



Flying Jennies receive final C-130J-30

By Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks
Staff Writer

A crew from the 815th Airlift Squadron will deliver the unit's final C-130J-30 aircraft to Keesler Tuesday after taking delivery from the manufacturer at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

Maj. Gen. Hanferd "Rusty" J. Moen Jr. was selected to pilot the aircraft from Georgia to Mississippi. General Moen is the Director of Intelligence, Air, Space and Information Operations, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Delivery ends a conversion to the J-model that began Oct. 12, 1999. The 815th AS, also known as the Flying Jennies, has been instrumental in the process of qualifying the J-model for combat. The unit has participated in testing and evaluation of this new weapons system since 1998.

Most recently, the unit was deployed to Central and South America to assist U.S. Southern Command with drug interdiction efforts. In the past, they have deployed an aircraft and aircrews to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Their participation in the Air Force's first combat deployment of the new C-130J-30 a "stretched" version of the aircraft, proved it can travel faster, farther and higher than older Hercules while carrying more troops and equipment.

This delivery fleshes out the full complement of aircraft for the 403rd Wing.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks

Senior Airman A. Z. McKenzie, services specialist, makes adjustments to a Babington Burner before lighting it up during the November UTA. The new burner is far safer and more efficient.

HOT MEALS • Services Fires Up New Mobile Kitchen

By Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks
Staff Writer

Meal-to-meal is the way many Airmen mark time in the field. A biological clock sounds the alarm that lets them know it is time for chow as the smells of hot rations steam from the kitchen.

In the past, troops filed through the old cramped Mobile Kitchen Trailer. Today, Services specialists have a new way to prepare those hot meals. The Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, a deployable tent loaded with the latest in cooking and food preparation technology, is where most Airmen will go to ward off their hunger in the field.

A team from the 403rd Services

Flight "Prime Beef" were excited to try out their first SPEK at November's Unit Training Assembly. They spent the weekend putting together and preparing meals in the deployable kitchen that has taken the place of the MKT.

"It is a lot more convenient than the MKT," said Senior Airman Zandra Thigpen. "It only takes 45 minutes to warm the burner and another 45 minutes to cook the food."

Thigpen was a Services specialist with the 926th Fighter Wing at New Orleans Naval Air Station and was transferred to the 403rd after Hurricane Katrina. She and a small group from the unit went to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. in September

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for training on the SPEK. The team spent a week learning how to assemble, store and take care of the SPEK. They also explored the safety aspects of working with new equipment in the portable kitchen.

Master Sgt. Jeff Mulvaney and Tech. Sgt. Kelly Kruger, Services combat instructors from Dobbins, came to the 403rd UTA to help teach the flight how to set up a SPEK.

“Within four hours, we can have the tent built and a meal prepared,” said Mulvaney.

The SPEK is equipped with a 3-section Temper Tent with specialized flooring, the Multi-Ration Heater and generator, a three compartment sink, cleaning supplies and safety equipment such as an eye wash and fire extinguishers loaded onto a standard palette that is highly mobilized, according to Mulvaney.

The crew spent most of Saturday setting up the kitchen. They built the tent and set down the flooring. After they moved in the tables and other equipment, Kruger explained the process of lighting and using the Babington Burner, the heating source for the MRH which runs on diesel fuel.

Sunday morning, the flight spent

some time troubleshooting a difficult burner while Kruger showed them how to make quick field repairs. There will always be technical difficulties, she said.

When everything was ready to go, they began to prepare Unitized Group Rations for lunch. The MRH can feed up to 550 Airmen in a two-hour time period more than doubling the capacity of the the MKT which could only fed up to 250 people per meal.

The SPEK is definitely more efficient than the MKT and is also much safer, according to Staff Sgt. Wayne Cox, Services specialist.

“The MKT was so small and ran on compressed unleaded gasoline,” said Cox. “If the burner got too hot, we had to shut everything down. We might as well have been sitting on a bomb.”

The SPEK is spacious and allows more comfort for the Services workers leaving less room for injuries, according to Cox.

The 403rd will continue to train in the SPEK so that they are well prepared in case of deployment to an undeveloped location where this efficient, temporary kitchen would be necessary. It normally serves up to 30 days in the field or until an expanded bare base kitchen is built.

Food Services Technicians from 403rd Services “Prime Beef” complete the first set up of the unit’s new Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen. After spending a day practicing erecting the structure and preparing the work areas, the team fired up the system’s more efficient Babington Burners and started warming the Muli-Ration Heaters. The team can get the tent set up in about four hours.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks

Gulf Wing back in print

By Tech. Sgt. James B. Pritchett
Editor

This issue of the Gulf Wing Lite is the first print edition of the wing newsletter since Katrina. In addition to a few hundred print copies available in the Public Affairs Office, this issue will also be posted on the 403rd Wing’s public website at www.403wg.afrc.af.mil.

There are also a number of great stories about what the wing has been up to for the past year posted on the site.

A new contract that will bring the full version of the magazine back into circulation is currently out for bid and is expected to be completed soon. In the meantime, Public Affairs will be producing this newsletter “in-house.”

For those of you who have story ideas or photos to share stop by PA and visit us in our new office on the second floor of the newly renovated headquarters building. We are always looking for your input and will certainly need submissions for upcoming issues.

Unit Public Affairs Representatives are encouraged to stop by during the UTA to pick up a few hardcopies of the newsletter to share in you units and share your story ideas.

Since our last publication, PA has welcomed Maj. Chad Gibson, formerly an aerial reconnaissance weather officer with the 53rd WRS as our new Chief of Public Affairs. Major Gibson is available to answer questions about employer relations and will lead the community relations and media relations efforts of the office.

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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, 2005
1st Place, Best Magazine, AFRC Media Contest, 1989, 2003, 2004, 2005

www.403wg.afrc.af.mil

For information or to share a story or photo, call the 403rd Wing Public Affairs Office at

228-377-2056

FY2007 UTA DATES

10-11	February
3-4	March
14-15	April
5-6	May
9-10	June
14-15	July
4-5	August
8-9	September





Photo by Jessica Brady

A new roof tops the 403rd Wing Headquarters after construction was completed in October. Some staff agencies are beginning the process of moving into their freshly renovated quarters during the January UTA. The unique triangular shape of the building was an award-winning design when it was built.

Wing Headquarters ready for tenants

Staff agencies are on the move during the January UTA as contractors are completing work on the 403rd Wing Headquarters building.

Since Hurricane Katrina caused significant damage to the building and furnishings in August 2005, people were displaced to several separate facilities. Many of the agencies, including the command section moved into temporary trailers in early 2006.

Visitors and occupants of the refurbished headquarters will notice many changes including tiled hallways on the first floor and inset tiles bearing the wing shield in the foyer.

Demolition inside was completed by 403rd CES in the weeks following the storm, however, before interior work could begin, contractors had to install a pitched roof to prevent flooding.

Interior renovations began in mid-2006 with furniture going in quickly at the end of the year.

This is one of many construction projects the wing faces in coming months and years. Currently the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron building is under renovation and the 403rd Maintenance Group is close to completing planning for a new maintenance complex. A new facility is also planned for the 403rd ASTS.



Photo by 2nd Lt. J. Justin Pearce

Tiles adorned with the 403rd Wing shield spruce up the foyer in the freshly renovated wing headquarters building.



Road to ORI Paved with Practice

By Col. Richard Haddad
Vice Commander, 403rd Wing

As we look back on the past year since Hurricane Katrina, Keesler Air Force Base continues to make major strides.

Construction projects can be seen in every corner of the base, millions of dollars are being spent and the base's complexion is becoming new and improved in contrast to pre-Katrina.

In spite of these interruptions to our infrastructure, the operations and training of our Airmen continue at a record pace. For example, the 81st Training Wing currently has more students than prior to Aug. 29, 2005, and the 403rd Wing is currently manned at 113 percent.

What's my point? In one word: **READINESS**. In order to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow our Airmen must quickly overcome obstacles in their path, such as Katrina, and continue to meet and exceed our training and operational commitments.

We must never lose our resolve and hold ourselves to the highest standards.

To put this in perspective: any person joining the Air Force after Sept. 11, 2001 has known nothing but war. Because of this, they must be prepared to support our forces in the Area of Responsibility or to be called on to fill an Air Expeditionary Force commitment in the AOR.

We all must be vigilant, trained and ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

We all are responsible for ensuring a high degree of readiness. The Air Force Inspector General has communicated to Air Force leadership we are meeting our obligations as having the best trained and equipped Airmen in the world. As both the 81st TRW and the 403rd Wing prepare for ORIs next year we must not only be ready for war, but we must also be ready to demonstrate readiness through checklists, documentation, communication, preparedness and execution. This is accomplished by having the right culture to effectively plan and execute our mission anytime, anyplace and anywhere.

The Air Mobility Command's IG Web page provides all the ingredients to produce outstanding results for the ORI.



Col. Richard Haddad

With these tools, there is no excuse for anything less than excellence. The Web pages catalog best practices and explain with detail the importance of Ability To Survive and Operate training, Mission Essential Tasks Lists, and lists many other tools needed to produce outstanding results.

The IG also recommends 10 practices that will dazzle the inspection team. Competence, responsiveness, attitude, readiness, aggressiveness, appearance, safety, leadership, followership and pride make up these practices.

I realize many may have mixed feelings about an ORI, but I will submit this analogy: If a sports team arrived at an event without effectively planning and training, what kind of performance would you expect to see?

In a recent promotion ceremony, a new brigadier general recalled a book written about the famous NFL coach Vince Lombardi titled "When Pride Still Mattered."

In the book, Coach Lombardi said "Winning is everything." While this may or may not be the case on the football field, it has to be the case in our Air Force.

Overage Opportunity Available

Are you at the top of your game and ready for a new challenge? If you are, you might consider retraining into AFSC, 3S1X1, Military Equal Opportunity.

A technical sergeant overage slot is currently available with the 403rd Wing Military Equal Opportunity staff. The minimum grade to retrain into 3S1X1 is staff sergeant, with prior qualification in any AFSC at 5-skill level or higher.

The member's retrainee application package requires a memorandum from the individual stating his or her reasons for wanting to retrain into the career field and a written recommendation from the unit commander.

Prescreening requirements also include an observation period of four UTAs with the MEO office to observe the candidate's written/verbal communication skills.

Upon selection, the candidate will kick off this new endeavor by completing a 9-module distance learning prerequisite course followed by an in-residence 4.5-week formal technical school located at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base in sunny Florida.

MEO key duties and responsibilities are primarily instructing Human Relations Education classes, conducting Unit Climate Assessments, and counseling/assistance in processing discrimination complaints.

If you are interested in exploring this dynamic AFSC and joining the elite 403rd wing staff, please contact Capt. Reginald Elzy or Lt. Col. Jamie Correll for an interview at 377-4445 or 377-9027 or email them at Reginald.elzy@keesler.af.mil or jamiel.correll@keesler.af.mil.

403rd MEO

Useful websites
<https://private.omc.af.mil/ig/html/index.cfm>
<https://wwwmil.22af.afrc.af.mil/mcp/403aw/403msg/403LRS/IGX/igxhomepage.asp>

