

October 2013

146 ASOS attends joint exercise in Alaska

Story by Airman 1st Class
Kasey Phipps,
137 ARW Public Affairs

More than 1,500 personnel and 100 aircraft participated in Red Flag - Alaska 13-3, an international joint-force training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska and Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, Aug. 7 through Aug. 25.

The 146th Air Support Squadron from the 137th Air Refueling Wing, Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, Oklahoma City was joined by the 122th ASOS out of Pineville, La. the 147th ASOS from Houston, the 113th ASOS from Hulman Field, Ind.

The exercise was to increase the survivability for military members in combat conditions and specifically focused on combat tactics against formal adversaries, said 2nd Lt. Gabriel Bird, Assistant Director of Operations, 146th ASOS.

The training included offensive counter air, interdiction, close air-support and large force deployment efforts involving the United States Marines, Army and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson

Joint terminal attack controllers parachute toward the drop zone at Fort Greely on Aug. 20, 2013, during Red Flag - Alaska 13-3. Red Flag - Alaska is joint base air combat exercise where participating U.S. and coalition forces refine combat skills in a realistic threat environment.

Navy as well as international service members from Canada, Korea and Japan. Multi-national aircraft were used throughout the exercise and included the U.S. Air Force E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System and A-10 Warthog, a U.S. Navy EF-18 Growler, a U.S. Marine KC-130J tanker, the Army CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

"After 12 years of fighting in Afghanistan our tactics have focused on counter-insurgency operations, so now our fighting force is focusing back on basic doctrine and a more 'traditional' battlefield," explained Bird.

Although the exercise traditionally uses air-to-air combat, this Alaskan exercise used air-to-air combat, live fire, close air support simulations, air drops, strafing runs and technology checks to create realistic training, said Bird.

The unique challenges of joint operations was highlighted in one simulation which utilized a Marine aircraft, Army parachutes and

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Amidst changes, do the “next right thing”



**By Lt. Col. Peter Browning
137th ARW Operation Group
Commander**

Every person in this wing contributes to its success. What makes this wing, the Air Force and all U.S. military services so great are the people. I urge each of you to do the “next right thing” in both your professional and personal lives, whether it be staying late to help a co-worker complete a report, prepare for an inspection, or just talking with someone who is struggling with life. However, other times, the “next right thing” is to take time off from work and spend that extra time with your family.

As you do the “next right thing,” try to pay attention to the small details that tend to escape one’s notice. It can make a huge difference in a situation’s outcome. At no time has it been more important to do the “next right thing” than as we shift focus to write the next chapter in our wing’s history and change our mission. We will be converting to

a manned Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance platform. This is an enduring mission and well suited to our wing’s future.

A dedicated working group is gathering information concerning the conversion and assuring the timely and accurate release of information through wing leadership. We must be considerate in minimizing rumors and speculation by dealing only in facts. It is vital we stay focused on executing our current mission while embracing a promising future.

I am the new Operation Group Commander, replacing Col. Jon Scott, who has done outstanding work here. I have deployed to numerous locations, served in both Gulf Wars, acted as a project officer and mission commander for various deployments and served as the Detachment Commander during the Base Realignment and Closure-mandated conversion from C-130’s to KC-135’s. I look forward to the challenges ahead. Though I have a working relationship with most of you, as the new OG/CC, I want to improve those relationships and build new ones.

I look forward to the challenge of getting out of my comfort zone and broadening my knowledge base. It is important to follow our instilled Air Force Core Values in everything we do and continue to strive to set the standard for the Air National Guard. As we transition together, remember to stay focused and do the “next right thing.”

137th ARW Car Club

For over 100 years Americans have had a love for the automobile. For some, it is a means getting from point A to point B. For others, it is building and restoring a car into a piece of art - a statement of who you are. The first car club meeting for the 137th ARW will be at 4 p.m., November 2 in Mayberry Hall.



For more information, contact:

Chief Master Sgt. James Ergenbriht at
james.ergenbriht@ang.af.mil
Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Reeves at
gerald.reeves@ang.af.mil



For a preview of the real cars, flip to the back page.

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, 2nd Lt. Micah Campbell; NCOIC: Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker; public affairs specialist: Airman 1st Class Kasey Phipps, Airman 1st Class Brigitte Waltermire; photographer: Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson, Airman 1st Class Tyler Woodward; videographers: Master Sgt. Jun Kim, Airman Dustin Wheeler; information management: Airman 1st Class Jennifer Merveldt.

Personnel Updates

Incoming:

Airman 1st Class Kadija Cintron
 Airman 1st Class James Lunsford
 Airman 1st Class Stephen Swayze
 Staff Sgt. Sara DeLeon
 Staff Sgt. Joshua Delk
 Staff Sgt., Kevin Shears
 Tech. Sgt. Jason Myerhoff
 Tech. Sgt. Nathan Schooling
 Master Sgt. Jerry Caughman
 Master Sgt. Jean Flathery

Promotions:

Senior Airman William Drake
 Senior Airman Brittany Simpson
 Staff Sgt. Nathan Lee
 Tech.Sgt. Andrew Smith
 Tech. Sgt. Valerie Steele
 Master Sgt. Brian Baker
 Master Sgt. Jamie Olson
 Master Sgt. Basilio Ruiz

Retirements:

Master Sgt. Earl Harp
 Chief Master Sgt. Kelly Ragsdale
 Col. Donald Mobly

Time to review your file plans....

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For more Oklahoma National Guard news go to:

<http://www.oklahomafrontline.com/>

October Menu

Saturday

10:30 am-12:30 pm

Vegetable soup, pot roast, baked fish, oven potatoes, assorted vegetables and desserts

Sunday

10:30 am-12:30 pm

Soup, chicken, meatloaf, gravy, buttered potatoes, rice, mixed vegetables, rolls, assorted desserts

2013 & 2014

Drill Dates

October	5-6
November	2-3
December	7-8
January	11-12
February	1-2
March	1-2
April	5-6



Conduct personal business online instead of visiting Force Support Squadrons during drill weekend! Available personnel online services found at: www.mypers.af.mil

VetNet

Veterans can plot and organize career moves after the military with Google Veterans Network.

www.vetnethq.com

Numbers to know:

(Area code 405)

Angie Cunningham
 (Psychological Health): 686-5145
 Security Forces: 686-5301
 Emergencies: 911, then 686-5117
 ID card appointments: 686-5212
 Medical appointments: 686-5245
 Comm Help desk: 686-5000
 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Hotline: 686-5561
 Mishap reporting: 686-5555
 Chaplain's office: 686-5334
 Base information line: 686-5627
 Jennifer Lain, Airman & Family Readiness: 686-5683

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CHEMICAL GEAR

Operational Readiness Exercise preparation will be conducted over October UTA

Stay Connected and



at

137th Air Refueling Wing



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Cronk from Tucson Ariz., 146th Air Support Operations Squadron, calls in a 9-Line air support request during Red Flag – Alaska at Eielson AFB on Aug. 12, 2013. Red Flag – Alaska is a joint base air combat exercise where participating U.S. and coalition forces refine combat skills in a realistic threat environment.

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Army and Air Force jumpers to secure and operate a remote airfield.

“That was pretty big deal coordinating it all in the middle of Red Flag,” said Lt. Col. James Waltermire, Com-

“If we can operate in that environment, we can operate in most all environments.”

mander of the 146th ASOS.

Each branch trained to achieve both branch-specific and common goals.

“That was the biggest learning point – how to integrate joint firing,” Waltermire said.

The training “retaught” military members to fight “more in line with today’s streamlined Air Force and Army structure,” he said.

