

Gulf Wing

403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss., Air Force Reserve Command

Home of the Flying Jennies & the Hurricane Hunters

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Kitchen in a Box

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Safety Note

Railroad tracks just outside Keesler and passing through surrounding communities have been repaired. Expect trains to begin using the rails again shortly. Heed signals and never park or stop on the the rails.

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Gulf Wing Awards

1st Place, Best Magazine, Air Force Media Contest, 2003, 2004
1st Place, Best Command Publication, AFRC Media Contest, 2004
1st Place, Best Magazine, AFRC Media Contest, 1989, 2003, 2004

New Commander for Ops Underkofler Moves to Maxwell

By Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

Building a better team and demonstrating the 403rd Wing's airlift capabilities are among the top priorities for the new 403rd Operations Group commander.

Lt. Col. Jay Jensen was named to head up the unit on the departure of Col. Michael Underkofler, who assumed command of the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Jan. 8.

"I'm pretty excited," said Colonel Jensen. "This is the first year the 815th Airlift Squadron has had a fully operating squadron since 1998, and I expect to see them performing a greater range of missions that haven't been supported before or haven't been supported since the unit began conversion to the C-130J."

Colonel Jensen said he also wants to see more troops in the flying squadrons earn dual qualification, as well as more frequent joint support of airlift missions by the two flying squadrons.

Colonel Underkofler said he is extremely confident in



Col. Michael Underkofler



Lt. Col. Jay Jensen

Colonel Jensen's leadership abilities. The two have worked together before serving at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

"It's nice seeing someone you grew up with take your place, especially someone with so much technical expertise in aviation," said Colonel Underkofler.

"I don't think we would have gotten through this storm season with the J-models if it wasn't for him. He brings a lot to the table," he said.

"I'd like to make sure Air Force Reserve Command sees the 403rd as a "can do" wing. If there's an airlift mission, I want the 403rd to be the first unit leadership considers," said Colonel Jensen.

Overall, he said he is striving to ensure operations is ready for the Air Force's Future Total Force initiative with one wing, one mission. One of the first missions that will

further contribute to this goal is a dual deployment supported by both the 815th and 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Later this year, the wing will provide aircrews in support of Operation Coronet Oak, a continuing mission supplying personnel deployed to Muniz Air National Guard Base.

"There's no doubt that as far as flying, this group has very talented individuals, and I'm going to get as much as I can out of their time and effort," he said.

"My belief is that if you work hard and do a good job, then you should be encouraged and mentored further."

Gulf Wing Salutes

PROMOTIONS Colonels Select

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Lt. Col. Patrick Ryan, 403 OG
Lt. Col. James C. Shore, 403 LRS

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Yesenia Pena, 403rd CF
Adrian J. Alu, 96th APS
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Israel L. Haskin, 403rs MSF

Airman

Fiona S. Jones, 403rd ASTS
Elysia Rodriguez, 403rd ASTS

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SSgt Angela Jeffries, 96th APS
A1C Tonya Johnson, 96th APS
TSgt Scott Kelly, 96th APS
SrA Devlin McCord, 96th APS
SrA Rawne Pierce, 96th APS
SSgt Gabriel Peterson, 96th APS
SSgt Spirit Spencer, 96th APS
A1C Justin Stailey, 96th APS
SrA Tiashia Wade, 96th APS

Pay Date
Jan. 18
Next UTA
Feb. 4-5

(Right) At the Dubai Air Show in United Arab Emirates from Nov. 20-24, the U.S. military provided the second largest contingent of support, second only to the host-nation, UAE, displaying more than 300 AF and Navy personnel and 13 different aircraft. The 815th Airlift Squadron's "Flying Jennies" showcased their C-130J-30 at the world's third largest air show. Among the distinguished visitors were local Emirates and businessmen from around the world who toured the Air Force's newest airlifter.



Courtesy Photo

(Left) Comedian Dave Attell of the late night television series *Insomniac* visited troops while on the USO Tour. (Left to right) Tech Sgt. Kenneth Holmes, Senior Master Sgt. James Childs, both from 41st APS. Below them are Scott Kennedy and Dave Attell.

(Below) Mr. Alex Parker, a World War II veteran, business entrepreneur, and civic leader, visits with Brig. Gen. Rich Moss, during a visit to the 403rd Wing. Mr. Parker, the New Yorker who at one time owned the skyscraper at Times Square famous for the New Year's Eve "Ball Drop" felt a calling to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast. The self-made multi-millionaire wants to provide troops and other residents on the Gulf Coast with job opportunities - clinics, clothing mills, as well as other programs such as free guidance for troops choosing insurance. "I've reached a point in my life where I've done everything," he said. "Now I want to help my soldiers." Last month Mr. Parker spent a few days with the 403rd Wing, where he met with troops, establishing contacts for future visits and getting a crash course on today's Air Force. Read the full story in the next edition of the *Gulf Wing*.



