



FLIGHT LINES

SERVING HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

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482d Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.

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November 2005

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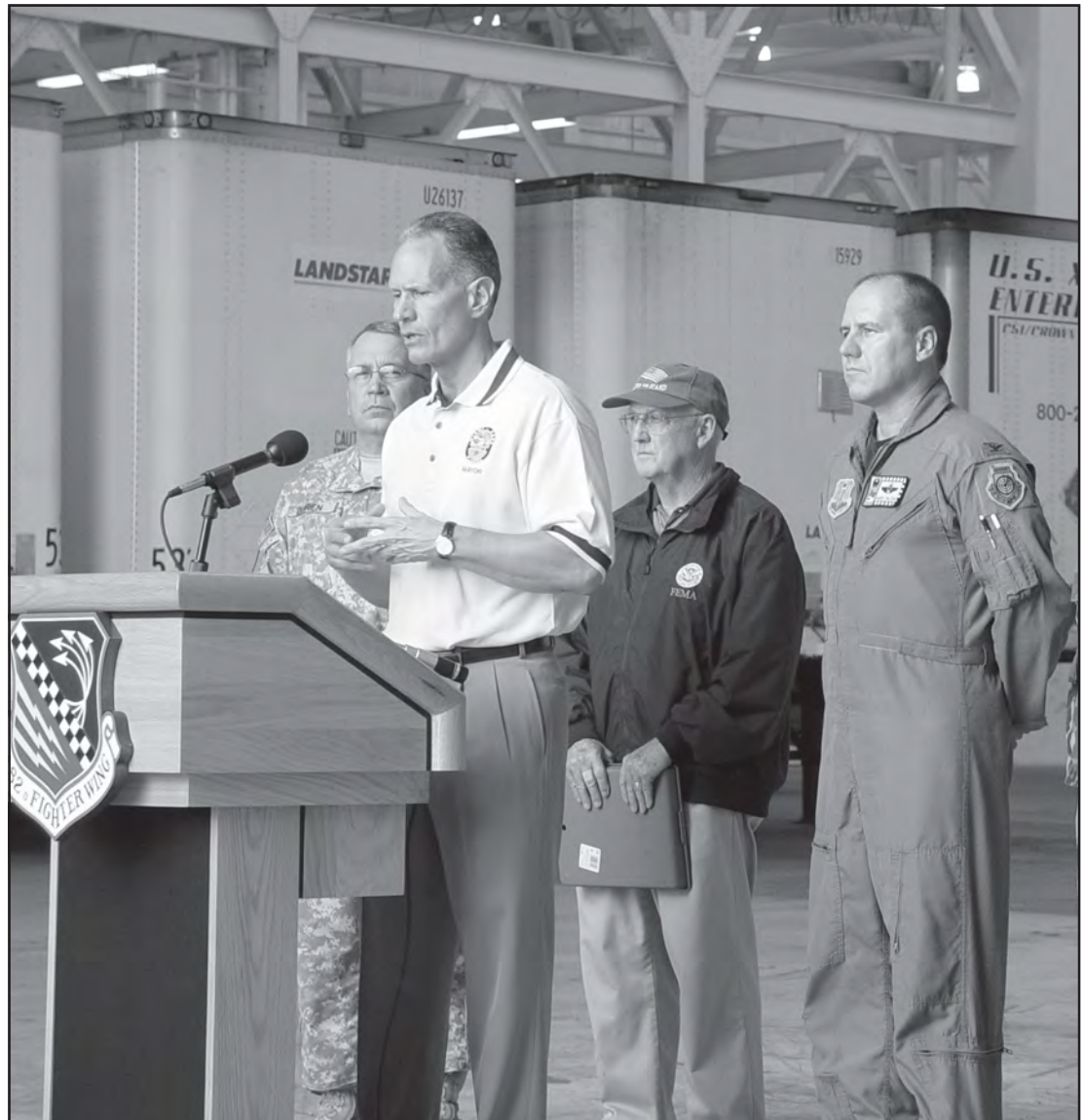


Photo by Lisa Macias

Officials host a joint press conference at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. to inform local citizens about preparations for Hurricane Wilma. The Federal Emergency Management Agency partnered with Homestead Air Reserve Base to set up a relief staging area. Right to left: Col. Randy Falcon, commander, 482d Fighter Wing, Mr. Frank Huff, FEMA's site coordinator at Homestead ARB, and Army Col. Joseph Duren, commander of the 50th Area Support Group, Florida Army National Guard. Speaking at the podium is the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Carlos Alvarez.

