

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXIX, No. 4 • May 17, 2014

Wing deploys 100 Airmen for Red Flag-Alaska exercise

Training designed to sharpen aircrew members' combat skills

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

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — More than 100 Airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing and three Kentucky Air National Guard C-130s arrived here May 7 to participate in Red Flag-Alaska, a Pacific Command exercise designed to train aircrew using realistic combat scenarios.

The Kentucky troops, including aircrew members, maintenance personnel and support staff, will fly tactical airlift sorties through

May 23 as part of the exercise, according to Col. Robert Hamm, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Operations Group.

"Our aircrews will coordinate with F-15 escorts to perform simulated airdrops, resupply sorties, and the deployment of Army personnel by parachute into an area for a simulated airfield seizure," Hamm said.

Support Airmen from the 123rd also will provide fuels, supply and maintenance for the aircraft, as well as security, food services, aerial port and personnel accountability support for all deployed forces, according to Lt. Col. Matt

Read more online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123410386



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

A Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 flies over Alaska on May 9 in support of Exercise Red Flag-Alaska. More than 100 Kentucky Airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing are participating in the exercise through May 23. Red Flag-Alaska is designed to hone the combat skills of U.S. Air Force flight crews.

Kentucky Airman has a passion for art

Using a No. 2 pencil to write reports, fill in calendars and take the minutes at a meeting are all in a day's work for Staff Sgt. James Scott, an administrative assistant with the 123rd Airlift Wing here.

But when he's not on duty, the Kentucky Air National Guardsman uses his pencil to design and sketch superheroes and villains, masked men and caped crusaders, all of whom were on display at the second annual Black Angels Art Exhibit held in Louisville Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. See more online at <http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123410106>

Female pilot recalls groundbreaking work

Sitting in the pilot's seat of a C-130 cockpit here, Florence Shutsy Reynolds, 91, looked right at home as she beamed a smile at the airstrip in front of her.

Reynolds, a former member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots corps during World War II, was visiting the 123rd Airlift Wing March 22 in celebration of Women's History Month. See more online at <http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123409311>



Find us on:
facebook®

For regular updates, including news and photos, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/123AWKY

When a haircut is not just a haircut

If you haven't seen the post on the 123rd Airlift Wing Facebook page regarding one of our pilots' giving a 9-year-old boy a squadron patch, go find it.

While you are looking it up (www.facebook.com/123AWKY/posts/697337080326017), think about how many times someone has come up to you and thanked you for your service.

What is the response you normally receive as you pull out your military ID to receive that 10 percent discount? "Thank you for your service."

It's something we hear often. Nearly every time I wear my uniform out in public, someone says it. It makes me feel proud to be able to serve.

It also makes me feel responsible for upholding the highest standards. We are all highly visible leaders within our neighborhoods, churches, places of employment and social circles. We may not realize it, but we are watched constantly. And don't think otherwise for a minute.

The results of our actions can be significant – making a very positive impression or, conversely, a very negative impression. There is nothing more powerful than one individual doing the right thing. In so doing, you "reflect great credit upon the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force."

One of the interesting aspects of be-



Col. Barry Gorter
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

ing wing commander is getting unsolicited feedback from the community. There are many incredible stories — like the 9-year-old boy, or the military member who shovels his elderly neighbor's driveway (and doesn't even know her name).

The second-order effects are profound. The Facebook post mentioned above has been read by 5,734 people in just the past three days. It has been

shared 55 times, "liked" by more than 265 readers and resulted in 25 highly positive comments.

The impact of that singular incident by one of our Airmen in a barber shop is certainly more than he expected when he gave a child his patch.

And that's the point. We don't know when one of our actions will strike a chord on Facebook. We don't know if shoveling someone's driveway impacts them at all. But you just keep doing it. Keep doing the right thing, even (and especially) when no one's watching. It's what we do.

One hundred and seven members of our wing are now in Alaska taking part in the Red Flag-Alaska exercise. They are stressing their processes (mission planning, aircraft maintenance, member support and flying operations) in order to ensure we are ready to do it against an adversary.

Focusing on our mission capability is supremely important. Representing our wing and our fellow Airmen in the most positive manner possible is also supremely important.

And you might just gain a 9-year-old boy as a lifelong friend.

Thanks for all you do. Let's have a great May UTA.

— Col. Barry Gorter

This Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard. 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, 1101 Grade Lane, Louisville, KY 40213.

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

Phone: (502) 413-4089 • Email: 123AW.PA@ang.af.mil

Visit our public website for expanded online content — www.123aw.ang.af.mil • Follow us on Facebook — www.facebook.com/123AWKY