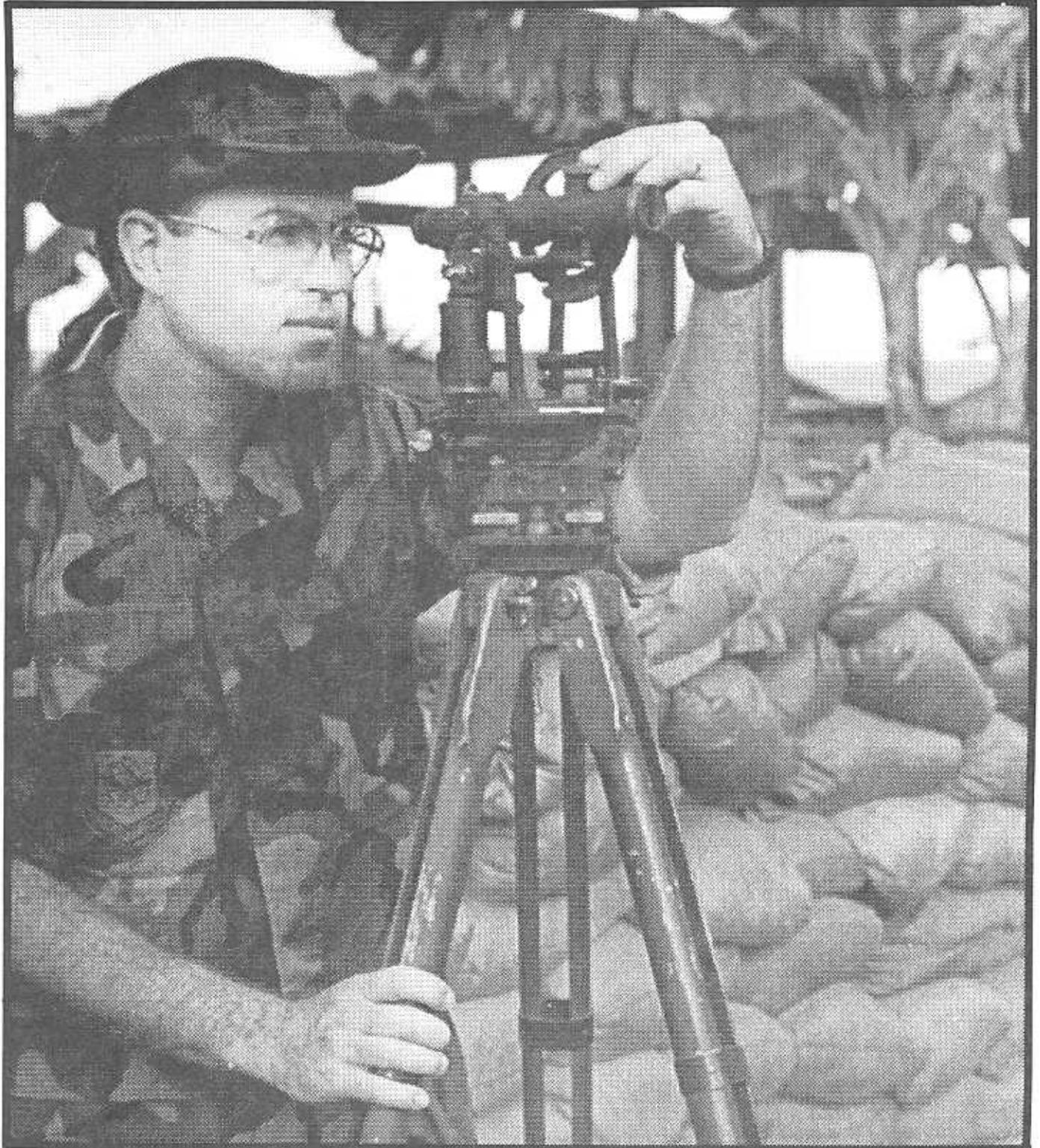



THE CARGO COURIER

Standiford Field, Louisville, Kentucky

123d TAW Kentucky Air National Guard

Vol. 5, No. 2, Feb. 4, 1989





KyANG Photo by SSgt. Jeff Sansbury

SSgt. James P. Bobbitt, a site developer, 123d CES, uses a transit to determine elevation at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras where KyANG civil engineers pulled their Annual Field Training. For more information and photos see pages 6 and 7.

THE CARGO COURIER

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Brig.Gen. John L. Smith	Commander
Maj. Jeff Butcher	PAO
TSgt. Jenny Montgomery	Editor
SSgt. Jeff Sansbury	Staff Writer

Deadline for submission of articles for *The Cargo Courier* is the Friday after each UTA for publication the following UTA. Articles should be given to TSgt. Jenny Montgomery, Rm 123 of the O&T Bldg.

