

Deep Freeze members commemorate Antarctica base's 50th anniversary

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (AFNEWS) – Members of Operation Deep Freeze participated in events to commemorate the base's 50th anniversary Jan. 20 at Scott Base on Ross Island in Antarctica.

Antarctica New Zealand sponsored the event, which invited U.S. and New Zealand diplomats and political leaders.

The National Science Foundation, as manager of the U.S. Antarctic Program, hosted the U.S. contingent, known as Joint Task Force, Support Forces Antarctica, Operation Deep Freeze.

A bulldozer and a party of Seabees from McMurdo Station leveled the site where Scott Base now stands Jan. 10, 1957, beginning 50 years of cooperative effort between the United States and New Zealand.

Sir Edmund Hillary, present



Courtesy photo
Sir Edmund Hillary, left, autographs a book for Lt. Col. Greg Pyke, 97th Airlift Squadron, during a trip to Scott Base on Ross Island in Antarctica.

at the weekend's events, was leader of the group that founded the base, and has always given a gracious debt of gratitude to U.S. Navy Adm. George Dufek,

then-Operation Deep Freeze commander who assisted in the effort to establish the permanent residency by the New Zealanders.

JTF SFA is the U.S. Air Force-led joint task force conducting Operation Deep Freeze,

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Safety garners command-level award

By **Sandra Pishner**
 Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash., – If a unit flies 10,047 hours, carrying more than 32,000 people and 41 million tons of cargo, much of it in and out of a war zone, with zero reportable mishaps, it gets more than a great safety record.

The 446th Airlift Wing Safety Office has earned the designation Air Force Reserve Command Safety Office of the Year for 2006. The Reservists specializing in

safety are not one dimensional. Not only was their flight safety program award-worthy, but their weapons safety program was deemed a benchmark program for use throughout the command and their ground safety program received high praise from AFRC safety officials.

Performance, dedication, motivation and team work blended together as the Airmen in the safety office executed their duties and responsibilities.

There are six Reservists assigned to the safety office, two for flight safety and four

for ground safety. That's three people per unit training assembly weekend.

"Having only three people per team can be very hectic and pressing at times," said Senior Master Sgt. David Ponce, ground safety manager. "Every UTA we have a newcomer's briefing, a supervisor safety training class, and several squadron safety assessments and inspections taking place. Not to mention our own ancillary training

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All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1214, Room 124 by 4 p.m.

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New uniforms on the way

By Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree
—Wing commander

Change is inevitable in the military and anyone who has been around for more than a few days could give you a number of examples of things that have changed to affect their lives and careers.

One of the big changes coming in the near term is the switch to the new Airmen's Battle Uniform as a replacement for the Battle Dress Uniform. We should start seeing them around the Air Force in the next few months.

As many of you remember, McChord and the 446th Airlift Wing were among of test units for the new uniform concept with the blue and gray pattern. The feedback on that color scheme was not overwhelmingly positive, so the type of material was kept in a different color pattern and scheme.

A number of the changes from that test program have been incorporated in the new design also. Thanks to those of you who participated in the original test; your inputs have had a positive impact on the development of a new uniform that will better meet everyone's needs.

Mandatory wear date

I recently received an e-mail with answers to a number of questions about the new uniform that I would like to share with you. Mandatory wear of the new uniform will be October 2011. The uniforms will be issued first to those Airmen deploying to the war zone, starting with the AEF rotations this summer. Our clothing sales should have sufficient

quantities for sale to allow most people to start purchasing them about a year from now.

People going on AEF rotations to the war theater should be issued two sets of the new ABUs and two sets of the current Desert Camouflage Uniform.

The tan suede boots will be the designated boot to wear with both uniforms until the new gray-green boots are available in the near future.

No unit patches

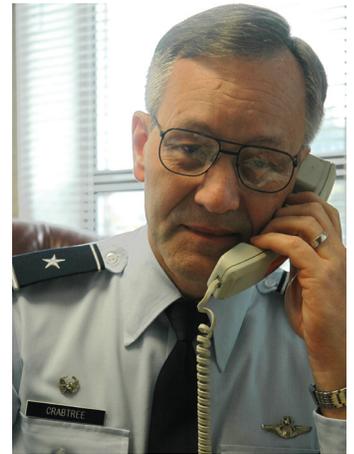
The ABUs will be worn without unit patches; just rank, name tapes, the Air Force tape and Air Force Specialty Code badges. This is to reduce cost to members for having unit patches sewn and to give a more universal appearance on deployments.

Organizational baseball hats will not be authorized with the new uniform; just the ABU pattern hat and berets for those units currently authorized them. Socks and T-shirts in the correct colors will be available at the same time as the release and sale of the new uniforms.

A GORE-TEX parka in the correct color and pattern will also be available. No mixing and matching of current BDU or DCU items will be allowed, with the exception of survival and body armor combat items.

Officers will still be purchasing the new uniforms out of their own funds, except for the one-time clothing allowance when they first come on duty. People going through basic training should be issued four sets of the new ABUs when they go through the program.

The uniform will be much



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

easier and less costly to maintain. The makers recommend not dry cleaning it because that will shorten the fabric life. They also recommend not starching it for basically the same reason. All that means it will truly be a wash and wear uniform combination. The test uniforms we had here were the same way, and they were easier to care for and actually looked very good with minimal care. This is especially great in a deployed situation as the expeditionary Air Force goes out to do its mission.