Courtesy Photo



Photo by Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce



Photo by Maj. Chad Gibson, 53rd WRS, USAF



Photo by Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce



Courtesy Photo

(Top) Maj. John Fox gets out of the way as aircrew and maintenance team up to welcome Capt. Rob Light back to earth after his "Fini Flight" with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. Captain Light, who has been with the unit for five years is on his way to Dobbins to work as an instructor pilot. (Above) Lt. Gen. John Bradley delivered a new C-130J-30 to the 403rd Wing's 815th Airlift Squadron in December. General Bradley is chief, Air Force Reserve and commander Air Force Reserve Command. Delivery of aircraft 8152 brings the Flying Jennies closer to their full complement of weapons systems. The unit will receive additional aircraft from the manufacturer in coming months. (Left) Master Sgt. Sheila Konelick, first sergeant, 403rd Maintenance Group, spoke to the Orange Grove Chamber of Commerce last month. Orange Grove recognized the 403rd Wing for their efforts in providing relief after Hurricane Katrina. Chamber of Commerce board member Chuck Teston presented the award at



Clearing the Smoke

By Tech. Sgt. Chance Babin
Special to the Gulf Wing

Airman 1st Class Joshua Ladner a firefighter with the 403rd CES Fire Department, uses a fog stream nozzle while performing hydraulic ventilation as part of his three-level training.

On a perfectly beautiful warm fall afternoon, a group of firefighters, suited up with layers of extremely hot protective clothing, forcefully burst into a hot, unventilated smoke consumed building, on a mission to clear the smoke.

This may sound uncomfortable, daring and even a bit crazy, but it's just a

typical day of training for the firefighters of the 403rd Civil Engineer Squadron.

In this case the smoke was only from a smoke machine and the heat was from the sun, not a blazing fire, but as firefighters, they must train as if the building is engulfed in fire and consumed by toxic smoke.

For the firefighters of the 403rd CES, getting a typical day of training has been anything but typical lately, as nothing at Keesler, or on the Gulf

Coast, has resembled what was once known before Katrina.

Now the fire department, like the rest of the unit, is starting to get back to normal.

"That was the first training we've done since Katrina," said Tech. Sgt. Myron Stanley, a crew chief with the 403rd CES. "We were up to about 85 percent in our training and by December should be back at 100 per-



A fire truck arrives on the scene ready for action during upgrade training for 403rd CES fire fighters.



A firefighter with the 403rd CES Fire Department, attaches a hose to the discharge outlet of a fire truck.

cent.”
On this day, three-level firefighters were getting trained on ventilating a simulated burning building.

“It’s part of their training to bring them along and get them signed off to becoming five levels,” he said. “We were using different types of forced ventilation, positive pressure and hydraulic ventilation.”

For positive pressure ventilation, windows on upper and lower floors are opened and even fans can be used to

push the smoke and heat out of a building. In hydraulic ventilation, which was the main point of emphasis during the training, the firefighters point a nozzle out of a window and spray outward. As water rushes through, it draws the heat and smoke through the opening.

As things get back to normal with the 403rd CES, the firefighters will continue hands on training, with a goal to be anything but typical.

Tech. Sgt Myron Stanley, a crew chief with the 403rd CES, simulates a forceful entry into a dwelling using a halligan tool, a tool commonly used in the fire and rescue service for forcible entry.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Chance Bohm, Special to the Gulf Wing



Airman 1st Class Jonathan Padgett, a firefighter with the 403rd CES Fire Department, goes through pump operations on the pump panel on a fire truck. While Airman Padgett works the pump panel, a pair of his fellow firefighters are clearing the smoke from a building during training.

Skin Doctors

By Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

Like dermatologists for aircraft, troops from the fabrication shop diagnose and repair problems on the skin, or exterior, of the wing's fleet of C-130s.

As any doctor knows, the work sometimes gets messy. The team routinely applies touchup paint to aircraft to keep it protected.

"It's just like wearing a raincoat or sunscreen. Paint offers overall protection from the elements for the aircraft," said Master Sgt. Ron Balius, sheetmetal specialist. "Once paint deteriorates, it's like cancer. A spot of rust will grow into a much bigger problem."

