

# 146TH AIRLIFT WING

# E-130

THE 146TH AIRLIFT WING'S MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



## E-130 FEATURE

The 562nd Air  
National Guard  
Band of the Southwest  
kicks off week-long tour

### MAFFS UPDATES

MAFFS operations continue as aircraft from the 146th help combat the fires raging in the western United States

### COMMANDER'S VIEW

Commander of the 146th Airlift Wing breaks down a very busy few months ahead for the wing and reveals the status of the ORI



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The 562nd Air National Band of the Southwest kicks off week-long tour



A mother and son reunited on the battlefield



Check out this July's pick for Airman of the Month, Senior Airman Brittney Collins



# COMMANDER'S

We are enjoying another summer at Channel Islands and I hope the July 4th weekend was full of family, friends, and BBQ. Drill is here again and I will try to get you updated on the past month at the base.

The October UEI, formerly the ORI, is "unofficially" canceled and we are waiting for official notification of a rescheduled UEI. We have received the FY14 schedule for the "proof of principle" UEIs and we are not part of the schedule. FY14 will be used to try out the new inspection format and get feedback on changes or improvements. This will be a significant change to how we have done inspections in the past. The USAF has decided to get away from ex-

ternal inspections and the preparation that goes along with the numerous inspections that were on a wing's calendar. As you know, the preparation for an ORI was taking up to two years prior to the ORI to be successful and was doing little to insure a wing was combat ready. The new inspection program will start with an Inspector General's office internally on base that is in charge of inspecting all organizations on base. NGB is to provide funding for a full time position and I anticipate several traditional positions will be part of the new office. The idea is to continually inspect the wing with the new IG office and then every 5 years have a UEI to inspect the IG programs. No longer will the wing be playing the external inspection game, but spending more time operational and improving on the mission sets of the wing. I hope the new inspection system works out to be more productive and is a change for the better.

MAFFS is activated again and was working out of Colorado for a week, moving to Arizona for the past week. Both MAFFS 4 and 6 are returned tuesday after being relieved in place by Cheyenne and North Carolina. The busy season anticipated for this summer has become a reality and we will stand ready to deploy again if needed. Fortunately, at this time there are only four MAFFS aircraft requested by the USFS, so we can rotate about every few weeks with the other MAFFS wings. Sadly, as you may have seen in the news, 19 firefighters from Prescott, Arizona, were tragically killed while fighting a fire in Yarnell. Prelimi-

# VIEW

"The October UEI, formerly the ORI, is 'unofficially' canceled"  
-Col. Paul Hargrove

# COMMANDER'S VIEW

nary reports are that the firefighters were caught by erratic winds from a thunderstorm that had hit the area and caused the fire to suddenly change direction on them. MAFFS 7 was lost to a similar situation last year, almost to the day. We are transported 2 of the fallen firefighters from Prescott to Las Alamos on Wednesday, 10 July, in support of the U.S. Forest Department. This makes us all take pause and remember how dangerous firefighting can be, whether from the ground or the air.

On Saturday at 1000 the will be an Induction Ceremony in the wing auditorium to acknowledge the NCOs and SNCOs that have been promoted within the last six months. The event will be hosted by Chief Master Sgt. Michelle Hart, so take the time to take part in this important event. This Sunday of drill will have a Family Readiness Resource Rally, BBQ, and a motorcycle show that starts at 1000 and goes until 1400. The event takes place in the recreation area behind Operations, so come out, enjoy the BBQ and take part in all the activities. As always, I hope that everyone has a productive drill. I'll see you around the base,

Paul Hargrove, Col  
146th AW/CC



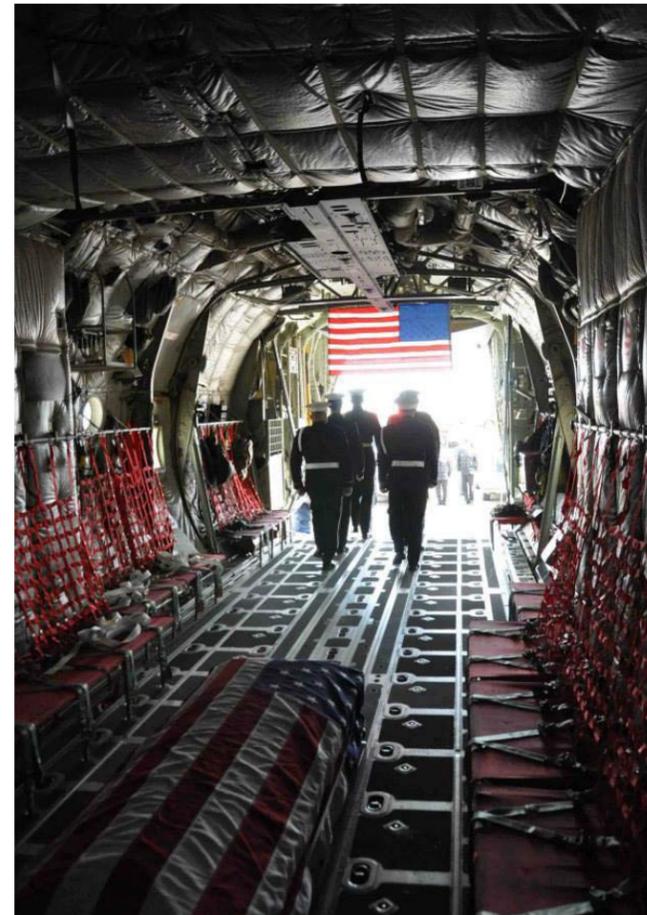
# 146th BRINGS FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

## HOME FOR SOMBER CEREMONY AT LOS ALAMITOS JFTB



by Maj. Kimberly Holman  
photos by Maj. Kimberly Holman & Tech. Sgt. Brian Miliefsky

The 146th Airlift Wing was honored July 10 with the task of bringing home two of the fallen 19 Hotshot firefighters who died in the line of duty June 30 battling the Yarnell fire near Phoenix. Approved by the Secretary of Defense, the California National Guard requested through the Governor that military aircraft be used for this mission. Appropriately, the MAFFS 4 aircraft and aircrew led by Wing Commander Col. Paul J. Hargrove brought Christopher Mackenzie, age 30, and Kevin Woyjeck, age 21, home to Southern California from Prescott, Ariz. "We are honored to have been able to do this for our fellow firefighters, and it seemed only appropriate that we offer this," said Hargrove. "We have fought side-by-side with these very brave men and women, and we deeply mourn this tragic loss." The C130J arrived at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base, met by hundreds of blue firefighter uniforms standing in formation alongside



California National Guardsmen. It was a very silent and somber ceremony as the caskets were escorted from the ramp of the C130 by Honor Guard to the families, loaded into vehicles and driven away. The ceremony procession was led by a Scottish Marching Band and the Southern California Patriot Guard Freedom Riders flanked the pathway lined with thousands of onlookers. Former 146th Airlift Wing crew chief and flight engineer Clint Mosly was fallen firefighter Kevin Woyjeck's stepbrother, and stood by him on the flight from Prescott to Los Alamitos, walking alongside Kevin's father from the aircraft during the ceremony. Mosly is now a firefighter with Los Angeles County and a Blawhawk pilot with the California Army Guard. The Yarnell Fire tragedy was the worst wildland firefighting loss in the U.S. since the 1933 Griffith Park Fire in Los Angeles, where 29 firefighters were killed. The biggest loss of firefighters in U.S. history was 343, killed in the 9/11 attack on New York. In 1994, the Storm King Fire near Glenwood Springs, Colo., killed 14 firefighters who were overtaken by an explosion of flames.



## MAFFS C130 CREWS BACK IN PORT HUENEME

MAFFS 4 and MAFFS 6 aircraft assigned to the 146th Airlift Wing (AW) returned Monday July 8, after a month-long activation with rotations that began June 11. Aircrew, maintainers and support crews had been assisting with wildland firefighting efforts staging out of Colorado Springs and Mesa, Ariz. during the activation. The crews and aircraft were requested by the U.S. Forest Service to assist with numerous fires across the Southwest and Rocky Mountain regions. The increased fire activity over recent weeks has meant long days and scorching temperatures for those on duty. While a welcome pause, MAFFS crews know that this is rotation home is only temporary, and they continue to watch headlines for nationwide fire activity to anticipate further need for MAFFS assistance. During the 2013 firefighting season, that began June 11, MAFFS aircrews have made 88 drops with 240,131 gallons of retardant total as of July 10. As part of the scheduled monthly MAFFS rotations the 146th MAFFS-equipped aircraft and crews are fighting the fires alongside MAFFS wings from the 153rd AW, Wyoming Air National Guard, the 145th AW, North Carolina Air National Guard and the 302nd Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command.

A man in a white Air National Guard uniform is shown in profile, playing a saxophone on a stage. He has several ribbons on his chest and an Air National Guard patch on his sleeve. The background is dark with blue stage lights and strings of warm white lights.

# TOURING WITH THE 562ND AIR

## NATIONAL GUARD BAND OF THE SOUTHWEST A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis  
photos by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis  
146th Airlift Wing

### A Day in the life of the Band

Being a photographer in the Air National Guard has brought me to a lot of interesting places, full of interesting people. It's a great privilege that my AFSC allows me to see the Air Guard in its different functions, missions, and diversity. Just recently I was tasked to cover a couple of events that the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest was performing. Like everything else I photograph for the first time, I wasn't really sure what to expect, but I was excited to see a new function of the Air Guard I have never experienced covering before. The Air National Guard Band of the Southwest was just starting their two weeks of annual training in Southern California, which consisted of two bands that included the 561st Air Force Band (originally the Air National Guard Band of the West now deactivated) from Moffett Air Force Base and of course the 562nd Air Force Band located here in Port Hueneme.

### The Oceanview Pavilion

The Oceanview Pavilion Performing Arts Center located in Port Hueneme was the first venue where I would cover the band in its entirety. Upon walking to the venue I could see a line of anxious fans waiting in line to see the performance. The Dixieland Tailgaters, a Dixieland Jazz group from the 562nd, played to the people waiting in line to help pass the time before they entered the main venue. Crowds of curious onlookers began to gather and I began to feel that sense of excitement that one gets when attending a music festival. Amidst the smiling faces and enthusiastic applause it was clear that the 562nd has a loyal following and has for some time, and it seemed that all their followers had showed up. It didn't really become apparent to me until the end of the Tailgaters' set, just how many people were there. The line stretched for at least 100 yards. When the front doors finally opened

# TOURING WITH THE 562ND CONT.

the crowd rushed in to find a good seat, and we could see the stage full of concert musical instruments and equipment. The lights began to dim and the crowd burst with applause. As the 28-member concert band began to play, I was amazed at the wide variety of music they performed. A rendition of Frank Sinatra's "Witchcraft" cemented my opinions this group's exceptional talent. The crowd liked what they were hearing, this was obvious. But also noted, was a strong sense of patriotism and support for the military. In between songs, time was taken to remind people of the men and women serving throughout the world in the armed services, defending their country in war zones everywhere. It was during these moments where I realized how lucky the band is, being able to spread that message with music, and doing what they love to do best. That is their mission, getting the message out of what the Air National Guard is and what we do, and to show people that we are Citizen Soldiers and Airmen doing our part. The band did it well. At the end of the performance, something truly special took place. Master Sgt. Erin McPherson was introduced as a member of the 146th Airlift Wing and a singer/performer for the band. She was given the opportunity to sing "America the Beautiful." But what made this performance particularly special and beautiful was the fact that Master Sgt. McPherson had that very same day just returned from a 5-month deployment from Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan. Instead of taking some much earned leave, she decided to join her band mates and perform. The room was filled with gasps and whispers of amazement which then exploded into loud applause, whistles, and excitement. I could feel the sincerity and appreciation in the auditorium from the crowd, and I'm pretty sure Master Sgt. McPherson could too.



"We work before everyone has their fun, while they're having it, and after they are done,"  
-Senior Master Sgt. Scott McPherson.



# TOURING WITH THE 562ND CONT.



Half-way through her performance, the crowd rose to their feet waving miniature American flags in the air and singing along the words they knew. As I looked around, I could see how effective the message was in reaching out to people through the music played that day. I had to ask Erin how it felt to be onstage again, to hit the ground running, putting her service as a performer and member of the band before herself. "To be able to do that getting back from a deployment, with the band that I love, felt so heartfelt, and made me feel that's where I belonged," said McPherson. "To me, being able

to tell the story of my deployment with everyone at the show was a way to connect with the band and celebrate to play music again."