True-size fit

The final and biggest benefit will be the fit. It will be a true-sized outfit, not just small, medium or large. The women's uniform will be designed for women and there will even be a women's boot when the new boots come out. Those factors should make it a comfortable and functional work uniform that will better meet the needs of today's Air Force.

Thanks for the support of the combat mission of America. Keep up the outstanding work.

Health professionals outstanding

By 1st Lt. Reed Robertson
Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash., – The Air Force Reserve Command recently announced the recipients of the 2006 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Among the winners of this prestigious award was one squadron each member of the 446th Airlift Wing knows very well.

The 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron earned this award while supporting the deployment and redeployment of Airmen during 2006.

To most, the unit is known for conducting Reservists' annual medical and dental exams. However, it is also charged with ensuring each member of the wing is medically prepared to be activated. Once deployed Airmen return, the 446th AMDS professionals takes the neces-

sary steps to return members off of active duty in as healthy a condition as when they left.

“Watching after the health care needs of a wing as large and as busy as ours has placed some very unique demands on our systems and our members,” said Col. (Dr.) John Lenihan, commander of the 446th AMDS. “We realized that our medical readiness programs didn’t adequately communicate with the active-duty systems that mobilized Airmen were utilizing and we needed to do something about it.”

With the recent success of the 446th AMDS in adopting the Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessments on-line tool, the unit was asked to test out some pilot programs that enable the smooth flow of medical and dental information between the two components.

Colonel Lenihan explains,



Photo by 1st Lt. Reed Robertson

From left to right, 97th Airlift Squadron pilots Capt. Rob Selmer and Maj. Derek Leckrone discuss flight health safety issues with Chief Master Sgt. Minett Fernandez, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron superintendent and flight surgeon Lt. Col. (Dr.) John Golden.

“We decided to take the bull by the horns and spearhead many initiatives that have become best practices and will most likely be adopted Air Force wide.”

The unit has implemented and mastered the new automated Physical Exams Processing Program used for long and short

physicals. The unit was selected as the only AFRC medical unit to test the Preventative Health Assessment and Individual Medical Readiness Program. The squadron now conducts training on these systems for other medical units throughout the Air Force.

Incoming command chief visits McChord

Editor's Note: Chief Master Sergeant Troy McIntosh will be the Air Force Reserve Command command chief in March. During a brief visit to McChord in January, Tech. Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine, 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, had a chance to ask the Chief a few pertinent questions.

Q: What brought you to McChord?

A: I wanted to come out to visit the 446th before I become the command chief, since it's a top-performing wing. I also wanted to stress the importance of military associations to our Airmen.

Q: With airlift, and in particular the C-17, being in such big demand in recent years, how is the command focusing on keeping participation levels high?

A: Our leadership has to balance the fine line of understanding the needs of the force and the military member. Our retention numbers are high, so there's no crack in that surface yet. We know our operations tempo is high right now, so we are anticipating what retention will look like down the road, and it's something we're very aware of.

Q: What are the biggest issues facing the enlisted force?

A: Now that we're an operational Reserve, ensuring training and funding is available is important, and ensuring we're providing the best Airmen for the fight.

With the downsizing of the Air Force, we're doing more with less, so we have to come up with ways to do our jobs quicker, better, and more streamlined. We have to figure out how to put out a better quality product with fewer resources.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine
Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh, incoming AFRC Command Chief

Q: What advice can you give Reservists who want to know what issues are getting attention from legislators?

A: The issues on the hill are about retirement, educational benefits, and a variety of other concerns. Reservists who are a part of military associations help voice those concerns to Congress.

President thanks wing Reservists

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash., – For most 446th Airlift Wing aircrews, the last five years have brought endless missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, not to mention presidential support missions. Two aircrews received a special thank you on the wing's behalf for all that work.

The 313th and 728th Airlift Squadrons were asked to fly an eight-day mission to support the president during the busy last week prior to the Nov. 7 elections.

Leading the 313th AS aircrew was Maj. Steve Burrington and the 728th AS aircraft commander was Maj. Jim Brady. Departing McChord AFB within minutes of each other, the two planes spent the next week flying ahead of President Bush, delivering security personnel, limousines and all the support equipment that is required to protect the president.

After stops in Georgia, Montana, Iowa, and Nebraska, the crews found themselves in Pensacola, Fla., and the final stop of the mission. Through careful coordination with the Secret Service, Major Burrington was successful in arranging for both crews to meet the commander-in-chief prior to him boarding Air Force One. After being escorted by the Florida State Patrol, the crews arrived at Pensacola Naval Air Station and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Craig Johnson
President George W. Bush shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Gavin Smith, 313th Airlift Squadron, during a meeting with military members supporting his official travel in November.

were quickly shuffled through security. The president's motorcade arrived and the president departed his limousine, making a beeline for the waiting crowd and 446th Airlift Wing aircrews. President Bush took

the time to individually greet each crew-member and thank them and all of the Air Force Reserve for their service.

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Craig Johnson, 313th AS unit public affairs representative.

Outstanding performers take flight

By Tech. Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine
 Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash., – Six 446th Airlift Wing Reservists participated in the quarterly top-performer incentive flight Jan. 7; a flight which recognizes outstanding Reservists in the wing.

