



BUCKEYE AIRLIFTER

DECEMBER 2009

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2010

A NEW YEAR...
BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE HERC.

A NEW CHAPTER...
IN THE 179th AIRLIFT WING STORY:

C-27J SPARTAN



Command Insight

Today's 179th Airlift Wing... What an exciting time and place to be here

By Lt. Col. Lindsey A. Whitehead
179th MXG Commander

What an exciting time to be a member of the 179th Airlift Wing... First of all, as most of you are aware by now, the JCA (Joint Cargo Aircraft) C-27J is coming to the 179th sometime during Calendar Year 2010. I vividly remember in 2005, while attending Air War College, my classmates and I were watching the proceedings and I distinctly remember being sick to my stomach when the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) made the recommendation that the 179th lose all eight of its C-130's. Needless to say, like everyone else, I was in shock. Well, fast forward four and a half years later, thru several major inspections and a multitude of real world contingencies, we are on the cusp of a new beginning. This new beginning will bring change, angst, and more importantly, allow us to continue our legacy of excellence.

Since the recent announcement by both Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wyatt and Col. Mark L. Stephens that we are slated to receive the new JCA C-27J's, planning for resources, facilities, and equipment has accelerated. We now expect to receive our first aircraft sometime during late-spring/early-summer 2010. Also, as part of what the Air Force intends our new mission to be, we have airplanes and personnel participating in a formal test taking place from October through December in Iraq to gather additional information and data. In a recent article, Col. Bobby Fowler with the Air, Space and Information Operations Directorate (AMC) stated, "This test will help us work out the command and control structure of the direct support mission and help us to validate requirements." While this is all going on, we are in the process of transferring our eight C-130s to the 139th Airlift Wing, St. Joe Missouri. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have already transferred 2 aircraft to the 139th Airlift Wing and are scheduled to transfer 2 every quarter with the last one leaving by early September 2010. As you can see, the challenges and logistics associated with transferring and accepting new aircraft will be an enormous undertaking over the next 12 to 18 months. As we continue this journey, our most important priority is safety and our Airmen which means we need to stay focused on the business at hand.

Also, I'd like to thank everyone who was in attendance for my Change-of-Command Ceremony during the Sept. UTA. Col. Charles Daugherty retired September 30, 2009 after a long and illustrious career. During his tenure, he led the Maintenance Group thru some of the most tumultuous times with a steadfast vision to new levels of excellence. And, for those of you that missed it, we had our first ever "Blackberry" Change-



of-Command as well, which was the highlight of the UTA! Clearly, I am truly honored to command this team of professional maintainers with a national reputation for being the "best of the best in the airlift business." Lastly, there have been several changes since I was last here, but the one thing that has continued to remain true to the spirit of the 179th Airlift Wing is the unwavering strength, character and conviction of all our personnel. In closing, someone once said "Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity; not a threat." With that, I am extremely excited about embarking on this new adventure with all of you...it's going to be fun!

Reflection from the Chaplain Section

By Chaplain, Lt. Col. Curtiss H. Wagner
179th Chaplains Office

During my deployment to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center I experienced many situations of soldiers dealing with stress from their Iraq and Afghanistan deployment. I ministered to soldiers with symptoms and signs of Post Traumatic Stress in some severe cases on the Psyche Ward as well as more mild cases with many outpatients. During this time, I learned some important facts about PTSD as well as some myths that are often propagated about this stress reaction.

The most important thing to realize about PTSD is that the many symptoms are *normal* reactions to *abnormal* events. People with PTSD are not crazy and do not have a mental illness. In fact, PTSD is not considered to be a mental illness. You are probably familiar with the major symptoms of PTSD which include depression, anger, sleep disturbances, hypersensitivity to noise and crowds, isolation, survivor guilt, emotional numbing, problems with intimate relationships, and flashbacks. When people experience abnormal stress and disturbing situations, their mind has to try to absorb that stress and process what they have seen, heard, and smelled. It is *normal* to experience these symptoms from three to six months after deploying. When the symptoms continue more than a year, it is time to seek out

some professional help to deal with the stress.

It is also important to realize that PTSD can happen to *anyone*. You don't have to witness an IED explosion or see dead bodies or have a close friend killed to have symptoms of the PTSD. Researchers are finding that for many soldiers, just being in a hostile environment where their life is in danger can cause these reactions. PTSD has been found in the Navy on ships that are stationed off the coast with people who never leave the ship on their deployment. You don't have to be on the front lines and you could even be in a support role.

