

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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CUI Complete

Wing passes five inspections during 8-day evaluation

By Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 123rd Airlift Wing successfully completed its first Consolidated Unit Inspection May 22, passing all five evaluations conducted by officials from the National Guard Bureau and Air Mobility Command.

“You are an awesome team,” the wing commander, Col. Warren Hurst, told unit members during an inspection out-brief held in the Base Annex.

“You’ve done an outstanding job, and I want to thank you for all the hard work and the additional hours that you put in preparing for these inspections.

“You did this among budget cuts and pending furloughs. We didn’t stop deployments, we didn’t stop going out on exercises, and you had to figure out how to balance all this with a new inspection program.”

More than 100 inspectors descended on the base to examine a broad range of wing functions during the eight-day review, executing five different evaluations: an Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program, or ESOHCAMP; a Logistics Compliance Assessment Program, or LCAP; an Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Visit, or ASEV; an Airfield Operations Compliance Inspection, or AOCI; and a wing-wide Compliance Inspection that covered 10 additional graded areas.

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Above: Tech. Sgt. Billy Martin, an inspector from the Air Mobility Command Office of the Inspector General, observes vehicle maintenance procedures being performed by Airman 1st Class Trey Morlatt, a vehicle maintenance technician for the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, during an inspection here May 18.



Left: Master Sgt. Carlos Smith, an inspector from Air Mobility Command, discusses inventory labeling procedures with Master Sgt. Andrew Bush of the 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron during an evaluation of the base warehouse May 19.

Kentucky Air Guard photos by Senior Airman Vicky Spesard

You did it: Five higher headquarters inspections professionally accomplished

You did it! Five higher headquarters inspections professionally accomplished in just over one week.

It was a lot of hard work preparing for these inspections, but your efforts paid off.

The results were “excellent” or the equivalent of excellent in most categories, and some were even higher.

Your superior performance and professional “can do” attitude were noted by several inspectors from the various teams.

Wing leadership and Joint Forces Headquarters leadership are very proud of your results, which once again validate why the 123rd Airlift Wing is one of the best units in the nation.

Thanks for all the attention to detail and additional hours spent learning the Management Internal Control Toolset process that the new Air Force Inspection System is migrating toward.

Expect more changes to the inspection process as this concept matures over the next couple of years.

However, you have the edge now and are on the right path toward our Unit Effectiveness Inspection in 16



Col. Warren Hurst
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

months. Please keep forging ahead and stay engaged with your functional experts.

We have several new leadership changes occurring this weekend. It is perhaps the largest number of change-of-command ceremonies we have ever had over a UTA weekend.

Four squadrons will be conducting changes of command, with a fifth squadron undergoing a temporary

transfer of command. Then we have the Operations Group change of command that will simultaneously result in a new vice wing commander and deputy air commander.

All of these leadership changes were carefully planned and are the result of successful career development, mentorship, opportunity and timing.

We have a very talented corps of young officers with deployed experience, career field expertise, exceptional professionalism and the right level of professional military education.

I am very pleased with this new cadre of commanders and look forward to the manner in which they will lead us toward a higher level of excellence.

Please provide them the support they need to continue our mission as we navigate our way through a whirlpool of changes brought on by budget constraints and world politics.

Thanks again for a job well done, and please be safe this summer — and always.

— 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
 Senior Staff Writer.....Master Sgt. Diane Stinnett
 Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Austin Shaffner
 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

Visit our Website for expanded content — www.123aw.ang.af.mil • Follow us on Facebook for daily updates — www.facebook.com/123AWKY

Groves named top contingency response officer in ARC

Maj. Ash Groves has been named the 2012 U.S. Air Force Contingency Response Officer Performer of the Year for the Air Reserve Component, Air Mobility Command officials announced May 8.

Groves, director of operations for the 123rd Global Mobility Squadron here, previously won the same honor at the Air National Guard level.

“Ash is recognized in both the Guard and active-duty ... community as a proven leader with exceptional expertise in his field,” said Lt. Col. Dave Mounkes, deputy commander of the 123rd Contingency Response Group.

Groves’ accomplishments in 2012 include his superior performance as CRG operations officer at Eagle Flag, a U.S. Transportation Command exercise that tested the group’s ability to establish and operate a Joint Task Force-Port Opening in an austere environment.



GROVES

Base recycling effort diverts 250 tons of paper from dump

By Airman Joshua Horton
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing have recycled about 250 tons of paper since 1993, thanks to a waste-reduction program that diverts trash from local landfills while leveraging resources and saving money.