These docs don't have a chilly operating room to work in. They take care

of their patients on the boiling flightline. Carrying all the tools they need in their EZ-Go ambulance, the team makes housecalls to each C-130. While diagnosing the problem areas, they circle the aircraft and confer to make a final decision as to which parts are in need of paint.

Most of their routine checkups lead to feathering (sanding) metal parts of the aircraft, applying primer and touching up deteriorated spots. They never paint the whole aircraft – they just keep it looking sharp in between its head-to-toe extreme makeover, which happens every six years at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

One of the things Sergeant Balius and the team said they enjoy most about the job is the variety of work.

"We're like the fire department because it's never one set thing everyday," said Sergeant Balius. "When the phone rings, it could be anything."

Sometimes they're called to replace major aircraft parts, like rivets, engine mounts or bathtub fittings, responsible for pivoting the ramps on C-130s. With a broken ramp, the Flying Jennies would have a tough time airdropping cargo.

Other calls are sometimes entertaining, said Sergeant Balius.

"One of the funniest calls we had was to replace a piece of Velcro on a C-130 – that has nothing to do with sheet metal," said Sergeant Balius.

Whatever the diagnosis, the "skin doctors" are always there to ensure correct treatment of their "patients."



Photo by Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce

On a scorching hot afternoon, Mr. Ron Balius prepares for a touch-up paint job on a C-130J. An Air Reserve Technician, Master Sgt. Balius began his military career in the Army as a sheet metal and ejection-seat mechanic. His childhood love of aircraft brought him to the fab shop where he has worked ever since.



Photo by Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce



Photo by Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce

(Left) Mr. Robert Clancy applies some touch up paint to a wing of a 403rd C-130J. Clancy, a master sergeant and air reserve technician, has been with the unit for more than 18 years.

(Above) The fabrication shop team, or "skin doctors" of aircraft, consists of 14 Reservists, half of them serving as air reserve technicians for the wing. (left to right) are Clancy, Chris Mayfield and Balius.



Kitchen in a BOX

By Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer



The SPEK fully set up and ready to serve.



Courtesy Photos, U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center

Services troops prepare the serving line inside the SPEK for hungry Airmen. With the SPEK, Services can accommodate 550 people.

Napoleon once said an army marches on its stomach. That's the basic idea behind the Air Force's newest way to provide hot meals to troops in the field, the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen.

Five members of the 403rd Services Flight were recently trained on the SPEK at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. They were part of a group of 22 Reservists who learned how to set up and operate the mobile kitchen.

Attending from the 403rd were Senior Master Sgt. Marquis Westry, Tech. Sgt. James Darouse, Staff Sgt. Tara Lewis, Senior Airman Angela Bailey-Meeks and Senior Airman Aaron McKenzie.

The rapidly deployable, temporary kitchen will replace the Mobile Kitchen Trailer as the unit used to deliver meals in remote and undeveloped locations. A TEMPER tent equipped with interior lighting houses the cooking and serving equipment. The SPEK is capable of serving up to 550 troops in a two-hour period twice-a-day for up to 45 days.

According to Sergeant Westry, the SPEK is much more efficient than the MKT, partly because of a new piece of equipment known as the Babington Airtronic Burner used to prepare meals.

"The Airtronic is much cleaner burning than the old M2 burner, and it uses less fuel," he said.

The M2, which has been in service since 1959, burns gasoline and uses a generator that requires preheating before actual burner lighting. It also has a checkered safety record. The Airtronic burner uses diesel but is capable of burning any combustible liquid, including liquids such as peanut oil. It employs the unique Babington fuel-atomization technique to achieve high-efficiency, reliable, smokeless operation. As a safety feature, it also has an automatic turn-off if the shelter rolls over. A 30-degree tilt on either side or a 60-degree tilt front-to-back causes the burner to shut off automatically.

The SPEK is used to prepare ration packs known as UGR - Unitized Group Rations - that come ready to heat and serve. They are referred to by Services personnel as "tray packs." The hermetically sealed tray packs contain thermally

processed, pre-prepared, shelf-stable foods with a shelf life of at least 18 months at 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The tray packs also serve as the heating pan and serving tray. Tray packs are boiled for approximately 45 minutes in a tray ration heater, which can hold up to 18 tray packs at a time.

Currently, the UGRs are offered with seven breakfast menus and 14 lunch/dinner menus. Breakfast options include omelet with ham and potatoes, turkey sausage links and scrambled eggs with turkey sausage and potatoes. Lunch/dinner offerings include chicken breast in gravy, spaghetti and meatballs, veal parmesan and sweet and sour pork.

The SPEK also features a Field Sanitation Unit comprised of a triple sink to wash, rinse and sanitize utensils and pans. It is equipped with an Airtronic Burner Assembly that heats the water in each sink to a pre-determined temperature range.

As its name implies, the SPEK fits onto a single air cargo pallet and can be transported by air or ground. The entire SPEK can be set up by eight people in less than two hours and requires a four-person crew to operate the equipment and serve the food.

Training at Dobbins consisted of classroom time and hands-on training in a simulated field environment. Members of the 403rd team unloaded a palletized SPEK, set it up, and prepared a meal in the unit.

"It was pretty easy to set up," said Sergeant Darouse, assistant NCO-in-charge of Readiness. "The best thing about SPEK is that it requires less manpower to set up and the Babington Burner System will make it easier than the M2 burner."

"Basically, we'll be able to provide all personnel in the field a hot meal and a wide variety of food compared to the MRE," Sergeant Darouse said. "It will be a morale booster. Everybody likes to have a hot meal in the field."

Currently, the 403rd Services Flight has only a few components of the SPEK, but will eventually have an entire SPEK in its inventory. According to Sergeant Westry, 403rd Services personnel will be ready to use it.

"After going through the training, we feel pretty comfortable with it," he said.



Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. James B. Pritchett

- ◆ The new Single Pallet Expeditionary kitchen fits onto one C-130, 463L load pallet
- ◆ Can be operated by as few as four Airmen
- ◆ Takes eight Airmen four hours to set up and two additional hours to begin service
- ◆ Serves up to 550 troops in a two-hour period
- ◆ Is capable of sustaining 550 troops for two meals per day for 45 days
- ◆ Offers a wider variety of meal choices, building on the Meals Ready to



- ◆ Eat group of rations
- ◆ Unitized Group Rations have seven breakfast meals and 14 lunch/dinner menus
- ◆ Add-ons such as the griddle system

will allow Services to prepare "A-Rations" which is fresh food such as hamburgers, chicken breasts and an endless variety of foods based on availability

- ◆ A new convection oven will also allow for greater flexibility for Air Force chefs who want to prepare baked goods such as cakes or cornbread
- ◆ Sanitation is greatly improved, allowing Services personnel to clean up faster. It has fewer working parts and is more robust



Photo by 1st Lt. Ashley Norris, 97th AMW/PA

Master Sgt. David Champagne, 41st Aerial Port Squadron and Master Sgt. Wes Askew, 97th Air Mobility Wing, chain down a fire truck in a C-5 at Gulfport National Guard Base, Miss. for return to Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas. The firetruck was airlifted to Biloxi as part of the Air Force's post-Hurricane Katrina response.

Disaster Diaries

APS Troops Happy to Have Work

By Staff Sgt. J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

Despite the devastating blows from Hurricane Katrina, Reservists of the 41st Aerial Port Squadron, including those who lost everything, continued their mission without a snag.

Around mid September, seven people from 41st APS teamed with active duty at Keesler to help with Coast wide hurricane relief. Three of these seven troops had lost everything. Nevertheless, they got to work.

Their roles as members of an aerial port squadron were unloading cargo from aircraft such as MREs, water and other supplies, as well as loading it onto pallets and even sometimes delivering it to relief distribution centers around the Coast.

"I'll tell you one thing: the problem about people coming to work after losing everything wasn't a problem for me," said Senior Master Sgt. Sherita Johnson, supervisor, 41st APS. "All my guys came in and worked 12 hours a day and we released them when they

needed to handle personal situations like with FEMA, and they stepped up and did their jobs as usual."

During the mission, the troops assisted in downloading nearly 29 thousand tons of cargo from two dozen aircraft.

Senior Airman Darrell Williams, one of the troops who suffered a total loss from Katrina, reported willingly for duty.

"I was just thankful I still had a place to work," he said, also thanking compassionate comrades for their concern during this tough time.

Sergeant Williams lived in New Orleans about 10 minutes from the Superdome in an apartment complex that became a dirty aquarium for three weeks until the water subsided from the city. The seminary his wife attended and where he worked as a civilian was also flooded and condemned.

Like a great deal of others, he and his wife Noelle left their home with lonely hands after several false alarms.

"We've left for so many hurricanes, and each time we didn't take as much," he said. "We took clothes and wedding pictures."

They returned to their apartment to be told it was environmentally unsafe to enter, and they have yet to return.

With a smile on his face, Sergeant Williams reported for work for his 12 hour shifts, driving an hour or two each way for the first two weeks and on the weekends entertained residents Coast wide by performing in his Poison tribute band.