Welcome home, much to be proud of

By Col. Randall G. Falcon,
482nd Fighter Wing Commander



Air Force Reserve photo

The return of our 482nd Fighter Wing deployers culminated a remarkable month of here at Homestead Air Reserve Base. Our deploying members departed in September for Balad Air Base, Iraq. Each volunteered for an AEF rotation and were there defending our freedoms supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Our AEF deployers did us proud. While at Balad, they flew and supported hundreds of sorties supporting several different ground operations. None of our Airmen were casualties of the conflict and none received serious accidental injury. They accomplished this under austere deployment conditions and under constant threat of attack. A truly heroic effort by a group of dedicated and professional Airmen.

As our AEF warriors were preparing to return, Homestead was struck by the strongest hurricane since Hurricane Andrew. Our base showed remarkable resiliency in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma, responding to the needs of our families, getting the base operational in short order, while responding to the needs our community as well.

Homestead Air Reserve Base became well known as a hub of

support for Hurricane Wilma recovery. FEMA used building 741 (the big hanger) as a staging site for trucks full of food, water and ice. On any given day after the hurricane's strike, hundreds of trucks were leaving for points of distribution. The Florida National Guard distributed relief supplies, while Community Partnership for Homeless provided meals for the American Red Cross.

And in the midst of all that, Homestead Air Reserve Base hosted the largest air bridge since Hurricane Andrew. During a three day period, the 482nd Fighter Wing unloaded 13 cargo aircraft totaling 1,025,460 pounds of relief supplies.

Whether supporting a war time mission overseas or natural disaster mission close to home, the men and women of the 482nd Fighter Wing come through. I am proud of you, your community is proud of you and your nation is proud of you.

— Promotions —

To Senior Airman

Christian Restrepo, 70th APS
Roberto Rodriguez, 482nd COMM
Christopher Lopez, 70th APS
Sharissa Sullivan, 482nd SVS

To Staff Sgt.

Gaylon Hoebelheinrich, 482nd AMXS
Matthew Smith, 482nd MXS
Nicole Lewis, 482nd MOF
Claudio Leiss, 482nd MDS
Chadd Winterburg, 70th APS
Timothy Hilgeman, 482nd SFS

— Promotions —

To Tech. Sgt.

Bucky Parrish, 482nd AMXS
Scott Moniz, 482nd AMXS
Daniel Huertas, 482nd SVS
Vincent Walden, 70th APS
Patrick Finale, 482nd AMXS
Alfred Dowdy, 70th APS
Robert Gibson, 70th APS

To Master Sgt.

Sabrina Ura, 482nd MSS
Larry Bradley, 482nd MSS

— PEP Promotions —

To Tech. Sgt.

Ingrid Engle, 70th APS
Karl Furman, 482nd AMXS

To Master Sgt.

Michael Montano, 482nd AMXS

To Senior Master Sgt.

Maureen Murray, 482nd MOF
Kado Robinson, 482nd MXS

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Self-Aid & Buddy Care training

By Master Sgt. Paul Steszewski, 482 MDS

All unit members are required to have Self-Aid and Buddy Care training. This training prepares today's reservists to act as first responders in crisis situations. With domestic or overseas deployments terrorists can act anywhere at anytime.

In times of crisis, training automatically kicks in. What would you do in a mass casualty situation? How would you handle the wounded? What would you do first? How many lives could you save?

You would not enter an area unless it is safe. We do not need to add another casualty to the list.

If you can call for help do so.

If you have protection, such as gloves or a protective mask wear them. If you handle body fluids without protection, wash your hands as soon as possible. Be careful what you breath; if there is poisonous gas or heavy smoke in the air, stay down wind.

If you are wounded yourself while treating a buddy be careful not to

mix body fluids.

Ask if anyone can walk, they may be able to help you. Others can go for help and assist you in first aid or comfort a friend.

When approaching a wounded individual remember your A, B, C's: Airway, Breathing, Circulation.

The airway is most important. If you have a choice to treat someone bleeding or breathing, breathing is more important. But if an individual is losing too much blood at once, stop the bleeding first. It's always a tough call.

We are naturally drawn to cries of pain but if someone is crying it means they are breathing. Look out for the quiet ones because they may not be breathing.

You learn your skills from your SABC unit instructor. Each unit has an instructor and training is mandatory. Each unit commander is responsible for the training.