The base typically recycles between 12 and 16 tons of paper every year, said Philip Aschbacher, environmental manager for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

“It helps the environment and provides new life to the paper,” Aschbacher said of the program, which uses multiple collection points across the base to encourage participation.

“The other side of (recycling) is that, as a federal agency, all the printer paper we use has to be at least 30 percent recycled content. With recycling, we’re just closing the circle: It helps the people who are recycling the paper have an aftermarket for selling it after they’ve made it into paper again.”

Recycling helps make the wing a good steward of the environment, Aschbacher said, but it also provides financial benefits by lowering the bill for waste-disposal fees.

Aschbacher noted that the amount of collected paper has steadily increased, thanks in part to a growing awareness of the need to conserve resources.

“There has been steady improvement over the years,” he said. “I think the base has been doing a remarkable job.”

In addition to paper, the 123rd Airlift Wing also recycles cardboard, wooden pallets, plastic, aluminum, copper, tires, yard waste, solvents, oil, antifreeze, lead-acid batteries, 55-gallon drums and toner cartridges, among other items.

Recycling is just one component of a comprehensive base-wide environmental policy that calls for energy conservation, pollution prevention and regular envi-



Airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing have recycled about 250 tons of paper since 1993, thanks to a facility-wide waste-reduction program at the Kentucky Air Guard Base.

ronmental assessments, according to Col. Warren Hurst, wing commander.

“The Kentucky Air National Guard is committed to conducting its mission in an environmentally responsible manner,” Hurst said. “This commitment goes beyond compliance with the law and encompasses the integration of sound environmental practices into our daily decisions and activities.

“We have in the past, and will continue in the future, to pursue a course of responsible environmental stewardship.”

In 2012, for example, the 123rd Communications Flight installed new computer network servers that reduced energy consumption by up to 84 percent while maintaining the same level of performance, according to Tom Spalding, an environmental technician for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

The base also employs “smart” utility meters that track consumption of electricity and natural gas to identify opportunities for increased efficiency, Spalding said.

Wing announces new leadership assignments

Moves to take effect during ceremonies this weekend

By Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Col. Warren Hurst, commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing, has announced new leadership assignments that will take effect here this weekend.

Col. Barry Gorter, current commander of the 123rd Operations Group, will assume the role of 123rd Airlift Wing vice commander during a ceremony to be held at 2:15 p.m. today in the Fuel Cell Hangar. The outgoing vice commander, Col. Robert Hamm, will take command of the 123rd Operations Group during the same ceremony.

Gorter's new post is a "traditional" position, which means he will fulfill vice commander duties as a drilling reservist. During the week, the day-to-day functions of vice commander will be handled by Lt. Col. Jeff Wilkinson, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, who is being detailed to Wing Headquarters to serve as deputy air commander.

Maj. Sean McLane will act as commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron in the interim.

Lt. Col. Nick Coleman, the current director of operations for the 165th Airlift Squadron, will assume command of the flying unit from Lt. Col. Shawn Dawley, who has been selected to complete a prestigious year-long fellowship at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. This change-of-command ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. today in the Aircrew Briefing Room.

Maj. Kevin Krauss will return from a year of study at National Intelligence University to assume command of the 123rd Force Support Squadron from Lt. Col. George Imorde, who has been selected to attend Air War College in residence. The FSS change-of-com-

mand ceremony is slated for Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircrew Briefing Room.

Lastly, Lt. Col. George Tomica, current commander of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, will become deputy commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group.

Lt. Col. Chris Bishop, commander of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, will assume Tomica's previous post when he takes charge of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during a change-of-command ceremony scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Fuel Cell Hangar.

Maj. Ash Groves, director of operations for the 123rd Global Mobility Squadron, will assume command of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron during the same ceremony.

"Please join me in congratulating these exceptional officers as they take on new leadership responsibilities and continue to expand their educations in the Profession of Arms," Hurst said.

Gorter has served as commander of the 123rd Operations Group since 2010. Before that, he was deputy commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group.

Gorter is a veteran of numerous combat missions, including Operations Restore Hope, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In 2012, he served as deputy director of mobility forces at U.S. Central Command while deployed to Southwest Asia.

Hamm has served as vice commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing since January 2010. Prior to that, he was deputy commander of the 123rd Operations Group from July 2008 to September 2010.

Hamm deployed from October 2010 to January 2011 to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, where he served as director of operations at the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, helping lead a unit that set new airlift and airdrop records in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military career also includes deployments in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Provide Promise, Noble Eagle,



GORTER



HAMM



COLEMAN



WILKINSON



BISHOP



MCLANE

Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

Coleman is a command pilot with more than 5,300 flying hours in a variety of military aircraft.

He has deployed numerous times in support of OEF, OIF and U.S. Southern Command operations.

Wilkinson has been commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron since June 2008. Before that, he was the unit's director of operations for two years.

Wilkinson has deployed overseas in

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Fink concludes 42-year military career

Chief supported OEF, OIF, Restore Hope, Joint Forge

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sergeant David Fink was honorably retired from the Kentucky Air National Guard during a ceremony held March 17 at the 123rd Airlift Wing, closing out a military career spanning 42 years of dedicated service.

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at the Base Annex to pay tribute to Fink, who began his career as an aircraft maintenance machinist in 1971 and concluded his service as the chief enlisted manager for force support at Joint Forces Headquarters—Kentucky.

During the ceremony, Fink was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal and a 40-year service plaque, all of which were presented to him by Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air.

"You don't get to see too many of these," Kraus said of the 40-year plaque. "For those of you who are in this unit today and have been since Sept. 11, 2001, and have known nothing but war, I dare say that not many of you will stay or will want to stay for 40 years like Chief Fink.

"Twenty will be enough by the time you get to that point, and I want to thank you for your service," he continued. "If you can stay for 40 years, I think the chief would recommend that. So thanks, chief, for all that you've done here."

Fink joined the Kentucky Air National Guard as a traditional Guardsman shortly after graduating from high school.

He began his full-time military technician career as a structural repair specialist supporting the RF-4C Phantom II aircraft in 1975.

Fink became the noncommissioned officer in charge of the aircraft maintenance machine shop in 1990. He broadened his career in the spring of 1992 when he



Airman Joshua Horton/KyANG

Chief Master Sgt. David Fink (right) is presented with a Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal by Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air, during a retirement ceremony held here in Fink's honor March 17. Fink, the chief enlisted manager for force support at Joint Forces Headquarters—Kentucky, served in the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard for 42 years.

became the first sergeant for the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, deploying in support of operations in Germany, Panama and Kenya. In 2004, Fink was chosen to be the supervisor of the aircraft structural repair shop.

He deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in 2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the superintendent of operations. Fink's other deployments included Operations Iraqi Freedom, Restore Hope, Provide Promise and Joint Forge.

After retiring from the technician force in 2008, Fink continued to serve as the traditional maintenance group superintendent. His outstanding leadership played a key role in the 123rd Airlift Wing's receipt of an "excellent" rating during the nation's first Homeland Defense Operational Readiness Inspection in 2010, Kraus said.

Certificates of appreciation were pre-

sented during the ceremony to Fink's wife and mother, both of whom he thanked for their support.

"Every time I would go on a deployment, my mother would get the map out to see where I was going and ask me if I would be safe, and I would always say yes," the chief said. "I don't know if she believed me, but it was always good.

"To my wife," he continued, "thank God I found you, and thank you for believing in the Guard as much as I do."

Fink saved his final remarks for his much-beloved maintenance team members.

"Even though I am retiring out of Joint Forces Headquarters, my heart has always been with maintenance," he said. "It has been my privilege to work with you, and you will have a special place with me always."

Powerplay

LeMay scores spots on USAF and combined rugby teams

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Two yellow goal posts stand quietly in their own zones, one at each end of a glorious field of green marked with bright white lines at 10-meter intervals, waiting for a rugger to ground the ball in the in-goal area for the first five points of the season.

Master Sgt. Russ LeMay, a combat controller from the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, has been that player for both the U.S. Air Force and the Combined Services rugby teams in past seasons, and he hopes to be again in the upcoming seasons later this year.

A relatively new player to the sport, LeMay says rugby is his passion and that he was hooked from the start.

"I played football all through high school and never really thought of rugby," the Kentucky Air Guardsman said.

"I had a friend invite me out to play with him for the Louisville Men's Rugby Club in 2009 and I couldn't get enough. I loved the speed of the game, the strategy and the team work of all 15 players on the field. It is an amazing sport that keeps you going."

That camaraderie, competition and love of the game is what com-

pelled LeMay to try out for both of the national teams.

"These are high-level clubs," LeMay said. "Some of these guys are playing for the best teams in the nation. It's quite a step up from what normal club rugby is around the United States."

During his off time from the two teams and in between his duties with the Air Guard, LeMay plays with

his Louisville squad and has encouraged other Air Guard members to join him.

"So far, we have five guys from the unit who are playing," he said.

"We meet twice a week for practice, games on Saturday, and we always have a great time."

Indeed, rugby is a growing sport across the United States. In 2012, the number of active registered players has grown to more than 115,000, according to USA Rugby, the sport's governing body. The National Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association in 2010 ranked rugby as the fastest-growing sport in the nation.

Rugby will also make an appearance at 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio after being absent from the games since 1924.

"Not only is the sport growing here, it has begun to grow more in Kentucky and across parts of the United States," LeMay said.

"It's awesome to see."



Airman Joshua Horton/KyANG

Master Sgt. Russ LeMay, a combat controller from the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, practices rugby with the Louisville Men's Rugby Club March 19. LeMay has played for both the U.S. Air Force and Combined Services rugby teams, and he hopes to repeat again this year.

Mass PT boosts efficiency, gives Airmen edge

New fitness testing option stages run on base flight line

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 250 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing took their annual fitness tests here April 28 using a new approach designed to improve efficiency while giving Airmen the edge to succeed.

The program, which was three months in the planning, incorporated a seven-stage process that allowed multiple large groups to complete the test in 30 minutes blocks, according to by Capt. Tiffany Campbell, wing fitness coordinator. Previous tests were held with groups as small as two, making administration more difficult.

“The format that we used is a huge benefit to our wing,” Campbell said. “It helped us bring many non-current fitness members up to a current status, which improves our overall readiness and helps unit commanders keep all of their members on a regular testing cycle.”

Stage one of the “mass testing” event was a basic check-in where participants were given a score chart and a colored jersey that coincided with a specific testing coordinator who accompanied the member through the testing process. Stage two was the waist measurement.

Stages three and four consisted of pushups and sit-ups in the Fuel Cell Hangar. Mats were provided for comfort, and music played in the background.

The fifth stage was a 1 ½-mile run that took place on the flight line, providing runners with a flat surface and minimal turns to boost running performance.

Stage six returned participants to the hangar, where their final scores were tallied. Airmen with passing scores were dismissed, while Airmen who failed to



Above: Members of the 123rd Airlift Wing conduct a mass physical fitness test by running on the flight line here May 19. The mass testing is designed to improve efficiency while giving Airmen the edge to succeed.

Left: Staff Sgt. Brandon Curry, a firefighter from the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, performs pushups April 27.

Photos by Airman Joshua Horton

meet standards proceeded to stage seven, where they were enrolled in a fitness-improvement program.

Each Airman was assigned a specific time to check in, ensuring that all members would test with Airmen from their own units, Campbell said. In total, six chalks lined up for the test.

“The new format is a great improvement,” Master Sgt. Collin King said after completing his test. “It was a more relaxed environment, and there was more camaraderie taking the test with people you know, versus taking the test with one or two people you don’t know.”

Under the previous format, wing members were given numerous opportunities to test throughout the year, often in small groups of just two or three

people and with members from different units intermingled together. Pushups and sit-ups were conducted in whatever space was available at the time, and the run took place over an uneven road that threaded past parking lots and active vehicle traffic.

“One of the goals of the new format was to give our members the advantage when taking this test,” Campbell said. “They had the flat surface, which allowed them to have a better run. There were people out there cheering on the testers. The morale overall was huge.

“We had so many volunteers who came out to help with the event,” she continued. “Every little effort that went into it showed. We couldn’t have had the success we did without them.”

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Tech. Sgt. Kristin Kelly, cyber transport technician for the 123rd Communications Flight, examines the base network infrastructure with Master Sgt. Kyle Bunn, an inspector from Air Mobility Command, as part of the Consolidated Unit Inspection here May 19.

CUI

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Those areas were personnel and services; intelligence; operations and plans; logistics and installation/mission support; information dominance; the surgeon general; information protection; contracting; financial management; and public affairs.

Hurst noted that AMC inspectors recognized dozens of Airmen for exceptional performance and identified several wing programs as benchmarks of excellence.

“I am extremely pleased and proud of your performance all across the board,” he said.

CUIs represent a new approach to inspections by combining what previously would have been multiple self-contained evaluations staged at different times.

Leadership

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support of numerous operations, including Uphold Democracy, OEF and OIF.

McLane has served as director of operations for the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron since June 2010. Prior to that, he was a flight commander in the unit.

Krauss served as chief of intelligence in the 123rd Operations Group from August 2009 until leaving the wing last year to attend National Intelligence University. Prior

to that, he was the wing’s anti-terrorism officer from November 2007 to August 2009.

Tomica has served as commander of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron since 2008. He previously served as commander of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron from 2004 to 2008.

Bishop has served as commander of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron since June 2008. Prior to that, he was an aircraft maintenance officer.

Groves has served as director of operations for the 123rd Global Mobility Squadron since 2006. He was recently named the 2012 Air Reserve Component Contingency Response Officer Performer of the Year.