

FRONT RANGE FLYER



Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 30, No. 2

Winter 2015



***Wing named best
in AF Reserve
Air Mobility
for 2015***

-see page 8



Lieutenant General James E. Sherrard III Award
Air Force Reserve Outstanding Air Mobility Wing - 2015
302d Airlift Wing, Peterson AFB, CO



FRONT RANGE FLYER

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 30, No. 2

Winter 2015



Hiking to the 'Herc'

Trainees with the 302nd Airlift Wing and 310th Space Wing Development and Training Flight visit a C-130 Hercules aircraft Sept. 13, 2015. The focus of the D&TF is to prepare trainees for Air Force Basic Military Training, technical school and a career in the Air Force Reserve. (U.S. Air Force photo // Senior Airman Amber Sorsek)

Editorial Staff

Commander, 302nd Airlift Wing

COL. JAY PITTMAN

Chief, Public Affairs

ANN SKARBAN

Public Affairs Officers

MAJ. CORINNA MOYLAN

CAPT. CAITLIN SUTTIE

2ND LT. STEPHEN J. COLLIER

Editor

MASTER SGT. DANIEL BUTTERFIELD

Staff

STAFF SGT. NATHAN FEDERICO

SENIOR AIRMAN AMBER SORSEK

SENIOR AIRMAN KELMER RAPISORA

Contact Us

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

450 W. Hamilton Ave. Ste. 171

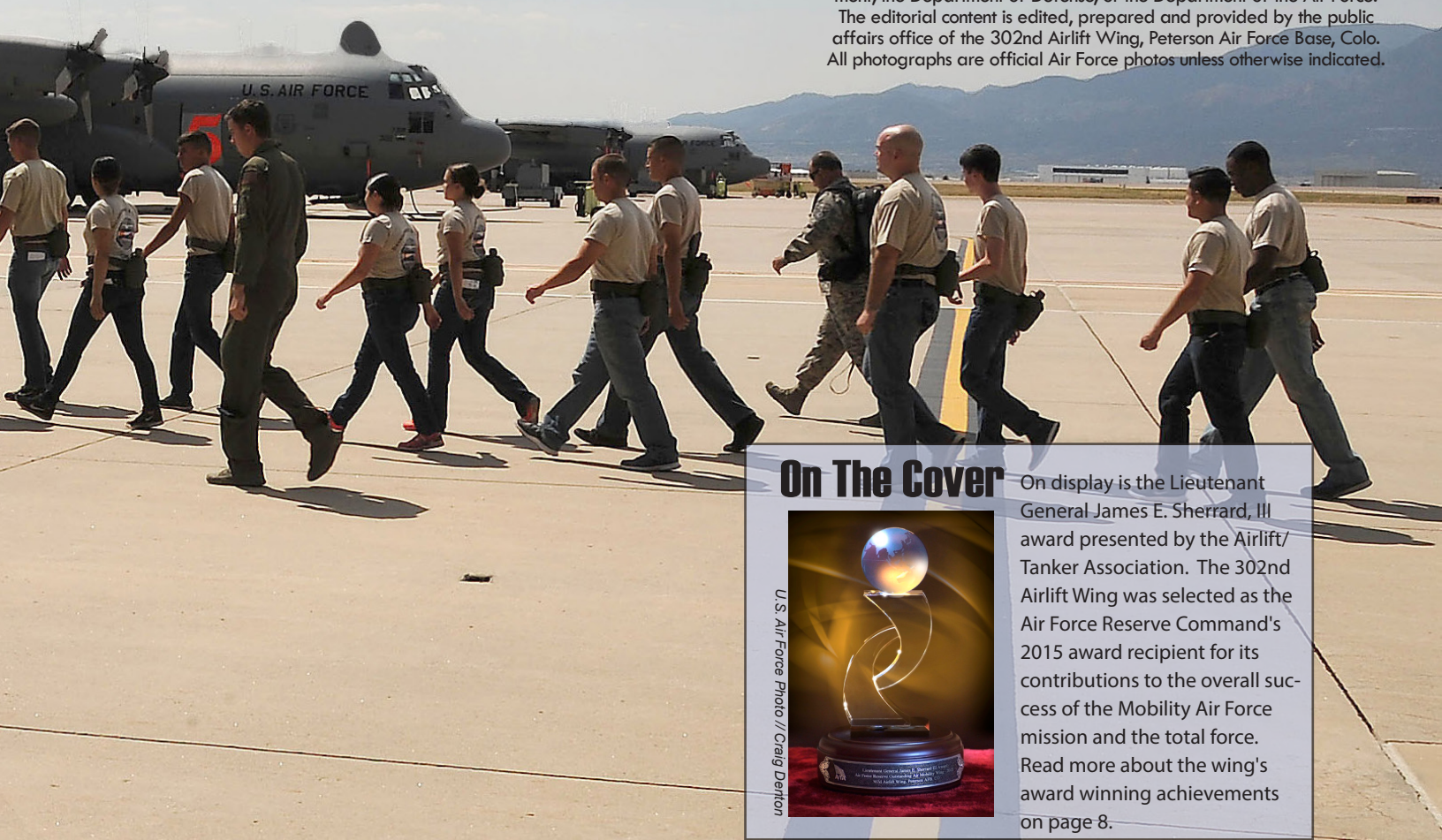
Peterson AFB, CO 80914

Tel: (719) 556-4117

Email: 302aw.pa@us.af.mil

www.302aw.afrc.af.mil

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Front Range Flyer* 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 editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. All photographs are official Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.