There is a new first aid kit being issued to troops arriving overseas. New items were added and new techniques developed: CeraLyte (water treatment,) CAT tourniquet,

Israeli Bandage, QuickClot and the Nasopharyngeal Airway. Training kits need to be ordered for all units. E-mails have gone out with instructions, and everyone is required to receive training on the new equipment prior to deployment. Anyone opening the seal to one of the issued items has damaged the item and the individual's unit will-be-billed. Each item is over \$60.

SABC unit instructors need to be trained and in turn train their people. A class to train trainers on the equipment and train those interested in becoming SABC trainers is planned for the Sunday of the January UTA, at the medical squadron.

Your SABC Wing Advisors are Maj. Beth Wiles, Master Sgt. Paul Steszewski and Senior Airman Christopher Kaufman of the 482nd Medical Squadron. If you have any questions call (305) 224-7611 during the Unit Training Assembly or during the month contact Master Sgt. Mike Rose at (305) 224-7619.

Annual Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

The 2005 to 2006 Combined Federal Campaign has begun and is scheduled to run through Dec. 15. The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fundraising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and servicemembers to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

Last year, federal employees and servicemembers donated a record-setting \$257 million to the campaign. Contributions can be by cash, check or payroll deduction. On average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from campaign charities this year, CFC officials said. Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receive their money by filling out a pledge card. For more information, contact your unit campaign officer.

Keep 'em rolling

Vehicle maintenance – it's not just changing oil and spark plugs

*Story and photos by Stephanie Johns,
419 FW/PA*

Special to the Flight Lines

From forklifts to bulldozers, there's no job too large or too small for the 482d Logistics Readiness Squadron's vehicle maintenance crew. The five-member unit keeps the 195 vehicles at Homestead Air Reserve Base, up and running.

"America moves on wheels and we keep those wheels turning," said Willie Aviles, 482nd Fighter Wing vehicle

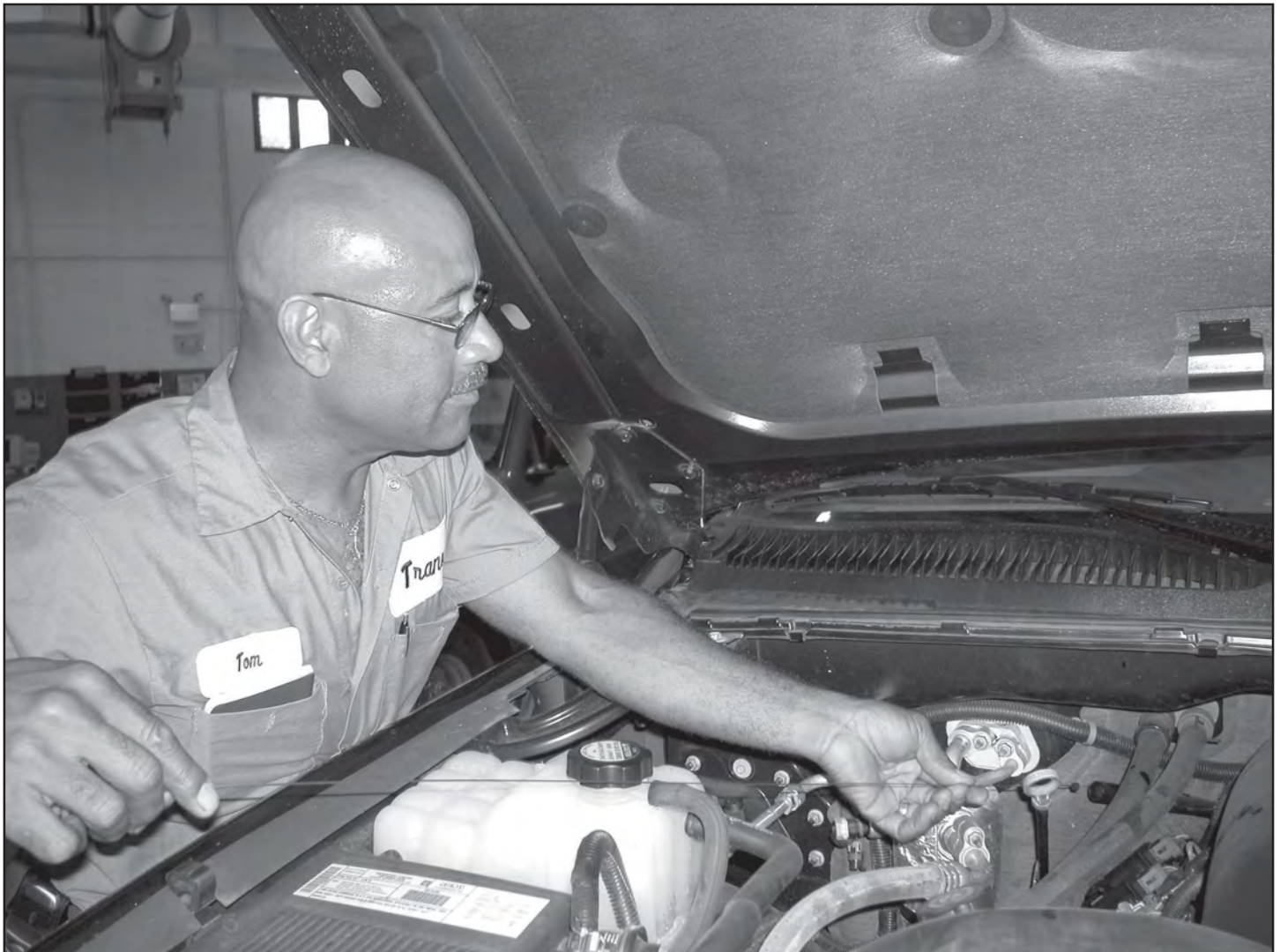
maintenance technician. "Every one from the commander to the fire department couldn't do their job if we didn't do ours."

