

DECEMBER 2013



# the Minuteman

THE NEW ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FOR THE 146TH AIRLIFT WING



## MINUTEMAN FEATURE

146th Airlift Wing  
hosts Change of  
Command & welcomes  
Col. David Bakos as  
new Wing Commander

### HOLLYWOOD HERITAGE

A look back on the lives of two chief master sergeants  
and the heritage they leave behind

### OPERATION POINT BREAK

The 146th Airlift Wing participates in a multi-agency exercise  
on NBVC Pt. Mugu



## 146TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS/ VISUAL INFORMATION STAFF

146th Public Affairs Officer Major Kimberly Holman  
Kimberly.Holman@ang.af.mil

146th Public Affairs Superintendent Master Sergeant David Buttner  
David.Buttner@ang.af.mil

## CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

Graphics Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis  
Master Sergeant David Buttner

Photogs Master Sergeant David Buttner  
Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis

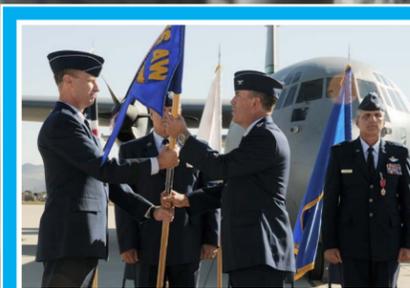
## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Writers Major Kimberly Holman  
Senior Airman Ashley Moore  
Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis  
2nd Lt. Arelis Cuyan

Managing Editor Master Sergeant David Buttner

Photo Editor Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE COMMAND CHANGE



146th Airlift Wing  
change of command  
ceremony

Page 9



146th Airlift Wing  
participates in anti-  
terrorism exercise

Page 13



Two famous  
Hollywood Guard  
members set to retire

Page 19



# COMMANDER'S

# VIEW

I am very excited to be able to write my first Commander's View. Please bare with me as I provide a short introduction for those of you who may not be familiar.

I enlisted with the 146th Tactical Airlift Wing, Van Nuys ANGB in January of 1986 and worked as a Survival Equipment Specialist with the 146th CAMS. This was a wonderful experience that allowed me a perfect introduction into life within the 146th Tactical Airlift Wing. Things only got better from there as I was selected for commission and pilot training a few years later and graduated from flight school in 1989. I then spent the next 19 years in various capacities within the 115th Airlift Squadron. I deployed during both Desert SHIELD and

Desert STORM and had many great opportunities to fly a wide variety of our Wing's missions over the years. One of those missions, MAFFS, is very near and dear to my heart. Since 2003 I have deployed numerous times in support of both Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2008 I was able to return to where it all began...the 146th Maintenance Group. I cannot begin to tell you how incredibly rewarding and what an honor this opportunity was. It was there where I was able to rediscover one of life's important lessons and one of the keys to success in an organization...and that is to be surrounded by people who are very smart and care deeply about this Wing, it's people, and our mission.

To all of the maintenance folks I would like to say thank you for your friendship, your camaraderie, and your constant dedication to this Wing. I could not have asked for a better experience in my life. In 2012 I returned to the Operations Group and was able to quickly re-assimilate back into life within the operations community. Obviously, I was intimately familiar with the mission and the vast majority of the wonderful people in that group. Life within the Operations Group is fast-paced and full of unique challenges but once again I was surrounded by another group of talented, experienced, and caring people. To put it bluntly... I have been very fortunate to have done the things I have done, fly the airplanes I have flown, served in the places I have served....all

“Perspective will provide you what very few other things in life will..”  
-Col. David Bakos

Continued from page 4

while having been continually touched by some of the most amazing people anywhere. To all of you I give thanks.

I do not want to take much of your time with my words, as this is an important UTA. It is important because it affords us one last opportunity before the close of the year to reflect on the many wonderful things we all have to be thankful for...none the least of which is the outstanding company we keep here at Channel Islands. Those of you who know me and for those of you who are getting to know me...understand that I am a big believer in the word P-E-R-S-P-E-C-T-I-V-E. Perspective will provide you what very few other things in life will. It will give you that thing... that one mostly intangible anchor by which to understand how truly fortunate you are...to be around so many like minded and wonderful people...to have the opportunity to serve...to serve in an incredible location....and, finally on how you choose to look at life... especially here in the Air National Guard serving your state and your country.

