

THE CARGO COURIER

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123rd provides airlift in Europe for Operation Saber Junction

Exercise tests 5,800 troops during joint NATO operations

By 2nd Lt. James Killen
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The 123rd Airlift Wing demonstrated its airlift capabilities here during Operation Saber Junction, a NATO exercise conducted with 5,800 troops from 17 NATO countries.

More than 20 Kentucky Airmen arrived at Ramstein Aug. 31 and supported daily flight operations with two Kentucky C-130 Hercules aircraft through Sept. 9.

“Saber Junction is a great way to demonstrate the interoperability of NATO forces

and a great opportunity to work and train with our NATO Allies” said Lt. Col. Kathryn Newell, aircraft commander for the Kentucky Air National Guard. “It is a privilege to take part in such a crucial exercise.”

Saber Junction 14 prepared U.S. troops, NATO Allies and European security partners to conduct joint, offensive, defensive and stabilization operations, and to sustain cooperative efforts with partner nations.

Air National Guard units from Kentucky, California, Delaware, Illinois and Missouri provided personnel and equipment air drops in support of airfield-seizure and forcible entry operations, Newell said.

Read more online at
<http://www.123aw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123423893>



2nd Lt. James Killen/KyANG

Master Sgt. Wayne Reeser (right), a loadmaster from the 123rd Airlift Wing, talks with a paratrooper from the Royal Canadian Regiment at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, just before a Kentucky C-130 Hercules aircraft transports the paratrooper and other NATO forces into the Baltic region Sept. 5 as part of Operation Sabre Junction.

Field training benefits Scouts, engineers

Civil engineers from the Kentucky Air National Guard spent part of their summer giving back to the community while accomplishing valuable annual training, renovating a Boy Scout camp in rural Maine. See more online at www.123aw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123422833

Other headlines at www.123aw.af.mil

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New wing-level Air Force Inspection Program hits the nail squarely on the head

The new Air Force Inspection System is like most Air Force programs: You don't really have a choice, because here it comes. With AFIS, however, I think they hit the nail on the head.

Gone are the days when units would gear up for a major Inspector General-led compliance inspection every few years. Most inspections are now handled at the wing level through a commander-directed program.

We started our inspection program just short of one year ago. I can say without question that it is already producing positive results.

Our team stood up with a core cadre of two full-time officers, one full-time non-commissioned officer and 46 additional-duty Wing Investigation Team, or WIT, members from every organization across the wing.

Every MICT checklist and evaluation that was already being performed is credited against the program. Further, the full-time staff works with the WIT members to set up evaluations in lieu of the traditional Unit Compliance and Operational



Col. Jeffrey Wilkinson
123rd Airlift Wing Vice Commander

Readiness Inspections.

The results of finding areas for improvement drive re-targeting of resources, changes to processes and improvements to the overall delivery of requirements within the wing. We

seek to know where the problems are, thus breaking the paradigms for the ways in which days and dollars are spent.

As evidenced by our most recent horizontal inspection of the Air Force Fitness Program and the 123rd Medical Group, I can confidently praise the top-tier professionalism of our WIT members.

This program delivers for the purpose it was intended. No preparation was expected, and inspections involved normal day-to-day operations.

The WIT members researched, discovered and solicited for deficiencies where they existed, leading both to validation of the tremendous work by the Medical Group in ensuring wing mission readiness, and also identified areas where changes will lead to improvements in day-to-day operations and compliance.

The program establishes a new culture to fix and find problems and reflects the continued operational excellence of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

— Col. Jeffrey Wilkinson

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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, 1101 Grade Lane, Louisville, KY 40213.

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