According to Mr. Aviles, there's more than 150 years of vehicle maintenance experience between the five mechanics at Homestead ARB. Keeping up with general maintenance on the base's nearly 200 vehicles can be a challenge for the crew. Utilizing technical orders, computers and first-hand knowledge keeps the workload in

check.

Regular tune-ups and oil changes make a mechanic's job easier. It helps to prevent more serious engine problems which can occur if a vehicle is neglected.

"We perform scheduled maintenance on about 60 vehicles a month," said Mike Denn, 482d FW transportation production controller. "My job is to make sure the vehicles get in for these tune-ups, which helps extend the life of the vehicle."



Tom Thorpe, 482nd Fighter Wing maintenance technician, checks the oil on an Air Force Ford F-150. The Ford is used as a mobile maintenance vehicle for Homestead ARB.



Willie Aviles, 482d vehicle maintenance mechanic, climbs aboard an Air Force K-loader, one of many vehicles he and four other mechanics are responsible for maintaining in good condition

“America moves on wheels and we keep those wheels turning.”

Willie Aviles, 482 LRS vehicle maintenance technician

Routine maintenance not only extends the life of the vehicle but also saves the government money. The base’s vehicle year models range from 1980–2004 with a total cost value of \$3.8 million. The production controller tracks each vehicle’s odometer by computer. Vehicles with excessive miles are swapped with the ones which have fewer miles.

“The cops put more mileage on their vehicles than any other unit,” said Mr. Aviles. “When a car reaches 75,000 miles, we trade it with one base supply uses, which usually has less mileage.”

In some situations, maintenance has to decide whether or not it’s cost effective to repair a vehicle or replace it

Basic vehicle maintenance

The mechanics from the 482nd Fighter Wing suggest drivers follow the checklist below as part of their routine maintenance. This checklist should be accomplished every 3,000 miles to extend the life of their vehicles:

- Oil and filter change
- Tire check (rotate, balance or change if needed)
- Safety and emissions check
- Spark plug check (change if necessary)
- Battery check
- Brake check (replace if necessary)
- Check engine fluids
- Check air conditioning system
- Check body of vehicle for rust or other damage
- Check windshield for cracks and chips

with a new one. Air Force vehicles, which are no longer reliable, are turned in to salvage.

Getting new vehicle depends on Air Force funding. “Last year we didn’t get any replacements,” Mr. Aviles said. “This year we got two.”

It’s not always worth repairing on some vehicles. “Sometimes it’s more cost effective to spend \$10,000 on a new car than to put \$3,000 into a car with over 100,000 miles on the odometer,” he said.

When asked if he liked his line of work and the responsibility it came with, Mr. Aviles said he enjoyed working with his crew and loved the challenges each day brought. “If it was any better, it’d be Christmas,” he said.

Flightline driving, as always safety first

Tips for correct driving procedures on and around the runways

*By Senior Airman Scott Matthews
Special to the Flight Lines*

Hey, you slow down! Especially on the flightline.

Proper driving procedures are very important when you are out on the flightline area. "Aircraft always have the right of way, speed will get you in trouble, and if you're not sure of something, call ground control," said Mr. Joe Fielder, Chief of Base Operations, 482d Operations Group here. They need to know you're there."