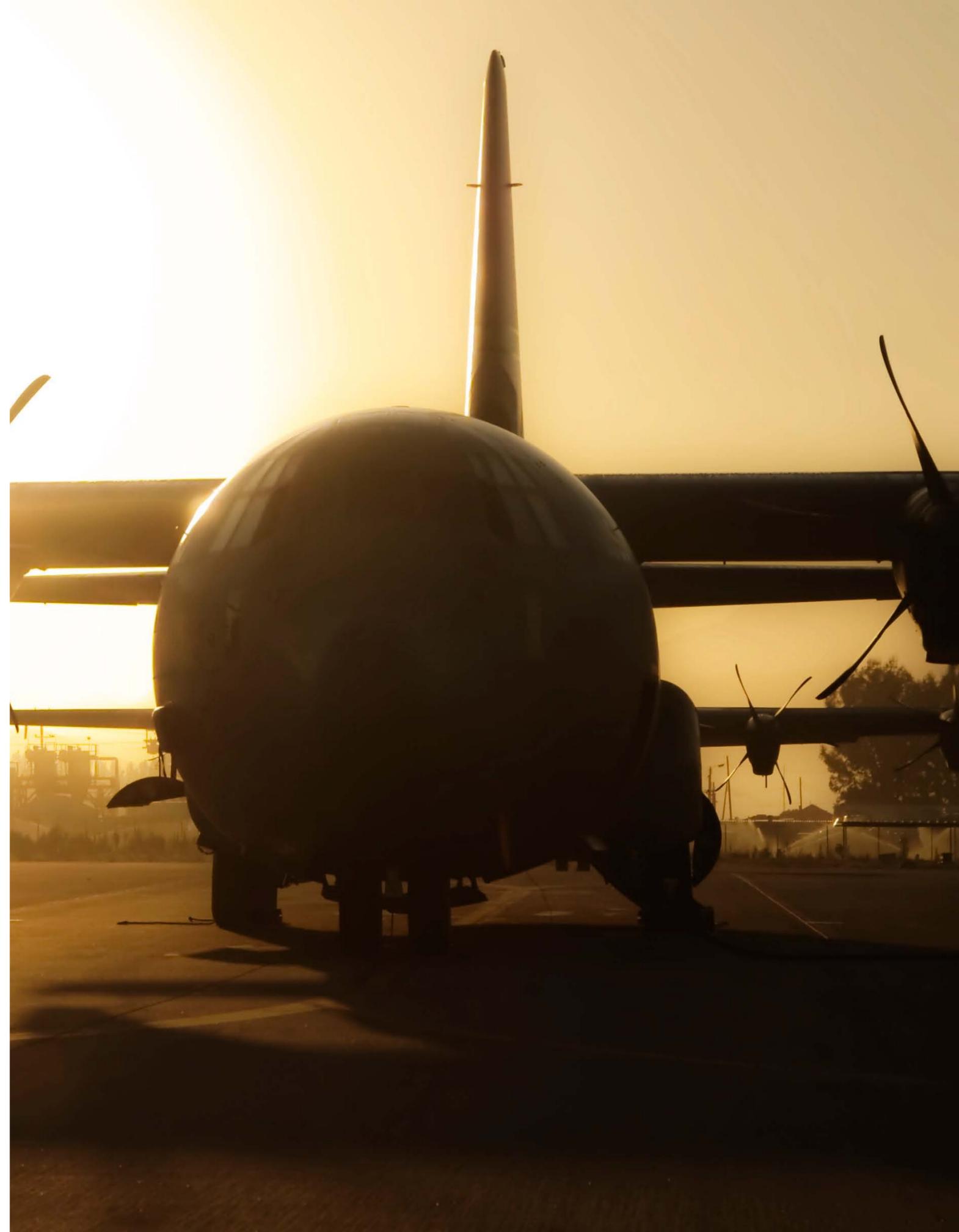
I believe it is incredibly important for me to make certain all of you understand I fully realize how very fortunate and blessed I am to be in this position. I most certainly acknowledge I did not get here by myself. Far from it. I am honored to work with so many dedicated, caring, and passionate patriots, and I fully plan to work as hard as I can to build upon all the successes and accolades this Wing has earned over our collective history. I want all of us to be as successful and as prosperous as possible...and I look forward to getting to know all of you. I want this to be a great place for great people. Thank you for all that you are and all that you continue to do for your

collective communities, your state, and your country. I would like to wrap this up by sharing a quote from former President Ronald Reagan. His words ring as true today as they did when they were shared with this nation 32 years ago. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season and a most prosperous 2014.