On The Cover

U.S. Air Force Photo // Craig Denton



On display is the Lieutenant General James E. Sherrard, III award presented by the Airlift/Tanker Association. The 302nd Airlift Wing was selected as the Air Force Reserve Command's 2015 award recipient for its contributions to the overall success of the Mobility Air Force mission and the total force. Read more about the wing's award winning achievements on page 8.



Col. Jay Pittman
Commander

Citizen Airmen providing superior global reach.

That's the 302nd Airlift Wing's mission statement and it succinctly sums up who we are and what we do.

When given the opportunity to present our wing's mission briefing to distinguished visitors, elected officials and community leaders, I place emphasis on the phrase "Citizen Airmen." I remind them that the members of the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing are Citizen Airmen, meaning we serve our nation as Air Force Reservists in a part-time status when not mobilized or deployed and still maintain the readiness, medical and fitness requirements to the exact same standard as our active duty or full-time counterparts. And, that we do this while balancing full-time civilian careers and family, volunteering in our communities, pursuing advanced degrees and skills in both civilian and professional military education, as well as other significant responsibilities.

In addition to considering the phrase, "Citizen Airmen," I'd also like to take a moment to recognize each one of you for your outstanding efforts in supporting every mission within this wing allowing us to successfully achieve "superior global reach."

Whether you are an operator, maintainer or mission support member, you have a critical role in the success of our mission. Your knowledge, expertise and extraordinary efforts are key to this wing attaining and maintaining its ability to provide superior global reach to our nation's defense.

This past year was an extremely busy and successful one. Throughout the year we dotted the globe providing support in the areas of airlift, aircraft maintenance, aerial port, logistics readiness, aeromedical evacuation, force sustainment services, security, aerial fire fighting and mission support. The year 2015 offered a few firsts for the wing to include a first-time deployment of two aircraft and fifty-two Reservists to Poland in support of NATO's Operation Atlantic Resolve as well as bilateral training with the Polish Air Force, a second-place finish in the AFRC Port "Dawg" Challenge by our 39th Aerial Port Squadron team, recognition of our wing's Security Forces Squadron as the best tenant SFS in AFRC and the first AFRC traditional reserve Historian to win an Air Force-level award. We saw numerous achievements in aircraft maintenance to include the 302nd Maintenance Group's successful production of four out of the five top performing C-130s in AFRC. Additionally, the wing answered the call supporting our nation's wildland fire fighting suppression efforts in California with the activation of two 302nd AW Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130s, aircrews and support personnel from Aug. 3 through Sept. 2.

And, the Airlift/Tanker Association named the 302nd AW the 2015 Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III Award winner, recognizing the 302nd AW as the Air Force Reserve's outstanding air mobility wing. This is a major accomplishment and is significant recognition as this wing is recognized as one of the best throughout the entire Air Force Reserve airlift and tanker community.

The team here at the 302nd Airlift Wing is outstanding because of our members, your expertise and dedication to the mission. To the members of the 302nd Airlift Wing, to your families, to your supportive civilian employers and all who offer their support to ensure our members can serve, I thank you. It takes a full team effort and this past year our team not only met every challenge but exceeded expectations. Thank you for your dedication to being a one of our nation's Citizen Airmen in the 302nd Airlift Wing and thank you for all you do!

Flory makes 'history' with AF-level award



U.S. Air Force Photo // Ann Skarban

Tech Sgt. Denise Flory, 302nd Airlift Wing historian documents the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System deployment preparations Aug., 1, 2015 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Flory's special study, "Wildfire Winds: The 302nd Airlift Wing's Aerial Firefight Mission in the Colorado Springs Wildland Urban Interface, 2012-2013," received recognition as the Air Force History and Museums Program 2015 Robert F. Futrell Award for excellence in historical publications.

by Capt. Caitlin Suttie
Front Range Flyer

Tech. Sgt. Denise Flory, 302nd Airlift Wing historian, is no stranger to significant historical events. She is less accustomed to her name in the history books. Flory won the Air Force History and Museums Program 2015 Robert F. Futrell Award for excellence in historical publications, becoming the first traditional reservist ever to do so.

The Robert F. Futrell Award recognizes those who have produced an outstanding publication during the past calendar year.

Flory's entry, "Wildfire Winds: The 302nd Airlift Wing's Aerial Firefight Mission in the Colorado Springs Wildland Urban Interface, 2012-2013," documents the Peterson Air Force Base reserve wing's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission and 302nd Airlift Wing involvement in the air and in the community during the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires.

In her own words, she explains why

she chose this project, "It was rather historic to have those two [MAFFS] activations literally in our backyard in consecutive years. When Reserve Wing Historians submit an essay or study, it is requested to be both current history and a topic that affects their assigned wing," she added.

According to Flory, her love of history started early and has turned into a lifelong pursuit to document the actions of today for the benefit of future generations.

"I have the privilege of telling stories," said Flory. "I like knowing that what I do ensures that 302nd Airlift Wing actions

"I have the privilege of telling stories ... I like knowing that what I do ensures that 302nd Airlift Wing actions are remembered forever. It is important to me to keep those memories alive."

