



C130 transports land in Mt. Vernon

*Illinois Air National Guard troop transports offload
Army National Guard soldiers after annual
training at Mt. Vernon Airport*

BY JESSE CANTRELL
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Several C-130 transports from the Illinois Air National Guard arrived Thursday afternoon at the Mt. Vernon Airport.

"This is the second time they have come here," said Airport Director Chris Collins who mentioned that the first arrival of the aircraft had been in 2012.

"We had the impression they would come in 2013, but we believe the Sequestration prevented it." The transports were stopping to

refuel as well as drop off soldiers returning from their Annual Training (AT). They offloaded, refueled, took a box lunch and departed.

The flights came in from morning until late afternoon with tight security being provided by the Mt. Vernon Airport.

"Every gate or possible entrance to the airport has a man with an orange T-shirt at it," said Collins.

"We want to make sure that every need is met."

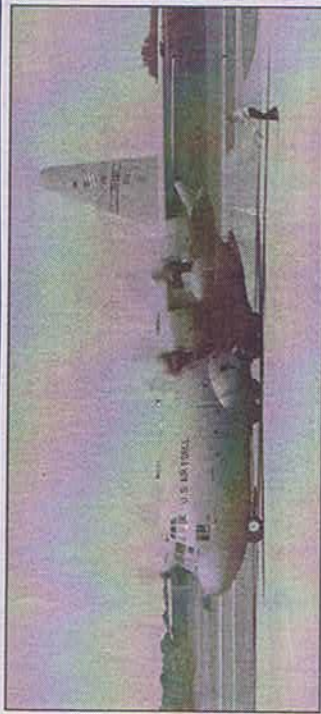
Other than airport officials no

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Sentinel Photo/JESSE CANTRELL

SEEING IT OFF — Chris Collins, director for the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, sees off one of the Air National Guard C-130 Hercules cargo transports which landed at the airport Thursday afternoon during an annual trip.



C130:

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one was allowed on the flightline without proper credentials issued by the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority (MVAA).

Collins explained that the first time the Air Guard had come through they had got a lot of positive feedback and hoped to hold up the reputation that they had earned back in 2012.

"We were told that there was zero complaints," said Collins. "It makes us feel

good knowing that we were able to successfully tackle the responsibility."

As with most U.S. Military movements no advance media notification was allowed. The information was not released until the morning of the event.

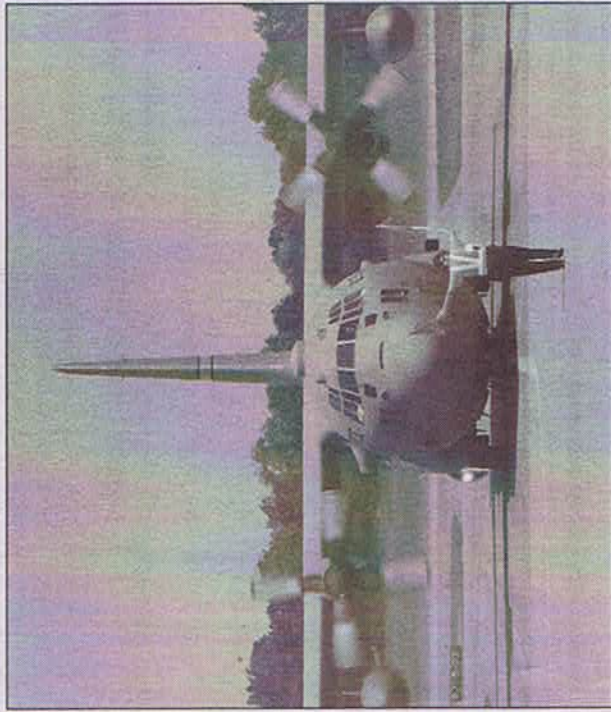
The aircraft come from an undisclosed location out of state and make several trips for the purpose of training, transporting troops and refueling.