"When the hurricane hit, I was working in the day and playing [in the band] at night," he said. "I'm just happy the Air Force Reserve offered me an opportunity to come back to work and give back to other guys who didn't have anything – that's what I wanted to do."

While working for a month at 41st APS, he and the band performed in New Orleans, Biloxi and Mobile. Soon after his tour at Keesler, he and Noelle

moved to Charlotte, Ill., to stay near family. Despite the move to Illinois, he wants to continue to serve as a Reservist with the 403rd Wing.

"They're good friends and it's like a big family," he said.

Master Sgt. Ronney Spradlin is another reservist from 41st APS who suffered losses from Katrina. He had evacuated to Arkansas, and heard good news that his house had weathered the storm. When he returned, however, his house wasn't as squeaky clean as reported.

"When I walked in and the carpet started squishing, I knew I was in trouble," he said.

He arrived at his home the Friday after the storm to find that it had taken in nearly three feet of water – all his furniture was ruined, as well as other priceless items like photographs. He had a big mess on his hands, but put it all aside and reported for work the next day, he moved into temporary lodging on base and began helping his squadron help others.

"I feel good about what we did – we were able to make several trips downtown delivering supplies, water and food to D'Iberville and Waveland," he said. "These people needed more help than I did, and that's why I was helping them."

After hours, troops from 41st APS spent time with Sergeant Spradlin, helping him clear his house of the moldy mess Katrina left. He said he was happy to have friends like these.

"With the support I received, I can't complain about anything – I'd be selfish if I did."

Other 41st APS troops are currently supporting contingencies in several places around the globe. Sergeant Johnson said all of the aerial porters are scheduled to return home soon.

(Top Right) Many aerial porters came right back to work at Keesler after Katrina. These APS folks are unloading a generator when the wing's aircraft returned in November.

(Right) One group of aerial porters deployed to the AOR in support of OEF sent in this group shot.

(Back row left to right) Staff Sgt. Joshua McFarland, Senior Master Sgt. James Childs, Senior Airman Mario Rockingham, Staff Sgt. Alexander Cruz, Tech. Sgt. Edward Thomas. Front row left to right) Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Holmes, Tech. Sgt. William Grady, Staff Sgt. Robert Barr, Tech. Sgt. James Case and Staff Sgt. Joseph Beiring. In addition to this team there are other APS teams currently deployed in the U.S. and overseas.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Dine



Courtesy Photo 41st APS

Hurricane Hunters Close Out Record Season

By Tech. Sgt. James B. Pritchett
Editor

The "Hurricane Hunters" of Air Force Reserve Command's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron flew their last mission of the record 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season in December.

Squadron aircrews flew more than 145 missions into 25 storms and logged more than 1,500 flight hours. They did this while flying a new aircraft and operating from another base.

The hurricane season typically runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. But this year the season started early. The unit flew into Hurricane Adrian in the Pacific

Ocean off the coast of Central America in the third week of May. In early December, squadron aircrews flew into Hurricane Epsilon -- the season's 14th Atlantic hurricane and only the fifth December storm recorded in more than 120 years.

The unit met another milestone, flying every mission in the new WC-130J Hercules. This ushered in a new era in weather reconnaissance for the Hurricane Hunters, who are part of the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

"We completed conversion to the J-model two years ahead of schedule," wing commander Brig. Gen. Richard R. Moss said. "This is the culmination of a lot of work enabling the WC-130J to perform its mission."

General Moss said his crews are excited about the new aircraft and that they improved the unit's ability to provide data to forecasters and decision makers when it was most needed.

"Increased situational awareness of the crew and the increased safety of the J-model's performance enhance the unit's ability to locate and monitor the intensity of these dangerous storms," he said.

Hurricane Katrina, which struck the Hurricane Hunters' home Aug. 29, provided the unit's biggest challenge. When the massive storm crashed into the Gulf Coast, it caused widespread damage to facilities and infrastructure at Keesler and in the surrounding communities. At Keesler, many of the unit's facilities sustained damage. A few suffered severe damage, including the wing's headquarters. It is estimated

that repairs will cost between \$30 million and \$40 million.

The wing evacuated its aircraft before the storm to locations in Texas. The Hurricane Hunters continued flying reconnaissance missions from Ellington Field, located near Houston, throughout the storm.

Initial damage assessments in Mississippi made it clear the wing's aircraft would not be able to return home immediately. While many reservists and civilians working for the 403rd returned to begin cleanup, the aviation mission was moved to a temporary location.

"We deployed all our aircraft to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., and continued supporting the hurricane reconnaissance mission without a single missed tasking," General Moss said.