As we encourage people to be a good wingman and watch out for one another with issues like suicide, PTSD is another area where you can be a great help. You need to be aware of those around us who have been deployed and watch for some of the warning signs of PTSD. You need to encourage them to realize they are going through normal reactions to their deployment. When symptoms persist, you need to encourage them to seek out the enormous amount of help that is available to them today. Just providing feedback that you have observed some of these symptoms can be a big help because some people

may try to deny that they have some of the symptoms. The most important thing that all of us can do is to encourage them to talk about their deployment and the stress they were under and how they feel about what they went through on their deployment. "Telling their story" is one of the best ways for people to relieve their stress. If they don't feel comfortable talking to you, encourage them to talk to someone they trust and feel safe with. The more they talk about it, the more healing that will take place.

There are so many resources today for people dealing with PTSD. You have already heard of Military One Source (1-800-342-9647) who will arrange up to six free counseling sessions. There is also the Ohio Cares program and now TriCare will also provide free counseling sessions. The VA also has excellent PTSD programs. In addition, there are always your friendly chaplains who are more than willing to talk with you at any time! Don't be afraid to seek help if these symptoms persist and negatively affect your life. It will be worth it!

New AMC Commander visits 179th

By Capt. Nicole L. Ashcroft
179th Chief of Public Affairs

The first thing on Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr. schedule following the Thanksgiving holiday was to visit Air Mobility Command (AMC) bases; now under his command since stepping into his role as AMC Commander on November 20, 2009. Of the bases he was scheduled to visit, the 179th Airlift Wing was the first on his list.

He arrived on a brisk Monday afternoon for his three hour visit with 179th Airlift Wing leadership, Congressman Jim Jordan, Sen. George Voinovich and Sen. Sherrod Brown. Johns began his visit with a tour of the base facilities, including the new Army Reserve and 200th Red Horse facilities currently under construction. After a briefing about the 179th AW's history and awards, he toured the operations building to see how it could be utilized as a training facility. Col. Mark L. Stephens said that Johns was impressed with the base facilities and personnel; as well as the 179th AW's support of Air Force operations.

"The fact that he came here is testimony to the good work here at the 179th," said Jordan.



Photos by Senior Airman Joseph D. Harwood

Yellow Ribbon & Pre-Mobilization Events on Sunday December 13, 2009

On Sunday December 13, 2009 there will be two huge events held at the Sawmill Creek Hotel, located near Sundusky, Ohio, for members of 179th Airlift Wing, 200th Red Horse and their family members.

The first is a Pre-Mobilization event for the 200th Red Horse members who are preparing to deploy early next year. Registration for this event begins at 0800.

The second is a 30-day and 60-day Yellow Ribbon event for 179th Airlift Wing members who have recently returned home from deployment. This event kicks off at 0900 with presenters from: VA, Veterans Services Organization, TriCare, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention, Financial Management, Military One Source, Legal, ESGR, Transition Assistance Advisor and the Chaplain.

Both events will be held at the Sawmill Creek Hotel located at 400 Sawmill Creek Road, Huron, Ohio 44839. Family members are encouraged to attend with their service member. There will be vendors for military members and their families to visit throughout the day.

For more information, call Faline Rowland at 419-520-6600.



179th AW prepares for the future

By Capt. Nicole L. Ashcroft
179th Chief of Public Affairs

Amidst the sandy desert grounds of Iraq, 64 members of the 179th Airlift Wing are working with members of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade in a ground-breaking concept of operations test between the Air Force and Army. The troops from the 179th were assigned to the 25th Nov. 5 when they began the assignment and will continue through late December, returning home in time for Christmas.

In preparation for the arrival of C-27 Spartans, the 179th Airlift Wing answered the call from Air Mobility Command for a unit to participate in this test to watch and document how an Air Force squadron integrates with Army command and control and scheduling processes. This type of mission has not been done since Vietnam. At that time, it was only done for the purpose of transferring C-7 Caribous to the USAF from the Army—having the USAF units remain attached while deployed is a new concept. A new and bold concept that members of the 179th Airlift Wing and 25th CAB have embraced and work diligently toward making it a success.

The 179th has special capabilities that will greatly assist the 25th in completing their mission. As a “slick” (non Special Operations) unit, they’re qualified in airdrop/airland and adverse weather aerial delivery and certified in flying with full-up night vision goggle. This will enable the 25th to haul more cargo and personnel, relieving the stress on the general support helicopters (UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinooks). In most instances, the 179th can execute direct support plus time sensitive and mission critical missions with more robust and quicker delivery.

Both the Air Force and the Army have their unique tactics, techniques and procedures. This study is focused on learning how to combine the two in order to forge a blend that will make the two services successful in future missions. This is particularly important as the C-27 Spartans are scheduled to begin arriving at 179th in the near future.

