

146th AIRLIFT WING

E-130

THE 146TH AIRLIFT WING'S MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

E-130 FEATURE

146th Airlift Wing combats wild fires blazing in Idyllwild, Calif.

STAND DOWN

Medical supplies, food and aid lended to former veterans at local National Guard Armory.

AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

A closer look into the personal and military life of the Airmen of the 146th Airlift Wing.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE FIRE IN THE SKY

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MAFFS aircraft help contain a fire burning near Idyllwild, CA.



146th Members participate in Veteran's Standdown held at local National Guard Armory



Check out this August's pick for Airman of the Month, Senior Airman Scott McDowell Hilde.



COMMANDER'S

Welcome to the August 2013 drill. We are about half way through summer at Channel Islands and the wing has been busy with MAFFS activations and the unfortunate effects of sequestration.

On the 17th of July, the wing was notified of a MAFFS activation due to a fire near Palm Springs, which CAL FIRE named the Mountain Fire. We typically get some advanced warning of a pending MAFFS call out, but this one came unexpectedly. I was contacted by State Joint Operations Center for a California activation and told to be ready to fly by the next day. Both Operations and Maintenance did an outstanding job getting the aircrews and aircraft available for the launch orders within 20 hours of our initial notification. The Mountain Fire consumed over 27,000 acres and destroyed several residences. MSgt

Dave Buttner and SrA Nick Carzis drove to Palm Springs and shot some great pictures of actual MAFFS drops on the fire. Thanks to them for taking the extra effort to get to the fire area. We have been trying for several years to get some MAFFS action pictures on fires, but as you can imagine, it's typically hard to get to the fire locations where our aircraft are dropping. We were deactivated on the 21st of July and the Mountain Fire is to be fully contained by the 30th of July. Thanks to everyone involved in this activation for a job well done. Currently, the wing is on a not activated for MAFFS, however, we are being told that a federal activation could occur within the couple of weeks, depending on fire activity around the nation.

Unfortunately, furloughs began in July for full time technicians due to sequestration. This puts financial strain on employees and their families, when these same personnel have endured over ten years of deployments to war in Iraq and Afghanistan. This forced 20% cut in work and pay should never have been placed on our technicians, but was mandated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense after Congress failed to pass legislation eliminating sequestration. We have split the furlough days throughout the wing, with most taking either Monday or Friday as the furlough day. This will keep the wing offices open for Monday thru Friday. I'm very sorry that this has come to reality. There are ways to properly cut the nation's budget, but sequestration is not a well thought out plan.

The Adjutant General, Maj Gen Baldwin, has four priorities that I would like to share with you this month. These priorities are designed to improve the California National Guard and give guidance to commanders and personnel on where their focus should be aimed. The four priorities are civil sup-

VIEW

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-Col. Paul Hargrove

COMMANDER'S VIEW

port, combat readiness, internal controls, and cultural change. Let me briefly discuss how the 146th AW is addressing these priorities.

Civil support at our wing is how we assist civilian agencies throughout California and across the nation. Two civil support missions that we conduct at the wing are MAFFS and Condor, but we have other missions that also assist civilian authorities. MAFFS is a huge asset to the state and nation, as we have seen twice this year with the fires in Camarillo and Palm Springs. In California, we have streamlined the call up process with Cal Fire through the California Emergency Management Agency in the last couple of years. This has also occurred in a federal call out through the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), located in Boise, Idaho. Lt Col Bryan Allen has been an integral part in coordinating the streamlining changes with California and federal call outs, allowing us to support aerial firefighting efforts in California and across the nation more easily. We also have a program called Condor that works with law enforcement agencies throughout the State. They have been conducting drug intervention missions for over twenty years, but have seen annual funding fluctuations over those years. Recently, there has been an increase in personnel and missions, allowing our wing to better assist both local and federal law enforcement agencies.

Combat readiness is accomplished by keeping our personnel ready for a deployment order for the next war. We have classified timelines to meet a deployment order and also unit training codes that we need to keep individual flights and squadrons ready to accomplish. Our new Vice Commander, Lt Col Brian Kelly, and I have been focusing on keeping our wing up to speed on our readiness report. There has been an increased emphasis with commanders to get with their readiness report monitors and answer any weak areas we may have in the wing.

Internal controls can be defined as processes that check on accuracy of financial transactions or military property inventories, but these controls can go further in improving efficiencies in an organization. This is far reaching, but can include the annual self-inspections that the wing accomplishes on flights, squadrons, and groups. The Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT) is a computer based checklist that is used annually to accomplish the wing self-inspection. The Inspector General office is also an internal control that investigates issues in fraud, waste, and abuse cases. Also, through the comptroller's office, we run dual compensation audits of personnel pay every two weeks to insure no abuse is taking place. We will also continue to refine processes currently in place and put in new internal controls to more efficiently run the wing.

