

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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KyANG establishes cargo hub in Senegal for Ebola response

Intermediate Staging Base funneling aid into West Africa

By Maj. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

DAKAR, Senegal — More than 80 Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group stood up a cargo hub here Oct. 5 that will funnel humanitarian supplies and equipment into West Africa in support of Operation United Assistance, the international effort to fight Ebola.

The epidemic has already claimed over 3,500 lives, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The majority of Kentucky Airmen arrived Oct. 4, joining a 13-member assessment team that has been in place since Sept. 28.

They're operating an Intermediate Staging Base to Support Joint Task Force-Port Opening operations at Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport, according to Air Force Col. David Mounkes, commander of the Louisville-based 123rd.

The Intermediate Staging Base is designed to accept large quantities of cargo arriving on C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, process the material for forward movement, and load it onto C-130 Hercules aircraft for distribution into affected areas.

Read more online at
[www.123aw.ang.af.mil/
news/story.asp?id=123427584](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123427584)



Maj. Dale Greer/KyANG

Senior Airman Courtney Hester, a power production specialist with the 123rd Contingency Response Group, sets up an electric generator to feed the Joint Operations Center at Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport in Dakar, Senegal, Oct. 5 in support of Operation United Assistance, the international effort to fight Ebola in West Africa.

Ky. and Ga. re-enact historic WW II assault

Four C-130 aircraft assigned to the Georgia and Kentucky Air Guard air-dropped 360 U.S., British, Dutch and Polish paratroopers over Groesbeek, Netherlands, Sept. 18 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden. See more online at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123425421

Other headlines at www.123aw.ang.af.mil

Wing completes two NATO exercises

Base supports National Disaster Medical System exercise with VA

Georgia and Kentucky Air Guard team up for Operation Market Garden

Wing airdrops 82nd Airborne in support of Operation Noble Ledger

Mounkes takes command of CRG

UofL Football honors servicemembers

Pfeifer assumes command of MSG

Air Force revamps AEF concept

Program brings college to the base

CE Airmen create advisory council

TRICARE beneficiaries no longer receive mailed updates on coverage



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Lifelong learning: The key to future success

Lifelong learning: The time is now, folks, and let me tell you — I am excited about our future! Civilian college classes taught right here on the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.... It is going to happen, and soon.

Allow me a moment to discuss past requirements or expectations for advancement so you may better understand where we are going as a service.

Professional Military Education has always been and will continue to be a requirement for promotion. We, as professional military members, have that expectation instilled early as we carve a career plan to follow.

If you do not complete required PME, opportunities for promotion stall, and eventually your career “dies on the vine.” If you meet your PME requirements, you essentially clear the minimum requirement bar for promotion consideration.

Today, we see that college education requirements continue to be added to minimum requirement listings for job announcements, duty assignments and professional development opportunities. They are a part of every applicant’s credentials, as are years of service or deployment experience. Credentials are a confirmation of one’s qualifications and competence.

The latest change, effective Oct. 1, 2015, is huge for the Senior Non-Com-



Chief Master Sgt. Ray Dawson
123rd Airlift Wing Command Chief

missioned Officer Corps: If a member has not completed a Community College of the Air Force associate’s degree by that date, he or she is not eligible for promotion to E-8 or E-9.

What are we doing to help our members with this latest requirement? For starters, we are building an Education Database, a simple tool designed to capture needed education information. Each member of the 123rd Airlift Wing is requested to input his or her current

education information. This information is critical when we negotiate which courses our civilian education partners offer to you on base.

Second, we are forging college-course partnerships with accredited schools. The University of Louisville has graciously agreed to teach an Oral Communication/Public Speaking course in January to 123rd Airlift Wing personnel — the first college course ever held on our base!

As we went to press, 17 Airmen (ranging in grades from Airman Basic to Chief Master Sergeant) have signed up for this class. There is room remaining in this course if you are interested. Please contact Master Sgt. Zakiya Taylor at (502) 413-4421 for additional information.

Other courses are being planned now — possibly two will be offered simultaneously for the fall of 2015. A student’s age or rank does not matter; all are encouraged to attend.

Lifelong learning: The Air Force and Kentucky Air National Guard are changing. Inspire others to learn, encourage them to input their information into the Education Database and sign up for a course yourself.

Have a great drill weekend, everyone — and thanks for your service.

— Chief Master Sgt. Ray Dawson

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We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Our office is located in Room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building, 1101 Grade Lane, Louisville, KY 40213.

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