The Reservists departed McChord on the outbound unit training assembly shuttle so they could observe how their jobs support the wing mission.

“We used to have a unity focus flight,” said Chief Master Sgt. Ron Campeau, 313th Airlift Squadron, who is heading up the incentive flight program.

“Back in the C-141 days, the Chiefs Group wanted to recognize quarterly award winners and top performers with a flight that would showcase our Reserve mission,” he said. “We created this unity focus flight and I think it helped with retention as it was very popular.”

The program was never launched after McChord's conversion to the C-17, so the Chiefs Group got together to come up with a new way to recognize Reservists and provide an opportunity for people see how they affect the mission.

“We decided on an incentive flight that would be scheduled with the UTA shuttle, since

that was a reliable mission that offers everything we want to demonstrate,” Chief Campeau said.

Currently, the incentive flight is limited to 12 Reservists nominated by their chain of command, and the Chiefs group selects the participants. Flights are quarterly, alternating between the A and B UTAs.

“I think the flight will really help retention,” said Master Sgt. Timothy Stidhams, a 446th Logistics Readiness Flight Airman who flew on an incentive flight. “This flight gives us a look at other jobs in the Reserve and how we all play a part in the overall success of our mission.

I think that improves morale, which improves retention.”

Senior Airmen Terri Schmidt, a 446th Operations Support Flight mission control aviation resource manager, was selected for January's flight and saw it as a great opportunity.

“Since I work in mission control, I always see people coming through our office (on their way out on missions), so this is my opportunity to see the operational side of my job.”

The incentive flight includes activities such as a combat offload, a simulated critical patient engine running offload, an aircraft backing, and an engine running onload of equipment.

Computer guides cargo to ground

By Senior Airman Desiree Kiliz
Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash., – The C-17 mission to deliver supplies to the war zone remains constant and the Army and Air Force are developing a system that will lessen the risks for those involved.

JPADS, Joint Precision Air-drop System, is a computer-guided cargo pallet that, in a single pass, is released from high altitudes and can guide itself into a precise location on drop zones. Pallets dropped from the same aircraft, at the same time can be programmed to land in different locations.

Various McChord crews from the 446th Airlift Wing's airlift squadrons and operations support flight have tested and trained on JPADS in Yuma, Ariz.

"Previously, we tried mitigating threat on low-level deliveries, but this (system) essentially drops up and away from threat," said Senior Master Sgt. John Vujovich, 446th OSF.

JPADS is a two-part system. First is the mission planner, or computer onboard the plane. This collects near real-time weather and wind data from a global positioning transmitter released at the drop zone.

The second part to JPADS is the airborne guidance unit. This is the computer attached to the parachute and pallet where data is submitted from the plane. The data on the AGU steers the parachute decelerators with two mechanical arms.

This advance in technology is bringing greater safety to the battlefield, both in the air and on the ground.

"The higher we are the safer we are," said Senior Master Sgt. Ty Brooks, loadmaster in the 97th Airlift Squadron.

"It will also cut down on Army convoys and the potential harm in the war zone because we can take and drop directly in the field," said Maj. Mark Hahn, 446th OSF.

Potentially, JPADS could not only aid C-17 efforts in the war zone but also in humanitarian relief missions.

"When we dropped bundles of aid in Afghanistan we didn't know if they got them. This (system) would be more accurate and let us know they got the supplies," Sergeant Brooks said.

Headquarters Air Mobility Command officials have said that results from JPADS testing has shown a 70 percent improvement over the current airdrop methods used.

JPADS has been tested and



Air Force photo illustration

In this photo illustration, a Joint Precision Air Drop System-equipped bundle is dropped from an Air Force aircraft. The illustration shows the global positioning system-guidance system attached to the deployment of steerable and traditional parachutes en route to the bundle landing within feet of a desired location. The JPADS bundles are now being used for combat air drop missions in the war on terrorism.

deployed successfully in the 2,000-pound range, said Maj. Dan DeVoe Air Mobility Warfare Center's project officer.

Although JPADS has begun in the operational phase,

improvements are always in the works and larger JPADS models are being tested. (Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol, Air Mobility Warfare Center Public Affairs, contributed to this report)

SAFETY

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that needs to be done."

To manage their time, these safety specialists work as a team, arranging work schedules months in advance to ensure coverage for each UTA.

"We share in responsibilities due to the fact that if one member is pulled away for an appointment, we must be able to work his or her taskings into our schedule - making for a hectic weekend," said Sergeant Ponce.

All this effort sustains the wing's

ground safety record of zero reportable Class A or B mishaps in the past 41 years. Air Force classifies mishaps based on seriousness in relation to financial costs and human costs.

In addition to its outstanding ground safety record, the safety office's weapon safety program is recognized throughout AFRC as a benchmark program. Using a checklist the safety Reservists designed, the wing had no ammunition incidents or weapons incidents.

The flight safety section pioneered a fatigue assessment worksheet in response

to aircrews' concerns about Operation Iraqi Freedom stage operations and scheduling. Stage operations are when aircrews deploy to Ramstein for two weeks at a time, flying missions into and out of Iraq from there. Many of these missions were as long as 26 hours.

The fatigue assessment worksheet allowed safety experts to tackle factors beyond the long crew days that were contributing to crew fatigue. The worksheet served as a starting point for Air Mobility Command's new Operational Risk Management instruction.

Spirit of Tuskegee Airmen lives

By 1st. Lt. Reed Robertson
Wing Public Affairs
Capt. Wayne Capps
315th Airlift Wing

Black History Month, celebrated each February, recognizes past events that affect us today. The past and present came together quietly and with little fanfare last fall as African-American aviators from different generations took part in a historical flight aboard a C-17 Globemaster III.

An all-volunteer African-American aircrew flew nine original Tuskegee Airmen on an orientation flight on the C-17 named "The Spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen."

"This flight united African-American aviators from two very different generations," said Master Sgt. Terry Grant, a Reservist assigned to Air Force Reserve Command's 300th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C., and one of the

event planners. "These original Tuskegee Airmen had the opportunity to witness the fruits of their labor and see today's black aviators doing what they made possible."

Maj. Kim Scott, a pilot from the 728th Airlift Squadron here, was a crewmember on this "thrilling" flight.

"I couldn't believe this historic flight would actually be taking place and I would have the opportunity to take part in it," said Major Scott. "I felt truly honored to have been asked to participate in this flight with the original Tuskegee Airmen. I was thrilled!"

Major Scott has been active in African-American Aviation organizations since the late 1990's. Beaming with pride she said, "I am proud to have been asked (to join the crew on the Tuskegee flight) as one of very few African-American female pilots in the Air Force Reserve, and the only Reserve African-American female pilot checked out on the C-17."

Quick to honor these men, she rec-



File photo

Maj. Kim Scott
728th Airlift Squadron

ognizes these heroes who helped create today's environment for her to flourish. "I owe so much to the Tuskegee Airmen; the amazing trailblazer's that came before me."

The idea to take an all African-American C-17 crew and fly with original Tuskegee Airmen came from the mission's aircraft commander, Capt. Terry Troutman, from the 701st Airlift Squadron located at Charleston AFB.

From 1942 through 1946, 994 pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Ala. Black navigators, bombardiers and gunnery crews trained at various military bases in the United States.

"I am jealous," said Charles Lane, an 81-year-old Tuskegee Airman who participated in the C-17 flight. "I wish I could give up about 55 years and fly with them."

Mr. Lane, a seasoned war veteran who flew 26 combat missions from Ramatalli, Italy, during WW II, trained as a P-51 Mustang pilot in Tuskegee, Ala., and in Walterboro, S.C.

According to Captain Troutman, this mission was about influencing future generations of black aviators.

"There were more African-American pilots in 1943 and 1944 with the development of the Tuskegee Airmen than we have in 2006," said the captain. "This is about getting the word out to younger generations that their goals can be reached."

War Department establishes Bureau of Colored Troops

By Master Sgt. Kevin McWashington
Fort Worth, Texas

Teacher, historian and author Carter G. Woodson proposed in 1915 a time to celebrate nationwide Negro History Week. His proposal later became Black History Month, celebrated every February.

Looking through the window of history, there are several milestones in our nation's evolution that resonate in the depths of our culture.

War Department General Order No. 143 is one of those less-remembered but important events. Issued on May 22, 1863, the order established the Bureau of Colored Troops.

In his article, "First to Fight," author John Raymond Gourdin wrote, "Prior to the establishment of the Bureau, colored regiments were organized and supported by state governments in free states and in areas in Confederate states

occupied and controlled by Federal troops. However, after the establishment of the Bureau, those regiments that were previously raised by state governments and carried state designations were redesignated as regiments of United States Colored Troops and assigned a USCT number."

Although no longer considered colored, Americans of African descent continue to agree with the fundamentals and principles established by General Order 143. Accepting the opportunity to serve, defending the borders we dwell within and upholding the integrity of law permeate through those of us who continue the tradition of military service to this great nation today.

February is not only a time to reflect, but more importantly, a time of growth. By understanding the struggles and progress made by our predecessors, we are obliged to follow their lead and improve our country.

From Russia with Love

Encounter brings wedding invitation

By Tech. Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine
Wing Public Affairs

Opportunities seem to present themselves at the most inopportune moments, especially in today's busy society. For Lt. Col. Jennette Zmaeff, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, an invitation arrived requesting her presence at a Russian wedding during the holiday season.

"It started at about the end of the Cold War era," Colonel Zmaeff said. "I was staying on base one weekend in billeting and I heard voices that I immediately recognized as being Russian, as both my parents are Russian, and it was the primary language spoken in our home."

There was a group of Russian officers who were heading back to Moscow from Washington, D.C., and their plane had stopped at McChord to remain overnight.

"I went out to say hello and I felt a little silly intruding on them, so I quickly retreated back to my room," she said. "Later in the evening, some of the young enlisted folks stopped by and asked if they could talk for a few minutes, mostly to practice their English skills, and I asked their senior officer if I could get a tour of their aircraft."

The next morning, Colonel Zmaeff took a group of AES Airmen out to tour the Russian aircraft, an Ilyushin IL-76, similar to a C-141. While on the aircraft, one of the Russian pilots noticed Colonel Zmaeff's flightsuit name patch and commented on how they also had a crewmember with

the same name.

"I was curious to meet him, because as far as I knew, I was the only remaining Zmaeff in the United States after my parents died," said Colonel Zmaeff. "I only had a few minutes to meet him and chat, as they were leaving within the hour, so we exchanged contact information and they left."

About six months later, Colonel Zmaeff received a letter from Olga Zmaeff, the Russian pilot's wife, telling her a little about their family.

"I really hadn't expected to hear from him again, so it was a pleasant surprise," Colonel Zmaeff said. "His family and I exchanged a few letters, but the communication was difficult as it is tedious for me to write in Russian, and his wife did not write in English. I kept their information with little hope of ever really getting to know them."

In 1998, Colonel Zmaeff went to Russia on a vacation and contacted Mrs. Zmaeff by telephone, as it was too far from where she was to visit their family.

"She was really excited to hear from me, but she also had very sad news," Colonel Zmaeff said. "Colonel Zmaeff, Commander MiG Squadron, Russian Air Force, had died of a heart attack."

"Since I couldn't make a trip to visit Mrs. Zmaeff and her family, Mrs. Zmaeff implored that I stay in touch," Colonel Zmaeff said. "Two years ago, I received a letter from Larissa Zmaeff, Mrs. Zmaeff's daughter, asking if I would mind communicating with her.

"With e-mail being so



Courtesy photo from Lt. Col. Jennette Zmaeff
Lt. Col. Jennette Zmaeff, fifth from left, enjoys a meal with her new Russian friends. Colonel Zmaeff is with the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. She began her association with the Zmaeff family in Russia after meeting Russian Air Force officers in billeting at McChord.

prevalent now, and the fact that Larissa can communicate exceptionally well in both Russian and English, we started a frequent exchange of e-mails," Colonel Zmaeff said.

"In September, she invited me to her brother's November wedding and I didn't think I would be able to attend," Colonel Zmaeff said. "Now, you would have to know the Russian culture to imagine the outcry on the telephone when I told her I would not be coming.

"She said, 'You must come, we are all waiting for you! Please come!' and I figured I better give this some more thought.

"After extensive internet searching, a few thousand air miles, and some serious tap-dancing around my work and Reserve schedule, I decided this was an incredible opportunity that I couldn't pass up," Colonel Zmaeff said.

Colonel Zmaeff and her boyfriend spent several days in Lipetsk, where the Zmaeff family lived, which is about 12 hours outside of Moscow, by train.

"It was like they adopted us," she said. "Everyone was so welcoming and it seemed like they were really expecting us to be there. Both the bride's and groom's families treated us as if we were family."

The 10,000-mile round trip experience reminded Colonel Zmaeff to take advantage of opportunities.

"It's not every day someone gets invited to attend a Russian wedding from people who have never met you," she said. "I think it's funny that I overheard some people speaking Russian so many years ago, resulting in the friendships I have formed over the last few years."

S a f e t y



Feb. 6, 1991 – Air Force Reserve Capt. Robert R. Swain of the 706th Tactical Fighter Squadron scores the first-ever A-10 Warthog air-to-air kill by shooting down an Iraqi helicopter.

Promotions

Captain

Barbara McMullen, 446th AW
Michael Eldridge, 446th MSG
Eric Hodges, 728th AS
Kenneth Strunk, 313th AS
Shannon Voytilla, 86th APS

Master Sergeant

Stacey Julian, 446th AES
Andrew Saxe, 446th AMXS

Technical Sergeant

Jared Adam, 446th AMXS
John Bowman, 446th AMXS
Edward Callahan, 446th AMXS
Wilfred Cena, 86th APS
Joshua Craig, 446th LRF
Jennifer Demorris, 446th AES
Jonathan Frazier, 446th AMXS
Edwin Ipili, 446th AES
Eric Kiphart, 446th CES
Brian Krumm, 446th ASTS
Dennis Wright, 86th APS

Staff Sergeant

Susanna Adams, 446th ASTS
David Aebi, 446th AMXS
Jennifer Baker, 446th AMDS
Brady Hampton, 446th AMXS
William Hicks, 446th MXS
Brandon Hoehne, 446th AMDS
Christopher Hokans, 36th APS
Nicholas Huebsch, 446th AMXS
Natalie King, 446th AMDS
Gregory Marek, 446th SFS
Brian McSweeney, 446th AMXS
Chad Myers, 97th AS
Corey Peters, 97th AS
Gaylene Robinson, 446th ASTS
Damien Winston, 446th SFS

ANTARCTICA

Continued from Page 1

a mission that has supported the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic Program since 1955.

The current season of Operation Deep Freeze kicked off in August 2006, with the deployment of a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord AFB, to Christchurch, New Zealand.

Senior Airman

Ilija Balach, 446th MXS
Christopher Brown, 446th AES
Robert Macconnell, 446th AMXS
Michael Robinson, 446th AMXS
Ashton Tidwell, 446th MXS
Trevor Volack, 446th AMXS

Airman First Class

Nicole McDaniel, 446th AMXS

Newcomers

Major

Gordon Lood, 446th ASTS

Technical Sergeant

Anthony Arends, 446th ASTS
Stuart Eagleburger, 446th CES
Roderick Johnson, 446th AMDS
Richard Slater, 446th MXS

Staff Sergeant

Ellen Ayers, 446th MSS
Ian Laboucane, 446th SVF
Michael Larson, 446th CES
Thersha Lewis, 446th CES
Patricia Ordway, 446th MSS

Senior Airman

Curtis Alton, 446th MXS
Kyle Blevins, 446th MXS
Yulanda Dofredo, 313th AS
Philip Doornink, 86th APS
Jeffrey Flora, 446th MXS
John Hillenbrand, 446th MXS
Jennifer Kelly, 446th AMDS
Jason Maul, 446th MXS
Christina Miller, 446th AMXS
Christopher Parcasio, 446th MXS
Charles Pickle, 446th CES
Timothy Redepenning, 446th AW
Kevin Wilson, 446th AMXS

Airman First Class

Miko Balambao, 446th MXS
Matthew Bean, 446th AMXS
Lindsay Call, 446th AMXS
Tara Currah, 446th SFS
Christopher Harper, 446th AMDS
Matthew Kempfe, 446th AMXS
John Kim, 446th AMXS
William Mackenzie, 446th AMXS
Michael Murphy, 446th AMXS
Scot Peck, 446th MXS
Preston Plowman, 446th AMXS
Rhet Ponchinlan, 446th MXS
Jalearnchi Sirisin, 446th AMXS
Lori Swan, 446th MXS
Terra Swint, 446th MSS
Kyle Vandyke, 446th AMXS

Airman

Alyssa Brandaberry, 728th AS

Airman Basic

Aimee McFarland, 728th AS

Retirements

Senior Master Sergeant

Edward Cruz-Segarra, 446th AMXS
David Goff, 86th APS

Master Sergeant

John Cannell, 36th APS
Elmer Clark, 36th APS
Terry Smith, 446th MOF

Technical Sergeant

Alvin Cox, 446th MXS
Dean Marubayashi, 36th APS
Frank Mayor, 446th MXS
Curtis Rickard, 313th AS
Jeffery Rigby, 36th APS

This was followed in October by five LC-130 Hercules aircraft launched from the 109th Air Wing, New York Air National Guard.

As of January, C-17s from Christchurch have flown 46 missions moving more than 3,650 passengers and 3.3 million pounds of cargo to McMurdo Station; LC-130s have flown 362 missions moving more than

8.8 million pounds of cargo and 600 passengers to the U.S. South Pole Station and various austere deep field camps throughout Antarctica. The U.S. Coast Guard Icebreaker Polar Sea has cut an ice channel 23 nautical miles long to allow access to McMurdo ice pier by the USNS Paul Buck, a fuel tanker; and the USNS American Tern, a cargo ship.

Just Briefly

What do you personally do to be a better wingman?

Touch base

"I touch base with members in the unit both before and after a UTA to see how they are doing."



◆ *Tech. Sgt. Valerie Perez*
446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Look out

"I look out for others like I personally look out for myself."



◆ *Senior Airman Eric Toves*
446th Maintenance Squadron

Being there

"I'm there for my unit whenever and to do whatever role they need me to fill."



◆ *Staff Sgt. Lakesha Peterson*
446th Services Flight

Being available

"Having people know that I'm there and they can contact me. I'll be patient and listen."



◆ *Capt. Roel Bacani*
446th Logistics Readiness Flight

446th Annual Awards Banquet slated for March 17

The 446th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet will be March 17, with a social time at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner program beginning at 6 p.m. The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin, vice commander of the Air Force Reserve Command.

The theme this year honors the 60th anniversary of the Air Force – Heritage to Horizons – and will focus on the 446th AW's heritage and Air Force history.

Reservations can be made with squadron first sergeants. The reservation deadline is March 3. After that date, reservations will only be available from the 446th AW executive officers and there will be no ticket sales on the day of the event.

The menu selections are walnut-encrusted halibut or London Broil (beef). The cost is \$21 for club members and \$24 for non-members.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Carla Pelster at 982-5527.

Undergraduate Pilot Training packages due Feb. 28

For anyone interested in, or who has already started a package for, Undergraduate Flying Training, the suspense for the next selection board is Feb. 28. All applicants must meet eligibility criteria for commissioning in accordance with AFI 36-2013, as well as AFRCI 36-2602 and AFI 36-2205. This board will only consider candidates who have unit and wing endorsement. For more information, contact the staff of the 446th Mission Support Squadron's Career Enhancement office at 982-9088.

National Prayer Luncheon scheduled for Feb. 26

The McChord National Prayer Luncheon will be Feb. 26 at 11:30 a.m. at the Northwest Connection. Cost is \$10 per person. The guest speaker is Chaplain (Col.) Brian Van Sickle, Air Mobility Command's Command Chaplain. Tickets are available from the 62nd Airlift Wing's Chapel Support Center.

Mariners' Fifth Annual Salute to Armed Forces Night is April 3

Ticket orders are now being taken for the Seattle Mariners' 5th Annual Salute to Armed Forces Night April 3. The Seattle Mariners play the Oakland Athletics, with the game starting at 7:05 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for View Reserved Seats, \$24 for Field Seats, and \$29 for Terrace Club Seats. Visit 446th Airlift Wing's Public Affairs office to place your order and pre-pay for your tickets. Deadline for ticket orders is March 19.

446th AMDS open for service only one UTA day in August

The 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron will be open only Aug. 4 of the August A Unit Training Assembly to complete a limited number of physicals. The squadron has been approved to reschedule its B Unit Training Assembly in August to Aug. 25-26. That UTA will be dedicated to completing annual block training.

60th anniversary picnic honors all McChord alumni Sept. 8

On Sept. 8, the 446th Airlift Wing will host a base-wide picnic at Heritage Hill to honor those who have served at McChord and their families who supported them, as well as the rich heritage they have contributed to the Air Force. The event will feature squadron food and memorabilia booths, live music and guest speakers from McChord's past. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee or organizing a booth for your squadron, contact Lt. Col. Anna Sullivan, 446th AW Public Affairs at 982-2060 or anna.sullivan@mcchord.af.mil.

97th Airlift Squadron pilot is third quarter Officer of the Quarter

The 446th Airlift Wing commander is pleased to announce that the Officer of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter of 2006 is Maj. Thomas Jensen, 97th Airlift Squadron. Congratulations to him! He goes on to compete for the 2006 Officer of the Year Award to be announced at the 446th Airlift Wing Awards Banquet on March 17.

Time to validate civilian employment information

Annual validation of Reservists' civilian employment is required of all Reserve Airmen. Airmen will use a self-service application to provide civilian employment information. Log on using your Common Access Card or your name, social security number and birth date at www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal. Questions can be directed to 446th Mission Support Squadron's Military Personnel Flight's customer service at 982-9094.

Anheuser-Busch extends military tribute program through 2007

Anheuser-Busch has extended its "Here's to the Heroes" program through 2007. The program provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the servicemember and as many as three of his or her direct dependents. For more information, visit the Web site www.herosalute.com.

Nominate employer for Freedom award

ARLINGTON, Va., – The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is accepting nominations for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards at the ESGR Web site at www.esgr.mil.

The nomination process will conclude on Feb. 28.

To nominate their employers, National Guardsmen, Reservists, or their family members should visit the ESGR Web site and complete the 2007 Freedom Award nomination form.

The 2007 recipients will be honored in Washington, D.C. at the 12th annual

Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony hosted by ESGR on Sept. 12.

In 1996, Secretary of Defense William Perry instituted the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The Freedom Award, DoD's highest honor for employer support, publicly recognizes employers for exceptional support above the requirements of the USERRA Law.

Previous recipients have included Star-

bucks, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Sears, General Electric, DuPont, Verizon, and United Parcel Service. State and local governments and a number of America's small businesses have also been recipients.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.

Air Force News

At A Glance

Airmen bring leverage to joint fight

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AFNEWS) – Airmen are increasingly meeting the enemy face-to-face while augmenting ground commanders in non-traditional roles more typical of Soldiers, said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne at Seymour Johnson AFB Jan. 19.

These in-lieu-of taskings, as they are known, are part of the Air Force's efforts to help meet the immediate demands of fighting the war on terrorism as part of the joint interdependent team, he said. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123038654>

USAFE celebrates 65 years of air power

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNEWS) – United States Air Forces in Europe celebrates its 65th anniversary as the oldest, continuously active Air Force major command.

USAFE began Jan. 19, 1942, when the War Department established Headquarters 8th Air Force, and the command continues its forward presence in Europe and Africa -- from delivering bombs in World War II to delivering humanitarian supplies to Berlin in 1948 and 1949, from fighting the Cold War to fighting today's war on terrorism. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123038124>

Defense news, information now customized for mobile devices

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) – Defense Department news releases, articles and other information are now available in a new format that is customized for easier viewing on BlackBerries and other mobile devices, officials said.

The new, mobile-device-friendly format can be accessed at www.dod.mil/mobile, officials affiliated with the project said. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123037799>

Airmen test wireless aircraft intercom system

FORT DIX, N.J. (AFNEWS) – For five days, Air Force aircraft maintainers at Travis AFB, Calif., and Robins AFB, Ga., demonstrated the Telephonics TruLink Wireless System at their respective bases to great success.

The system demonstration was conducted as part of an initiative dubbed "Wireless Intercom for Aircraft Ground Operations," or WIAGO, by the Air Mobility Warfare Center's Air Mobility Battlelab here. http://www.af.mil/news/story_print.asp?storyID=123037172

Warrior Airmen new culture of Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Air Force News Agency

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNEWS) – Today's Airmen are in the fight. As the war on terrorism continues in the Middle East and the war on drugs continues in South and Central America, Airmen are engaged in struggles across the globe.

"We are war fighters," said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the Air Force chief of staff. "From the pilots who drop bombs on target in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the security forces person protecting a forward-deployed base, to the combat search and rescue teams risking their own lives to save others, Airmen are contributing to the fight each and every day." http://www.af.mil/news/story_print.asp?storyID=123040010

Editor's Note: Air Force News – At A Glance features the top stories on the Air Force News web site recommended by Air Force leaders as essential reading. For the full story, type the hyper link into your web browser.

Integration spawns new associate units

WASHINGTON – As part of the Air Force Total Force Integration initiatives, the Air Force Reserve Command is teaming up with Air Combat Command to establish a classic associate unit with ACC units at Eglin AFB, Fla. The process is tentatively scheduled to start in fiscal 2008.

Current plans propose support of the 53rd Wing and its test and weapons evaluation missions. The relationship could expand in the future to include other, Eglin-based organizations.