The event, which has thus far occurred annually, is something the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority hopes to continue to be a part of. jcantrell@morningsentinel.com



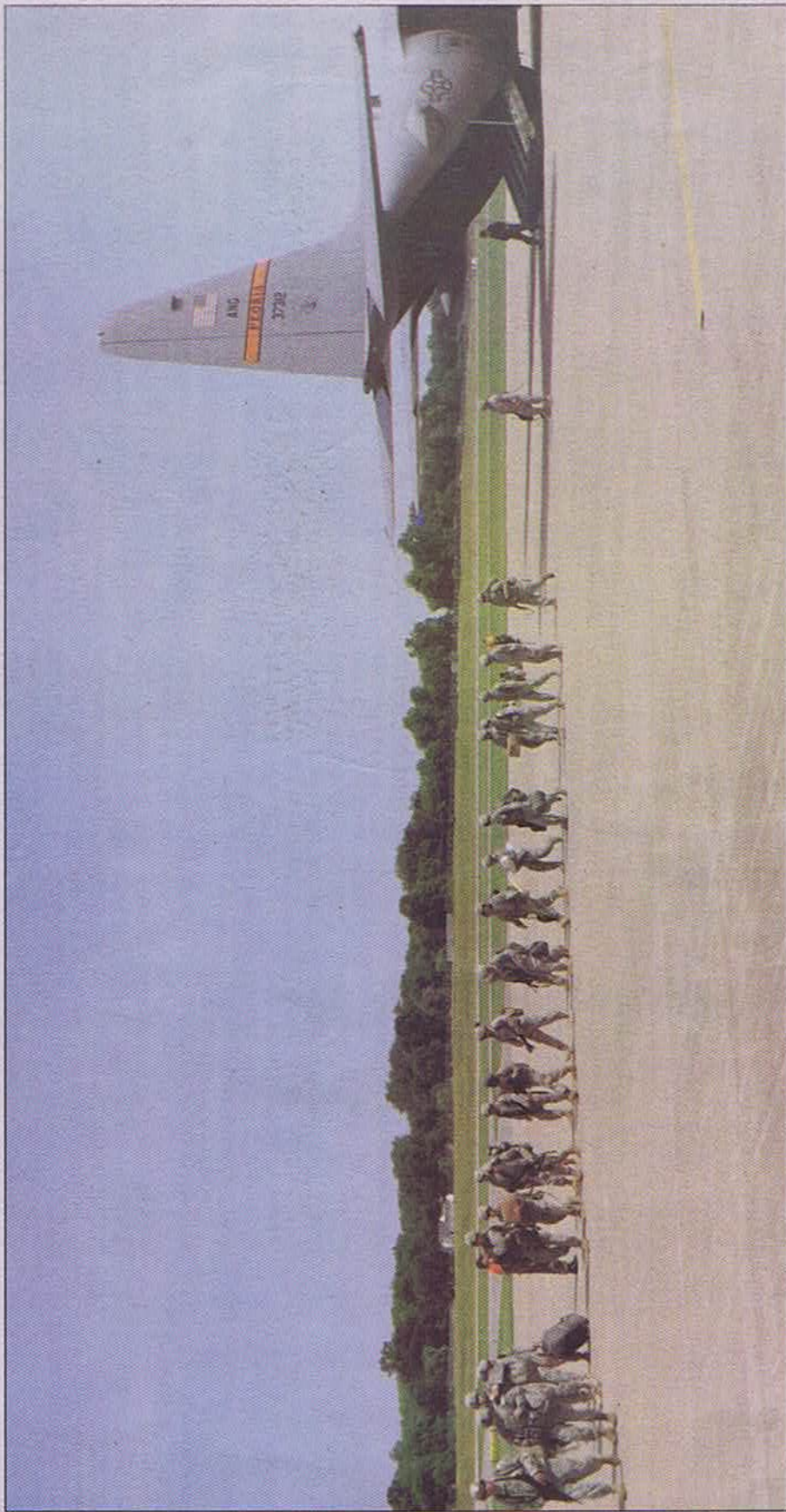
Sentinel Photo/JESSE CANTRELL

OPENING THE HATCH — Airmen from the Illinois Air National Guard await the opening of the rear loading ramp on a C-130 Hercules cargo plane before Illinois Army National Guard troops exit the aircraft.



Sentinel Photo/JESSE CANTRELL

BRINGING IT IN — Staff from the Mt. Vernon Airport guide in C-130 Hercules cargo transports from the Illinois Army National Guard during their exercise Thursday afternoon in Mt. Vernon.



Sentinel Photos/JESSE CANTRELL

TROOPS COMING IN — Soldiers with the Illinois Army National Guard unload off of a C-130 cargo transport Thursday afternoon at the Mt. Vernon Airport.

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