The final priority is cultural change, which I

can best describe as continually evolving our culture for the better. I'm now older than most in the wing and it doesn't seem so long ago I was one of the new kids. Anyway, when I was first in the military, a keg of beer was typical on a Friday afternoon on an active duty base. The keg would run dry and somehow, we all made it back home. At least most of us did. Over the 28 years I've been in the military, I have seen numerous cases of friends and fellow workers destroy either their life or someone else's life through drunk driving. Our culture has changed and drunk driving is no longer tolerated and accepted. This Saturday of drill, Jason Barber will be a guest speaker in the wing auditorium. He will give a powerful presentation on how drinking and driving can affect your life. Please try to attend one of his briefings. On Sunday, we will have briefings in the wing auditorium on the issues with sexual assault in the military. The Secretary of Defense has made this a mandatory briefing, so plan accordingly. These two issues can be tied to cultural change, as what was acceptable 25 years ago, no longer accepted by society. You can't have numerous beers and drive yourself home anymore. You can't have sexually provocative pictures in the work place anymore. Studies have shown that this can lead to a hostile work environment and can triple sexual harassment or sexual assault in an organization. There has been a lot of publicity on sexual assault in the military lately and we will continue to address this issue until we can change the problem for the better.

As always, I hope that everyone has a great drill. I'll see you around the base,

Paul Hargrove, Col
146th AW/CC



MAFFS LEND A HAND IN NEARBY MOUNTAIN FIRES

Story by MAJ. Kimberly Holman
photos by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis
146th Airlift Wing

For the third time already this year, the specially equipped firefighting C130s known as MAFFS, or Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems, were once again put to work on local area fires. The fire which sparked concern of CAL FIRE and CAL OES (California Office of Emergency Services) this time was the "Mountain Fire" located near Idyllwild, Calif., just above the city of Palm Springs. The fire started July 15 and official requests came through for MAFFS' activation late on 17 July. The two C130 aircraft departed the base the morning of July 18 without delay. "We were flying at 9500 feet which is a very high altitude, in very steep, mountainous terrain. It was evident why we use these aircraft to fly this mission; the C130J displayed capability performing under the toughest conditions," said Lt. Col. Brian Kelly, the wing's Vice Command-

er and a MAFFS pilot. "It was also some of the most picturesque flying I've seen, as we were dropping at the top of Mount San Jacinto, right near the top of the Palm Springs tramway." Ground support crews and aircrew fell into step in a seamless fashion with CAL FIRE crews. The 146th flightline was quickly transformed into a tanker base, and operations support personnel manned radios and phones in the tower above. Throughout the day while fighting the fire, aircraft were refilling with retardant in San Bernardino, at the field which was once Norton Air Force Base, returning home at the end of the day to Channel Islands Air National Guard Station. Maintenance crews then prepared the aircraft into the wee hours of the night for the next day's flying.

MAFFS LENDS A HAND CONT.

"It's hard work for these guys, long hours and but they love the MAFFS mission," said Capt. Tony Montes, Aircraft Maintenance Officer for the 146th Airlift Wing. "They are the unseen heroes out there but they don't mind. They really enjoy what they do. We have a very smooth integration of response on these fires with our sister agencies like CAL FIRE and CAL OES which makes it all seem easy." "It's always a pleasure to work with our CAL FIRE partners," said Senior Airman Tess Armstrong, MAFFS Operations Controller. "They always support us 100 percent, both for our aircrew and especially here on the ground. They really take good care of us and we work very well together as a team." The 146th Airlift Wing MAFFS team dropped 111,000 gallons of retardant in 37 drops during the activation, performing eight drops per day on several days. At times the crews were unable to depart due to smoke and low visibility. The 27,531-acre Mountain Fire destroyed 23 structures to include seven residences near the mountain community of Idyllwild, a popular get-away destination for southern Californians. The fire was finally 100 percent contained as of July 30, and authorities say the cause can be attributed to "an electrical equipment failure on private property," according to a Forest Service statement. The investigation led by CAL FIRE into the cause of the fire is still ongoing.

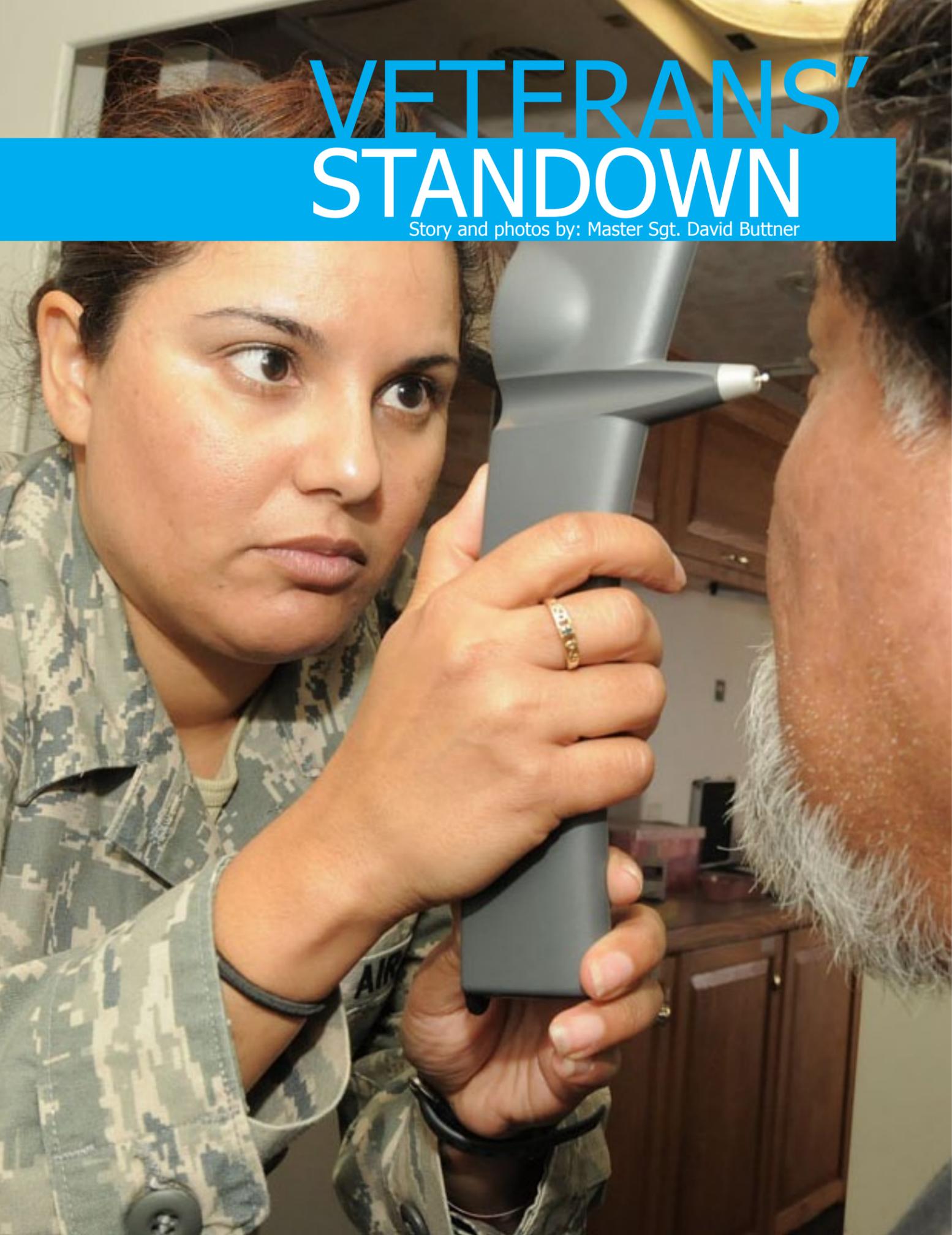


"They are the
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- Capt. Tony Montes



VETERANS' STANDDOWN

Story and photos by: Master Sgt. David Buttner



About a hundred homeless and struggling veterans received some relief and comfort last weekend from services donated during the 18th Annual Ventura County Veterans Stand Down, July 25-28. Organized by Claire Hope, founder and Executive Chairperson of Ventura County Veterans Stand Down, the event aimed to call for Ventura County community members to come together and “stand down” for a day devoted to helping some of those in need.

“This is our opportunity to help those who have helped us in the past,” said 146th Airlift Wing Chief Master Sgt. Rick Onsgard.

Members from the 146th Airlift Wing joined with Navy and civilian volunteers to provide some basic services for struggling and homeless Vets at the Ventura National Guard Armory.

The Chief’s council, led by Chief Master Sgt. Dana C-Swanson orchestrated the organizing of our members and their contributions. The Medical Group provided medical screenings, eye exams and first aid services 24 hours a day throughout the event. The Chiefs were joined by members of Services, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Military Personnel Flight, Communications Squadron, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 195th Weather Flight to help serve three of the meals during the Stand Down, culminating with a tri-tip dinner on Saturday night that was prepared by our own tri-tip king, Chief Master Sgt. Don Reese (Ret). In addition to the meals, our members also moved equipment, set up tables and chairs, put out the donated clothes, and helped to distribute items to the Vets.

Finally, to add to the ambience of the event, members from our 562nd Air Force Band provided a variety of musical treats from country and western to Jimmy Buffett tunes.

The weekend’s activities were in the end a success as Vets got some much needed medical care, a safe place to sleep, a few hot showers and hopefully the knowledge that there are people in our community that care about them and



“This is our opportunity to help those who have helped us in the past,”
-Chief Master Sgt. Rick Onsgard.



AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

Our featured Airman for the month of August is Senior Airman Scott McDowell Hilde, a member of the 195th Weather Flight, an associate unit for the 146th Airlift Wing.

In search of adventure and an opportunity to combine his enthusiasm for science and combat, Hilde joined the Air National Guard as a Battlefield Weather Forecaster. When it came time to choosing a service, he researched and found that he liked the Air Force culture above the rest. An avid shooter, adventure-seeker and outdoors aficionado, he found his job more than fitting; one that provides weather support for Army National Guard ground and aviation forces. As part of his qualification, he was able to attend Army Warrior Skills Training and is excited to be attending Army Air Assault School this coming October. Hilde's dream job is to become a Combat Controller.

"I love to shoot different types of weapons, enjoy learning about radios, and I love to Ruck [weighted marching in rough terrain]!" says Hilde. "I want to jump out of planes, call air strikes, and do the hoorah side of things."

Hilde has demonstrated his love for his job by embodying the core value of excellence in all he does. Recently, he was awarded the California Commendation Medal for his work in support of the Army's 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. His supervisor, Senior Master Sgt Fitts attests to his contributions to their unit and says that he "truly shines above the rest." Hilde's dream TDY is Antarctica, because he loves the cold and wants to do something very few have

Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Buttner

accomplished. Since joining the Air Force, he has a different perspective on life and has learned the importance of teamwork and how it relates to patience.

"Even when we're faster or slower than others, we have to remember the importance of a team; we're only as strong as our weakest link," says Hilde.

Senior Airman Hilde lives in Oxnard, Calif. and has worked in veterinary medicine for the last 14 years where he prepares horses, pigs and cows for routine and emergency surgeries as a large-animal Anesthetist. A neat fact about Senior Airman Hilde is that he is nearly fluent in American Sign Language. He'd like everyone to know that he loves the Air Force and is ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it.

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



Newly Promoted

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Manion
Staff Sgt. Alberto Vargas
Senior Airman Rachel Bailey
Staff Sgt. James Courtney
Senior Airman Domenico Pono
Senior Airman Scott Hilde
Tech. Sgt. Halidie O'neal
Tech. Sgt. Herbert Ferrer
Tech. Sgt. Keith Ford
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Casteel
Staff. Sgt. Alexander Minor
Master Sgt. Wayne Fuhrmann

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 1st Class Hans Nordquist
Aeromedical Evacuation Course
Airman 1st Class Dustin Hargrove
Loadmaster Initial Qualification
Airman Basic Bryan Palmer
Services Apprentice Course
Staff Sgt. Jonathen Lopez
Aircrew Flight Equipment Course
Staff Sgt. Manure Moraponce
Security Forces Craftsman Course
Staff Sgt. Alberto Moran
Security Forces Craftsman Course
Staff Sgt. Gerard Solinap
Security Forces Craftsman Course

Recently Retired

Tech. Sgt. Samuel Tumey
146th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Paul Slider
146th Communications Flight
Lt. Col. Gregory Ervin
146th Operations Group
Master. Sgt. Adobin Schroth
146th Intel

Welcome new Airmen

Airman 1st Class Clifford Heinecke
Airman 1st Class Brieanne Kelly
Airman 1st Class Ryan Anzil
Airman 1st Class Darren Horn
Senior Airman Bradley Pratt
Airman 1st Class Fred Oro
Staff Sgt. Dominic Pebenito
Senior Airman Fransico Palomino
Airman 1st Class Shane Patrick
Airman 1st Class Jose Cortez
Airman 1st Class Mayra Sanchez
Airman 1st Class Trevor Stokes

DFAC Menu

Saturday

Chicken noodle soup

**Memphis Style BBQ
Baby back ribs**

Lemon chicken fennel

Molasses ginger baked beans

Chili butter corn

Fried okra

Honey buttered corn bread

Sunday

Chicken noodle soup

Cheese tortellini marinara

3 cheese beef lasagna

Fried zucchini sticks

Italian vegetable blend

Tomato mozzarella cheese bread



Channel Islands

This pdf is available on the 146AW public website, www.146aw.ang.af.mil and is updated monthly. This is an electronic news product which anyone can print from any computer, anywhere, and is full of the latest important wing information from your commanders and first sergeants! Check it out from home before you come to drill!