

AIRLIFTER

SOONER

April 2010

205th Engineering Installation Squadron deploys

by 1st Lt. Jessica Chapa
137 ARW/PA

Approximately 40 members with the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron, Oklahoma Air National Guard, deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March.

The members will support forward deployed units by installing and upgrading satellite communications, fiber optic and copper wiring solutions, internet networks, paging systems, ground-to-air communications, computer design drawings and mapping services.

Before departure, members and their families participated in a Yellow Ribbon Workshop detailing matters such

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Patricia Baker

Airmen of the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron and their families receive useful information about deployment preparations during a Yellow Ribbon workshop March 7.

Change in Chiefs brings a first in Wing history

by 1st Lt. Jessica Chapa
137 ARW/PA

Chief Master Sergeant Pam Geberth, 137th Communications Flight, was chosen in March as the new 137th Air Refueling Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant making her the first female Command Chief Master Sergeant in the history of 137th. She replaced Chief Johnny Waller after he accepted the position of our new State Command Chief Master Sergeant in January.

With 43 years of combined service for Will Rogers Air National Guard Base between them, they have had many opportunities to combine ideas and create the best possible environment for their joint mission,



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker

taking care of Airmen.

Chief Waller says the hardest part about leaving WRANGB will be missing the people he has been fortunate enough to know, but he looks forward to working with the 138th

Fighter Wing and continuing to develop the bond between our two state wings.

"I'm very proud to get this opportunity to represent the Oklahoma Air National Guard on this level," said Chief Waller.

As Chief Geberth transitions into her new position, she will continue to thrive in what she calls her most important role, that of "taking care of our Airmen." Student Flight will be among her focused interests, strengthening the foundation for new Airmen

which she hopes will make a difference in retention. She describes her new position as an honor and is ready to make the best positive impact she can for the wing.

Lessons the blizzard taught us carry humbling reminders



By Col. Theodore Mickle
137th ARW Medical Group
Commander

Even though signs of the approaching springtime are showing up everywhere, each of us remembers how we faced the Christmas Eve Blizzard of 2009 and how it affected us. Like many, my journey to home and family was interrupted by the storm, and I spent the night alone in a motel, grateful to be warm, dry and safe. The next day, the worst of the storm was over, and I was reunited with my family.

I received a present that Christmas Day that has helped me to appreciate all the more how precious the freedom is we enjoy in our great nation. My gift was a book entitled "To Try Men's Souls," a historical novel of the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War. As a child growing up in New Jersey, I visited nearby Valley Forge and Washington's Crossing, and had some grasp of the important events and battles that occurred in that part of the state, but had never appreciated the human cost. This book would help change that.

We often think of July 4th, 1776, as the date our country was born. As important as the events in Philadelphia that summer, our liberty came about not by an act of the Continental Congress, but by the incredible courage, suffering and sacrifice of those on the battlefield. Earlier that year, with the victory over the British in Boston, thousands of "sunshine patriots" swelled the ranks of Washington's

army, which totaled nearly 20,000 that summer.

As Christmas approached, however, most of his army had either been captured by the British that disastrous summer in New York, or had deserted. At the end of December, the majority of his army's enlistments would be up, and his army would disappear. A discouraged Washington had written a letter to his cousin in Virginia not long before, telling him "I think the game is pretty near up."

By Christmas Day, 1776, the situation was bleak bordering on desperate. The army now totaled about 5,000, most of whom were too sick and emaciated to fight. Washington's plan, to cross over the freezing Delaware River that night and launch a surprise attack on the Hessians occupying Trenton nine miles south, was as brazen as it was dangerous.

The Continental Congress was running out of money, and had not provided the Continental Army with necessary arms and equipment. Many of the men had no shoes, and were poorly clothed and fed. Yet, that night, in freezing temperatures, with a blizzard underway, they crossed a river and marched with bare, bleeding feet in freezing mud until they reached their objective. Caught by surprise by an enemy they considered primitive, the Hessians, the world's finest fighting force, were soundly defeated by Washington and his army. That pivotal battle ensured the survival of American freedom.

