



Ralph discusses education, career opportunities during 403rd visit

By Tech. Sgt. Jessica L. Kendziorek
403rd Wing Public Affairs

1/8/2013 – **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** – Maj. Gen. Donald C. Ralph, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Air Forces Europe, visited the 403rd Wing here Jan. 5-6, 2013.

The primary purpose of Ralph’s visit was to stress the importance of education, mentorship, and job success.

“Become the experts in your job,” said Ralph. “But don’t be afraid to try other things.”

During his two-day tour, Ralph visited the newcomer’s briefing, the Development and Training Flight, which is for new 403rd members who haven’t attended basic training, and conducted an officer and an enlisted call, both of which ended with question-and-answer sessions.

At the end of the Development and Training Flight briefing, Ralph sang the Air Force Song with the members while Airman 1st Class Kelly Andino, 403rd Operations Group all source intelligence specialist, accompanied on the violin.

During the enlisted call question-and-answer session, questions ranged from education opportunities and tuition assistance to budget issues.

As a former vice commander of the 403rd Wing and former commander of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Ralph commented on how much Keesler AFB has changed since his departure in December 2005.

“It is incredible to see the change here after Hurricane Katrina,” said Ralph. He also discussed the importance of professional military education and leadership.

“Mentoring is a big deal for me, because we are training our replacements to continue the military tradition,” said Ralph.



1/5/2013 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** – Maj. Gen. Donald C. Ralph (left), Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Air Forces Europe, talks with members of the 403rd Wing Development and Training Flight during his tour of the 403rd Wing here Jan. 5, 2013. Ralph visited with wing members during the January unit training assembly to stress the importance of education, mentorship, and job success. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jessica L. Kendziorek)

Word from the Editor

by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens
403rd Public Affairs

2/7/2012 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- Welcome to another issue of the 403rd Word.

Just as a reminder, the Public Affairs office is always interested in finding out about events and activities taking place in individual shops so we can get the word out about happenings within the 403rd Wing. If you have any ideas for a good story or photo opportunity, or if you know of any people within your shop who have done news-worthy deeds deserving of recognition, please let us know.

Please feel free to contact the Public Affairs office at (228) 377-2056 or email your story ideas to the senior editor, Master Sgt. Brain Lamar, at brian.lamar.1@us.af.mil.



Candy grams for sale!
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1/5/2013 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- Tech. Sgt. Robert Register, 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, slings a ball down the lane during Bowl-a-palooza here, January 5. The event was organized by members of the 403rd Wing Human Resource Development Council and Wingman's Council to help promote teamwork and camaraderie within the wing. The 403rd AMXS team "We Win" took first place for the three games bowled, with a combined average score of 678; second place was 403rd Maintenance Group team "Hawaii 5-0" with 676 points; and third place was 403rd Logistics Readiness Squadron with a score of 646. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens)



1/5/2012 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- The 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team "We Win" took possession of the above trophy after their victory at Bowl-a-palooza here, January 5. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens)

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18th Air Force commander tours 403rd Wing



1/10/2013 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- Lt. Gen. Darren McDew (center), 18th Air Force commander, visits the 403rd Wing headquarters building here for an office call with 403rd vice commander Col. Craig Lafave January 10. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Brian Lamar)



1/10/2013 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- Lt. Gen. Darren McDew (left), 18th Air Force commander, listens as Senior Master Sgt. James Childs, 41st Aerial Port Squadron senior noncommissioned officer, explains parachute packing and storing procedures during a tour of the new aerial port building here January 10. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Brian Lamar)

SEAC promotes total force integration during 403rd visit

By Master Sgt. Brian Lamar
403rd Wing Public Affairs

01/16/2013 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- Citizen Airmen of the 403rd Wing received words of wisdom from Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during his visit here January 16.

During the visit, Battaglia received a briefing from the Total Force Integration units, the 345th and 815th Airlift Squadrons. Battaglia discussed the nuances of active and reserve affiliates working together to achieve TFI goals.

Battaglia also shared his views with service members during an enlisted

call at the Welch Theater. According to Battaglia, the Air Force Reserve is a support mechanism that the country has and continues to lean on in our time of enduring conflict around the globe.