“The associate unit program begun in 1968 has served the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve well over the years,” said Lt. Gen. John Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

“Under the classic associate structure, our Reservists operate and maintain equipment with their active-duty counterparts,” said General Bradley. “This approach has been so successful in recent years that the active Air Force has begun forming active associate units in partnership with unit-equipped Reserve organizations. By sharing equipment, we are able to train more people and make better use of the equipment.”

General Bradley said associate units also make good business sense because they capitalize on the experience and skills of Reservists, many of whom were on active duty before joining the Air Force Reserve.

“Through the associate unit programs, that training investment can be multiplied over and over as people come and go in a

unit,” the general said.

The development of ACC-gained Reserve associate units began in March 1997 with the launching of the Fighter Reserve Associate Test program. At that time, a dozen Reservists worked with the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw AFB, S.C., as part of a FRAT detachment. The success of that program led to the signing of an agreement in April 2003 by the commanders of ACC and AFRC to establish associate units at ACC F-16 and F-15 bases.

Under the classic associate concept, the active-duty unit will retain principal responsibility for its equipment, and the Reserve unit will share in operating and maintaining it. (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*)

Command changes promotion cycle

By Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse
 ■ AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Enlisted Air Force Reservists now have a better opportunity to move up in rank.

Lt. Gen. John Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, approved changing the promotion cycle from every other month to monthly. The change took effect Jan. 1.

“This is truly a ‘good-news’ story for our enlisted force,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jackson Winsett, command chief master sergeant for AFRC.

The change was made to align the enlisted promotion process with the Air Force’s Future Total Force concept

and facilitate implementation of the Personnel Services Delivery and Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System.

General Bradley also approved a change that will allow retraining senior airmen and below to be promoted before completing their retraining and being awarded a three level in their retraining Air Force specialty code.

“We’re fortunate to have a commander who wants his enlisted force to be given every opportunity to succeed, and these actions support his desire,” Chief Winsett said.

Air Force Instruction 36-2502, Airman Promotion Program, has more information about enlisted promotions. (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*)

DoD changes Reserve force management

WASHINGTON (AF-NEWS) – Department of Defense officials are changing the way they will manage reserve-component forces, announced Dr. Robert Gates, secretary of defense, Jan. 11.

The first aspect of the policy change will involve the way the department manages deployments of reserve forces. Currently, reserve deployments are managed on an individual basis. In the future deployments will be managed on a unit basis, allowing for greater unit cohesion and predictability for training and deployments.

The second aspect of the change addresses the maximum mobilization time for members of the reserve forces. Currently, the policy is for a maximum mobilization time of 18 months. The department will reduce the maximum mobilization time frame to one year.

Third, the policy objective for involuntary mobilization of Guard and Reserve units will remain a one-year-mobilized

to five-year-demobilized ratio. However, today’s global demands will require a number of selected Guard and Reserve units to be remobilized sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment-to-demobilization ratio remains the goal of the department, as does the active component’s ratio goal of one year of deployment to two years at home station.

The fourth aspect of the policy change will establish a new program to compensate individuals who are required to mobilize or deploy earlier than established policy goals of deployment ratios. It will also involve servicemembers who are required to extend beyond established rotation-policy goals.

The final aspect of the policy change will direct commands to review their administration of the hardship-waiver program, to ensure they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed servicemembers.

Weekly Roll Call aims to keep Airmen informed on important Air Force issues

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – A new weekly publication titled “Roll Call” is designed to help shop- and office-level supervisors explain complex, yet important Air Force issues to their Airmen during daily or weekly meetings.

Or in the case of traditional Reservists - monthly.

Roll Call is a one-page print product, posted online every Friday. It covers one or two topics, in full sentences, and is written so supervisors can read it to their Airmen during morning roll calls or weekly gatherings.

“Our Air Force is going through tremendous changes now, all while we continue to fight the war on terror,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley.

“Making sure our Airmen understand why these changes are happening and what it will mean to them on a unit and an

individual level is vital. The added advantage of Roll Call is getting work sections to take a few minutes out of their fast-paced operations tempo and actually look each other in the eye while they discuss issues facing our force.”

Roll Call will fill information voids by tackling complex, Air Force-level issues such as “transformation,” “recapitalization,” “force shaping,” and “Smart Operations 21,” and explaining them in common, everyday language.

“This new weekly Air Force ‘Roll Call’ product provides supervisors with information and straight answers,” said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley. “To be most effective, we need every commander and supervisor to print it out and discuss it with your Airmen.”

While there are currently many avenues for information to get from Headquarters Air Force in Washington to the field, feedback suggests that much of



U.S. Air Force photo
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley speaks to Airmen at Manta Forward Operating Base in Ecuador. Manta is at the center of the U.S. war on drugs in Latin America. He discussed the importance of bringing back roll call, saying that supervisors are the key to getting top-level Air Force information to Airmen, as well as getting feedback from the Airmen.

that information is either not reaching junior Airmen and officers, or it is not translating in ways that make the information meaningful to them.

“The goals of Roll Call are three fold: to keep our Airmen informed on current issues,

clear up confusion and dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams,” General Moseley said.

Roll Call will be distributed online weekly at <http://www.af.mil>.



Got a story for
The 446th Associate
Press? Give us a call
at 982-3330 and tell
us your ideas.

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