

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## Delegation from Djibouti visits Kentucky Air National Guard

### 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A delegation of military officials from the Republic of Djibouti visited the Kentucky Air National Guard Base Sept. 17 to receive briefs on the 123rd Airlift Wing mission, tour multiple units and experience a training sortie aboard a Kentucky C-130 Hercules aircraft.

While here, the Djiboutians learned about overall wing capabilities and the unique functions of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, 123rd Contingency Response Group and 123rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight. The day was part of a broader visit to Kentucky involving Djiboutian military personnel and members of the Djiboutian government's civilian cabinets from Sept. 13 to 20.

In June, Djibouti signed an historic agree-

ment with the Kentucky National Guard to participate in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The program pairs state National Guards with foreign governments to conduct military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals. It employs a "whole-of-society" approach to building relationships and capabilities that foster broader engagements spanning military, government, economic and social spheres.

Civilian members of the Djiboutian delegation included the president of the National Assembly, Muhamed Ali Houmed; Djiboutian ministers of health, foreign affairs, and the chambers of commerce.

Read more online at [www.123aw.af.mil](http://www.123aw.af.mil)



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/Kentucky Air National Guard

Members of the Republic of Djibouti's military participate in a Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 Hercules training sortie here Sept. 17 as part of the Kentucky National Guard's new State Partnership with Djibouti.

### Eco-friendly lighting installed across base

The 123rd Airlift Wing recently took a step forward in environmentally friendly technology with two new lighting projects.

The addition of more efficient fluorescent lighting across the base and LED lighting on the flight line promise to improve visibility while reducing energy consumption and saving money.

Col. Jeff Wilkinson, wing vice commander, said both projects enhance unit effectiveness while helping the wing be good stewards of the environment and government resources.

Read more at [www.123aw.af.mil](http://www.123aw.af.mil)

### Chief Davis retires after 35 years' service

After more than 35 years of service to the Kentucky Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. William K. Davis was officially retired in a ceremony here May 16.

As the component maintenance flight chief of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, Davis was responsible for providing safe and reliable maintenance for the C-130 Hercules aircraft, ensuring the readiness of personnel and equipment to aid combat aircrew training and execute contingency plans worldwide, and for conducting training for maintenance personnel.

Read more at [www.123aw.af.mil](http://www.123aw.af.mil)



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# *It's time for an annual checkup*

**D**on't worry; this is not a notice of a new medical requirement, just a friendly greeting which I will call my annual checkup. No rubber gloves or gowns on this one, just a review of the past year and a chance for me to highlight some accomplishments of the Medical Group.

As you may know, we have made significant strides this past year in improving the quality and efficiency of our services to you.

We have three new flight surgeons, each highly skilled and with extensive experience. We have a new chief of aerospace medicine and two other new physicians for our Critical Care Air Transport Teams.

Speaking of that, for the first time both of our CCATT teams are training and preparing for their missions to support our active-duty counterparts in providing an intensive care unit in the air to bring home severely wounded troops.

Meanwhile, our Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Force Response Package medical element has become fully certified and mission ready under the leadership of Lt. Col. Christopher Howell. I am proud to report that we have one of the best CERFP units in the country.

If they deploy, their mission will not take them to foreign lands. They will operate in our own communities, responding to the worst-case scenario to defend our own families and neighbors. It is a unique mission and one of great importance.

During the October UTA, our CERFP will set up their tents and equipment on the flight line near the Clamshell Hangar. Please visit to learn more about their capabilities.

You are most familiar with our Medical Support element, which interfaces with each unit and every member of the wing in keeping



**Col. Michael Cooper  
Commander, 123rd Medical Group**

us mission ready. From aerospace medicine, public health, biomedical engineering, optometry and nursing services, to our administrative experts in the Medical Services Corps, each individual demonstrates a commitment to excellence and continuous quality improvement. Every member takes personal ownership over our processes.

If you have not already noticed, we are a lean operation. Although organized as a group, the reality is that we have basically half of a squadron and a CERFP detachment.

About 40 people end up providing all of the medical/dental support for 1,200 personnel to include drawing blood, doing eye exams, providing immunizations, taking vital signs, performing medical and hearing examinations,

and a multitude of other related duties.

Our members work hard and spend most of their weekend providing services to the Wing. This makes the accomplishment of unit training very difficult at times.

Yet, our Medical Group maintains a high level of readiness to respond to all of our missions.

At the same time, we are often the subject matter experts that other organizations call upon. Our CERFP frequently advises other units across the country and serves on inspection teams. Our medical support personnel were asked to perform a Staff Assistance Visit to the unit in Ft. Wayne, Ind., earlier this year. Our CCATTs, while still training to achieve their own mission readiness, are already recognized for their expertise. They will take the lead in a national CCATT training exercise next year.

Our Medical Group will be the lead unit in a DOD Innovative Readiness Training program in August 2016 in which Guard and Navy Reserve resources will be utilized to provide medical, eye and dental services to underserved rural areas in western Kentucky. Several units from around the country will participate, but Maj. Amy Mundell will be the lead planner and will direct this very high-profile operation.

As you can see, our small organization maintains a really high operations tempo, however, we never forget our main mission.

Our mission is to ensure that all personnel of the 123rd Airlift Wing are medically qualified to support any contingency around the world and at home. We take great pride in this mission and strive to be the very best at what we do.

— Col. Michael Cooper

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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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