“We could not have sustained combat operations since 2001 had it not been for the longstanding contributions and commitment of our Reserve component and National Guard,” Battaglia said. “The Air Force Reserve continues to perform nearly 20 percent of the work for our Air Force, and that is a large footprint considering many Air Force reservists maintain part-time and full-time employment in their communities.”

According to Battaglia, the 403rd

plays a vital role in the safety of the nation in regards to natural disasters and combat mission capabilities of the United States military.

“I can tell from their unique mission set of providing tactical airlift support during peace and war-time contingencies, and aerial weather reconnaissance support that I understand the importance of those jobs and how they are vital to the success of a larger campaign plan or real world catastrophe,” said Battaglia. “If there was one message I could deliver to the men and women of the 403rd, it’s that regardless of your assignment or billet within the organization, you are making a difference – and don’t let anyone tell you otherwise.”

Word from the 403rd Command Chief

By Chief Master Sgt. Anthony
Woitalla
403rd Wing Command Chief Master
Sergeant

01/02/2013 - **KEESLER AIR
FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- In this installment of the 403rd Word, I would like to share what I sent forward to 22nd Air Force as my top issue we face as a reserve enlisted force that stems from a conversation that I had with an air reserve technician.

To the ART, I know it is difficult to come in during a unit training assembly weekend and perform the same duties that you do all week. This is challenging and difficult to stay motivated, but I feel it indicates of the number one problem facing the command.

My question is this: why are you doing

your same job instead of a traditional reserve member?

The duty of the ART is to train the reserve member into a fully functional member of the team. This not only includes AFSC proficiencies but leadership functions as well.

When reservists deploy, our members will be called upon to lead. However, I would bet some traditional reserve master sergeants have never written an EPR, run their duty section, or compared manning documents. I would even go further to say that some traditional reserve junior NCOs do not supervise, train fellow airmen or take responsibility for the health and welfare of subordinate members.

When we look at AFI 36-2618, the Enlisted Force Structure, it is fairly

simple to see who should be supervising individuals, leading teams, and planning for the future health of the unit.

For the ARTs who feel a UTA is just another workday, it should be a day for you to work on your reserve training plans, write EPRs, and work on awards, decorations and programs.

Use the UTA to train your reserve members by stepping back and letting them learn as they work, lead, supervise and plan. It is how ownership, and finally leadership, of our jobs are accomplished.



This month in 403rd Wing history

By Master Sgt. Stephen Strausbaugh
403rd Wing Historian

01/02/2013 - **KEESLER AIR
FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- In February of 1980, the 403rd Wing was deployed to support the Olympics in Lake Placid, New York.

The 403rd's squadron, the 304th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, was on standby for any medical or other emergencies needing air support. They accomplished 12 SAR/MAST (Search and Recovery/Medical Evacuation Transportation "Medevac") missions, saving nearly as many lives.

Some of those missions were medical emergencies for two Olympic employees, one of whom suffered a heart attack and the other whom had a serious fall. 403rd members responded with a rescue mission for a group of Olympic spectators whose plane had crashed

in a wooded area in subzero temperatures. The plane was found in heavy snow conditions at night. Two survivors were transported to the hospital but later died. They also responded to the scene of a military accident and saved the life of the weapons systems officer.

The 403rd's 304th squadron was chosen specifically because their mission supported search and recovery and medevac operations. The 403rd was the flying part of the Air Force mission at the Olympics. They received numerous letters of appreciation from all levels of the government and Air Force. It was specifically pointed out how the reservists performed as well as the active duty with no extra training.

Over 1,100 athletes from 37 countries participated in the 1980 Winter Games, where 21-year-old American speed skater Eric Heiden won five

individual gold medals, and the U.S. hockey team defeated the Soviets with a score of 4 to 3.

No one before or since Heiden has won five individual gold medals in a single Olympic Games (three of swimmer Mark Spitz's seven gold medals were for relay races). And Heiden's sweep of the men's speed skating events has never been duplicated.

The hockey team, on the other hand, was a decided underdog. Seeded seventh out of 12 teams in the first round, they had also been beaten by the Soviet Union 10 to 3 in an exhibition game only a week before the Olympics.

Sports Illustrated selected the U.S. hockey team's victory over the Soviet Union en route to winning the gold medal as the No. 1 sports moment of the 20th century.