

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXX, No. 5 • May 16, 2015

Kentucky Airmen recognized at 123rd Retiree Plaque dedication

Event honors more than 50 who left the service in 2014

By Senior Airman Joshua Horton
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 50 former members of the Kentucky Air National Guard were honored here April 18 when a plaque bearing their names was unveiled in front of the 123rd Airlift Wing's Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway Headquarters Building.

The black granite plaque is the newest addition to a monument that honors Airmen who have completed 20 or more years of service and retired from the Kentucky Air National Guard, dating all the way back to the unit's inception in 1947.

This year's ceremony celebrated 52 retirees for the year 2014, along with one from 2013 and one from 2005.

"I've been doing this a number of years, and it's a grand event," said Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general. "Your names engraved upon these plaques bear testament to the fact that you're part of our family. Welcome home."

Army Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, also spoke at the ceremony, addressing a crowd of dozens of retirees, family members and Airmen wishing to pay their respects.

Read more online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123447366



Senior Airman Joshua Horton/KyANG

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Gary Dunlap and Retired Chief Master Sgt. Lori F. Zinsmeister unveil a plaque bearing the names of more than 50 Airmen who retired from the 123rd Airlift Wing last year during a ceremony here April 18. The annual unveiling celebrates Airmen who served for 20 or more years.

Members return from Persian Gulf

About 40 members of the 123rd Airlift Wing returned to the Kentucky Air National Guard Base May 6 following a deployment to an undisclosed air base in the Persian Gulf. The Airmen had been flying airlift missions in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel since February. View a photo gallery of the homecoming at www.flickr.com/photos/kyngpao/sets/72157651997908158

STS trains with Chilean commandos

Marines with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing transported a team of 20 Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron and Chilean Air Commandos aboard a KC-130J Super Hercules during Emerald Warrior April 28. Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123448088

More headlines at 123aw.ang.af.mil:

[Airmen take home four awards in National Guard Bureau PA contest](#)

[Resilience: The constant challenges of life are like navigating a river](#)



Find us on:
facebook®

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

Wing welcomes 9-year-old boy fighting cancer

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

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard welcomed a 9-year-old boy with cancer to the base April 18 as aircraft from around the world prepared to perform in the Thunder Over Louisville air show.

Dawson Barr, accompanied by his sister, mother and father, toured the flight line with Chief Master Sgt. Joe Dawson, superintendent of the 123rd Operations Group here.

“Dawson had an absolute blast!” Chief Dawson said. “We visited every aircraft on the flight line, met and talked with several people along the way, and we also got to watch a C-17 Globemaster taxi out and take off.”

Dawson toured the Operations Building, ate lunch supplied by the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, and watched several aircraft take off while observing from the 165th Airlift Squadron Heritage Room, which offers one of the best views on base.

Dawson was diagnosed with cancer at just 6 months of age. Doctors were cautious about his life expectancy, primarily because of the number of tumors he has — seven on the brain and three on the spine — and their severity.

He has defied the odds, though, and according to his mother, Aimee Barr, “He’s an amazing little kid with a magnetic personality; he’s a fighter, too.”

Dawson endured five years of chemotherapy, ending his treatments in February 2012. He currently has one inoperable tumor that severely impacts his vision, making him legally blind in both eyes. The chemotherapy and other treatments have left Dawson with a number of challenges, from hormone imbalances to osteoporosis.

Aimee says that doesn’t stop him, though. “He’s a normal 9-year-old boy. He wants to play soccer, he wants to be a professional football player, and if that doesn’t work, he’s going to be a professional baseball player.”

Dawson made an impact on several of the people he met at the Kentucky Air Guard, with many noting how positive and upbeat he was, and how he asked so many great questions.

“I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and spending time with Dawson, his sister, Lauren, and their parents, Aimee and Shane Barr,” Chief

Dawson said. “That young man is a fighter in the true sense of the word, with the most positive attitude and the most uplifting spirit that you will ever see in a little boy.”

Dawson has a message for those who may be struggling with challenges or illness. In a calm and steady voice he said, “If you’re going through something, just keep going. Eventually something good will happen, and it will be okay.”

See more photos online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123445556



2nd Lt. James Killen/KyANG

Nine-year-old Dawson Barr and his family visit the Kentucky Air National Guard’s 123rd Airlift Wing on April 18 to view aircraft that will be flown in the annual Thunder Over Louisville Air Show.

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.....Senior Airman 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