

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## 123rd EOD named best in the Air National Guard

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

The Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight has been awarded the coveted 2015 Senior Master Sgt. Gerald J. Stryzak Outstanding EOD Flight Award as the top such unit in the Air National Guard.

The 15-man unit, part of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron here, earned the award based on its many successful missions locally and across the United States, according to the award citation.

"We are probably the most active EOD

flight in the Air National Guard," explained Maj. Keith Smith, EOD flight commander. "We are constantly pushing for range clearing assignments and working on training missions. We also respond to any local incidents that may pop up needing our attention."

Those can include anything from assisting local police with clearing booby traps from drug houses to disposing of World War II ordnance donated to local museums.

Read more at [www.123aw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123476071](http://www.123aw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123476071)



Tech. Sgt. Dan Clare/Kentucky Air National Guard

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight clear munitions at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The flight was just named the top EOD unit in the Air National Guard for 2015.

### Public Affairs earns six awards from NGB, USAF

For the sixth consecutive year, members of the 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office have earned multiple awards of excellence, taking home six honors in the 2015 National Guard Bureau and U.S. Air Force media contests.

At the National Guard-level competition, Senior Airman Joshua Horton won first place in photojournalism for a story and photo package covering field training by the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron; Master Sgt. Phil Speck took second place in the documentation category for his photo of 123rd Security Forces Airmen conducting training at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Lt. Col. Dale Greer won two first-place awards in news photos and photo essays for his pictures depicting Airmen arriving home from an overseas deployment and conducting field exercises at Fort Knox.

Greer also won second place for a feature photo of Air Force One on the flight line at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

At the Air Force level, Greer's homecoming image won second place for news photography.

See photos and read more at  
[www.123aw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123476072](http://www.123aw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123476072)



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# Jewell named ANG NCO of the Year

By Staff Sgt. John Hillier  
ANG Readiness Center Public Affairs

A commitment to training and improving the people around him is what motivates Tech. Sgt. Nicholas P. Jewell, the Air National Guard's 2016 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Jewell is a combat controller with the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville. He was selected for this honor because of his professionalism both on the battlefield and in the training environment.

"Relationships are huge in this business," Jewell explained. "Trying to establish and maintain those relationships, and putting a face or name to the job is critical, because it's probably not the last time that you're going to work with that pilot or that person helping you make a mission happen. That way, they know who they're supporting."

"The most rewarding thing we do is a deployment," said Jewell. "We go out into a battlefield and integrate air power. It's not me alone, it's all of us who are bringing that to bear; I'm just the one who's communicating it. Everyone else is backing that big picture. There are so many people who come into play and it's very rewarding when you can reach back and thank people for helping you get out there and do your job."

When mission success depends on each team member doing his or her part, there is no shortage of experienced mentors to be found.

"I can't say that my mentor was any one person," said Jewell. "When I think 'mentor,' I think about the team dynamic - especially



**Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Jewell**

what we have in special tactics. I have brothers who would do anything for me, and I've been surrounded by men who have been out on the battlefield doing our job at the highest level. They helped make me who I am, and they're a huge contribution to my success. Special tactics is a family like that, and that's my mentorship. It's definitely not just one person."

The life of a special tactics Airman is a continuous cycle of training and deployment, and Jewell exemplifies a dedication to improving not only his own skills, but also those of the team around him. His experience in planning and leading pre-deployment training missions for his team proved invaluable when he was

tasked with standing up a joint forward observer course for the Iraqi Army.

"My plan is to mentor the next team members who come along in all the ways that I've been mentored," said Jewell. "I show them my mistakes and my flaws, make sure that they learn from me and keep to our high standard. I feel like if you can take the Airmen below you and make them better than you, then you're doing your job. If you can do that, you've had success"

When asked about the Air Force core value most important in his job, Jewell does not hesitate to respond.

"My favorite is integrity," he said. "The reason behind that is sometimes it's hard to do the right thing when nobody's looking. Actually, it can be hard to do the right thing even when everyone is looking. But having integrity helps everyone else around you. You set an example, set the tone."

"And I've made my mistakes too, just like anybody," he said. "We say that integrity is to do the right thing even when nobody's watching, but really, your Airmen are watching you."

Jewell comes from a family of Kentucky Guard members. His father retired from the 123rd after serving over 20 years; an uncle also served in the unit and Jewell's brother serves with in the 123rd with him today.

"I learned about combat control and special tactics while I was in college and it looked like a great challenge," said Jewell. "Nothing in the job is repetitive, it's always something different. The Guard is kind of a family tradition for us."

Read more at [www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123476070](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123476070)

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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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