Additionally, in preparation for the new 179th mission, a group of pilots and loadmasters will begin training on the C-27J Spartan at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., in December.



Photos provided by 179th AW members in theater



179th AW & 200th RHS Det1

Annual

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Children's Christmas Party will be hosted by
Family Programs on Friday, December 11, 2009

(note - this is AFTER drill)

at the

Richland Carrousel Park,
75 North Main Street,
Mansfield, Ohio
from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Unlimited carousel rides, crafts, pictures with Santa, punch,
cookies, and hot chocolate

So mark your calendar now and come out for a GREAT time and
lots of fun

(Please bring cookies to share)



Operation: Military Kids (OMK), Ohio National Guard and Ohio 4-H present a special evening for all Military Families at the Columbus Zoo



Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo 2009!



Saturday, December 12, 6-9 PM

Event Features!

6-9 p.m.

- *FREE refreshments & food provided by The USO
- *FREE Holiday Family Photo
- *Located in our Warming Station at the **Education Auditorium**, just inside the front entrance of the Zoo and to the right. (Military members will be at the front gate to assist you.)

Admission Cost:

- * \$6.00 per adult
- * \$3.50 per child(2-9yrs) & Senior(60 & up)
- * Children 2 & under are free

Tickets can be purchased at the Zoo ticket booths on the day of the event.

Parking \$5

You must bring your Military ID & tell them you are with Operation: Military Kids to receive discount!!

For More Information contact:
Sue Ann Carroll, Ohio National Guard Youth Coordinator @ 877-460-2177

or

Erin Berry, Operation: Military Kids Youth Specialist @ 614-336-7314.
For directions to the Columbus Zoo go to www.columbuszoo.org

Come and join us for our 5th Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo! This special event has entertained over 3,000 Military Families since 2005.



Tough contenders for Annual Awards

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Q. Hill
179th Public Affairs Journalist

Contenders for Airman of the Year had a combined five deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF). It was announced at the Annual 179th Airlift Wing Awards Banquet on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, that Senior Airman Michael J. Hoptry, Security Forces Apprentice, narrowly edged out his competitors to take the 179th Airman of the Year Award.

Hoptry won over Senior Airman Raymond E. Bibb, Logistics Readiness Vehicle Operator; Airman 1st Class Crystal L. Collingwood, Medical Group Public Health Journeyman; Senior Airman Daniel J. Miller, Air Wing Command and Control Journeyman; and Senior Airman Theresa M. Tymoszczuk, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Propulsion Craftsman.

Some highlights of Hoptry's package that led to his selection were recent OEF and OIF deployments and mentoring fellow airmen to help them achieve outstanding scores on their CDC's. Hoptry is within nine credit hours of completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering.

In the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year category, Tech. Sgt. Brian Owens, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Maintenance Craftsman was selected from five other contenders. Owens was unable to accept his award at the banquet, as he is presently deployed.

Owens winning attributes included leading a team during OEF that resulted in more than 700 sorties, 2,800 tons of cargo and 8,500 personnel transported safely and on time. Owens is a Unit Career Advisor and Composite Tool Kit monitor. In the civilian sector, Owens is an asset to his community by volunteering in local youth sports.

Owens defeated Tech. Sgt. Joshua Blakley, Force Sustainment Squadron Production Recruiter; Tech. Sgt. Lucinda E. Duncan, Civil Engineering Squadron Operations Management Journeyman; Tech. Sgt. Jaclyn A. Newbert, Medical Group Aerospace Medicine Service Craftsman; Tech. Sgt. Nicole R. Wagoner, Airlift Wing Safety Journeyman; and Tech. Sgt. Phillip P. Watts, Security Forces Squadron Security Journeyman.

The 179th Maintenance Squadron scored another big win when Master Sgt. Richard K. Brenly, Aircraft Metals Technology Craftsman took home the Senior NCO of the Year Award. Brenly's highlights included recently volunteering for a one-year tour in support of OEF as Advisor to the Afghanistan National Army at their National Maintenance Depot. While deployed, Brenly completed Senior NCO Academy and Senior Joint Enlisted PME. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Business at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Brenly had competition to win the SCNO of the Year award from Master Sgt. Mark A. Manbevers, Civil Engineering Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management Superintendent, Master Sgt. Shane F. Sterner, Medical Group Laboratory Craftsman, Senior Master Sgt. Kevin M. Stovall, Logistics Readiness Squadron Material Management Superintendent, and Senior Master Sgt. Jamie E. Stover, Command Post Superintendent.

In the First Sergeant of the Year category, Master Sgt. Heidi A. Bunker was the only nominated individual and automatically won the award. Bunker's impressive list of accomplishments included helping facilitate the outplacement of more than 75 unit members. Bunker recently completed her Master of Education in Community Counseling from Xavier University along with training and testing requirements to receive the State of Ohio licensure as a State Counselor. Bunker was unable to accept her award as she is deployed in support of OIF for 120 days.

