

THE CARGO COURIER

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Wing completes Persian Gulf mission

123rd flies over 1,200 sorties
in support of operations across
U.S. Central Command AOR

By Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Chief of Public Affairs

Hundreds of friends and family members gathered at the Kentucky Air National Guard base in November to welcome home 72 Airmen from a four-month deployment to the Persian Gulf, where the troops have been working since July to support military operations across Northern Africa and Western Asia.

Fifty-eight of the aircrew members and maintenance personnel arrived home aboard a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 on Nov. 10, while 14 more came home Nov. 11. An earlier rotation of more than 20 Guardsmen returned from the same location in September, according to Lt. Col. Shawn Dawley, commander of the 165th Airlift Squadron.

Operating from an undisclosed airbase in the Persian Gulf region, the Kentucky Airmen flew over 1,200 combat and combat-support missions in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility, moving more than 3,000 tons of cargo and 12,000 passengers to locations as widely sepa-



Above: Fire trucks spray water in symbolic salute to a C-130 Hercules aircraft Nov. 10 as it taxis onto the base flight line carrying 58 Kentucky Air Guardsmen returning from the Persian Gulf. The Airmen spent the past four months flying airlift missions in support of U.S. military operations across the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

Left: Maj. Jennifer Helton, a navigator for the 165th Airlift Squadron, fights back tears Nov. 10 as she hugs her son, Kaiden Helton, next to the flight line.

KyANG photos by
Maj. Dale Greer

See *PERSIAN GULF*, Page 4

Readiness is essential to our line of work

Readiness is my number one priority for the Wing. It is also the number one priority for the Air National Guard.

Readiness as a primary goal is nothing new and should come as no surprise. It is what every military unit has sought for centuries.

Looking back at an old 123rd Airlift Wing Strategic Plan from the 1990s reveals no less: "Attain/Maintain the highest levels of combat readiness" is listed as a strategic objective.

As we prepare for the upcoming inspections and future deployments, I want to emphasize the importance of readiness to our mission.

If we are not trained and certified in accordance with applicable directives, then we are not ready to go to war, render assistance in response to a disaster or excel in an inspection. Your efforts in readiness actually complement your preparation for the Combined Unit Inspection and Operational Readiness Inspection.

However, readiness is not easy. It requires a lot of work in thought, time and preparation.

The Air National Guard Readiness Center understands this challenge and is taking steps to reduce the demand of ancillary training constantly levied against us without additional resources to accomplish them.

There is an effort underway to better



Col. Warren Hurst
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

manage unit and individual readiness, but we are not there yet, so in the meantime we have to work with what we have.

Unfortunately, the Air Force does not have one single tool to track all our training and readiness items. We have to go to several different sources and this can be confusing.

This is where we need the experts — our Unit Training Managers and Unit Deployment Managers. Please know who they are and work with them to ensure you are "good to go."

UTMs and UDMs: Please hone your

skills at closing loopholes in tracking.

It is also imperative for each individual to take responsibility for his or her own training as well. Don't just assume your UTM and UDM will take care of you. We have to back each other up.

We will be tightening up these processes to check and verify an individual's ability to deploy.

I will be asking commanders if they know their Airmen are trained, certified and verified for the mission.

We will not deploy unqualified individuals. Commanders cannot just assume their personnel are trained.

Readiness requires constant attention and oversight. Expect to see more focus on readiness, which will include physical fitness, medical profiles and skill level training.

Our ability to properly demonstrate our Wing's readiness will be examined from higher headquarters and has been looked at by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. As DoD looks to save money, units with historically low readiness ratings will be subject to greater scrutiny and will find themselves working even harder to justify their budgets and maybe even their missions.

The 123rd has been doing great, but we have a few gaps. Let's sharpen our focus on readiness and continue to lead the way in the Total Force.

— Col. Warren Hurst

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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.

Publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is Dec. 10.

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Dental coverage open to retirees

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available to all military retirees (including gray area retirees) and their eligible family members, unremarried surviving spouses and their eligible children.