More than 200 people also went to Dobbins. General Moss said many of those had lost their homes to Katrina, yet knew the importance of keeping the mission going. More than 25 percent of the wing's people suffered severe loss or total destruction of their homes.

Topical Storm Zeta, which capped the season just before the new year, did not threaten land and did not require the unit to perform any taskings. This storm was also a rarity coming so late in December, according to the National Weather Service.

After the season, the Hurricane Hunters were not through flying. Before the season ended, the unit was already tracking winter storms to help forecasters determine the severity of Nor'easters and other winter weather activity off both coasts.

New commandwide anti-drug initiative begins

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Supply and demand are part of life in America. Unfortunately, that life includes a large supply of abused legal and illegal drugs.

In an effort to reduce the demand for these drugs, Air Force Reserve Command began its "True Blue" campaign commandwide in April 2005.

"In the past, anti-drug or anti-substance abuse efforts were all negative and centered on disciplinary action," said Dr. Don Jenrette, the command's drug demand reduction program manager. "Our new True Blue initiative promotes healthy living, career-minded sets and career role models."

Trial runs of the new initiative exceeded planners' goals during May - November 2004 at the 440th Airlift Wing, located at General Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Milwaukee, Wis.

"We focused the trial test around four themes," said Ms. Bobbie Sellers, AFRC's drug demand reduction specialist. "We worked to raise awareness of what reservists should value over substance abuse and what they can do to protect their health, career and family and fulfill their leadership role with others."

Since 1998, the primary emphasis of AFRC's Drug Demand Reduction Program was detection through random military and civilian drug testing.

The new True Blue initiative showcases positive and healthy life choices. It introduces Reservists and other command members to a new logo, themes and messages that are communicated by a dedicated website, with downloadable in-house developed posters, video streams, tri-fold pamphlets and other educational venues encouraging people to be free of substance abuse and where to go for help.

"Our goal, while a lofty one, is to have a workplace free of substance abuse," said Dr. Jenrette. "In the profession of arms, our people often put their lives in the hands of their co-workers. We cannot afford to have people on the team who are not at the top of their game or incapacitated by substance abuse -- after all, we are talking about a matter of life and death."

The mission of the AFRC Drug Demand Reduction Program is to enhance readiness by eliminating substance abuse through prevention, education, community outreach and drug testing.

"In the past, we have used handouts

such as pencils, writing pads, calculators and water bottles to get the substance abuse-free message out there," said Dr. Jenrette. "We'll continue to provide the promotional items, but our targeted four theme approach is something brand new that our reservists really responded to in a positive way in Milwaukee. On a larger scale we're looking forward to reaping similar benefits by launching this initiative commandwide."

The 440th Airlift Wing has 1,300 reservists, with more than 300 serving overseas to support the Global War on Terrorism. The True Blue brand is designed to symbolize reservists who are "twice the citizen": working and volunteering in their local communities and serving their country.

The program's vision is for Air Force True Blue reservists to set the standard and lead the way to a substance abuse-free community. Reservists can learn more about the program by going to the True Blue link on the restricted AFRC Web site. While visiting the site, planners encourage visitors to take a moment to complete a survey.

"We strongly encourage feedback," said Dr. Jenrette.