For Mr. Fielder safety is his number one concern. "Communication between drivers and ground control is very important in avoiding accidents," he said. "It may not cause the person in the vehicle to get hurt, but it may cause someone else to."

Like most things Air Force, there's a proper way for the drivers to communicate with ground control. Proper language is important out there, he said, but if someone can't remember the correct terminology



Photo by Senior Airman Scott Matthews

Every sign must be obeyed around the runway to ensure proper safety.

they should talk normally to the tower and say what they need. "Don't get tongue-tied, just tell them what your intentions are," Mr. Fielder said.

Flightline vehicles have stickers to help drivers use the correct terms.

Additionally, drivers should know where they are, perform foreign object debris (FOD) checks, and listen to the tower chatter, said Mr. Fielder.

The speed limit while driving on the flightline or runway is 20 miles per hour, five miles per hour when you are near the airplanes. Speed rules are set by the Air Force, and the base commander has the option to lower it.

Orientation for flightline driving consists of two day and one night session driving around the planes. Drivers must pass a test to obtain a flightline license. Drivers also have to pass a color test because the tower will sometimes shine a variety of colored lights to warn of differing situations.

"It's very important to follow the procedures," said Mr. Ed Gannon, tower watch supervisor, 482d Operations Group here. "If not, it



Photo by Senior Airman Scott Matthews

Rocks and other debris must be removed from vehicles before driving on the runways and flightline area.



Photo by Senior Airman Scott Matthews

Joe Fielder, Chief of Base Operations, talks to the control tower just before an F-16 Mako takes off.

could interfere with the aircraft.”

Mr. Fielder explained that FOD walks are important. “A rock the size of a quarter can really mess up an airplane. When going on the flightline with a vehicle it is important to walk around the vehicle and make sure there are no rocks or other things on the tires that can interfere with the aircraft,” he said.

Also while around the area, it is important to be observant of your surroundings in or out of your car to make sure there is no debris around.

Mr. Fielder said if you keep doing these things over time it all becomes habit. “Like anything else, practice will make you better,” he said.

So remember, be careful, practice common sense—and slow down!

Say What?

Clearing up common communication conundrums

What is said

What it means

Acknowledge

You received and understand this message

Affirmative

Yes

Hold

Stay where you are

Immediately

Right now

Negative

No, or that is not correct

Read back

Repeat my message to me

Roger

I have received your last message

Stand by

Wait a moment, I will call you back

Wilco

Received your message and will comply

Expedite

Quickly

Homestead Air Reserve Base cleans up, sends relief

By Jake Shaw

10/26/2005 - HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. (AFP) —

Just hours after Hurricane Wilma hit this base, the 482nd Fighter Wing had the base airfield open and ready to help with relief efforts.

The wing is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Florida Army National Guard and local officials here to send relief supplies to south Florida residents.

The base lost a lot of trees and has scattered debris. But the wing was operational right away, even without electricity throughout most of the base,

said Col. Randy Falcon, the wing commander.

“The base took a hard hit from Wilma, but we’re fully operational,” the colonel said. “The 482nd Fighter Wing is cleaning up and sending relief to the surrounding communities.”

“We received moderate wind damage and isolated water damage, with four facilities having major roof damage and seven facilities suffering minor roof damage,” the colonel said.

So far, helicopters are flying missions in and out of Homestead to survey the damages to the north and south of the base. And they have also flown medical supplies to areas in the

Florida Keys, the colonel said.

The base was ready for Wilma. According to FEMA officials, tractor trailers began pre-positioning supplies at the base Oct. 20, in preparation for Wilma. The supplies include ice, water, military meals and tarps. More than 200 tractor trailers were ready to go Oct. 23, just hours before Wilma made landfall on the southwestern coast of Florida.

Less than 24 hours after the hurricane passed, relief trucks drove to areas across south Florida. They went to points of distribution, where the Army National Guard passed it out to people in need.



Photo by Lisa Macias

FEMA trucks began arriving at the Homestead Air Reserve Base Oct. 20 to pre-position water, MREs, ice and tarps for the post-hurricane relief effort. The trucks have delivered supplies from Key West to northern Miami-Dade County.

According to FEMA, 104 trucks of supplies left Oct. 25, and deliveries continue daily.

Many of the distribution points are co-located with American Red Cross centers that provide hot meals to citizens, many of whom had not seen a hot meal in 48 hours or more.