*"I am very happy to send my warmest greetings and best wishes to all those who are celebrating Christmas. I join with Americans everywhere in recognizing the sense of renewed hope and comfort this joyous season brings to our nation and the world. On Christmas, we celebrate with prayer, feasting, and great merriment. But, most of all, we experience it in our hearts. For, more than just a day, Christmas is a state of mind. It is found throughout the year whenever faith overcomes doubt, hope conquers despair, and love triumphs over hate. It is present when men of any creed bring love and understanding to the hearts of their fellow man. The feeling is seen in the wondrous faces of children and in the hopeful eyes of the aged. It overflows the hearts of cheerful givers and the souls of the caring. And it is reflected in the brilliant colors, joyful sounds, and beauty of the winter season. Let us resolve to honor this spirit of Christmas and strive to keep it throughout the year.*

*I ask you to join us in a prayer that prudence, wisdom, and understanding might descend on the people of all nations' so that during the year ahead we may realize an ancient and wondrous dream: "peace on earth, goodwill toward men."*

Ronald Reagan - 1981





# THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

by Maj. Kimberly Holman

photos by: Master Sgt. David Buttner/Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis

5/16/2013 - CHANNEL ISLANDS AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, Calif. -- The 146th Airlift Wing received a new leader Nov. 2, 2013 as Col. Paul Hargrove, after serving more than five years as commander, relinquished his position to Col. David Bakos. Members of the wing, more than 1000 present that clear morning, gathered on the flightline in formation as the official party greeted leadership from Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. "Command means trust," commented Hargrove during his final remarks as outgoing wing commander. He emphasized the importance of all Airmen taking care of each other, and credited his success to the people in the wing and thanked them all for their support. Hargrove was presented a Legion of Merit award from the officiating officer, Brigadier General Jon K. Kelk, California's Assistant Adjutant General-Air, for exceptional meritorious conduct

during his command from Aug. 2008 to Aug 2012. During Hargrove's time as commander, he was MAFFS Air Expeditionary Group Commander for the 2008-2009 wildfire season and oversaw four simultaneous wing inspections to include the first-ever Consolidated Unit Inspection. Bakos stood before the wing and asked them to help him in making the wing a better place. "What will your legacy be?" he asked. He was emotional when thanking his family and friends for their support. "I can't be successful by myself," he said. "I've been successful because I've had a lot of help along the way." Bakos father was also in the Air National Guard and the two shared combined service of more than 45 years. Bakos commented that working with great people is what he loves most about his job. "Everything comes down to the people. My job is to take care of people, and in a symbiotic relationship they take care of me."





# EXERCISE POINT BREAK EXPLODES INTO ACTION

Story and photos by: Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis



11/2313 – CHANNEL ISLANDS AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, Calif. – Cloaked in the shadows of the early morning hours, a large panga boat silently runs aground near a tiny, quiet place known as Combat Town or IED Village, and that’s when the action gets started. “Suspects” aboard the boat flee on foot into IED Village to hide, but they are being observed by airborne and water platforms who relay their position to the Naval Security Forces on land. As the suspects are engaged, they detonate an improvised explosive device and seek refuge in an abandoned building,

establishing a defensive posture. Following attempted negotiations and gunfire exchange, the suspects detonate a second device and several containers of a volatile chemical product are shattered, releasing the contents into the surrounding environment. This was all part of a training exercise that took place Nov. 6 just next door at NBVC Point Mugu, and while it all seems very dramatic, the players in this exercise are acutely aware that this type of scenario happens all too often along the coast of Southern California. Protecting the American people and our way of life is one