“If we can operate in that environment, we can operate in most all environments.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson

Airman 1st Class Reece Alger from Tulsa, Okla., 146th Air Support Operations Squadron, runs a functional check on a rover during Red Flag – Alaska at Eielson AFB on Aug. 12, 2013. A rover gives troops a visual from the aircraft pod to validate targets down range in a realistic threat environment with U.S. and coalition forces.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson

(L to R) Airman 1st Class Reece Alger, 2nd Lt. Trevor Smith from Kingfisher, Okla., Tech. Sgt. Bryan Cronk, and Staff Sgt. Joshua Jacobs from Midwest City, Okla., all 146th Air Support Operations Squadron, gather for map reading guidance during Red Flag – Alaska on Aug. 12, 2013.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roberta Thompson

Army and Air Force troops disembark a Blackhawk helicopter during training Aug. 19, 2013 at Red Flag – Alaska in Eielson AFB. Red Flag – Alaska is joint base air combat exercise where participating U.S. and coalition forces refine combat skills in a realistic threat environment.

What are your reasons, Guardsmen?



By Angela Cunningham
137th ARW Wing Director of
Psychological Health

In talking with many of you, I ask this question: What led you to choose to be a member of the Air National Guard? I was shown a small blue book that discusses the core values that you passionately believe in. You've taught me that you have value:

Taking responsibility for yourself and actions, making sound and timely decisions, setting the example, understanding and accomplishing assigned goals, cultivating abilities to meet a variety of challenges, along with technical and tactical proficiency in a variety of skills.

Second, I have learned that your military service results in personal growth and positive emotional experience, such as:

Enhanced maturity, self-improvement, knowing oneself better (strengths, capabilities, areas for improvement), strengthening of resiliency, positive transformation following trauma of situations of extreme stress, improved coping skills and pride within yourself and the unit.

Third, I've learned that your military service enhances interpersonal skills and relationships, such as:

Creating camaraderie and deep friendships, interpersonal maturation, working well in teams, understanding the importance of cooperation along with looking out for the welfare of your team.

Your military service results in the acquisition of a number of positive skills, training and experiences. Your reasons for being members of this Air National Guard bring a deep respect for your passion and dedication. Each one of you make a unique difference because of what you bring to the table.

Thank you for letting me learn from you.

JEC holds luncheon, Gen. Aragon speaks

**By Airman 1st Class
Brigitte Waltermire,
137 ARW Public Affairs**

The Junior Enlisted Council hosted a meeting for guard members from both Will Rogers ANG Base and Tinker Air Force Base over September drill on base.

The leadership-oriented meeting and luncheon hosted more than 100 junior and senior enlisted members.

According to Airman 1st Class Kimberlee Steichen, secretary of the JEC, the council's mission statement is "the building of a cohesive team committed to enhancing Junior Enlisted leadership for the 21st Century."

The key speaker for the event was Maj. Gen. (retired) Rita Aragon, the first female commander of the Oklahoma Air National Guard, the first female of Native American ancestry to

become a general officer and currently the first female Oklahoma Secretary of Military and Veteran's Affairs.

She spoke of leadership within the Guard during the meeting.

"You have to work with the same people day in and day out- that's where leadership comes from," she said. "You will succeed if you choose to. No one can make you."

A message of encouragement from Aragon concluded the meeting:

"When something needs to be done, do it!" she said. "Do it with integrity, and do it the best."

Guard members in attendance spoke of being inspired and motivated by the airman basic -to-major general's speech.

"It helped me think about what I want to do in the Air National Guard," said Airman 1st Class Irys Botta, a

Guardsman working in services.

Botta's reaction personifies the purpose of the JEC and mirrors its commitment to growth and esprit de corps within the junior enlisted community.

The council hosts these events twice per year, once in February and once in either August or September, trying to alternate between meeting at Will Rogers and Tinker to include as many Airmen as possible.

"We're trying to bring some camaraderie to the Junior Enlisted Corps," said Tech. Sgt. Drew Stanley, president of the JEC.

The council will continue holding such events to bolster member participation and carry on with its mission of developing leaders within the enlisted community.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker

Chief Master Sgt. James Ergenbright, Tech. Sgt. Lesley Thomas and Master Sgt. Floyd Young pose in their cars to promote the new 137th Air Refueling Wing Car Club. The first meeting will be 4 p.m., Nov. 2 in Mayberry Hall. For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Ergenbright at james.ergenbright@ang.af.mil or Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Reeves at gerald.reeves@ang.af.mil.

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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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