

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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Yaple, Kraus named to fill key positions

Together they bring more than 40 years flight operations experience to the table

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Col. Bob Yaple and Lt. Col. Mark Kraus were selected last month to fill key leadership positions in the Kentucky Air Guard.

Yaple, a 23-year member of the National Guard, was selected as the new vice commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, filling a post vacated by the departing Col. Cora Jackson, while Kraus was selected to command the 123rd Operations Group.

Col. Mike Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, said he looks forward to working with both men.

"Col. Yaple's knowledge of operations and his focus on making things better for all members of the 123rd will allow him to carry on the great work started by Col. Cora Jackson, who has been selected to fill a readiness position at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense," Harden said.

"The operations group continues to be in good hands under the leadership of Lt. Col. Kraus.

"These dynamite officers know the operations business and have the ability to get folks on their side to accomplish any mission," Harden continued.

"In these uncertain times, men like this step forward when called and do extraordinary things. We are blessed to have them direct our great folks as leaders in the Kentucky Air Guard."

Yaple, who has served as both a navigator and pilot in the wing, most recently commanded the 123rd Operations Group.

He began his military career in 1980, receiving a commission through the University of Vermont's Army ROTC program.

Yaple initially served in the Vermont Army National Guard but soon transferred to the Kentucky Air Guard to pursue a fly-

ing career. He served here as an RF-4C weapons system operator until 1985, when Yaple cross-trained to become a pilot.

He also has held various other positions through the years, including command post officer, flight commander and headquarters director of operations.

Yaple received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Vermont in 1980.

He has more than 3,000 flying hours in the RF-4C and C-130.

As vice commander, Yaple will act as a full assistant to the wing commander, providing leadership and management to the flying unit.

He also will be responsible for overseeing manpower, equipment and training in peacetime, in preparation to perform the wartime mission.

Along with the wing commander, Yaple will be accountable for complying with a wide variety of federal and state authorities in all aspects of operations, personnel, equipment and funds.

Kraus, who has served as commander of the 165th Airlift Squadron since 2000, began his military career on active duty before transferring to Kentucky Air Guard in 1974 as a two-stripe supply troop.

Since then, his career took off.

In 1979, he earned a commission, became a navigator and now has more than 20 years of flight operations experience in the unit.

The Indiana native holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from McKendree College.

He is a master navigator with nearly 4,000 flying hours in the RF-4C and C-130 B/H.

In his new role as the 123rd Operations Group commander, Kraus will be responsible for overseeing flying operations, the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron, 123rd Airlift



YAPLE



KRAUS

Control Flight, 123rd Weather Flight, 123rd Operations Support Flight and 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

Mentoring programs prepare KyANG troops for leadership roles

Last month I briefed our 2003 Strategic Plan outlining what I consider to be the most important things that we need to accomplish in order to reach our vision of "A powerful, harmonious and EPIC military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms, prepared to successfully wage war and add value to community, state and nation."

One of the focus areas of our plan is to "implement the Air Guard mentoring and career development/progression plan for all officers and NCOs."

Last year we were honored to have Samuel Betances, Ph.D., come to our base and introduce the Air Guard mentoring plan, and we were chosen as a test unit to see how well it would work.

It's now time that we implement this plan, and ingrain mentoring in our unit culture.

The term "mentor" has its origins in the Greek poet Homer's epic, "The Odyssey." It seems that Odysseus was preparing to deploy to fight a war and would be separated from his son for a long time.

He was worried about who would take his place teaching his son all of the things he would need to know in order to prepare him to take his place as king one day.

After careful consideration he turned to a close and dear confidant named Mentor and asked him to take on this important responsibility.



Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

So here we are thousands of years later, faced with the same problem that faced Odysseus.

How do we ensure that our future leaders, officers and NCOs are prepared to take on their vital roles as leaders, followers, supervisors and managers?

The Air Guard developed the mentoring program to fill this need and to propel us into the future with a new generation of folks

prepared to face that future.

Through this program we can ensure that the Guard members of today are the best at what they do, and that they have the leadership and management skills necessary to keep the Air National Guard the premiere fighting force it is today.

Mentorship is a relationship in which a person with greater experience, wisdom and knowledge provides a protégé with guidance resulting in a higher level of personal and professional excellence.

We have all experienced a mentor-protégé relationship in our lives—some good, some bad.

It could have been with our parents, a coach, a teacher, a friend or a boss.

We learned from them, we watched what they did and we decided whether we should try to emulate their example.

Mentoring simply helps prepare the protégé for the future.

It should never be confused with favoritism or preselection, and it should be available to all people desiring to prepare themselves for the future.