-- Tech. Sgt. Denise Flory

are remembered forever. It is important to me to keep those memories alive."

Flory found out she had won when Air Force Reserve Command shared a post congratulating the winners on Facebook.

"I was getting congratulations from other historians. I looked on Facebook and was shocked," said Flory. "It is generally the civilian [Air Force historian] Ph.D.s that win. It is rare to even have a military entry."

Flory isn't willing to take all the credit though. She wants the award to reflect on the entire wing.

"I didn't win this award, we won," said Flory. "This is a direct reflection on the incredible members and actions of this wing. I couldn't have done this without the amazing support I received during my research and writing."

"We are absolutely proud of the

great job sergeant Flory has done leading the history office," said Col. Erich Novak, 302nd Airlift Wing Vice Commander. "This award shows the outstanding caliber of her work."

Ground crews keep MAFFS aircraft in the fight

by Master Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
Front Range Flyer

When the 302nd Airlift Wing's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130s answer the U.S. Forest Service's call to assist with fire operations, it's not just the aircraft and aircrews that head out with little notice. The maintenance team plays an integral role in keeping the aircraft safe and ready to fly and fight fires on a daily basis.

The 14-person aircraft maintenance crew is divided into two teams, or two shifts. The three-person morning crew opens up the aircraft and preps it for the preflight inspection.

"The basics of the job is getting the airplane ready and air worthy for the crews, presenting them a good airplane so they can complete their mission, no matter what that mission is," said Tech. Sgt. Vic Bejarano, C-130 crew chief, who has been supporting the MAFFS mission since 2004.

Once the MAFFS' launch orders and missions end for the day, the bulk of the maintenance crew gets to work. The 11-person night shift includes two crew chiefs as well as several specialists such as electricians, engine specialists, and avionics technicians. The goal is to have the aircraft airworthy before their day ends, and their day does not end until the goal is met.

This can be a bigger challenge because of the stresses placed upon the airframe during firefighting missions. Master Sgt. Will Dial, the second shift production supervisor says MAFFS operations take their toll on the airframe. "The type of flying that they do, the weight they carry, adds stress to the airframe."

Besides the maintenance specialists that come along with the aircraft and aircrews, the 302nd AW also brings along their own tools and parts they think they might need at the deployed location. If there is something they need but don't have, they

will reach back to the maintenance shops at the 302nd and overnight ship the part to keep the mission going.

The maintenance team is well-aware that everything they do will help out those who are affected by wildfires.

"It is very rewarding in the fact that we are out here with the fire effort, even if we don't get to see the results," said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Sanchez, MAFFS maintenance supervisor, who has 15 years experience with the aerial firefighting mission.

"I love my job. I love what we do," said Tech. Sgt. Leonard "Gonzo" Gonzales, propulsion mechanic, who is deployed with the MAFFS team for the first time. "My brother lives here in Sacramento so he's really excited that we are here to help out."

The MAFFS mission is one of urgency, but because of the maintenance schedule, the night shift has time to make sure all will be right in the morning for another day of making a difference in the fight against wildland fires.

"Everything is steady, we don't push, we don't rush anything because it is MAFFS, we still look, just as intently at every system on the aircraft. Safety and airworthiness of the airplane is our priority. We stay until everything is ready for the next day," said Dial.

The MAFFS-equipped C-130s are operated by four military airlift wings: The 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard; 146th Airlift Wing, California Air National Guard; 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard; and the 302nd Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve Command.

MAFFS is a self-contained aerial firefighting system, owned by the U.S. Forest Service, that can discharge 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in less than five seconds, covering an area one-quarter of a mile long by 100 feet wide. Once the load is discharged, it can be refilled in less than 12 minutes.

Senior Airman Sam Schwellenbach, a hydraulics mechanic assigned to the 302nd Maintenance Squadron, checks the pressure of a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130 rear tire after the aircraft returned from a day of flying sorties on the River Complex fires in Northern California Aug. 5, 2015.

As soon as the MAFFS-equipped C-130s are done flying for the day, the maintainers go to work to ensure they are ready for action the next day.



U.S. Air Force Photo // Master Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

MAFFS reservists reflect on season's surge capability, mission challenges

by Ann Skarban
Front Range Flyer

In early October the National Interagency Fire Center lowered the National Wildfire Preparedness level to one, its lowest level of five indicating national large fire activity had reduced to minimal levels. With this, and with what appears to be the end of hot, dry conditions in the western U.S., the 2015 aerial fire fighting season may be drawing to a close for the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing Modular Airborne Fire Fighting equipped C-130s and aircrews.

This summer, when the National Wildfire Preparedness level was raised to its highest level of five, indicating geographic areas were experiencing major incidents having the potential to exhaust all agency fire resources, two MAFFS-equipped C-130s, and approximately 28 aircrew and aircraft maintainers from the 302nd AW were activated and deployed in response to the U.S. Forest Service's request for assistance which was received by the Peterson-based airlift wing on Aug. 2, 2015. Through this activation, the 302nd AW resources became part of the MAFFS Air Expeditionary Group and were tasked to support suppression efforts for fires burning out of control in California.

