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Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Flores

Senior Airman Christopher Godkin, 815th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, looks out the cargo door at 9,000 feet over Laguna Army Airfield at Yuma Army Proving Grounds, Yuma, Arizona, during a combined training event with the Military Freefall School Oct. 1-5, 2018. The Air Force Reserve 815th AS provided airlift for the joint forces training school, which covers all aspects of military freefall parachuting.

Flying Jennies support free fall parachutists

By Master Sgt. Jessica Kendziorek
403rd Wing Public Affairs

At 14,000 feet above the Laguna Army Airfield in Yuma, Arizona, military freefall parachutists jump out of the opened cargo compartment from the back of an Air Force Reserve Flying Jennies C-130J aircraft.

One 815th Airlift Squadron aircrew completed multiple flights, Oct. 3-5, 2018, as part of a joint forces training opportunity with the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, the Military Freefall School, which covers all aspects of military freefall parachuting.

According to Lt. Col. Stuart Rubio, 815th Airlift Squadron commander, these training missions are part of an agreement between the Air Force and the Army, where the 815th AS can receive training on high altitude airdrops, and the freefall students get high altitude – low opening (HALO) and high altitude-high opening (HAHO) parachute training.

Rubio said that for these specific jumps, the HALOs, aircrew gets to do a type of training that they don't normally get in high altitude wearing extra gear. Because they don't pressurize for the entire flight, the equipment that the jumpers and the crew wear was based on the altitude that they jump from, which for these missions was at 14,000 feet.

The crew members are required to be harnessed to the aircraft, don their helmets, oxygen equipment and conduct all normal crew functions within those constraints.

Senior Airman Christopher Godkin, an 815th AS loadmaster said, "It was more difficult to work because of the amount of equipment that you have to wear, plus dealing with aircraft being unpressurized and the altitude, with the colder temperatures, it can wear on you and by the end of the day, I was tired."

The training that the Air Force Reserve aircrews routinely receive at Keesler Air Force Base tend to be done while at lower altitudes, under 10,000 feet, which doesn't require oxygen, and with a normal airdrop delivering equipment or supplies. [Read more here.](#)

Happy Holidays:

Enjoy the season, get ready for 2019

By Col. Jennie R. Johnson
403rd Wing Commander

It's that time of year where we reflect and give thanks for the freedoms and blessings we enjoy as an American. You, the Citizen Airmen, civilians, family members and employers of the 403rd Wing contribute to this incredible team that keeps our nation safe.

As I reflect on this year, I am thankful to serve as your commander in what I believe to be the best Wing in the Air Force Reserve Command: the 403rd Wing—the Wing of Choice.

In this past year, the reservists in our wing have accomplished so much. From exercises and training to hurricane support and deployments, the professionalism of this unit never ceases to impress.

This wing has made headlines providing vital weather information for National Hurricane Center forecasts, which helps to ensure public safety. This year has been an active and destructive storm season; a year that kept the Hurricane Hunters, maintenance and support personnel busy supporting operations for several storms to include Lane and Olivia in the Pacific and Florence and Michael in the Atlantic. Many along the Gulf Coast have experienced the aftermath of a destructive storm and understand just how difficult it is to experience and recover from a devastating storm. Let's keep those who were affected in our thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

We also want to remember our wing members who will be deployed this holi-



Photo by Lt. Col. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Air Force reservists with the 403rd Wing and C-130J Super Hercules aircraft flown by the wing's 815th Airlift Squadron returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia in May. This year has been a busy one for Wing Airmen who have accomplished everything from deployments to storm support and exercises to training. Take time to enjoy the holidays and get ready for 2019.

day season supporting operations around the world. Members of our wing have been supporting deployed operations since January. We sent 150 Reserve Citizen Airmen and several C-130J Super Hercules aircraft to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve providing airlift, airdrop and aeromedical evacuation capability to operations throughout the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility. I was fortunate to be deployed with the Flying Jennies and watch our amazing Airmen make Air Force history in May. I was on the mission with the 815th AS, which was part of the 746th Air Expeditionary Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base Qatar. We participated in 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. This was the first time two separate units in two countries came together for a single

combat airdrop mission. It was an amazing experience.

In addition to setting records, wing members have worked hard all year participating in exercises such as Patriot Warrior and training events to ensure we are ready for the fight when called upon. Next year will be just as busy as we have a full schedule of training events and will be ready for whatever else 2019 throws our way.

I encourage you to take time to relax with your family and friends, stay safe and take care of each other this holiday season. To give you more time with your loved ones, the Wing will not have a December Unit Training Assembly, but we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. For those who want to celebrate the New Year with us, the Wing is having a free Masquerade Party Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Please join us. Many thanks to you and your family for your service and dedication, and have a very happy holidays and wonderful New Year.

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Col. Jennie R. Johnson
403rd Wing Commander

403RD HEADLINES

HURRICANE HUNTERS FLY MICHAEL

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron started flying into Hurricane Michael Oct. 7 and over the next four days observed it intensify from a tropical depression to a Category 4 storm, which made landfall near Mexico Beach, Florida at 12:30 p.m. Oct 10.

"This storm started out as a low level investigation with the possibility of it reaching tropical storm status by the end of the first flight," said Col. Robert J. Stanton, 403rd Wing vice commander and navigator who was on the mission Oct. 7. "We had a challenge on the first entry into the storm trying to find the center because the eye of this storm was oval shaped and roughly 30 to 40 miles long."

Stanton said that during the next two passes into the eye, they were getting better readings because the storm was developing throughout the course of their mission. The track was predicted to hit the Florida Panhandle from the start. It was named Michael Oct. 7 and was upgraded to a Category 1 hurricane by Oct. 8. [To read more, click here.](#)



803RD AMXS PROVES UP TO TASK

Ask any Airman what the key to airpower is and they will give you the one word answer.

Ask a member of the Air Force Reserve 803rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, what the key to airpower is, and they will tell you about the first two weeks of the two-year-old squadron's first deployment.

They will tell you about how a maintenance squadron, that's purpose is to maintain airplanes and keep them ready for any tasking that comes their way, kept a mission on track for two weeks while waiting for the delivery of the majority of their parts and equipment.

This is the scenario Lt. Col. Brian Horton, commander of the 803rd AMXS, and his team from the 403rd Wing were faced with at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in January. The key to airpower, according to Gen. Giulio Douhet, an Italian airpower strategist who lived a century before the 803rd's establishment, is flexibility. [To read more, click here.](#)



SOICH NEW 403D AMXS COMMANDER

Maj. Kelly Soich (right) takes the 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidon from Col. Jay Johnson, 403rd Maintenance Group commander, during a change of command ceremony held Oct. 14 at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility. Soich took command of the 403rd AMXS from Maj. Adam Zeithammel who is now with Air Force Special Operations Command.



Air Force News



Hurricane Michael recovery efforts under way

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.-- [Per the Tyndall Air Force Base Commander](#), portions of the base opened Oct. 24 and will remain so until Nov. 2 to allow members to gather household goods as well as allow insurance adjusters or Air Force Claims Service Center representatives to assess claims.

The Air Force's Personnel Center is focused on supporting the Tyndall AFB community and all Air Force personnel and their families affected by Hurricane Michael. Updates on Tyndall as well as information for displaced Airmen and families and information such as personnel contact information and helpful links to questions can be found online at <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Hurricane/>

Employees need to know, heed Hatch Act rules

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFNS) -- Department of Defense civilian employees must be aware of the law limiting political activities in the federal workplace, during duty hours, or on federal property at any time.

The law restricting federal employees from engaging in certain political activities is in Title 5 of the United States Code, Sections 7321-7326, and Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 733 and 734, commonly referred to as the Hatch Act. It defines political activity as "an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office or partisan political group."

"While the Air Force recognizes your right to support the issues and candidates of your choice, there are specific rules governing it, as well as roles one can assume as a government employee," said Kathy Owens, chief of Employee and Labor Relations.

[To learn more, click here.](#)

UTA FY19 DATES

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	

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.apple.com/keeslerafb2>.



AIRMEN CAN SUBMIT INNOVATIVE IDEAS ONLINE

Airmen who have an innovative idea that could save the Air Force Reserve money can submit those plans online through either the Airmen Powered by Innovation or Replication Proven Innovations programs. To learn more, visit: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Innovation/Submit/>.

JOINT HOMETOWN NEWS

Members can highlight career achievements with their hometown media by submitting a Joint Hometown News Release online [here](#).



403RD FLYER

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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: Lt. Col. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
Superintendent: Master Sgt. Jessica Kendziorek
Writers: Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens
Staff Sgt. Shelton Sherrill
Senior Airman Nathaniel Brynes

AFRC Commander

Lt. Gen. Richard W. Scobee took command of the Air Force Reserve Sept. 27. He also serves as the chief of the AF Reserve. He joined the Air Force in 1986, and is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon, including 248 combat hours. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the deputy commander of AF Reserve Command and was the commander of 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas.



WING READINESS ASSESSMENT THIS UTA

The 403rd Wing will have a readiness assessment this weekend that will challenge unit members with a variety of scenarios to enhance expeditionary skills such as self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare detection, and the ability to survive and operate in a deployed environment. Unit leadership will notify members who still need to pick up training gear this Unit Training Assembly at Building 4402, Dock 5. Reservists should pick up their training gear Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and turn in their equipment Sunday. There will be training Friday for exercise players and Wing Inspection team members. Times and locations will be sent to those members who are required to attend. For more information, contact Maj. Devon Meister, 377-0757, 403rd Wing Inspector General Inspections, or squadron leadership.

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE FOR RESERVISTS

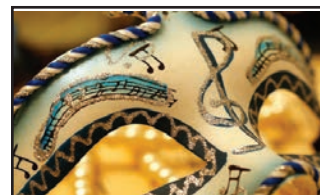
Flu shots are available at the Roberts Consolidated Maintenance Facility Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. and from noon to 2 p.m.; at the Keesler Medical Center Immunization Clinic from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; and, at the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

VETERANS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The 403rd Wing will host a Veterans Remembrance event Sunday from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at the 815th Airlift Squadron Auditorium. For information, call Lt. Col. Ray Thompson, 403rd Wing chaplain, 377-0400.

MASQUERADE PARTY IN JANUARY 2019

The 403rd Wing is hosting a Masquerade Party during the Unit Training Assembly Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The theme is "To everything there is a season." The dress is business casual. For tickets or additional information, contact Kevin Waterhouse, 403rd Wing command section secretary, 228-377-2695 or at kevin.waterhouse@us.af.mil.



WING PHOTO MOVED TO JANUARY UTA

Save the date! The 403rd Wing photo has been rescheduled to Jan. 12 at 8 a.m. The location will be sent out before the January Unit Training Assembly. For more information, contact the 403rd Wing Public Affairs Office at 228-377-2056.