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Electronic News from the 146th Airlift Wing



Current as of 9/8/12, updated commander's view to be posted 10/14/12 We had a change in the senior staff this past month and I would like to thank Col. Marilyn Rios for her outstanding leadership as the Vice Commander for the 146th AW since 2003. She has taken over the 162nd Combat Communications Group Commander position and she will be sorely missed here at Channel Islands. Join me in wishing her good luck and God Speed in her new position. An interview process will take place in the near future to fill the now vacant Vice Commander office. Col. Lou Danner will be the interim Vice Commander until the hiring process has been completed and Lt. Col. Clay Cowgill will fill the interim Mission Support Group Commander role. *Cont. on page 6*

Calendar

- Oct 22-26 – ESOHCAMP
- Nov 14-16 – AOCI
- Nov 26-30– HQ AMC STAN/EVAL
- Dec 2- Family Day/Hometown Heroes
- Dec 17-18 – COMSEC Inspection
- Jan 27 – 1 Feb Charlotte ORE
- Feb 20-27 – ASEV
- Mar 3-9 – CRTC C2 Exercise (Full PTF 1-2 March UTA)
- Apr 5-8 – Home-station ORE
- May 2-5 – Ops Block Training
- Jun 1-2 – War-Skills Training
- Aug 2013- TBD – Deployed ORE (TBD dates depending upon CRTC & availability)
- Oct 27 – 3 Nov – Deployed ORI

DFAC MENU Saturday

cream of corn soup, bratwurst with apple onion sauerkraut
rosemary red potatoes, roasted lemon chicken, rice pilaf, Oregon
vegetable blend, and corn on the cob

DFAC MENU Sunday

cream of corn soup, chicken fajitas, pork chili verde, spanish rice,
refried beans, green beans, broccoli, bavarian cream filled churros,
and tres leches cake

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to all formal school grads!

- Airman 1st Class Matthew Kromka
- Airman 1st Class Cris Panoringan
- Airman 1st Class Adam Heil
- Airman 1st Class Hans Nordquist
- Airman Richard Torres
- Airman 1st Class Monique Torres

Welcome newest members of student flight!

Penny Jeanne Clayburg, Sherita Janale Caldwell, Ricardo Prieto,
Cameron Hardwick Shepard, Indawaty Osman, Ryan Milian Ayers,
Jamal Omar Guilliod, Tyson James Stroh, Jamie Alberto Izquierdo
Sanchez.

Religious Services

Catholic Mass: 1100
Protestant Service: 1230
Both services are held in the
Commander's Conference Room, Bldg 119

Oct. UTA Events

Saturday

- 0800 - 1100 – PT
- 0845 – Commanders and 1st Sgt. Meeting (Jenny Room)
- 1100 – Chief Balthrop's Pinning

Sunday

- 0800 – 1100 – PT
- 0900 – 1000 – 1st Sergeants' Meeting (Sabre room)
- 1000 – Chiefs' council (Jenny room)
- 1400 – Lt. Col. Protack Retirement

AIRMAN OF THE MONTH



Read more about Airman 1st Class Monique Torres on page 4



146th AES supports evacuation mission

Recently, General Ray Johns, Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., wrote a letter thanking the 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron for taking on a very high profile, sensitive mission overseas. Although the details of the mission may come at a later date, we now would like to recognize their efforts and applaud their hard work and dedication. Please read the letter below.

“The efforts of you and your crew to evacuate embassy personnel from Libya, return with honor those who did not survive the attacks, and save the lives of several more through aeromedical evacuation were extraordinary. There are no words to accurately convey the depth of the pride and appreciation I have for your representation of the mobility family and indeed the entire nation. I know when we send our crews out on a mission their professionalism and responsiveness will shine through and inspire us all. Once again you have proven me correct. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for a mission well done.”

v/r
General Ray Johns

Water survival training

by: Tech. Sgt. Ty Moore



Aircrew members from the 146th Airlift Wing from Channel Islands Air National Guard Station had a rare opportunity to experience water survival training in San Diego’s Glorietta Bay off of the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado. Traditionally referred to as the “June Swoon”, this training took place a few months later during August drill of 2012, but those who attended didn’t seem to mind the delay. “Out here in the open ocean there are many real challenges to contend with--currents, there are rip tides, there’s marine wildlife out here,” said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Lopez with the 146th Airlift Wing’s Aircrew Flight Equipment.

“We put these aircrew members in a situation which is controlled, but at the same time making it real.” The training consists of parachute entanglement, a 20-man life raft simulation, a one-man life raft simulation, and the “drop and drag” demonstration where aircrew must demonstrate releasing themselves from their parachute harness while being dragged behind a jet ski. The wing’s ALE coordinated the training with local San Diego Navy and Marine Corp assets. Troops had an afternoon filled with highly challenging and valuable training next to the San Diego skyline and Coronado Bay Bridge. “There are so many demands on all of the pilots’, all of the loadmasters’ time, that doing something in a canned environment like a pool or in a classroom, you need to get them away from thinking about their next flight, let them focus on the task,” said 1st Lt. Josh Kramer of the 115th Airlift Squadron. “Bringing them all out here and taking them out of their element, you can capture their attention and get much better training.”



MAFFS end of season

by: Maj. Kimberly Holman

The California Air National Guard's MAFFS (Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems) program was a vital tool for the U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE in what became a record-breaking firefighting year.

For nearly three months the 146th Airlift Wing (AW) personnel and C-130 aircraft assisted with wildfire suppression, from June 25-Sept 14, contributing to more than 1000 cumulative drops and 2.5 million gallons of fire retardant delivered on fires across the Western U.S., many in California.



"We can all be proud that our efforts have made a difference in the lives and safety of firefighters, and those many communities around the nation affected by the events of this historical season," said Col. Gerald Champlain, 153rd Airlift Wing Commander located in Cheyenne, Wyo., who served as Air Expeditionary Group Commander during this year's MAFFS deployment.



"The California wildfire season is unpredictable and often flares up during the fall months, but the 146th AW remains ready to assist if called upon," said Col. Paul Hargrove, 146th AW Commander and MAFFS pilot. "Our aircrew and support personnel are loyal to the MAFFS mission and will respond at a moment's notice when needed."

This year's activation began in the Rocky Mountain Region with flames threatening the Air Force Academy and new cadets in Colorado Springs, Colo. The threat to life and property was so great that all eight MAFFS C-130 aircraft from across the country were activated to the same place at the same time, a situation seldom witnessed in more than 40 years of MAFFS' existence.

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The U.S. Forest Service adjusted the MAFFS staging locations in order to follow fire activity and lessen aircraft commute times to the fires. Following the initial activation in Colorado Springs, MAFFS operations were staged out of Cheyenne, Wyo., Hill Air Force Base outside of Salt Lake City, Boise, Idaho and McClellan Air Field near Sacramento.

On July 1, MAFFS 7, a North Carolina C-130 equipped with a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, crashed near Edgemont, S.D., while supporting the White Draw fire. Four of the six crewmembers were killed in what was the first major incident in the 40-year MAFFS mission history.

"We especially would like to remember our fallen comrades from MAFFS 7, and convey special gratitude to their families for their ultimate sacrifice in the service of this great nation," said Champlain following MAFFS' recent deactivation. "There is no greater duty than the defense of the lives and homes of our fellow countrymen, and our thoughts and prayers will remain with them always."

For the full story check out our public website [here](#).

Heroes Helping Heroes

by: Tech. Sgt. Ty Moore

This past Sept. 11 marked 11 years since the horrific events that unfolded on Sept. 11, 2001. Many celebrities came out for an inaugural fundraising event called Heroes Helping Heroes at the "Pink Taco" on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood, to honor military veterans and those fallen on that day.



The evening's entertainment included the 146th Airlift Wing's Air National Guard Band of the Southwest, the wing's Salsa Band "Fuego Azul", whose members just returned from a tour in Afghanistan, and several other star-studded celebrity bands. "This organization raises money for wounded warriors, they donate funds for veterans, and it's all for such a great cause," said Master Sgt. Erin McPherson, a member of the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest. "We are so proud to have been invited to participate in this event."

Funds raised will go to support veteran employment programs, education, and wellness programs for Los Angeles and the nation, organizers of the event said.

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Airman of the Month

This October's Airman of the month is Airman 1st Class Monique Torres, the newest addition to the 146th Airlift Wing's finance office. We caught up with Torres to find out a little more about herself and what her future will hold.

When did you enlist in the Air Force, how long have you been in the service?

"My service with the military began when I enlisted on Superbowl Sunday! Feb. 5, 2012"

What motivated you to enlist in the Air Force?

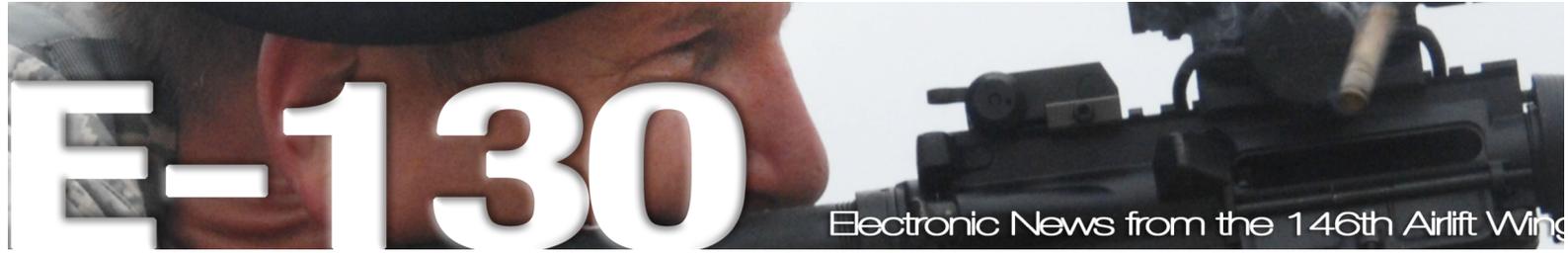
"Service to country was instilled in me as a child; I have wanted to join the military ever since."

How has being an Airman changed your point of view on life?

"It has broadened the scope of my own potential. The Air Force has given me career and life opportunities I never imagined would be mine."

What's the most important lesson you've learned in the military?

"During Basic Military Training my brother flight's military training instructor (Staff Sgt. Roberts) would from time to time cover for our own military training instructor and mentor our flight. Towards the end of our time there, one of the girls in my flight found out she was going to be separated from the Air Force for a food allergy 4 days from graduation (she had been waiting to hear about the results of her testing for weeks). We were all heartbroken for her as serving in the AF was her dream; she had come so close and it was now gone. She would not be allowed to graduate though she had made it through it all. Staff Sgt. Roberts told her to keep her head up, take it day by day and realize that "no" doesn't always mean "no". You have to believe in your own value and capabilities and never settle for less than what you know you can obtain." See more of this story at the [146th public website](#).



Commander's View continued from page 1

The 146th AW has continued to fly MAFFS operations since being called out on June 30th. MAFFS 8, out of Charlotte, and MAFFS 4, out of Channel Islands, are based currently at McClellan airport in Sacramento and continue to be used daily to fight Northern California wildfires, as well as Oregon and Nevada fires. MAFFS aircraft have completed 894 sorties, with 984 drops and expending 2,374,879 gallons of retardant. MAFFS has been continually activated since 23 June, starting in Colorado when 346 homes were destroyed. There is a lot of discussion at the National Guard Bureau, NORTHCOM, and AMC on how to handle the next year's fire season. Long term orders are being considered for next year and follow on season, but these decisions will be made during the off season, starting with the post season MAFFS conference 1-4 November in Colorado Springs.

The AMC Commander, Gen. Raymond Johns, named Rhode Island and Channel Islands as C-130J Active Associate units in the Force Structure document released earlier this year. Gen. Johns wants to leverage the experience in the Air National Guard, especially in the C-130J, as the active duty is transitioning to this aircraft. They would like to have us instruct them in the operations and maintenance of the aircraft, learning from the over ten years of experience we possess in the C-130J. Gen. Johns wants to send us a squadron of operations and maintenance personnel, but not aircraft. This is where the Air National Guard and the Active Duty differ on the association. We have several years to work the details, but at this time, personnel only is not agreeable to NGB, California Military Department, and myself. Time will tell how the actual association will be comprised.

Lastly, we start our exercise preparation for our next Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) this drill with a Prepare the Forces exercise. This exercise will get the deployment apparatus dusted off and running, processing over 100 personnel for deployment. Both personnel and cargo will be processed and loaded on four of our C130J aircraft. This is only a small portion of an ORI, but this is also only the first step in preparation. We will start working with Charlotte early next year to coordinate deployed Operational Readiness Exercises (ORE). The first deployed exercise will be in March 2013, with approximately fifty of our personnel from command positions deploying to a Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) and practicing ORI related scenarios. This will be followed by a home station ORE in April 2013. AMC Inspector General has been researching home station ORIs, but at this time no clarity on whether this will affect our October 2013 ORI. The best way to prepare for now is to expect to deploy to a CRTC, as in the past, and if the IG changes to a home station ORI, we will easily adjust. I hope everyone has a great, productive September drill and see you around the base,

Paul J. Hargrove, Col.
146th AW/CC