"We are mobilizing MAFFS to ensure that we continue to have adequate airtanker capability as we experience very challenging wildfire conditions in California, and elsewhere in the West," said Aitor Bidaburu, chair of the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group in NIFC's Aug. 2, 2015 news release announcing two 302nd AW C-130s and aircrews had been mobilized. Bidaburu further stated, "Maintaining adequate aerial firefighting capability is critical to provide support to the firefighters on the ground who are working so hard to protect lives, property and valuable natural and cultural resources from wildfires."

Immediately after receiving mobilization notification and the official request for assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, aircraft maintainers and aerial porters from the Colorado Springs, Colo. reserve wing dedicated their August Unit Training Assembly efforts to necessary preparations to include pre-fighting aircraft, preparing the cargo compartments for the on-load of the three-thousand gallon capacity MAFFS systems as well as the precision on-load and installation of the MAFFS system which occupies the majority of the cargo area of the C-130H3 aircraft. Behind the scenes, leaders from the wing's maintenance and operations groups were finalizing equipment and personnel requirements for the next-day's departure to California.

The 302nd AW aircraft departed Peterson Air Force Base the morning of Aug. 3 and began suppression missions on fires upon their arrival at McClellan Air Field, California near Sacramento that afternoon.

"The wing's response and preparations for the initial MAFFS deployment were outstanding, said Lt. Col. Greg Berry, commander of the wing's 731st Airlift Squadron. "Having the ability to fly MAFFS missions within an hour of our arrival to McClellan



U.S. Air Force Photo // Master Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

Two MAFFS-equipped C-130 aircraft from the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing load up with retardant at McClellan Air Field Calif., Aug. 3, 2015. The aircraft began flying suppression missions on California fires within an hour of their initial arrival at the air field. The Colorado-based wing's aircraft, crews and support personnel provided fire suppression support in California for one month.

Air Field made an important difference as we were immediately dispatched to help containment efforts on a fire threatening structures," he added.

At the start of this year's MAFFS activation, the 302nd AW aircraft and crews joined two C-130s and crews from the 146th Airlift Wing, California Air National Guard who were flying MAFFS missions under the state of California activation.

The 302nd AW provided MAFFS support in California from Aug. 3 through Sept. 2. The overall MAFFS activation of C-130s and crews continued through Sept. 12.

At the peak of the DOD MAFFS mobilization for 2015, six DOD MAFFS-equipped C-130s were federally activated by NIFC. Aircraft and aircrews from all four MAFFS special mission wings rotated support efforts throughout the activation period.

The DOD MAFFS-equipped C-130s are operated by four military airlift wings: The 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard; 146th Airlift Wing, California Air National Guard; 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard; and the 302nd Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve Command.

Together in 2015, the federally activated MAFFS C-130s performed 338 drops using 842,979 gallons of retardant on more than a dozen fires in California.

Wing named 2015 Sherrard award recipient



U.S. Air Force Photo // Staff Sgt. Shaders Mitchell

Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command, poses with 302nd Airlift Wing commander, Col. Jay Pittman and 302nd AW Command Chief Master Sergeant Otis Jones, during the Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III Award presentation at the 47th Annual Air Mobility Command and Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 31. The 302nd AW was recognized as the Air Force Reserve outstanding air mobility wing of 2015 for its overall contributions to the Mobility Air Force mission and total force. Outstanding performers selected by 302nd AW leadership to represent the wing (left to right) are: Senior Airmen, Howard Smith and Matthew Kenny, Tech Sgt. Christopher Meyer, (Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, Col. Jay Pittman, Chief Master Sgt. Otis Jones) and Staff Sgt. Curtis LeMay.

by Ann Skarban
Front Range Flyer

The 302nd Airlift Wing was recently selected as the recipient of the Airlift/Tanker Association's 2015 Lieutenant General James E. Sherrard III award.

According to award information on the association's web site, the Sherrard Award recognizes the AFRC's outstanding wing or group contributing to the overall success of the Mobility Air Force mission and the total force. Additionally, the unit that best embodies the spirit and essence of today's global mobility operations, maintaining a viable strategic reserve for tomorrow while embracing responsibilities to their civilian employer, community and family is recognized.

"I am extremely proud of the members of this wing who continue to take on new challenges, and through dedication, innovation and team work not only met, but exceeded, in all areas of our mission," said Col. Jay Pittman.

The award was presented to wing leadership during the A/TA symposium held Oct. 31 in Orlando, Fla.

The award period covered July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, and during that time, the 302nd AW identified several accomplishments. These included the areas of integration with Active Duty partners through its association with the 52nd Airlift Squadron, its Force Support Squadron co-location with the 21st FSS and full integration into Peterson Air Force Base's Regional Command Post efforts.

"We've stepped up and teamed-up with our Active Duty partners in several areas and have certainly been a leader in Total Force partnerships," Pittman added.

The award also commends the efforts of the 302nd Aircraft Maintenance squadron for producing four out of the five top performing C-130s throughout the AFRC. The Colorado Springs' Airmen were also recognized for their contributions aiding in the delivery of two C-130s to Afghanistan for the U.S. State Department and instruction to the Afghan air force in the area of C-130 operations.

