

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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123rd named top airlift unit in the Air National Guard

Ky. wing earns its 4th Metcalf for accomplishments in 2013

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The 123rd Airlift Wing had been named the top airlift unit in the Air National Guard, Kentucky's adjutant general announced during a Veterans Day celebration held in downtown Louisville Nov. 11.

The unit earned the Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Award from the National Guard Bureau for sustained operational excellence at home and overseas during 2013, said Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, addressing a crowd gathered for the city's annual Veterans Day parade.

"This award recognizes that the 123rd Airlift Wing has again attained the highest standards of mission accomplishment," Tonini said.

"The 123rd has a long and distinctive history of service, and I'm proud to say that the tradition of excellence continues."

The unit earned the Metcalf Trophy for superior accomplishments from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013. During that time, the 123rd

Airlift Wing deployed 260 personnel to multiple locations in seven countries, providing 17,500 days of support to military contingency operations and training missions.

Among those deployments, the wing sent 75 percent of its pararescuemen, combat controllers and special operations weathermen to Afghanistan and Africa in support of global taskings, including high-risk missions to kill or capture the most wanted enemies of the United States.

The wing also deployed 26 security forces Airmen to Kuwait, where they provided security for 1,800 aircraft and 74,000 passengers at the second busiest aerial port in U.S. Central Command; one-third of the Logistics Readiness Squadron to Afghanistan, where the Airmen processed 467 short tons of cargo for Operation Enduring Freedom; and nine Airmen to Afghanistan in support of Agribusiness Development Team 5, which fostered the creation of a sustainable agriculture economy by teaching business, financial and agricultural management practices to the Afghan people.

The 123rd previously won Metcalf Trophies in 1994, 2002 and 2007.

The wing is among the most decorated units in Air Force history, with 16 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and numerous other commendations for excellence.



Left: Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer presents Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, with a plaque honoring the Kentucky National Guard during a Veterans Day ceremony in downtown Louisville Nov. 11. The mayor referred to the Kentucky National Guard as the "best of the best" for its service to the community, commonwealth and nation.

Air Guardsmen compete in Air Force Marathon

Seven Airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing participated in the 18th-annual Air Force Marathon at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 19-20. Read more online at <http://kentuckyguard.com/kentucky-guardsmen-run-air-force-marathon/>

Female mechanic a witness to changing attitudes

Tearing down the engine of a C-130, inspecting its parts, then re-assembling again is all in a day's work for Tech. Sgt. Patricia Nasby, an aircraft engine mechanic for the 123rd Maintenance Squadron from Louisville, Kentucky.

Preparing for retirement in February after 34 years of service as a member of the 123rd, Nasby took some time to reflect on what got her to this point in life, those who helped her along the way, and what her next chapter will be.

Growing up with a heavy-equipment operator father and six brothers in Indiana, Nasby always had the idea of working with machinery in some capacity, but she kept getting pushed aside to other chores due to her being a woman.

Read more online at <http://kentuckyguard.com/female-mechanic-witness-to-changes-in-attitude/>

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Patriots like you are the reason Americans can enjoy their freedoms this holiday season

It seems that we were just together a few weeks ago for drill. Oh, wait — we were!

I wanted to say thank you for what you are doing, for the sacrifices you have made and are making in defense of our country.

Thank you for all you have done to help keep America safe and to protect the values for which generations of Americans have fought in the past.

I am deeply grateful for your extraordinary service in recent years, and I am equally thankful for all that I know you will do in the years ahead. It remains the greatest of privileges to serve with each of you.

I am extremely proud and honored to be the commander of such a professional and dedicated wing. You are truly outstanding!

The job you do is nothing short of amazing. You, as much as anyone who has ever served, have helped foster and preserve the strong and honorable tradi-



Col. Ken Dale
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

tions of the National Guard that have helped defend and preserve the freedoms that you, your family, your fellow countrymen and others throughout the free world continue to enjoy.

Just as the Minutemen patriots who came before you dropped

their plows and picked up their weapons to answer the call, so have you.

It is because of patriots like you that we can enjoy our freedoms during this holiday season.

The times we live in have brought many challenges to you and our country. And at such times, the story of Christmas brings special comfort and confidence. Christmas reminds us that we can trust in God's promise of peace on Earth and goodwill toward men. On a night more than 2,000 years ago, an angel of the Lord brought good tidings of great joy: the God of Heaven had come to Earth, and He would be with us always.

Christmas is a time to rejoice and remember our blessings. I pray your Christmas will be blessed with family and fellowship, and I wish you all a holiday season of glad tidings.

Merry Christmas.

— Col. Ken Dale

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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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