101 Days of Summer to remain a top priority

By Gen. Gregory Martin
USAFE Commander

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany—"Spring into 101 Critical Days of Summer" is not just another safety campaign, but rather a time for us to think about and prepare for the summer, and schedule our activities accordingly.

By planning ahead of time, we can do a much better job of anticipating the many challenges we'll face as we try to balance personal, family and Air Force priorities.

And, most importantly, we will be able to build in some flexibility, which will allow each of us to deal with the inevitable pop-up circumstances requiring changes to our original plan.

Although we face seasonal risks throughout the year, I have found the summer season to be the most dangerous of all for many reasons.

With longer days and predominantly better weather, we have a tendency to overestimate the number of activities we can accomplish in any given day while underestimating the fatigue factor associated with those activities.

Additionally, the summer months produce rapidly changing and often violent weather patterns that can catch even the most prepared at an awkward and dangerous point.

The first step in all mishap prevention plans is to be aware of and expect change.

Next, match and assess the risks associated with a change.

Finally, we must adjust our attitudes and behaviors based on change and its associated risks.

I offer the following as a recipe for your personal mishap prevention plan:

—Expect change

—Assess the risk before you act

—Trust your intuition

—Take care of each other

—Your goal is to survive

I cannot stress enough how important our people are in making our mission a success.

I do not subscribe to the view that mishaps are considered a normal part of our military business.

They can be prevented and eliminated!

We must all step out and demonstrate our sincere concern for everyone's safety and security to ensure a healthy environment during this time of year as we enjoy the warm weather and activities while remaining safe during the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

THE CARGO COURIER

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Operation RiverBats hits a grand slam

Kentucky Air Guard attracts sellout crowd to stadium

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler
Cargo Courier Editor

Blue skies and a sellout crowd of 13,131 provided a picture-perfect setting for the Kentucky Air Guard's Operation RiverBats on June 9 at Louisville Slugger Field.

More than 1,300 unit members, family and friends—one of the largest single organization ever to witness a baseball game at Slugger Field—were among those who enjoyed the pre-game activities featuring KyANG airmen just before the RiverBats faced off against the Durham Bulls.

"We've heard many compliments from our fans of how impressive the evening's pre-game festivities were," said Chris Sobczyk, RiverBats director of game promotions.

Operation RiverBats opened with a high-energy KyANG video celebrating the 123rd Airlift Wing's 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

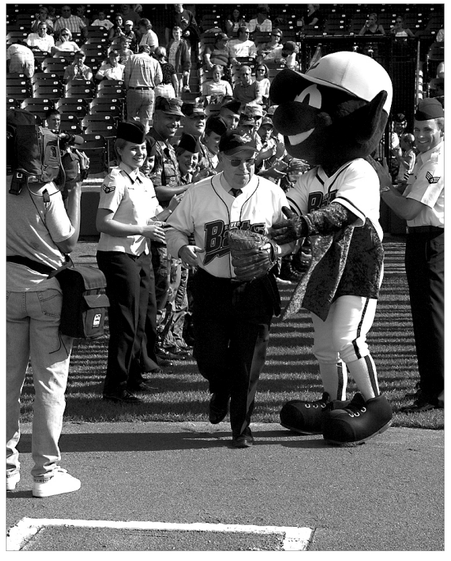
Next, two 40-member KyANG honorary baseball teams trotted onto the field in an array of uniforms, including blues, desert BDUs and flight suits.

Senior Master Sgt. Joel Hicks and Staff Sgt. Danny Page, both of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, then parachuted from a UH-60 Blackhawk as a vocally appreciative crowd watched. Both combat controllers landed smartly on the baseball diamond with an American flag trailing behind and a stadium of onlookers cheering the feat.

Wing Commander Col. Mike Harden also played a big part in the evening.

"One of the most exciting moments was Col. Harden's running through a human tun-

See Grand slam, Page 4



ABOVE: Senior Airman Mark Willoughby of the 123rd Services Flight was among 40 unit members introduced on the field at the sold-out RiverBats game.

LEFT: Col. Mike Harden, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, gets a pat from Buddy Bat prior to throwing out the game's first pitch.

Photos by Stan Denny
Courtesy of the RiverBats

Seasons change but KyANG's commitment to safety must remain a top priority

It is hard to believe that it's July already.