In those miserable twelve hours, the future of a country was decided by the extreme courage and sacrifice of 2,400 men, most of whose names we do not know and whose memory we cannot adequately honor.

As you recall our Christmas Blizzard and how it humbled and inconvenienced us, think of how the Americans of 1776 endured the misery of their Christmas blizzard -- those few patriots to whom we owe our nation and our liberty.

137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Staff

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For consideration, all submissions must be provided to the Public Affairs office, at 137ARW.PA@ang.af.mil or in Bldg. 1046, 686-5227, no later than 10 a.m. Saturday of drill weekend. The Public Affairs office distributes the Airlifter monthly except for February and August.

Public affairs officers: 1st Lt. Cody Hawkins, 1st Lt. Jessica Chapa and 2nd Lt. Paul Blankenship; NCOIC: Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker; public affairs specialists: Staff Sgt. Lindsay Roe and Airman 1st Class Patricia Baker; information manager: Airman 1st Class Kaleena Higa; photographers: Master Sgt. Roberta Thompson and Senior Airman Caroline Hayworth; videographers: Master Sgt. Jun Kim and Staff Sgt. Ben Flint.

Senior Airman Rachelle Belflower

Unit/Position... 137th FSS/Contract Management Asst.

Entered the Air Guard... January 2005

Time in this position... I've been doing this for a couple of years. I like it because it keeps me busy.

Job duties... I work with civilian employees and train them in their job requirements. I ensure they follow procedures to ensure health safety and help them get the supplies they need to be successful. I am also a member of our new Fatality Search and Recovery team.

Career goals... My long-term goal is to retire from the military. I am also working on my college degree in Business Management which will help my military career.

Hobbies... I spend most of my time with my kindergarten and her school activities. I also go to the gym every day.

One of your most rewarding experiences... My most rewarding experience in the Oklahoma Air National Guard has been when I deployed to the United Arab Emirates to serve our country in support of OIF. Being able to do my job in that situation was a very rewarding experience.

Advice for new Airmen... My advice to new Airmen is to take the military seriously. Use your experiences and what you have learned wisely.

AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT



Photo by Senior Airman Caroline Hayworth

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as legal readiness, financial planning, relationships and medical benefits.

“There are so many resources available to members and their families,” said Jennifer Lain, 137th Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager. “This program allows families to hear about those resources and then take the information with them for later reference. It also helps families put faces with names and makes them less hesitant to reach out if they

need assistance.”

Airman 1st Class Charity Boman Sallee, EIS Engineering Assistant, says this program helps her parents because they have never been through anything like this.

“They can learn more about benefits and understand what I am going through,” added Boman Sallee.

205th EIS members will return home this fall.



Family Support Contacts

Family Emergencies

Contact the Red Cross
Toll free 877-272-7337
Local 405-228-9500

137th Airman and Family Readiness Program

Manager - Jennifer Lain
Office 405-686-5683
Cell 405-517-2835
Jennifer.Lain@ang.af.mil

Websites

Military OneSource - www.militaryonesource.com
NGB Family Programs - www.jointservicessupport.org
Tricare - www.tricare.osd.mil

Oklahoma National Guard Family Programs Office launches internet talk show:

Blog: On Guard in Oklahoma

Tracy Poindexter (Army National Guard) and Jennifer Lain (Air National Guard) have joined forces to bring you live internet shows featuring guests, information and resources you can use. Call-in, chat or subscribe to their podcast through www.blogtalkradio.com/ogok.

Hometown Heroes Salute h

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker



Maj. Jacqueline Bryson, Tech. Sgt. Aukshawlahshieba Allen, and Master Sgt. Scherryl Coulter, members of Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, show their excitement for the HHS ceremonies. The majority of the WRANGB members who have deployed and who were recognized during the ceremonies are traditional Guardsmen from across Oklahoma and neighboring states who have civilian careers in addition to their military careers.

“They’re all heroes, in every sense of the word.”

*- Maj. Gen. Myles Deering
The Adjutant General, Oklahoma National Guard*



Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, Oklahoma Adjutant General, speaks at one of the HHS ceremonies held March 6-7. During HHS, about 350 members of the 137th Air Refueling Wing and their families were recognized for their service to our state and nation.



