

THE CARGO COURIER

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Lieutenant governor welcomes returning Kentucky Airmen

More than 70 deployed to Africa to fight Ebola outbreak

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

Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen visited with more than 70 members of the 123rd Contingency Response Group here Dec. 6 to welcome them home from a deployment to Africa, where they supported Operation United Assistance, the international effort to fight Ebola.

"I am here to personally thank you on behalf of Gov. (Steve) Beshear," Luallen told the Airmen. "We are proud to know our people from Kentucky were part of such an important mission."

The Airmen, most of whom deployed overseas Oct. 2 and returned to Kentucky in late November, established an air cargo hub in Senegal that funneled more than 750 tons of humanitarian supplies and equipment into West Africa, where the worst Ebola outbreak in history has claimed more than 6,300 lives.

Luallen told the Airmen that she and the governor have tremendous respect for the men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

"We know what a great job you do and are truly grateful for your service," she said.

Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, echoed Luallen's sentiments.

Read more online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123434050



Senior Airman Joshua Horton/KyANG

Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen welcomes home members of the 123rd Contingency Response Group during a meeting here Dec. 6. The Airmen spent seven weeks in Senegal operating an air cargo hub that delivered more than 750 tons of humanitarian aid and equipment to West Africa in support of Operation United Assistance, the international effort to fight an Ebola outbreak.

Quimby to head Family Readiness

Amy K. Quimby was appointed the 123rd Airlift Wing's new Airman and Family Readiness Program manager Aug. 24. She has been involved with Air National Guard family programs for 21 years. Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123435746

Cooney concludes 30-year career

After more than 30 years of service to the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Patrick M. Cooney officially retired in a ceremony here Dec. 7.

Col. Ken Dale, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, expressed his appreciation to Cooney during, telling an audience of more than 100 Airmen, friends and family members that the chaplain's impact will be felt for years to come. Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123434956

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123rd is the top flying wing in the ANG, but we must keep safety center-stage

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

I hope your holiday season was relaxing, restful and rejuvenating, with an opportunity to enjoy it with family and friends. The opportunity to refuel and reset ourselves is a necessary component of the important work that you do for our nation.

Our work together this past year has brought both progress and success on many fronts. Thank you for your incredible support and efforts in 2014.

Now, with the start of 2015, we have new opportunities and new challenges ahead us. I have no doubt that we will complete each and every one of them with great success.

Whether you are flying an airplane, fixing an airplane, securing the base or serving



Col. Ken Dale
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

in any one of the many other important capacities in our unit, you are an integral part of ensuring that we have a safe and effective air wing.

We are the best flying wing in the Air National Guard and U.S.

Air Force — and unlike most who claim to be the best, we have the hardware to prove it.

The one thing that will knock us off that pedestal is a lapse in safety.

Last year was one of the safest years in the Air Force, in both ground and flying safety.

Here at the Kentucky Air Guard, we had zero technician work-related injuries and zero lost workdays, both for technicians and military members, in 2014. I think we have a safety culture across the base that is second to none. I also think we need to make sure that we keep safety center-stage in all we do. I will challenge each and every one of you to use risk management, both here and at home.

To remain effective we must stay safe.

— Col. Ken Dale

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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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