

MAY 2014



the Minuteman

THE NEW ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FOR THE 146TH AIRLIFT WING



MINUTEMAN FEATURE

The 146th Airlift Wing begins MAFFS training with U.S. Forest Service, and CALFIRE to combat future wildfires.

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Three members from the 146th Airlift Wing share a rare opportunity to serve together while deployed.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A new Minuteman section featuring Lt. Col. John Love providing spiritual insight for all.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE MAFFS TRAINING



146th begins annual MAFFS training with U.S. Forest Service and CALFIRE.



Three brothers from the 146th share a rare opportunity to serve together while deployed.



In a new Minuteman feature, Lt. Col. Chaplain John Love meditates on Mother's Day.



COMMANDER'S

I hope you and your families have been enjoying your Spring breaks, and taking in all of our beautiful Southern California weather. Even though we are suffering from extreme drought conditions, we need to be thankful that we aren't suffering from the damaging storms, flooding and tornadoes that much of the rest of our country is seeing. Our National Guardsmen are present again this month in the background of our world news events, assisting people in these areas affected by the bizarre weather, and I thank you all for remaining at the ready to respond to the call if needed.

We accomplished our MAFFS training last month and are ready to assist fighting the fires when they start up. Be ready for a very busy season. I want to recognize all of the shops and offices who continue to make our annual MAFFS recertification and training go smoothly, and for providing a seamless inter-agency image to all of the visitors who come out and watch us train.

VIEW

“Remember that next month, June, there will be no UTA, although some of you will be participating in the JRSOI.”

-Col. David Bakos

This month many of our Airmen came out a few days prior to UTA to participate in a very large medical exercise at Camarillo Airport called Operation Medical Base. The Medical Group and the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron put on a great show alongside many players from Ventura County emergency response agencies. Major General Baldwin, our state's Adjutant General, came out with his staff Friday morning before this UTA to observe. He left with an outstanding impression of wing's capabilities. Training with our civilian counterparts is an integral part of what we do, and we do it well. Keep up all your great work.

Lastly I want to remind you that a large portion of our deployers will be coming home soon. Join me in welcoming them home and thanking them for their service and sacrifice. Big thanks to our Yellow Ribbon team and all they do for the families of those who deployed.

Remember that next month, June, there will be no UTA, although some of you will be participating in the JRSOI. June UTA will be accomplished during our block-training “super-drill” in September, when we knock out a huge chunk of our ancillary training all together at one time. More details of when and how that will happen will be given out soon.

Have a safe and productive UTA, and don't forget to take care of Mom next week!

Blue Skies,
Colonel Bakos



RED-FLAG FIRE SEASON APPROACHES 146TH TRAINS TO FIGHT

Story by: Maj. Kimberly Holman
Photos by: Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carzis

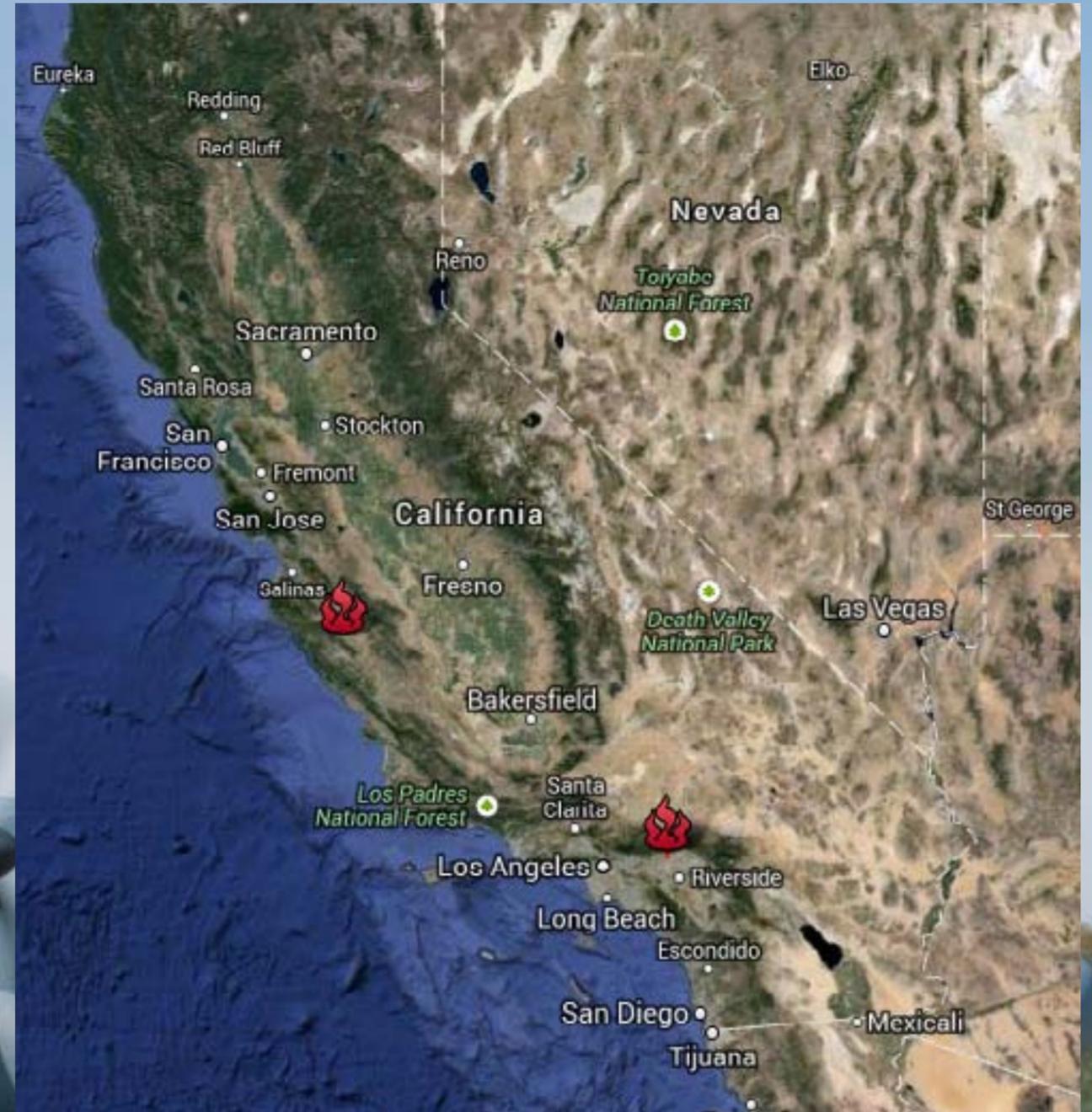
More than 100 members of the 146th Airlift Wing, U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) participated this year in training for Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems, known as MAFFS, a roll-on aircraft system designed to combat wildfires. The training took place April 6-11.

This year's MAFFS training came for the 146th Airlift Wing a month earlier than usual, not only due to last year's Springs fire which broke out in Camarillo in early May, but also due to the large number of Airmen who were to deploy from the wing. With extreme drought conditions persisting in California, the U.S. Forest Service says they expect a busy wildfire season this year, and the 146th will once again be ready to respond.

Lt. Col. Bill Willson was present to explain to visitors and local media about what takes place during the training, and what aerial firefighting entails. He told them that flying the large C130 aircraft for fire-suppression purposes can be tricky because the plane is very heavy and must fly slowly and close to the ground.

"Flying is a very perishable skill, so to ensure our crews are as properly and currently trained as possible, we have to do it annually," Willson said. "Once we get out on a fire there's not enough time to review procedures." James Turner, a liaison officer with the U.S. Forest Service, said the lack of rain has officials preparing for the worst. "Even the small amount of rain that fell in the past few weeks could in-

FIRES BURNING IN CALIFORNIA AS OF 2 MAY



MAFFS TRAINING CONT.

crease the risk of wildfires,” he said. “It may cause more vegetation to grow that will dry out quickly as the weather heats up, becoming a fire hazard. This is very definitely what you might call a red-flag season here in California. Truly, the potential is out there.”

“The potential for significant fires is already above average in southern California and we expect conditions to worsen there and elsewhere in the West over the next few months due to continuing drought and other factors,” said Aitor Bidaburu, Chair of the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. “This training is critical to ensure that we can call on MAFFS to fly wildfire suppression missions when our commercial airtankers are fully committed or not readily available, as we have for the last 40 years.”

The California Air National Guard’s C-130J aircraft are equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System II (MAFFS II) which is capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant. The state-of-the-art system slides into the back of the aircraft, and a precision targeted, highly pressurized stream of water or retardant is released through a nozzle fitted to the left back side door..



“Flying is a very perishable skill, so to ensure our crews are as properly and currently trained as possible, we have to do it annually.”

- Lt. Col. Bill Willson



SERVICE DRIVEN BROTHERS MEET IN RARE OPPORTUNITY WHILE DEPLOYED

Story & photo by: Senior Airman Desiree Moya
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



Regardless of what drove them to service, one benefit of having family in the military is the rare opportunity that allows them to serve with one another in a deployed location. It has been a major comfort to three California personnel assigned to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing together. The Morales Talento brothers are deployed from the 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Island Air National Guard Station, Calif.

Tech. Sgt. Luis Morales Talento is a supply specialist from the 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Group. His little brothers, Senior Airman Walter Morales Talento, maintenance operations center controller, and Airman 1st Class Guido Morales Talento, a crew chief, both from the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, have been close since growing up in Oxnard, Calif.

Luis and Walter immigrated with their parents to the United States from Guatemala in 1992 when they were 8 and 4. They believe that they are living out their late father's dream of serving in the U.S. Air Force.

"I'm really proud that we have fulfilled a lifelong dream our father had for himself and for his boys," said Walter.

Raised in a household that was both humble and authoritarian at times, their father was always supportive of the military. They remember him taking them to air shows each year, igniting a fire of patriotism in each of them.

"Every time we saw an American flag, my dad continuously reminded us and never failed to proclaim, 'That's your flag boys.' I did not connect the dots until I joined the Air Force and understood the powerful meaning behind the pride our flag solidified," shared Luis.

Many years after those memories, each brother decided to serve their nation by enlisting in the military. Out of five siblings, Luis, the oldest, stepped up and joined in 2004, but never lost hope that Guido and Walter would follow suit. Before Walter enlisted, he admired Luis' amazing contributions for their state and for the nation. After hearing so many positive stories

about the military, he made his decision. "I just became inspired to follow in his footsteps. I chose the ANG over active duty because it allowed me to finish school, be able to live close to my family, and more importantly, serve with both of my brothers on the same base," Walter said.

Guido, the youngest brother, required a bit more finessing before finally 'crossing into the blue' and enlisting. To help make his decision, Walter and Luis voiced some unknown opportunities that Guido couldn't find on a recruiter brochure; their individual perspectives.

"After my first brother joined, I was sad because he had never been away [from me]. I definitely have a strong sense of pride in my country, but did not want to leave home. Essentially it was my oldest brother Luis that recruited me by taking me to the base, showing me around and showing me what I could accomplish," said Guido. "It further encouraged me to join when Walter did."

Being able to talk about like-minded issues and share similar comforts from home while in a deployed location is perfect for growing resilient bonds. Though they work different shifts, they make it a priority to check up on one another as often as possible and participate in activities around The Rock. "I really feel blessed to have both of them here with me during my first deployment overseas. I love the fact that we hang out, enjoy meals together, workout, and even joined the Base Honor Guard together," said Walter.

Luis constantly reminds his brothers of little things that can help them be the best Airmen possible and Guido pushes them all to stay physically motivated. "I am proud to say that each of us has won 1st place in different events here around the base. We hope to come in first place in the half marathon coming up later this month," Walter stated. One of the biggest advantages of being deployed with family is taking care of and looking out for each other. The same concept shadows the Marauder Pride we all share on The Rock. "We just want to thank our unit back home who allowed us to deploy together," the brothers stated. "It's an honor to serve our country, our state of California and to be a part of this rich Marauder tradition along with my brothers."

The Chaplain's Corner

A Meditation on Mother's Day

Ch, Lt. Col. John W. Love
146th AW Chaplain's Office

I lost my dear mother last year and I can say that it was one of the most painful and difficult experiences of my life. While I was grieving, I remember finding a little reflection in an old book written years ago by Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty.

Cardinal Mindszenty was a great believer of the American ideal and staunchly opposed to communism; so much so that he was forced to seek refuge and spend fifteen years in exile in the American Embassy at Budapest, Hungary, unable to leave the grounds.

As Mother's Day draws near next week, I would like to share this reflection with you as it perfectly mirrors the admiration and love I will always have in my heart for my mom and all of our 146th AW mothers and grandmothers.

"The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not.

She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral- a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation...

What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?"

Chaplain Services

Catholic Mass 1100 LRS Conference Room
Protestant Service 1230 LRS Conference Room.

The Chaplain's Office is located in the Supply Building 119.

Office hours 0800-1600
Saturday and Sunday

photos by: Airman 1st Class Madeline Richards





AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

Master Sgt. Lolita Boudreaux is May's Airman of the month. Recently selected as the wing's First Sgt. Nomination as Outstanding Airman of the Year, this Maintenance Squadron first sergeant is nothing short of phenomenal. Boudreaux joined active duty Air Force in 1995. While working up the ranks in active duty Air Force, Boudreaux found time to volunteer at "Loaves and Fishes" where she fed the homeless and participated in a drug education program for endangered youths.

She has served overseas several times, to include Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Sicily and France. After eight years active duty, Boudreaux transferred to Air Force Reserves. While serving, she completed her Community College of the Air Force Associates degree in Non Destructive testing and completed her Bachelors of Science degree in Business Management simultaneously.

Boudreaux transferred to the Air National Guard and has put her extensive knowledge and experience to work. She has been called upon on multiple occasions to use her experience in performing unique inspections on the C130-J aircraft.

While performing as a full time shop supervisor, Boudreaux found time to complete her Master's Degree in 2013. Boudreaux provides great leadership to the 146th Maintenance Squadron and continues to mentor fellow Airmen to complete their necessary training, prioritize their professional military development and to pursue their higher education.

EXTRA PHOTOS FOR YOU!

An entire page dedicated to more photos from this month's events on base to include more Ops and Maintenance deployers leaving for overseas, and Medical Group and AES participation in Operation Medical Base.



Say Some thing

Lt. Col. Chris Dougherty was named "Veteran of the Game" at the April 9th Dodger home game in Los Angeles. Dougherty is gearing up for his 11th deployment. He is a great representation of the 146th Airlift Wing and we are all so proud of him! (Photos courtesy of Lee-ann Tweeden.)



ALWAYS ON GUARD

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

WE RESPOND

Discover the roles the Air National Guard has played in times of crisis and need. Is there a role for you?

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FLOODS

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TORNADOES

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EARTHQUAKES

DFAC MENU

Saturday

- Mushroom bisque
- Memphis style BBQ chicken and ribs
- Ginger bacon ranch style beans
- Chili butter corn
- Cinnamon buttered sweet yams
- Peas
- Garlic mozzarella bread

Sunday

- Mushroom Bisque
- Veal Parmesean
- Fettuccini with tomato sauce
- Chili Lime tilapia
- Rice Pilaf
- Green Beans
- Fried Zucchini

**Welcome new
146th Airmen!**

A1C Jacob Rodriguez
A1C Jonathan Diaz
SrA Wendy Bell
A1C Erica Rodriguez
SrA Laura Hurtado





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