Continued on page 17



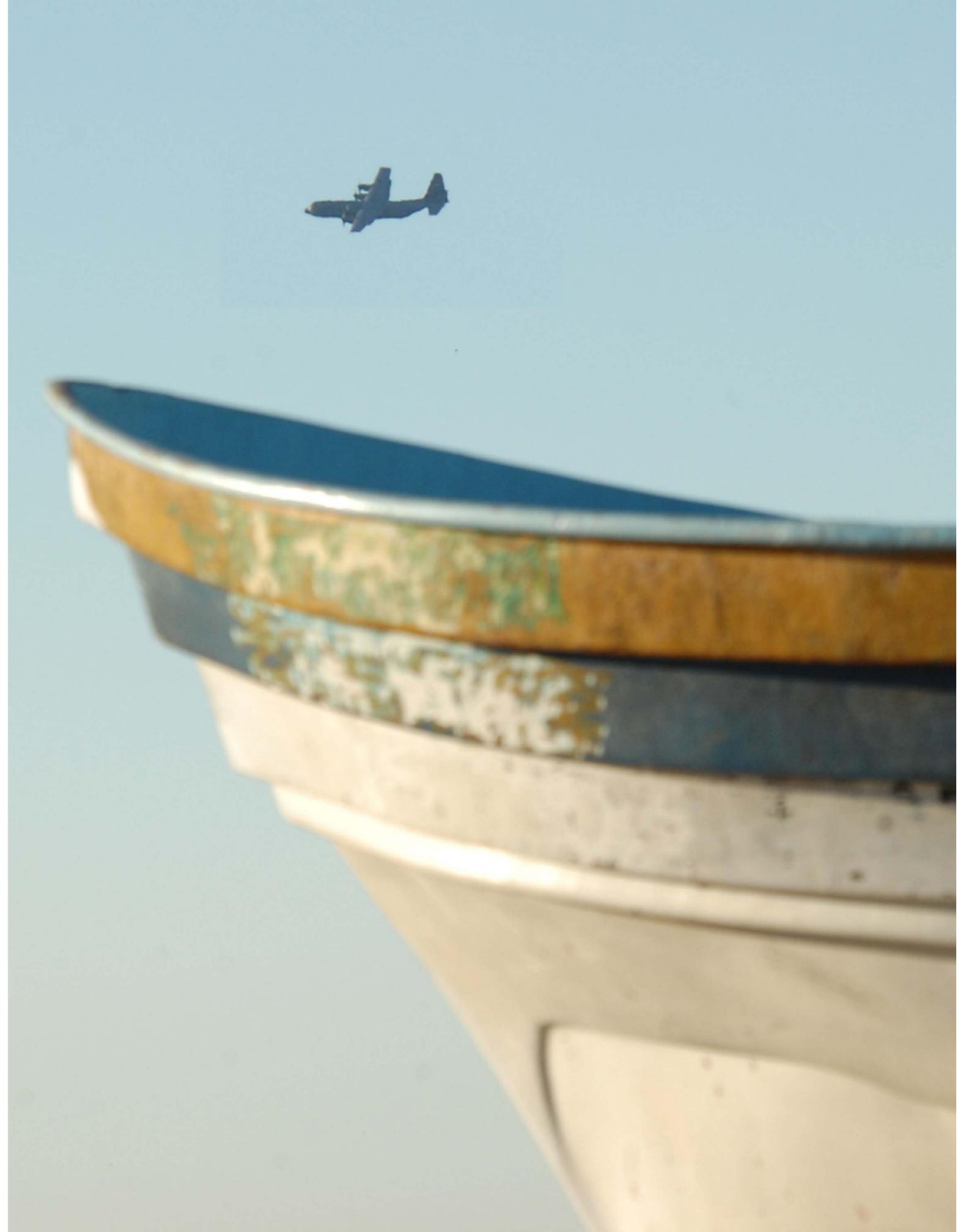
# POINT BREAK EXERCISE CONT.