It seems like only yesterday we were complaining about how cold it was.

Now we have the heat and humidity to deal with, and it won't be long before we will have the falling leaves of autumn to worry about.

Changing seasons also bring about changes in the life of our unit.

Our deployments have all gone well and we are now in the midst of our AEF reconstitution phase, meaning that it is time to catch up on our training to be prepared to deploy the next time around.

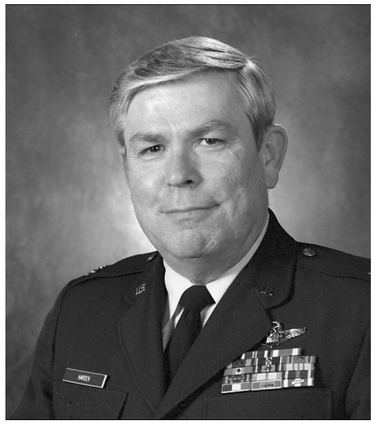
It is important that we take the time necessary to train diligently and maintain our proficiency while we also take a little time off and recharge our batteries for the next push that will come as surely as the damp chill of November.

Summer is also the time we are most active in our outdoor activities, and run the greatest risk of injuring ourselves or others if we are not careful.

I ask that everyone use common sense in all of his or her activities—on duty or off, whether at the lake, on the highway or in the backyard.

Of course the safety of our flying operations will continue to be central to what we do around here.

We are blessed in this wing with very talented and experienced flyers and fixers. Our aircrews have been there and done that, and our maintainers have been turning wrenches on the Herk now for a lot of years.



Col. Michael Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

We can say in good faith that we know what we are doing.

But just knowing what we are doing is not enough if we fail to concentrate on how we do it.

For aircrews that means concentrating on the task of flying from the time they walk in the door of operations to go fly, until they walk out the door of operations to go home.

Plan every phase of the flight even if you have flown the route or landed at that field a hundred times.

Brief your plan so that everyone on the crew knows what is supposed to happen. Pay attention to the details and really think about risk management.

For maintainers it means concentrating on the task at hand until it is finished. Use tech data on every job.

Realize that when you sign your name that a job is completed, or that you have inspected someone else's work, that you are certifying it was done by the book the right way.

You are asked to work in all kinds of weather, at all times of the day and night, and under all kinds of conditions.

No matter what the conditions, you must concentrate on always doing it right.

Seasons, aircraft, people and equipment change. But our commitment to safety on the ground and in the air should never change.

I ask for everyone's help to ensure that every member of the Thoroughbred Express stays safe so as to be around when the snows of January come calling.

Be careful out there.

Thanks Loads!

This funded Air Force newspaper is published for members of the military services. Contents of The Cargo Courier are not necessarily the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.

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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 July 25.

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Air National Guard has new command chief

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

WASHINGTON—Command Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Denette Benton, a 41-year-old Wisconsin native, is the new senior enlisted adviser to the Air National Guard's director. She assumed the organization's top enlisted position June 7.

She succeeds Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Broadbent, who is retiring after nearly 26 years of Air Force and Air National Guard service.

Prior to becoming the 8th person to serve in the Guard's senior enlisted position, Benton was chief of Air National Guard Affairs for the Air Force's First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., since September 1997.

Now she has assumed a key leadership position in the overall Air Guard force of nearly 106,400 people, including 93,000 enlisted men and women

Benton has served for 22 consecutive years, including nearly a decade in the Air Guard after leaving the active-duty Air Force in June 1991.

Training, utilization and sustainment will be her broad-brush concerns, vowed Benton who has been a first sergeant for six years. She oversaw that career field at Maxwell for the Air Guard's 880 authorized first sergeants.

"We have to understand how important all of our people are. We can't forget that drill weekends are what we live for," Benton said. "If we don't train and utilize all of our people in their chosen specialties, and reward those who deserve it, we are setting them up to fail. Failure can mean life or death in our business.

"We cannot afford to lose the momentum created by the last two command chief master sergeants—Broadbent and Edwin Brown—during the last seven years," Benton said.

"I know my role will be to represent all of our enlisted people," said Benton. "I'm excited about spending time with our young troops.