It will benefit recruiting and retention efforts, increase morale and ultimately have a positive impact on mission readiness.

For the mentor, it provides an avenue for us senior folks to give something back to this unit—and to the folks who will take over when we are gone.

It can provide us old guys with a tremen-

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Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 14.

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

Bed of roses...



Photo courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Paul Greene

Tech. Sgt. Paul Greene, civilian employer Suzanne Coyle and Greene's son Josh participated in the Tournament of Roses Parade Jan. 1 in Pasadena, Calif. The trio rode on a float titled "Freedom to Dream," sponsored by the Defense Freedom Foundation in conjunction with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Greene, who serves in the 123rd Airlift Control Flight, recently spent a year on active duty in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. During his activation, Greene spent more than 60 days in the Afghanistan area of operations.

Mentoring

Continued from Page 2

dous sense of satisfaction knowing that we left this place better than we found it, and prepared the new guys to carry on and make it even better.

If done right, this program will require a commitment of time to each other.

It also will require that we develop a sense of trust and mutual respect for one another.

This is not a hard thing to do, and it most certainly is the right thing to do.

So I am committed to get this program off the ground.

Our state human resources advisor,

Chief Master Sgt. Bob Wagner, and our wing human resources advisor, Senior Master Sgt. Ken Wade, are spearheading the program for us.

I highly encourage each of you to enroll in the program and to complete the Air Guard Mentor-Protégé Matching Questionnaire that can be obtained from these two fine senior NCOs.

It will only take a few minutes to complete but can be the start of a career-changing relationship.

Be committed to this worthwhile endeavor.

And let's let the legacy continue!

Thanks Loads,

Michael R. Smith

AOY banquet scheduled for March 1

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky Air Guard's outstanding airmen of the year for 2002 will be honored at a banquet March 1.

The dinner will be held this year at the Bullitt County Convention Center in Shepherdsville, Ky., said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Mitro, the wing's command chief master sergeant.

The new location is necessary because the event has outgrown the Louisville country club used for previous Airman of the Year ceremonies, Mitro said.

The dinner's cost is \$15 per person, and tickets can be purchased from any chief master sergeant.

Only 400 tickets are available, and they are expected to sell quickly, Mitro said.

This year's honorees are Senior Airman Josh Ketterer of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Tech. Sgt. Bill Sprake of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, and Senior Master Sgt. Pat Malone, also from the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

The guest speaker will be Heather Renee French Henry, former Miss America and wife of Lt. Gov. Steve Henry.

Entertainment will be provided by the Air Force Band of Flight Pop Music Combination from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The uniform for the evening is mess dress or dress blues.

For more information, contact Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Mitro at ext. 4465.

Ky. Air Guard chief of staff leaves unit to continue work in the nation's capitol

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Ed Tonini never planned on retiring from the Kentucky Air Guard when he raised his right hand in 1969 and swore allegiance to the Commonwealth and his country.

As a young college graduate at the height of the Vietnam Conflict, he joined the unit because it was a better alternative than being drafted into the Army or Marine Corps.

This route, Tonini said, allowed him to serve his country but also left him more in control of his life.

"As you can imagine," Tonini said, "I was extraordinarily pleased to come into the Guard."

The now-brigadier general said he still thanks his lucky stars for the opportunity he was given. "It was very difficult to get in the Guard then," Tonini said. "There were thousands and thousands on the waiting list."

Originally, Tonini planned to fulfill his six-year commitment and get out, but that all changed once he became part of the unit.

"In large part, I decided: When it stops being fun for me, I'll get out."

Since then, his six-year commitment has turned into 34 years and counting. While Tonini is saying good-bye to the Kentucky Air Guard for now, having recently stepped down as chief of staff, he will continue his work at the Pentagon as the director of the Your Guardians of Freedom program he created.

After the horrific attacks on the United States in September of 2001, Tonini almost immediately went to the nation's capitol and began the task of building the campaign.

He created a program that enables wing commanders to quickly communicate with those who are affected by the activation and mobilization of National Guard and Reserve troops. This includes the airmen's families, employers, educational institutions, hometown media, community leaders and members of congress.

The public relations campaign became such a success it went nationwide in the Air Guard and soon was expanded to include all Air Force components. Even now, it continues to grow.

Tonini's innovative E-Pin program, which recognizes employer support with distinctive lapel pins, represents the first-ever direct communication between USAF senior leadership and reserve component employers.

"The response has really been spectacular," Tonini said. "We've received overwhelmingly positive feedback from hundreds of airmen and employers, large and small, from around the country. Secretary Roche and General Jumper believe it is critical that our employers know that they are our partners, and their support is critical to the work of America's Air Force."