Continued from page 13

of the primary purposes of U.S. Army North, USNORTHCOM's Joint Force Land Component Command and the Army Service Component Command. Recently the 146th AW partnered with these agencies and many other federal and local agencies to conduct Exercise Point Break, aimed at honing coordination skills when duty calls. For training purposes, three members from the 146th Airlift Wing's Security Forces Squadron-- Staff Sgt. Sonny Dasilva, Master Sgt. Mike Stevens, and Chief Master Sgt. Steven Timbol, played the role of suspected terrorists who beached a panga boat carrying chemical weapons. Taking refuge in a building, the team of terrorists fired blank rounds from light machine guns at anyone who came near, including a helicopter from the California National Guard Counterdrug team flying overhead. The Point Break exercise included Naval Base Ventura County Security Forces, Federal Fire, Ventura County Fire & Hazmat, Ventura County Sheriff, Ventura County Bomb Disposal Unit (notional), 9th Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Team, FBI, Customs and Border Protection, and Department of Homeland Security. Valuable opportunities like this exercise help provide many individual agencies with training that normally can't be afforded if hosted on their own. The exercise itself was originally intended to help train members of the Army's 9th WMD Civil Support Team, but was adjusted to include civil authorities and other agencies including the 146th Airlift Wing. Multi-agency exercises also provide a more realistic scenario, and demand more of the most valuable and sought-after communication and coordination training participants said.



Valuable opportunities like this exercise help provide many individual agencies with training that normally can't be afforded.





# HOLLYWOOD GUARD CHIEFS TO RETIRE THIS MONTH

Story by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis  
photos by Master Sgt. David Buttner / courtesy photos

Two sets of the striking and now infamous legs that frame the Hollywood sign in the black and white photo taken during the glory days of the Van Nuys era are retiring this month. The legs belong to Chief Master Sgt. Dana C-Swanson and Chief Master Sgt. Debra Thogersen; both are set to retire from military service after 40 years with the 146th Airlift Wing, and have been a part of the Hollywood Guard heritage since the unit's film-making days of Van Nuys.

Thogersen and C-Swanson were instrumental to the film-making process at Van Nuys; always on set ensuring things flowed like clockwork. Even then, as young Airmen, the two were emerging as leaders and mentors. Thogersen and C-Swanson selflessly committed themselves to the Air National Guard, and to the members of the 146th Airlift Wing. Today, they carry with them a special piece of heritage that embodies the glamour of our unit's past. 146th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Onsgard, who has also served for over 40 years, recalls his first encounters with