## On to Disneyland

With one concert finished, this was just the start of the tour for the band. Disneyland awaited the next day, no breaks, no excuses. This was the first year that the band worked under a new structure that allowed them to deploy more than one group at a time in order to expand their area of responsibility, known as an AOR.

“Getting on stage again felt like I never left. Being welcomed by the band and the audience and to be able perform and connect with the band while on leave to spread the band message was just a great feeling.”  
-Master Sgt. Erin McPherson



# TOURING WITH THE 562ND CONT.

At 0700 I waited in a van outside the hotel, waiting to hit the road. Traveling with a crew of eight plus myself we drove to Anaheim, where two performing groups from the 562nd would play music for the crowds at Disneyland in honor of the fourth of July week. Beyond that first stage of curiosity with the theme park itself, seeing the back lots and behind the scenes of Disneyland, I could see all the hard work that was going on. People moving with a sense of urgency, equipment loading back and forth, and overall understanding there was no time to sit around. Everyone was doing something. It was no different with the band than with any of our other unit's missions. The moment we stepped on the pavement back stage, there was a place, time, and combined effort being made to make sure that the demanding schedule flowed like clockwork. The sun began to peek through the clouds about around the time of the first Dixieland Tailgaters performance. By then it was already 93 degrees. The Tailgaters jumped on stage and engaged the crowd while children visiting the park got the chance to participate by playing along with the band with a washboard instrument in true Dixieland fashion. The band's performance inside the New Orleans section of the Disneyland theme park drew many people. In between songs, the Air National Guard messages about our mission were heard once again and met with strong applause. What better place to tell the story of the Air National Guard than at "the happiest place on earth," right? After the Tailgaters set, they broke down the equipment and it was off to the other side of the park. A short lunch, and back to preparation for the next set. With all the hustle and bustle going on around us, it felt like a blink of an eye, and they were back to setting up for the next show at California Adventure. Traveling the back lots of Disney as an adult is an interesting experience; I can only imagine how much physiological damage could be inflict-



“Most of the venues we played were holding over 600-1,000 in attendance.”  
-Senior Master Sgt. Scott McPherson





## TOURING WITH THE 562ND CONT.

ed on a younger enthusiastic Disney fan should they ever see the secret world from behind the scenes. For the band, it was just another shortcut from point A to point B. Tunnels, back roads, secret doors, setting up equipment backstage with vendors and dealing with the 97 degree day as best they could. The funny thing is, I never heard one of them complain, not even once. Evening was soon upon us and the band had just finished setting up for their last performance. Their performance group Global Strike, a rock music group consisting of the same members of the Dixieland Tailgaters, took the colorfully lit stage for a sound check. The look of curiosity could be read on the faces of on-lookers and those passing by as they watched eight very professional-looking musicians in their dress blues fine-tune their instruments and perform the sound check. As the group was introduced and the music began, crowds immediately began to circle, and people began to dance in front of the stage. Global Strike was rocking out and it sounded good, really good. Of course, yours truly was shooting and documenting all of this as it went on, but I was able to take note that one performance that night stood out as my favorite. Global Strike's rendition of Stevie Wonder's "I Wish". I am perfectly fine with stating that they nailed it. With the show now over, and the 15-hour work day coming to an end, we began to tear down equipment and get ready for the two-hour drive back into Ventura County. It was at this moment that I realized something about this group of performers. Before I continue, however, I have to pause for just a moment to connect with you on something that I have realized while serving my short five years here at the 146th Airlift Wing. Many people observe other AFSCs and career fields without actually experiencing the careers close up. They watch on and begin to have the wild notion that these other jobs are perhaps somewhat easy; that they are having all the fun, while little effort is exerted. Personally I would like to correct any of those



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-Senior Master Sgt.  
Scott McPherson



# TOURING WITH THE 562ND CONT.

unfortunate assumptions here and now. What I realized that day as we prepared to travel back home, was that it is their job to make what they do look easy; and while, yes, they are having fun doing what they love, it is not easy. There are few career fields like what the band demands from its performers. The hours are long, much longer than even I expected, because their performances are rehearsed and practiced to precision. The time and effort dedicated to this group are mandatory and to most might seem above and beyond the normal expectations of a functioning unit. This is expected and demanded of you should you want to perform; many people are behind the scenes during preparation and yet, most will never see all the hard work that goes into the event unless they are performing with the band themselves. It is VERY hard work, but the reward is more than obvious for them. Their dedication is nothing short of spectacular; their precision to their craft is something all can admire. But you can expect nothing less from this group and we should all be very proud of the image they put forth for all of us serving in today's military, and especially for all of us here at the 146th Airlift Wing. After loading the equipment back into all the vehicles we embarked on our trip home back to Ventura County. The whole time on the ride home I thought about the busy week the band was going to have, and their entire spread of performances they would soon take. Senior Master Sgt. Scott McPherson spoke to me about the remainder of the shows they still had left, and he said something that stuck with me. "We work before everyone has their fun, while they're having it, and after they are done," he said. It reminded me of events I had help set up in the past like the Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet and various other events I had helped set up before. It was an interesting moment because I felt a stronger understanding of what kind of work the band really does for everyone.

## The show goes on

In the second week of the tour, the band performed 11 shows in seven days. The bands performing groups included a 28-member concert band, a 22-member jazz band-Patriots in Blue, a 12-member Latin rock group-Fuego Azul, the eight-member Dixieland Tailgaters and Global Strike rock band, and a sax quintet known as the Golden Tones. After the tour, I spoke again with Senior Master Sgt. Scott McPherson and some of the challenges that were met. He said the band had been forced to make many last minute adjustments but adapted quite well. Of course, they had a little help along the way. "I don't think we would have been able to complete the band's mission had it not been for the support of Lt. Col. Brian Kelly, our vice-wing commander, and especially TMO's Tech. Sgt. Jose Mosquera," said McPherson. I then learned that originally the band was scheduled to do two weeks' worth of shows in the Utah area that had to be cancelled because of the sequester. Starting fiscal year 2014, the band's coverage responsibility will be for seven states, including Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, and Montana. "Despite facing the sequester, the band was able to reschedule its annual training and get the message of the Air National Guard out to over 50,000 civilians," said McPherson. "There were 30,000 people in Santa Barbara for the fourth of July that were in attendance at Sparkle Beach. Most of the venues played were holding over 600-1000 in attendance." The number of people who see and enjoy our band every year highlights how important they are, and the importance of the image and message



# DEPLOYED

## A MOTHER &

# SON REUNITED FAR AWAY FROM HOME

by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis  
photos by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis  
146th Airlift Wing

Master Sgt. Erin McPherson is a member of the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest, and as is often the case in Air Guard units, other members of her family are members in our unit—both her husband and her son. McPherson's son, Airman 1st Class Adam Heil, is a member of the 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and her husband Senior Master Sgt. Scott McPherson, is a member of the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest. McPherson left her family for a five-month deployment to Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, and two months later her son was also deployed, but to another location. Upon her return from Kandahar, McPherson shared how she found a very unique silver lining to her deployment in a country across the world, far away from her home and family.

McPherson volunteered to deploy as a MOG (Maximum on Ground) Coordinator, where she was responsible for coordinating the maximum number of aircraft on the ground in a given airfield. According to McPherson, she was "responsible

for the coordination of parking spaces for million dollar aircraft." After spending one day of training at Scott Air Force Base and three days on the ground with a trainer in Kandahar, she was left to her task. For McPherson, the job itself was stressful at first, and due to the nature of the deployment, working a job she had no prior experience with made it a challenge. "It was overwhelming at times and scary at others," said McPherson. Maj. Christopher Lowe the Wing Executive Officer for the 146th Airlift Wing and Staff Sgt. Shelly Carter from the 146th Airlift Wing's Safety Office were deployed alongside McPherson to the same section, and they too took on the same challenges of working a new job in a new environment with no prior experience. Together, however, they worked to accomplish their mission by all means necessary, helping each other along the way. "Staff Sgt. Shelley Carter and I had been scheduled to work split shifts but instead we worked double shifts for the first week to help each other as best we could, to complete the mis-

