

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Rhodes, Sharpe named to fill key positions

By 1st Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Cols. Paul Rhodes and Frank Sharpe were selected last month to fill key leadership positions in the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Rhodes, a 25-year member of the unit, was named vice commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, while Sharpe was tapped to command the 123rd Operations Group. Both moves were effective Oct. 1.

"The leadership of the Kentucky Air National Guard is in good hands," wing commander Bill Leslie said of the selections.

"Paul Rhodes and Frank Sharpe are outstanding individuals who bring a wealth of operations experience and management skills to their new jobs.

"They also truly exemplify the Air Force core values—integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do."

Rhodes, who has served as commander of the 123rd Operations Group since October 1999, began his Air Force career with an active-duty commission in 1972.

After completing navigator and bombardier training, he was assigned to Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Mich., where he served as a radar navigator aboard the B-52.

When Rhodes' active-duty tour concluded in 1976, he joined the Kentucky Air National Guard as an RF-4C weapons system operator. By March 1992, Rhodes

had made the transition to C-130s along with the rest of the wing, and he was named commander of the 165th Operations Support Flight.

He is a master navigator with more than 4,500 flying hours in the T-29, B-52D/F/H, RF-4C and C-130 B/E/H.

The New Albany, Ind., native holds a bachelor's degree in history from St. Meinrad College in St. Meinrad, Ind.

Sharpe, who most recently served as commander of the wing's 165th Airlift Squadron, began his military career with the Army as a helicopter pilot in Germany in 1972.

After leaving the Army in 1977, he attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he obtained a bachelor's degree in business management.

Sharpe then earned a master's in the same discipline from Troy State University.

He joined the Air Force in 1978 and received his commission through Officer Training School.

After pilot training, Sharpe's first operational assignment came in 1980 at Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he flew MC-130s for the 8th Special Operations Squadron.

Upon leaving Hurlburt Field in 1983, Sharpe



RHODES



SHARPE

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State headquarters awarded again for excellence

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air Guard's state headquarters has once again been awarded the highest possible honor.

In September, the unit received its 4th Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

The honor, which is given annually to the top 10 percent of headquarters units, recognizes KyANG organization for its exceptional accomplishments from Feb. 1, 1998 to Jan. 30, 2000.

"This award is consistent with our strive

for excellence," said KyANG chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini.

"It's a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the people in state headquarters," Tonini said.

"It's also a reflection on the entire unit because we are a part of the command and control structure for the entire Kentucky Air National Guard."

During the award's time frame, KyANG State Headquarters successfully managed a wide variety of local and national events.

Innovative projects, Tonini said, have helped to set the unit apart from other headquarters around the country.

"For the Kentucky Air Guard, Thunder Over Louisville has almost become routine and expected event from year to year," Tonini said of the annual air show.

"But, if you look at comparable units around the country, you'll find that Thunder is really something above and beyond what the typical organization would get involved in."

Other major projects that helped secure the award included an effort to forge new partnerships between the Air Force and United Parcel Service.

See **AWARD**, Page 5

Don't get stuck with the hospital bill: Know what to do if injured in the line of duty

After reviewing the recent case of a KyANG member who was injured in the line of duty, I decided it is crucial for every guard member to know the proper procedures to avoid what happened to this individual.

The unit member's hospital bills totaled close to \$10,000, and because he did not know the correct procedures, we could do nothing to reimburse him for his medical expenses.

Our lawyers here researched the issue to find out what could have been done to get the individual's hospital bills paid, and here is what they found:

- If a service member is on active duty for less than 30 days and is injured in the line of duty, he or she should first be treated by our medical staff and, if necessary, by the nearest military Medical Treatment Facility, or MTF.

If a member has been on active duty for more than 30 days at the time of injury, he or she may qualify for treatment through TRICARE at a civilian hospital, but first he or she must be referred to the nearest MTF.

For us, that facility is Ireland Army Hospital at Fort Knox, Ky.

Emergency treatment costs for either duty status may be reimbursed or covered through TRICARE if the individual for some reason cannot be taken to an MTF.

In case of an injury, contact our medical staff first where it is feasible.

If that's not feasible, or if you are sent to



Col. Bill Leslie
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

a civilian hospital, contact the nearest Military Medical Support Office to coordinate payment of medical charges. The nearest MMSO is:

Military Medical Support Office
P.O. Box 886999
Great Lakes, IL 60088-6999
Telephone: (888) 647-6676

Except in an emergency, our medical staff, along with your doctors, will determine the nature of treatment required.