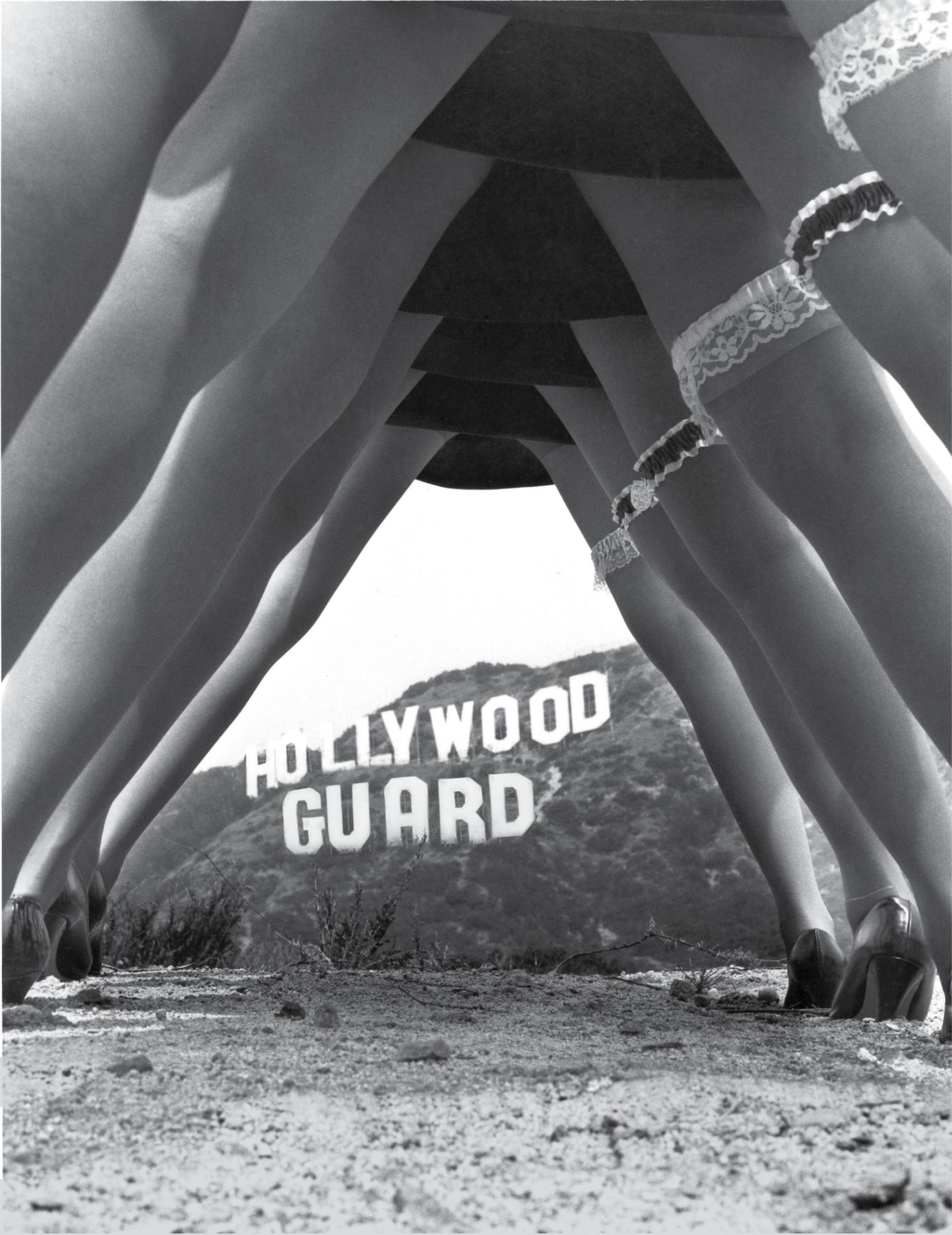
both Thogersen and C-Swanson during the Van Nuys days. "Debra was a beautiful, young, outspoken lady, and not much has changed from the start," said Onsgard. "She was always a hard worker, making sure everyone was taken care of, and she continued to progress through the years," said Onsgard. Onsgard remembers the days of film making on the flight lines working in the Security Forces Squadron. It was there

**"I can tell you right now that I wouldn't be where I am today if it hadn't been for Chief Thogersen."**

**-Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Onsgard**

he first observed C-Swanson working with film crews setting up on base. "She was a cute little gal running around a mile a minute, a real hard driving individual who was involved with so many things with the wing. I would always see her out mingling around making sure things were going on track. She had a lot of responsibility because they [Thogersen and C-Swanson] were working for the Wing

Comander, so that was their job to make sure that things were going well, and they did just that." C-Swanson and Thogersen have built a legacy that takes them to present day, building positive and productive relationships