Commander's Column

Concentrate on day-to-day

Last month it was our pleasure to host the commander of the 21st Air Force, Maj. Gen. Don Logeais. This was his first visit to our unit since converting to the C-130 mission. I believe the impression you left with him and his staff was a good one as illustrated by his interview with our public affairs office.

We have a long history of excellence and a reputation as a unit that works hard toward its goals and objectives. In a relatively short period of time, we will have the necessary airframes that will start our inspection cycle clock once again.

When that occurs, time will be critical in preparing for our first operational readiness inspection by the Inspector General. The day-to-day items that we have historically been strong in will become difficult to obtain. Let's concentrate on immunizations, physicals,



Brig Gen John L. Smith
Wing Commander

weapon qualification, physical fitness, ancillary training, chemical warfare refresher training and chemical warfare task qualification this year because we will need a great effort to prepare for mobility and our ORI in the future.

Chaplain's Column

Winter is a season of the year that brings wind, rain and snow, but it can also be a season of the soul when life seems bleak, barren, and cold. We know that life is not all springtime and summer, and when winter comes we have to endure until spring breaks through.

The Biblical stance is to take the experience of winter and turn it into something positive. Just as winter is the preparation for spring, in the seasons of the soul winter can be a receptive time when we gain wisdom that often does not come in any other way.

The experience of winter can increase our capacity for compassion. Grief often has a tempering and refining effect on our personality. The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:3-5: "We rejoice in our sufferings knowing suffering produces endurance and endurance character and charter produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts."



Chaplain Thomas Curry

He is saying the heart that has never know sorrow can never fully experience understanding; the heart that has never know pain can never fully feel compassion.

Kentucky's top airmen

Five members of the KyANG were selected to represent the wing in the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program and the Kentucky Enlisted Guardsmen of the Year Program.

A board of officers chose SMSgt. David R. Heustis, 123d CAM, SSgt. Elke Adams, 123d TAW, and SrA Sean C. Swinney, 123d CES, to represent the unit in the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program. Their nominations were forwarded to the National Guard Bureau for competition. Members of the ANG are selected to compete against the elite of the other Air Force major commands for the final 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

MSgt. David F. Pope, 123d WSSF, and SrA Cynthia Hasselback, 123d CAM, were nominated to represent the KyANG in the Kentucky Enlisted Guardsmen of the Year Program. The Enlisted Guardsmen of the Year Board was conducted at Boone Center Jan. 22, and included nominees from Army Guard units as well.

The results from both programs were unavailable prior to this publication's deadline. However, the following is a brief synopsis of each individual's achievements presented in their nomination packages.

12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year

SMSgt. David R. Heustis

Sergeant Heustis, NCOIC Aerospace Ground Equipment Section, Field Maintenance Branch, 123d CAM, is "a man of great character and drive."

"Sergeant Heustis is a devoted and highly valued member of the Kentucky Air National Guard

both for his expertise and for his professionalism," stated Brig. Gen. John L. Smith, 123d TAW commander, in his nomination letter.

The nomination package stated that "his long-range planning abilities greatly assisted the entire maintenance complex in meeting all scheduled flying commitments. His fleet of support



equipment is maintained and operational at a 95 percent or higher in-commission rate. This equipment has drawn accolades from inspectors for both physical appearance and flawless operation.

"During this period, he was responsible for assisting the Kentucky Air National Guard Federal Credit Union in tripling assets and membership. He is an active member of Holy Family Catholic Church, volunteering his services cooking during the Lenten Fish Fries and preparing dinner for their annual picnic which serves an average of 1,500 people.

"He is an active supporter and participant in the University of Louisville Women's Volleyball Program. He willingly serves as a chaperon for the Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Team, traveling across the country with them during various competitions.

"A man of great character and drive, his work habits and overall professional performance far exceeds those of his contemporaries."

Sergeant Heustis was born in Louisville, Ky., and entered the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1970. In 1976, during the Kentucky Air National Guard's aircraft conversion to the RF-4C aircraft, Sergeant Heustis became a full-time technician.

SSgt Elke Adams

Sergeant Adams, NCOIC Resource Plans Administration, 123d TAW, was nominated "for her excellent performance, outstanding professional skill and leadership. "Sergeant Adams is an outstanding and highly professional Noncommissioned Officer, truly deserving of recognition as the Outstanding Airmen of the Year," stated General Smith, in his letter of recommendation.

The nomination package praised her expertise and stated that she "has



been instrumental in the smooth transition of the installation and use of computers in the Kentucky Air National Guard. She is the 'resident expert' from whom every squadron has requested help in setting up the Z-248 computer system.

"Sergeant Adams is presently President of the NCO Academy Graduates Association. She was instrumental in raising more than \$5,000 to bring a 1/2 scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial to Louisville, Kentucky in 1988. She was also involved in fund raising activities for the Kentucky Vietnam Veteran's Memorial.

"Sergeant Adams is one of the top instructors of the Noncommissioned Officers Preparatory Course. Her ability to communicate to her students has produced many new noncommissioned officers whose integrity has been enhanced through this service.

"She is an active member of the St. Joseph Parent-Teacher-Association. She is also a member of the Long Range Planning Committee for St. Joseph School. She recently taught a group of Boy Scouts and fifth grade students 'Respect for the Flag.' She has also conducted a lesson about Germany for the first grade students at St. Joseph School.

Sergeant Adams was born in Frankfurt, West Germany and moved to the United States in 1972. She joined the Air Force in December 1976. Her enlistment ended in 1982 and she joined the Kentucky Air National Guard. She accepted a full-time technician position in 1985.

SrA Sean C. Swinney

Airman Swinney, heavy equipment operator, 123d CES, was nominated for his "great initiative and leadership abilities."

(Cont. On Page 8)



21st Air Force commander visits

By TSgt. Jenny L. Montgomery
Editor

The commander of the Military Airlift Command's Twenty-First Air Force, Maj. Gen. Donald A. Logeais visited the Kentucky Air National Guard Jan. 25.

General Logeais (pronounced Low JAY) received a briefing from Brig. Gen. John L. Smith, 123d Tactical Airlift Wing commander, and the wing's deputy commanders, on the status of the unit's conversion to the airlift mission. The KyANG is now under the control of MAC and the Twenty-First Air Force. The KyANG commanders updated General Logeais on the level of training that has been accomplished and the readiness of the unit.

After the briefing, General Logeais took a few moments to discuss the future of the KyANG and its switch from reconnaissance and fighter type aircraft to the C-130 aircraft and "certainly a different kind of mission."

"From being supported, now you have to think in terms of supporting other people and that's a monumental change," said General Logeais. Once the conversion is completed and the unit is combat ready it will fit into the typical MAC mission. "In tactical airlift, which is what 130's fly, it's more of a theatre kind of mission, supporting generally the maneuver of the army on the battlefield," he said.

To understand what missions the 123d TAW will participate in "all you have to do is look around and see what the other 130 units do and that is largely what you'll be doing here in Louisville as well," explained General Logeais.

'From being supported, now you have to think in terms of supporting.'



KyANG Photo by SMSgt. Dave Tinsley

Maj. Gen. Donald A. Logeais, 21st AF commander, visits with Brig. Gen. John L. Smith, 123d TAW commander.

The general has more than 31 years military experience with the majority of it tied to MAC missions. As commander of the Twenty-First Air Force, headquartered at McGuire AFB, New Jersey, General Logeais' area of responsibility extends eastward through Canada, Greenland, Iceland, NATO Europe, Africa and the Middle East to the eastern boundaries of Iran and the Arabian peninsula and southward to the Caribbean and South America. This includes more than 34,000 MAC people and 280 airlift aircraft operating from more than 50 locations.

"The facts are when there is something going on in the world, a MAC airplane, generally speaking, will be there to do something, very much unlike a fighter outfit or a B-52 outfit," said General Logeais. "Now this being a Reserve outfit you won't be doing as much of this, but on the other hand, from time to time you will get into the system and can be put into action." An example of this given by General Logeais was the earthquake in Soviet Armenia. The Jackson unit, who were already in the area, "were directed to go in on one of the first missions in there."

"Now that's very typical. Every day I have airplanes in Twenty-First Air Force flying into Russia taking the INF inspectors in and out of there," explained General Logeais. "That's what's happening now and that's the most interesting part about being in MAC." When there is trouble like last year in Honduras, "very quickly we put together an airdrop and an airlift flow that put 3,200 people in the air down there very quickly, almost overnight. There were Reserve outfits that flew in on that."

"That was a real-world mission. That's the kind of thing MAC is so well regarded for, because people do call on us," said General Logeais. "Frankly, from day to day I keep a close eye on CNN to figure out where I'll be going next, because often times I can start to anticipate, based on what is happening in the world. That to me

'Frankly, from day to day I keep a close eye on CNN to figure out where I'll be going next.'

is very challenging and refreshing.

"In MAC I like to say that 40 percent of my force is deployed all the time, we're often employed in the field someplace," said the general. For the aircrews and others in the 123d TAW this means there may be opportunities to get into "many different countries and get to visit a lot of places you wouldn't get to see otherwise," added General Logeais. "That's got to be a 'benny' if you will."

General Logeais provided some sound advice to the unit, knowing it has made it's mark in TAC earning seven Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. "You just have to continue to do the things you've been doing. Obviously there is a lot of emphasis on training, discipline and preparation.

"A lot of these things are the same whether or not you're a SAC type mission, a TAC mission or a MAC mission. You break it down into what an individual has to do and how he approaches it, then you put all that back together and it becomes a good working relationship. Obviously this outfit does work well together.

"The same kind of discipline and training that carried you so well before is certainly the key to doing it in this new airplane and new mission."



'The same kind of discipline and training that carried you so well before is certainly the key to doing it in this new airplane and new mission.'

President's Day



Feb. 20



Engineers deploy to Honduras

By SSgt. Jeff Sansbury
Public Affairs Office

Just one day after becoming a tactical airlift wing, the Kentucky Air National Guard received its first real-world mission by deploying to Central America.

Fifty-seven members of the 123d Civil Engineering Squadron arrived in Honduras Jan. 9 to lend a hand to U.S. forces and their active-duty counterparts. The two-week mission took the Kentuckians nearly 2,000 miles and placed them far from the usual setting. The air was thin, and the view stretched

for miles across a desolate mountain range and one of the country's largest air bases, Soto Cano.

"This is the last place I thought we'd end up," said SSgt. Phillip Elery, a water and waste specialist for the unit.

Challenges

The mission was to construct new shower and toilet facilities for U.S. troops there. It was a challenge most will agree.

"I'll admit," Sergeant Elery added, "Guardsmen don't usually take

these kinds of assignments. I was a bit surprised."

For most of the Air Guardsmen, the flight to Honduras was their first glimpse inside a Central American nation. Soto Cano lies in the west-central region about 50 miles north of Tegucigalpa, the capital and largest city. The country of 4.7 million people borders Guatemala and El Salvador on the west, with Nicaragua to the south.

Twelve-hour days were routine for the men and women, and some found the heat there an obstacle. Dehydration and sunburn resulted, but no one was seriously affected.

In fact, the Kentucky unit arrived in Honduras for perhaps the most ideal working conditions of the year. Occasional rain and 85-degree temperatures are welcomed there in January, in a country that rotates from wet to dry seasons with continual weeks of 100 degrees-plus. At times the civil engineers continued their projects through late-night rain showers and were back at their job sites a 7 the next morning.

"Getting the right supplies, at the right time, has been the biggest concern. We're finding that some of the equipment here is different, and so we've learned to adapt," explained Maj. Thomas J. Marks Jr., commander of the 123d CES. "The austere conditions play a big factor in this type of work, but our men and women seem to like the challenge."

Personnel were housed in 16-man "hootches," a simple, but efficient plywood barracks that offered shade and protection from the volatile, tropical climate.

Materials

The CE squadron was divided into two teams while at Soto Cano. One team worked to construct a 10-unit toilet facility, while the other built a 128 foot by 16 foot shower facility for men and women. Both projects required extensive planning cooperation with U.S. Army combat engineers and a Guard liaison from the Texas Air National Guard.

Construction materials were purchased through Honduran



KyANG Photos by SSgt. Jeff Sansbury

SSgt. Howard Eden, left, and SrA Sean Swinney build a wood frame.



SrA Richard Pack, left, and TSgt. Harold Farmer cut wood.

contractors and paid for with U.S. funding. Though the CE unit deployed with substantial tools and equipment of their own, many items and heavy machinery were borrowed from the 364th Army Combat Engineers.

Efforts by the 123d CES support not only the Honduran air base, but also the important Joint Task Force Bravo -- the combined U.S. Army-Air Force presence that established itself there in 1984. The task force works alongside the Honduran government to ensure that nation's sovereignty and to deter the communist threat of neighboring leftist factions, according to task force officials assigned to Soto Cano. In addition, JTF-Bravo seeks to develop Honduras' economic and educational structure while improving its quality of life.

National Guard and Reserve units from the United States have played an important role in the task force since 1985, primarily to support road building and civilian medical programs in the north-central region. Nearly all 50 states and U.S. territories have sent National Guard units to Central America, and eventually all states will begin training there on a rotating basis, said Army Lt. Col. Charles Blische, the Pentagon's chief of special projects at the National Guard Bureau in Washington.

"It's not so bad. I think everyone has coped well so far," said SSgt. Mary Day, the unit's orderly room clerk. "Until we arrived here, all we could do was rely upon television and newspapers to understand the conditions."

PRIME BEEF

The Honduran assignment marks the first time that a Kentucky Air Guard unit has trained in Central America. The 123d CES operates under the Air Force mission known as PRIME BEEF -- Base Emergency Engineering Force -- a highly skilled team of carpenters, electricians, heavy equipment operators, firefighters and other skilled craftsmen.

The civil engineers are capable of deploying anywhere in the world on 28 hours' notice. In 1985 the 123d was named the Air National Guard's Outstanding Civil Engineering Unit.

Midway through their training, about half of the unit broke away to Telemar Beach for some rest and relaxation. The 4 1/2 hour bus trip took the members through remote villages, mountainous terrain and a truly isolated nation.

The Honduran resort spot, which lies along the northern coast of the Caribbean Sea, was discovered by Spanish settlers in the 16th Century. It was two days of pure beauty and comfort for the 123d CES, and the members deserved it.

A week later, those who were unable to make the first trip went to Valley of the Angels, one of the few advertised attractions in Honduras. The country, which is 70 percent rural, needs no commercialism because its natural beauty speaks for itself.

Toward the end of their training the Air Guardsmen were visited by Brig. Gen. John L. Smith, 123d TAW commander, and state Adjutant General Michael W. Davidson. The generals reviewed Kentucky's work sites and met personally with the troops. The one-day visit allowed for UH-1 helicopter tours of army field camps in rural Honduras, and concluded with intelligence briefings by U.S. military personnel.

Both shower and toilet facilities were nearly complete when the annual training ended Jan 22. The 120th CES of the Montana Air National Guard arrived just prior to Kentucky's departure and tied up the loose ends.

All in all, it was a good test for the civil engineers.

Aside from the language barrier and the need for a Spanish interpreter, the first real-world mission under a tactical airlift role went smoothly. For members of the 123d CES, memories of their 1989 trip to Honduras will be long lasting, indeed.

News

#1 Airmen

(Cont. From Page 3)

"He has proven to be a great stated General Smith in his nominating letter.

Airman Swinney's nomination package stated that he "completes all assigned tasks and projects requiring the use of heavy equipment in an outstanding and professional manner."

"When assigned supervisory tasks relative to his rank, he performs far above that which is expected of him. Airman Swinney was instrumental in the 123d Civil Engineering Squadron's assistance in the construction of Camp Crooked Creek, a new campground for the Boy Scouts of America at Bernheim Forest, Kentucky.

"Airman Swinney's outstanding military and civilian appearance in dress and moral conduct is exemplary. He is active in fund raising activities for various charities both relating to military and civilian causes such as Dare to Care, Base Children's Fund, etc.

"Airman Swinney was awarded the Kentucky Commendation Medal for his outstanding work, knowledge and skill as a heavy equipment operator during a recent Annual Field Training deployment. He was noted for his professionalism and positive attitude which greatly aided in the completion of several projects."

A student at Eastern Kentucky University, Airman Swinney majors in Middle Grades Education. He joined the KyANG in 1986.

Kentucky Enlisted Guardsmen MSgt. David F. Pope

Sergeant Pope, NCOIC security police operations, 123d WSSF, was nominated for "his excellent performance, outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership."



"Sergeant Pope is an outstanding Guardsman and a true professional. His work ethics are above reproach -- a role model for all members of the Guard," stated General Smith in his recommendation letter.

The nomination package for Sergeant Pope focused on his far-reaching value to the Guard. "Because of his extensive job knowledge, he was selected to be the Security Police representative on the 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing Exercise Evaluation Team. He has planned and directed numerous security operations connected with special events, most recently the 1988 Senior Air National Guard Commanders Conference hosted by the 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing. He has been involved as liaison with the United States Secret Service for security support during the 1988 Presidential and Vice Presidential visits to Louisville.

"In his civilian occupation as a Police Sergeant for the Jefferson County Kentucky Police Department, Sergeant Pope has numerous accomplishments and training certificates. He is commander of the JCPD helicopter unit and a rated commercial helicopter pilot. He is also the assistant commander for the Special Weapons and Tactics team and is one of the Hostage Negotiators for JCPD.

"Sergeant Pope has consistently encouraged unit members to attend both in residence Professional Military Education and Security Police technical courses. He projects a very favorable military and professional appearance and displays a positive attitude toward his assignments and responsibilities. Sergeant Pope exhibits a spirit of co-operation with all personnel and a 'can-do' attitude toward his mission requirements."

Sergeant Pope began his military career with the Army in 1967 and was later honorably discharged in 1970. In 1976 he enlisted in the KyANG.

SrA Cynthia Hasselback

Airman Hasselback, aircraft painter, 123d CAM, "is one of the most positive, enthusiastic, dedicated individuals assigned to the 123d

Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron."

"Although relatively young in military experience, she demonstrates exceptional leadership abilities. She consistently puts forth 100 percent effort and a positive attitude," stated General Smith in his nominating letter.

