



Volume 3, No. 6

403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.

June 2, 2018



Photo by Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Air Force reservists with the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, and C-130J Super Hercules flown by the wing's 815th Airlift Squadron recently returned from their deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Freedom Sentinel and Inherent Resolve.

Wing reservists return from deployment

By Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
403rd Wing Public Affairs

Air Force Reserve Citizen Airmen and several C-130J Super Hercules aircraft from the 403rd Wing have returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Freedom Sentinel and Inherent Resolve.

Aircrew from the 815th Airlift Squadron, maintainers from the 803rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and support personnel from the 403rd Wing were assigned to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

The 815th AS, better known as the Flying Jennies, provided combat airdrop and airlift and aeromedical evacuation support to operations throughout the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

"In all the deployments I've been on with the 815th, we went more places in the area of responsibility than we ever have before," said Lt. Col. Keith Gibson, who commanded the 746th Air Expeditionary Squadron there. "It was good for our young Airmen to see such a variety of airfields and different tactical situations. They

did an outstanding job."

The 746th AES made Air Force history during the event when they did a two-ship formation airdrop with the 774th EAS, an active duty squadron at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, providing supplies to a Resolute Support Expeditionary Advisory Package in Afghanistan earlier this month.

This was the first time two separate units in two countries came together for a single combat airdrop mission, said Gibson.

The return from this deployment was vastly different from when the Flying Jennies returned from their deployment in 2014. The unit was scheduled to close at the end of that year. However, the Secretary of the Air Force reversed that recommendation in 2015.

"From the time we got the news that the 815th was staying open to declaring fully operational capable in November of 2017 was only 18 months," said Gibson.

"Rebuilding the 815th in such a short time was a Herculean effort by the entire squadron, and is simply amazing," he added. "These guys have absolutely rocked it and done a terrific job. We have shown that the 815th is back in business."

[Click here to read the complete article.](#)

www.403wg.afrc.af.mil

Command chief concludes 30-year career

By Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
403rd Wing Public Affairs

After 30 years of taking care of Airmen and serving his country, Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Barnby said farewell to the 403rd Wing and Air Force Reserve during a retirement ceremony today at 9 a.m. in the Fuel Cell at Keesler Air Force Base.

The command chief has served as the advisor to the 403rd Wing commander on matters of welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization and professional development of the wing's 1,400 enlisted members since 2014.

"He has had an impact," said retired Col. Michael Manion, former 403rd Wing commander and vice commander who presided over the retirement ceremony.

The chief served as his command chief here and as his first sergeant at the 908th Operational Support Squadron commander at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

"He is a tremendous person who is very humble," said Manion. "I have the deepest respect for all you have done. It is a sad day. We are losing a great one, but I know he has worked hard to mentor the next generation."

The chief joined the Air Force Reserve a year after graduating high school in 1988.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Barnby, 403rd Wing command chief, poses with his certificate of retirement presented to him by retired Col. Michael Manion, former 403rd Wing commander and vice commander, at the chief's retirement ceremony held at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, May 6. Barnby retired after a total of 30 years of service in the military.

He was an F-15 crew chief with the 402nd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, at Robins AFB, Georgia. Three years later he deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm as an aircraft battle damage repairman. He returned to his unit where he then served as an ABDR instructor and evalu-

ator, an assistant team chief, and later as a quality assurance assistant superintendent with the 622nd CLSS until 2005. He had just make senior master sergeant when he found out his unit was closing. He transferred to the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell AFB. [Click here to read more.](#)

Air evac commander made exceeding status quo career goal

The Air Force core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do embody the very essence of what every Airman should strive to be. Throughout his military career, the core value of "excellence in all we do," of exceeding the status quo, resonated true with the commander of the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Col. Tom Hansen. It still rings true for him in all that he does, even in his scheduled retirement from the Air Force Reserve June 15, 2018.

While he was growing up, Hansen didn't have any particular career aspirations. After graduating from high school, he worked various odd jobs for a few years before landing employment in one of his



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

Col. Tom Hansen, 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, addresses attendees at his retirement ceremony held at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, May 6. The colonel retired after a total of 31 years of service in the military.

town's hospitals. It was here that he found his focus, discovering how much he liked the medical career field.

"At that point I started look-

ing into options to take my education forward into the Army. They offered the option of using the G.I. Bill after your initial enlistment," said Hansen.

He enlisted in the Army in 1975, just shortly after the end of the Vietnam War, and served as a company-grade medic at Walter Reid National Military Medical Center, Maryland, until his separation in 1978. He noted how much he enjoyed serving and helping people there.

"I really just enjoyed taking care of people. It was very rewarding," said Hansen. "I've always been very comfortable with what we do in the medical career field, take caring of our wounded and injured warriors."

He then entered college, graduating from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1982. He then earned his Master's in Nursing. [To learn more about his career, click here.](#)

403RD HEADLINES

AIR FORCE FIRST FOR FLYING JENNIES

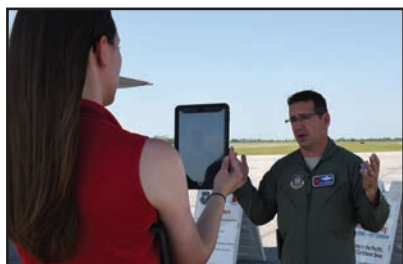
In the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan two U.S. C-130J Hercules aircraft airdropped over 30 Container Delivery System bundles to a Resolute Support Expeditionary Advisory Package, May 4.

Unlike previous combat airdrop missions, this dual-formation airdrop was executed by two geographically separated units, the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron an active-duty squadron, located at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, and the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 815th Airlift Squadron deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

"The uniqueness about this mission is that it's two separate units, stationed in two separate countries, coming together for a single airdrop, which to my knowledge has never been done before in combat in this country," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Bret Echard, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander. [Click here for more.](#)



HAT: PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON



Hurricane season starts June 1 and now is the time to prepare. To promote this message, an Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircrew with their WC-130J Super Hercules and a team of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hurricane experts visited five Gulf Coast cities as part of this year's Hurricane Awareness Tour May 7-11.

"We enjoy taking part in the Hurricane Awareness Tour each year because it highlights the vital role the squadron has in gathering data for NHC forecasts," said Col. Brian May, 403rd Operations Group commander. "What the Hurricane Hunters do strengthens relationships with our meteorological services, civil protection agencies, elected officials, and media partners that all work in a collaborative effort to enhance public awareness during hurricane season."

However, even with a perfect forecast, the storms still come, said Ken Graham, the new NHC director who was the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service in Slidell, Louisiana for years.

"That is why we are here," Graham said. "It's all about preparedness; it's about being ready for the next storm. Whether it's a busy season or not a busy season it only takes one storm." [Click here to read more.](#)

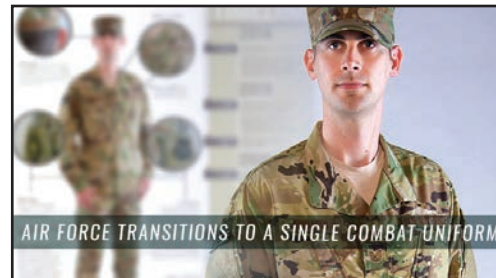
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

For the past 11 years, the Hurricane Hunter Association has been doing its part to help 403rd Wing members and their immediate family with their educational endeavors by offering the Swan 38 Memorial Scholarships. This year, two scholarships will be awarded at \$1,600 each, and the deadline to submit application packages is June 1.

Further information about the scholarship and the application form can be found online at <http://www.hurricanehunters.com/swan38.htm>, or by contacting Maj. Christopher Dyke, 403rd Operation Group weather standards and evaluation officer and Swan 38 Memorial Scholarship committee chair, at christopher.dyke.1@us.af.mil. To read more about the program, [click here](#).



Air Force News



Air Force transitions to single combat uniform

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force leaders announced the service will move to a single combat utility uniform, adopting the Operational Camouflage Pattern, or OCP, already in use by the Army and Airmen in combat zones and in certain jobs across the Air Force.

Starting Oct. 1, 2018, Airmen who have serviceable OCPs may wear the uniform, and Airmen can purchase OCPs at Army and Air Force Exchange Services at the following unstore locations: Aviano Air Base, Italy; Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina; Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina; and MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. These initial locations will allow uniform manufacturers to produce additional stocks for other locations, eventually outfitting the total force in the coming months.

The service will fully transition to OCPs by April 1, 2021. [Click here to read more.](#)

A 403rd Wing policy is in coordination. The Wing will not be purchasing any replacement or additional items if members have an unserviceable set until they become available through the Kentucky Logistics Operations Center.

Retired AF rated officers can return to active duty

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- Retired Air Force rated officers with Air Force Specialty Codes 11X-pilot, 12X-combat systems officer or 13B-air battle manager are encouraged to apply for the Voluntary Retired Return to Active Duty Program to help alleviate manning shortages within the Air Force rated community.

Also eligible to apply are current Air Force rated officers in those AFSCs with an approved retirement order. Officers serving on active duty under the 2017 VRRAD program whose tour lengths are limited to 12 months may apply for tour extensions. [Click here to read more.](#)

UTA DATES, FY 19

June 2-3	July 28-29
No August UTA	Sept. 8-9
Fiscal Year 2019 UTA Dates	
Oct. 13-14	Nov. 2-4
No December UTA	Jan. 11-13
Feb. 9-10	March 9-10
April 6-7	May 4-7
June 8-9	No July UTA
Aug. 3-4	Sept. 7-8

UNIT COMPLIANCE INSPECTION IN JULY

The 403rd Wing's Unit Compliance Inspection Capstone is July 26-30 in conjunction with the July 28-29 Unit Training Assembly. About 50 inspectors and augmentees from the Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General Office will visit the base. For information, contact Maj. Lisa Breal, 403rd Wing director of inspections, 228-377-0767.

JOINT HOMETOWN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS RESERVISTS

Members who have been promoted, re-enlisted, received an award or deployed can highlight these achievements with their hometown media outlets by submitting a Joint Hometown News Release online [here](#).

WING NEWS ON BASE APP

The 403rd Wing now has its own section in the Keesler Air Force Base app. This section includes Air Force Reserve-specific news and resources, important dates and events, and even the latest edition of the 403rd Flyer accessible on any mobile device. To download the app search "Keesler" in the app store or visit <https://apps.appmachine.com/keeslerafb2>.



403RD FLYER

This Department of Defense newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the 403rd Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or Department of the Air Force. The 403rd Flyer is published by the 403rd Wing Public Affairs Office. The submission deadline for this publication is Monday, two weeks prior to the Unit Training Assembly. Address: 403rd Wing Public Affairs, 701 Fisher Street, Keesler AFB, MS 39534
Email: 403wg.pa2@us.af.mil
Phone: 228-377-2056 or DSN 597-2056
PA Officer: Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
Superintendent: Master Sgt. Jessica Kendziorek
Writers: Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens
Staff Sgt. Shelton Sherrill
Senior Airman Nathaniel Brynes

CHIEF STIFT NEW COMMAND CHIEF

Chief Master Sgt. Amanda J. Stift is the 403rd Wing command chief. She comes to the wing from the 413th Flight Test Group, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. The chief is a native of Fredericksburg, Virginia. She enlisted in the Air Force in June 1995 and began her Air Force Reserve career in 2003.

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP CC FAREWELL

The 403rd Wing will say farewell to Col. Chad Segura, 403rd Mission Support Group commander, June 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The colonel will be the Reserve Advisor for the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council, SAF Military and Reserve Affairs, at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

LONG-TIME WING MEMBERS TO RETIRE

Chief Master Sgt. Sybil McDowell, 403rd Force Support Squadron, will retire in a ceremony Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Roberts Consolidated Maintenance Facility. Master Sgt. Lucas Applewhite, 403rd Security Forces Squadron, will retire in a ceremony Saturday at 3 p.m. at the 815th Airlift Squadron Auditorium.

SCHUCKERS MILITARY APPRECIATION

The Biloxi Shuckers are hosting a Military Appreciation Game Saturday starting at 6 p.m. Col. Robert J. Stanton, 403rd Wing vice commander, will throw the first pitch. The wing has 100 free tickets which can be picked up from the 403rd Wing Recruiting Office in the Wing Headquarters Building, second floor.

OPSEC, SOCIAL MEDIA: KNOW RISKS

With social media becoming more and more popular and with massive amounts of content online and so many life events to share, it is easy to forget that unwanted eyes may be watching. Without realizing it, Airmen may unknowingly jeopardize the safety of themselves, their family, their friends or fellow military members. The Operation Security program aims to reduce the vulnerability of Air Force missions by reducing the vulnerability of critical information. [Click here to learn more.](#)

CAREER ASSISTANCE? CAA CAN HELP

The 403rd Wing received an inquiry, courtesy of the Wing Suggestion Box, about enlistment bonuses being backlogged due to 403rd Force Support Squadron manning. The suggestion was to have a dedicated person authorized to process enlistment bonuses.

The wing hired Master Sgt. Tracey Riley, as the full-time Wing career assistance advisor. She is the focal point of the career retention program for the wing and principal advisor to commanders and supervisors on force management and professional enhancement. The wing career assistance advisor is the base-level office of primary responsibility for the reenlistment and extension process, selective retention process, enlisted/officer incentive program, participation, trend analysis, and career enhancing programs. Since she was hired April 15, the following actions have been completed:

- Fifty-two incentive payments for February, March and April have been processed
 - Eighteen incentive payments for May are in process for payment
 - Five incentive packages are awaiting members signatures
 - Sixteen incentive package are awaiting members to complete their three skill level
 - Twelve incentive packages are pending Air Reserve Personnel Center approval
- Riley can be reached at 377-5118. Additionally, Master Sgt. Callie Hubbard is the 403rd Operations Group CAA, 377-4201, and Master Sgt. Judith Davis is the 403rd Maintenance Group CAA, 377-5290.



Master Sgt. Tracey Riley
403rd Wing
career assistance advisor