The wing's C-130 Modular Airborne Fire Fighting efforts, and world-wide deployments during the award period, were also significant. A 302nd AW reserve C-130 pilot was among the MAFFS aircrew who received the Air Mobility Command Chief of Safety Aircrew of Distinction Award for efforts leading to the safe landing of a MAFFS-equipped C-130 following a landing gear malfunction while fighting fires in southern Utah in August 2014. The C-130 airlift wing's global reach included providing airlift support to NATO's Operation Atlantic Resolve while participating in bilateral training with the Polish air force, receiving the Air Mobility Command Tunner Award recognition for performing humanitarian airlift during a South Sudan evacuation effort as well as deployments of aircraft and personnel to four different Areas of Responsibility.

The wing's Major Command-level awards achieved by the 302nd Security Forces and Force Support Squadrons and the wing historian's recognition as the Air Force History and Museums Program 2015 Robert F. Futrell Award for excellence in historical publications were among the unit and individual accomplishments also received during the award's time period.

39th Aerial Port Squadron Port 'Dawg' team among the best

by Master Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
Front Range Flyer

The 302nd Airlift Wing's 39th Aerial Port Squadron took second place out of 26 teams at the Air Force Reserve Command's 2015 Port "Dawg" Challenge June 18 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The Port "Dawg" Challenge is a biennial Air Force Reserve team competition, consisting of 12 events over three days. Aerial porters' job knowledge is judged by a written test, their physical fitness is evaluated during the fit to fight event, and their application of skills and experience is tested in events like pallet build up, engine running onload and offload, and K loader driving and loading.

"Our AFSC [Air Force Speciality Code or job title] is very diverse, we have a lot of different sections, everything from passenger processing to cargo processing and load planning," said Tech. Sgt. Chris Meyer, 39th APS aerial delivery. "We have a ramp section, whose sole responsibility is loading and unloading our cargo aircraft and doing it safely and expeditiously. We play a very diverse, but intricate role when it comes to getting stuff to the people who need it."

Every one of these sections and the experience of the five aerial port team members were put to the test during the Port "Dawg" competition.

"Tech. Sgt. Sara Yong, Tech. Sgt. Chris Meyer, Staff Sgt. Meagan Hasty, Senior Airman Russel Hudson and Senior Airman Nicholas VanZee are top notch Airmen," said Maj. Royce Johnson, 39th APS Commander describing the Port "Dawg" Challenge team members.

"This team knows their job and they know it well. "When they go out to the field, they do just as well...The second place win shows off this team's ability. It reflects the ability of this squadron as well."

The challenge scorecard backed up Johnson's statement on his team's talent. The 39th Aerial Porters finished in the top three in six of the 12 events. Tech. Sgt. Sara Yong, team chief, received one of two individual accolades awarded at the competition for her score on the written exam, setting the record for this competition at 96-percent.

"We pride ourselves on being a plug and play squadron. That being said we can take any member and put them into any section and they are going to be able to perform that duty," said Meyer.

"You can't train for this event in a week or two weeks," says Hudson, special handling team member. "You have to stay proficient in your job throughout the year." "We needed to be ready for anything and everything," said Hasty, information control team member.

The next Port "Dawg" competition is two years away so the 39th APS has time to learn from this year's event. But they do not plan on a different strategy next time. They just plan on continuing their training and performing their job at a high level every day.

"We took our lessons learned, the curve balls, and we are going to put that into UTA [unit training assembly] training. But our goal is to actually have a brand new team when we go down there and know that whoever we select from the 39th is going to do just as well as the previous team. That is our goal," said Meyer.

The members of the 39th APS Port Dawg Challenge 2015 team were: Tech Sgt. Sara Yong, Air Transportation Craftsman and Tech. Sgt. Chris Meyer, Staff Sgt. Megan Hasty, Senior Airman Russel Hudson and Nicholas VanZee, who are Air Transportation Journeymen.



U.S. Air Force Photo // Senior Airman Kelmer Rapisora

The 39th Aerial Port Squadron team seated, left to right, Tech. Sgt. Sara Yong, Senior Airman Nicholas VanZee and Russel Hudson Staff Sgt. Megan Hasty and Tech. Sgt. Chris Meyer are joined by their commander, Maj. Royce Johnson, standing, after a successful showing at the 2015 Port Dawg challenge June 18, 2015 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. Their teamwork and skills were tested in 12 events over three days.

Future leaders receive Academy opportunity through LEAD program

by Master Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
Front Range Flyer

The Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program enables enlisted Airmen to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and become a commissioned officer. Three years ago three 302nd Airlift Wing Airmen applied and were selected through the LEAD program to attend the Air Force Academy's Preparatory School and are now in their junior year of study at the service academy. They are slated to graduate and commission as officers in the U.S. Air Force in the spring of 2017.

Cadets 2nd Class Chris Bissing, Dustin Johannsen, and Krista Kelly agree the school is a challenge. But a challenge that continually improves their leadership skills. They look forward to bringing their new abilities back to the operational Air Force.

"I am very proud to be here at USAFA," said Johannsen. "To be allowed this opportunity to continue serving my country while receiving an education. It will help me be a better servant leader in the future."

Johannsen, who was an Active Duty Senior Airman instruments and flight controls systems journeyman assigned to the 52nd Airlift Squadron still plans on becoming an Air Force pilot after graduation. He recently completed the Powered Flight Program where he "soloed" a T-53 aircraft.

