerial Port with an Army trucking and distribution unit.

“Getting the USTRANSCOM verification took a lot of work and effort from all members of the unit,” said Maj. Ashley Groves, director of operations. “We are very proud of that accomplishment.

“Getting recognition from the National Guard Bureau is validation that our unit’s willingness and ability to grow is important,” he continued. “It takes each member of our unit working above and beyond their normal duties to achieve this award.”

Described as an “airbase in a box,” the 123rd CRG is designed to be an early responder in the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other major emergency.

It has all the personnel, training and equipment needed to deploy to a remote site, open a runway and establish airfield operations so aid can flow in.

The group, which was formally stood

up just four years ago, is comprised of the 123rd Global Mobility Squadron and the 123rd Global Mobility Readiness Squadron. It provides personnel trained in command and control, aerial port operations, maintenance, security, logistics, fuels and intelligence.

Airmen from medical, finance, contracting, transportation, air operations and civil engineering are also elements of the award-winning group.

“The men and women in this unit are amazing,” said Lt. Col. Dave Mounkes, deputy commander of the 123rd CRG. “We can call them at any hour, and they will respond immediately. When we get the call for assistance, our mandated response time is 36 hours, but our folks get it done in less than 24 hours.”

It is this dedication and belief in the CRG mission that gained the attention of the National Guard Bureau.

“The 123rd CRG is a very strong group with a vast array of capabilities,” said S. Scott Duke, chief of Airfield Operations Division at the NGB. “The airfield operations board was very pleased to select the unit and recommend that they compete at the national level for this prestigious award.”

Groves

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beginning his career as an Air Guard Technician before re-joining the active-duty ranks as an Active Guard/Reserve officer.

“I was completely surprised by the award,” said Groves, who is both Air Assault and Pathfinder qualified.

“My focus is always on how to improve what the CRG does and to increase the awareness of our unit’s capabilities.

“It is every other member of our unit who works above and beyond what they are asked to do that makes our mission successful.

“As long as we keep moving our mission forward, increasing our group’s effectiveness and gaining recognition as a ‘go-to’ unit, that is recognition enough for me.”