

THE CARGO COURIER

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

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READY, AIM, VIDEO?

New on-base simulator allows firearms training, little sacrifice

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer
Cargo Courier Assist. Editor

Capt. Charlie Mayfield didn't like what he was seeing.

It was so unlikely -- so bizarre for a military installation. But Mayfield, commander of the 123rd Security Police Squadron, knew the scene playing out before him had all the markings of a classic drug buy. And it was happening right here on base during a unit training assembly.

Two civilians, a woman on foot and a man behind the wheel of a white sports car, were engaged in a brief conversation as Mayfield

watched. Something then exchanged hands between the two suspects, and the woman stuffed the object into her pants.

Mayfield drew his Baretta pistol and approached, but the motorist sped away. Just as quickly, the woman spun around and moved her right hand down to her waist. In a split second, she withdrew a

silver revolver and turned it on Mayfield.

The captain instinctively discharged several rounds and watched as the suspect crumbled to her knees. She fired off one shot, and Mayfield returned with three more. In an instant, the suspect fell on her face while her pistol tumbled to the ground. Before Mayfield could make another move, the world froze and faded to black.

The scenario was part of a computer simulation made possible by a new piece of equipment called the Firearms Training System.

The system, which uses laser disc

that targets the screen and tells a sensor where shots have been fired, Selby said. A computer then integrates that information with live action video to provide a realistic simulation. The weapons even have recoil, thanks to high pressure carbon dioxide bursts that flow into them after each trigger pull.

Several different scenarios, from sniper fire to hostage situations, can be played on the laser disc, and individual scenarios can be modified to make them less predictable. The computer also can reenact the scenarios, complete with participants' responses.

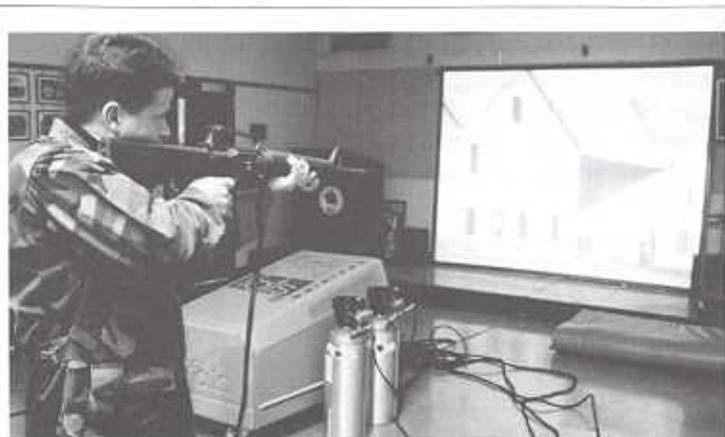
Of greatest importance to most guardsmen, however, will be the system's ability to provide traditional small arms target training right on base.

The FATS simulator also has other benefits, Selby said. It will save money, both in transportation and ammunition, which previously cost about \$30 per guardsman.

Tech. Sgt. Barry Steenbergen thinks the new system offers improvements over the traditional method. While nothing can be as realistic

as firing a true M-16, Steenbergen said, the simulator provides a better atmosphere for training.

"We should have had it a long time ago," said Steenbergen, an administration



KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Fritz

Capt. Charlie Mayfield, commander of the 123rd Security Police Squadron, takes aim with a 9 mm Baretta pistol while using the KyANG's newest training aid, the Firearms Training Simulator, known as FATS.

images projected onto a large video screen, has been in use locally since December, said Master Sgt. David Selby, NCOIC of combat arms in the 123rd SPS. Five people can train on the system simultaneously, using either M-16 rifles or Baretta 9 mm pistols.

Each weapon contains a small laser

*Story Continues
on Page 4*

Get Ready for Volk Field; Our Training Is About To Begin

As we deploy to Volk Field this UTA we need to stop and consider why we are so concerned about our training to survive an enemy attack and keep on operating.

For most of us, our job is tactical airlift or the support of tactical airlift. That means we are to have the ability to operate in a hostile environment in the theater of operations or close to the front lines if you prefer. This means that we must become more comfortable performing our duties while being harassed by the enemy with conventional or not so conventional weapons.

You have experienced just how difficult it can be to do the simplest task while in your "chem gear" if you have not practiced. Can you imagine how frightening it would be if you were thrust into combat and were hit with a chemical attack shortly after you arrived and you weren't prepared?

On the other hand, most tasks can be carried out quite well once you know what to do and how to handle the situation.



Brig. Gen. Stewart R. Byrne
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

When we get to the Volk Field training site we will take a day to go over the ATSO training you have already received, then the war will start. We will have simulated attacks and we will go through the process of recovery before being hit by

yet another attack. We will analyze the attack weapons used, mark the unexploded munitions, deal with possible contamination and work to put ourselves back into operation.

There will be considerable confusion with times that you will not understand what is going on or why it is taking so long to recover from an attack. You can expect long periods in condition "Black" and you can expect failures. Yes, you can expect to fail and you can expect your leaders to fail. We won't fail on purpose, but we will be pushed to the point where our systems break down. In this way we will learn our shortcomings so we can better prepare ourselves for the ORI or actual thing if that should happen.

We will all be tired when we return home, but we should have a much better idea of our level of preparedness and the changes necessary to make us a stronger unit. I am encouraged by your individual initiatives and your great attitude. I have never seen a unit take on a challenge of this magnitude with such a positive approach. Good luck and keep smiling.

Help Wanted:

The 123rd Airlift Wing's legal office is looking for someone to fill its paralegal position. Applicants should have strong administrative skills and be able to attend a six-week technical school. If you are interested in this position, contact Lt. Col. Gary Napier or Maj. Michael Johnson at on-base 627 for more details.

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Call the PA office if you have a story idea or an article to submit. The deadline for the April issue is March 30 and articles may be delivered to our office in Bldg. 7.

Today's NCOs are Going the Distance

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Air Force leadership wants reservists to attend professional military education in residence. This headline catches your eye.

Oh great, you think. . . I've taken time off from work to deploy to Africa and Germany, and I'm on my way to Volk Field for a week. My boss isn't going to be happy about letting me off to go to the NCO Academy for six more weeks. How am I ever going to get promoted without going to the academy?

Fifteen Kentucky Air National Guard members found a way. They are having the academy come to them.

The KyANG is among six units that are validating the Distance Learning Seminar, according to Tech. Sgt. Rose Farquhar, the local course administrator. The seminar allows guard members to attend NCO Academy classes at Standiford Field, two nights a week for 17 weeks. Then they will attend class in-residence

at McGhee-Tyson ANGB in Tennessee for only two weeks.

Tech. Sgt. Lois Allen is one of the guard members taking advantage of this opportunity. "It's nice for people who can't get away from work or who have little kids at home and don't want to be gone very long," Allen said.

The course is taught by instructors from McGhee-Tyson, Farquhar said. Currently the students view a videotape of the instructor teaching the lesson. Once the KyANG moves to its new base, instructors will appear "live" via interactive satellite and the students will be able to ask them questions, Farquhar explained.

Master Sgts. Wayne Ashley and Howard Rutledge and Tech. Sgt. John "Rich" Martin are on hand to facilitate the course and to lead discussions after the lesson is presented. Their job is to make sure the students understand the material that was presented. Not only are they graduates

of the NCO Academy, but they have associate's degrees or better, and they have attended the instructor course at McGhee-Tyson, said Farquhar.

If student test scores and satisfaction are any indication, the three facilitators are doing a great job.



KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Sansbury. Tech Sgt. Thomas Gentry, left, takes issue with Master Sgt. Wayne Ashley during a three-hour Distance Learning session Feb. 16. Ashley is one of three seminar facilitators at Standiford field.

Tech. Sgts. Katrina Kerberg (center) and Lois Allen listen as Tech. Sgt. Gary Dunlap shares his perspective during a recent Thursday evening Distance Learning session.



KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Sansbury

"We're doing as good and maybe even a bit better than the in-residence students," Allen said, referring to the results of their first test. Everyone seems to be enjoying the course, she added.

If this test of the Distance Learning Seminar is successful, KyANG members may be attending other courses at Standiford Field instead of going away to a technical training center.

The Air Force and the Air National Guard are also looking at offering the Senior NCO Academy and several technical training courses through interactive satellite, Farquhar said. It costs much less to offer training this way. "This is the wave of the future," she added.

Strawn Nutter, fallen comrade, awarded Meritorious Service Medal



KyANG photo by SMSgt. Dave Tinsley

Angela Nutter accepted the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal in her late husband's absence from Brig. Gen. Stewart R. Bryne, the KyANG's commander, during a ceremony here last month. Staff Sgt. John "Strawn" Nutter, who was a firefighter here for more than four years, was awarded the medal posthumously. A firefighter for the Louisville Fire Dept., Nutter died in the line of duty while battling a warehouse fire Aug. 3, 1994. The fire was ruled as arson. Members of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron here gathered Feb. 3, along with members of the city fire department, to honor Nutter and his family. After the award presentation, the KyANG's base fire department hosted a dinner for all attendees.

FATS training welcomed here

Continued from Page 1

specialist in the 123rd Airlift Wing and one of about 50 guardsmen who has completed his qualification on the FATS simulator. "It's a better learning experience because you don't have to worry about the cold or heat outside."

"We don't have the transportation problem we used to," he said. "I rode in the back of an Army truck all the way to Fort Knox in the pouring rain one year. It was a very cold, wet day."

Officials hope the simulator can be used for more than just target practice, however. Its live action capabilities are essential for training security police and combat arms specialists. And once everyone on base is qualified for small arms training, Selby said, guardsmen will be able to take advantage of FATS' more sophisticated simulations.

The unit expects to have a larger, \$430,000 simulator installed at the new base by midyear. The system will have a 40-foot screen and room for 15 guardsmen to train and move about.

The system definitely will have one of the best sound systems in Louisville, with 14 speakers and subwoofers.

"We're going to have a sound system that's going to shake your insides," Selby said. "You're going to be feeling it, not just hearing it."

Chaplain's Column

By Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Curry
KyANG Protestant Chaplain

The famous comic, W.C. Fields, was never known to be religious. On his deathbed, someone discovered him reading a bible.

"Why are you reading the bible?" they asked him. "I'm looking for loopholes," came the reply.

People look for short cuts and loopholes to many tasks

of life, especially as they apply to eternity. Some things, however, can only be done the right way if you want the desired results.

Take, for example, the safe landing of an airplane. There are no shortcuts to the proper altitude, decent rate and the graceful flare which places the aircraft and its passengers safely on the runway.

Why opt for the short cuts in life when doing it the right way gets you the desired results? Whether your task be finishing school, performing military duties, raising a family or serving God, ignore the temptation for loopholes and commit yourself to the right way.

You'll get the results you want.

America's Readiness at Risk?

Service leaders ask Congress for \$2.6 billion; contingency operations at risk

By Master Sgt. Louis Arana-Barradas
American Forces News Service

America's armed forces could lose their combat readiness edge due to the overextension of forces, lack of funding and high cost of unexpected peacekeeping operations.

This trend, if not corrected, will lead to serious future problems, four field commanders told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee Jan. 19.

The bipartisan committee heard testimony on the condition of the armed forces and future trends.

"There is a serious readiness problem, and it does stem in part from insufficient funds," said the committee chairman, Republican Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

To curb any erosion of readiness, service leaders have asked Congress to approve a supplemental funding bill of \$2.6 billion to repay the unexpected contingency operations the military has recently participated in.

But, though they admit facing tough money, equipment, maintenance, training, mission and people challenges, the commanders — one from each service — said they were ready.

However, both Republican and Democratic committee members expressed concern about the major strain being put on U.S. forces and the "abundant evidence" the services are experiencing readiness problems.

To reverse this trend — which some committee members said if not done could cost services their best people and revert to the same kind of "hollow force" of the 1970s — more funds are needed to keep the military's fighting ability the Department of Defense's highest priority.

Most estimates of this underfunding range between \$50 billion and \$150 billion over the next five years, Thurmond said.

Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., said curtailing the deployment of American forces will help prevent "robbing the military of its operations and maintenance funds."

"We should very carefully evaluate deployment of our troops and do it only when there is the clearest connection between a national security interest to this country or one of our allies and not simply go out every time someone dials 9-1-1- Send Help, so the secretary of defense won't have to reach into the cookie jar of operations and training (funds) and impact negatively on readiness."

Chem-gear training will be focus at Volk Field

Last month these KyANG members practiced first-aid skills while wearing their chemical warfare suits. They are, from left: Staff Sgt. Mary Decker; Staff Sgt. Chris Tellis; Tech. Sgt. Tim Ramsey; Senior Airman Lawrence Graves; and Staff Sgt. Bruce Grimes (stretcher). Tomorrow about 750 guard personnel will deploy to Volk Field, Wis., for seven days of intense training.

KyANG photo by
Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson



Air Force survival training helps officer, son survive Turkish storm

2 pieces of candy helped them live for 9 days alone

INCIRLIK AB, Turkey (AFNS)—Fearing that he and his son would not be found until the spring thaw, an Air Force officer made the hardest decision of his life. He left the boy in a frigid, makeshift shelter and embarked on a desperate search for help.

In interviews with Turkish and international media and the Air Force Broadcasting Service, Lt. Col. Michael Couillard described the nine-day ordeal he and his 10-year-old son, Matt, endured after becoming lost in deteriorating weather at a ski resort 120 miles northwest of Ankara.

"Plain and simple, we got lost," Couillard said. About 2:30 p.m. on a skiing trip with a party of U.S. military and embassy personnel from Ankara, Couillard and Matt went up two lifts to the summit of the Kartalkaya ski area. The weather was snowy and became increasingly foggy at the higher elevation.

As they skied, the deteriorating conditions further reduced visibility. They lost the trail and became disoriented among trees. Couillard began looking for a ski lift he believed to be on their left.

"I thought we were just a little lost, and if we could climb over one ridge we would be there," he said. Their main concern at this point was getting back in time to meet their bus, which was to leave for Ankara at 4:30 p.m.

But that was not to be. Hope of

reaching the bus on time was abandoned.

They continued skiing for two or three hours, but darkness and cold began to overtake the pair and Couillard decided to stop for the night.

Believing it best to stay in one place to be found, the two spent the next seven days sheltered from harsh weather in the burrow. "The first few days were intensely cold with a lot of snowfall," said Couillard. "Everything I'd done to mark our path had been covered by snow.

Only when necessary did they eat snow. Two pieces of hard candy were

skills," he said.

On one occasion, a helicopter flew close enough for Couillard to recognize an American flag on the fuselage. However, their position and distance from the main search area on the slopes, the trees and snowfall made spotting them unlikely.

After not seeing a helicopter for some time, "I had no idea whether or not the search was still going on," Couillard said. It was our faith that kept us going."

Both suffered frostbite to their feet and toes, but full recovery is expected.

Couillard thanked Turkish and Ameri-

That was then ... This is now

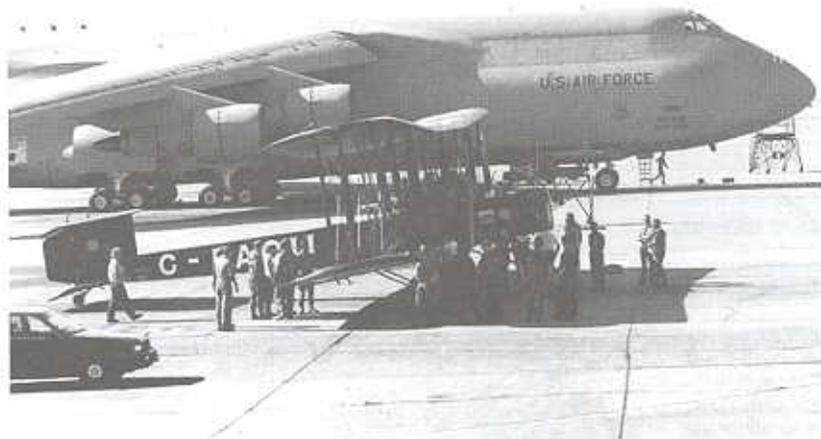


Photo by Mike Dial

A flying replica of a World War I-era Vickers Vimy bomber parks at Travis AFB in preparation for its flight to England aboard a C-5 Galaxy. Australian Lang Kidby and American Peter McMillan built the replica from original plans, with only minor modifications. They plan to fly the aircraft from England to Australia.

about all they had to eat for nine days.

Couillard recalled some of the winter survival training lessons he'd learned as a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy. "When you have a real need there's certainly a lot of motivation to use those

can searchers for their efforts and expressed a desire to meet again with the woodcutters who found him and his son.

"I know that God saved us. All those men did what they could, but God saved us. Thanks for the prayers and support."

Another New Record



KyANG photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson

Brig. Gen. Stewart Bryne, the 123rd Airlift Wing commander, added a record eighth streamer to designate the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award during a ceremony held Feb. 4 at Male High School. The KyANG was recognized for its relief efforts and NATO support missions between August 1992 and August 1994.

Promotions in the KyANG

The following members have been promoted in the Kentucky Air Guard and as reservists of the U.S. Air Force. Congratulations for a job well done.

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)

Larry Daugherty, 123rd MS
Charles Ewing, 165th AS
Timothy Keehner, 123rd MS
Calvin Rowe, 123rd MS
Martin Schafer, 165th AS

To Senior Airman (E-4)

Delando Jones, 205th CCS
Patrick Sledge, 123rd LS
Christopher Wright, 165th AS

To Staff Sgt. (E-5)

Keith Bailey, 123rd SPS
Anthony Foll, 123rd CES

Douglas Green, 123rd CES
Mark Kirk, 123rd AS
Barry Mayfield, 123rd SPS
Steven McCane, 123rd MS
William Pryor, 123rd CES
Jeffrey Shofner, 123rd CES
Wyatt Waxler, 123rd APS
Richard Wheeler, 123rd CES
Stephen Young, 123rd MS

To Tech. Sgt. (E-6)

Robert Buckman, 123rd MS
Kristine Evans, 123rd LS
Freda Jones, 123rd APS
Michael Newman, 123rd OLCT
Anthony Pickman, 123rd LS
William Ritchie, 123rd MS
Roderic Ruggier, 165th AS
Reed Striegel, 123rd MS
Phillip Tinker, 123rd MS
Carl Vetter, 123rd MS
Barry Wright, 123rd Med Sq

Some entitled to medal

(AFN) — Some Air Force members, including the Guard and Reserve forces, who served in direct support of Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti) may be eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, announced last month.

Eligibility for the medal is limited to those U.S. military forces who participated in or directly supported the operation within a defined area as of Sept. 16. Military personnel flights have more information.

Official photo can be trashed

(AFN) — The Air Force is removing official photographs from the personnel records of officers, colonel and below, who are meeting promotion boards. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman eliminated the photo requirement when he took office in October, saying the photos were an unnecessary expense. The Guard and Reserve will follow this move.

People had to have a new photo taken every time they received a new decoration. Military personnel officials began removing photos Jan. 1 from records being screened for upcoming promotion boards. Photos will also be removed any time an individual's record is pulled.

Officers also can remove photos from their records at the base level and keep them or turn them in to the base visual information center for recycling. Official photos may still be required for people applying for special duty assignments.



Photo is from the KyANG historical archive

ADVANCE DETACHMENT: During the Korean War call-up, there had to be speculation about what the troops would find at Manston, England, during federal activation in 1951. What they found was that enlisted personnel were supposed to live in tents, despite the temperatures of December and the moisture of the English climate. It gave commanders and their men a great deal of moral and physical discomfort, although officers and their families found housing readily.

KyANG loses its first pilot in 1951

First local recruits were sworn in that same year

By Tech. Sgt. John Martin
123rd Wing Historian

It was this month in 1951 when one of our first pilots, Capt. Merlin R. Keher, was killed when his F-51 Mustang aircraft crashed near Leesburg, Va. Capt. Keher had been at Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C., for a conference; he was returning to Louisville when the crash occurred.

The very first recruits to the Kentucky Air National Guard were sworn in at the base on March 14, 1951, when the base was located in the former Brehmer Biscuit Company building (which no longer exists). On those very grounds rests the new KyANG base.

These six recruits, four of whom were from Louisville and two from Shelbyville,

signed up for a total of three years, drilling on the first Sunday of the month and for two hours at night on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. In all, each recruit would receive about four days' pay per month.

It was also during this month (March 19, 1967) that the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing was awarded the TAC Unit Achievement Award for accident-free flying from November 1965 through November 1966.

It was just seven years ago this month (March 5, 1988) that the unit was converting from the RF-4C "Phantom II" jet aircraft to the C-130B transport plane, ending 30 years as a reconnaissance unit. More about that next month.

Right on the heels of last month's ceremony awarding the KyANG its eighth

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the unit's sixth such award was also presented during March, back in 1988. That presentation was made during the National Guard Association's 56th annual conference, held in Louisville. Presenting the award to wing commander Brig. Gen. John L. Smith and Brig. Gen. Fred F. Bradley, the assistant adjutant general for air, was Maj. Gen. John B. Conaway, director of the Air National Guard.

Question from last month: What is so special about February and the KyANG? It is the unit's birth month ... sort of. It was actually created on May 24, 1946, but it did not receive federal recognition until Feb. 16, 1947.

Question for April: How many of our first KyANG recruits back in 1951 were women?