

# THE CARGO COURIER

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

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## CRG establishes air hub in Calif.

By 1st Lt. James Killen  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

AMEDEE ARMY AIRFIELD, Calif. — The United States is often referred to as the world's 911 force, and the men and women who respond to that call are some of the most dedicated members of the U.S. military. A small cadre of servicemembers from the Kentucky Air National Guard and U.S. Army had the opportunity to demonstrate that dedication during Operation Lumberjack, which took place here March 6-11.

The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group, in conjunction with the U.S. Army's 688th Rapid Port Opening Element and the Defense Logistics Agency, established an aerial port of debarkation as part of Joint Task Force-Port Opening Sangala.

Operation Lumberjack was a simulated

insertion into a friendly nation being destabilized by outside militant forces. The 123rd CRG, 688th RPOE and DLA came together to establish the APOD, begin air and ground transportation, and stand up warehousing and distribution capability in order to move equipment and supplies to forward positions within the fictional country of Sangala, said U.S. Air Force Col. David Mounkes, a Kentucky Air National Guardsman and commander of Joint Task Force-Port Opening-Sangala.

The exercise solidified the working relationships between multiple branches of the military in a joint environment and gave all the servicemembers practical experience executing their specific functions within the JTF-PO as well as cross-functional jobs.

Read more online at [www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123471709](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123471709)



Master Sgt. Phil Speck/Kentucky Air National Guard

Aerial porters from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group unload cargo from a Wyoming Air National Guard C-130 at Amedee Army Airfield, Calif., on March 8. The CRG worked with the U.S. Army's 688th Rapid Port Opening Element and a team from the Defense Logistics Agency to operate a Joint Task Force-Port Opening.

## Wing marks historic milestone in war effort

The 123rd Airlift Wing observed a historic milestone March 24 when Staff Sgt. Patrick Murray returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia, where he was supporting Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve, the counter-terrorism mission in Afghanistan and the campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Murray's return marks the first time since October 2001 that the wing has had no personnel deployed to the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility, which includes the Middle East and Northern Africa.

During the past 14 years, the wing has deployed its Airmen to more than 45 countries in support of CENTCOM and homeland security operations, totaling more than 393,000 days of active-duty service.

Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, 637 members of the Kentucky Air Guard were placed on active duty for varying lengths of time in support of real-world missions around the world.

These deployments included missions to support homeland defense (Operation Noble Eagle), the war on terrorism abroad (Operation Enduring Freedom) and the war in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom).

Read more at [www.123aw.ang.af.mil](http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil)



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# SAPRO director: Everyone has part to play in preventing sexual assault in the military

By Lisa Ferdinando  
DoD News/Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON—From the most junior service member to the highest-ranking official, everyone in the Defense Department has a role in eliminating sexual assault, the director of the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office said in a recent DoD News interview.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month, and the theme for this year's observance is, "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part," said Army Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, who is the director of the office responsible for oversight of the DoD sexual assault prevention and response policy.

"We absolutely want to ensure that the types of men and women that serve are in fact reflective of the values and the honor that we must have in our military," Nichols said.

The efforts throughout the observance month and the entire year are focusing on renewing the prevention strategy, she said, including knowing the risk and protective factors, and highlighting each person's role at all echelons of the organization; every member of the DoD community has a role in eliminating sexual assault.

There will be various events this month throughout the worldwide DoD community to highlight awareness and promote a strong culture where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, Nichols said.

"You must not stand on the sidelines and

be a bystander; you must be an intervener," she added.

"We don't want anybody in our formation to ever suffer through experiencing something as egregious as a sexual assault," she said. "We also want to prevent anyone in our formation exercising behaviors that have the potential to lead to criminal conduct."

"The Department wants its military and civilian community to know there are resources out there for them, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Nichols said. "We want to eliminate any perception of retaliation that might keep victims -- men and women -- from coming forward in reporting sexual assaults."

Victims of sexual assault or even people just wanting information -- including colleagues or family members of victims -- can go through their respective military service for help, or visit the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response website.

The DoD Safe Helpline website is available 24/7, or call toll free at 877-995-5247. The Safe Helpline is secure, confidential and available worldwide.

Nichols urges anyone who is a victim of sexual assault to seek out the resources that can aid them.

"No one should suffer in silence. Please come forward and get help," she said.



## Need to talk?

We're here to help.

-  Telephone Helpline  
877-995-5247
-  Online Helpline  
SafeHelpline.org
-  Chat with Peers  
SafeHelpRoom.org
-  Self-Care App  
Available on the iOS and Android app stores
-  Info by Text  
55-247 (in US)  
202-470-5546 (outside US)




safehelpline.org

877-995-5247

**Sexual Assault Survivors in the Military**

There is no one "normal" reaction to sexual assault. It can impact you psychologically, emotionally, and physically. These effects can be brief in duration or can last a long time. It can take time to learn how to manage these effects, but with the right support it can happen.

DoD Safe Helpline offers one-on-one, anonymous support to the DoD community, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to help you through the healing process. Safe Helpline staff are specially-trained professionals who can provide help via online chat or telephone. Information and referrals are also available at safehelpline.org or by text message.

You can also create a personalized self-care plan with the Safe Helpline app. Download it for free from the iOS and Android app store.

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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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