

WRANGB Airmen deploy to Afghanistan

By Senior Airman
Patricia Baker
137 ARW/ Public Affairs

Airmen from the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base deployed to Afghanistan in July in support of Army and Air Force operations overseas.

Tech. Sgt. Larry Mansell, a radio operator maintainer and driver for the squadron and a member of the deployment, said some of the squadron Airmen had been training in preparation for the deployment for over a year.

Mansell said there are two main jobs that fall under the operations of the ASOS unit.

There are radio operator maintainer and drivers and there are joint terminal attack controllers.

Many of the ROMADs are apprentices to the JTACs, and they both work alongside Army forces in hostile environments.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Caroline Hayworth

Airmen with the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron here report to base and say goodbye to their families and friends as they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan, July 11. Some Airmen in the unit have been training for this mission for over 12 months.

JTACs are specially trained to coordinate precision ground-to-air strikes on enemy targets.

ASOS Airmen gather crucial information about enemy forces, including location and positioning, while under potentially harsh conditions.

They translate and communicate information to aircraft in order to provide air support to U.S.

troops on the ground.

The Oklahoma Air National Guard is instrumental and crucial to the mission of troops overseas, Mansell said.

This year a battle happened at the same location the WRANGB Airmen deployed to.

On May 25, the Washington Air National Guard's 116 ASOS unit guided jets and helicop-

ters into battle in order to drop bombs on enemy forces attacking troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

The event showed how critical their jobs are to overseas missions.

The severe 72-hour battle began with an ambush from hundreds of enemy insurgents on U.S. troops and on an

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Exceed expectations and go the “extra mile”



**By Col. Doug Hayworth,
137th Maintenance
Group Commander**

We all have expectations in life. We have personal expectations, expectations of others, and most importantly, others have expectations of us.

Frustrations are abundant when these expectations aren't met.

A good life practice is to constantly strive to “exceed expectations.” You may not realize it, but as a member of the Air National Guard you have already started down that path. You have volunteered to exceed what is commonly expected of the average citizen.

Employers, both civilian and military, have expectations of us. If you want to make a good impression

with your supervisor and enhance your career opportunities, the best thing you can do is to consistently go that “extra mile.”

In other words, exceed the expectations others have of you.

In your career here in the 137th, that may mean arriving at work a little earlier, staying a little later, volunteering to help when you see a need, learning a new skill or offering to mentor a new member.

As members of the 137th, we have an excellent opportunity to test this idea during the upcoming ORI.

The AMC IG inspectors will be ready to evaluate us based on their expectations and standards. Fortunately we know what those standards are and we can aim for exceeding those standards.

I can't guarantee that if you consistently exceed expectations your life will be bliss. The reality is that life has a tendency to conflict with our best made plans. However, I can guarantee you that if you are always striving to exceed expectations you will never be disappointed in your effort.

You will be satisfied in knowing that regardless of the outcome, you gave your best effort.



137th Air Refueling Wing 2011 Professional Military Education

Non-commissioned officer academy and Airman leadership school are available through home-station and in-residence course plans.

These courses are essential to career development of Airmen. Class sizes are limited. Please contact your unit training manager for details on course schedules for this year.



137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Staff

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Mother, son lay wreath in D.C.

By Staff Sgt.
Lindsay Roe 137 ARW/
Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Rob Thompson, a photographer here, and her son, Airman 1st Class Anthony Thompson, assigned to the 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron here, participated in a wreath ceremony on May 8, at the Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington D.C.

Airman 1st Class Thompson was a part of the Blanchard High School band, which was planning a trip to Washington, D.C., to perform at the World War II Memorial.

While there, they wanted to participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

When the fourth



Courtesy photo

(Center) Master Sgt. Rob Thompson and son Airman 1st Class Anthony Thompson, both members assigned here, participate in the wreath ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington D.C., May 8.

member of the wreath team could not attend the trip, they had to find

someone to fill that spot. Master Sgt. Thompson had recently returned

from a tour at Bagram AB, Afghanistan, and the seniors and band directors believed her to be the perfect replacement.

During the ceremony, the mother-son team placed the wreath on the stand and all were directed to "present arms."

As the lone bugle played Taps, most placed their hands over their hearts. Those in uniform saluted the tomb, including Master Sgt. Thompson.

"What have I done to deserve this honor" she thought, "And on Mother's Day!"

"I hope the kids understand what an honor it is and not take it lightly," said Master Sgt. Thompson.

Airman 1st Class Thompson is currently at basic military training in San Antonio.

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Afghan National Security unit.

Afterwards, with 100 insurgent fighters dead, and with zero coalition force casualties, the service members involved said that the Washington guardsmen were the "key to the battle."

The Airmen successfully worked alongside their Army

teammates during the fight. They quickly and accurately gave aircraft the information needed to deliver close-range fire power on the enemy that ultimately changed the tide of the battle.

Lt. Col. Bruce Hamilton, commander for the 146 ASOS unit here, said that this is a potential situation the deployed unit could

find themselves in while in that same location in Afghanistan.

Mansell said that the entire unit was well trained and well prepared for their mission.

"We'll be making a difference," he said.

The Will Rogers guardsmen replaced the Washington guardsmen and will carry on their mission.

WRANGB Airmen qualify,



A combat arms member assigned to the 137th Security Forces Squadron here, fires down range using the M240B during a day of qualification, at Camp Gruber, April 22. Combat arms members are required to qualify annually on various weapons.



A combat arms member assigned to the 137th Security Forces Squadron here, cleans the barrel of a M240B at Camp Gruber. Cleaning the barrel of an assigned weapon is an important part of maintaining the weapon and ultimately prepare for deployment missions.



A combat arms member assigned to the 137th Security Forces Squadron here, fires down range using the M240B. Airmen practice using proper handling and safety techniques so as to get the most out of their weapons training.

train on assigned weapons



Photos by Staff Sgt. Caroline Hayworth

th Security Forces Squadron here,
r, April 22. Combat arms members
the barrel of a weapon. Qualifying
f training for Airmen in order to



State Command Chief Master Sgt. Johnny Waller, assigned here, listens as Master Sgt. Johnny Riaz, assigned to the 137th Security Forces Squadron here, explains the process of events during a combat arms qualification day, at Camp Gruber, April 22. Chief Waller spent the day with Airmen qualifying on their weapons.

Senior Airman Christopher McCoy and Senior Airman Alejandro Salinas-Yearry, assigned to the 137th Security Forces Squadron here, carry a full ammo box onto the range during a day of qualification at Camp Gruber, April 22.



Wing history: pilots sacrifice all

By Col. Douglas Hayworth
137 MXG/ Commander

The dangers of flying are easy to forget because of our long and incredible flying safety record.

In the 64-year history of the 137th, there have been six pilots who lost their lives in accidents during local training flights.

Presently, there is no monument, picture or plaque on base to commemorate their sacrifice. This is Part 1 of a 3-part series:

On Nov. 1, 1948, a flight of two B-26's and one F-51 from the 137th were returning home after participating in a search for a missing civilian aircraft near Matador, Texas.

Shortly after takeoff from Sheppard Field in Texas where the aircraft had refueled, the pilot of one of the B-26's reported a strong smell of fuel in the cockpit.

Almost immediately the aircraft caught fire. The accident investigation revealed the aircraft's bomb bay tank had been over serviced.

The fire, which began in the bomb bay, quickly spread to the cockpit and pilot 1st Lt. James H. Salmon and his observer 1st Lt. Phillip J. Clinton attempted



Photo gathered from <http://acepilots.com/archives/Photos/martin-b26.html>
In 1948, two pilots based here died during a training mission while flying B-26 bombers similar to this one.

to bail out.

Both pilots struck the tail of the aircraft and were killed instantly.

1st Lt. Salmon was a 26 year-old student at the University of Oklahoma. 1st Lt. Clinton was 24 years old and lived in Oklahoma City.

