

C-17 drops engine to disabled boat

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt
 Wing Public Affairs

Six days without power in the middle of a sea of ice came to an end after a C-17 Globemaster III flown by Reserve and active-duty Airmen airdropped a new engine to a stranded fishing trawler.

The crew airdropped an engine part weighing about 150 pounds, measuring 15 feet by 7.5 feet. The airdrop was done at about 400 feet from the ground at 150 knots, with the cargo landing within 200 yards of the stranded trawler, the Argos Georgia.

"This drop was different because the item had to withstand the normal impact, but and be able to land in the ocean," said Chief Master Sgt. Jim Masura, 446th Operations Group and the chief loadmaster on the flight. "We built the bundle with all of the items inside wrapped in plastic, twice; plus the main box was wrapped in plastic three times. Then we added wood for buoyancy and strength to ensure the item would float."

Other Reservists on the mission were pilots Maj. Tom Jensen, 97th Airlift Squadron, and Maj. Mark Brown, 313th Airlift Squadron, and loadmasters Senior Master Sgt. Lance Gustafson, 313th AS, and Master Sgt. Scott Dellinger, 728th AS.

The Argos Georgia lost all main power



Courtesy photo from Argos Georgia, Ltd

A grateful crew of the Argos Georgia show its appreciation after a McChord C-17 flown by Reserve and active-duty Airmen airdropped a new engine and supplies to the stranded fishing trawler in the Antarctic.

and had been frozen in the ice flow off the Ross Ice Shelf since Dec. 24. The initial report to the aircrew was the stranded ship was drifting at 5 knots, or 500 feet per minute. Luckily, they were drifting at less than one knot when the bundle was dropped.

"The biggest challenge was the ship

drifting powerless in the ocean current," said Major Jensen, the director of operations for the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "I had never airdropped to a moving target before. We overflowed the ship to survey

See **TRAWLER**, Page 4

Inspectors give wing green light

By Sandra Pishner
 Wing Public Affairs

The 446th Airlift Wing sailed through the Unit Compliance Inspection, passing through mostly green lights, slowing down for some yellow and stopping at only a few red.

Overall, the Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General Team gave the McChord home team a glowing

review for its ability to comply with DOD, Air Force, and AFRC instructions, regulations, and federal laws.

The AFRC/IG team arrived at McChord Jan. 8. Its purpose, as briefed by the team, was to provide Lt. Gen. Bradley, AFRC commander, an independent, objective and fair evaluation of the 446th AW's compliance with the various policies out there.

"Our team accomplished

this by focusing on Special Interest, By-Law, and Common Core Compliance Areas that have a direct impact on your wing's readiness and mission accomplishment," said IG team briefers.

According to Col. Lisa Tank, 446th AW vice commander, the AFRC grading standard of comply and non comply often times makes it difficult to determine how well a unit did.

"Trust me - the state of the 446th is phenomenal! The men and women of the 446th performed in their accustomed outstanding manner," Colonel Tank said. "Colonel (James) Stewart, AFRC/IG, commented to me that the 446th was the most gracious, supportive group of patriots he had seen in quite some time." *For more on this story, visit www.446aw.afrc.af.mil/.*

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Feb. 22 is the deadline for articles in the March issue of **The 446th Associate Press**.

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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Look to Black History for ways to institute, manage change

By Col. Jon Huguley

446th Maintenance Group

Change is inevitable. And the Air Force is no stranger to change. We've changed uniforms, organizational structures, and personnel management systems and processes, just to name a few, and more changes are coming.

How do you handle change? Do you grumble, resist and finally are forced to accept it? I'll be the first to say I'm not a fan of change. It causes us to do things differently and requires us to learn new processes that demand time we seem to have too little of to accomplish our current duties.

In honor of Black History Month, I want to share some ideas on leading change that I gathered from a letter written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Let me first say the challenges

of changes we face today in our military do not come close to the challenges of the social movement Dr. King led. However, Dr. King wrote a letter from a Birmingham jail that I believe will serve us well in managing changes.

First of all, we need to know the facts about the changes being implemented. Study the information provided about changes and the desired outcome. Many times, we attempt to incorporate change without knowing the process required, so we get negative results. This leads to frustration and discontentment.

Next, encourage and foster open communication. If analysis shows outcomes will not improve our ability to meet our mission, leadership needs to know it. Subordinates need to know what's expected of them to bring effective change and be allowed to communicate



Col. Jon Huguley

their issues.

Furthermore, we need to take action. Time by itself will not do it. We must take charge of the roles assigned and do it. Complacency is an enemy of change.

Being a leader of change is not easy. However, to face the challenges before us, we must do things smarter, and that will require change. If you have not done so, I encourage you to read Dr. King's letter. It will challenge you to be a leader of change.

Why do we do what we do?

By Chief Master Sgt. Roy Sheppard

Retired

Soon after 9/11, I witnessed a sight that will always stay with me. I was heading home after the UTA. Just outside the main gate, standing all alone in a yard near the street, was a young boy, about 7 or 8 - about my grandson's age - waving a small American Flag at vehicles as they left the base. No adult was in sight; he was doing this on his own. The lump in my throat grew with each block I drove.

Why do we do what we do?

My Dad was drafted into the Army and World War II when he was 34 years old. The military desperately needed more people. Mom had little ones at home; my oldest sister was just a baby when he went off to Europe as a radio operator in a tank. My sister did not know the man who returned.

How many have you have heard Bryce Lily sing TAPS? A man small in stature, he had a

beautiful, booming voice. Bryce graced many McChord events with his presence over the years. He was a Bataan Death March survivor, a patriot and a hero in many eyes.

Have you ever held a newborn baby? Babies are so tiny, so helpless and, until they reach their later years, so dependent on others just to survive.

I submit that the reason we wear this uniform is to continue the legacy of those before us - for my Dad and thousands like him who fought for our freedoms, for Bryce Lily and thousands like him who suffered or died at the hands of those who would harm us and challenge our freedoms, for the young child waving the flag, for our families, so innocent, who we so dearly want to continue to enjoy the freedoms, the life we as a nation enjoy. Whether they know it or not, they rely on us to ensure their freedoms, their choices. That is why we do what we do.

CES Reservists train at Silver Flag

By Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron expanded their wartime skills in Florida Jan. 6-11 while participating in the exercise Silver Flag at Tyndall AFB.

Silver Flag is a wartime training scenario hosted by Detachment 1, 823rd "Red Horse" Civil Engineer Squadron. The training is a mix of classroom studying, hands-on training and a 24 hour wartime scenario to train Airmen on the newest equipment and techniques used in the field.

"We learn how to build and maintain bare-base operations," said Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Pizzi, the chief of operations, 446th CES. "We get to use equipment we don't have here at McChord."

Specialists for utility, structure, heavy equipment, fire fighting, liquid fuels, environmental, power production and engineering assistance all took part in the five-day exercise. During the scenario they constructed facilities and provided their expertise for base recovery after attack disaster preparedness, fire protection, explosive ordnance disposal and chemical warfare operations.

"It's helpful because we get to practice our wartime function," said Master Sgt. Rod Keister, NCO in charge mobility, heavy equipment craftsmen, 446th CES.

Other Airmen found themselves repairing the airfield, fixing facilities and maintaining utilities, Sergeant Keister explained.

"We're like a big time construction company that can deploy worldwide," said Sergeant Keister.

"This (Silver Flag) is a great opportunity to get hands-on training



Photo by Master Sgt. Teresa Faulconer

Master Sgt. Michael Hoover, right, prepares to do some electrical work during the Silver Flag exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Twenty-eight Reservists from the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron participated in Silver Flag Jan. 6-11. Silver Flag is a wartime training exercise.

with real world equipment," said Maj. Chris Buzo, operations flight chief, 446th CES. "The concepts for individual wartime situations have evolved and equipment has been upgraded. We trained on how to use both equipment and concepts together so when we do deploy we can be productive."

"Last time we went as a large group was July 2004," said Chief Pizzi. "About 170 Airmen from active, Reserve and Guard were there this time."

For more on this story, visit www.446aw.afrc.af.mil.

Season training allows for faster upgrade

By Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
Wing Public Affairs

Reserve Airmen can now upgrade to the next skill level in their career field faster by enrolling in the season training program.

Reservists, while serving on active-duty orders, get hands on training in a focused period of time with the season training program, rather than trying to upgrade over the course of many Reserve weekends.

Season training allows 3-skill level Airmen and recent aircrew formal school graduates to voluntarily remain on active duty for training until they upgrade to 5-level through on-the-job training.

Prior-service Airmen who graduated technical training 3-level school after Oct. 1, 2007, qualify for seasoning training, said Master Sgt. Robin Weiss, 446th Mission Support Squadron, Wing Education and Training. Non prior-service Airmen sign up following technical training.

"The program is available to sign up for anytime as long as the Airman has graduated technical school," said Sergeant Weiss.

At the beginning of each fiscal year, the program is reviewed by Air Force Reserve Command.

"AFRC will try to cover STP in the budget. If the budget is too tight, AFRC will decrease the amount of days available to an Airman, or the Airman's unit can cover the cost," said Tech. Sgt. Eliezer Yamzon, a unit training advisor with the Wing Education and Training. "If neither AFRC nor the unit can pay, the STP will be pulled until next fiscal year."

The cost per Airman in the STP is dependent on the technical nature of the AFSC and number of days needed, according to Sergeant Weiss.

Tech. Sgt. Adam Harrison, maintenance training manager, 446th Maintenance Squadron, points out that critical or very technical AFSCs cost more, but is worth it.

"It's definitely an asset to the Reserve community," said Sergeant Harrison. "The results have been very good. Sometimes it takes 14 to 16 months for some of the new Airmen to get core tasks done. It now takes just three months for core tasks to be completed. This helps Reserve Airmen reach their 5-skill level more quickly."

More than half of the new Airmen in the maintenance squadrons are going through the seasoning training program.

"I've been in the program three months now. It definitely helps," said Airman Andrue Morris, an aerospace propulsion journeyman, 446th MXS. "By meeting, talking to, and learning from active duty and Air Force Reserve Technicians," he continued, "you get a better knowledge of what you're doing here."

For more information on how to sign up, visit the wing education and training office in Bldg. 1205, Room 120.



Photo courtesy from Argos Georgia, Ltd.

After successfully airdropping critical engine parts to the stranded Argos Georgia, the McChord C-17 flown by a crew of Reserve and active-duty Airmen from the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings heads for Christchurch, New Zealand.



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Cargo is airdropped from a McChord C-17 Jan. 5 by a crew of 446th Airlift Wing and active-duty Airmen. The C-17 drop delivered a new engine and supplies to a stranded British fishing trawler in the Antarctic.



Courtesy photo from Argos Georgia, Ltd.

Supplies dropped Jan. 5 from a McChord C-17 land within feet of the stranded fishing trawler. Airmen from the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings conducted the drop after an urgent request from the boat's owner was approved by Air Mobility Command.

Trawler

Continued from Page 1

the situation: we looked at the clouds, ice flows, wind direction, orientation of the ship and potential points of impact. We came up with a planned point of impact and a run-in heading and got high precision coordinates for our planned point of impact.”

While Major Jensen flew a racetrack pattern, Major Brown built an airdrop into the computer flight plan. The bundle landed right where they wanted it to.

“Within an hour the box had been recovered, transferred and the part inspected,” said Chief Masura. “We received an

e-mail the next day stating the engine was warming up and they would be underway. It made our day knowing we could get them fixed.”

The call for help came initially to Lt. Col. Jim McGann, 62nd Airlift Wing and the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander.

The New Zealand Rescue Coordination Center contacted the Operation Deep Freeze C-17 mission commander in Christchurch and explained a British fishing trawler had lost all main power and was frozen in the ice flow off the Ross Ice Shelf. The center wanted to know if the C-17 could airdrop supplies to the vessel.

“This is what we train for, what we’re experts at,” said Colonel McGann. “It’s a challenging mission, but this capability is inherent in the C-17 and epitomizes the Global Reach concept,” he said.

Argos Georgia Limited’s director of operations, Peter Thomson, said, “The U.S. Air Force was fantastic. They offered to drop the package on the deck, but I had visions of it smashing through the bridge. So, they dropped it nearby on the ice with a large buoy and put a 20-pound box of chocolates inside.”

The aircrew and C-17 are currently staged out of Christchurch, New Zealand supporting Operation Deep Freeze.

Saving lives in the Pacific

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt

Wing Public Affairs

More than 145 Reservists with the 446th Airlift Wing are participating in the Pacific Lifeline exercise in Hawaii Jan. 26 to Feb. 9.

Several squadrons are participating from the wing. The 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron leads the pack with 84 participants. The 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, 446th Services Flight, 446th Mission Support Squadron, and the 446th Airlift Control Flight also have several participants.

The 446th ALCF is the first unit in place at Barking Sands Naval Air Station in Hawaii and the last ones to leave to ensure airlift runs smoothly.

“Our job is to receive the cargo and personnel who will be at the exercise,” said Master Sgt. Tom Martin, the senior Air Reserve Technician in the 446th ALCF. “Our unit will remain for the exercise to supply Air Mobility Command’s Command and Control for all exercise airlift in and out of Barking Sands. When the exercise is complete, we’ll ensure everyone else is shipped out on schedule before we leave on the last plane coming home to McChord.”

The ALCF is critical to keep the airlift, cargo and personnel running smoothly, allowing everyone to focus on their portions of the exercise.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Tech. Sgt. Kristy Wellman, left, goes over paperwork on the deployment processing line Jan. 25. Sergeant Wellman, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and more than 140 other Reservists from the 446th Airlift Wing, McChord Air Force Base, Wash., are participating in Pacific Lifeline, a disaster response exercise in Hawaii Jan. 26-Feb. 9.

“It is very important to continue to do exercises like this in different theatres of operation,” said Col. Jan Moore-Harbert, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander. “This exercise gives them a two-fold opportunity; to work in the Pacific theatre again, since it is an area we would be required to support if a war or contingency occurs, and it allows them to be a part the

development and approval of a humanitarian response concept for a major disaster.”

One of the capabilities being exercised is the new Humanitarian Relief Operations Operational Capability Package, or HUMRO OCP, which was developed earlier this year.

For more on this story, visit www.446aw.afrc.af.mil.

Pacific Lifeline provides ALCF training

By Tech. Sgt. Nick Przybyciel

Wing Public Affairs

The 14 Reservists supporting Pacific Lifeline as part of the 446th Airlift Control Flight package couldn’t ask for a sweeter deal.

For one, there’s the exercise’s location – Hawaii. After being deprived of sunlight for months in the notoriously gray Pacific Northwest winter, any chance to head to a tropical location is a welcome reprieve.

More importantly, these

Airmen are looking forward to the opportunity to practice like they’re designed to play.

Comprised of Airmen spanning nine Air Force Specialty Codes and possessing the ability to deploy anywhere in the world within 36 hours, the ALCF acts as a mobile command post and logistical support unit.

Whether setting up a flightline, tracking air assets, or booking lodging for incoming personnel, the ALCF ensures air operations can begin at even the most remote airfield.

And, they typically do this with only 16 Airmen.

“Each person in the ALCF wears about four or five hats,” said Master Sgt. Tom Martin, the senior Air Reserve Technician in the 446th ALCF.

Sergeant Martin has worked in the ALCF as an airfield manager since 1997, ensuring runways are properly setup and safe enough to handle cargo aircraft. But like every member of the ALCF, his responsibility extends beyond his AFSC.

Certified to deploy in a com-

mand position, Sergeant Martin has the authority of a commissioned officer in certain deployment scenarios.

Since the War on Terror kicked off, Sergeant Martin said training opportunities like Pacific Lifeline are few.

Pacific Lifeline is a total force exercise designed to test the military’s ability to rapidly deploy a trained, equipped team anywhere in the Pacific in response to a humanitarian assistance or disaster scenario. For more on this story, visit www.446aw.afrc.af.mil.

S E R V I C E



Days to remember

Feb. 1, 1972 –

The Boeing Company in Renton, Wash., rolled out the first test bed aircraft for the Airborne Warning and Control System.

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Patricia Kawaa, 446th ASTS
Laura Nepute, 446th AES
Doug VanWoudenberg, 446th AMXS
Joseph Zebroski, 446th MXS

Master Sergeant

John Broome, 446th AMXS
Ariel Casal, 446th AMXS
Peter Duban, 86th APS
James Grinnell, 446th AES
Randy Pantle, 86th APS

Technical Sergeant

Tereza Addington, 446th AMDS
Jansen Balanay, 446th MSS
James Hoeper, 86th APS
Jefferey Jensen, 446th AMXS
Rey Mene, 446th MSS
Brian Miller, 446th AMXS
Nicholas Przybyciel, 446th AW

Staff Sergeant

Daniel Becker, 446th SFS
Anayansi Chinn, 446th MSS
Stacy Elwess, 446th CES
Jason Eschette, 446th MXS
Melinda Flatt, 97th AS
Damon Hahn, 446th SFS
John Hillenbrand, 446th MXS
Richard Maser, 446th AMDS
Beau Messenger, 97th AS
Leslie Teuscher, 36th APS

Senior Airman

Janelle Bowers, 446th MSS
Cory Brockman, 446th AMXS
David Chargualaf, 446th AMXS
Tara Currah, 446th SFS
Stephen Martinez, 446th CES
Trevor Messenger, 97th AS
Jonathon Vinson, 446th CES

Airman First Class

Jesse Masters, 728th AS

Airman

Jaime Cochran, 446th AMDS
Kristina Hansen, 446th AMDS
Benjamin Jenkins, 446th CES

Newcomers

Lieutenant Colonel

Lori Mapes, 446th AMDS

Major

Virginia Harris, 446th ASTS

Captain

Sabra Brown, 446th AW
Jennifer Goetz, 446th AMXS
Todd Ruth, 446th OSF

First Lieutenant

Mutita Honsberger, 446th AES

Master Sergeant

Brian Bottler, 446th CES
Jon Conway, 446th CES
Brian Parret, 446th CES
Aaron Sauer, 446th CES

Technical Sergeant

Michelle Belkot, 446th MSS
Vincent Bocci, 446th AW
Darric Delmonico, 446th AMXS
Jennifer Dockham, 446th OSF
William Jones, 446th AES
Suzanne Kyes, 446th MSS
Daniel Mattson, 446th CES
Sammy Sobah, 446th MSS

Staff Sergeant

Pollyjan Bobseine, 446th SFS
Samanth Donat, 446th AMXS
Amanda Garlough, 446th AMDS
Daniel Headings, 446th CES
Andrew Jorgensen, 446th AMXS
Darrin Lagasse, 86th APS
Timothy Raymon, 313th AS
Michael Rorman, 446th ASTS
Ryan Stephens, 446th CES

Senior Airman

Edgar Delrio, 446th MSS
Jeremy Hall, 446th AMXS
Alexander Hamilton, 446th MSS
Ashley Henry, 446th AES
Efren Hesse, 46th MXS

UCI Superior Performers

Ms. Nancy McGhee, 728th Airlift Squadron.
Staff Sgt. Andrea Barrow, 446th Services Flight
Master Sgt. Joe Hunt, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Lisa Caron, 446th Mission Support Squadron
Master Sgt. Nancy Teal, 446th MSS
Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt, 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Kevin Welin, 446th AW Safety Office
446th SFS Combat Arms - Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Mazzuca,
Master Sgts. Marion Sanders and Daniel VanZanten, Tech. Sgt. Michael LeFrancis.
446th MXS Fabrication Flight Training - Senior Master Sgt. Robert Stone, Master Sgts. Kevin Davis and Tim Eborra, Tech. Sgt. Tom Wheeler.
728th AS Commander's Support Staff - Maj. Michael Bautista, Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Martin, Master Sgt. Aundrea Gonzales, Ms. DeeAnn Ballard.
446th MXG Training Team - Master Sgt. Carol Patten and Tech. Sgt. Adam Harrison.

Curtis Maltman, 446th LRF
Enros Manaligod, 446th ASTS
Ernest Munns, 446th CES
Robert Ocasio, 446th SFS
Voneimi Ong, 446th CES
Michael Roberts, 446th CES
Shaun Robison, 446th AMDS

Airman First Class

Patrick Cabellon, 446th AW
Danielle Ogle, 446th AES
Michael Rodriguez, 446th AMXS

Airman

Cameron Shoenberger, 446th MXS

Airman Basic

Michael Glover, 446th CES

Retirements

Lieutenant Colonel

Greg Pyke, 97th AS

Major

Brian Berryessa, 446th CES

Chief Master Sergeant

Stephen Oakes, 446th AES

Senior Master Sergeant

Steven Bautista, 446th MXS

Master Sergeant

Terry Campbell, 446th CES
Andrew Greaves, 446th CES
Benoit Lamendola, 446th ASTS

Technical Sergeant

Raymond Delavergne, 446th MXS

Just Briefly

If you were president for a day what benefits would you give veterans?

Healthcare

Free healthcare, for the opportunity to take care of themselves.



◆ Airman Andrué Morris
446th Maintenance Squadron

Civil Service

Improved civil service to provide jobs for retirees, because the current system is flawed.



◆ Tech. Sgt. Jon Goularte
446th Maintenance Squadron

Prescriptions

Free prescription drugs, because they're expensive.



◆ Airman 1st Class Chris Peterson
446th Maintenance Squadron

Education

Medical and education benefits, should be standardized. Something that can promote retention.



