

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Third Persian Gulf rotation deploys for Freedom's Sentinel

Airmen to fly airlift missions for U.S. Central Command

By Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The third rotation of more than 40 Kentucky Air National Guardsmen departed here Friday for deployment to an undisclosed air base in the Persian Gulf, where they will fly airlift missions in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Freedom's Sentinel is the follow-on mission to Operation Enduring Freedom. It focuses on training, advising and assisting Afghan security forces; and on counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan.

Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, thanked the deploying Airmen for their continued commitment to military operations all over the world.

"The 123rd Airlift Wing has been engaged in the Global War on Terror from the beginning, and I know you will be a part of this fight until the very end," Tonini told the Airmen.

"When our nation, our Air Force and our Commonwealth needs the best, they call on you. I have the utmost trust and confidence in your abilities to conduct your mission while overseas, and I thank you for stepping up once again to answer our nation's call."

Read more online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123446232



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Maj. Jenn Helton, a C-130 navigator in the 123rd Airlift Wing, kisses her husband on the base flight line April 24 prior to departing for a deployment to the Persian Gulf. Helton is among more than 40 Kentucky Air National Guardsmen who are deploying to an undisclosed air base in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

NGB chief kicks off Thunder air show

Thunder Over Louisville began April 19 with a barrage of canon fire and a mass re-enlistment ceremony for 20 Kentucky Guardsmen led by Army Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau. Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123445564

Obama visits Ky. Air Guard Base

President Barack Obama arrived here April 2 aboard Air Force One as part of a visit to Louisville to discuss job creation in the technology sector. Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123444225

More headlines...

123rd commemorates Berlin Airlift 'candy drops' during Thunder air show

123rd Airlift Wing migrates computers to Air Force Network

Kentucky Guard honors six Airmen and Soldiers of the Year

Kentucky Airman awarded Medal of Valor from Sheriff's Office

Cherry concludes 34 years of service to the Air Force, Kentucky Air Guard



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Your dedication and commitment exemplify the 123rd's mission statement

The 123rd Airlift Wing provides world-class, highly adaptive Airmen to Combatant Commanders in order to support combat-ready airlift, contingency response, special operations, civil engineering, medical support, medical operations, explosive ordnance disposal, and base operating support to meet United States' national security objectives; to preserve peace, order and public safety during state and national crises; and to participate in community-based programs that add value to the state and nation."

This is the mission statement of the 123rd Airlift Wing. It has been in existence for a long time, but we recently made a couple of small adjustments. For example, we added Explosive Ordnance Disposal. We attempted to add the CERFP, but the acronym of acronyms — CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive) Enhanced Response Force Package — just made it too wordy, so it's lumped into "medical operations." (Don't fret CERFP; you're still rock stars!)

We also made a very conscious decision to lead with you, our Airmen — and added the phrase "world-class, highly adaptive." Nothing in our mission statement is true without you. Your dual



Col. Barry Gorter
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

role — supporting the president while simultaneously supporting the governor — makes each of you invaluable.

The Department of Defense breaks the world down into six Combatant Commands. Since October 2014, the Kentucky Air National Guard has supported all six. Aircraft maintenance members were deployed to PACOM in support of Operation Deep Freeze

in Antarctica. Aircraft maintenance and special tactics members were (and are) deployed to multiple places in the SOUTHCOM Area of Responsibility for a variety of missions. The Contingency Response Group deployed to Dakar, Senegal, supporting AFRICOM. Ops, maintenance and others participated in several exercises in EUCOM. We constantly support NORTHCOM with multiple mission sets. And currently, C-130 aircrews, maintainers and support personnel are in the Middle East supporting CENTCOM. Additionally, members of the 123rd supported the governor during the recent snow storm, as well as during Thunder Over Louisville and the Kentucky Derby.

The 123rd has been busy!

None of this happens without you, the men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard. You continue to retain a high level of expertise in your skill sets. You approach each deployment as an opportunity to shine and represent the Commonwealth. You wear the uniform proudly, and you make my job as the wing commander easy.

Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for continually challenging yourself and those who serve alongside you. And thank you for accomplishing the 123rd mission statement.

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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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