If extended care is necessary, the MTF must be contacted to determine if treatment through them is available or feasible.

If services are not available or feasible, they will refer you to a TRICARE provider.

In any case, coordination must be made through the MTF, TRICARE and our medical staff.

The bottom line:

- If it's an emergency, go to the nearest hospital.

- Then, if the injury occurs in the line of duty (and this includes injuries sustained while commuting to and from drill), be sure you or someone in your family immediately contacts our staff, the nearest MTF and MMSO.

Failure to obtain a referral from an MTF or MMSO may result in your being liable for all medical bills you voluntarily incur.

Some important things to keep in mind:

- If no one makes the contacts, it will be assumed that you have voluntarily incurred the cost of your treatment.

- Make sure your family knows to call us on your behalf if you are seriously injured and unable to do so yourself.

We can, and will, help.

This funded Air Force newspaper is published for members of the military services. Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 3.

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An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — www.kyang.ang.af.mil

Matters of STATE

Staff Sgt. Darren Reinhardt, a ramp services specialist in the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, observes as Secretary of State Madeline Albright greets airmen at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, this summer.

Reinhardt was serving in a VIP detail at Hickam as part of his annual field training.

Photo courtesy USAF



Family Day 2000 to offer new food, events and fun

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

After months of planning, the Kentucky Air National Guard will sponsor Family Day 2000 tomorrow afternoon.

The day is expected to be filled with plenty of fun and activities, said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, director of the event.

"With so many new events and displays this year, we're hoping everyone will come out, relax and enjoy themselves," he said.

In addition to great food and a wide variety of games for children, Family Day will feature equipment displays and live military demonstrations.

The highlight of this year's event will be a fire truck pull in which 12-person, co-ed teams will attempt to tug a fire engine over a predetermined course in the shortest amount of time.

To encourage family participation, teams

must include at least two family members, Frymire said.

This will be the first year for the event, and bleacher seating will be available for spectators.

Aviation artist Bob Conely also will be on hand to display his art work.

A new lunch menu of chili & hot dogs will be served in the fuel cell hangar beginning at 11 a.m.

Guard members have been given permission to change into civilian attire beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Unit members driving to drill on Sunday should park in Louisville's Male High School lot to allow plenty of parking spaces for family members arriving on base later.

A shuttle will transport Guard members to and from Male between 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Admission for the day's activities is \$1 per family, with proceeds going to family support.

Highlights

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch in the fuel cell hanger

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Flightline displays

- F-16 Falcon
- C-130H Hercules
- P-51 Mustang
- P-50 Warhawk
- Special Tactics displays

11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Children's activities & events
(located under the tent)

Noon - 3 p.m.

- Parachute team demo
- Fire team mock attack
- Firearms training
- Child safety seat inspection

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Fire truck pull (on flightline)

Partners of the Americas

Wheelchairs sent to Ecuador on the Thoroughbred Express



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

ABOVE: Senior Airman Jerome Noltemeyer, a ramp services and cargo handling specialist in the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, secures the wheelchairs being sent to Ecuador during the June UTA.



RIGHT: Senior Airman Charles Wilding and Senior Airman Jeffrey Dickson of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron help prepare the pallets for loading on a Kentucky C-130 transport.

**By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor**

A wheelchair can cost more than three years' salary in some countries, making it virtually impossible for those in need to ever obtain one.

To meet this need, the Kentucky Air Guard transported more than 220 wheelchairs to the South American nation in September.

Partners of the Americas, a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with Hope Haven International Ministries, refurbished the wheelchairs to send to the people of Ecuador.

The Kentucky Air Guard was then asked to help deliver the equipment under the auspices of the Denton Amendment, a federal law that allows military agencies to transport equipment used for civilian aid.

"Ecuador has problems," said Tony Jevans, a clinical chemist at Jewish Hospital who organized and planned the wheelchair delivery.

"The people are very poor, and 70 percent of the country lives below the poverty level. So (being able to afford wheelchairs) is out of the question for some."

Lt. Col. Bob Abell, commander of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, said his personnel were pleased to help.

"The wheelchairs are not good enough for a big hospital here, but they may be the best thing they'll ever see in Ecuador," Abell said.

The mission also had more practical value, Abell noted.

"The Air Guard uses this as training for our real-world missions," he said. "That makes it worthwhile rather than our simply training for the purpose of training."

The effort marked the second time the unit has participated in this type of mission.

Ky. Army Guard releases 5 yr. reorganization plan

Kentucky Department of Military Affairs

FRANKFORT, KY—State Adjutant General John R. Groves Jr. announced Sept. 28 a sweeping reorganization of Kentucky's Army National Guard that will change the makeup of units in 31 communities, marking the first major restructuring of the organization since the middle of the Cold War.

The transformation, however, will not cause the Kentucky Guard a loss of personnel strength or closure of armories in any of the 47 communities where units are now stationed.

According to Gen. Groves, the restructuring in Kentucky is part of a nationwide revamping of the National Guard aimed at better meeting the war-fighting needs of the Army, while enhancing the Guard's ability to respond to domestic emergencies.

"From the days before Kentucky became a state, our Citizen-Soldiers have understood they must always be ready to adapt to meet shifting national security requirements.

"The current reorganization had its beginnings in 1995 when it became apparent that, in the wake of the Cold War, the Army had too few support units and perhaps more combat units than would be needed in the future.

"Since then, we, along with other states, the Army Staff, and the National Guard leadership in Washington, have studied various options for reorganization.

"The result is what we believe to be the best mix of unit types for Kentucky.

While much of our structure will remain as it is today, the changes to be carried out between now and 2005 will be the transformation of some heavy combat organizations into support units that offer soldiers the opportunity for training in heavy equipment engineering, military police, chemical decontamination and military intelligence."

Groves indicated that plans are already in place to provide for retraining of soldiers in units marked for change, saying, "a core strength of the Kentucky Guard has always been the readiness of its men and women to undergo whatever training is necessary to remain qualified in the military occupational skills needed in their units."

Another key element of the plan is the relocating of some units to better match the demographics of the communities that they serve, Groves said.

"Just as businesses must constantly adjust their marketing and distribution plans to changes in their customers needs, we have to ensure that we have the right kind of unit in a community."

Unit commanders last month finished up the process of personally informing their soldiers of the impending restructuring. The first changes will begin this month, with completion of the process scheduled to occur in September 2005.

"By the time we are finished," Groves said, "we will have put the Kentucky National Guard in the best possible position to continue serving a vital role for both the nation and our state."

Another noteworthy accomplishment of KyANG state headquarters was its establishment of a shadow program for Air Force ROTC cadets.

The program, which is being modeled nationally, allows cadets to visit KyANG facilities and learn more about the way the Air Force and Air National Guard work.

Kentucky's program is particularly important to cadets in the region because there are no other Air Force facilities nearby.

"The Shadow Program gives cadets a snapshot of what the Air Guard is all about before they ever begin on active duty," Tonini noted.

KyANG recruiters honored for excellence

By Senior Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar
Headquarters, KyANG

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard were recognized during the National Recruiting & Retention Conference held in Salt Lake City from July 31 to Aug. 4.

Chief Master Sgt. Ron Smith of KyANG Headquarters was recognized as the 1999 State Human Resource Advisor of the Year on the regional and national level.

Also, Chief Master Sgt. Bob Wagner was honored with the 1999 Wing Advisor of the Year Award.

The Region 5 winner for the 1999 Unit Career Advisor of the Year was given to Tech. Sgt. Bill Hall. The region consists of 10 other states.

Master Sgt. Nate Mack was nominated for the 1999 Production Recruiter of the Year.

In addition, Mack and Master Sgt. Terry Moore were recognized as national winners of the Hard Charger Award for exceeding their recruiting goals for the fourth quarter.

Company-grade officers seek to form council

Several company-grade officers are working together to create a Company-Grade Officer's Council.

The council is in the early stages of development, and organizers are looking for interested individuals to participate.

The group plans to meet to discuss issues that concern junior officers.

For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Katrina Johnson at ext. 4732 or 2nd Lt. B.J. Geary at ext.4405.

Award

Continued from Front Page

Ultimately, the campaign allowed reservists employed by UPS to maintain full benefits while serving their country during Operation Allied Force, Tonini said.

"This is indicative of the nature and attitude of the leadership in state headquarters—the manner in which they have really gone out and proactively tried to make the Guard a better place, both in Kentucky and across the country.

Air Guard can make a difference with CFC 2000

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Since the early 1960s, it has become a tradition for members of the local community to come together once a year for the charity effort called the Combined Federal Campaign.

The Kentucky Air Guard is kicking off CFC 2000 this month and will be seeking donations from unit members today and tomorrow.

Lt. Col. Rich Frymire said the campaign gives federal employees an opportunity to im-

prove the quality of life in their hometowns.

Money raised from the effort will support hundreds of community service agencies in Kentuckiana.

"When Guard members give their time and donations to these agencies, it gives us a chance to help those less fortunate," he said.

"Last year we raised more than \$38,000, and this year's overall goal is \$40,500," Frymire said.

The CFC allows contributors to choose which agency will receive their donations.

Because of this, Guard members can pick the organization that is most important to them, Frymire noted.

Donations can be earmarked for up to five charities.

Pledge cards will be distributed today to unit members who are interested in beginning payroll deductions for their donations.

For more information, visit www.opm.gov/cfc

Promotions, retirements & separations



The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- Joseph Felinski,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Steven Garrett,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Megan Hall,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Justin Hardy,
123rd Communications Flt.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

- Charles Rodgers,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- James Tongate,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Laura Wilson,
123rd Medical Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

- Daniel Blevins,
205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Paul Greene,
123rd Airlift Control Element
- John Johnson,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Edgar Link,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Gregory Norberg,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Kevin Pitchford,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Darren Reinhardt,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

- Ryan Schultz,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.
- Ronald Shears,
123rd Civil Engineer Sq.
- Jimmy Sherwood,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Gary Uebel,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Patrick Vanmeter,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.
- Paul Vonderhaar,
123rd Medical Sq.
- George Wimsett Jr.,
205th Combat Communications Sq.

MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

- Lois Allen,
123rd Support Gp.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the U.S. Air Force:

- Tech. Sgt. John Catlett,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Conner,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Dionne,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Senior Master Sgt. James Everett,
123rd Operations Gp.
- Staff Sgt. James Ferguson,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Master Sgt. Thomas Gentry,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Frederick Hoyt,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Master Sgt. George McDonald,
123rd Civil Engineer Sq.
- Chief Master Sgt. Michael Meredith,
123rd Civil Engineer Sq.

- Col. David Moreman,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Chief Master Sgt. David Pope,
Headquarters KyANG
- Master Sgt. Robert Richardson,
123rd Civil Engineer Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. Pamela Wilkerson,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Staff Sgt. Wayne Yurt,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:

- Tech. Sgt. Richard Anderson,
205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Nathan Anthony,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Master Sgt. Curtis Carpenter,
123rd Communications Flt.
- Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Carr,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. Angela Conner,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Maj. Harry Downing,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Senior Airman Michael Johnson,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Delando Jones,
205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Capt. Lincoln Keill,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Senior Airman Kevin Koons,
205th Combat Communications Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Sean McLane,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.
- Lt. Col. Daniel Menkes,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Staff Sgt. Matthew Stearn,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.

Aviation safety records best in AF history

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has achieved its lowest numbers in major aviation mishaps and also saw its second-best year in on-duty ground safety in the service's 53-year history.

A "tremendous accomplishment," says the Air Force's chief of safety, Maj. Gen. Tim Peppe.

For fiscal 2000, the aviation mishap rate was 1.04 per 100,000 flying hours, compared to the previous best rate set in fiscal 1991 of 1.11, according to Peppe.

"In the Air Force, we define a major aviation mishap as an accident which results in a fatality or in which an aircraft is destroyed or exceeds \$1 million in damage," he explained.

In accomplishing this year's feat, the Air Force realized records in three major aviation safety categories.

The lowest number of major aircraft mishaps, 22. The lowest number of aircraft destroyed, 14 and the lowest number of total aviation fatalities, 7, including three pilot fatalities.

"These aviation rates are pretty significant, especially when you account for the

increased ops tempo, deployments and operations in austere locations such as Southwest Asia," Peppe noted. "This is a tremendous accomplishment."

Previously, the Air Force's record was 24 major aircraft mishaps in fiscal 1998. There were 20 aircraft destroyed in fiscal 1998, and nine total aviation fatalities in fiscal 1999.

The general said this fiscal year's record lows are evidence of a downward trend seen over the past few years.

"We are pleased to see this continuing decline overall in our safety categories but realize that challenges remain ahead of us. It may not be realistic, but we want to see a zero in every category."

The general said one significant decline was in the logistics category, which covers mechanical failures.

"This year, the Air Force confirmed four cases of aircraft mishaps due to mechanical failures, compared to fiscal 1999's total of 20, a significant decline," he said. He noted the number might rise to seven, due to ongoing investigations of aircraft mishaps.

Peppe attributes the decline to continued commander involvement at all levels and increased funding in spare parts.

"We are going to keep a close eye on this

to see if this downward trend continues."

Along with the aviation records comes the service's second best year in on-duty ground safety.

"For fiscal 2000, we had six on-duty fatalities, which equates to a 1.02 percent rate (per 100,000 people)," Peppe said.

Previously, the service's lowest rate was three fatalities in fiscal 1998.

"Off duty," he said, "the Air Force lost 51 airmen, compared to a previous low record of 41 fatalities seen in fiscal 1999."

"The primary causes remain motor vehicle accidents, alcohol use and people who are not wearing seat belts," Peppe said.

"We are optimistic that with continued focus and commitment to make operational risk management a part of on- and off-duty life, we can do better. We feel even one fatality is one too many."

Peppe said this fiscal year's aviation record is a stellar effort that reflects the Air Force's team effort.

"Clearly, commander awareness and emphasis, increased funding for spare parts and a commitment to make operational risk management a part of everyone's daily schedule all contributed to these superb aviation safety records," he said.

Veterans now encouraged to resume careers

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force hopes to attract thousands of former airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines to return to active duty in fiscal 2001.

A program that formerly complemented typical nonprior service recruiting now allows the Air Force to immediately fill non-commissioned officer shortages in certain specialties by welcoming back individuals with previous military experience.

"The Air Force recognizes there is a pool of highly skilled veterans who've served proudly and now miss the opportunities of military service," said Col. Duane Deal, Air Force Recruiting Service commander.

"They may have spent four or more years with one of our sister services and decided to leave for the civilian work force," Deal said.

"Now they miss the teamwork, discipline, and opportunities of the military and want to serve again. Instead of donning Army Green or Marine khakis, they want to build on those skills with a career in the Air Force.

"This program allows them to do that."

Air Force recruiters now welcome prior-service people with open

arms. In previous years recruiters were given credit for enlisting people with no previous military experience.

In the past, military prior service members did not count against their annual goal — although nearly 900 veterans returned during fiscal 2000.

The fiscal 2001 goal of 34,600 new recruits includes prior service members.

To re-enter the active force, enlisted members must:

- Be re-enlistment eligible at time of separation
- Have served no more than 12 years of active service
- Have not been separated more than four years when they re-enter active duty
- Be in the grade of E-4 through E-6

Reserve and Guard members are also eligible to participate with commander approval.

During the early to mid-1980s, the enlisted prior-service program brought as many as 3,000 veterans back on duty each year. Force reductions caused the program to be utilized only sparingly during the past decade.

However, today, members of all services may resume a career in America's Air Force without an administrative waiting period.

Farewell



Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG



Master Sgt. Charlie Simpson/KyANG

LEFT: Chief Master Sgt. Mike Meredith of the 123rd Civil Engineer Sq. receives the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal from Brig. Gen. Rick Ash on Sept. 10.

ABOVE: Ash awards Command Chief Master Sgt. David Pope of KyANG Headquarters with the same honor during Pope's retirement dinner Sept. 9.

Leaders

Continued from Front Page

piloted the same aircraft as a member of the 1st Special Operations Squadron at Clark Air Base, Philippines.

After returning to the states in July 1986, Sharpe was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., where he flew B-727s.

In 1988, Sharpe separated from the Air Force and became a DC9 pilot for Midway Airlines. He joined the KyANG in 1991 and became an aircraft commander in 1994.

Sharpe is a command pilot with more than 6,000 flight hours in military aircraft and more than 5,000 hours in civilian aircraft.

He has been a civilian pilot with World Airways since 1995 and currently flies the MD11.

In his new role as commander of the operations group, Rhodes will be responsible for overseeing all flying operations, as well as the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron and the 123rd Special Tactics Flight.

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