"The experience has been challenging, but I've learned a lot," said Bissing, who originally wanted to become a pilot but is unsure what career he will choose upon graduation. "It's important to work as hard as you can when you're here, so you don't close any doors. Many people's goals change when they get here. You have to be open minded. The reasons you come to the Air Force Academy are not always the reasons you stay, added Bissing who before entering the U.S. Air Force Academy through the LEAD program was an Airman 1st Class electrical power production specialist and traditional reservist assigned to the 302nd Communications Flight.

The cadets say the Academy is not for everyone. Future students need to be aware of the commitment the school demands.

"I would tell them to make sure it is something they are fully committed to. If they fully commit themselves to being successful here and they work hard, they can overcome the



U.S. Air Force photo / Master Sgt. Kenneth Beland

Cadets 2nd Class Chris Bissing, Dustin Johannsen and Krista Kelly, prior 302nd Airlift Wing members, entered the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School three years ago through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program. They just began their junior year and will graduate in the Spring of 2017. LEAD applications are due at the end of the year.

challenges and learn more than they could anywhere else," said Johannsen.

Cadet Kelly is still planning to continue her studies after graduation with the goal of becoming a medical doctor.

"The experience has been difficult but amazingly rewarding," said Kelly. "I never thought I would have the opportunity to grow with such an incredible group of people and have the chance to really practice leadership and positive change. The place is challenging, yes, but it has only made me realize what I'm capable of."

Before accepting admission to the service academy, Kelly was a Senior Airman aeromedical evacuation technician and traditional reservist, assigned to the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

The LEAD program is available to Airmen who are at least 17 years old but not past their 23rd birthday by July 1 of the year they enter the Academy. They must be a U.S. citizen and unmarried with no dependents. The Air Force Academy accepts 85 Airmen serving in the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard each year. To learn more about the LEAD program go to <http://www.academyadmissions.com/admissions/advice-to-applicants/enlisted-airmen/> and download the LEAD handbook.

Kelly encourages everyone to pursue the opportunity. "Never shut a door. Who knows where you are supposed to be in three to five years, and since that time will pass anyway, why not find your limits and challenge yourself. You will be doing nothing but setting yourself up for success in your personal and professional life. Always try for the opportunity to grow as a person and challenge yourself, I promise you will be surprised at what you can do."

Reserve wing's Employer Appreciation Day promotes civilian, military balance

by Capt. Caitlin Suttie
Front Range Flyer

Citizen Airmen provide vital surge support to the overall Air Force mission. Too often, Reservists fight a different battle to balance their desire to serve their country in addition to their civilian careers. Many feel that they are constantly trying to help coworkers and supervisors understand what they do on the weekends and training days while wearing their uniform. The Airmen of the 302nd Airlift Wing had the opportunity to help improve that understanding through the wing's 2015 Employer Appreciation Day.

On July 31, 2015, 43 employers from all over Colorado and as far away as Iowa were invited to Peterson to learn more about the 302nd Airlift Wing, the Air Force Reserve, how to better support their reserve employees and to receive recognition from the wing as civilian employers of Air Force Reservists.

The day began with a mission briefing presented by Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AW commander. Pittman spoke about tactical airlift, aerial firefighting, aeromedical evacuation, and how employer support is key to the readiness of every Reservist.

Describing the balance of major responsibilities in a reservist's life Pittman said, "It is [like] a three-legged stool. If family, military or civilian employment aren't all stable, it all comes apart."

After learning about the missions of the 302nd AW from the briefing, it was time to experience them first-hand. First stop was an orientation flight on 302nd AW C-130 aircraft. The flight offered an up-close look at the operational mission of the wing while also offering views of nearby Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak and the Royal Gorge.

"The highlight for me was the C-130 flight," said Adam Lackey, of Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa and civilian employer of a 302nd AW reservist. "I'm glad to say it was my first and last C-130 flight - I'm not sure I could do it again without getting airsick!"

After the flight, the employers dined at the Peterson Club and were given a briefing on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act by retired Army Colonel Mary Miller, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve military outreach volunteer.

"Employers and their reservist employees have responsibilities to each other," said Miller. "Our job is to educate, inform and support all parties to ensure everyone is getting what they need."

The afternoon's activities began with a tour of the 302nd Security Forces Squadron Training Facility. Here the employers were exposed to the Firearm Training Simulator and got to watch 302nd SFS personnel run through several virtual reality training scenarios.

The final stop was a tour of the 39th Aerial Port Squadron and the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. This further highlighted the variety of the C-130 tactical missions including airdrop loads and medical transport performed by units within the 302nd Airlift Wing.

Once in to 39th APS warehouse, employers were presented with a certificate and 302nd AW commander's recognition coin by Pittman.

"I came away from Employer Appreciation Day with a much greater understanding of the commitment reservists make to serve our country," said Lackey. "The time, expertise, dedication and passion reservists bring to their service is inspiring."



U.S. Air Force photo // Senior Airman Amber Sorsek

Civilian employers of 302nd Airlift Wing reservists and local employers sponsored by Colorado's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve pose for a photo following a flight aboard a C-130 Hercules. Employer Appreciation Day is an annual event that allows employers to gain a broader understanding of the dedication and mission of their employed reservists.

feature

TCCC:

Providing life-saving training to Airmen



Staff Sgt. Derek Ables establishes an airway on a simulated patient using a nasopharyngeal tool as Tech. Sgt. Bradley Belcher, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, watches Aug. 7, 2015. Belcher instructed the Tactical Combat Casualty Care pilot course for non-medical personnel. Ables is assigned to the 21st Security Forces Squadron.

Story, photos by Senior Airman Amber Sorsek
Front Range Flyer

Airmen with the 302nd Airlift Wing and 21st Space Wing participated in Tactical Combat Casualty Care training at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Aug. 6, 2015. This was a pilot TCCC course available to Active Duty and Reserve security forces squadrons.

The course was taught by Tech. Sgt. Bradley Belcher, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, a TCCC instructor. He was certified in combat casualty care through the National Association for Emergency Medical Technicians in 2012.

The TCCC course introduces evidence-based, life-saving techniques and strategies for providing the best trauma care on the battlefield. According to the Military Health System, TCCC established a critical partnership with the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research in 2004. The ongoing research focusing on battlefield first responder care established USAISR as the Department of Defense leader in developing and evaluating battle field trauma care technology and management strategies.

TCCC has three primary goals: treat the casualty, prevent additional casualties and complete the mission. To accomplish these goals, the instructor begins training with a presentation informing members of care under fire, tactical field care and tactical evacuation care.

"There are approximately 400 slides for the course which cover about 70 percent of the information," said Belcher. "We also issue each member the text book with assigned reading material for the areas not covered in the slides."

Following the presentation were a series of live scenarios performed by the student with an instructor.

"For hands on training there are about a dozen skill stations which students train on and get assessed as part of their final grade," said Belcher. "We practice advanced medical procedures to include needle decompression, surgically creating an airway, interosseous airway, IV therapy and pain medication administration.

Scenario-based planning is critical for success in TCCC, according to MHS, because care must be modified on the battlefield to best fit the tactical situation. It trains students to make quick decisions and practice the skills learned during the presentation.

"Most people are only used to doing computer based training prior to deployments," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Brewer, 21st SFS. "This training is very hands on so it allows you to get the most realistic training possible while incorporating basic team moving tactics."

"I really liked the TCCC course because it included not only the EMT training but also included SFS team tactics with medical skills," said Maj. Brian Young, 302nd SFS commander.

This course is not mandatory for Airmen, but Belcher said it's highly recommended.

"I love teaching this class," he said. "Its success rate in the field can't be over stated. This is the type of training that truly saves the lives of our brothers and sisters overseas. I personally feel all medical and deploying personnel should be required to attend this training."

Young has high hopes for the future of TCCC at Peterson AFB as well.

"I cannot be more excited to be able to get my SFS members this critical skill training here at our home base," said Young. "I hope this course will grow and enable other Airman the chance to attend."



Maj. Brian Young (left), 302nd Security Forces Squadron commander, applies a tourniquet to Senior Airman Elisha Santaularia's arm, during a pilot course for Tactical Combat Casualty Care on Aug. 7, 2015 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. TCCC is combat care training offered by the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron to non-medical personnel in order to help eliminate preventative deaths on the battlefield. Santaularia is a reservist assigned to the 302nd ASTS. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Amber Sorsek)

Wing Reservists direct air operations for multinational exercise

by 302nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Three Air Force Reservists from the 302nd Airlift Wing deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany Aug. 10 through Sept. 1 in support of Swift Response 2015. Col. Erich Novak, 302nd AW vice commander, Lt. Col. Frank Wilde, 302nd Operations Group deputy commander, and Lt. Col. Bradley Ross, 302nd Operations Support Squadron director of operations, directed air operations for the multinational training exercise.

According to a U.S. Army Europe statement, Swift Response 2015 was the largest allied airborne training event on the continent since the end of the Cold War. More than 4,800 participants from 11 NATO nations, including Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States took part.

The U.S. Army Europe-led exercise is designed to integrate multiple allied nations' high-readiness forces to operate as a cohesive team and demonstrate the alliance's capability to rapidly deploy and operate in support of maintaining a strong and secure Europe, the statement further explains.

Five Air Force Reserve Command C-130 aircraft and crews -- three from the 934th AW, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minnesota and two from the 914th AW, Niagara Falls ARS, N.Y. also took part in the exercise.

Novak served as the Air Component Exercise Director for all U.S. Air Force members assigned to the exercise.

"This was an outstanding learning opportunity for all forces involved," said Novak. There hasn't been an exercise of this magnitude in a very long time. It was outstanding to see how each nation approached complex operations,

learned each other's procedures and limits, and how to work together to get the mission done."

According to Novak, 61 aircraft from five countries flew more than 245 sorties. They completed more than 1,000 paratrooper jumps with U.S. and multinational paratroopers. They also airdropped more than 100,000 pounds of cargo in addition to airlifting hundreds of passengers and more than 300,000 pounds of cargo.

Wilde, along with Ross, served as deputy air component exercise directors. Wilde said their days were extremely busy and very challenging. The air component command and control worked 12-plus hour days providing real-time coordination as well as de-confliction of air assets for the exercise.

"With constant change to the plan, we were involved in communicating those changes to re-coordinate times and locations to have all of the players in place," explained Wilde.

Wilde said his previous Air Force Reserve assignments included working in joint operations center environments and that those experiences helped him support Swift Response in the command and control structure of a joint task force.

The Swift Response scenario exercised a joint, multinational force on forcible entry operations that spanned four countries over a 72-hour period. The exercise demonstrated NATO forces and U.S. European Command's ability to penetrate contested air space and establish a forward base of operations. U.S. aircraft and helicopter raids in three countries set the stage for a large multinational airborne airfield seizure exercise.

As the largest mobility hub for U.S. Air Forces in Europe, the Ramstein AB flightline provided rapid access capabilities and a

central location for allied nations to transition in-and-out during the exercise.

"It was a great opportunity to participate in a large-scale exercise focused on tactical airlift and supporting our primary customer, the U.S. Army and multinational ground forces," said Ross.

Swift Response 2015 is part of U.S. EUCOM's Joint Exercise Program and is designed to enhance joint combined interoperability with allied nations.



Courtesy photo

Swift Response 2015 was the largest combined airborne training on the continent since the end of the Cold War. The exercise included more than 4,800 participants from 11 NATO nations. Three Air Force Reservists from the 302nd Airlift Wing deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany to direct air operations for the multinational training exercise.

First-time Poland deployment provides unique training

by Ann Skarban
Front Range Flyer

Fifty-two Air Force Reservists and two C-130 aircraft assigned to the 302nd Airlift Wing deployed to Powidz Air Base, Poland March 23 to April 17, 2015. The 302nd AW members joined U.S. Air Force members permanently assigned to the U.S. Air Force's Aviation Detachment in Poland as well as two C-130s from Ramstein's 37th Airlift Squadron to conduct bilateral training with the Polish Air Force (PLAF). During the deployment the reservists and C-130s participated in operations focused on maintaining joint readiness while building inter-operability with our Polish Allies.

The deployed aircrew, aircraft maintainers and aerial porters worked along-side their Polish counterparts forging partnerships and conducting inter-fly missions. The missions flown included formation flying, nighttime low-level training, unimproved landing zone training and paratroop drops. This was the first time members of the Colorado Reserve wing participated in operations in Poland.

"This was a huge learning experience for our crews," said deployment commander and former 731 AS commander, Col. Chris Clay. According to Clay, the main take-aways for the 302nd AW members included actual airdrops in Polish drop zones, formation flying with Polish C-130s, using landing zones with un-improved grass landing strips, air-to-air engagements with dis-similar aircraft and airdrops of Polish and U.S. military personnel.

The 302nd AW crews flew 25 training missions, mostly tactical airland events along-side the Polish Air Force, in a three-week span accomplishing 60 flight hours, 240 training events and 40 airdrops.

"For our unit [302nd AW] this was the first time operating in a large-scale NATO exercise," said Clay. The crews flew large formation missions and conducted both night and day airdrops

in addition to air-to-air operations throughout the exercise.

According to Lt. Col. Jack Harman, commander of the Aviation Detachment in Poland, "This was the most robust C-130 engagement to date in Poland. The efforts of the 302nd and 37th bring the PLAF one step closer to seamless integration within NATO operations."

In addition to the C-130 aircrews who participated, the aircraft maintainers supporting the operation, also found this first-ever deployment to Poland to be equally unique and rewarding.

Describing the skill levels of 21 aircraft maintainers who deployed from the 302nd Maintenance Group, Chief Master Sgt. Blackmann, 302nd Maintenance Squadron superintendent said, "We made sure we had experience in prime shops but also afforded this opportunity to a few less experienced and others that normally don't get a shot at a deployment like this." Those aircraft maintenance shops included support equipment, hydraulic, engine, fabrication, fuel systems, electric/environmental and avionics shops.

"We were fortunate, the aircraft performed well," added Blackmann. "Although the aircraft cooperated, there were many long days in tough weather conditions. It was challenging at times but the teamwork was second-to-none which made all the difference. And, when we weren't turning aircraft our technicians spent time with the Polish mechanics working the back-shops, sharing technical experiences and establishing networks." said Blackmann.

Discussing the language and communication challenges, Blackmann said, "We all had to be patient. It helped that our counterparts were very professional and willing to work together. Unlike other deployments, we went into this not knowing what to expect but we made it work. Again, I had a great team, excellent support from the 52nd OG/Det 1 contingent and credited them all for a successful operation and great experience."



U.S. Air Force Photo // Lt. Col. Ryan Tanton

U.S. Army paratroopers board a 302nd Airlift Wing C-130 in the Republic of Estonia in preparation for personnel drops during joint training exercises April 10, 2015. The 302nd AW assigned reservists and two C-130s joined U.S. Air Force members permanently assigned to the U.S. Air Force's Aviation Detachment in Poland as well as two C-130s from Ramstein's 37th Airlift Squadron to conduct bilateral training with the Polish Air Force (PLAF) March 23 to April 17, 2015.

FRONT RANGE FLYER

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 30, No. 2

Winter 2015

FOR THE FAMILY OF:

Front Range Flyer

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
450 W. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 171
Peterson AFB, CO 80914
www.302aw.afrc.af.mil

Postage Paid
First Class
Jacksonville, IL
Permit No. 432

A C-130 Hercules aircraft assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado performs a flyover as an element from the 21st Space Wing marches toward the review stand during the Colorado Springs Veterans Day parade in downtown Colorado Springs, Colo., Nov. 7, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo // Ann Skarban)



partingshots