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CERFP passes field evaluation at Florida joint training facility

Team responds to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive events

By Staff Sgt. Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

STARKE, Fla. — A Kentucky National Guard disaster-response unit successfully completed four days of evaluations at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center here Jan. 15, demonstrating to inspectors that the cadre of Army and Air Guardsmen is fully mission-capable.

The unit — called the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield

Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP — offers unique capabilities designed to assist civilian authorities in the event of a disaster or attack, explained Army Lt. Col. Lance Grebe, commander of the Kentucky CERFP's 103rd Chemical Battalion.

“(This) culminating training event at Camp Blanding demonstrates the ability of the Kentucky CERFP to respond to the needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States,” Grebe said. “The success of the CBRNE Enterprise is an overall team effort and is displayed by the cooperation of all the Kentucky military.”

Read more online at
www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123437852



Staff Sgt. Vicky Spesard/KyANG

Members of the Kentucky National Guard CERFP extract a casualty from a simulated hot zone during Operation Starke Thunder while Army Maj. Gen. David E. Wilmot, deputy surgeon general for the Army National Guard, looks on Jan. 14. The CERFP was being evaluated for mission readiness during the four-day exercise, held at Camp Blanding in Starke, Fla.

Wing completes Poland deployment

Members of the 123rd Airlift Wing recently completed a three-week bilateral training event at Powidz Air Base, Poland, that helped build stronger relations with a key NATO ally.

The wing deployed two C-130 aircraft and about 50 personnel to conduct training that focused on joint readiness and interoperability, said Lt. Col. Catherine Newell, a pilot for Kentucky's 165th Airlift Squadron and the deployment's mission commander.

“We were there as much to help build a positive relationship between Poland and the U.S. as we were to fly,” Newell said. Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123437866

Air Force concluding Ebola mission

After more than four months of continuous airlift support to Operation United Assistance, the U.S. Air Force is winding down efforts in Senegal, Monrovia and Liberia.

To help counter the deadly Ebola virus, Airmen — including Kentucky Air Guardsmen — provided a vital air bridge into Liberia. Read more at www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/565589/af-ebola-support-winds-down.aspx



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Security forces train with Louisville Metro Police

By Master Sgt. Phil Speck
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 123rd Security Forces Squadron conducted bilateral training with the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team here Jan. 14, focusing on tactics, techniques and procedures used to defeat attacks by armed assailants.

More than 50 Louisville SWAT members divided into teams to train with the security forces Airmen, according to Tech. Sgt. Craig Davis, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of Combat Arms for the 123rd Security Forces Squadron. The officers and Airmen then worked together to stop a simulated gunman who was firing on base personnel as part of an "active-shooter" exercise.

After the exercise ended, the Airmen and officers covered additional training in areas such as building approaches, room clearing and stairwell clearing.

Davis said the training was an excellent learning experience for both parties.

"LMPD really enjoyed their time out here," he said. "They weren't aware of our capabilities, but they walked away confident and with a better appreciation of them, knowing we can work together in potential emergencies in the future."

Lt. Col. George Imorde, commander of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, hopes to conduct more bilateral training in the future to strengthen the two units' interoperability.

"Bilateral training is not something we get to do very often, but we need to do it to establish the relationship between military and civilian law enforcement elements," he said. "Each unit gets to share their tactics, techniques and procedures. The real benefit is the relationship-building, because there are many emergency scenarios that might occur on military installations requiring a local law enforcement response."

One such scenario would be a real-world active-shooter incident, during which the Louisville police department's SWAT Team would integrate with Airmen from the 123rd Security Forces Squadron to secure the installation, he noted.

"Active shooters have been increasing throughout the country, and it seems like (these incidents are) more prevalent these days," said Lt. Brent Routzahn, the Louisville police department's SWAT Team commander.

Read more online at www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123436454



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/KyANG

Staff Sgt. Joseph Howell (right), a combat arms trainer for the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, and Senior Airman Charles Henderson, a security forces fire team member, clear a stairwell at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base as a Louisville Metropolitan Police Department SWAT Team member provides instruction during a joint training exercise Jan. 13.

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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.

123rd Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Wing Commander.....Col. Barry Gorter
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Public Affairs Manager.....Master Sgt. Philip Speck
Senior Staff Writer.....Master Sgt. Diane Stinnett
Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Austin Shaffner
Staff Writer.....Staff Sgt. Vicky Spesard
Staff Writer.....Senior Airman Joshua Horton

Phone: (502) 413-4089 • Email: 123AW.PA@ang.af.mil

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