

THE CARGO COURIER

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Mounkes takes command

By Tech. Sgt. Vicky Spesard
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With friends, family and hundreds of Airmen looking on, Col. David Mounkes assumed command of the 123rd Airlift Wing during a ceremony here April 16.

Presiding over the event was Brig. Gen. Warren Hurst, the Kentucky National Guard's assistant adjutant general--Air, who formally passed the unit guidon to Mounkes, signifying the colonel's new post as leader of one of the most decorated wings in Air Force history.

"We started with P-51s in 1947, then flew F-84s, F-86s, RB-57s, RF-101s, RF-4s and finally the C-130s in 1992," Hurst told the audience. "When we got these, we started doing a lot of different things around the world and, we've been doing them ever since. We have done an incredible amount of deployments and exercises where people have just

continued to excel.

"So, Col. Mounkes, this is the legacy that you get to inherit as their new wing commander, and the responsibility to make sure they have the tools and opportunities to continue to excel and meet our state and national obligations," he continued. "You have my full confidence and the ability to take command of the 123rd Airlift Wing--the best airlift wing in the United States Air Force."

Mounkes most recently served as commander of the 123rd Contingency Response Group, which is responsible for rapidly deploying multi-skilled expeditionary teams to assess and open aerial ports of debarkation in semi-permissive or uncertain environments for federal and state missions.

Read more online at <http://www.123aw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123472688>



Senior Airman Joshua Horton/Kentucky Air National Guard

Col. David Mounkes (right), the new commander of the 123rd Airlift wing, accepts the wing guidon from Brig. Gen. Warren Hurst, Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air, during an assumption-of-command ceremony here April 16. Mounkes most recently served as commander of the 123rd Contingency Response Group.

Thunder air show draws 725,000

An estimated crowd of 725,000 spectators lined the banks of the Ohio River here April 23 for the annual Thunder Over Louisville air show, organizers said, watching aerial performances by a variety of military and civilian aircraft and the largest fireworks display in North America.

Highlights of the show included a demonstration by the U.S. Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet, a C-130 Hercules cargo airdrop executed by members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and a special operations demonstration by the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil

Nicolas joins wing as newest chaplain

A big smile and a jovial handshake is how Capt. Jeffrey Nicolas, the newest wing chaplain, greets each Airman here, welcoming them to his worship services as if he has known them all their lives.

As a former Navy chaplain mostly working with the Marine Corps 18 years ago, Nicolas' love and respect for service members--and a chance meeting with a current wing chaplain--brought him back to the military family.

Read more at www.123aw.ang.af.mil



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In an era of reduced resources, success will depend on your ideas and expertise

Greetings, 123rd Airlift Wing! In the past month I have been able to attend two senior leader events.

A common theme at each of these meetings, although not the dominant theme, was the DOD's continued challenge of adequate resources available to meet mission requirements.

In the big scheme of things, the ANG is actually faring relatively well. However, having less resources has produced a renewed emphasis on efficiency.

Resources have been reduced, but most of us have found ways to still safely and effectively continue our mission requirements.

It could be argued that at some levels a return to efficiency was long overdue. Nothing is off the table for scrutiny in the pursuit of doing things better and smarter—this comes from the Four Star level.

Please have patience while facing challenges. Use data to back up appropriate complaints and come with suggestions about how to fix problems.

I want to be clear: If we don't have adequate resources to safely accomplish a task or mission, we should not do it.

However, before ceasing any operation we have to really justify through data which requirements we cannot meet and



**Col. David Mounkes
Wing Commander**

why we can't meet them.

Do your homework and thoroughly communicate sources of risk from reduced resources to your chain of command. Commanders—continue to listen to your Airmen.

Finally, and most applicable I think to each of us as we face dwindling resources, we need to continually encourage innovation. One way I'll pursue this at my

level is by empowering ownership of the specific mission responsibilities that your unit or you as an individual are tasked.

If you have a program or responsibility that you must accomplish, it's not just the commander's job, it's yours as well.

This means the commander needs to listen to you and provide you the tools and resources you need to do your job.

In my staff meetings or any of the numerous meetings I have each day, my expectation is that organizations will tell me how the task or job needs to be accomplished.

If something shouldn't be done, provide data expressing your limfacs—we'll address the limfacs together and figure out the best way ahead.

Assumption of risk lies with commanders at the appropriate level. Their analysis of that risk will depend on the data and ideas you provide.

Success for the 123rd Airlift Wing in the coming years will depend on your ideas, voice, brainpower and expertise, which will be fully utilized to adapt and overcome the challenges we face.

I'll do everything I can to facilitate open and honest, free-flowing communication and teamwork.

Let me know if it's working—we're counting on you!

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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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