AFRC News Service

2006 Pay Chart

Reserve Pay for 4 Drills

Effective Jan. 1, 2006

Commissioned Officers	Years of Service															
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	
O-8	\$1,102.80	\$1,138.92	\$1,162.88	\$1,169.60	\$1,199.48	\$1,249.48	\$1,261.08	\$1,308.56	\$1,322.16	\$1,363.04	\$1,422.16	\$1,476.72	\$1,513.16	\$1,513.16	\$1,513.16	
O-7	\$916.36	\$958.92	\$978.64	\$994.28	\$1,022.64	\$1,050.60	\$1,083.00	\$1,115.32	\$1,147.72	\$1,249.48	\$1,335.44	\$1,335.44	\$1,335.44	\$1,335.44	\$1,342.20	
O-6	\$679.20	\$746.16	\$795.12	\$795.12	\$798.12	\$832.36	\$836.88	\$836.88	\$884.44	\$968.52	\$1,017.88	\$1,067.20	\$1,095.28	\$1,123.68	\$1,178.84	
O-5	\$566.20	\$637.80	\$682.00	\$690.28	\$717.80	\$734.32	\$770.56	\$797.16	\$831.48	\$884.08	\$909.08	\$933.84	\$961.92	\$961.92	\$961.92	
O-4	\$488.52	\$565.52	\$603.24	\$611.68	\$646.68	\$684.24	\$730.96	\$767.44	\$792.72	\$807.24	\$815.68	\$815.68	\$815.68	\$815.68	\$815.68	
O-3	\$429.52	\$486.92	\$525.56	\$573.00	\$600.40	\$630.52	\$650.04	\$682.12	\$698.76	\$698.76	\$698.76	\$698.76	\$698.76	\$698.76	\$698.76	
O-2	\$371.08	\$422.68	\$486.80	\$503.24	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	\$513.60	
O-1	\$322.16	\$335.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	\$405.28	
Enlisted Members																
E-9							\$536.28	\$548.44	\$563.76	\$581.80	\$599.92	\$629.04	\$653.64	\$679.60	\$719.20	
E-8						\$439.00	\$458.44	\$470.44	\$484.84	\$500.44	\$528.60	\$542.88	\$567.16	\$580.64	\$613.80	
E-7	\$305.16	\$333.08	\$345.84	\$362.76	\$375.92	\$398.60	\$411.32	\$424.04	\$446.72	\$458.08	\$468.84	\$475.44	\$497.68	\$512.08	\$548.48	
E-6	\$263.96	\$290.40	\$303.24	\$315.68	\$328.68	\$358.00	\$369.40	\$382.04	\$393.16	\$397.08	\$399.80	\$399.80	\$399.80	\$399.80	\$399.80	
E-5	\$241.88	\$258.04	\$270.48	\$283.28	\$303.16	\$320.28	\$332.88	\$336.88	\$336.88	\$336.88	\$336.88	\$336.88	\$336.88	\$336.88	\$336.88	
E-4	\$221.72	\$233.08	\$245.68	\$258.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	\$269.12	
E-3	\$200.16	\$212.76	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	\$225.60	
E-2	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	\$190.32	
E-1	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	\$169.80	
E-1 with less than 4 months	\$157.08															

Source: Office of Personnel Management. For more information see www.dod.mil/dfas/money/milpay/pay/



During a training mission in January, Master Sgt. Tony Hlavac, a weather reconnaissance loadmaster, reflected on the season.

Photo by Maj. Chad Gibson, 53rd WRS, IJPAR

New Medals approved for Katrina relief

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—Servicemembers and civilians who took part in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts may be eligible for a medal.

The director of the Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal for U.S. military personnel. Department of Defense civilians may receive the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal.

To qualify for the HSM, servicemembers must have provided direct support to immediate relief operations for at least one day in the area of eligibility — east of and including Houston, Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi -- from Aug. 29 to Oct. 13, 2005.

Servicemembers eligible to receive the AFSM must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the continental United States from Aug. 27, 2005, to Feb. 27, 2006 — minus the specific area and time-period used to qualify for the HSM.

If a member receives an HSM for Katrina relief operations, he or she cannot receive a second HSM for Rita. The same applies for the AFSM. However, people who receive the HSM may later qualify for the AFSM.

To qualify for the AFCSM, civilians must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the same area of eligibility and period as the AFSM.

Eligible Air Force personnel must provide proof of entitlement to their servicing military personnel flight or civilian personnel office. Supporting documentation may consist of assignment orders, temporary duty orders or travel vouchers, a decoration citation, an enlisted or officer performance report reflecting participation or other official documentation that verifies participation.

Air Force Print News

ARPC Automates Letters

DENVER — The Air Reserve Personnel Center set another transformation milestone with the self-service automation of the reissue of 20-year and mortgage letters.

The letters are now available via the Virtual Personnel Center Guard/Reserve portal.

The original 20-year notification letter is issued approximately 120 days after the end of the retention/retirement year at the 20-year mark for Guard and Reserve Airmen. Once the data system reflects 20 years of satisfactory service, it issues the notification letter.

The new automated process enables retirees to replace misplaced 20-year letters automatically by visiting the website below.

The personnel center has also automated the mortgage letter, which assists reservists with information regarding their retired pay benefits for mortgage applications.

Web Link: <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support.asp>

Reservists in the process of purchasing a new home may go online to the website, sign in and print out a verification of the amount of gross retired pay they'll receive.

Air Force reservists can now go online to create an account on the Reserve Personnel Center's Virtual Personnel Center-Guard/Reserve portal. The portal on the personnel center's website allows reservists to access virtual personnel services and enhances the traditional "vMPF" tools with which many Airmen are already familiar.

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

Team Effort in AOR puts Boots on ground, makes transport safer

SOUTHWEST ASIA—The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing lived up to its motto of "Boots on the Ground" when it recently transported its 1 millionth passenger in just more than two years.

The wing reached this historic milestone when it transported 10 Army soldiers to their destination within the area of responsibility in support.

"The more convoys we can keep off the road, the safer we make it for our soldiers," said Col. Timothy Hale, wing commander. "That's a million people who didn't have to get on a truck or a bus and drive up the most dangerous highway in the world."

The wing is also putting up record-breaking numbers in cargo, according to Lt. Col. Pollyanna Montgomery, 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander. Since October 2003, airlift has delivered more than 75,000 tons of cargo to destinations throughout the AOR.

"To transport more than 1 million passengers, it would have taken more than 22,300 45-passenger buses traveling into potentially dangerous areas," said Colonel Hale. "To transport the same amount of cargo, it would have taken more than 10,000 trucks conveying their way throughout Iraq."

Air Force Print News

Domestic Violence

Early Detection, Prevention Essential to Military

By Col. Maria de los A. Pons
Commander, 403rd ASTS

As a physician and military commander, I believe in early detection, prevention and treatment.

The subject of domestic violence was recently briefed to commanders when 403rd Judge Advocate General, Maj. Patricia Beyer, explained the implications of the "Lautenberg Amendment" in our military life. I want to share this information with you and propose some ways to avoid it.

Serious Consequences

The consequences to a military career if convicted of domestic violence are found in the Lautenberg Amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968 and became effective Sept. 30, 1996.

They are severe consequences and preclude the continuation of a military career.

The Lautenberg Amendment makes it a felony for anyone convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms or ammunition.

The law also makes it possible to charge superiors who furnish weapons or ammunition to Airmen knowing, or having reason to believe that the member has qualifying convictions.

My curiosity led me to seek out more information about this issue and to research how domestic violence might be prevented before it affects military members and their families.

What is domestic violence?

Acts of domestic violence are most likely committed by adults toward a family member or another person whom they know well.

Impulsive aggressive behavior is a trait commonly found in those who commit domestic violence. A person who is impulsive fails to resist the temptation to explode when faced with tension.

This violent expression can occur suddenly or as stress increases gradually until it reaches an explosive



Col. Maria de los A. Pons

social norms coupled with a disregard for the rights of others.

While these personality traits are red flags in the arena of domestic violence, they are not the best indicators. Neither is gender because the frequency is equal among men and women.

The best indicator that someone is prone to this kind of behavior is simply having a prior history of violent acts whether physical or verbal.

Avoiding Domestic Violence

We have to control our frustrations which can escalate into aggression. These are environmental factors which people can learn to avoid. The military provides counseling services that can ease the strain of tense living conditions, such as those experienced by people living on the Coast after Katrina, in conjunction with a deployment or just the day-to-day stresses of life.

Avoid direct provocation, physical and verbal taunts between marital partners often elicit aggressive action. Mild verbal slurs or glancing blows may initiate an aggressive response.

One thing each individual can do to help himself is to improve social skills, communicate effectively with your family, improve your capacity for handling stress, develop your sense of humor and confront situations with a positive attitude.

Substance abuse is another factor that can lead to domestic violence. The military provides information, services and counseling to any member who is having problems with drugs or alcohol. Learn more about the warning signs of substance abuse and know when and where to find help.

If you are unable to control your frustration, impulsivity and aggression seek medical assistance.

From my personal, medical and military experience, it is my strong opinion that detection and early treatment is the key to preventing domestic violence. We have a lot to lose from this problem if it is overlooked.

crescendo.

Aggressive behavior is any form that harms or injures another. It constitutes a multiple-determined act that often results in physical or verbal injury to one's self, others or to property.

In my research on domestic violence I learned that there are many personality traits that can show a tendency toward domestic violence but I am going to highlight only a few here.

It is my opinion, that the indicators of domestic violence which can be modified are personality disorders, the environment and substance abuse.

The three personality disorders most often found as contributors to domestic violence are:

ICD – impulse control disorder – intermittent explosive disorder, pathological gambling, self mutilation, sexual impulsivity, etc.

BPD – borderline personality disorder – characterized by unstable affect, mood, behavior and self-image.

ASPD – antisocial personality disorder – lack of ability to conform to



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Michael Dolbe

Out with the Old

Senior Airman Angela Wuest, an aerospace propulsion technician with the 403rd Maintenance Squadron's engine shop, prepares a C-130H model propeller for shipment to another unit. The 403rd Wing has officially transitioned to the C-130J-30 and WC-130J. All of the H-models have been or will soon be re-allocated to other units along with the inventory of spare parts.

Gulf Wing Go-Getter



The Gulf Wing is printed for people of the 403rd Wing, like Master Sgt. Elijah Ramsey of the 403rd Wing Safety Office.

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To The Family Of: