

AIRLIFTER

March 2011



Photo by Staff Sgt. Caroline Hayworth
Master Sgt. Jennifer Shubert, assigned to the 137th Civil Engineering Squadron here, shows Airman 1st Class Roger Lord, also assigned to the 137 CES, how to properly inspect his gas mask during a Feb. 6 training session held on base.

Awareness, Education Facilitate ORI Success

By Senior Master Sgt. David Perez
137 ARW Emergency Manager

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Awareness is an important issue for Airmen as well as Operational Readiness Inspections.

When the Wing is tasked to prepare for and goes through an Operational Readiness Inspection, it is being tested on its capability and ability to recover from an attack. That attack may be chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear. We may even be attacked conventionally, in which “bad guys” come over the fence with rifles and mortars trying to overwhelm and overrun the base, or they may use Improvised Explosive Devices to try and disrupt day-to-day activities.

We have to train in order to protect ourselves from these attacks. The Readiness and Emergency Management Flight is equipped to properly train all members of the Wing in CBRN Defense and in the ability to recover from an attack.

One piece of equipment that all personnel must have with them and reference on a regular basis is the AFPAM 10-100, Airman’s Manual (1March2009). This reference material is your guide to everything you want to know about operating and surviving in a contingency environment.

In the coming months you will see articles concerning the upcoming ORI which detail what you can expect and how to properly prepare yourself to operate during this contingency environment.

Another good source of ORI preparedness is to ask other members that have been through an ORI, what to expect or what their experience was. Some of the biggest factors in preparing for and executing properly are to have a Positive Attitude, have a Sense of Urgency and remember above all - SAFETY. If you have any questions during any training event, DO NOT hesitate to ask questions. Educating yourself leads to a successful ORI.

Tradition of Hard Work, Dedication Continues



**By Col. Glen Baker,
137th Air Refueling Wing
Commander**

I would like to thank all of those who attended the Change of Command assembly in January. I truly appreciate the extra effort it took from many agencies on base to make the event a success.

I hope those in attendance could tell by my words (and the use of a little humor) that I am very excited about the opportunities and meeting the challenges ahead. For those unable to attend, my words to the Wing regarded the following four points.

First of all, my immense thanks goes to Colonel Ferguson, to which congratulations are in order as Col. Ferguson was just promoted to Brigadier General. Beginning on our first mission to Gulfport, MS together and throughout his career, Gen. Ferguson has always embodied outstanding leadership. I challenge our membership to follow his supreme example of leadership and seize the mentorship opportunities the OKANG provides. I treasure Gen. Ferguson's friendship and appreciate his mentorship; I wish him continued success as the Chief of Staff for the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

Secondly, I introduced Col. Devin Wooden as our new Vice Wing Commander. I am very excited about having Col. Wooden as our second in command. His outstanding track record and unmatched problem solving skills combined with his "Let's get the job done, and get the job done right" doctrine will go a long way in ensuring the continued success of the 137th ARW.

Additionally, I bragged on the 137th ARW legacy of hard work, positive attitudes and excellent performance standards. Our people make this a reality. It's our members' ability to do the ordinary things extraordinarily well that make us a success. To be the best, we actively and aggressively execute the fundamentals. I challenge the Wing to keep moving in the proper direction, the direction of "Fundamentals Focus."

Lastly, I encouraged the Wing membership to continue to embrace the Wingman Concept. We have a robust Wingman program that will be reinforced by "Winter Wingman" training program. I directed all members to check on their Wingman as soon as possible and occasionally throughout the month, not just on drill weekend. We must keep the Wingman concept energized as the foundation approach to unit safety and suicide prevention.

The Commanders Comments portion of the Airlifter will continue to be a forum for myself and other WRANGB leadership to communicate with our membership. I would like to thank you all in advance for your hard work and dedication and I look forward to serving with you in the years to come.

137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Staff

This funded Air Force Newspaper is an authorized publication for the U.S. Military Services. Contents of the Sooner Airlifter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The content is edited, prepared and provided by the 137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office.

For consideration, all submissions must be provided to the PA Office, at 137ARW.PA@ang.af.mil or in Bldg. 1046, 686-5227, no later than 10 a.m. Saturday of drill weekend. The PA Office distributes the Airlifter ten months each year according to training needs.

PA Officers: 1st Lt. Cody Hawkins, 1st Lt. Jessica Chapa; NCOIC: Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker; public affairs specialists: Staff Sgt. Lindsay Roe and Senior Airman Patricia Baker; information manager: Senior Airman Angela Smith; photographers: Master Sgt. Roberta Thompson and Staff Sgt. Caroline Hayworth; videographers: Master Sgt. Jun Kim, Airman Basic Dustin Wheeler

No matter how small, we're part of a plan



By Ch, Lt. Col. Timothy Fuller, 137 ARW

There's a story told about a man in New York City who committed suicide. Before taking his life, he left behind a note that said, "I feel like a peanut in Yankee Stadium."

Now, Yankee Stadium can hold thousands of people, and people who go to baseball games eat peanuts by the sack full. So one peanut, more or less, in Yankee Stadium is really nothing. You can add it to all the others and no one will notice it. You can take it away, and no one will miss it. You can drop it on the floor, and someone will crush it under foot. The point is that no one will notice. And no one will care. Nothing could be more insignificant than one peanut in Yankee Stadium. That's how this man was feeling about himself. He didn't count. His life had no more significance, no more meaning, than a single peanut in a giant baseball stadium.

I don't really know why he felt that way, but I think it's easy to guess. In this world, there are all kinds of things that can make us feel so insignificant. One is our smallness. Each of us is only one person among billions. Even the planet we live on is just a tiny grain of sand in this huge universe. What possible difference can one person make?

Another is our lack of accomplishments. If we start adding up the solid results of our lives, we can get discour-

aged very quickly. For those of you who have children, do you ever find yourself wondering, "Where did I go wrong?" We pray for peace constantly and yet the world always seems to be at war somewhere.

Some of us have tried for years to help the poor. Is there any less poverty today than when we started? So it can be easy to think our life doesn't matter and just give up in despair.

However, what we often forget is that each of us is a part of God's divine plan. No matter how small we think we are, everyone one of us has a purpose in that plan. God had something in mind for each of us before we were ever born. Recognizing that truth can give new life to even the most discouraged soul. Moreover, God asks us not to worry over results. This is often the source of our discouragement and frustration. We work so hard and have so little to show for it. Whenever we deal with people, and all of us do, nothing ever seems to get finished in these relationships, whether at home or at work. There is rarely ever a time when you can congratulate yourself on a job well done.

Being with people, dealing with people isn't like mowing the lawn. The results might not be seen for years later. In some cases, we might not even live to see them. It would be nice if we could. But that's okay. And that's where we have to leave the results in the hands of God. We do the very best we can and leave the rest to Him. All of us at times need to hear this. God believes in us. Regardless of what we think of ourselves sometimes, regardless of how wasted we think our efforts may be when it comes to our children, our relationships with others, our spouses, our friends, whatever it may be, God still believes in us. And he always will.

Our lives are not meaningless. They do count. May God always help us to live the lives we have been called to live.



Useful information for Airmen: AF 507

**By 2nd Lt. Paul Blankenship
137 ARW Manpower Personnel OIC**

Did you know that completing the AF 507 must now be done online through the Air Force Portal?

You are no longer allowed to complete this annual requirement at the medical squadron.

Airmen must use their CAC to log

into the Air Force Portal and click the "Life & Career" drop down menu and select "Health" then select "AF Web-Based Health Assessment" and off you go.

This process will save time and alleviate congestion at the clinic.

It takes about 10 minutes to complete the assessment online.





Photo by Airman 1st Class Kaleena Higa

A KC-135 refueling aircraft from Will Rogers Air National Guard Base refuels a B-52 bomber aircraft Jan. 18 during a deployment to Andersen Air Base, Guam. Members from the 137th Logistic Readiness Squadron, 137th Communications Flight, 137th Medical Group, and 137th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, deployed in support of various air refueling training missions.

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.”

OKLAHOMA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
5624 Air Guard Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73179-1009
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
PERMIT NO. 1878

To the family of: