

MISSION OVER MALMSTROM

MAGAZINE

**MISSILEERS
ON ALERT**

24/7, 365

**MISSILE
MAINTENANCE**
SNEAK PEEK

SECURITY
ALWAYS READY

PLAY
COVER 



SPECIAL EDITION OPEN HOUSE MORE ABOUT THE WING

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“The 490th Missile Squadron sends (missileers) to the 13,800 square-mile missile field every day to provide nuclear surety and deterrence,” said 1st Lt. Avril Sammis, 490th MS missileer.

The 490th Missile Squadron is one of three missile squadrons assigned to the 341st Operations Group, which secures, supports and operates intercontinental ballistic missiles assigned to Malmstrom’s area of responsibility.

PROVIDING LETHAL ALWAYS READY COMBAT CAPABILITY

Senior Airman Daniel Brosam

Due to the geographical size of the 490th MS and the demand for current worldwide operations, the crews spend several hours a day driving to and from their respective missile alert facilities. Multiple teams go out each day to support ICBM weapons, facilities and infrastructure.

The 490th MS is distinctive in that its members have the longest average driving distance to and from MAF locations to conduct alert-status in launch control centers than any missile squadron in the Air Force.

“We may pull alert with another missileer we haven’t met which means spending 24 hours in a launch control center where we eat, sleep and work for 24 hours,” Sammis said. “It’s a good thing our drives are long so we can get to know each other.”

Montana's winter weather can be a challenge, as the squadron's Airmen combined, drive thousands of miles a week. Winter road conditions and weather are integral to unit planning and propel Airman innovation.

"Missiles are a part of life for many Montanans, not only those local to Great Falls, but in several other state communities," Sammis said.

Despite their field mission, the unit doesn't stop achieving large accomplishments, such as earning the Samuel C. Phillips Award in 2016 for Best Missile Squadron in Air Force Global Strike Command.

"We can't do our job without the support of the entire wing," Sammis said. "Security forces are our defense force in the field, maintainers work hard to keep our weapons operational, the facility managers keep the MAF running, the chefs provide food for everyone on location and our medical staff ensures we have the services we need.

"I could go on and on, but this mission is truly a team effort," she said.

"The nuclear operators here are responsible for the most lethal weapons on the planet."



"Missiles are a part of life for many Montanans, not only those local to Great Falls, but in several other state communities,"

SNEAK PEEK MISSILE MAINTENANCE

Staff Sgt. Magen M. Reeves

For many units across the Air Force, maintenance efforts play a large part in mission success.

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VIDEO



The 341st Maintenance Group here at Malmstrom is no different. The group and respective squadrons play a huge role in ensuring the day-in and day-out mission is accomplished safely, securely and effectively.

Whether the operations are “boots on the ground” performing jobs in the missile field, or establishing a top-notch environment back at the base’s home station, maintenance Airmen are always at the top of their game.

“[Maintenance] supports the mission by providing leaders an objective analysis of the quality of maintenance and equipment within the wing,” said Chief Master Sgt. Dustin Jacobs, 341st MXG quality assurance superintendent. “This data allows leaders to analyze trends and improve maintenance proficiency



and weapons system reliability.”

Many of the tasks the group performs daily can go unnoticed because of the nature of the intercontinental ballistic missile mission.

The hope is that the weapons system never has to be used, but the nation’s posture on defense is to be 100 percent ready at all times, which can bring the mission home for many people within the local community.

“Our group has a unique cross-section of personnel, both military and civilian,” Jacobs said. “Members of the sections come from all

parts of the country, including Montana, and provide Great Falls and the surrounding areas with a diverse set of community members with varying backgrounds and experiences.”

Additionally, the vastness of the Montana missile complex brings a sense of unity to rural land owners and military members across the state.

It is not unusual for Montana land owners to see service members traveling to and from launch facilities, missile alert facilities and Malmstrom. It is also not uncommon to

have to work together as some LFs are co-located on privately-owned land.

Having a wealth of knowledge, experience, continuity and drive for mission success does draw the attention of our nation’s top defense leaders.





“The unique demands and complexity of the Minuteman III weapon system require dedication and tenacity on the part of the unit’s members to accomplish their assigned mission” said Jacobs.

For example, the 341st MXG’s quality assurance section was identified as a superior team during a recent Air Force Global Strike Command Unit Effectiveness Inspection, according to Jacobs.

The 341st MXG was also recently recognized as the Department of Defense’s Phoenix

Award recipient. This achievement is awarded to the best maintenance unit in the DoD and was the first time an ICBM unit had been recognized with such an award. “Members of our

group take great pride in living and working in Montana, and through hard work and dedication, represent the very best of what Malmstrom has to offer,” Jacobs said.



341st Missile Wing

Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana



Commander
Col. Jennifer K. Reeves



Command Chief
CMSgt. Eryn C. McElroy



SECURITY ALWAYS READY

Airman 1st Class Tristan Truesdell

Staff Sgt. Justin Olson, 841st Missile Security Forces Squadron flight security controller, is native to St. Michael, Minnesota – another northern-tier state, like Montana. Like his peers, he fills a role in Air Force Global Strike Command by improving our ability to fight as a more lethal, always ready force supporting weapons, facilities and infrastructure in the high demand for current worldwide operations.

“I’m a flight security controller, or FSC,” said Olson. “I control whether or not someone gets

access to a missile alert facility or a launch facility. Missile field cops protect and defend the nation’s number one assets – our Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.”

ICBMs provide a credible and lethal nuclear deterrent force. Malmstrom Air Force Base has the largest missile field at 13,800 square miles.

Malmstrom directly supports the National Defense Strategy objective of dissuading, preventing or deterring adversaries from acquiring,

proliferating or using weapons of mass destruction.

To ensure maximum security, two FSC’s post with their fellow Airmen to MAFs. One is responsible for day shift duties and the other for the night shift.

Distance can be a challenge when it comes to guarding and traveling out to MAFs or LFs. Montana is the fourth largest state in the country, but that doesn’t affect Malmstrom’s defenders.

“One site is a two-and-a-half-hour drive one-way,” said Olson. “Then you have to work a 12-hour day when you arrive to your MAF. If you’re working a night shift, you only get a few hours of sleep until your shift begins.”



Though guarding these assets carries a huge responsibility, the people can make the journey



PLAY
SOUND

worthwhile. Security forces work with a community of Airmen from other career fields when they post to the missile complex.

“We work alongside them in every way possible,” said Olson.



“In security forces, we work with our own response force teams and backup force teams. Then there’s facility managers, which are special-duty positions, so anyone from any career field can work it.

“Our missile chefs are with the 341st Force Support Squadron, missileers from the 341st Operations Group and we also work with all the maintenance squadrons – essentially anyone on base,” he continued.

With numerous career fields interacting, Olson is able to learn from his fellow Airmen, the diverse environment and grow from it to be faster and



smarter through innovation, he said.

One of his recent accomplishments includes receiving the individual 2019 Superior Performer for the Nuclear Surety Inspection. Olson’s knowledge in his position and his professionalism earned him the award.

“I’m not the type of person who needs recognition,” he said.

“When the mission is complete, I know I’ve done a good job.”

