

THE CARGO COURIER

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Ky. maintenance unit helps Connecticut move to C-130s

103rd Airlift Wing replacing Learjets with the Hercules

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

Airmen from Kentucky Air National Guard are extending a helping hand to another unit in the Air Guard family.

The Connecticut Air Guard's 103rd Airlift Wing is in the process of converting from the C-21A Learjet to the C-130H Hercules transport aircraft, and the Kentucky Airmen are providing maintenance training to ease the transition.

Five maintainers from Connecticut visited Louisville in early November for hands-on learning, and more arrived in December, said Lt. Col. Chris Bishop, commander of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron here.

The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing went through a similar airframe conversion in 1989, when the unit replaced its RF-4C supersonic reconnaissance jets with C-130s.

According to Bishop, the 103rd asked the 123rd for guidance because of its reputation for excellence.

Read more online at
[www.123aw.ang.af.mil/
news/story.asp?id=123373897](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123373897)



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

Tech. Sgt. Mike Johnson (right), a crew chief from the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, shows Staff Sgt. Brian Hinckley, a crew chief from the Connecticut Air Guard's 103rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, different maintenance aspects of the C-130 Hercules aircraft during training here Nov. 14. The Connecticut unit is converting from C-21A Learjets to the Hercules transport.

McLane assumes command of STS

Maj. Sean McLane assumed command of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron during a change-of-command ceremony here Nov. 24. See more online at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123374775

Airmen train to care for injured dogs

Pararescuemen are the Air Force's jump-qualified trauma specialists. They provide injured troops with emergency medical care in the most austere combat environments. But what happens when the patient is a dog? See more online at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123376101

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

123rd Operations Support Flight redesignated as a squadron

Cadets from the University of Louisville's Air Force ROTC detachment tour base

123rd Civil Engineers deploy to Florida for largest Silver Flag exercise

Kentucky Air Guard supports C-130 maintenance seminar in Colombia



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As the wing enters another year of challenges, we pause to honor eight of our heroes

Rest, gifts, great food, football, snow and ugly sweater contests — I hope you enjoyed them all during the holidays!

After a period of “down time,” I also hope you return ready for another year full of challenges and fun.

Part of the pleasure of being a Kentucky Guardsman is working alongside outstanding Airmen. During the holidays, I had a chance to read a couple books. “Leading With Honor” by Lee Ellis, a Vietnam prisoner of war, is an excellent study on leadership with great practical applications (thanks, Mullaneys, for the gift).

And “No Easy Day” by Mark Owen is a Navy Seal’s account of killing Osama Bin Laden (thanks for the loan, Lt. Col. Ash Groves).

While reading about the Seals’ preparation, diligence and professional standards, I thought often of our Special Tactics Squadron. An integral part of STS are the 40-plus operators for the Air Force Special Operations Command.

These men, Air Force pararescue-men, combat controllers and special operations weathermen, work side by side with Army Special Ops Rangers, Navy Seals and coalition special operations forces. They deploy often, and to the



Col. Barry Gorter
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

most demanding parts of the globe while performing the most difficult missions.

They are also part of *our* Kentucky Air National Guard. On Sunday, we will have the privilege to honor three of their members with a Distinguished Flying Cross and two Bronze Stars with Valor.

We will also salute four members who were part of Agricultural Development Team Five with Bronze Stars for their achievements in Afghanistan.

These members spent nearly a year — much of it “outside the wire” where they were harassed with enemy small arms fire — performing a mission that is critical to the campaign’s success. ADT V helped win the war by assisting in equipping local villages, with the goal of self-reliance.

And finally, we will salute an Explosive Ordnance Disposal member with an Air Force Combat Action Medal. The criteria for the AFCAM say the member “must have been under direct and hostile fire while operating in unsecured space.” Need I say more? He is a hero.

They are all heroes. And while they would definitely prefer to receive their awards in their offices, away from the spotlight, we will salute them in ceremony.

They are heroes. They are part of *your* team. Each of you carries yourselves with distinction and respect.

As we kick off 2014, let’s continually challenge ourselves to the highest standards — out of respect for our fellow Kentucky Guardsmen.

— Col. Barry Gorter

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All photographs are Air National Guard photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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. Barry Gorter
Chief of Public Affairs.....Maj. Dale Greer
Public Affairs Officer.....2nd Lt. James Killen
Public Affairs Manager.....Master Sgt. Philip Speck
Senior Staff Writer.....Master Sgt. Diane Stinnett
Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Austin Shaffner
Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Vicky Spesard
Staff Writer.....Airman 1st Class Joshua Horton

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

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