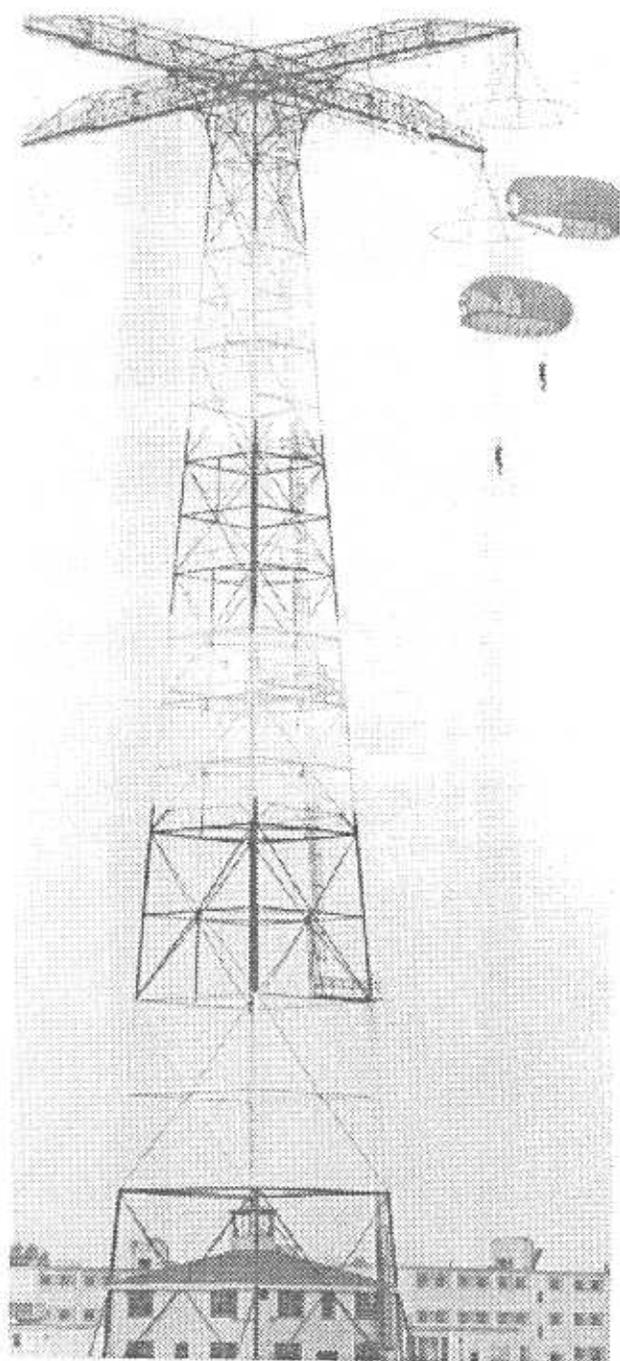


Airman Hasselback's nomination package noted her "outstanding leadership abilities in the performance of her assigned duties."

"Her positive attitude is contagious. Both her supervisors and peers think highly of her, selecting her to participate in many training exercises. Airman Hasselback was named honor graduate on completion of Basic Military Training and again was selected as an honor graduate on completion of technical school. She attended the NCO Preparatory School and was the recipient of the John Levitow Award for her leadership and academic abilities.

"Airman Hasselback is continually organizing social events in her community and is chairperson of the annual spring festival in her hometown. She is instrumental in the drives to collect for the Crusade for Children. She has formulated and set up a neighborhood block watch group in her area to help protect the homes in her community."

Airman Hasselback enlisted in the KyANG in 1986.



JUMP!

CCT members make graduation
dive from KyANG C-130

Members of the KyANG who are part of the first group training for the Combat Control Team became jump qualified last week, making their graduation jump from one of the 123d TAW's aircraft.

Brig. Gen. John L. Smith, 123d TAW commander, visited the group on the day of their final jump.



Black History Month



AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY

'Triple Nickels' proved blacks could jump from airplanes

By Sgt. Maj. Rudi Williams, USA
American Forces Information Service

When the Army was forming its elite 82nd Airborne Division during World War II, the rule was "whites only." Blacks allegedly "couldn't handle" the tough training and didn't have enough "guts" to jump out of airplanes.

Blacks were supposed to guard the all-white paratrooper school and packing shed and patrol the area as they watched the white soldiers train.

But there was one man who knew that black soldiers could do just as well as whites and decided to prove it. The year was 1944.

"Since we were in the vicinity, I decided we would emulate the white paratroopers," said Walter Morris, who was first sergeant of the black service company. "We observed them when they did their calisthenics and double-timed everywhere they went. So we copied some of the things they were doing. But we didn't have any paratrooper boots.

"We caught the attention of the general (Lt. Gen. Ridgely Gaither, who commanded the parachute school) when he was making an inspection," said Morris, who is retired from the construction business in New York and now lives with his wife in Palm Coast, Fla. "He was impressed when he saw us doing our calisthenics. We were showing off to show him that we could do as well as the white paratroopers."

Morris and his soldiers got a lot of prideful satisfaction out of proving blacks could endure the same training as whites. But little did they know that by emulating the white paratroopers they would become a part of airborne history.

Not long after the calisthenics demonstration, Gaither summoned Morris to his office. "He let me know that President (Franklin Delano) Roosevelt had ordered Gen. (George C.) Marshall to form an all-black paratrooper unit. The decision was made in response to complaints by A. Philip Randolph, an organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and president of the National Negro Congress, and the black press," said Morris. "Blacks were asking, 'Why can't we have black paratroopers, too?'"

Morris' efforts toward black soldiers proving their mettle paid off. "Gen. Gaither selected me as the first sergeant the first black paratrooper in the first all-black paratrooper company in American history," said Morris. That was the 555th Parachute Infantry Company.

"I then waited until a cadre was brought in from the 92nd Infantry Division at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.," said Morris. "There were originally 20 of us, but only 16 graduated from the jump training; two didn't make it for medical reasons, one had a death in the family, and the fourth one just couldn't jump. Since we needed cooks and he was one, we decided to let him stay. But he wasn't on jump status.

"Of course, all of the instructors were white," said Morris. "Being a paratrooper was a big thing at that time, and there weren't a heck of a lot of whites jumping out of airplanes. We got along pretty well with the white troopers. The only problem we had was that the entire post at Fort Benning, Ga., both officers and enlisted, were making bets that we wouldn't jump -- we'd be too afraid. The thing that inspired us was that this was the only black combat outfit then, and it was an opportunity for black troops to enter something they could be proud of."

The black paratrooper students were segregated from the whites, both on and off post. But that didn't deter them. "It was not a big thing to us, because we had been conditioned," said Morris.

It was a grueling, exhausting four weeks of training for the black paratrooper pioneers -- push-ups, sit-ups, running, push-ups, sit-ups, running -- from morning 'til night the first week. The second week had more calisthenics and an introduction to the 35-foot jump tower. The third week had the 250-foot tower. The fourth week was packing and repacking parachutes and jumping every day, ending with a night jump on Friday. Saturday was graduation day when they received their silver wings.

After the first class graduated, the white cadre troopers returned to Fort Huachuca, and the graduating class became the cadre. "When we graduated, the word went out that the Army was accepting volunteers for an all-black parachute battalion, and we got applications from everywhere -- overseas and all over the states," said Morris.

Seven black officers were brought in. Each platoon had two officers. Gaither had a big surprise for Morris after the first class completed the course. The 555th Parachute Company was going to become the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, and the outfit needed an adjutant.

"Gen. Gaither said, 'I want you to go to OCS (officer candidate school) because we're going to have a battalion,'" Morris recalled.

"This was a unique situation," said Morris. "We had a battalion with a captain as commander."

"When Gen. Gavin (Maj. Gen. James M. Gavin, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division) saw the conditions in which we were training and living back in the woods, he integrated the black and white paratroopers," Morris said. "This was long before President (Harry S.) Truman signed the order to integrate the military services.

"Once we graduated, we started combat training preparing troops to go overseas," said Morris. But the black paratroopers never set sail for the war in Europe. Instead, they were sent to fight forest fires started by Japanese incendiary balloons on the West Coast -- from California to Arizona.

The Triple Nickels earned a new nickname, "Smoke Jumpers," for their ability to leap into smoke-filled clearings. They racked up 36 firefighting missions, making more than 1,000 individual jumps into burning forests. For this they earned another nickname, "Black Panthers."

Feature

'Purple suiter' coordinates airlift

By Mike Lynch
Ky Dept of Military Affairs

You say you don't really look forward to a four-day convoy to Colorado or hitting the trail to Texas for annual training? And you think there's got to be a better way? Well, where there's a will, there's a way -- or so they say.

The will has come from Adjutant General Michael W. Davidson, and he's appointed Maj. Howard Hunt III of the Kentucky Air National Guard to find the ways to get more KyARNG soldiers airlifted to training locations.

"Airlift is more time- and cost-effective for the movement of equipment and people," Major Hunt says. "It's better war-time training to go by air in a mobilization environment, too."

Major Hunt, a Danville native, has become what is sometimes called a "purple suiter," that is, an Air Guard member working to support Army Guard training. After serving active duty as a personnel officer at Richards-Gebaur Air

Force Base in Kansas, he joined the Kentucky Air Guard in April, 1975. His previous assignments with the former 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing included wing executive officer and OIC of aircraft maintenance control with the 123d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"The adjutant general's goal," he says, "is to reduce as much as possible those ground AT deployments that are time-consuming, absent of training value and costly."

Among his own goals during the first year in his new job is to improve the way Army Guard units ask for airlift support, to make sure their requests have the best possible chance of receiving a positive response. Yet he's not concentrating on using only the C-130s of the newly-converted 123d Tactical Airlift Wing.

"My goal is to support the Kentucky Guard with airlift secured from the total USAF airlift community and to look to the 123d TAW as

another member of that community," he adds, "and not to overburden them with parochial (state) requests."

Major Hunt says he believes that, with General Davidson's own background in special forces and airlift operations, he would have been just as interested in more use of air travel even if the KyANG had not converted to C-130s.

Major Hunt travels to Jackson, Miss., this month for a semi-annual conference where he will file 11 Army Guard requests for airlift support this training year. The largest of them involves about 500 troops.

"We are new at this," he says, "but I think the presence of a blue-suiter in this environment will enhance the possibility of getting 'purple' results."

There are three types of airlift support, Major Hunt explains. The first one, involving about 70 percent of the missions, is called opportune support. That means the schedule or type of Army Guard airlift request coincides with the schedule or training needs of an available airlift unit.

About 15 percent of the missions fall under another category, called JA/ATT, for joint airborne/air transportability training, missions. These missions go a step beyond opportune support, involving the use of aircraft to enhance the ground unit's training beyond just "getting them there." For instance, a JA/ATT mission might involve transporting a unit or usable military cargo which will parachute into a training area.

The third type of mission is the SAAM, or special assignment airlift mission, a relatively rare type of mission involving special airlift requests.

Major Hunt's job will involve prioritizing and coordinating the airlift support requests which come to the Plans, Operations and Training Office at Boone Center in Frankfort. He hopes to smooth the way for at least some of the requests by, as he puts it, "talking blue-suit lingo in a green world."

"The term 'purple suit' is one that's here to stay," Major Hunt says. "The concept is a good one: Having a blend of the services to achieve useful training purposes."



Bits N Pieces

Promotions

To SMSgt:

Gary E. Cline, 123d CAM
John G. Logsdon, 123d CES

To MSgt:

John M. Gantley, 123d CES

To TSgt:

Richard D. Leacock, 123d CES
Michael W. Nagel, 165th TAS
Harold E. Smith, 123d MAPS

To SSgt:

Phyllis L. Brown, 123d Tac Hosp
Robert P. Buckman, 123d CAM
Robert L. Crump Jr., 123d CAM
Paul M. Grimes, 123d MSS
Robert E. Wright, 123d MSS

To Sgt:

Margaret M. Coffey, 123d TAW
Jerome E. Davis, 123d MSF
Sonja L. Greentree, 123d Tac Hosp
William G. Harbin, 123d Tac Hosp
Delano L. Jewell, 123d WSSF
Darryl J. Loafman, 123d WSSF
Timothy S. Malone, 123d CAM
Brenda K. Stout, 123d CAM

To SrA:

Gregory D. Brown, 123d RMS
Calandra Q. Moore, 123d MSS

To AIC:

Thomas V. Monin, 123d CAM

Physical Fitness Centers

The KyANG is interested in obtaining corporate rates at local fitness centers. Of course, corporate rates are determined by the number of members enrolled.

If you are currently a member of a physical fitness center (American, Living Well, YMCA, etc.) please call base ext. 497 to give your name and membership. Also, call if you are interested in obtaining a membership.

NGAKY election

There will be a meeting of officers from all units, except 123d TAW and 165th TAS, to elect a representative (Separate Units) to the Board of Directors of the National Guard Association of Kentucky.

The meeting will be held in the Protestant Chapel at 9 a.m., today.

Boating safety course

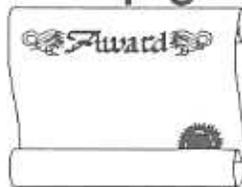
A Boating Skills and Seamanship Course, presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is being offered through the Jefferson County Adult Education Program.

The six-week class is free. It will be held at Seneca High School, 3510 Goldsmith Lane, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Classes begin Feb. 27.

Registration will be Feb. 6 through 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Seneca High School. For more information call 454-8323.



Top graduates



Due to the wing's conversion to tactical airlift, many unit members are being cross-trained and

sent to lengthy and very demanding schools.

Some of the first to leave were the flight engineers and load masters assigned to the 165th TAS. From that initial group, several were recognized for their efforts as Distinguished Graduates.

Distinguished Graduates are those students who achieve an average score of 95 percent or higher on written tests, perform at level one qualification on performance evaluations, and display the highest standards of military bearing and behavior. Letters were received from Col. Alvin C. Schweizer II, commander of Headquarters 34th Tactical Airlift Training Group, applauding the students for their "exemplary performance in all phases of training."

These include:

TSgt. Jerry L. Becker, Air National Guard Basic Loadmaster Course.

SSgt. Johnny L. Holton, Loadmaster Qualification Course and Loadmaster Tactical Mission Qualification Course.

TSgt. John M. Medley, Loadmaster Qualification Course and Loadmaster Tactical Mission Qualification Course.

SSgt. James L. Nelson, Loadmaster Qualification Course.

SSgt. Steven J. Rogers, Flight Engineer Qualification Course.

SSgt. Charles T. Miller, Honor Graduate, Aircraft Loadmaster Course.

For Sale

1980 Volvo Wagon: auto, air, new tires, 93,000 miles. \$5500. Call 367-6670