Master Sgt. Jeffrey Matheney, 146th Air Support Operations Squadron Superintendent of Operations, receives his coin and pen from Bob Green, Gray Eagles Retiree Association member, at the HHS held at the base nose dock. Several HHS ceremonies took place during the weekend, each recognizing the Airmen of specific units on base.

Honors Airmen and Families



Maj. Casey Mankin, a pilot for the 137th Air Refueling Wing, and his daughter, Reese, celebrate his recognition. Since 9/11, Airmen from 137 ARW and tenant units have served a combined total of over 259,500 days, with many Airmen serving on multiple deployments.



Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Andrews, Medical Group Senior Health Technician, presents her father-in-law, Martin Andrews, with an honorary medal during Hometown Heroes Salute. Andrews presented this medal to her father-in-law to recognize the support he has given her throughout her deployments and military career. Mr. Andrews is an Army World War II veteran.

Master Sgt. Doug Gingerich, Force Support Squadron Customer Service, and his family, Avery, Barbara, Kathy and Cambree, collect his awarded coin and family gifts at the one of the HHS ceremonies. The Air National Guard's HHS is a nationwide program meant to honor more than 53,000 Airmen nationwide who have deployed in support of major operations since Sept. 11, 2001. More HHS ceremonies are slated to occur this year.



Personnel Updates

Newcomers:

Staff Sgt. John Hernandez
 Staff Sgt. Jason Rojas
 Staff Sgt. Luis Vargas
 Senior Airman Bradley Hawkins
 Senior Airman Benjamin Lake
 Senior Airman Matthew McRoberts
 Airman Basic Brittany Simpson
 Airman 1st Class Bailey Fowler
 Airman 1st Class Carlos Vargas
 Airman 1st Class Roberto Vargas

Promotions:

Major Douglas Garretson
 Captain Kevin Bobala
 Master Sgt. James Casey
 Master Sgt. Shannon Trip
 Staff Sgt. Lyle Arbuckle
 Staff Sgt. Montravius Baxter
 Staff Sgt. Keith Griesel
 Staff Sgt. Trevor Smith
 Senior Airman Thomas Cahill
 Senior Airman Ethan Chandler
 Senior Airman Gregory Joyner
 Senior Airman Phillip Mann
 Senior Airman Wesley Talbott
 Senior Airman Colin Williams

Retirements:

Major Mark Rhymer
 Senior Master Sgt. Steven Black
 Senior Master Sgt. Tony Kline
 Master Sgt. Kelly Habrock
 Master Sgt. Eric Schroeder
 Tech. Sgt. Mark Nave

Menu

Saturday (Lunch)

roast turkey, beef stew
 potatoes, rolls, short-order
 peach cobbler

Sunday (Lunch)

box lunches
 ham/turkey sandwiches
 chips, cookies

Sexual Assaults are a Crime

“It is making me blame myself for something you did to me.”

Sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults are not the victim’s fault. The responsibility for the action falls directly to the perpetrator. No one asks to be raped. If you have been a victim of a sexual assault, remember that it’s not your fault. Call Maj. Kettler or a Victim’s Advocate and get help. It does not matter when the assault occurred.

For more information contact Maj. Liz Kettler at Elizabeth.Kettler@ang.af.mil or 686-5564. You can also call the Sexual Assault Hotline at 686-5561.

Helpful Resources at WRANGB

“Rank and Rack”

Recycling Program

If you are about to be promoted, updating your ribbon rack or have other uniform changes, we may have the items you need.

Leadership Library

The 137th ARW Human Resources Advisor is developing a library of leadership books available for checkout by anyone working on WRANGB.

For additional information about either program, or to donate items, contact Senior Master Sgt. James Ergenbright at James.Ergenbright@ang.af.mil or 686-5719. You can also come by the Human Resource Advisor’s office, building 1001, room 20 during regular UTA hours.

SSLI Premiums

The state of Oklahoma will discontinue paying premiums for the State Sponsored Life Insurance program underwritten by New York Life May 1, 2010. Airmen currently deployed, or who deploy prior to May 1, will have SSLI premiums paid until they return to their unit. This does not affect the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance program.

SSLI coverage may be continued by turning in DD Form 2558 to Customer Service. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Doug Gingerich at Douglas.Gingerich@ang.af.mil or 686-5212. Additional SSLI enrollment information may be obtained from Mr. Dale Carney at the National Guard State Office at 620-2800 or 1-866-399-0180.

2010 Drill Dates

April	10-11
May	1-2
June	5-6
July	24-25
August	14-15
September	11-12

Christian Worship Services

205th classroom, 10 a.m.

Saturday: Catholic Mass

Sunday: Protestant Worship

Consider location when reaching out to your world



By Ch, Capt. Jereme Sampson
137th ARW

The basic idea behind missions, is reconciling a lost world back to God. 2 Corinthians 5:18 says, “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself...and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

To reconcile means basically to bring two people who are in disagreement back to a normal relationship. Missions are sometimes misinterpreted as only meaning “overseas work.” But missions can be talking with a neighbor, a co-worker, classmate or even someone walking down the street. The gospel message was given out in the synagogue, by the side of a well, in houses, in the temple, or wherever people were.

It is important not to limit God to one’s own culture or way of thinking. For example, in America one wife is the accepted limit in marriage. Yet, in other countries, multiple wives are seen as signs of wealth and prestige. Therefore, the gospel would have to be presented from another angle in that country. This doesn’t mean that the Word of God would be compromised. It simply means that the Word of God applies to different cultures in different ways. God has a way to present the gospel to every village, town, city, tribe, language or people’s group.

There is not one universal method of doing it.

In Acts Chapter 15, Paul is debating at the Council at Jerusalem that Gentiles would no longer have to participate in all Jewish customs in the context of their culture. Some people concentrate so intensely on superficial matters like diet, dress, music, family names, and other surface-like matters that are not essential to the gospel. When one concentrates so intensely on these things, his life becomes “works” oriented. He or she should think more internationally, instead of putting God in our own little box. It is important to teach these things in their correct setting, but they should not be a part of witnessing to the lost. This is why many people today, especially ones who have heard the Gospel, are often frustrated. It is because they believe they must change all of their bad habits and things before they get saved, instead of surrendering them to Jesus, allowing him to change them from the inside out.

We can trust God’s word in Isaiah 55:11, “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” God should be trusted to accomplish his purpose through his word and not through a watered-down theology of practice! Psalm 126:6 says, “He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”

Missions work is not always easy, but if the pure gospel is taken to the people of this world, here it is promised that we will reap the harvest! So I encourage you to reach out to your world, to your sphere of influence. Have a wonderful month!

This month in Air National Guard History...

The Bay of Pigs

On 17 April 1961, a force of Cuban exiles, trained and equipped by the Central Intelligence Agency, invaded their homeland at the Bay of Pigs. Eighty Air Guardsmen, serving as civilian volunteers, trained the exiles to fly old B-26 bombers and transports. The Guardsmen volunteered for combat missions after the exiles lost two B-26s on D-Day.

Dominican Republic

President Lyndon B. Johnson dispatched United States troops to the Dominican Republic on 28 April 1965 to evacuate Americans and protect their property during a civil war in that nation. In May, he announced there were 14,000 U.S. troops on the island to prevent communists from taking over the government. Volunteers from Air National Guard transport units and Oklahoma’s “Talking Bird” flying command post participated in the operation.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patricia Baker

Senior Airman Adam Vanhooser, 137 LRS Traffic Management and Master Sgt. Alquintin Steele, 137 LRS Transportation NCOIC, organize relief items to assist the recovery of Haitian earthquake victims. Friends and Airmen of Will Rogers Air National Guard Base helped Steele collect and sort 5,712 pounds of clothing, canned goods, water bottles, and hygiene products in February from around the Oklahoma City metro and as far away as Altus, Okla. The supplies were trucked to Pennsylvania where they were airlifted strait into Haiti.

Air Force Core Values

Integrity First
 Service Before Self
 Excellence In All We Do

WILL ROGERS MISSION STATEMENT

“To enhance global reach by serving our nation, state and community through the unique capabilities of the 137th Air Refueling Wing, the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron, and the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron.”

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To the family of: