THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky. Vol. XV, No. 9 • Nov. 6, 1999

Local ministers visit Guard base to see operations

By Staff Sgt. Amy Carr
Cargo Courier Assistant Editor

As the C-130 left the runway, the group of ministers prepared for a bumpy ride. Father John Cusack sat quietly, fiddling with his seat belt.

This plane, he said, obviously wasn't built for tourists.

"It's so loud you can hardly talk, and you really can't see that much," he said. "It certainly wasn't built with a bay window."

Cusack, a Catholic priest from Congregation of the Passionist in Louisville, was one of 15 area ministers who visited the Kentucky Air Guard on Oct. 16 as part of Clergy Appreciation Day.

For the first time, Guardmembers were given the opportunity to invite their ministers here for an orientation flight and briefings so they could gain a better understanding of the Air Guard.

Although Father Cusack has worked with military units throughout his career, he said that spending the day on base made him more familiar with the unit's mission.

Lida Bain, a minister from Tabernacle of Worship Church in Guston, Ky., agreed.

"I now have a greater respect for the men and women here and all that they do," she said. "So much goes into this that we didn't even recognize."

Such an understanding is important, said Lt. Col. Tom Curry, chief chaplain of the 123rd Airlift Wing, because it helps ministers better address the unique spiritual needs of parishioners who wear the uniform and must frequently spend time away from home.

It also lets the ministers know how crucial their support is, because a spiritually healthy Guardmember can only boost mission effectiveness, he said.

"If our Guardmembers are strong, our Guard is strong, and when are Guard is strong, our military

See CLERGY, Back Page

ABOVE: Pastor Richard Martin of South Jefferson Christian Church examines the flight deck of a C-130 during Clergy Appreciation Day.

LEFT: Father John Cusack, a priest at Louisville's Congregation of the Passionist, views the city from above during a C-130 orientation flight.

BELOW: Pastor Willie Hunter of Newburg Apostolic Church samples the dining facility's fare with Chaplain Tom Curry.

It's everyone's responsibility to guide the development of our recruits

What do you remember most about being a brand new recruit?

A.) The mixed feelings: pride/fear/excitement/anticipation?

B.) Being lucky enough to have someone take you under his or her wing, help you get through the tough times, tell you what to do to advance and succeed —then celebrate with you when you did?

C.) The ones who ignored you, or even worse, harassed and belittled you?

D.) All of the above

Col. Bill Leslie
123 Airlift Wing Commander

I think most of us here today would answer "D." The ones who answer "C" are not here today — or won't be at the end of their first terms.

Our recruiters have averaged around 10 new recruits per month over the past few years.

In most cases, these recruits are bright, enthusiastic, excited troops whose initial answer is "A."

If you do some quick mental calculations, that's about 120 recruits per year, or 600 in the past 5 years, which represents a turnover of half our total strength in just 5 years.

Why the turnover?

We're going to lose some due to outside pressures: family, employer, etc.; and some to retirement.

But we should never lose even one to "C."

One of our efforts to welcome our new recruits is the Right Start Program, and though it has been on hold for a couple of months due to changes at Basic Military Training and our own personnel shifts, we will kick it off again in January.

The program does a lot of things for us, including providing an introduction to the best wing in the Air Force. It's also the initial effort for "B." After Right Start, it's up to everyone else in the unit to begin mentoring tomorrow's leaders.

Because it sometimes takes longer than we would like to get these folks into training, we are now issuing uniforms to them to help them feel like a part of the unit.

We will also issue them a distinctive ball cap so you will know they are new to the unit and have not yet received formal training.

When you see them, make them feel welcome and offer to help.

Maybe in a few years, they'll be the leadership of the 123rd, and they'll answer "D" every time they think about the ABCs of leadership.

Better yet, maybe we'll have to add a new choice — E.) Only A and B.

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 17.

Wing Commander.....Col. Michael Harden
Wing Public Affairs Officer and Cargo Courier Editor.....2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Assistant Editor.....Staff Sgt. Amy Carr
Staff Writer.....Staff. Sgt. Dave Tors

How to contact us ☎

Phone: (502) 364-9431
E-mail: dalegreer@sprintmail.com

An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — www.kyang.ang.af.mil

CFC drive nearing base goal of $30,500

Effort continues this weekend

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The wing's Combined Federal Campaign effort is drawing to a close, but it's not too late to make a donation to the charitable program.

Volunteers will be accepting gifts in the base dining hall this drill in a final push to reach the unit's 1999 goal of $30,500.

The wing has already raised about 95 percent of that goal, said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, who is helping coordinate the effort.

"We've been fortunate that so many generous people have given to the campaign," Frymire said. "Now we just need that extra little bit to put us over the top."

The Combined Federal Campaign is a kind of charity-fund manager, collecting and distributing the donations of federal employees to nearly 1,300 local, national and international public service agencies.

"This is an opportunity for federal employees to improve the quality of life in our community and help those who are less fortunate," Frymire said. "Every gift has a tremendous impact on those around us."

Tech. Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

Col. Bill Leslie, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, presents his leadership pledge of more than $1,000 to Pam Ottersbach, CFC Manager for the Louisville area.

Maintainer remembered for dedication, mentoring

Cargo Courier Staff Report

Master Sgt. Robert L. Powers, an assistant NCOIC in the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, died Labor Day weekend while boating with family and friends at Lake Cumberland. He was 50 years old.

Powers, who had served in the military for more than 19 years, enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1982 after an active-duty tour in the U.S. Army.

He served here as an aerospace ground equipment specialist for nearly three years, eventually becoming a full-time technician before transferring to the New York Air Guard for a four-year tour as an Active Guard/Reserve maintainer.

When the temporary assignment ended, Powers returned to Louisville, where he began working in the aircraft ground support shop at United Parcel Service, eventually rising to the level of supervisor.

Powers was anxious to rejoin the Kentucky Air Guard, but he couldn't find a suitable position. In the meantime, he signed up with the Army Guard. By 1991, however, a position opened in the 223rd Communications Squadron, and Powers came home to the Kentucky Air Guard family, with whom he remained until his death.

" Bob had spent many years in the Air National Guard but few people outside the maintenance squadron knew him," said Senior Master Sgt. David Heustis, an NCOIC in Powers' squadron.

"He was quiet, unassuming and performed his duties in an outstanding manner that seldom drew attention."

Powers

Powers wasn't, however, shy about pulling his share of the workload. In just the past couple of years, he volunteered for deployments to Oman, Egypt and Germany.

Coworkers described him as a combination of Tom Sawyer and the pied piper.

"He enjoyed teaching the younger folks many of the things he learned through years of experience as a mechanic," Heustis said. "He taught in a way that his students were eager for more. He looked out for the younger people in the area, and many sought his advice on things both personal and mechanical.

"They knew he would steer them in the right direction and, more often than not, save them time and unwarranted trouble."

A recent example of Powers' resourcefulness occurred during the wing's preparations for Thunder Over Louisville, Heustis said.

On a split UTA weekend, personnel from civil engineering were installing an aircraft barrier arresting system. The backhoe they were using developed a major hydraulic leak, and Powers troubleshot the system, quickly determining that damaged commercial hose fittings could not be repaired on base.

See POWERS, Back Page

Auditor position open at USPFO

The United States Property and Fiscal Office is seeking an auditor who has a bachelor's degree and at least 24 credit hours in accounting.

The vacancy will be filled at a GS-7, -9 or -11 level, depending on the experience of the auditor.

For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Jim Turpin at (502) 607-1489 or DSN 667-1489. ☎

Brown selected to head base education office

Tech. Sgt. Robert Brown has been named NCOIC of the Base Education Office, replacing Master Sgt. Johnny Phillips, who retired in September.

Brown's primary responsibility is to provide education counseling for enlisted members who are enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force.

Brown also is the local point of contact for enrollment in voluntary career development courses and in-residence professional military education programs.

For more information on the CCAF or to receive educational counseling, call Brown at 364-9032. ☎

Sullivan completes Air Force Marathon

1st Lt. Kevin Sullivan completed the third-annual USAF Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on Sept. 28.

Sullivan, a maintenance officer with the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, covered the 26.2-mile distance in 3:29:33.

SPs deploy to North Carolina to secure town after hurricane

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Four of the wing's security police specialists were among more than 200 Kentucky National Guard troops who deployed to North Carolina following Hurricane Floyd in September.

Master Sgts. Shawn Burt and David Selby; Staff Sgt. Perry McDaniel and Senior Airman Eric May joined with military police from the Army Guard's 223rd Military Police Company to provide security patrols in Grifton, N.C., from Sept. 20 to Oct. 3.

Although the small town was relatively undamaged by the storm's winds, much of Grifton was covered with flood waters from nearby Contentnea Creek, McDaniel said.

The SPs' main job was to control access to the flooded areas.

"We mostly performed a crime prevention function to keep looters out," McDaniel said. "We were the eyes and ears of the local law enforcement agencies. When we saw somebody in the area, we would call it in so the local police could flush them out."

The SPs also were charged with keeping residents out, too — at least until authorities deemed the areas safe.

"There were a lot of dangers, like snakes and the possibility of electrocution," McDaniel said.

"At one point, officials turned the electric service back on, and all these submerged air conditioning units began kicking on, shooting fountains of water up in the air with their spinning fan blades. You could even see lights on under water. I'd never seen anything like that before."

Once the water began receding, the four SPs, who are assigned to the 123rd Security Forces Squadron, began helping residents get back on their feet.

"A lot of the homes' doors were swollen shut by the water, so we assisted the citizens by helping them get their doors open so they could begin cleaning up," McDaniel said.

Giving thanks can change your life

Chaplain's Column

Well, it's November again and we find ourselves thinking about pilgrims and turkeys, family feasts and the opening day of the Christmas holiday shopping season.

But many of us may be thinking, "Yeah, right, what have I got to be thankful for?"

Time passes so quickly that the holidays come and go like a blur — just like the rest of life.

All too often, holidays can become expensive inconveniences to life, days in which we are compelled to drop everything to go visit family members who we perhaps might rather not see anyway.

Those who must spend hours in a car with young children asking the question, "Are we there, yet?" know that holidays can be times of personal torture.

And, yet, as we draw near Thanksgiving, I can't help thinking that if we really look, we can discover many reasons to give thanks.

Perhaps the first reason we might consider is simply the fact that we have a holiday set aside simply for the purpose of expressing thankfulness.

It stands as a day to take a breather from the rest of life and take stock of our situation.

We can choose the way we approach this holiday.

We can look for reasons to complain and grumble and wonder why we need to be thankful, or we can, as the old hymn suggests, "count our blessings."

It can be truly amazing what a difference that simple change can have in your life — to choose to consider the blessings you've received rather than dwell on the hardships.

The more we choose to count our blessings, the more positive we discover life is.

Believe it or not, it will surprise you! Happy Thanksgiving — and take time to give thanks!

—Chaplain John Von Almen, 1st Lt.

Change of Command

Photos by Master Sgts. Terry Lutz and Charles Simpson; and Tech. Sgt. Bill Lewis/KyANG

ABOVE: The 123rd Airlift Wing marks the transfer of leadership from Col. Michael Harden to Col. Bill Leslie during a change of command ceremony held Oct. 17 on the base flightline.

LEFT: Leslie, center, officially assumes command after accepting the wing's guidon from Col. Richard Ash, assistant adjutant general for air, while Harden looks on.

ABOVE: The ceremony included comments by Maj. Gen. John R. Groves Jr., Kentucky's adjutant general.

Promotions & honors in the Kentucky Air Guard

The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard:

MAJOR (O-4)

•Nicholas Coleman,
165th Airlift Sq.
•Peter Lazzari,
165th Airlift Sq.
•Frederick Mildenburger
165th Airlift Sq.
•Timothy Moore,
123rd Operations Support Flt.
•Jeremy Shoop,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.

The following members of the Kentucky Air National Guard have distinguished themselves through exceptional performance:

•Airman 1st Class Larry Burba Jr.,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.;
Commander's Top Graduate Award,
Aircraft Maintenance Technical School
Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

•Airman 1st Class Jason Craig,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.;
Honor Graduate,
Basic Military Training School
Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

•James Bishop,
123rd Logistics Sq.;
Distinguished Graduate,
Air National Guard
Academy of Military Science
McGhee-Tyson
Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

National Guard units ready to respond to Y2K

Mobilization not likely for 'milennium bug'

By Army Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

BOISE, Idaho — Maureen Lischke has a high degree of confidence that the lights won't go out in Georgia — or New York or California — when clocks across the United States ring in the year 2000 on New Year's Eve.

As the individual in Washington who has spent nearly two years overseeing the National Guard's preparations for Y2K compliance and emergencies, she is confident that America's Guard members will be ready, as always, to support the country on Jan. 1 and into the 21st century.

"We will be as ready as we always are," Lischke said during an October training workshop in Boise, Idaho, for 300 National Guard public affairs people.

The Y2K syndrome refers to potential problems with electronic and computer systems because some date-sensitive devices may not be able to compute 2000.

It stems from the decades-old practice of using two digits of computer code, such as 98, rather than four, such as 1998, to represent each year.

All of the National Guard's mission-critical systems — from powering airplanes to preparing payrolls — have been tested and will keep on working in 2000 rather than shut down as if it were 1900, Lischke said.

She began dealing with the issue in February 1998 in her capacity as the National Guard Bureau's chief information officer.

"We've also fixed most of our non-mission critical systems and eliminated systems we don't need," Lischke added.

The Guard's high-frequency radio network, based in Arlington, Va., is also up to snuff, a September weekend test revealed, so National Guard Bureau leaders can talk to adjutants general and commanders in the 54 states and territories if other communications systems, including the Internet, go down.

Being ready, Lischke said, does not mean declaring martial law, because that is not the National Guard's mandate.

"The Guard is not mobilizing for the New Year's weekend," she said. "We're not panicking. We're not coming in and taking over."

> *"The Guard is not mobilizing for the New Year's weekend. We're not panicking. We're not coming in and taking over."*
>
> —Maureen Lischke, NGB Information Officer

Indeed, some public affairs people maintained that most National Guard members who will be on duty New Year's Eve may be more concerned with helping civil authorities deal with unruly revelers in such places as brightly-lit Las Vegas than with directing traffic and collaring vandals in blacked-out cities.

Sixteen states will have some Guard troops on standby in case they are needed, Lischke explained, while Arkansas and the District of Columbia Army Guard are the only two forces that will be conducting routine training weekends.

D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams has asked the Guard to help police with crowd control during that city's huge celebration to ring in the 21st century, Lischke explained.

"For the other states, it will be business as usual," she added.

She predicted the turn of the century would be a normal, festive New Year's Day for most Americans.

In fact, curiosity about evening-long celebrations in such places as Boston and Los Angeles seems to have replaced the concerns about possible Y2K emergencies that gripped the country a year ago.

Furthermore, USA Today reported in late October that many companies are planning office parties and extra pay for workers who have to be on the job New Year's Eve in case of Y2K computer glitches.

"The public seems to have become comfortable with Y2K," she said. "That's the good news. The bad news is that some companies may have stopped testing for all contingencies."

She also acknowledged that it is difficult to keep running tests without alarming the public, which has been repeatedly told that bank machines and power plants will keep on humming.

"Don't take your money out of the bank. Stock up on batteries for flashlights and several days worth of food, and keep a little extra money on hand, as if you were planning for a hurricane or an ice storm," she said.

That, Lischke said, should be enough to carry Americans through any Y2K emergencies during the holiday weekend.

ANG senior NCOs eligible for overseas liaison duties

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Air Guard NCOs in the grades of E-7 to E-9 are eligible to participate in overseas military liaison teams.

MLTs interact with senior military officers in countries that have had little contact with the U.S. armed forces, like Albania, Georgia and Ukraine.

Host country language skills are desirable but not mandatory for the tours, which last 179 days.

The program offers reserve-component NCOs a valuable opportunity to gain experience in joint-service operations, said Maj. Mike Toder of the Air Force Personnel Center.

Applicants must be recommended by their commanders and possess exceptional maturity, flexibility and interpersonal skills.

To apply, contact NGB/ZIA, 4501 Ford Ave., Park Center IV, Suite 300, Alexandria, Va. 22302; or call the National Guard Bureau at DSN 278-7128 or 278-7100.

More information is available on the Web at www.eucom.mil/programs/jctp/jctpmlts.htm.

PB tablets can't be ruled out as cause of illness

By Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Anti-nerve agent pills given to troops during the Gulf War cannot be ruled out as a possible cause for some of the illnesses veterans have reported.

New concerns about pyridostigmine bromide, an investigational drug administered to service members deployed for the Gulf War, are raised in a RAND study released by the Pentagon on Oct. 19.

Pyridostigmine bromide, or PB, was given the troops because it's the only medication available to protect humans against soman, a deadly nerve agent known to be present in the Gulf region.

The information is inconclusive, however, and will require further study, officials said.

According to RAND, conditions such as heat and stress — health factors during Desert Storm — may cause the brain to absorb larger amounts of PB. This, in turn, may lead to PB affecting acetylcholine, a nerve-signaling chemical that regulates sleep, pain, mood, muscle function and thinking.

The Pentagon administered PB to troops even though the drug was not fully licensed by the Food and Drug Administration.

The risks of soman were considered greater than the possible health risks of the drug, said Dr. Sue Bailey, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"This department is focused on providing the best possible protection against those deadly weapons," Bailey said. "In this case, pyridostigmine bromide was the best protection available."

The Defense Department has contracted for nearly $20 million in additional research on PB.

Defense bill authorizes raise

Spending plan hailed for its 'historic' gains

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton signed the fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act Oct. 5, clearing the way for the most comprehensive compensation package ever put together for members of the armed forces.

"This bill is historic in the compensation gains for our airmen in the areas of retention, health care and quality of life," said Brig. Gen. John F. Regni, personnel resources director, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Highlights of the bill include

• Restoration of the pre-1986 military retirement plan. Service members who entered the armed forces on Aug. 1, 1986 or later, and were affected by the Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986 (commonly referred to as Redux), now have a choice.

They can either enroll in the old plan (receiving 50 percent of basic pay with full inflation protection) or remain under the MRRA plan (which offers a 40 percent multiplier and reduced inflation protection).

• A 4.8 percent across-the-board pay raise, effective Jan. 1.

The bill also provides for a one-time reform of the DOD pay table, which provides targeted pay increases for about 82 percent of enlisted and about 57 percent of officers. It takes effect July 1.

The reform eliminates pay inconsistencies and offers more incentives for promotion by providing greater pay increases for rank advancement.

• A provision to require military pay raises from fiscal 2001 through fiscal 2006 to be 0.5 percent above the employment cost index. This will help narrow the gap between military and private-sector pay.

• The waiver of TRICARE deductibles for families of National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty for less than one year.

• The expansion of dental benefits for members of the Ready Reserve.

"This act is the best compensation package we have seen in decades, not only for our active-duty members, but also for our entire Air Force family," Regni said.

"It returns us to the 50-percent-at-20-years retirement system, provides our largest pay raise in 18 years, and for the next six years provides for pay raises above raises in the private sector.

"This puts us well on the road to restoring the compensation and benefits package our airmen deserve," the general said.

Ryan: Readiness still a concern

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force men and women are performing "great work," but the Air Force chief of staff cautions that low funding, low retention and high operations tempo are taking a toll.

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, speaking before the Senate Armed Services Committee Oct. 26 on the military's readiness posture, said the pay and compensation package signed into law last month was a big step toward reversing the downward spiral in retention and recruiting.

But more work remains to be done.

"Several years of sustained high operations tempo and reduced funding in real terms have contributed to the slow, steady decline in our readiness," he told the Senate.

He expressed the belief that the decline will level off once the fiscal 1999 and 2000 budget initiatives take effect.

Ryan addresses the Senate.

Clergy

Continued from Front Page

is strong," Curry said.

Equally important, the day's events give the Guard a chance to show its appreciation and to improve communications with major religious organizations, which assist in appointing clergy to the Guard.

In order for clergy to join the military, they must work through these endorsing agencies, which are recognized by the Department of Defense.

According to Curry, very few Guard units have Catholic priests. Cusack is the wing's current auxiliary priest, performing mass on drill weekends, but the unit is looking for a permanent chaplain.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the day for Bain was the sense of affirmation it provided.

"It opened a part of my heart up that there is recognition here for ministers," Bain said.

Chaplain Curry talks to Lida Bain, minister of the Tabernacle of Worship Church in Guston, Ky., and Beth Turpin, youth minister at Louisville's Parkland Baptist Church.

Harold Price of Parkland Baptist and the wing's newest chaplain, 1st Lt. John von Almen prepare for their first C-130 orientation flight.

KyANG photos by Senior Airman Tommy Downs

Powers

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He took the old hose to the ground support shop at United Parcel Service, had a new hose manufactured and reinstalled the part.

"The equipment operator was back in his seat in short order," Heustis said.

Not bad considering it was a Sunday, and every other facility capable of accomplishing the repair was closed.

"Bob performed many tasks like that with no fanfare," Heustis said.

"He expected no formal attaboys for what he considered his normal job. He got much satisfaction from within, knowing that he had again performed his magic.

"Many of the people he worked with at the Guard called him 'Dr. Bob' for good reason."

Powers is survived by his wife Nancy; two daughters, Michelle and Kimberly; and one son, Troy.

123rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs Office
Kentucky Air National Guard
1101 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY 40213-2678

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