# MOTHER AND SON REUNITED CONT.

sion we had been tasked with,” said McPherson. Despite being in this unfamiliar and stressful situation, McPherson came away from her deployment with a very special memory, and experienced a remarkably unforgettable and unlikely encounter. She learned one day while working that her son might be aboard one of the aircraft landing at the airfield she managed! McPherson continuously monitored her computer system and waited anxiously for the plane to arrive from Bagram Airfield. When the plane landed, she raced out to meet the aircraft and waited patiently for the crew aboard to finish their aeromedical evacuation mission, which is to transport wounded personnel. She described the moment she got to the aircraft as “the most amazing experience. I walked out onto the airfield and asked if Airman 1st Class Heil was aboard, and was told that indeed, he was. They then asked, ‘Who wants to know?’ and I replied, ‘His mommy’.” “I boarded the aircraft and waited patiently for him to finish working. Then, he greeted me with the biggest hug ever, and everyone on board cheered,” said McPherson. “I felt pretty lucky. It was a very special moment in our lives, in our relationship and our military career,” said McPherson.



“I walked out onto the airfield and asked if A1C Heil was aboard, and was told indeed, he was. They then asked, ‘Who wants to know?’ And I replied, ‘His Mommy’.”  
-Master Sgt. Erin McPherson

“Staff Sgt. Shelley Carter and I had been scheduled to work split shifts but instead we worked double shifts for the first week to help each other as best we could to complete the mission we had been tasked with,”  
-Master Sgt. McPherson



# AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

July's featured Airman of the month is Senior Airman Birttany Collins who works full time as an assistant to the Wing's Family Readiness Program Manager and is also a Command Post Controller for the 146th Airlift Wing's Airlift Control Flight (ALCF). Recently, she was selected to become a MQ-1 Predator Pilot with the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing. As a Family Readiness Program Assistant, she helps connect members and families to their benefits and aids in the planning of transitional programs such as the Yellow Ribbon Program. As a Command Post Controller for ALCF, she maintains command and control for the airfields her team sets up in austere locations. Collins has been a member of the 146th Airlift Wing for a little over three years and was selected into a pilot slot by the 163rd RW in April of 2013. Her childhood dream of flying motivated her to join the Air Force. Enlisting has changed her views on life and allowed her to expect more of herself. "I thought that I had reached my peak of accomplishments being a college athlete, but being an airman has showed me that there is no limit to opportunities to excel, as long as you are willing to find them," said Collins. Her favorite thing about the Air Force is having the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. She describes herself as fortunate enough to have deployed as an enlisted member prior to pursuing her commission. Collins dream job is to eventually become a wing commander or hold a high command position where she can influence the development of the Air Force. Her dream TDY is to go to Ireland, where she can be the first Catholic



Photo by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis

Jew or "Cashew" to kiss the blarney stone. She will happily admit that during her spare time her favorite thing to do is sleep; even if she does not get to enjoy it as much as she'd like. Collins is also a high school basketball coach in her community and enjoys riding her motorcycle when it isn't broken for repair, or when she's not busy taking care of her two puppies. Even though she's leaving us for bigger and better things, she will be truly missed. Good luck out there, SrA Collins!

