

THE CARGO COURIER

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Family Day to offer games, fun for Airmen and their loved ones

By Staff Sgt. Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 123rd Airlift Wing, in partnership with the Airman and Family Readiness Office and the Key Volunteer Group, will sponsor Family Day here during the September Unit Training Assembly.

Events will include a classic car show, a C-130 static display, and children's activities like a bounce house, slide, obstacle course, games and crafts, according to Amy Quimby, director of Airman and Family Readiness. A petting zoo featuring a pony rides also will be available.

New to the event will be a therapy dog interaction for the whole family. The base fire department also will display a truck and demonstrate

water-spraying capabilities.

The Key Volunteer Group will host a raffle, and family services will be giving away Boy Scout popcorn and Keurig coffee, Quimby added. School supplies donated by Operation Home Front will be given to any service member, E-1 through E-6, who has the need; and the Kentucky National Guard youth program will be giving away backpacks.

An AAFES store will be set up in the Maintenance Hangar, where the majority of the day's activities will be centered, along with booths from the Red Cross, Veterans Administration and many other service organizations.

Read more online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123457743



Senior Airman Joshua Horton/Kentucky Air National Guard

More than 500 family members and retirees attended The 123rd Airlift Wing's annual Family Day at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Ky., July 13, 2014. The 2015 event, to be held this UTA, will include a petting zoo and pony rides.

Wing trains SF augmentees

The 123rd Security Forces Squadron recently held a five-day Security Forces Augmentee training event for 10 Airmen from different job specialties spanning multiple units within the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Security Forces Augmentee training is designed to take Airmen outside of their career fields and provide them with the skills to perform basic security functions in order to assist security forces during shortfalls in manning due to emergencies, contingencies or an increase of the Force Protection Condition, according to Capt. Jason Rayl, operations officer for the 123rd Security Forces Squadron.

Rayl explained that the augmentees would be utilized in emergency situations until fully qualified security forces members could be recalled.

"It's a good opportunity for members outside the security forces career field to participate in the security of the installation and gain a better understanding of how SFS operates in a home-station environment," he said.

The training includes a variety of basic security forces tasks and concepts, including weapons qualification, use of force, small-unit tactics, searches and seizures, and more.

Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123458200



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Special tactics troops recall Katrina evacuations

**By Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

Chief Master Sgt. Pat Malone had seen a lot in his 23 years as a pararescueman for the U.S. military, including dicey combat extractions in Iraq and Afghanistan and more than a decade's worth of civilian search-and-rescue missions in Alaska.

But none of it prepared him for the devastation he saw firsthand when he and 21 fellow Kentucky Air National Guardsmen deployed to New Orleans Naval Air Station 10 years ago as part of efforts to evacuate the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing flood.

"This was, by and large, the worst site of devastation I have ever seen in my entire career," said Malone, who was chief enlisted manager for the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron in 2005 and retired from the service in 2012.

"The sheer magnitude of it -- and the conditions that our guys worked in -- was the most horrific I'd seen in 23 years of service."

Chief Master Sgt. Jon Rosa, a Kentucky combat controller who also deployed with the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron and retired in 2009, concurred.

"New Orleans is usually a place of such revelry," said Rosa, then the squadron's superintendent of combat controllers. "But it was like a scene out of 'The Twilight Zone' to be in downtown New Orleans and hear total silence except for the sloshing of flood waters. I just couldn't believe this was America."

But it was America, and thousands of New Orleanians were stranded without provisions amid a sea of sewage- and chemical-laced water covering nearly 80 percent of the city.

Rosa, Malone and 20 other Kentucky

special tactics troops were among the first military search-and-rescue troops to arrive in the stricken city and begin extracting trapped citizens starting Aug. 31.

The Kentucky forces joined up with about 25 other special tactics troops from across the Air National Guard, including Alaska's 212th Rescue Squadron, California's 131st Rescue Squadron, New York's 102nd Rescue Squadron and Oregon's 125th Special Tactics Squadron.

Patrolling the city in Zodiac motorboats and

other vehicles, the Kentucky-led contingent rescued 1,292 people, sometimes by cutting through roofs to extract trapped residents.

"We had the ability to go through the city and conduct searches where no one else could reach at the time," Malone said. "We launched from four to 14 boats a day, running about 14-hour shifts in the water."

**See more photos online at
www.123aw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123457267**



123rd Special Tactics Squadron/KyANG

Two Kentucky Air National Guard Special Tactics troops confer as an Air Force MH-53 helicopter lands on Interstate 610 to evacuate New Orleans residents following Hurricane Katrina Sept. 4, 2005.

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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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