Airmen retirement based on points

By 1st Lt. Paul Blankenship
137 ARW Force Support Squadron

Many of us will be fortunate enough to complete 20 years of service and have the opportunity to retire.

Did you realize your pension is calculated by rank, years of service and points you earned over your career? Here is some information on how you earn those points.

Airmen are credited with a year of satisfactory Federal service for retirement when they earn a minimum of 50 points (including mem-

bership points) in a full retention/retirement (R/R) year, (example July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010).

Airmen can earn points as follows:

- 1 point per day, while serving in active duty status (AT, MPA, RPA, AGR, etc).
- 1 point for each 4-hour period of inactive duty training, unit training assembly or equivalent instruction, not to exceed 2 points per calendar day.
- 1 point for every three study hours of military correspondence

courses, CDC's, PME's etc.

- 15 membership points (prorate points for periods less than a year) are awarded for a full R/R year

While there is no cap on the "Total" amount of points Airmen can earn, they can earn no more than 365 "Retirement" points (366 for leap years) during a retention/retirement year.

How long has it been since you checked your point summary on the Virtual MPF? You can log onto AF portal/ virtual MPF to see find your summary. Is it accurate? Your retirement will depend on it.

Who really needs a family care plan?



By Master Sgt. Kevin Hill, 137th Air Refueling Wing First Sergeant

Imagine being put on orders to deploy while adding the additional stressor of not being sure who is going to take or pick the kids up from school or take them to the doctor if an emergency may arise.

You may be the sole caregiver for elderly parents and did not have time to make arrangements for their long-term care in your absence.

For these reason and many more is why all Air Force members should have family care arrangements to reasonably cover all situations.

Air Force instruction 36-2908 specifically outlines who should have a family care plan on file with your First Sergeant.

Who must document their family care plan on an AF Form 357- Single parents, dual military couples, and members with civilian spouses who have unique family situations determined by the commander or first sergeant will complete an AF Form 357.

This document will detail and provide a smooth, rapid transfer of responsibilities to designee during the absence of the member.

When to implement the family care plan- Air Force members will implement their family care plan when required to be absent from their family members.

This includes single parents or military couples as-

signed to a family-member restricted area and activation of noncombatant evacuation operations or other emergency situations if assigned overseas with family members.

Why do air force members need family care plans- Air Force personnel are deploying at an all-time high to meet challenges of supporting contingency operations.

Contingency operations requiring temporary duty, overseas assignments to family-restricted areas and other duties requiring members to be separated from their family are just a few examples why it is imperative to have an AF Form 357 filled out correctly.

Your First Sergeant should give a family care brief annually to all members in your organization.

Please make sure you communicate with your commander or first sergeant if or when your situation changes. This may include, 1) Birth or adoption of a child, 2) Loss of spouse through death, separation or divorce, 3) Enlistment or commissioning of spouse in the military (active duty or reserve component), 4) Assumption of sole care for an elderly or disabled family member, 5) Absence of a spouse through career or job commitments or other personal reasons.

If you have a family care plan on file, schedule a time next drill with your first sergeant to review the information in your plan.

Do not find yourself scrambling around trying to make arrangements when you can have all of your bases covered now.

The Air Force assures itself of an available force to meet all of its needs by making certain that each member has made adequate arrangements for the care of his/her family members.

Having a Family Care Plan makes this process run smoothly so you can focus on your task at hand.

Worship Services

Catholic mass

10 a.m.

on Saturday

in the wing conference room.

Protestant worship

10 a.m.

on Sunday

in the wing conference room.



Photo by Senior Airman Patricia Baker

Bryce Herriven, a camper at Kid's Kamp 2011, prepares to fire while at Camp Gruber in Braggs, Okla., June 20. Kid's Kamp is an annual, weeklong camp put on by the Family Support and Readiness personnel of both the Air and Army Oklahoma National Guards. For 14 years it has allowed dependents ages 9-13 of military members to participate in activities such as rappelling, camping, fishing, crafts, military marching and ceremony procedures, and more.

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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