## AIRMAN OF THE MONTH?



## WHO SHOULD WE SPOTLIGHT?

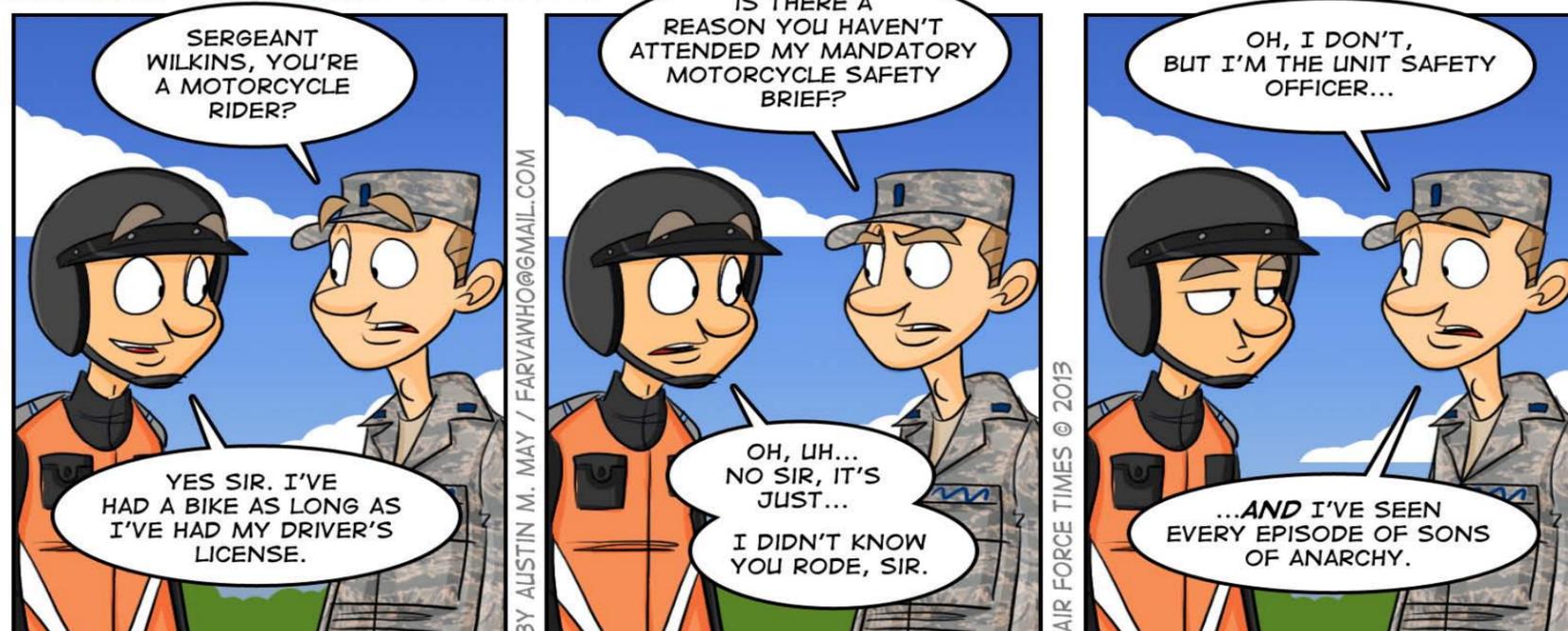
Do you know someone on base who has a fascinating job? Has a great story to tell? Someone who stands out amongst the crowd and deserves to be recognized?

Please let us know! Call the Public Affairs office at 893-7420. We are always looking for people who represent our wing in the best way, and we will feature them as our next "Airman of the Month!"



# Additional Info

## AirForceToons



THANKS TO SOCK PUPPET & FLAPS FOR THE IDEA!

## DFAC Menu

### Saturday

Grilled steak  
Roasted chicken  
Garlic lemon buttered lobster  
Mashed yams  
Rice pilaf  
Roasted asparagus  
Buttered baby carrots

### Sunday

Angus beef burgers  
All beef hot dogs  
Tequilla chicken  
Louisiana hot links  
Bratwurst

### Hot topping

Chili sliced Button mushrooms  
Carmelized spicy onions

### Cold toppings

Chopped onions  
Chopped tomatoes  
Lettuce  
Sour cream  
Jalapeno  
Shredded jack cheese  
Swiss cheese  
Guacamole  
Catsup  
Mayo  
Honey dijon mustard

Spring mix salad w/ carmelized walnuts blue cheese crumbles and assorted dressings

Assorted Chips, Sodas, Cookies.

### Newly Promoted

Senior Airman Betsaida Castellanos  
Senior Airman Brittany Collins  
Senior Airman Navid Haghdan  
Staff Sgt. Bryan Woods  
Staff Sgt. Nathan Moon  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Johnson  
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Santos  
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Slater

### Chaplain Services

Catholic Mass 1100 LRS Conference Room. Protestant Service 1230 LRS Conference Room. Chaplain's Office is located in the Supply Building 119. Office hours are 0800 to 1600 Saturday and Sunday.

### Welcome back Airmen from formal schools!

Airman Nathan Travers  
Weather Forecaster Apprentice  
1st Lt. Ashleigh E. Neilson  
Logistics Readiness Officer  
Senior Airman Carlos Puga  
Airman Leadership School  
Senior Airman Daniel Tomolillo  
Airman Leadership School  
Master Sgt. Alice Reyes  
Personnel Apprentice



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