

THE CARGO COURIER

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

Vol. XXXIV, No. 11 • Nov. 16, 2019

Simulator adds new training tool on base

By Master Sgt. Phil Speck
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 123rd Airlift Wing now has a C-130 Hercules aircraft simulator here at the Kentucky Air National Guard base.

Known as the Multi-Mission Crew Trainer, the sophisticated equipment helps Airmen prepare for in-flight emergencies by offering realistic but risk-free training opportunities.

The trainer has seats for two pilots, a flight engineer and a navigator, said retired Chief Master Sgt. Scott "Scooter" Davis, a former flight engineer with the Kentucky Air National Guard who operates the MMCT as a contractor for American Systems Corp.

Aircrews can train on many emergencies, from an engine overheating or catching fire, to mid-flight bird strikes. Crews also can accomplish tactical training like airdrop procedures or evading ground-to-air and air-to-air attacks.

"It's really good to refresh yourself on emergency situations that you really can't do on the airplane," Davis said. "The crews will still have to attend an annual simulator that has motion, but right now they're in the process of rewriting regulations so that aircrews can count actual training events in the (MMCT) simulator."

Davis added that the MMCT here is just as capable as the regular simulator, except that it lacks physical motion capabilities.

Since aircrews don't currently get credit for training on the system, the primary users are members of the 123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Though the MMCT was not initially created for aircraft maintainers, Master Sgt. Chris Knight, a crew chief with the unit, saw potential in the new equipment.

Knight, who also serves as the 123rd AMXS engine-run program monitor and certifier, began working with Davis to figure out a way to conduct engine runs on the simulator, so it could be used as a maintenance training tool.

"We had to do a lot to set up engine-run



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

Capt. Tristan Stonger, a pilot in the 165th Airlift Squadron, uses a new C-130 simulator for training at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base Aug. 28.

simulations, but I worked with Scooter, and we had to find ways to make it do things we wanted it to do," Knight said.

He added that being able to use the system for engine runs has substantially improved efficiency, because it allows Airmen to check off training that in the past may have required them to wait for an aircraft to become available for dry runs.

"Maintenance Airmen only get the chance to go up to the full-motion simulator in Minnesota every other year, so this has allowed this training to take place more frequently," Knight said.

The base fire department also is using the MMCT for crash and fire-rescue training by helping firefighters learn proper engine shutdown procedures.

"Everything is touch screen, and everything works," Davis said. "It has all the same indicators you would have on the real thing, fuel

gauges, engine gauges."

The MMCT also has real steering and yolk, functional rudder pedals, throttle and engine condition levers, and genuine aircraft seats.

According to Davis, QuantaDyn, the company that built the device and services the software, frequently sends updates to units in the field to add additional features. Just recently, the system received an update that can simulate instrument landings at local Louisville airports.

Currently, the simulator contains over seven terabytes of terrain data for the whole Earth, which means aircrews can practice landing procedures on local runways or train in the mountainous regions of Afghanistan if needed.

All but two C-130 units in the Air National Guard have MMCTs. Kentucky's began operations in December 2018.

Holiday wreath project seeking volunteers

Cargo Courier Staff Report

An annual project to place memorial wreaths on the graves of more than 200 fallen Kentucky Air Guardsmen is seeking volunteers.

Volunteers can help haul trees from a local farm, cut branches, clip greenery, make the wreaths and bows, wire pine cones, and deliver the finished product to cemeteries in Kentucky and Southern Indiana, said Lee East, a retired Kentucky Air National Guardsman who runs the project.

The effort will begin Nov. 24, and East expects the wreaths to all be placed by Dec. 15.

To volunteer, or for more information on how to help, call Dorenda Stackhouse at (502) 407-2222.

RIGHT: Lt. Col. Bob Abell, a retired squadron commander from the Kentucky Air Guard, salutes the grave of Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs after placing a wreath at Evergreen Cemetery in Louisville Dec. 13, 2018.



Meyer named top aerial porter in Air Guard



Col. Mary Decker (right), commander of the 123rd Mission Support Group, presents the Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs Award for Excellence in Aerial Port Operations to Tech. Sgt. Sarah Meyer here May 19.

Cargo Courier Staff Report

Tech. Sgt. Sarah Meyer, an aerial porter with the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, has been recognized as the top air transportation journeyman in the Air National Guard.

An aerial porter for almost nine years and the unit's new training manager, Meyer earned the Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Downs Award for Excellence in Aerial Port Operations for 2018. She was selected from more than 1,700 Aerial Porters across the country, said her supervisor, Master Sgt. Patrick Lease.

Leadership, mentoring, commitment and a sense of duty are the attributes that led Lease to nominate her for the award.

"Meyer is a jack of all trades in the career field," Lease said. "There is nothing we could ask her to do that she can't accomplish for us. There's a lot of agility in her skill set, but more importantly, there is a willingness to try something

new or step up to fill whatever need we may have.

"She applies a lot of critical thinking to her work while she's in the field," Lease added. "You never have to question the quality of work that she does."

In 2018, Meyer deployed to Qatar as a shift supervisor, where she facilitated the movement of more than 1,500 units of blood and 24 million pounds of cargo, and coordinated a B-52 Stratofortress re-deployment movement.

"As Meyer has transitioned into the technical sergeant role and filling a supervisory role here, she's leading by example," Lease said. "You can see people turning to her for guidance and mentoring. We put her in a more demanding position because she can deliver."

The award is named in honor of former 123rd Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Downs, who was an aerial port superintendent before passing away in 2009 after more than three decades of service. The award has been bestowed annually since 2012.

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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.

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