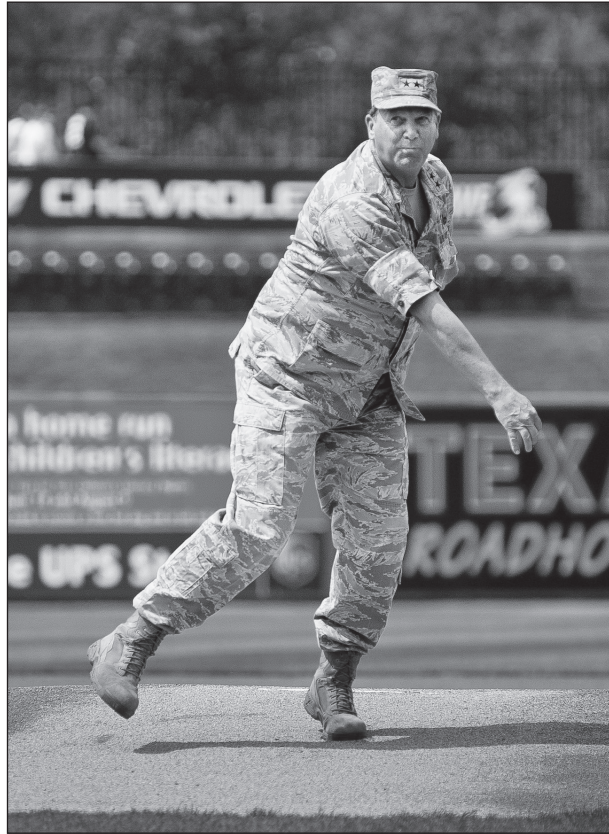
The coverage also is available to Medal of Honor recipients and their eligible immediate family members and survivors.

The program covers cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, gum surgery, oral surgery and dental accidents on the first day that coverage becomes effective.

After 12 months of coverage, the plan pays for crowns, bridges, partials, braces and dental implants.

For more information, contact Lynn Jamroz at (630) 587-6397 or ljamroz@delta.org.

To enroll or browse information online, visit www.trdp.org.



Military Muscle

Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, the adjutant general of the Kentucky National Guard, throws out a ceremonial pitch before the Louisville Bats-Syracuse Chiefs baseball game May 28 at Slugger Field in Louisville.

The Memorial Day event, billed as Military Appreciation Day, drew thousands of current and former members of the U.S. Armed Services.

Kentucky Air National Guard photo by Maj. Dale Greer

MICT the key to inspection preparation

By Lt. Col. Pat Pritchard
123rd Comptroller Flight Commander

The Management Internal Control Toolset, or MICT, is a computer application designed to help all levels of leadership implement the self-inspection program and checklist management requirements defined in AFI 90-201, "The Air Force Inspection System," and perform their missions successfully.

Basically, MICT is a Web-based application designed by the Air Force Reserves to centrally locate and manage self-inspection checklists. It covers, but is not limited to checklists for the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program; Compliance Inspections; Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visits; the Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program; and Health Services Inspections. Bottom-line: if you have a checklist, which we all do, it needs to be in MICT.

Centrally locating the checklists will facilitate individuals working on a checklist. It also gives access to management for reviewing

progress and status updates, and it helps with checklist archiving and historical data.

MICT has several useful tools, including reports, status updates, suspense activities and a variety of other useful options that will increase efficiency and oversight by the user.

MICT is a great resource for all inspections and the upcoming Combined Unit Inspection. Additionally, it has been mandated by the wing commander and shortly will be mandatory under Air Mobility Command directives.

The two areas that present the most challenge in MICT is finding your particular checklist and then tracking (uploading) it.

The following steps will help.

1. Log into MICT from a military network: go to ARCNet at <https://www.my.af.mil/arcnetprod/resnet/classic/home.asp>
2. Select MICT at the top center of the page
3. "Change Unit" should reflect your unit; if not, select your unit
4. Go to the Administration tab and select

"Track Checklist"

5. MAJCOM: Select "AFIA"
6. Directorate: Select your directorate: A1/A2/A3, etc. (If you are unsure, select all directorates)
7. Find your checklist and put a checkmark on the right-hand side of the screen
8. Go back to the top of page and, under Assessment, select "Self Inspection"
9. Select the appropriate directorate or "all"; you will see the checklist you just tracked
10. Select the plus symbol on right-hand side to manage the checklist
11. Click appropriate responses for each question and add comments
12. Once you start the checklist, the plus symbol becomes a magnifying glass
13. Don't forget to save your work as you update the checklist, but do not "Initiate Overall Assessment"

If you have any problems, if any step fails or you need access to the system, call me at 413-4411.

Persian Gulf

Continued from Front Page

rated as Iraq, Egypt and the Hindu Kush Mountains in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Dawley said.

The Kentucky Guardsmen — all members of the Louisville-based 123rd Airlift Wing — were joined at their deployed location by troops from the Cheyenne, Wyo.-based 30th Airlift Squadron, an active duty-Air Guard associate unit; the active-duty 36th Airlift Squadron from Yakota Air Base, Japan; and troops from the Missouri and Wyoming Air Guard.

The blended nature of the group proved to be one of the mission's biggest challenges — and ultimate strengths.

"We didn't have the luxury of a one-week stand down to get to know each other when we arrived in theater," said Dawley, who served as commander of the deployed 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "It was like changing the oil in your car while you're still driving down the road at 60 miles an hour. But we truly did have a great group of guys on this deployment. Everyone really came together to complete the mission."

Dawley also had high praise for Kentucky's aircraft maintenance troops, who provided exceptional service during the deployment.

"The maintenance (team) generated a 'fully mission-capable rate' which exceeded the rate of all other maintenance packages that have ever been deployed to our location," he said.

"With that many good planes to fly every day, the flying squadron was then

able to set a record-high mission-effective rate. We often flew several hundred sorties in a row before we had to cancel a mission for any reason.

"Those figures look great on a slide, but I recognize that each one of them reflects a lot of tireless work on the part of the maintainers who gave us the airplanes, and the aircrews who always found a way to get the mission done."

The deployment was the Kentucky Air Guard's seventh major mobilization to CENTCOM since 2003. Previous deployments sent hundreds of Kentucky Air Guard forces to multiple locations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. In 2007, for example, more than 210 wing members deployed to Afghanistan to airdrop thousands of tons of vital equipment and supplies to forward-deployed troops who were in direct contact with the enemy, navigating some of the most rugged, high-altitude terrain anywhere in the world.

Nearly 300 Kentucky Air Guardsmen returned to Afghanistan in 2009 for the same mission, transporting 20,000 troops and 6,000 tons of cargo across the theater of operations. Most recently, about 160 Kentucky Airmen broke airlift records when they airdropped or transported an unprecedented amount of cargo and personnel in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from October 2010 to January 2011.

Since 9/11, more than 15,000 Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have mobilized in support of the Global War on Terror.

Additional photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/kyngpao/sets/72157631978010484/



Above: A member of the 123rd Airlift Wing gets a welcome



Maj. Dale

Above: Colorful hearts, made by children at Crums Lane School in Louisville, provide a cheerful welcome for 58 Airmen

Left: Maj. Jennifer Helton shares a quiet moment with her child on the base flight line Nov. 10.

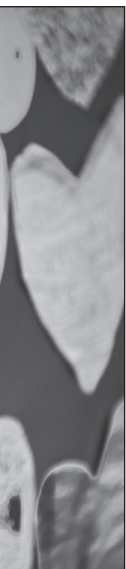


Airman Basic Joshua Horton/KyANG



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

...home hug from his loved ones on the base flight line Nov. 10.



...Greer/KyANG

Elementary
men Nov. 10.

son next to



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Above: An aircrew member displays the American flag Nov. 10 as a Kentucky C-130 taxis onto the flight line at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

Right: Normal Adwell, who served with the U.S. Navy in Vietnam, shows his support for Kentucky Air National Guardsmen during the welcome-home ceremony here Nov. 10. Adwell is part of Patriot Guard Riders, a national organization of motorcycle enthusiasts whose mission is to support military members and their families.



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Above: Hundreds of friends and family members wait anxiously outside the Base Fuel Cell Hangar to welcome the returning Airmen Nov. 10.



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Special tactics chief retires with honors

By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

With 30 years of exemplary service in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Patrick M. Malone was honorably retired from the Armed Forces Oct. 20 during a ceremony held in his honor at the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Surrounded by hundreds of friends, family and co-workers of all ranks, the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron pararescueman was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal and the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal by squadron commander Lt. Col. Jeff Wilkinson.

“Chief Malone’s accomplishments are too many to name,” Wilkinson said. “He is a one-in-a-million individual. His degree of personality, talent, leadership and caring is so exceptional, that we are blessed to work with him.

“Men like him come around only once in a lifetime.”

Malone began his career in the Air Force on Oct. 19, 1982. After completing basic training, he went on to become a special operations pararescueman, a jump-qualified trauma-care specialist whose primary mission is to deploy into restricted environments and extract injured personnel. His first duty assignment was with the 6594th Test Group at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, where he conducted numerous open-ocean rescue missions.