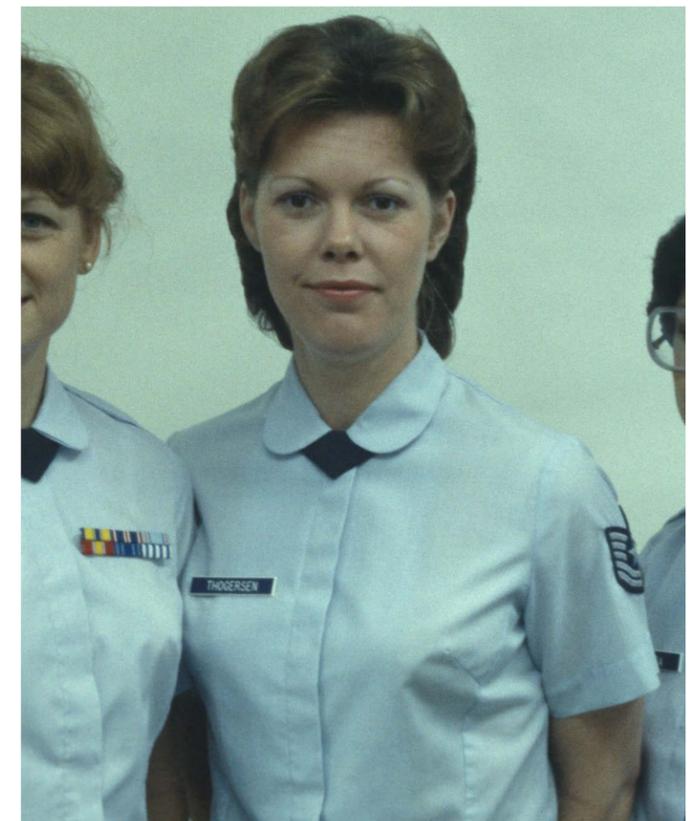


importance of going beyond what's expected of those in a leadership position. Master Sgt. Dave Buttner remembers his first days around the 146th Airlift Wing, and how Chief Master Sgt. C-Swanson made an impact on him. "She [C-Swanson] was a true mentor. She emphasized going past the requirements of getting the job done, to meet the needs, and truly understand the importance of quality of life in the workplace," said Master Sgt. Dave Buttner. Retirement is something that most look forward to towards the end of their career, and yet we all understand the bittersweetness of the loss felt when saying farewell to strong, compassionate, and knowledgeable seasoned veterans like C-Swanson and Thogersen. "Over the years they may have turned a little more gray, but their skills and their compassion have only grown larger, and that's going to be the big thing that we lose when they leave-- their compassion," said Onsgard. "The relationships and bonds that they have formed over the years will carry on the tradition of the Hollywood Guard long after they retire."

"She [C-Swanson] was a true mentor. She emphasized going past the requirements of getting the job done, to meet the needs, and truly understood the importance of quality of life in the workplace."

-Master Sgt. David Buttner

with the large number of personnel they have interacted with in their long careers. "I can tell you right now that I wouldn't be where I am today if it hadn't been for Chief Thogersen. She pushed and encouraged me throughout our years of knowing each other," said Onsgard. "It's just incredible how much they both served, not just to work here, but to make it a better place. They really stepped forward and made it all come together." Both C-Swanson and Thogersen had a significant impact on the people they worked with by demonstrating the





# DECEMBER'S HONORABLE MENTIONS

Top right : Col. Paul Hargrove is showered in champagne returning from his final flight by friends and co-workers from the 146th Airlift Wing.

Top far right: Col. Hargrove returns from his final flight as a pilot for the 146th Airlift Wing.

Middle far left: Chief Master Sgt. Chris Rushing strikes a pose in his Elvis Presley costume during a Halloween costume contest.

Middle far right: Senior Airman Monique Torres and Master Sgt. Erin McPherson in costume during a Halloween costume contest.



Above: Col. Paul Hargrove enjoys a cold beverage after completing his final flight at the 146th Airlift Wing with Lt. Col. Brian Kelly and Col. David Bakos.



Above: Lt. Col. Brian Kelly, Col. Paul Hargrove, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Onsgard participate as judges during a Halloween costume contest.



Above: Master Sgt. Dave Buttner's costume during a costume contest.

# AIRMAN OF THE MONTH



December's featured Airman of the month is Staff Sgt. Carlos Puga, an Air Transportation Journeyman for Small Air Terminal Operations. Although Puga is currently deployed, his leadership and work ethic is still highly appreciated at his home station. As a 2013 Outstanding Airman of the Year candidate, Puga has a long list of accomplishments which makes him a top contender. Puga deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom volunteering as a HAZMAT Qualified Joint Inspector. He was hand-selected by the 129th Rescue Wing to augment the Search and Rescue team to train 50 Columbian military personnel as a Spanish bilingual Instructor. Puga graduated at the top of his class from the Airdrop Specialist course at Fort Lee while completing his course for Black Wing Rigger certification. He also received top honors as a Distinguished graduate from the Airman Leadership School at Travis AFB making him the only Air National Guard Airman to be recognized in his class. Puga is currently working towards a Bachelor's degree in pre-law at National University, with only four classes remaining before graduation. Carlos enjoys volunteering in numerous community and base related activities including working as a logistics coordinator for a 3-day religious youth leadership conference, leading the music program at his church with a 12 member band, helping with K-9 kennels for the Travis AFB's 60th Security Forces Squadron and assisting with training military dogs on attack maneuver commands. His commitment to service before self and excellence in all he does both at the 146th Airlift Wing and in his community makes Staff Sgt. Puga our Outstanding Airman of the Month. Congratulations!



