

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Wing participates in multi-national exercise

By Senior Airman Joshua Horton
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

EDMONTON, Canada—More than 30 Airmen from the 123rd Airlift wing and two Kentucky Air National Guard C-130s arrived here between May 26 and 28 to participate in Exercise Maple Flag, an aerial combat training simulation involving troops from multiple countries.

The large-scale exercise is staged annually at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake to allow junior aircrews to gain experience in a combat environment, said Lt. Col. Charlie Hans, chief of scheduling for the Kentucky Air Guard's 165th Airlift Squadron and the unit's mission

commander for Maple Flag.

"What we've found over many years is that when pilots enter combat, their highest chance of failure is within their first 10 sorties," Hans said. "So if we can get them into a simulated combat environment and provide them with some experience, then they have a much higher chance of survival."

During the exercise, the Kentucky troops worked with Airmen from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, along with military forces from Canada, Germany, France and Great Britain.

Read more online at <http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123474489>



Senior Airman Joshua Horton/Kentucky Air National Guard

Airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing unload cargo from a Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 aircraft upon arriving in Edmonton, Canada, on May 28. More than 30 Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard deployed here to participate in Maple Flag, an aerial combat training exercise involving forces from multiple countries.

DeSchane concludes 28-year career in Air Force, ANG

After 28 years of service to the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Thomas D. DeSchane was officially retired in a ceremony held here Dec. 5.

As the chief enlisted manager for the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, DeSchane served as the principle advisor to the squadron commander on all issues and concerns affecting enlisted special tactics members and their families.

Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil

Dry retires after serving for more than three decades

Chief Master Sgt. Victor Dry officially retired with more than 34 years of honorable service to the United States Air Force and Air National Guard during a ceremony held in his honor here March 6.

Dry, chief enlisted manager of the 123rd Communications Flight, was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal, first oak leaf cluster, from his commanding officer, Capt. Leslie Brooks.

Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil



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Leadership: What does it mean?

Google “leadership” and you will find various definitions like “position of leader, management, director, control, authoritativeness, command, clout.”

I get all that. I think we all do.

What I think we miss at times is what it means to be a “leader,” whether in a position of leadership or not.

By definition, a leader is a person who leads, who provides a guiding hand when appropriate. Leaders also encourage those not in a traditional leadership role to lead for the first time, possibly inspiring a future leader.

I think we all get that as well.

Yet I believe we all yield the floor at times to the person in the leadership position—the manager, director or commander—when the stage actually belongs to us.

A chance to lead a group or influence another Airman or Soldier in the Kentucky National Guard should be sought by all. At every Unit Training Assembly, every member of the 123rd Airlift Wing should take an opportunity to lead or influence another member.



**Chief Master Sgt. Ray Dawson
Wing Command Chief**

Senior Airmen, get to know and lead the Airman 1st Class and Airman you come in contact with. The NCO grade, once achieved, isn't where you start.

State Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Moore and I have witnessed the graduations of several 123rd Airlift Wing Airmen from Airman Leadership School over the past 12 months. Trust me when I say, “The future of the 123rd Airlift

Wing is bright.”

They are leading NOW!

For all other members of the wing, reach out, down and up as you seek opportunities to meet and influence other Airmen. Leadership and, more importantly, “leading” have never been more critical than now.

Changes in leadership happen, yet basic principles of leading people remain the same. Inspire others to be their best, be a positive influence, give credit to your team or teammates when successful, and take responsibility early when things don't go well.

These are a few things I have found helpful when coaching others, which is what I think of when I speak of leading people.

Be a great coach by serving while influencing others, and never give up when all others have quit. Rely on your abilities as a leader, not your leadership position.

Please stop by my office for a visit if you feel the need. If not, stop by anyway, just to say hello.

In service to you....

—Chief Master Sgt. Ray Dawson

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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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