FEMA has used Homestead as a relief staging area consistently for the past two years. Each time a hurricane threatens south Florida, FEMA pre-positions supplies here.

Homestead is a great location for FEMA's relief operations "because we have an airfield, as well as the facilities and support infrastructure necessary to run a successful operation," Colonel Falcon said.

"From Homestead, we can transport supplies in multiple directions. And if land transportation is unavailable we can support heavy airlift helicopters and fixed wing aircraft," he said.

Relief agencies will use the airfield to receive relief supplies by air, if necessary. But for now, most supplies are being shipped by tractor trailers — which require a lot of fuel.

In fact, it has taken 14,000 gallons of diesel and more than 3,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline — over a five-day period from Oct. 20 to Oct. 25 — to keep the operation going, said Don McNeal, the wing's fuels superintendent.

"We're slowly getting to a level that's manageable, where we can handle the demand," Mr. McNeal said.

Besides servicing more than 200 tractor trailers day and night, fuels specialists are constantly refueling cargo aircraft and helicopters, and they also serviced 25 generators here twice a day while the power was out.

The coordination between all the agencies here has been heroic, Colonel Falcon said. From the Miami-Dade County mayor's office, to the state and federal agencies, including the military units, "this has been a team effort."



Photo by Lisa Macias

Above: At Homestead Air Reserve Base, four buildings sustained major roof damage while seven others sustained minor roof damage. In addition, many trees were down and debris was scattered over most of the base.