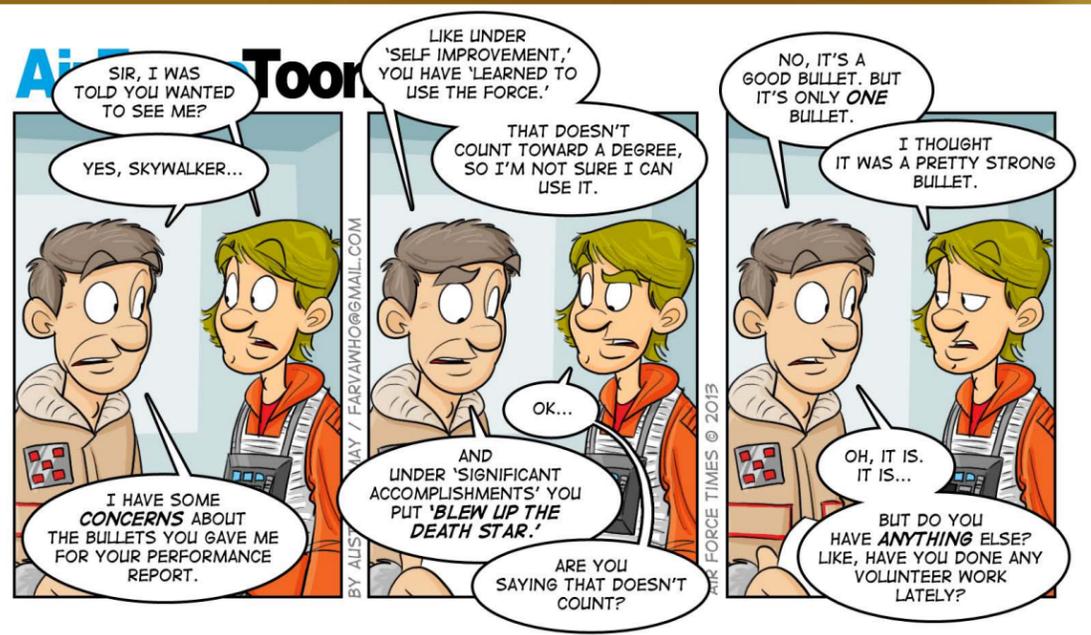
## **WHO SHOULD WE SPOTLIGHT?**

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



**FREE  
HOLIDAY CONCERT**

**AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
BAND OF THE WEST**

**SAT. 7TH DEC**

**OCEANVIEW PAVILION  
PORT HUENEME**

**7PM**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:30**

## Welcome new 146th Airmen!

Airman 1st Class Daniel Garcia  
Airman 1st Class Garth Walker  
Airman 1st Class Chance Wright  
Airman 1st Class Douglas Mendoza  
Senior Airman Mark Hill  
Staff Sgt. Michael Ramsey  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Lopez  
Staff Sgt. Joel Alvarez  
Staff Sgt. Amanda Ayres  
Tech. Sgt. Nichole Wagoner  
Maj. Todd Morgan

## Chaplain services

Catholic Mass 1100 LRS Conference Room. Protestant Service 1300 LRS Conference Room. Chaplain's Office is located in the Supply Building 119. Office hours are 0800 to 1600 Saturday and Sunday.

## DFAC Menu

### Friday

- Navy Bean Soup
- Assorted Sausages
- Cheeseburgers
- Hamburgers
- Spicy orange glazed chicken breast

### Saturday

- Corn chowder
- Stuffed Cornish game hens w/ orange marmalade
- Beef tenderloins w/ Demi reduction
- Lemon thyme buttered shrimp
- Cranberry ginger chutney
- Garlic mashed potatoes
- Herbed rice pilaf
- Mediteranian vegetable blend
- Spring vegetable blend

### Sunday

- Corn chowder
- Spinach ricotta tomato frittata
- Scrambled eggs
- Breakfast sausage
- Applewood smoked bacon
- Wheat and regular pancakes w/ bannanas foster sauce
- Tarragon chicken
- Penne Margarita
- Baby carrots



This pdf is available on the 146AW public website, [www.146aw.ang.af.mil](http://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!