

AIRLIFTER

SOONER

September 2012



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson

Airmen from the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base are honored for their service in Afghanistan during a ceremony held on base Aug. 18. Bronze Star medals, Army Commendation Medals and Air Force Combat Medals were presented by Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Director, Air National Guard.

ASOS Airmen awarded for heroism

By Senior Airman Patricia Baker,
137 ARW Public Affairs

Seventeen Airmen from the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base were honored for their service in Afghanistan during a ceremony held on base Aug. 18.

Lt. Cols. Bruce Hamilton and James Waltermire, Senior Master Sgt. Perry Jackson, Master Sgt. Edgar Rodriguez, 2nd Lt. Christopher Schutte, Tech. Sgts. Robert Ellis, Brandon White and Raymond Viel received the Bronze Star Medal.

Tech. Sgts. Robert Beene, Larry Mansell, Christopher Vaughn, Andrew Guidry, Staff Sgts. Caldeen Gunter, Justin Hamilton, Benjamin Lake, Senior Airmen Gregory Childers and

Jameson Decker received the Army Commendation Medal

Lt. Col. James Waltermire, Tech. Sgts. Raymond Viel, Andrew Guidry, Larry Mansell, Brandon White, and Senior Airman Jameson Decker received the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

Viel received a "Valor" device with his Bronze Star Medal.

The WRANGB troops were deployed in efforts of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The squadron was deployed from July 2011 to April 2012.

Tech. Sgt. Larry Mansell, a member of the squadron, said the Oklahoma Air National Guard is instrumental to the mission of troops overseas.

Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Direc-

tor, Air National Guard, said "It was very important to me; if we were going to send Oklahoma Soldiers into battle we were going to send Oklahoma Airmen there with them."

"It's a very powerful unit," he said. "It brings the full force and fury of the United States Air Force into the fight."

The WRANGB Airmen all participated in or contributed to close air-to-ground fire strikes on hostile forces, maintaining friendly force positioning, engaging in ground combat with enemy forces, and deterring or completely denying enemy action.

Lt. Col. Bruce Hamilton, the commander for the 146 ASOS, said "I don't think the Army Guard really realized what we bring to the battlefield. I think they really do now."

Success doesn't have to be about perfection



**By Col. Devin Wooden
137th Air Refueling
Wing Vice Commander**

I recently had the pleasure of reading “The Lean Startup” by Eric Ries, about innovation in an evolving marketplace.

His message is simple and revolves around some old advice; Think Big, Start Small. If your first savings account was a piggy bank, you used nicotine gum to wean yourself off cigarettes or learned to ride a bike with training wheels this concept is nothing new to you.

One of his suggestions in the book is that it is OK to put a totally unfinished product out onto the market. And not only is that OK, he says, it's actually better.

In other words, too often we wait for something to be 100% complete or perfect before we are willing to share it with others in order to avoid negative criticism. But negative feedback is not only a reality, it's a necessity in order to evolve and continually improve and develop the product.

Periodically, I take the opportunity to talk to our Senior NCO's and Officers about their mentoring and force management programs and I am surprised by the number of leaders who are uncomfortable with their role in talking to their subordinates.

Their hesitation is not in the message, but rather their lack of confidence in delivering feedback.

Effective leaders must be comfortable in discussing a subordinate's career progression and performance and instrumental in helping them set and achieve their goals.

Approximately one year ago, the wing kicked off its mentorship program with the idea of providing leaders the tools necessary to foster and develop leadership in our Airmen.

Think Big! If you take part in everything this program has to offer you will be an outstanding mentor and leader able to wield a large amount of influence over your airman.

Start Small! I would caution you not to wait until you have perfected the material before you begin your mentoring journey; but begin to incorporate small practical applications of your new mentoring skills as you develop them.

Your leadership contributions may be needed now!

You don't need an important title or a certificate to be an effective leader and have a positive influence in your organization. However, it's impossible to steer a parked car.

You can only expand your career, improve your unit, be a positive influence to others or effect change if you're moving. Your goals won't come to you, go and get them.

John C. Maxwell, author and lecturer on solid leadership principles says, “When contemplating the pursuit of a dream or the start of a new venture, too many people are hesitant to begin because they can't comprehend the entire journey.”

If that's where you find yourself right now, don't expect to understand what it takes to get to the top.

Think Big, Start Small and just take the first step.

137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Staff

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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 Officer: 2nd Lt. Jennifer Lavin; NCOIC: Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker; public affairs specialist: Senior Airman Patricia Baker, Airman 1st Class Kasey Phipps; photographer: Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson; videographers: Master Sgt. Jun Kim, Airman Dustin Wheeler.

Personnel Updates

Newcomers:

Airman 1st Class Alexander Caviness
 Airman 1st Class Caleb W. Diggs
 Airman 1st Class Garrett M. Smith
 Airman Brigette A. Waltermire
 Airman Qwaniecha Woodberry

Promotions:

Airman Dustin W. Wheeler
 Airman Sandra L. Moran
 Senior Airman Alyssa C. Baker
 Senior Airman Brittney D. Brewer
 Senior Airman Catherine M. Flyingman
 Senior Airman Bailey K Fowler
 Senior Airman Donald K. Freeman
 Senior Airman David B. W. Noviello
 Senior Airman Justin B. Robinson
 Senior Airman Ashtyn R. Towery
 Tech. Sgt. Shane R. Bohl
 Tech. Sgt. Kathryn N. Burgher
 Tech. Sgt. Jerad M. Fritz
 Tech. Sgt. James L. Potts
 Tech. Sgt. Isaac L. Richardson
 Tech. Sgt. Daniel N. Zigo
 Master Sgt. Joe R. Breunig
 Master Sgt. David E. Mays, Jr.
 First Lt. Jessica C. Dodson

Retirements:

Tech. Sgt. Melinda Barker
 Lt. Col. Todd Frost
 Lt. Col. Susan M. Haight
 Lt. Col. Eric B. Whitman

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 www.137arw.ang.af.mil**

Menu

Saturday:

Salisbury steak, fried chicken, roll, potatoes, veggies, salad bar, desserts

Sunday:

Breakfast 7:30-9:30 a.m., scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, juice

2012 Drill Dates

August	18-19
September	15-16
October	13-14
November	3-4
December	1-2

Election year

Visit www.fvap.gov to get voting and election info and guidelines for Oklahoma and other states.

SARC and SAPR information

If you have been a victim of a sexual assault contact the SAPR hotline 24/7 at 550-5561.

You are entitled to make a restricted or confidential report about the sexual assault.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim's Advocate, Health Care Provider or a Chaplain can all help you confidentially.

New clinic hours

Starting September Drill, the clinic will be closed on Saturdays. They will be open Sundays from 0800-1400 until further notice.

Safety first

Motorcycle basic rider courses are scheduled for Sept. 25-26 and advanced rider courses for Aug. 24, 28 and Sept. 21. To sign up please email adam.cline@ang.af.mil or call 686-5228.

First Sergeant Openings

Applications are being accepted for four First Sergeant positions on base in LRS, MSG, SFS and AES. Interviews will be conducted during or prior to Oct UTA. For full information and application packet details please call Chief Pam Geberth at 405-686-5777.

Worship services

Wing Conference Room 10 a.m.
 Saturday: Catholic mass
 Sunday: Protestant worship

CCAF transcripts

To view and request your community college of the Air Force transcript and progress reports log on to the AF portal, click on the AFVEC (Air Force Virtual Ed Center) link, and look under the Self Service link on the right side of the screen.

Welsh becomes 20th chief of staff

By Tech. Sgt. Shawn J. Jones,
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (AFNS) -- The Air Force chief of staff flag passed to the service's 20th chief in a ceremony here Aug. 10.

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, a 36-year Airman, stepped into the position, taking over for Gen. Norton Schwartz, who also retired from the Air Force during the ceremony.

"Mark is respected throughout the Air Force for his exceptional leadership and ability to connect with Airmen," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said.

Welsh emphasized the need for Airmen to understand the importance of the other services in joint operations, but also said Airmen shouldn't underestimate the combat capabilities of their own service in winning today's fight.

"No one else can bring what we bring to the fight, and any real warfighter knows that," he said. "Don't



ever doubt yourself or this service.

Welsh also addressed issues concerning the well-being of Airmen.

"When it comes to Airman resiliency, suicide prevention, and sexual assault prevention and response, I believe you're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem," he said. "There is no middle ground."

Welsh also said the Air Force must shape the future, and that will require innovative thinking and different approaches to problems, along with modernization.

Welsh was nominated by the president May 10 and confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 2.

Welsh, a 1976 graduate of the Air Force Academy, has served in numerous operational, command and staff positions, such as commandant of cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, vice commander of Air Education and Training Command and associate director for military affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency.

"When I became a squadron commander, I felt excited. When I became a wing commander, I felt proud. When I became a major command commander, I felt privileged and a little bit old," he said. "Today when I was sworn in as chief of staff of the Air Force, I felt humbled to be given the honor of leading its incredible Airmen."

Base to host Family Day

By Senior Airman Patricia Baker,
137 ARW Public Affairs

Will Rogers Air National Guard base is scheduled to host a Family Day for all members, friends and family Sept. 15, at the nose dock from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be many activities going on across the base to include aircraft static displays, sports competitions, a fake car crash demonstration, interactive video games, a blood drive, a spouse's flight and the car and bike show. Hamburgers, hotdogs, cotton candy and popcorn will also be offered. All activities are free of charge.

If you would like information on participating in the spouse's flight, call Jennifer Lain at 686-5683. To enter a car or motorcycle in the show, call Master Sgts. Kevin Hill or Floyd Young at 314-3922 or 900-6626.

"Everyone's helping out with the event, down to the civilians who work on base. Everyone's getting everything together," said Senior Master Sgt. Scherryl Coulter, superintendent for the 137th Force Support Squadron.

"Family Day is so important, because it lets us relax and enjoy one another," Coulter said. "We work hard throughout the year, and we don't get many chances to let our hair down."

She said, "It's a great chance to get to know each other and build that camaraderie on base."

Jennifer Lain, the base coordinator for Airman and Family Readiness, said "this day gives base members an opportunity to relax and regroup in between all the military requirements that have to be accomplished."

"I hope everyone can make it," she said.

Don't be afraid; ask for help if you need it



**By Tech. Sgt. David Tanner
137th Air Refueling Wing
Chaplain Assistant**

Having spent a great deal of my career in the Air National Guard as a chaplain's assistant, it has always been easy to reach out to fellow Airmen when there was an identifiable need in their life.

Perhaps it was a fellow unit member who was dealing with a loss of a loved one; or a young Airman coming back from a six month deployment only to find out that their girlfriend had left him while he was away.

I have observed and assisted with many scenarios such as these over the course of my career. I have always felt confident and secure in knowing how to deal with these matters. After all, part of my duty is to support chaplain advice regarding spiritual, religious, ethical and moral issues, along with providing crisis intervention. I am supposed to be the "go to guy," right?

What happens when the chaplain's assistant needs help? This past year, I found myself dealing with that very question. In January of 2011, I moved to Oklahoma City from St. Louis to start a new career. My wife, Angie, and our two small boys, Luke and Logan, remained back in St. Louis to tie up some loose ends before coming down later that summer. We were apart about seven months during that process.

My wife was not real thrilled with the prospect of moving away from literally everything that we knew and loved. We were both natives of St. Louis and had never lived anywhere else. Our family, friends, church (and our beloved St. Louis Cardinals) were all there. Fast forward to October of 2011. After many months of family separation and hardships, we had reunited,

bought a new home, got our kids enrolled in school, found a new church and were just starting to finally get settled in.

Then the unexpected happened; I lost my job. Our "world" had been turned upside-down. This was not supposed to have happened. It was not a part of our plan, and we were not prepared for it.

I found myself dealing with a variety of emotions following my job loss. I was angry, confused, bitter, frustrated and depressed, and that was on a good day. The chaplain's assistant was facing a crisis and needed help.

"God, why have you allowed this to happen to us?"

His answer came, and continues to come through people that he has placed in our lives since we have been here.

Through new friends, neighbors, fellow church members and my new Air Guard family here at Will Rogers, we are slowly but surely getting back on our feet. I have been humbled throughout the process by the kindness and generosity of fellow human beings that God has placed in our path along the way. I owe a special "thanks" to my Air Guard family here at Will Rogers who reached out to my family with prayers and financial support. This past Christmas, my family and I were the recipients of a very gracious Visa gift card from the 137 ARW that helped us get through the holiday season with a little less stress.

The chaplain's assistant needed help, and it was there! Countless members (I hesitate to name names for fear of leaving someone out) of the unit were praying for and supporting us, and I was reaching out and asking for help in ways that I had never needed to before.

This has been a life-lesson and growing process to say the least. It has been reinforced to me that "no man is an island." God created us as "social creatures." He does not wish for us to go through life alone, but rather to be relational beings and to help bear the burdens of one another.

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. You might just be surprised by the response!



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker

“This thing looks so small in the technical manual!” This month’s winner for the base’s Facebook photo caption contest was Chad Woodman from Hollis, Okla. Everyone is invited each week to visit the 137th Air Refueling Wing Facebook page and submit their most clever and creative captions in our weekly photo contest. The base Chief’s Council will review the submissions and pick a winner to be printed in the monthly Airlifter. Good luck to all!

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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