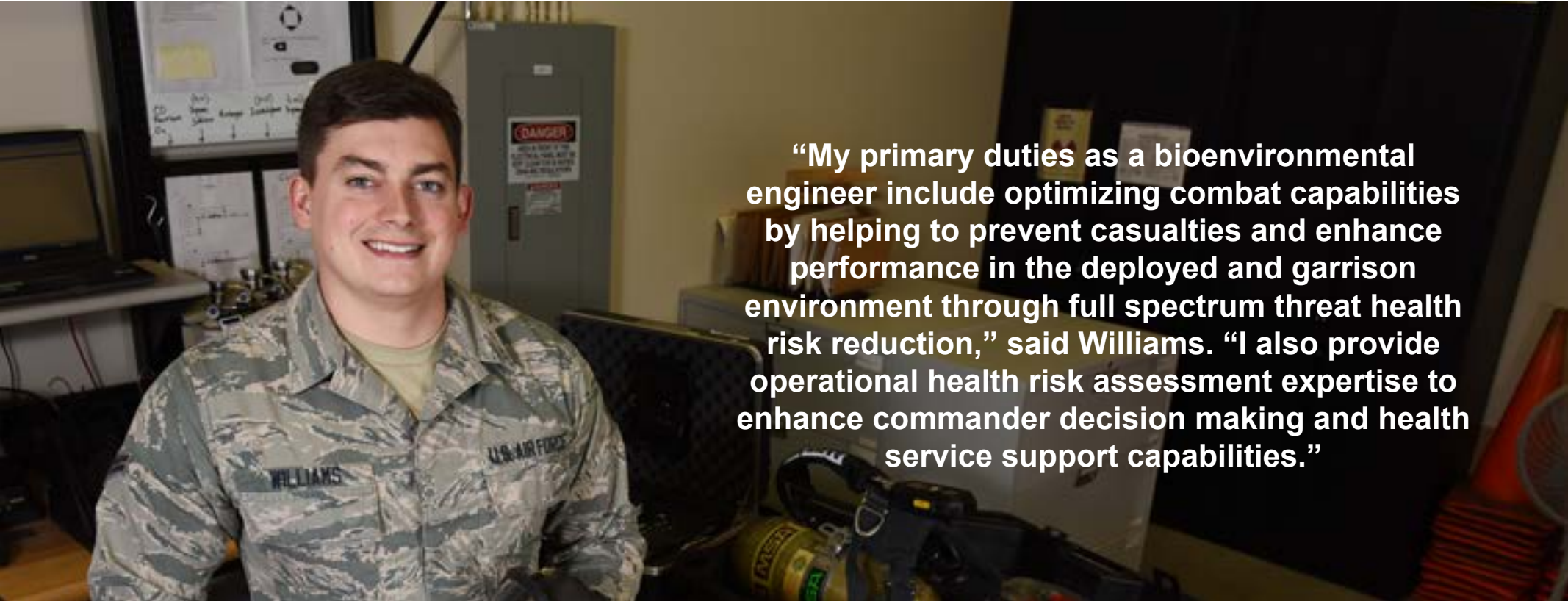
“Knowing I accomplished something as part of my team and successfully made decisions... That self-satisfaction is what motivates me.”

AIRMAN INNOVATION IN HEALTH AWARENESS

Originally from South Carolina, Airman 1st Class Lee Williams has always envisioned himself having a positive impact on the health and well-being of others. Being a bioenvironmental engineer technician with the 341st Medical Operations Squadron has enabled him to continue those dreams by providing the first line of protection in preventative health.

Airman 1st Class Jacob M. Thompson





“My primary duties as a bioenvironmental engineer include optimizing combat capabilities by helping to prevent casualties and enhance performance in the deployed and garrison environment through full spectrum threat health risk reduction,” said Williams. “I also provide operational health risk assessment expertise to enhance commander decision making and health service support capabilities.”

Bioenvironmental engineers provide preventative health through proactive measures by assessing potential health risks in various workplaces, improving our ability to fight by ensuring we are always ready to support the high demand for current worldwide operations.

Technicians survey units which may be exposed to hazards by performing health risk assessments, which entails identifying potential health hazards, as well as the implementation of controls and regulations, such as advising

the need for personal protective equipment.

“Without the data and information from our health risk assessments, it would be tremendously difficult for health care providers to accurately and effectively implement preventive medicine, as well as treat those whose illnesses were caused by occupational and environmental exposures,” Williams said.

They work with any unit that has an inherent occupational and environmental health risk, such as examining confined spaces,

which can include units across the base dealing with weapons, facilities and infrastructure.

“We work with the majority of units across the base, as well as a multitude of federal agencies, to help support occupational and environmental health operational risk management activities,” said Williams.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency are among the federal units they interact with.

Through these partnerships,

bioenvironmental engineers are part of the extensive workforce that aides in maintaining one of the nation’s most lethal operations: the nuclear enterprise mission.

“Nuclear assets cannot be moved without our knowledge because we need to ensure there is no possible contamination or exposure as they are transported,” said Williams. “Our work ensures that those protecting, maintaining and transporting missiles are doing so in a safe environment. We also ensure the

water our Airmen are drinking from inside the missile complex is safe and free of contaminations.”

Williams views his day-to-day work at Malmstrom as rewarding, but one instance comes to mind that stands out above the rest.

Within two weeks upon arriving on-station, Williams and the bioenvironmental unit responded to a suspected fuel leak. The leak posed a potential compromise to missile maintainers being able to continue and sustain their opera-

tions under safe conditions. The health hazards were identified and the operations were continued safely in thanks to faster, smarter Airmen innovation, processes and procedures.

“Finding occupational safety and health oversights in every day processes always feels like an accomplishment, but without our involvement in the suspected fuel leak, our mission and community would’ve been affected detrimentally. I’m proud of the work we did,” said Williams.



A COMMUNITY OF ENGINEERS

A critical function of military bases is self-sustainability, which supports a posture of being always ready in today's high demand for current worldwide operations.

Staff Sgt. Magen M. Reeves

That includes having the capability to offer food services in a crisis, as well as legal assistance, medical support, defense measures and providing maintenance to weapons, facilities and infrastructure.

This is where the 341st Civil Engineer Squadron comes into play.

"We provide critical war-fighting and peacetime support to the 341st Missile Wing and its tenant units," said Chief Master Sgt. Luke Lucas, 341st CES superintendent.

"We support the mission by providing housing, explosive ordnance disposal, fire and emergency management response services, facility construction, maintenance and operations of more than 17 billion dollars of infrastructure across a 13,800 square mile complex," he added.

The drive of the engineers and the squadron's support functions should come as no surprise when compared against the unit's numerous

The scope of responsibility the squadron maintains is so large, it even stems across countries and oceans.

accolades and awards.

"We were selected as the Air Force's Best Civil Engineer Squadron in 2016 and we were recently selected as the Air Force's Best Environmental Management Program in 2018," said Lucas.

The 341st CES epitomizes a community of excellence by not only serving the installation when called upon, but also serving the local population.

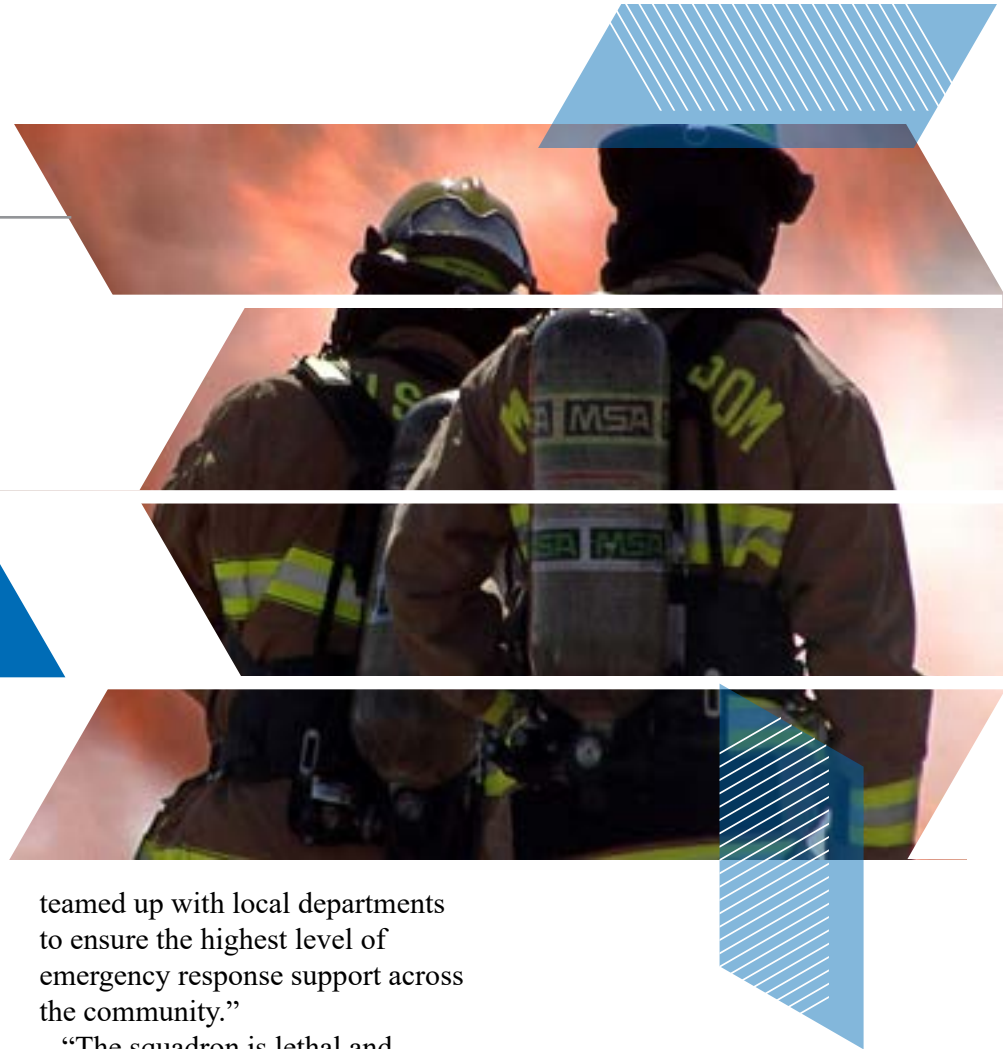
"We manage the Mapril Cleanup every spring to help local residents dispose of unwanted furniture, trash and debris," said Lucas. "We also have the Department of Defense's largest Memorandum of Agreements in which our fire department has

teamed up with local departments to ensure the highest level of emergency response support across the community."