The general's job now is to ensure the program continues.

"I was asked to institutionalize Your Guardians of Freedom to make it a permanent part of Air Force culture," Tonini said. "There's nothing more flattering than to think something you created will endure after you're gone."

For now, though, Tonini's work continues.

"I'm having the time of my life and am constantly in awe of what I'm doing. The return in personal satisfaction far exceeds anything else. Nothing can compare to the working at the highest level of the Air Force."

Tonini, who at one time was a slick-sleeved airman basic, attributes his success to KyANG leadership.

"All the commanders I worked for gave me just enough rope and trusted me. You can't ask for more than that. I recognize this a unique blessing."

“

I'm having the time of my life and am constantly in awe of what I'm doing. The return in personal satisfaction far exceeds anything else. Nothing can compare to the working at the highest level of the Air Force.

”

—Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini
Director of Your Guardians of Freedom



Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

The Commonwealth's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, presents Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini with the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal, first oak cluster, at Tonini's farewell dinner Jan. 4 at The Galt House.

Drive smart when road conditions are poor

By Master Sgt. Barry Wright
Wing Ground Safety Manager

When road conditions aren't perfect due to snow and ice, normal driving becomes much tougher.

But adverse weather conditions can't always be blamed for a vehicle accidents.

Experts estimate that more than 90 percent of all fatal traffic mishaps are caused by driver error, lack of experience, faulty judgment, improper attitudes and bad driving habits.

Adverse weather simply makes it easier to make a mistake, and it usually imposes a higher penalty for error.

During winter months the driver really has to be on the ball and make as few mistakes as possible.

However, there are two things vital to reducing your chances of becoming another statistic—you must be able to see, and you must be able to control your vehicle.

Before driving away, completely clear the windshield, windows and outside rear view mirrors to have enough visibility to see any possible danger.

Then be prepared to make a decision and take action by maintaining control over your vehicle to stay out of a mishap.

Because inclement weather can result in unsafe road conditions, normal safe driving habits should be modified to allow for these

changing conditions. To ensure safe winter driving, practice these safety tips:

- Get your car ready for winter. Check it yourself, or if you are not familiar with automobiles, have it checked by a qualified mechanic.
- Check your battery. Don't take for granted that your battery will see you through another winter. Battery power goes down during cold weather conditions. Get a charge if you need it, or maybe it's time for a new battery.
- Check your brakes. Good brakes are a must for winter safety. Have the equalization checked. A pull to one side can create a dangerous skid.
- Check your windshield area. Wipers should have adequate arm tension; worn blades should be replaced. Use an antifreeze windshield solvent in the washer system and make sure your defrosters do the job. Always ensure your windshield is cleared prior to taking off to eliminate blind spots.
- Keep windows clear. Front, rear and side windows should all be cleared. Remember danger comes from all directions. Brush all snow off before you

start out. Don't be a peephole driver—this only works in submarines. Don't forget to clean the air intake in front of the windshield and from the wiper blades if they are frozen.

- Road splatter, slush and salted wet roads can greatly reduce visibility. Use windshield washers and wipers frequently. When driving at night, stop occasionally to clean headlights and taillights. Headlight efficiency can be cut in half by road splatter.
- It's best not to drive in fog, sleet or heavy snow, but if you must, keep your headlights on low beam. High beams create more glare.
- Drive within or below the legal speed limits. Speed, fast acceleration and abrupt steering movements are dangerous in winter driving.
- Give yourself plenty of time and space to stop. Never jam on the brakes—you'll only skid. Pump the brakes with hard rapid jabs. That way the wheels will keep rolling and you will be less likely to lose steering control.

For more information on driving safety, contact the wing safety office at ext. 4107.

Thoroughbred Lounge relocates

By Senior Airman Flener
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

The Thoroughbred Lounge looks more like a club since its grand re-opening in the Base Annex during January's drill.

Master Sgt. Ted Schiess, president of the club's board of directors, said the new site is a big improvement over the old location—a warehouse-like building that belonged to the base motor pool.

"The old club wasn't really our facility," Schiess said. "That's why we couldn't renovate."

The new facility includes pool and foosball tables, as well as a television viewing area. But club officials don't plan on stopping there.

"My personal plan, after we start making

money, is to put in a snack bar," Schiess said.

"This is down the road. We're not even halfway into the stuff we'd like to do."

Schiess said the club plays a valuable role on base—promoting camaraderie.

"It's a place to bring Guard members together," he said. "Right now, when everybody leaves base at the end of the day, they go their own different directions."

Master Sgt. Wayne Miller, who serves on the board, remembers the days of the old club, which closed in the mid-1980s.

"When it went away, we lost a lot of camaraderie. We'd like to get that back," he said.

The Thoroughbred Lounge is open from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on drill weekends.

Harden to take the plunge again

For the second straight year, 123rd Airlift Wing Commander Col. Michael Harden plans to jump into the chilly Ohio River as part of the Polar Bear Plunge.

The Feb. 22 event requires participants to dive into the river as part of a campaign to raise money for Special Olympics Kentucky.

Participants must raise a minimum of \$50 each for the cause in order to take the plunge.

For registration information, contact 1st Lt. Katrina Johnson at ext. 4237 or Special Olympics Kentucky at (502) 326-5002.

Memorial honors those killed in peacetime

By Tech. Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

A new memorial was dedicated in Louisville on Nov. 11 — Veterans Day — to honor military members from the local community who were killed in peacetime while preparing for war.

The idea to build the Patriot's Peace Memorial — the only one of its kind in the nation — stems from a tragic loss suffered by Master Sgt. Charles Simpson, a member of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Communications Squadron, and his wife, Nancy.

The Simpsons' son, Air Force pilot 1st Lt. Brice Simpson, was injured and eventually died in 1998 after his F-16 fighter jet crashed during takeoff in Japan.

"The blow was devastating," Nancy recalled.

And with her son buried at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Nancy soon realized that she and her husband had no where to go to remember him.

On Veteran's Day in 1998, while attending a church service, Nancy discussed with a close friend the fact that so many memorials were built to recognize warriors who were killed during conflicts.

There were none, however, to recognize the sacrifices of military men and women killed during times of peace.

Nancy's friend was then-Jefferson County Judge-Executive Rebecca Jackson, who soon invited Nancy to her office to share her story with another person.

Little did Nancy know, she was pouring her heart out to David Jones, cofounder of Humana Inc., who quickly agreed to donate the land necessary to build a fitting memorial.

"The seed Rebecca envisioned turned out beautifully," Nancy said of the memorial's final design.

The memorial is illuminated from within so that it acts as a lantern to project the names of those who are listed.

More than 400 names currently are honored, but the walls

will hold up to 1,000.

"Too many soldiers who die preparing for war are forgotten," Nancy said. "This memorial was a much-needed thing.

"We'd like to see more of them in the United States," she added, "and we're going to work on it."

One way Nancy and others hope to spread the word is by distributing a promotional video on the memorial that was prepared by Charles Simpson's duty section.

The six-minute video was produced by Senior Master Sgt. Terry Lutz, Staff Sgt. Tommy Downs, Senior Airman Philip Speck and Senior Airman Valerie Gholson with the help of Jones, Jackson and Milton Metz, a local radio celebrity.

"The experience that we received working on this project is invaluable," Lutz said. "Not to mention we really had a good time doing it.

"Since Charlie works with us, and I knew Brice, it meant that much more."

The names of members of the Kentucky Air National Guard who were killed during peacetime also are listed on the wall.



TOP: Senior Airman Anthony Walker, Nancy Simpson and Master Sgt. Charles Simpson represent the Air Force at the dedication of the memorial Nov. 11. The Simpsons lost their son, Air Force 1st Lt. M. Brice Simpson, in 1998 when his F-16 crashed on takeoff from Japan.



LEFT: The memorial is located at Indian Hills Trails and River Road. More than 40 design entries were submitted from around the world.

*Photos by
Senior Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KyANG*

USAF troops begin receiving smallpox vaccine

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force chief of staff has directed the immediate implementation of the smallpox vaccination program.

In a Jan. 6 policy memorandum to major command commanders, Gen. John P. Jumper outlined details of the commanders' force protection program against the deadly biological warfare agent.

The first Air Force people to be vaccinated will be medical people and designated forces that constitute specific mission-critical capabilities.

The identified medics include Smallpox Epidemiological Response Team members at Brooks City-Base, Texas, those responsible for administering the vaccine to other airmen, and base-level smallpox medical team members (medics who have been selected to treat anyone who contracts the disease).

According to the Air Force smallpox vaccination implementation plan, some civilian employees and contractors will also be vaccinated.

Other U.S. forces will be vaccinated depending upon circumstances.

Although vaccinations will begin immediately, the program's director said airmen would be vaccinated in stages.

"It is expected that up to 30 percent of the people receiving the vaccine will have minor reactions that result in the loss of one or more duty days," said Brig. Gen. Robert L. Smolen, director of nuclear and

counterproliferation.

According to medical officials, the smallpox vaccine is a "live virus" vaccine that uses vaccinia virus. People cannot contract smallpox from the vaccine.

"Smallpox vaccine has some well-recognized side effects," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kelly Woodward, chief of preventive medicine at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

"Many people can expect to have minor side effects, such as feeling achy, low-grade fever, headache and itching at the injection site. "Those are minor reactions and resolve on their own."

In rare cases, Woodward said, the virus may erupt widely over the body instead of remaining confined to the vaccination site.

Public education is one of the plan's major components. Recipients must be informed about the vaccine and its contraindications before inoculation.

People getting the vaccine will receive a briefing on expected reactions, adverse events, and how to access health care for medical concerns.

"Education of commanders, individuals and families is imperative to ensure the success of this program," Jumper wrote in the memo.

As a minimum, people will receive a copy of the smallpox vaccine trifold (available under the "Educational Products" icon at the Department of Defense smallpox Web site, www.vaccines.army.mil).

People may get information at mass briefings or commanders' calls. Local health care professionals can also provide smallpox in-

formation.

According to the plan, recipients will be screened before inoculation. The screening form is available under the "Forms" icon at the DOD smallpox Web site.

Anyone who answers "yes" or "unsure" to a question on the form will not receive the vaccine until they have received further medical evaluation.

The Air Force is taking the extra screening precautions because the smallpox vaccine has unique contraindications, or reasons to avoid it, Woodward said.

"Contraindications in either the individual receiving the vaccine or the person's household contacts will preclude a non-emergency vaccination," he said. "It's important that people receiving the vaccine take the time to consider the medical condition of others in their household as they go through the screening process."

Certain dermatological conditions, such as eczema and atopic dermatitis, increase the risk of complications from the smallpox vaccine. Those with a history of dermatological conditions should make sure to point them out during the screening process, Woodward said.

Other medical criteria that preclude vaccination include pregnancy, nursing mothers and HIV infection.

While the plan calls for people to be vaccinated before deploying to high-threat areas, non-vaccination does not necessarily preclude mobilization, Smolen said, since the vaccine may be successfully administered up to four days after exposure.

Active duty AF to begin short-term enlistments Oct. 1

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A new military short-term enlistment program will begin Oct. 1 aimed at expanding the opportunities for all Americans to serve the country.

Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

The program allows the military services a new option to reach a group of young Americans who otherwise might not serve because of the length of traditional enlist-

ment options, said Bob Clark, assistant director in the Department of Defense's accession policy directorate.

The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month active-duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active-duty commitment of about 19 months.

Following successful completion of active duty, servicemembers may re-enlist for further active duty or transfer to the selected reserve for a 24-month obligation.

Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in the selected reserve or transfer

to individual ready reserve for the remainder of an eight-year commitment.

"The unique piece of this legislation is that while in the individual ready reserve, these young people will be given the opportunity to move into one of the other national service programs, such as AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, and time in those will count toward their eight-year obligation," Clark said.

While the Army and Navy already have a limited two-year enlistment program, this is the first time the Air Force and Marine

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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)

•**Thomas Hood**,
123rd Student Flt.
•**Brian Milburn**,
165th Airlift Sq.
•**Jason Sanderson**,
123rd Student Flt.
•**Erik Smith**,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

•**Christopher Abrams**,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
•**James Campbell**,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
•**Casey Carmichael**,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•**Danielle Lewis**,
123rd Communications Sq.

•**Eric May**,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
•**Reid Morris**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
•**Jerome Noltemeyer**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
•**George Plaza**,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
•**Dana Walker**,
123rd Communications Sq.
•**Roxanne Westmoreland**,
123rd Support Group
•**Charles Wilding**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

•**Danny Page**,
123rd Special Tactics Sq.
•**Steven Schultz**,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
•**Stephanie Slayton**,
123rd Logistics Sq.

MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

•**Daniel Conklin**,
123rd Logistics Sq.

•**Deborah Cox**,
123rd Airlift Wing

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT (E-9)

•**Elizabeth Green**,
123rd Mission Support Flt.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

•**Senior Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar**,
KyANG State Headquarters

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air Guard:

•**Technical Sgt. Beatrice Mata**,
123rd Logistics Sq.

Enlistments

Continued from Page 7

Corps will offer the option.

Clark said the option would be limited to high-quality recruits — those with a high school diploma and scores in the top half of aptitude tests.

Officials hope this will make the military more attractive to college-bound youth who might volunteer to take a short period out between high school and college, but would not take off that three- or four-year period.

He said he feels the option may also attract college graduates interested in serving their country before attending graduate school.

But perhaps the largest potential pool for the option is with community college graduates who might serve the country for a short time and use available incentives to enter a four-year school, Clark said.

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