> ***"We have to concern ourselves with our corps. We have to take care of people first. If we don't, we are wasting our investment in their training, and we are wasting their time."***
>
> —Command Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Denette Benton
> Senior enlisted adviser to the Air National Guard's director

"During my six years as a first sergeant I've come to understand what the Air Guard is really about," she said.

"We have to concern ourselves with our corps. We have to take care of people first. If we don't, we are wasting our investment in their training, and we are wasting their time."

Benton has served in the food services, training, security forces and medical career fields with the active Air Force and Air Guard.

She was named the noncommissioned officer of the year for the Air Guard's 184th Fighter Group and for the state of Kansas in 1993. She was nominated as one of the Air Force's Twelve Outstanding Airmen in 1994.

USAF advances force protection five years after bombing

By Staff Sgt. Jason Tudor
Airman Magazine

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—The echoes of the bomb blast that ripped through the walls of Khobar Towers are still being heard by Air Force airmen and its leadership five years after the explosion.

That's why the service has stepped up its efforts and brought pinpoint focus to force protection, ingraining it at every level, teaching it in every seminar and growing it culturally, hoping it sticks in the minds of everyone who wears blue.

Col. Lafae Johnson, chief of the force protection division at the Air Force Security Forces Center here, said the biggest effect Khobar had on educating troops was protecting them at home and during deployment.

"Since Khobar, the Air Force has made force protection a key element of mission planning," he said.

The June 25, 1996, bombing of the dormitory in Saudi Arabia killed 19 airmen and injured more than 400 U.S. service members, creating a crater 50 feet deep.

In its wake, the incident made the Air Force relocate more than 3,600 airmen and 100 aircraft to the more remote and safer Prince Sultan Air Base.

In addition, then-Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen concluded no one in the chain of command should be held criminally liable for the attack.

However, he disagreed with another Air Force report that proposed no action be taken against any officer.

"I found that Brig. Gen. Terryl Schwalier, the wing commander at the time, did not adequately assess the implications of a possible attack on the perimeter of the Khobar Complex," Cohen said. "As a result, he did not develop an effective plan for responding to a perimeter attack."

Commanders today are saddled with an even greater responsibility to take care of their troops.

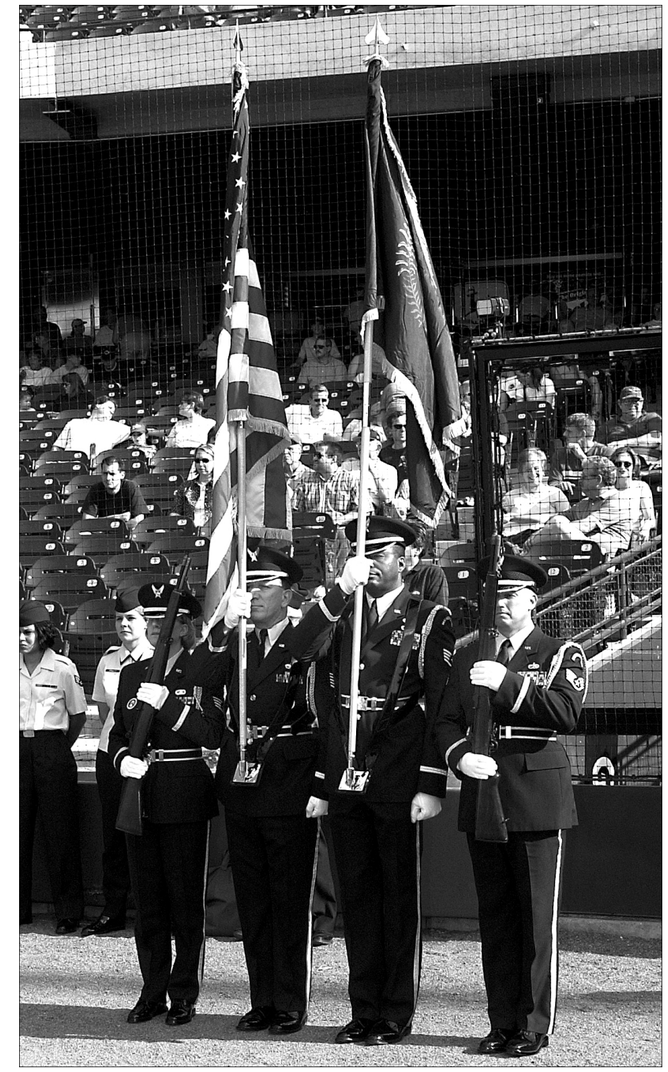
"Force protection is one of the commander's top priorities," Johnson said. "The deployed American airman is a symbol of U.S. power and presence and is consequently an inviting target for terrorists."

Every commander, Johnson said, regardless of echelon of command or branch of service, has an inherent responsibility "for planning, finding resources, training, exercising and executing force protection and antiterrorism measures to provide for the security of the command."

Operation RiverBats

Stan Denny/RiverBats

Senior Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KyANG



Stan Denny/RiverBats

Grand slam

Continued from Front Page

nel of Kentucky Air Guard members and receiving a rousing ovation from the crowd," said Lt. Col. Rich Frymire, event coordinator.

Col. Harden then fired off the ceremonial first pitch, followed by 24 KyANG Little Leaguers' sharing the field with the RiverBats players.

Senior Airman Stephanie Hilbert of the 123rd Mission Support Flight delivered the National Anthem, bringing cheers throughout the stadium, and two Kentucky Air Guard C-130s capped off the pre-game ceremonies with a dramatic low-level fly-by.

"The pre-game show was absolutely spectacular," Frymire said. "Just getting an opportunity for our organization to shine in our community is great," he added.

Harden agreed: "I'm extremely pleased with the way the evening went. It's always great for our unit to get out into the community. Not only is it a great recruiting tool, but it also just feels good to share a little of what we do with our neighbors."

Harden also expressed his appreciation for "all those who worked hard to make the night happen and all those who attended."

"If there was one thing I could've changed about the evening," Frymire mused, "it would've been a victory for the RiverBats."

The RiverBats were defeated by the Durham Bulls 11-0.

Stan Denny/RiverBats

Stan Denny/RiverBats

TOP LEFT: A two-ship C-130 Hercules fly-by was among the many opening events at Slugger Field.

TOP CENTER: Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Bernardi of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron enjoys the game.

TOP RIGHT: The Kentucky Air National Guard color guard takes the field. From the left are Staff Sgt. Heather Miller, Tech. Sgt. Mike Cunningham, Staff Sgt. Raymond Johnson and Staff Sgt. Ronald Bricking.

BOTTOM LEFT: Senior Airman Stephanie Hilbert of the 123rd Mission Support Flight delivers the National Anthem before a sold-out stadium

BOTTOM RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Danny Page of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron parachutes in with the American flag.

Honoring Veterans

The U.S. Postal Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs unveiled a new stamp honoring veterans on May 23 in the base annex.

Lt. Gov. Steve Henry and his wife, Heather French, attended the ceremony. Mr. Henry was the keynote speaker.

Photo by Senior Airman Phillip Speck/KyANG

Local clergy get clearer vision of unit's mission & ops tempo

Chaplain's Column

It's been less than two years since I joined the Kentucky Air National Guard, so it is not a big surprise to me to discover that many people are stuck in the 1970s in their opinion of the Guard's mission.

As a matter of fact, until three years ago, I didn't have a clue as to what the Air National Guard was.

The only "National Guard" I was familiar with was Army, so I was thinking helicopters or OV-1 Mohawks.

On May 19, we had an opportunity to open the eyes of some civilian clergy to the mission of the Kentucky Air National Guard, and to our ops tempo, with a Clergy Appreciation Day.

These people were nominated to attend by you, the members of the Kentucky Air National Guard, because they are your civilian ministers—pastors who care for you and your families on a day-to-day basis.

They now have a much better appreciation for the military jobs performed by the Guard members in their congregations, and a higher opinion of the service the Guard provides to the nation, state and community. They now understand that we don't just "play Air Force" two days a month and go to a two-week summer camp once a year.

They have been introduced to the fact that we are part of the "real-world" missions of the Air Force and that our members have special stresses placed upon their families.

Clergy Appreciation Day helps civilian clergy better care for our Guard families, but more than that, it makes new friends for the Kentucky Air National Guard. And that is a good thing.

—Capt. John Von Almen
Wing Chaplain

Tuition assistance forms due July UTA

Kentucky Air Guard members who plan to receive tuition assistance for Spring 2002 need to submit applications to the retention office no later than tomorrow. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Scott Crimm at ext. 4604.