◆ Senior Master Sgt. David Sanchez
446th Maintenance Squadron

Wing training staff changes testing schedule in new year

The 446th Mission Support Squadron's training office will no longer offer testing on Thursday of each week. Additionally, as a reminder, there is no testing on Mondays. Testing will be done on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Testing must be scheduled through unit training managers, or directly with wing training if testing for a professional military education course. All tests must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.

Questions about the testing schedule may be directed to Senior Master Sgt. Cheri Lewis at 982-9107.

Tuition Assistance rules change for students in master's program

As of Jan. 1, Tuition Assistance reimbursement will not be made to Reservists enrolled in a master program unless their education records have been updated to show achievement of a bachelor degree.

Reservists must provide the 446th Mission Support Squadron's Education and Training office official transcripts from a regionally or nationally accredited institution.

Questions can be directed to the 446th MSS training office at 982-2300.

Make reservations for March 8 wing awards banquet

The 446th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet will be March 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$25 and reservations must be turned into first sergeants by Feb. 24. Dress for the evening is mess dress or semi-formal uniform for military, and formal attire for civilians.

Free tax help available through Military OneSource Web site

Military OneSource offers free tax preparation services for military members and their families. Services provided through H & R Block TaxCut program are accessible through the Military OneSource Web site www.militaryonesource.com.

Conference held for women married to military

A women's conference for military wives will be held at Fort Lewis on March 7 and 8. The conference is designed to enlighten, enrich and motivate in a variety of classes. Cost to attend is \$20 for both days, or \$15 for Saturday only. For more information visit www.lewisfamilyfocus.com.

Armed Forces Night is April 1 with the Seattle Mariners

The Seattle Mariners will take on the Texas Rangers April 1, at the annual Armed Forces Night baseball game. Tickets are available online. Call the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office at 982-3330 for details.



Better not punch those stripes on too hard ...

Capt. George LaFrazia, a deployed Reservist from the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, watches an Airman clear his weapon before promoting him to senior airman. Captain LaFrazia is currently deployed to Southwest Asia.

Services supplies sustenance

By Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
Wing Public Affairs

Airmen participating in the Pacific Lifeline '08 exercise did some fine dining (for field conditions that is) at the 446th Services Flight's new single pallet expeditionary kitchen.

Pacific Lifeline is a total force exercise designed to test the military's ability to rapidly arrive and leave a trained, equipped team anywhere in the Pacific in response to a humanitarian assistance or disaster scenario.

Approximately 900 Department of Defense personnel will participate in the 13th annual Air Force-led exercise. The SPEK was used to feed about 250 officers and enlisted people from the active duty, Reserve and Guard of the Air Force, Army and Navy.

The 446th Services Flight here received the new SPEK in August. This was the first time the 446th SVF team deployed with the SPEK.

The SPEK can be set up by 12 Airmen in less than two hours and can feed up to 550 people twice a day, according to Tech. Sgt. Paul Sansiribahn, 446th SVF.

"It really speeds up the feeding process for Airman," said Sergeant Sansiribahn.

"Within four hours of setting up the system and cooking the food we can be feeding people," said Staff Sgt. Juan Colon, 446th SVF.

The Reserve services specialists served "A" rations during the exercise, which consisted of semi-perishable and perishable food items requiring refrigeration such as meat, vegetables, starch, deserts, drinks and food service equipment and personnel.



Photo by Senior Airman Jared Marquis

Services Airmen deployed to Air Force exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 serve up food to exercise participants during an evening meal at Naval Air Engineering Station at Lakehurst, N.J. Services members prepared the food in the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, or SPEK, just as 446th Services Flight Reservists from McChord will do during the exercise Pacific Lifeline in Hawaii.

"A" rations are used for group feeding. Whenever an opportunity for a group of Airmen to eat together arises, "A" rations are prepared by personnel and served hot to the Airmen.

The SPEK replaced the mobile kitchen trailer. The MKT served fewer people within a longer time period.

"(The SPEK) is a lot like a restaurant; it has air conditioning, hot water and a large

sanitary station to clean dishes," said Sergeant Sansiribahn.

The SPEK can be used in any environment under any condition. It is self-contained and can provide hot meals in any field environment, said Sergeant Colon. Since the SPEK is easily deployable and has the capacity to cook up "A" rations, it will definitely increase the morale and welfare of Airmen, said Staff Sgt. Don Johnson, 446th SVF

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