After serving an active-duty tour in Alaska as a member of the 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Malone joined the Alaska Air Guard.

There, he assisted in several search-and-recovery missions and was credited with saving 85 lives.

In 2000, Malone enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard as its first pararescue senior enlisted advisor, playing a key role in the transformation of the existing 123rd Combat Control Flight into a special tactics squadron.

He also personally led the Air National Guard special operations task force responsible for the evacuation of thousands of citizens in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.

“Chief Malone is a visionary,” Wilkinson told the audience. “He mentored, cul-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

Lt. Col. Jeff Wilkinson, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, presents Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Malone with a Meritorious Service Medal at his retirement ceremony here Oct. 20.

tivated and trained future members of the new squadron. More than that, Chief Malone has built an everlasting bond of brotherhood within our unit.”

As part of the retirement ceremony, the special tactics squadron presented Malone and his family with a commemorative American flag.

“What can I say about my squadron — wow!” Malone remarked. “It has been my pleasure, my privilege and honor to work with you, and I salute you all.”

A combat veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Malone’s many decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Airman’s Medal, the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Malone thanked many of his co-workers and family members for their support during his career, but he reserved special recognition for his wife, Kim.

“You’re everything,” he said. “You have been here with me always. You are my mentor, my guide, and the love of my life. Thank you.”



Malone’s shadowbox is testament to the many operations he supported during a 30-year career in the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard.

Regulations provide guidance on fundraising

Holiday food and toy campaigns are covered

By Lt. Col. Joyce Gordon
123rd Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate

As the holiday season begins, Air National Guard volunteers are likely preparing to support their favorite charities through fundraising events.

Charities depend on donations and fundraising. However, no matter how worthy the cause or needy the organization, according to the Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulations, Kentucky Air National Guard service members cannot officially engage in fundraising.

The key word is "officially." The two "official" fundraisers sanctioned by the DoD are the Combined Federal Campaign and the Air Force Assistance Fund.

Fundraising for both can be done on the job, in uniform and using government time, equipment and supplies.

If funds raised will go to any other entity than the CFC or the AFAF, it is an unofficial fundraiser.

Joint ethics regulations, with some exceptions (JER section 3-210[a]), prohibit DoD employees from endorsing or appearing to endorse non-federal entities or their fundraising efforts.

Guard members are welcome to participate in fundraising activities for other organizations as long as they take place during off-duty hours and the individual is not in uniform.

This means that you cannot act in an official capacity while requesting donations or raising funds for volunteer organizations. It is also a good idea not to imply National Guard support for the organization. Everyone should feel free to politely decline any request for a donation; all giving is voluntary.

Of particular importance for the coming holiday season are food and toy campaigns. Note that collection boxes for toys, clothing, canned goods, etc. in public areas are not considered "fundraising" and can be approved by the installation commander (see U.S. Office of Government Ethics Memorandum 93 x 19, Aug. 25, 1993, Memorandum from Director to Designated Agency Ethics Officials Regarding Fundraising Activities).

In fact, before any military group engages in a fundraising activity, either on or off base, prior approval must be obtained from the installation commander or his designee. This is because off-base fundraising by military groups must not discredit the DoD or create problems for the local community.

Finally, a third type of fundraising is military organizational welfare fundraising. This is fundraising by an organization composed primarily

of DoD employees (military or civilian) or their dependents, done among the members of the organization, for the benefit of a welfare fund for the members of the organization or their dependents (JER section 3-210(a)(6); DoD Directive 5035.1, para 3.6; Executive Order 12353, Charitable Fund-Raising, 47 F.R. 12785 (March 23, 1982), paragraph 7).

This includes most morale, welfare and recreation programs. Note that fundraising does not include gambling activities (DoD 5500.7-R, Section 2-302, Gambling).

The rules on fundraising for employee organization welfare funds are generally the same as for "unofficial" fundraisers. Use of government resources is still limited, and fundraising must be done in an off-duty status. However, employees can officially endorse fundraising for their welfare funds (JER section 3-210[a](6)).

If you want to engage in fundraising, you will need command approval. To get that approval, you will need to provide written fundraising details, including the type of fundraiser or how the funds will be raised, date of the fundraiser, location, what the funds will be used for and the point of contact.

The Air National Guard is a proud member of the community. The legal office will help Air Guard volunteers properly support their many worthy community activities.

Welsh: 'The only way to move forward is together'

By Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

RENO, Nev. — The active-duty Air Force, its Reserve and the Air National Guard must work together to move forward, the chief of staff of the Air Force said during a speech to Guard leaders here Sept. 11.

"I have trouble seeing lines between components of services, because I believe on the air side we have an Air Force — it has three components, but we all are working together," Air Force Gen. Mark Welsh told the 134th National Guard Association of the United States General Conference. "We have to, or we can't be successful."

To discuss the future, Welsh drew on the past.

More than diagrams, organizational charts or process flow, Welsh said he sees people when he thinks about institutions. So he told the story of one of his favorite members of the National Guard, Jim Duane, born in the late 1800s in Johnstown, Pa.

Duane's father died trying to rescue neighbors during a flood that destroyed the family's home. His mother took the 3-year-old



Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill/NGB

Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, the chief of staff of the Air Force, addresses the 134th National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Reno, Nev., on Sept. 11, 2012.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Welsh

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boy to New York City and a new start.

At 18, the young man went on Broadway for the first time in a civilian acting career and also enlisted in the New York Army National Guard — a Citizen Soldier.

The family moved again, and Duane transferred to the Massachusetts National Guard. He deployed to Mexico as a private, returning as a first sergeant in a time of much faster promotions.

He took a break in service, pursuing his acting career and opening a jewelry store.

In 1917, during World War I, Duane rejoined the Army National Guard and enrolled in officer training. That was interrupted by his call to the trenches of France, where he arrived as an infantry private and left as a major simultaneously commanding two infantry battalions. Though thrice-wounded and also gassed, he never left the line; had a reputation for being first out, last in; and led nighttime sorties to ensure neither wounded nor dead were left behind.

"This is my favorite Guardsman," Welsh said. "When I look at organizations ... I see faces of people who are committed to doing the right thing. Faces of people who are willing to risk everything to protect what's important. People like Jim Duane."

Welsh noted the contribution of the National Guard since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"Quite possibly, the National Guard today

is more important than it has been since you stood watch at Concord," Welsh said. "Over the last 10 years, almost half-a-million Guardsmen have been to the war zone."

The day Welsh spoke was the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

"Most Americans sat paralyzed, either in their office or at home staring at their television in disbelief," Welsh said. "A few Americans — a few very special people — did what they always do. They ran toward the carnage. They stepped into that chaos to defend American citizens and to protect the nation. Many of those people ... were Guardsmen."

Air National Guard pilots were the first airborne after the attacks, including some who were willing to die to prevent further attacks, Welsh noted.

Since then, Air Guard members have deployed overseas, responded to domestic disasters and undertaken humanitarian relief efforts. They have partnered with the Army Guard at home and overseas. They played key roles in Libya, "bringing expertise that we don't have on the active force," Welsh said. "Filling a gap we can't fill, no matter how much money we pull out of our pocket. To me, that's the National Guard."

Operations over Libya highlighted the ability of the all-volunteer force to deploy and act, the ability of commanders to step forward and act, and the smooth operation of the Total Force, Welsh said.

National Guard members have helped honor the dead at Dover Air Force Base; fought fires at home; provided airlift and aeromedical evacuation overseas; flown unmanned aircraft;

provided chemical and biological response capability and flown domestic air sovereignty alert missions, among a plethora of other roles, Welsh said.

"All over the world today, Total Force integration is real," he said. "Those people who are operating at the front end of the business are looking back over their shoulder at those of us back here going, 'Fix this problem and let us do our work.'"

Improved communication and transparency between the three components of the Air Force are vital, Welsh said.

"We have to fight and argue and throw emotion on the table and debate the tough issues," he said. "We have to include ... state requirements at the front end of this process, not at the end. We have to understand that we are not going to agree on everything. ... We've got to understand that the only way — the only way — we can move forward successfully is together. We're going to work together to solve this problem ... and you guys need to be part of the solution."

There was one more point to the story of the Air Force chief of staff's favorite Guard member, Jim Duane. After World War I, Duane helped found the American Legion. Lung damage from being gassed drove him to settle in Arizona. He married and had three children.

"His youngest daughter married a fighter pilot," Welsh said. "And they had a son. And he got to speak in Reno, Nevada, at the NGAUS convention in 2012. I'm pretty proud of my grandfather. To me, he is the National Guard."