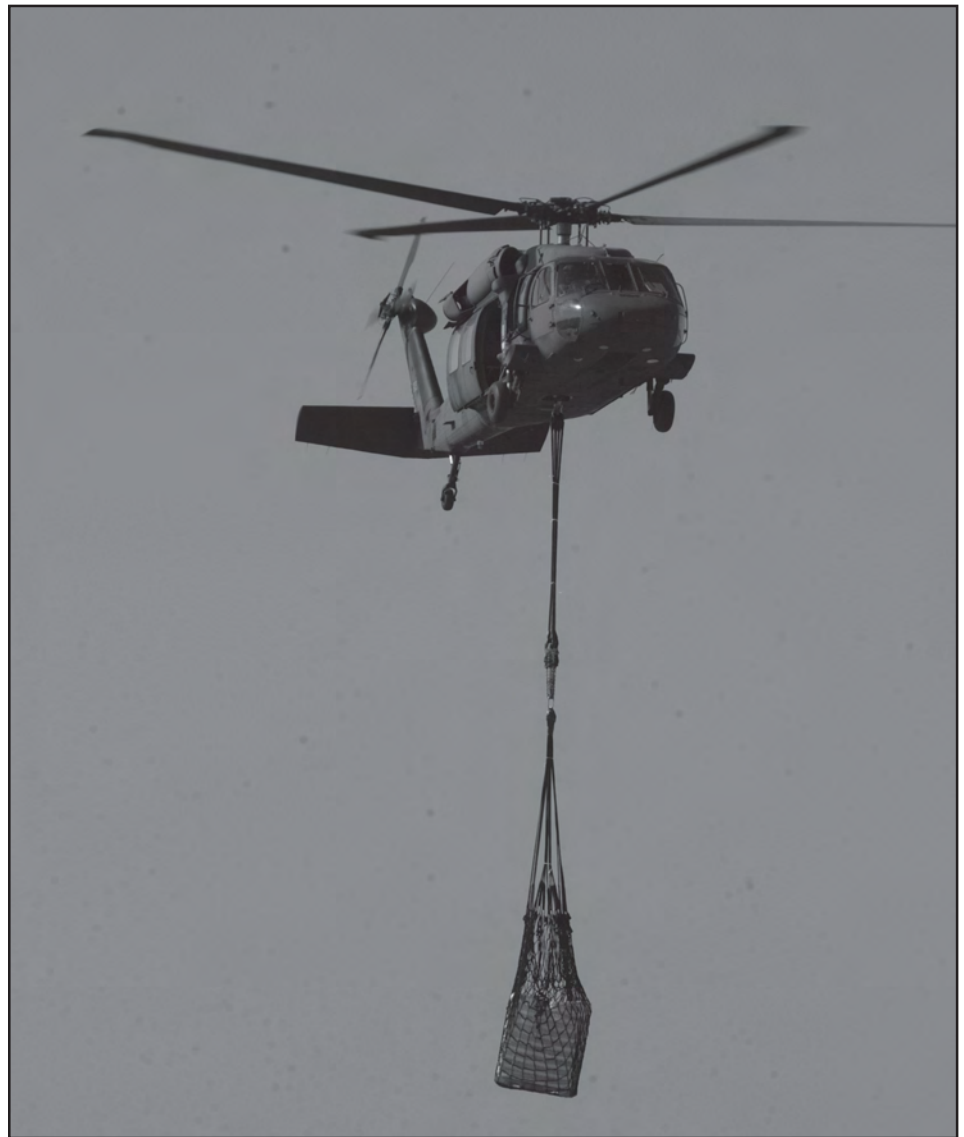


Photo by Lisa Macias

An Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter takes off from Homestead ARB on Oct. 26. The helicopter delivered relief supplies to hurricane victims in Key West.

Paz brothers serve together in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Joining the military may mean taking assignments that distance service members from their families but that is not an issue for the Paz brothers, Senior Master Sgt. Nestor Paz, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group, and his younger brother Tech. Sgt. Carlos Paz, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, who are stationed at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., and have deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq together.

"My brother had active-duty time before he joined the Reserves," said Tech. Sgt. Paz, F-16 avionics integrated systems technician. "He had many good things to say about his experience so I decided to look into it myself then decided to join. As far as I know we are the first in our family to serve, but I hope that we have started something that will continue with our children."

The Paz brothers have served their entire Reserve career together. And when the opportunity to deploy together came up both brothers seized the chance.

"I am personally honored to have been given this opportunity to come here and serve my country," said Senior Master Sgt. Paz, quality assurance superintendent. "I know my brother feels the same and having him with me makes it more special. It brings a sense of pride to us, and especially our family. Whenever I speak to my wife, she always tells me how proud she is of our being here doing what we do, and that she supports us 100 percent. That kind of support back home makes it very easy for us to do what we do."

Tech. Sgt. Paz said, "Our families live within minutes of each other and

normally we would rather not be gone at the same time so we could look after one another's families; however, neither one of us wanted to miss the opportunity to contribute to this deployment."

Senior Master Sgt. Paz arrived in Balad a few days before his brother as a member of the Homestead ARB advance party.

"As a member of the Advon team, my main responsibilities were to ensure that certain programs and processes were up and running prior to the arrival of the main body," Senior Master Sgt. Paz said. "I had to go through local operating procedures so I could brief our folks upon their arrival."

Because Senior Master Sgt. Paz arrived early he was able to meet his brother as Tech. Sgt. Paz was in processing.

"We were real glad to see each other," Senior Master Sgt. Paz said. "However, our attention eventually shifted to our families back home. Both of our wives still had to deal with roof repairs and insurance adjusters thanks to hurricane Katrina."

Even though the brothers are serving at the same installation, reconnecting with one another after

Tech. Sgt. Paz's in processing has been challenging.

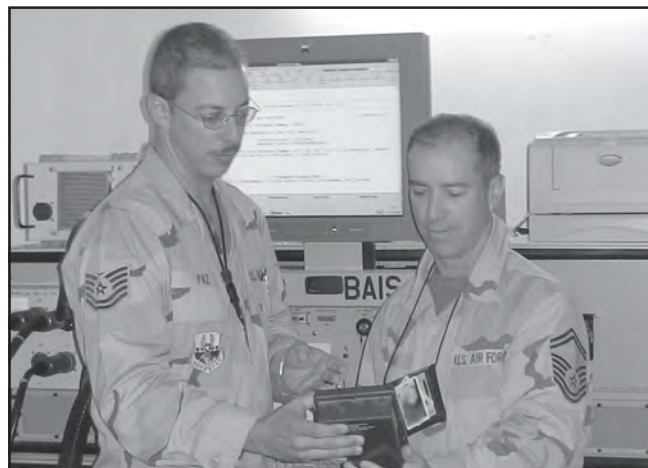
"We've managed to see each other a few times since we got here, but it took a lot of effort," Senior Master Sgt. Paz said. "We are on different shifts and have pretty demanding workloads. We've played a lot of phone tag and kept missing each other whenever we went to each other's shop to meet. Sometimes we would just see each other in the chow hall."

Tech. Sgt. Paz said, "Our time together has been limited, however it has been great to be able to have him here and to share our experience here and keep up with family events back home"

Even though they haven't seen much of each other, both have been able to benefit from it.

"My brother provides a great source of experience and knowledge to our unit so it's good to have him here," Tech. Sgt. Paz said. "It was comforting to have a family member around to talk to and spend some time with."