"The squadron is lethal and tenacious," said Lucas. "We typically have 40 engineers deployed at any given time who directly support our overseas combatant commander objectives. Additionally, it takes a team of engineers to operate and maintain the U.S. Air Force's largest intercontinental ballistic missile complex. Our folks

are proud of what they do and are getting after it each and every day."

Across land and sea, no job too big nor too small, the men and women of the 341st CES help support the Malmstrom mission and local community.



WARFIGHTER COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Sgt. Magen M. Reeves



Airman 1st Class Tristan Truesdell is a photojournalist stationed at Malmstrom in the 341st Missile Wing, public affairs office.

“I arrived here for my assignment in 2017,” she said. “However, I was born and raised in Great Falls.”

Truesdell’s job consists of digital photography production, print journalism publication and serving as a social media expert.

“My job supports the mission because I get to tell the Air

Force story,” said Truesdell. “I also help run the base’s Facebook page which we use to inform the community of activities and important messages from the commander.

“My shop is interesting because I get to work in a very creative mission with both military members and civilians,” said Truesdell. “Having both gives a unique perspective.”

The mission of public affairs is creative by nature because storytelling is primarily accomplished through the use of compelling images and videos which can go as far as being featured at the Department of Defense level.

“My biggest professional accomplishment is when my stories or photos have been republished by the Air Force’s official website,” she said. “Knowing that my product was good enough to go worldwide is really awesome.”

Communicating the Malmstrom mission with an



emphasis on weapons, facilities, infrastructure, and Airmen innovation to a worldwide audience is critically important because of the nuclear enterprise. It also gets information to the warfighter as quickly as possible, improving our ability to fight as a more lethal, ready force.

“Not everyone gets to work with or support nuclear weapons,” said Truesdell. “What we do here is so important because the nation depends on us getting it right when it comes to these weapons.

I have to be able to tell that story to the Air Force community, the Great Falls community and the world.

“Having support from my local community is really great,” she continued. “Everyone is so nice and supports what we do at the base and that can be hard to come by.”

Truesdell and her team of public affairs specialists tell the U.S. Air Force story by putting together digital or print media coverage of events on base, command priorities and good deeds done by Airmen both on base and in the local community.

Telling the story of what the organization is doing to support the high demand for current worldwide operations, however, is not always easy.

“I would say my biggest obstacle is the snow,” she said. “It snows a lot here in Montana and sometimes

we have to cancel photoshoots which can put a pause on the project, but it’s usually pretty easy to adjust and take a different approach.

“Great Falls is my home and I wanted to come back here once I joined the Air Force,” she said. “As an adult, I get to explore and experience so much more of Montana and I love still living here.”

Truesdell says she loves her job in public affairs and does not want to move.

“Before I joined the Air Force, I was going to college to get a degree in computer graphics, and it turns out that I get to use my skills and my passion for graphic design in public affairs all the time. So for me, I love it.”





Rapid Engineer Deployable, Heavy Operational Repair Squadron, Engineer (RED HORSE) squadrons provide the Air Force with a highly mobile civil engineer response force to support wartime and special operations.

ALWAYS READY

819

TO THE

HORSE!

Senior Airman Daniel Brosam

The 819th RHS is a self-sufficient mobile squadron capable of rapid response and independent operations in remote and austere environments by providing heavy repair capability and construction support when requirements exceed normal base-level civil engineer capabilities and where Army engineer support is not readily available.

“The unit falls under 9th Air Force which is under Air Combat Command,” said Master Sgt. Alexander Blanco, 819th RHS infrastructure superintendent. “The primary mission of RED HORSE is to perform wartime and peacetime contingency tasks in support of major force bed down, heavy damage repair, bare base development, and heavy engineering operations.”

RED HORSE’s wartime responsibility is to provide for the recovery of critical U.S. Air Force facilities and infrastructure utility systems, as well as aircraft launch and recovery.

“While RED HORSE isn’t tasked to directly support the 341st Missile Wing, the squadron does contribute to the mission whenever possible,” said Blanco. “An example is when the squadron assisted the 341st Civil Engineer Squadron with snow removal and flooding issues in the missile fields. We’ve

also built facilities on the installation that have facilitated the increase of operational area for other Wing agencies.”

In addition to almost every civil engineer discipline, the 819th RED HORSE Squadron has individuals who perform additional specialties including vehicle maintenance, supply, services, security forces, and communications. Having this structure creates a community within the squadron completely able to support itself, improving the ability to fight as an always-ready unit.

“What makes the squadron lethal is the fact that we are one cohesive unit with bits and pieces of every specialty in the Air Force,” Blanco said. “This unit has engineers, logistics, medical, force support, and force protection personnel making us a total force able to carry out many operations.

“This allows us to be tenacious as a group,” Blanco added. “The unit deploys in support of two separate theaters in more than eight countries. No matter what obstacles may arise, the squadron always finds a way to overcome them and move forward to achieve what is asked of us.”

Throughout the years, Blanco said the squadron has had numerous accomplishments, but their largest accomplishment is more than just a trophy.

“The squadron has had many exciting accomplishments,” Blanco said. “Our largest accomplishment, however, is the continuous growth of our Airmen.

“Regardless of individual skill level, our Airmen leave every situation, Troop Training Project, or deployment with a broader knowledge base in not only their portion of the mission, but of the entire squadron’s role in the operation,” Blanco added.

“Everyone gets opportunities to help other crafts and in the end become a more rounded Airman. RED HORSE is an excellent illustration of a small total force unit within the U.S. Air Force.”



A close-up photograph of a military flight helmet, likely from a helicopter. The helmet is olive drab and features several black labels with white text. On the left side, a label reads "21MAR19". On the right side, a label reads "#76 LENELL". Above the visor, two labels each read "-1.5". A small label above the visor reads "VORTEX L6J28 116". The visor is dark and reflective, showing a bright light source. Various mechanical components and wiring are visible on top of the helmet.

DEFENDING MALMSTROM'S MISSILE FIELD FROM THE AIR

Senior Airman Daniel Brosam

Airmen from the 40th Helicopter Squadron execute an important role in support of the 341st Missile Wing, patrolling the skies around Malmstrom Air Force Base and its 13,800 square-mile missile field, rigorously performing training exercises, accumulating flight hours, and perfecting flying capabilities.

First Lt. Matthew Lenell, 40th HS UH-1N pilot, another pilot, flight engineer and occasionally Airmen from the 341st Security Support Squadron Tactical Response Force, travel around the missile field, always ready to provide aerial support where needed.

“My job is to provide airborne security response for the missile complex, missile field support and conduct search and rescue operations,” Lenell said. “I operate the helicopter under all conditions to deliver our mission package to the desired location whether it is in the missile field or in the mountains.”

In addition to providing lethal support in the missile field, Lenell and his fellow Airmen also assist the 341st SSPTS Convoy Response Force with missile movements to and from the missile field.

“My squadron provides rapid airborne security response forces to ensure the safety and security of the nuclear arsenal,” Lenell said. “Additionally, we provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance overwatch and armed escort for all weapon movement throughout the complex.”

Not only do Lenell and his team provide an additional line of defense to the nation, but they also assist with a high demand for search and rescue requests from the local community and greater state of Montana, and occasionally Wyoming.

“In addition to our nuclear security mission, we also provide a highly capable SAR asset,” Lenell said. “We provide around-the-clock SAR coverage for a significant portion of Montana and frequently accept missions when civilian assets are unavailable.”

Lenell said one of the most exciting things he has accomplished since being stationed in Montana is learning how to safely operate his aircraft in mountainous environments.

“Montana presents one of the most challenging and diverse flying environments that continuously pushes us to expand our skills as aviators,” Lenell said. “There is hardly ever a flight that does not present a new learning experience due to varied terrain and weather in Montana.”

“You never know what the day will turn out to be when you walk in the door in the morning due to our wide array of mission sets and the flexibility we bring to the missile wing and state of Montana,” he said.



PLAY
VIDEO

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