There were two candidates for Company Grade Officer of the Year. 1st Lt. Aimee A. Plenge, Budget Analyst Officer, surpassed Capt. Janice L. Davis, Medical Group Clinical Nurse.

Plenge's package included performing trend analysis and guiding execution of more than \$40 million of federal funds for the 179th Airlift Wing. During the recent Unit Compliance Inspection, Plenge's team was recognized with an Outstanding Team Award.

Donna Baki edged out Col. (ret.) Willis L. Waldron to win the evening's Minute-man Award. Baki, Family Readiness Group Lead Volunteer, is the mother of two unit members and mother-in-law to a third member. Her efforts led to the creation of the 501C3 tax deferred organization that has raised more than \$20,000 to support our Airmen.

The last award of the night was the Elizabeth Dubina Scholarship Award. The Dubina Award is sponsored and awarded by the family of former 179th Airlift Wing member Elizabeth Dubina, who passed away unexpectedly while assigned to the Public Affairs office. The scholarship is awarded to an individual who is pursuing a public affairs college degree. This year's recipient was Master Sgt. Robert C. Jones, Public Affairs Videographer. Jones is currently deployed to Dover AFB where he is helping families capture moments from dignified transfers of their loved ones, United States military members, who have died overseas.

Following the awards presentations, the dance floor was opened for members and their guests to enjoy the remainder of the evening. The venue of this year's awards banquet was changed to the Mid-Ohio Conference Center from the long-standing Holiday Inn location.

With current and upcoming deployments and an Operations Readiness Inspection in the near future, there will be many opportunities for personnel on base to shine with plenty of accomplishments for their 2010 award packages.



Photo by Senior Airman Joseph D. Harwood



SAFE HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

As we all know, this time of year we celebrate with our loved ones the holiday season. We gather to toast a new year and partake in alcohol as a culturally acceptable practice. However, we do not always take in to account the ramifications of our alcohol usage. So, in an effort to keep us all safe through the holidays - here is some helpful information.

ALTERNATIVES TO DRINKING ALCOHOL

Try not to make drinking the main focus of your holiday partying. If you're the host, provide plenty of tempting and nutritious nonalcoholic foods and drinks. Starchy foods, such as pizza, stuffed potatoes and cheese and crackers, and such drinks as juice, soda and nonalcoholic punch are ideal. If you're a guest, concentrate on consuming these goodies rather than alcohol. Set a limit on how much you will drink and stick to it. As the host, close the bar at least an hour before the end of the party.

AVOIDING ALCOHOL RELATED PROBLEMS

If you are going to drink, do what responsible drinkers do. Decide ahead of time how many drinks you will have and stick to it. A blood alcohol content chart can help you understand the relationship between the amount of drinks, blood alcohol content and level of impairment.

If you or your friends are going to a party and plan to use alcohol, decide in advance who will be the designated driver. Decide that drinking and driving is not an option.

AS MEMBERS OF THE 179th IT IS OUR GOAL TO SEE YOU ARRIVE SAFELY AT OUR NEXT UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY. HAVE A "HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON".

Fall Festival is a family favorite

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Q. Hill
179th Public Affairs Journalist



On Saturday, Oct. 24, members of the 179th Airlift and 200th Red Horse Squadron gathered with their families at Wayne’s Country Market, located in Mansfield, to celebrate the fall season with family fun at the Annual Fall Festival.

The event, which was sponsored by Family Programs, included hayrides, bounce houses, a hay bale maze and much more. While there, kids could dig through a room of corn, pretend to milk a cow and even take a slide down to a hay covered landing.

In the corn room, kids could dig through inches of corn on the floor with sit-on digger toys or hand shovels. Similar to a big sand box, this was a definite stop for many children and their parents.

In the small barn with a pretend cow, kids could watch a video about how cows are milked then try their newly learned skills on a simulated cow with working udders.

The slides located at the end of the hay bale maze were large slide tubes for brave kids. Smaller kids, and those who chose not to brave the long tube slide, could enjoy a smaller swing set style slide into the waiting piles of hay.

Family Programs had a number of things set up including face painting, a music station with colored flashing lights illuminating the dance floor, food and much more.

Judging from the happy shrieks and cries of delight heard from many children, the Fall Festival was a big success. Family Programs is now gearing up for their next big event, the annual Holiday Party held at the Carousel in downtown Mansfield on Dec. 11, 2009.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert Koehler

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JANUARY 10 DEADLINE: Sunday 6 Dec 09

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