Senior Master Sgt. Paz said, "I think we draw strength from each other being together like this. Having my brother here makes me feel less isolated from family."



Senior Master Sgt. Nestor Paz and his younger brother, Tech. Sgt. Carlos Paz are serving together at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Reservists clean house, increase F-16 capability

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
332nd AEW Public Affairs

10/24/2005 - BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Desire and motivation drove 14 Reserve Airmen to turn a barely functional back shop into one of two fully functional avionics intermediate shops here.

The revamped work center allowed the staff to double the improved avionics intermediate repair capabilities. The reservists deployed here from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.

“When we first arrived, the alternate shop was dirty, dark and it smelled bad,” said Senior Master Sgt. Huey Hill, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics team chief. “This place was a dungeon. The walls were black. It was so filthy it took three days to pressure wash them clean.”

The IAIS staff tests, aligns, troubleshoots and repairs mission critical F-16 aircraft line replacement units. That includes any avionics parts that come off the aircraft.

“The shop was so ill-equipped that to test any equipment here we had to use flashlights,” Sergeant Hill said. “This situation was unacceptable. So our team spent 10 days turning this office around.”

To overhaul the shop, the reservists cleaned and painted the floors, walls, doors and ceiling of the shop. They removed old items — from old toilets to an air purifier — that cluttered the area. It was a self-help project and the team only sought outside help from the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron to fix the lighting.

To add the finishing touches the team hand-built shelves from salvaged wood and painted a mural was on the office door.

Squadron commander Maj. David

Nicholson said the unit can now fully test line replacement units. Then they can return them to the supply system to fill mission critical needs for broken aircraft in half the time, he said.

“We have been able to double the avionics repair capability for the F-16 operations being preformed,” the major said.

The team provides another tool to accomplish the mission here.

“If the other work center goes down now, we can continue to support the operations,” Sergeant Hill said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Gerardo Diaz, Senior Master Sgt. Huey Hill and Master Sgt. Ralph Cole run a computer confidence check on an improved avionics intermediate system before testing an F-16 Fighting Falcon part. Technicians perform the check each time they test a part. The sergeants are all with the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron.

Makos in sky help warriors on ground

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean
407th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

10/19/2005 - ALI BASE, Iraq —

The sky above Balad Air Base was thick with dust and sand when four F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots completed another mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were headed to their deployed home at Balad Oct. 17 when they were eventually diverted here.

Their mission started early that morning, but it was well past lunch when they traveled in a holding pattern above a dusty Balad.

The four F-16 pilots, from the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, had aerial refueled and were waiting for the

sandstorm to pass. But weather forecasters determined the storm wouldn't break until much later in the evening, so the planes were diverted here.

It was just another instance that proves there's no such thing as a routine day when you're an F-16 pilot supporting ground forces in Iraq, said Maj. Darren Censullo, a Reserve pilot deployed with the 482nd Fighter Wing from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. It was just another long day in a small cockpit.

Major Censullo and his fellow pilots were diverted to a deployed air base similar to Balad where Airmen and Soldiers serve alongside each other. It was another opportunity for

them to see the ground customers they serve from the air.

"I eat dinner with some of these guys. We have Army guys all over (Balad Air Base) so I get to know some of them and talk to them about their jobs," said Lt. Col. Jose Monteagudo, commander of the diverted combat air mission.

But unlike relaxed conversation at the dinner table, Colonel Monteagudo also knows the tense chatter while on the job.

"There's no simulator that can teach you the feeling you get when you hear the guy on the ground yell into the radio, 'We need help now! Take care of it.'"

Colonel Monteagudo said helping the ground forces is the most gratifying part of what's been an exciting deployment.

"Every day something's happening. Every day we're up here providing cover for (ground forces). I really respect the job they're doing down there and I am glad we can help anyway we can," the colonel said.

Seeing ground combat from his vantage point in the air is an experience Colonel Monteagudo said he'll never forget. F-16 pilots spend a lot of time supporting ground operations, including watching areas where insurgents have attempted to ambush coalition forces.

By sunrise on Oct. 18, remnants of the sandstorm had arrived at Ali Base, but it was safe enough to depart for another day of supporting coalition ground forces.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

After spending the night at Ali Base, Iraq, because of a weather diversion Lt. Col. Jose Monteagudo, F-16 pilot, does a pre-flight walk around. Lt. Col. Monteagudo is assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Balad Air Base, Iraq, and is an Air Force Reservist deployed from the 482d Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. The F-16s from Homestead Air Reserve Base have been supporting coalition ground forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom.