

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Gorter assumes command

Pilot replaces Hurst, who is moving to Headquarters post

By Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Col. Barry Gorter assumed command of the 123rd Airlift Wing during a ceremony here Nov. 24, thanking the unit's members for their past dedication and pledging his commitment to future readiness.

"This is our time," Gorter told the nearly 900 Airmen who gathered in the Fuel Cell Hangar to witness the change of command. "Whether you've been in the military four days or 40 years, this is our time — your chance and my chance to serve our country.

"And ours is an interesting time. The war in Iraq is over. Afghanistan is quickly winding down. But there are concerns — concerns like instability in the Middle East and emerging

threats in the Pacific region. But if the call comes tomorrow to go overseas and engage in conflict, we're ready. We are experienced and battle-tested, and we continue to train with vigor.

"Being selected to sit in the corner office during this period of our time is humbling. Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard: You are so talented, and I'm privileged to be your commander."

Gorter, the wing's 23rd commander, replaces Col. Warren Hurst, who has been named Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air.

The symbolic high point of the ceremony came when Hurst passed the wing guidon to Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, adjutant general of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, who then passed it on to Gorter, formally marking the transfer of responsibility.

Read more online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123372316



Airman 1st Class Joshua Horton/KyANG

Col. Barry Gorter receives his first salute as commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing during a change-of-command ceremony held in the Fuel Cell Hangar here Nov. 24.

Stone selected to lead 123rd MSG

Lt. Col. Matt Stone has been named commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Mission Support Group, effective Jan. 11. See photos and read more online at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123372241

Wilson completes final flight in Ky. C-130

Lt. Col. Scott Wilson, a C-130 pilot in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing, completed his final, or "fini," flight in the Hercules transport aircraft here Nov. 20. See photos and read more online at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123371631

Other headlines at www.123aw.ang.af.mil

123rd civil engineers deploy to Florida for largest Silver Flag exercise

Kentucky Air Guard supports C-130 maintenance seminar in Colombia

Dawson assumes responsibility as 123rd Airlift Wing command chief

Kentucky Airmen scale Mount McKinley as part of extreme-weather training

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Take time to reflect on the wing's remarkable accomplishments this year

It is my privilege to address you as your wing commander. It's also my good fortune to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This has been another remarkable year for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

As we enter a very busy holiday season, please take time to reflect on that.

We are in the business of military preparedness and execution. We often look forward to the next "thing" and don't ponder where we've been.

Each unit within the Kentucky Air National Guard is ready to fight our nation's battles on a moment's notice.

We have had members deployed all over the globe (literally).

Our fellow Kentucky citizens rely on us to respond to any disaster, natural or otherwise — and we are ready.

We are ambassadors to numer-



Col. Barry Gorter
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

ous civic organizations, and have played host to many groups and prominent individuals on base.

From four-star generals to White

House residents, we've impressed them all. And we've looked after each other in the process.

Looking after each other is a theme that needs to continue, especially during the holiday season.

Please continue to plan ahead when attending parties, relying on well-thought-out driving plans.

Please be thoughtful of everyone within our wing, especially someone who may be struggling during the holidays.

Each of you represents our wing admirably — to our neighbors, fellow church and civic members, and employers.

When we show respect equally to every member of the Kentucky Air National Guard, we set the stage for being strong Wingmen.

Thanks for all you do.

Let's finish 2013 the same way we've operated the first 11 months!

— Col. Barry Gorter

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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.

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