NG Association conference to be held in Aug.

The National Guard Association will host its General Conference Aug. 25 through 27 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Jackie Purdy or Barry Metcalf at 1 (800) 251-2333.

Payroll info available online or by phone

Information on all aspects of military pay can be found at www.saffm.hq.af.mil/affsc/tools/tools/cfm. Unit members also can access information on the KyANG intranet.

Alternately, automated pay information is available 24 hours a day by calling 1 (800) 755-7413.

Hours changed for ID cards

New days and times for military ID cards are Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Traditional Guard members still have the option to get ID cards issued on drill weekends.

For questions, contact Senior Airman John Carey at ext. 4210.

'Thunder' seen worldwide

Cargo Courier Staff Report

U.S. military personnel and their families stationed all over the world were able to view a special two-hour broadcast of the 2001 Thunder Over Louisville air show July 4.

Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, which reaches an audience of more than 800,000, broadcast the event's 30-minute fireworks display as well as portions of the air show and other Thunder Day activities.

The edited version of the official broadcast was produced by Louisville's WHAS-TV.

"This is the third year we've aired a broadcast of Thunder Over Louisville," said Bob Matheson, program director for AFRTS. "Last year it was a 90-minute show, and we've expanded it to a full two hours this year. It's becoming a Fourth of July tradition for us and Americans stationed all over the world. It's sort of a remedy for homesickness—it's a great representation of the American spirit."

Matheson attended his first Thunder Over Louisville in person this year.

"It was just incredible," Matheson said. "I really didn't know anything about it until we got a call from the Kentucky Air National Guard three years ago telling us this we be a good show for us to broadcast.

Matheson said the Thunder Over Louisville show was seen in more than 170 countries, including China and Russia.

"The broadcasts are seen worldwide by Americans on active military duty, as well as civilian Defense Department Civil Service employees. They're also seen on U.S. Navy ships at sea.

"These are the people who are protecting our freedom every day, but they're sort of forgotten if there is no conflict going on. The (Thunder Over Louisville) broadcast is a really patriotic show for them.

Promotions, retirements & separations

Kentucky Air National Guard

The following individuals have been promoted to the rank indicated as members of the Kentucky Air Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

•Julia Jones,
123rd Student Flt.

SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

•Bryan Ala,
165th Airlift Sq.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

•Robert Bradshaw,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
•Andrew Bush,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Tyrone Cobb,
123rd Communications Flt.
•Michael Embry,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
•Annmarie Mason,
123rd Medical Sq.
•Beatrice Mata-McIntire,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Catherine Morgan,
123rd Communications Flt.
•Holli Olsen,
165th Airlift Sq.
•Scott Windell,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

The following individuals have retired as members of the Kentucky Air National Guard and reservists of the United States Air Force:

•Tech Sgt. Kimberly Gholston,
123rd Services Flt.
•Master Sgt. Robert Giles,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

The following individuals have separated from the Kentucky Air National Guard:

•Tech. Sgt. Joseph Knight,
165th Airlift Sq.
•Staff Sgt. Dean Ligon,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
•Senior Airman Jimmie Nelson,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
•Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Shumaker,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

123rd will again serve as host for UPS Plane Pull

The Kentucky Air Guard will once again serve as host for the UPS Plane Pull when teams gather here Aug. 4 to compete in the charity fund-raiser.

Each team will attempt to prove its mettle by tugging a Boeing 757 over a 12-foot course in the quickest time.

The event helps raise money for Kentucky Special Olympics, which provides developmentally disabled youth with the opportunity to participate in sporting competitions.

For more information or to join one of the Kentucky Air Guard teams, call 1st Lt. Latonia Trowell at ext. 4404.

Augmentees for high school recruiting needed

The 123rd Airlift Wing recruiting office is seeking individuals who would be interested in aiding recruiting efforts at local high schools.

The recruiting augmentees would be responsible for helping with briefings, stocking brochure racks, and making the KyANG presence known by wearing uniforms and talking to students during lunch periods.

If you are interested in participating, look sharp in your uniform, and are up for the challenge please contact Senior Master Sgt. Rose Farquhar at ext. 4645.

The KyANG recruiting staff currently maintains a list of available positions, and recruiters also will work with augmentees who would like to help at schools not on the list.