

# Tarheel TIMES

North Carolina Air National Guard

**Year End Review 2012**

**2012:**

**A Year of Great Loss & New Beginnings...**

***"Moving Through What We Can't Move Aside"***

**The 145th Airlift Wing Stands Together – Heals Together**

**Mission Ready**



# Tarheel TIMES

North Carolina Air National Guard

## Departments

Features	5, 27-28
NCNG TAG Corner	3
Commander's Comments	4
Chaplain's Corner	6
Psychological Health Corrnner	7
Environmental Corner	8
Yellow Ribbon Corner	9
Heritage Program	11
Alumni Association	12
Supporting Our Community	13-14
MAFFS Training	15
Base Memorials	26
Around the Base	29-35

### How To Reach Public Affairs

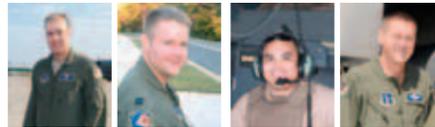
Our telephone number is  
**704.391.4239**  
(voice mail available)

Our fax number is  
**704.391.4320**

The commander's hotline is available for comments, concerns or suggestions. Dial **4687** or **(704) 391-4687**. Calls with a broad-based interest may be published in the **Tarheel Times**.



### 2012: A Year of Great Loss & New Beginnings



16 Fallen Airmen Announced



17 The Crash

18-19  
In Remembrance of  
Our Citizen Airmen



20 God Speed Your  
Recovery You've  
Been Missed!

21 Memorial  
Service Honors  
Fallen Airmen



22 North Carolina  
Guard Brings  
Heroes Home

23-24 Healing and  
Possible Closure –  
Community Support



### FRONT COVER

A U.S. Forest Service Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System is inserted into the back of MAFFS 7, a North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft, as aircrew prepare to take off for a training mission. More than 100 members of North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing will participate in an annual re-certification exercise. The week-long exercise ensures seasoned and novice aircrew members including military C-130 pilots, lead plane pilots, ground crewmembers, and U.S. Forest Service officials are kept up on standards, procedures, and operational modifications to ensure they will be qualified to assist with wildland firefighting when needed. The National Forests in North Carolina co-hosted the annual MAFFS training in May 2012, at the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center (aka Donaldson Center Industrial Air Park) in Greenville, S.C. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



**Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram, Jr.**  
*North Carolina Adjutant General*  
**Brig. Gen. Todd "David" Kelly**  
*Joint Forces Air Component Commander*  
*North Carolina Air National Guard*  
**Brig. Gen. Tony E. McMillan**  
*Commander*  
*145th Airlift Wing*

#### PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

**Lt. Col. Rose S. Dunlap**  
*Chief Public Affairs*

**1st Lt. Michael Weber**  
*Public Affairs Officer / Editor*

**Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley**  
*Editor*

**Tech. Sgt. Stephan R. Wilkins**  
*Print Journalist/Staff Writer*

**Tech. Sgt. Brian E. Christiansen**  
*Print Journalist/Staff Writer*

**Tech. Sgt. Richard M. Kerner**  
*Print Journalist/Staff Writer*

**Staff Sgt. Keisha Ramsue**  
*Administrative Support/Staff Writer*

**Tech. Sgt. (Ret) Charles Paris, Jr.**  
*Volunteer*

#### Print Vendor

Worth Printing, Inc. • Fayetteville, NC

### The Tarheel Times

Issue:

#### End of Year Review 2012

This funded Air Force news magazine is an authorized publication for members of the US military services. Contents of the *Tarheel Times* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, DoD, the Department of the Air Force or the Air National Guard. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 145th Airlift Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

If you are interested in finding out more about the North Carolina Air National Guard, call toll-free 1.800.354.6933.



Follow us on the Web at  
145aw.af.mil or on  
Facebook at North Carolina  
Air National Guard.

#### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:  
145 AW/PA • 4930 Minuteman Way  
Charlotte, NC 28208-3866



Airmen,

As we begin the transition from summer to fall, go back to school and witness the culmination of the 2012 political campaign, another stellar year has passed for the North Carolina Air National Guard. It included both extreme highs and terrible lows and has been replete with examples of superior performance both at home and around the world. Through it all, you have remained steadfastly true to the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence. Indeed, dedication to those values is what makes our North Carolina National Guard the ready, responsive and reliable force it is.

Commitment to those values shined during the Wing's Unit Compliance Inspection. To be frank, no one was surprised when the inspectors recognized numerous units and individuals for exceptional performance. That performance led to successful missions in Afghanistan and in other hot spots worldwide as deployments continued at a brisk pace. Master Sgt. Robert Ritchie showed that the commitment to excellence extends beyond the front gate when he earned the Red Cross Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action for helping a woman who had been pinned against a wall by a car back in February.

U.S. Africa Command recognized the jobs you all do so well after 145<sup>th</sup> Airmen shared their considerable knowledge and experience supporting Operation Southern Accord and MEDLITE 2012 in Botswana this summer. You advanced North Carolina's state partnership with that nation and helped secure U.S. interests in a critical part of the world. You showed, again, why that program produces so many benefits for America at very little cost.

High-profile visits were common in 2012. President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and First Lady Michelle Obama crossed your ramp. Gen. Raymond Johns, commander of Air Mobility Command, visited, as did members of Congress and their staffs. I have come to understand the Wing is known for efficiency in handling these sorts of events, and VIPs and their staffs like to take advantage of that. It is a well-earned reputation and one that was enhanced during the unit's outstanding support of the Democratic National Convention.

The year did not pass without sadness. We said goodbye to Capt. Neal Taylor in March, and the July 1 loss of MAFFS 7 will always weigh heavily on us. We fondly remember Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, Maj. Joe McCormick, Maj. Ryan David and Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Cannon. All of these Airmen left us far too soon. Our hearts go out to their families while at the same time we give thanks that the survivors of the MAFFS 7 crash are on the road to recovery.

Now, we look forward to a prosperous 2013. While the challenges to our prosperity will be present, I am confident of our ultimate success. You will continue to support the needs of the nation abroad and the needs of the state at home because you are Always Ready to protect the lives and property of North Carolina's citizens as well as defend our country and secure its way of life. I am proud to serve with all of you as vital members of our Ready Team and look forward to successful missions in the future.



Maj. Gen. Greg Lusk  
The Adjutant General



Maj. Gen. Gregory Lusk  
NCNG Adjutant General





As I write this article I am preparing to step aside as the Commander of the 145th Airlift Wing. I have served in this position for 8 years and have seen the Wing go through many highs and lows. It has been my goal since I began in this position to make the Wing a place where people want to be. Through teamwork and effort of the entire base population we have seen a first class fitness facility rise from a former Army Vehicle maintenance facility; a track built to enable everyone the opportunity to practice towards their Air Force Fitness assessment goals and a "Gateway" created from our own Memorial Mall and a recently demilitarized C-130. All of this took a great deal of effort from every corner of the base and every Group. I believe these changes have made our base something to

***I have been honored to sit in the position of Wing Commander as a General Officer for the last year – it was, as they say "the icing on the cake."***

be very proud of, I hope that you feel the same as it is for you, our Citizen Airmen. Thank you for doing what you do, no matter what the job – you are important.

base who might never have met those killed and injured, reaching out and providing a hand, a thought, a prayer – helping wherever they could. That is what this Wing is about – helping one another and moving through what can't be moved aside. I know this Wing has the strength to get through anything and come out stronger on the other side. This will be no different. It is a "before and after" moment and not something we will ever forget and something that has changed us. But we will be stronger and we will continue to lift one another up just as we have been doing since July 1st.

I cannot deny that this year has been an extremely difficult year. It has been a year that has seen multiple long deployments to the AOR, an Ops Tempo that just doesn't seem to slow down, and the loss of far too many of our fellow Airmen. For the first time in our history we have suffered the loss of members while doing our mission and the loss of an aircraft. During this lowest point, I saw the Wing rally around the surviving families and the survivors of the crash of MAFFS 7. I saw members of the

I have been honored to sit in the position of Wing Commander as a General Officer for the last year – it was, as they say "the icing on the cake." I now am heading to our Joint Force Headquarters as a traditional guardsman and I look forward to this next chapter. I will continue to be an advocate for the Wing and provide whatever I can to each of you. I leave you in the capable and competent hands of Col. Roger Williams. I have personally known Roger for 20 years and I know he will continue the care and feeding of this great organization as we step into the next chapter, together.



*Brig. Gen. Tony E. McMillan, Commander of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard*

# 145th Airlift Wing Commander Pins on First Star

*By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs*

On October 2, 2011, the men and women of North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing gathered as the commander of the 145th Airlift Wing, Tony E. McMillan was promoted to the brigadier general rank. North Carolina's Adjutant General, Major General Gregory A. Lusk presided over the ceremony at the NCANG base.

General McMillan provides leadership and management to the assigned flying, logistics and support units that provide manpower, equipment and training to perform wartime missions and provide assistance to state and federal emergency management agencies in times of disaster. North Carolina Chief Deputy Secretary for Crime Control and Public Safety Gerald Rudisill said McMillan is held in high esteem across the country as a motivational and military leader. Through subordinate commanders McMillan plans, organizes, directs and controls the flying mission, maintenance and protection of assigned C130H aircraft, real property and assigned personnel.

According to Lusk, McMillan sits on several national boards that are key to the future, quality and effectiveness of the National Guard, adding "He's received a lot of national recognition for his accomplishments." Lusk added, "We've got the right guy in the right place at the right time."

Lusk continued that McMillan's leadership has made the NCANG "indispensable" to our nations' disaster preparedness." Joining the Guard in 1993, after ten years active duty that included service as a pilot instructor, he has commanded flying and operations units. He is a command pilot with over 5,000 hours of military flying time.

McMillan becomes the first NCANG Wing Commander who happens to hold the general officer rank since 1976. He assumed command of the 145th AW in December 2004.

"I really enjoy the job as wing commander," he said. Recognizing that he'll have additional state level duties, the general concluded, "It's great that I can maintain the position and continue to work with the same great people."



*Colonel Tony E. McMillan, Commander of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard, is pinned by sons Alexander and Cameron to Brigadier General, October 2, 2011 during his promotion ceremony held at the base in Charlotte, NC. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs*



*Tony E. McMillan, Commander of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard, addresses Airmen of 145th North Carolina Air National Guard for the first time as Brigadier General during his promotion ceremony held at the base on October 2, 2011. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs*



*October 2, 2011, Major General Gregory Lusk, The Adjutant General for North Carolina, promotes 145th Commander, Colonel Tony E. McMillan to the rank of Brigadier General during a ceremony held at the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard base in Charlotte, NC. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs*

*Members of the 145th Honor Guard unveil the One Star General flag during the promotion ceremony for Brigadier General Tony E. McMillan, Commander of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs*



*Brigadier General Tony E. McMillan, Commander of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard, address the audience of Airmen, friends and family during his promotion ceremony on October 2, 2011. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs*



*After being promoted to Brigadier General, 145th Commander Tony E. McMillan presents his wife Vickie McMillan a bouquet of flowers with recognition for her years of love and support throughout his military career as North Carolina Chief Deputy Secretary, Gerald Rudisill and son Alexander look on in celebration. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs*



## What a Year!

By: **Capt. Jeffrey Kidd**  
**Chaplain, 145th Combat Operations Group**

What a year we have had at the Wing! It seems we have experienced lots of highs and lows this year. Yet, we stand together and hopefully, stronger than ever! There are a few things we should mention as we review our year:

### Strong Bonds:

This year we were honored to provide three Strong Bonds events. In April we held a Family event at the Great Wolf Lodge with 19 couples and over 55 children. That event alone touched almost 100 people! We also held two other events at the Great Wolf Lodge in August... one for Couples (36 participants) and another event for Singles with 10 participants. In all we touched approximately 150 of our airmen and their families.

What a blessing to support our Airmen in such a way! And, we plan to hold more events next year so keep your eyes open for future announcements.

### Joint Chaplain Conference:

In August, many in our office traveled to Fort Fisher to join our Army counterparts for some wonderful training. This year our conference focused on ministry in a diverse environment. It was a blessing to meet and share



Capt. Jeffrey Kidd, Chaplain  
 145th North Carolina Air National Guard Combat Operations Group

how ministry is done by the Army and Air Guard. We learned how to better serve our troops and look forward to a productive new year!

### Grief:

Unfortunately, our Wing has suffered tremendous loss this year. We've lost close friends and colleagues. How can anyone forget MAFFS 7? We have cried together and supported each other more than ever before. It has been said that great trials forge great character; therefore, we press on but never forgetting. And with each step forward we honor the memory and professionalism of those we miss so dearly!

We are not over these losses and there is definitely a new norm. However, we are on the road to recovery and healing. As we continue the grieving process, may we encourage and support each other as never before. By leaning on one another and appreciating the value everyone brings to the mission, we will find new strength for the journey and hope on the horizon.

From the entire Chapel Staff, thank you for allowing us to serve you!

*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).*

## Safety Corner

# 2012 Wing Safety Office Review

By: **Lt. Col. Jeff Perryman**  
**145th Airlift Wing Chief of Safety**

The year of 2012 will be remembered in wing safety for one overshadowing event, the loss of MAFFS 7. The great tragedy of losing four of our brother airmen who were out fighting wildfires will always be with us as a unit and as individuals. We came together as a group, mourned our losses, honored our heroes, and will now move forward into the future. The healing process continues. Time will ease the hurt, but we will always feel the loss of our friends.

Other changes too are part of this year. The biggest for our office is that Senior Master Sgt. McGaha, "Sergeant Mac" to us all, is retiring. After a military career that began by being drafted into the Army, basic training at Fort Jackson, joining the NC Army National Guard, and finally winding up at the NCANG, "Mac" has been there and done that. He has served faithfully and selflessly. I know that he is one

of the most dedicated NCO's I have ever worked with in the service.

At a farewell luncheon we held in his honor, many times friends spoke of how McGaha was always there with a helping hand, a kind word, or making the extra effort to get the job done. He has deployed, inspected, ESOHCAMPed, ORied and mentored his way through a distinguished military career. We will miss him as part of our wing and I will miss working with him on a daily basis down in the office. The good news is that Mac won't be too far away, he has just been taken on as a new NC OSHA Compliance officer, working here in the Charlotte district. He will continue to use his safety expertise to keep others safe on their jobs around the region, and hopefully drop by now and then to keep in touch. Good luck and God Speed my friend.

As 2012 draws to a close and 2013 approaches, may we all start the New Year with renewed hope for the future, peace for our nation, and the comforting warmth of family and friends?



Lt. Col. Jeff Perryman  
 145th Airlift Wing Chief of Safety

## When Do We Know We Have Family and Team? From the Wing Director of Psychological Health

By: **Kristen Frankel**  
**Wing Director, Psychological Health**

July 1, 2012, at about 1830, MAFFS 7, a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped with a full load of fire retardant, went down in South Dakota



Three C-130 Hercules aircraft fly in formation at the final graveside of the four crewmen killed when their C-130 Hercules crashed while supporting a firefighting mission in South Dakota. The ships flew in with a rainbow at their tails that had formed brilliantly during a sun shower. This missing man formation is an aerial salute performed as part of a flyover of aircraft at a Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Cannons graveside service. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

killing the four flight deck crew and severely injuring both the Loads in the tail of the plane. What happened after that is a blur for everyone but the final result was a miracle of Family and Team traditionally considered being a hallmark of the National Guard.

Even while shock was still the primary stage, functioning went into high gear across the spread of the Wing and mission ready was the mindset. But how and what to do – that was the question. It had never happened before. How do we respond to the loss that swept away four Airmen and a special plane? Since inception of the MAFFS there has not been a loss of such a aircraft or crew.

It all started as people were called into the Wing in the middle of the night. As if uniforms pressed to the nines were always left lying around for such an occasion, the Service members presented ready in perfect appearance. They were the four notification teams with three members each.

One of the families had a three week old baby. There are about 1500 Airmen and women of the NCANG. Phone trees began calling as many as possible trying to cut down on people finding out the hard way. Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) and Chaplains were appointed. Mortuary Services notified and response teams activated.

The Wing Director of Psychological Health had to start putting together a Behavioral Health Traumatic Stress Response team. The medical component was already a part of the notification team. So were the Chaplains. The Red Cross was notified by both the WDPH and the Family Readiness Coordinator who was not only there himself but so was his civilian spouse, rolling up her sleeves and being part of the team. The WDPH also called the Vets Center. Therapists would stand by if needed. The Red Cross would be en route in the

morning with four volunteer clinicians and staff for food and water. They also brought some little stuffed ponies for any children who showed up, which they did. The Integrated Behavior Health System particular to North Carolina was on standby and would come to Charlotte if needed. More Team.

The night wove into morning unnoticed and the days passed unseen. The Red Cross stayed. Military Family Life Consultants were provided in what is known as a 'surge'.

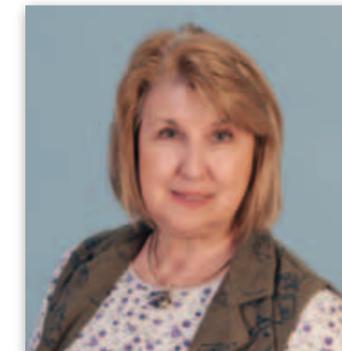
Teams formed. Checklists appeared.

One Commander is the brother of an injured loadmaster. Another just took command of her new unit that morning. A third was on her way to Raleigh to assume a new position. Forty five minutes out of Raleigh she got the call and turned around.

The WDPHs of three states were called, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota. Not only did the WDPH regions unite waiting for any request that came their way but two separate contracts acted as one to care for survivors as well as ground crew and the remaining MAFFS 8. State DPHs responded, Chaplains in the western states also responded. No one hung back. Team.

Planning events included a Memorial Service for the Wing as well as the visitations, funerals and graveside ceremonies for four Airmen who were known all over the Wing for their sense of camaraderie, family and mission. The Press had to be appropriately included. Families had to be cared for. Airmen had to be cared for. Two survivors and their families needed care. Who would care for the caretakers? An Honor Guard had to practice. Nothing could be less than perfect. Perfect Respect.

*continued on page 10*



Kristen Frankel, Wing Director Psychological Health



Members of the Honor Guard hold flags that will be presented to family members of Maj. Ryan David, who perished when the C-130 Hercules crashed while he and five other crewmembers were supporting firefighting missions in South Dakota. A burial with full military honors was held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Blowing Rock. These flags were folded 12 times and given to members of David's family as a bugler played taps, and a bagpiper played such tunes as "Amazing Grace" and "Goin' Home." Photo by Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs

# Environmental Management Systems 2nd Party Certification Received

By: Maj. Sam Ingram, 145th CE Environmental Coordinator  
 Photos by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs

During our March 2012, Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Assessment our Wing was recognized as auditors presented us with 2nd Party Certification on our Environmental Management System. What this basically meant was that the EMS was externally audited and found to be in conformance with the Air Force and Air National Guard EMS Standards.

There are sixteen program elements against which this program was evaluated and all passed to where we received the conformance certificate. Now while that is all fine and good you may still find yourself asking what is EMS? You may only relate it to 911 as in Emergency Management System during the need for a fire or medical response. However, for the Environmental Management System everything is based on management practices in sync with ISO 14001.

There are 16 program elements used to outline how our environmental programs are managed. It all starts with developing our Wing Environmental Commitment Statement, and from that point forward working toward continual improvement in programs designed to reduce our Significant Environmental Impacts.

All program documentation is stored within a Virtual Environmental Management Office hosted at the National Guard Bureau level. In our day to day role here at the Wing, we should all seek to do what we can to improve upon our environmental impacts.

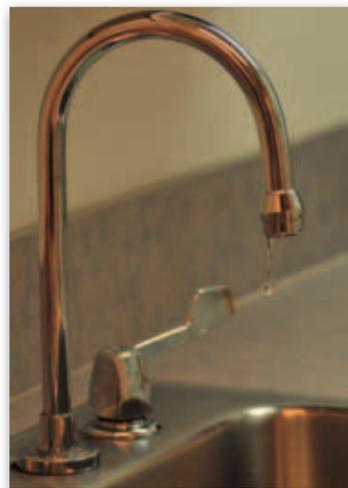
It all starts with EMS awareness training which is now located on ADLS. Once you are trained, look for ways in your shop or office area to minimize your environmental impact through actions such as preventing leaks, turning off lights when not in use, using an environmental friendly cleaning product, or walking on base versus driving.

This year we will take our environmental restoration program to a new level and actually begin what we hope will be the final cleanup of some previously contaminated soils from fuel leaks. It is all part of what we have come to know as a continual improvement cycle.

Take pride in the fact that you all had a part in the 2nd Party EMS Certification, and know that there is a strong commitment to environmental improvement. You practice this daily as you go about in the professional manner in which you do your jobs. Keep up the good work and know that you are appreciated for your efforts.



An Environmental Management System is a framework that helps agencies achieve environmental goals through consistent control of its operations. We can keep our base beautiful and environmentally friendly by minimizing our environmental impact through actions like...



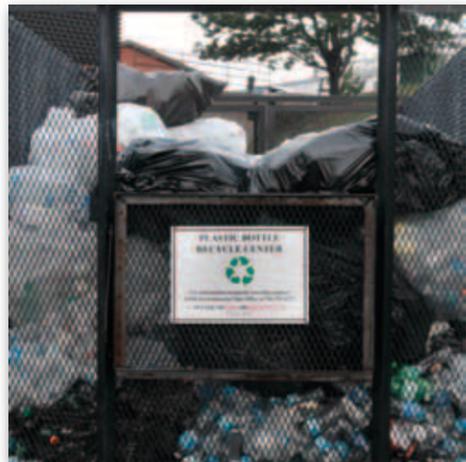
Turn off faucets, prevent leaks and conserve water.



Turn off lights when not in use.



Using sun-catching, energy producing photovoltaic panels for solar power marks the latest milestone for North Carolina Air National Guard



Recycling is practiced by members base wide by using various recycle bins specifically sorted by aluminum, glass, plastics, steel and cardboard. The recycling adds money to the local economy and keeps our base clean, a win-win for all.

# NCANG Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

Taking Care of our Deployers and Families

By: Phil Jonas  
 North Carolina Air National Guard  
 Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist

2012 proved to be a busy year for deploying members of the North Carolina Air National Guard. Whether deploying overseas or stateside, stressors are inevitable and undoubtedly offer a challenge for many.

Examples of these might be:

- How can my family and I manage our finances?
- What benefits am I entitled to when I return?
- Who will help my spouse look after our children?
- What about health and dental benefits?

These are just a few of the many issues our Service members encounter before, during, and after deployments. This is why the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program exists. This legislatively, mandated program provides information, services, referrals, and proactive outreach programs to Service Members and Families through all phases of the deployment cycle. We accomplish this through Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events, normally hosted at a venue outside the duty location.

With the majority the NCANG Airmen returning from deployment in 2012, four Yellow Ribbon events were offered to accommodate some 600 Service Members and Families. Events provided a unique opportunity to network with their unit and find support among peers. They also involved group sessions and afforded the chance to speak one-on-one with service providers, giving them immediate access to professionals to answer all relevant questions pertaining to deployments.

At each event, knowledgeable consultants from over twenty areas were represented to include Tricare, Veterans Affairs, Psychological & Behavior Services, Family Programs, State Transition Assistance Office, ESGR, and JAG assistance. In addition to this, Child & Youth Programs, offered by the Youth Extension Service & NCNG Child/Youth Program, provided excellent education to children about deployments and reintegration.

The Air National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program continues to have the total support and backing from the highest levels of command at the 145th Airlift Wing and North Carolina National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters. Taking care of our Airmen and Families is a priority of the program and will continue to support those who take care of our state and nation.



Phil Jonas, NCANG Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist, welcomes members from the Army and Air National Guard to the Yellow Ribbon Conference. Yellow Ribbon conferences provide unique opportunities for military members to network with their unit and find support among peers. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



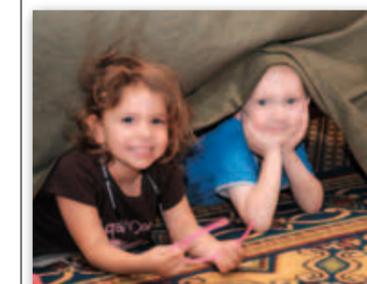
Sergeant Major Jim Lewis Marine Corp (ret) a representative for USAA is a true supporter of the North Carolina Air National Guard. He attends every Yellow Ribbon Conference to answer any questions or concerns that deploying airmen may have. Capt. Benny Ward, 145th MXS, and fellow airmen fill out paperwork so additional information sent to them. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



Maj. Rick Wright, 156th Airlift Squadron, son Alex and his two sisters enjoy a healthy breakfast while attending a Yellow Ribbon Conference. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



Maj. James Bodolosky, 156th Airlift Squadron, and his family register at a pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon conference. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



No matter what the age group, babies to teenagers, all who belong to members of the NCANG have a great time participating in the applicable activities while their parents attend informational meetings during Yellow Ribbon conferences. The seminar allows these children to take their minds off the impending deployments of their ANG parents, while making new friends who can relate to many of the same feelings they are having about the experience. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



# Family Readiness – All About Family, A True Team Effort

**By: Terry Henderson, Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager  
145th Force Support Squadron/FSF, N.C. Air National Guard**

For many defining Family Readiness and its mission may be difficult. Since coming into the Family Readiness office in mid February this year, my initial thoughts and opinion has changed tremendously. I can truly say after the last seven months, and the challenges that our base has dealt with; no single person is “Family Readiness”.

It begins at the individual unit level with its leadership team, as a minimum the Commander, First Sergeant, military and civilian volunteers with a sincere concern for, and commitment to, its members, their families and the mission.

It embraces the concept that a healthy and prepared member and family are essential for successful mission accomplishment. The eyes, ears and communication within our individual units are critical to identify and address those issues which interfere with both the mission and family readiness while also providing information necessary to assist members and their families that are experiencing difficult times or circumstances.

It has been a blessing over the last several months to see the outpouring of caring, love, and support our “Guard Family” has expressed to those families suffering hardship and loss. I can’t begin to thank the volunteers enough for their contributions and sacrifices to help our members and families in need, while also supporting the family readiness office as well.

I’ve often heard it said that “the easy part is deploying, the hard part is staying behind and keeping the family and household running.” The more I’ve thought about this the more I believe it’s more true than we realize. Deployed

members have most of their needs taken care of, while families left behind have not only to deal with the absence of a loved one, but also those tasks and activities that their loved one would take care of as well.

That being said, please ensure that as a member you’re taking care of your family, prepare for deployment, ensure that critical paperwork which entitle your family to valuable benefits are complete and up to date. Above all, if you need help, assistance and advice, come see us in the Family Readiness office, we’ll be glad to help.



*Terry Henderson addresses Army and Air National Guard members and their families attending a Yellow Ribbon conference held in Charlotte, N.C. As the Program Manager for the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard Family Readiness Program, Mr. Henderson provides vital information necessary to assist members and their families with any needs or concerns they may have. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs*



*Lt. Col. Chad Kickhaefer heads home with his family after returning from a four month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Family Readiness Program supports family members with any issues or concerns that may arise before, during and even after the member returns from deployments. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs*



*Senior Master Sgt. Michael Stanley, First Sergeant for the 145th Airlift Wing, helps register Staff Sgt. Francis Strother, 145 MXS Technician in the AGE shop and his wife Tsigie and children; Brian, Haileyesus and Nathan at a Yellow Ribbon Conference held in Charlotte, N.C. Sincere concern for the members, their families and the mission of the 145th Air National Guard is the commitment this 1st Shirt brings to the Family Readiness Program. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs*

## When Do We Know We Have Family and Team? (continued from page 7)

And we had to get all these people home. The crew, the maintainers, the lost Airmen, the amazing two survivors. Distinguished Visitors began their sad trips to Charlotte. Our own TAG, Assistant TAG and the Wing Commander went to every event, to hospitals, to families. The long retired returned to the Wing Family. And the Airmen all wanted to attend the Memorial.

Ready Team for the North Carolina Army National Guard. Sixty- six troops to stand in for the Airmen who needed to attend to their fallen. Historic formation of Air and Army standing together. Big Family.

West Virginia sent two C-130 Hercules aircraft for the flyover. Extended Family.

Our own Airmen took care of the graveside flyovers. Three C-130 Hercules aircraft flying the formation and at the final graveside, the ships flew in with a rainbow at their tails that had formed brilliantly during a sun shower. The Honor Guard performed as though they had been doing this for years at Arlington. Family Rituals.

So what is left? The processing of trauma and grief and watching out for those many who have said they have not yet had the time to grieve at all. The Honor Guard, The Public Affairs folks. Security Force. Force Support. Medical. The whole Wing.

That is what WDPHs are for through this whole experience. To watch on the flight line as the crews returned at midnight, to blend in at the Dignified Arrival of the KIA, to do dishes in the command post with the Red Cross, walk through unit shops to take a little pulse here and there and yup, get hugs, even from Generals. Debrief, and debrief again. Consult. Advise. And to listen very carefully to Chaplains, Administrators, Wingmen, Commanders, and FLOs who are all still exhausting themselves trying to be all things to all people.

What else is left? MAFFS is already up and away on the next mission. The Team drives on. The Family prevails.

# The NCANG Heritage Program is alive and well

**By: Lt. Col. David Thrams,  
145 Maintenance Squadron**

The North Carolina Air National Guard has had a Heritage Program for many years. Exactly how many years, I’m not sure because I don’t know the exact dates when we, the NCANG, setup an F-86 aircraft for display at Freedom Park, which is now long gone!

There are two parts to the Heritage Program. One part, called Airparks, is responsible for the

preservation of the Airpark is a combined effort between the 145th Civil Engineering Squadron preparing and maintaining the grounds and the 145th Maintenance Group preparing and maintaining the aircraft.

The second part of the Heritage Program is responsible for everything other than aerospace vehicles and is called Historical Holdings. We’ve been holding back on collecting items that fall into this Historical Holdings category but are now beginning to collect them!

If you have items tucked away, photos, negatives, video, or artifacts, and are ready for it to be part of our Heritage Program, contact me at 704-391-4339 or by email at [david.thrams@ang.af.mil](mailto:david.thrams@ang.af.mil) and I’ll make sure it becomes part of our Heritage program.

Also, if you have a photo or item that can help us tell a story about your unit, bring them in on any Thursday morning. We don’t need to keep it; we can scan or photograph it and usually return it the same day.

You can see some of the 2,000 photos already scanned and in the process of being identified at:

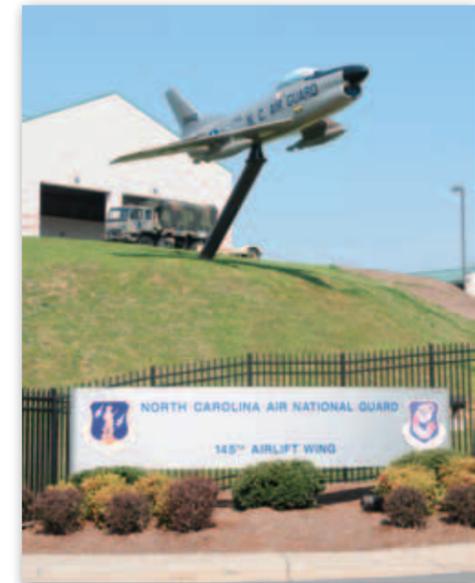
[www.facebook.com/NCANGHeritageProgram](http://www.facebook.com/NCANGHeritageProgram)

and a few videos being converted from tape to digital at our new YouTube Channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ncangheritageprogram>.

Thanks to a group of volunteers who stop by just about every Thursday to help make this happen. You can read about these volunteers in the Alumni Association article elsewhere in this base magazine.

It’s not too late to join us on Thursday and help. We still have several thousand, maybe tens of thousands, negatives, slides, and photos to go through!



*Visitors are greeted by a piece of history as they pass through the front gate to the North Carolina Air National Guard base in Charlotte, N.C. The vintage F-86 Sabre fighter jet was assigned to the NCANG in the 60’s. Airpark (a combined effort between the 145th Civil Engineering Squadron preparing and maintaining the grounds and the 145th Maintenance Group preparing and maintaining the aircraft) honorably raised the aircraft to its permanent location after months of restoration. Photo by TSgt. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs*



*C-45H aircraft flown by the North Carolina Air National Guard from 1955-1965.*



*A group of former members and retirees of the North Carolina Air National Guard meet on Thursday mornings to preserve our history by reviewing, scanning, and telling the stories behind these old photographs.*



*This engine cylinder is from a C-45H aircraft. The North Carolina Air National Guard flew C-45H aircraft from 1955-1965. Photo by TSgt. Sgt. Patricia Findley*

# NCANG Alumni Association

By: Lt. Col. David Thrams,  
145 Maintenance Squadron

Membership in the NCANG Alumni Association is open to any current or former military, civilian, or state employee (including their families) of the North Carolina Air National Guard. Membership is voluntary and there are no annual dues to pay. So join us and have some fun!

The purpose of the Association is to serve as a resource for the North Carolina Air National Guard and we are looking for ways to help the NCANG. One way we are helping is working to save our history! Volunteers meet Thursday mornings and go through photos, negatives, slides, and videos on our unit and scan, identify, and document them. Some of the photos and videos can be found on the media sites talked about later in this article. Take the time to go thru your old stuff, bring them to the base on a Thursday mornings and share your stories.

The Association also provides a way to stay in touch with old friends from the Guard. We also hold quarterly meetings on the base and all members are invited to attend.

One way to find out what's going on with the Association is to visit our web page at [www.NCANGalumni.org](http://www.NCANGalumni.org). We also have lots of photos you can see at our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/NCANGAlumniAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/NCANGAlumniAssociation) and you don't have to join Facebook. Additionally we just started a YouTube Channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/ncangheritageprogram>. Please visit this site to see some of our videos. If you don't use any of these social media, you can stay in touch by email at [ncangalum@gmail.com](mailto:ncangalum@gmail.com).

If you want to help preserve our history, call Lt. Col. Dave Thrams at (704) 391-4339, email [ncangalum@gmail.com](mailto:ncangalum@gmail.com), or let us know through Facebook.



Shown here is part of the team that helps on Thursday mornings to save our history in front of the Wing Memorial Monument. They are from left to right, Lt Col (ret) Bill Allen, Lt Col Dave Thrams, Col (ret) Al Rose, Lt Col (ret) Ralph Easterling, not pictured are Chief Master Sgt (ret) Bill Fish and Master Sgt (ret) Keith Dennis. Photo by Bill Allen



Master Sgt (ret) Keith Dennis is converting old video tapes to digital so the video can be viewed on social media. Photo by Lt. Col. Dave Thrams



Retirees from the 145th SFS enjoy each other's company at the NCANG Retiree Breakfast held Oct 2011. Photo by 145 Public Affairs

# The 145th NCANG Partners with Community Supporting SCHOOL TOOLS

Story and Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs

As schools in the Mecklenburg and its surrounding counties prepared to open for the fall semester, once again, the guard joins in support with WSOC-TV Channel 9 and their Family Focus Partners, Communities in Schools and Classroom Central.

All donations collected and distributed go to the children within the county they are collected from. In Mecklenburg County alone, more than half of all students are economically disadvantaged, so these donated school supplies will help those early learners who might otherwise have to show up on the first day of school empty handed.

"This is our sixteenth year of helping to provide logistics for this worthwhile program," "Last year over 45,000 young people benefited from our efforts." said Chief Master Sgt. Rick Hergenreter, who is part of the Guard's Drug Demand and Reduction Taskforce.

The guard's role is to provide trucks and workers to transport the donated school supplies from collection sites scattered throughout the region. After collecting the donated supplies from the supporting businesses the 145th ANG members then deliver the items to a non-profit agency called Classroom Central. From this warehouse, the free supplies are distributed to schools and teachers requesting them.

Sarah Porter, Director of Communications for Classroom Central praised the NCANG by stating, "School Tools is a monumental project that could not be accomplished without the North Carolina Air National Guard. More than 132,000 students benefit from the countless hours donated by members from the 145th Air National Guard based in Charlotte N.C. We are continually grateful for the many years of support that these guard men and women have provided the School Tools Campaign.

Thank you for giving children living in poverty, a chance to dream of a future that doesn't include going without."

Chief Master Sgt. Rick Hergenreter, NCNG Counter-Drug Task Force Civil Operations Program Manager, Army LTC Mark Hendrick, NCNG Counter Drug Coordinator, attend the kick off breakfast for the School Tools Campaign, spearheaded by WSOC-TV Channel 9 and their Family Focus Partners. Joining them are WSOC-TV and TV64 anchors Allison Latos and Peter Daut.



Staff Sgt. Paul Talbot, 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and Sarah Porter, Director of Communications for Classroom Central, sorts through a collection of backpacks that were donated by Sponsors for the 16th annual School Tools Campaign.



## STARBASE

By: Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs

All parents look to give their kids an edge in the world, some sort of advantage to ensure that they succeed. Luckily for our community, many students get that chance. Through the STARBASE program, the students participate in challenging "hands-on, mind-on" activities in aviation, science, technology, engineering, and math and space exploration. They interact with military personnel to explore careers and make connections with the "real world."

The curriculum is taught by certified instructors who use hands-on activities and state of the art technology to educate students. The goal is to motivate them to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math as they continue their education. The program encourages students to not only set goals but to achieve them as well. STARBASE also emphasizes teamwork and team building and looks to establish self-confidence in the participating students.

STARBASE is a premier educational program, funded by the Department of Defense and sponsored by the NC Air National Guard based at the 145th Airlift Wing at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. The program was founded in 1989 and expanded to the state of North Carolina in 1993. Since this inception almost two decades ago, the North Carolina National Guard has reached out to more than 21,000 North Carolina students.

Maj. Joseph McCormick, an instructor pilot in the 156th Airlift Squadron and Capt. Jeffrey Kidd, Chaplain for the 145th Combat Operations Group stand proudly with students of STARBASE Camp Flight 1540 on the Air National Guard base in Charlotte, N.C. Maj. McCormick and Chaplain Kidd gave the students a hands-on-tour of a NCANG C-130 Hercules aircraft. Chaplain Kidd enthusiastically said, "We had such a great time spending the afternoon with these kids. They were really engaged and eager to learn as much as they could about the aircraft and the actual flying mission of the Guard. I know they had a great time too just by how excitedly they asked all their questions!"



# No Pets Left Behind

Story and Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs

On Wednesday, April 18, 2012, a multi-agency exercise took place at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police & Fire Training Academy. This exercise simulated what type of decontamination will take place for companion pets and their owners if they come in contact with hazardous substances. October 6, 2006, following Hurricane Katrina, President Bush signed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act into law to protect companion animals from being separated from their owners in the event of a natural disaster or emergency situation. Many families refused to leave their pets behind and some perished because of that decision.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Animal Care & Control, along with Charlotte Fire, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management, Catawba County Emergency Management, Lincoln County Emergency Management, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, North Carolina Public Health, North Carolina Emergency Management and assistance from the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard worked together to develop a standard for dealing with all-hazards animal decontamination. This exercise was the first of its type to be completely vetted in an operational exercise.

"We like to think outside the box. We certainly have a lot of resources here in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and actually in the area," said Michael Tobin with Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Emergency Management. "We have a lot of resources in the region and we can certainly put this thing on and it's always nice to be first out of the box."

Other agencies who helped out immeasurably were members of the 145th Airlift Wing based in Charlotte, N.C.

"The North Carolina Air National Guard has been a wonderful support team for several projects that I have been assigned over the past year." Tracey Kichhofer, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police department- Animal Care & Control Enforcement Supervisor praised the members of the NCANG, "They have been willing to assist me and my team with equipment and insight at a moment's notice. I feel very fortunate to have the support of this amazing group of people and look forward to working with them on projects in the future."

After many disasters, some animals cannot be returned to their owners because of contamination, some as a result from being in and drinking raw sewage. But because of the PETS Act, agencies developed a standard for dealing with all-hazards and animal decontamination. Now families fleeing disasters, most recently Hurricane Isaac, should no longer be faced with the dilemma of leaving their four legged "family" members behind.

▼ This poor pup was volunteered to act as a contaminated pet. Shivering in a simulated decontamination tent, he braves being washed and scrubbed down as his owner goes through the same ordeal in a tent nearby. This exercise is all part of the "No Pet Left Behind" program.



▶ An employee from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Animal Care & Control, volunteers as a victim who has been contaminated along with her pet as they go through the decontamination process, first by being pressure washed with powerful spray coming out of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg fire truck, then being screened for any remaining contamination with a metal detector wand.



▶ Master Sgt. Kenneth Hanna, 145th CE and Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Jacobsen 145th CE-Emergency Management Superintendent wait with a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Animal Care & Control Center for the first owner and their pet to go through the decontamination station as part of the multi-agency decontamination and hazardous exercise held April 18, 2012, Charlotte, N.C.



▶ Participating in a simulated decontamination exercise a Mecklenburg County employee and his pet go through a decontamination wash together. This pet actually acts like he enjoys it! In real disasters, this training will prepare emergency teams to evacuate pet owners and their domestic pets to a safe haven and handle any emergency that they may need.



# Carolina Airmen Participate in Fire Fighting Certifications

By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs

Greenville, S.C. – More than 100 members of North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing took part in a recent Modular Aerial Fire Fighting System annual re-certification exercise here.

The week-long exercise ensured seasoned and novice aircrew members including military C-130 pilots, lead plane pilots, ground crewmembers, and U.S. Forest Service officials are kept up on standards, procedures, and operational modifications since the last wild fire season. Forest Service MAFFS support specialists and aviators, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs and North Carolina Forest Service personnel are leading the training.

In recent years the National Interagency Fire Center, headquartered in Boise, ID, has combined military units with USFS and state forestry fire protection services to supplement commercial efforts in the annual struggle to contain fires.

Contour flying from levels that can be at or below 200 feet, air crews face some of the most daunting skill tests they'll see in their careers, maneuvering through valleys and ridges, ravines and thermals, dropping up to 3,000 gallons of retardant each flight to help preserve lives, livelihoods, ecosystems and habitats.

The NCANG unit now uses the new technology MAFFS II unit, with a big impact on retardant drop effectiveness and integration of military units in aerial firefighting. MAFFS II uses a series of tanks loaded in a C-130 aircraft with fire retardant, then pressurized. The MAFFS II delivery system uses a permanently fixed nozzle to push the retardant quickly, in tight, concentrated patterns wherever it is needed on the ground. The nozzle allows for accurate drops, but also cleaner distribution from the aircraft.

"We are able to drop portions, or all of our load [of fire retardant] which allows the [firefighters] on the ground to use [air drops] more effectively," according to Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, aircraft commander of MAFFS 7 of the N.C. Air National Guard.

NCANG MAFFS crews flew a total of 48 sorties per day through the week. They were supported by maintenance teams of 8-9 people per aircraft, turning it around with precision, ready for the next flight in about 12 minutes.

The event is among four held for members of the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group, responsible for the nation's contingency wildfire fighting mission and comprised of the 145th AW, 146th AW from Channel Islands, Calif., 153rd AW hailing from Cheyenne, Wyo. and the Air Force Reserve's 302nd AW out of Colorado Springs, Colo. Over the last 10 years, military C-130s equipped with MAFFS systems have dropped approximately 9.1 million gallons of retardant on wildfires, an average of about 910,000 gallons per year.

Members of the 145th ANG and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service work side by side in the command post during MAFFS training in Greenville, S.C. Chief Master Sgt. Andy Huneycutt stands by for next launch orders. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs

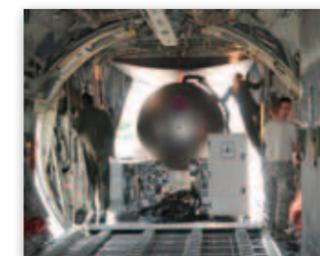
Tech. Sgt. Josh Marlowe, loadmaster for the 156th Airlift Squadron, looks over the MAFFS unit as he prepares to take off on a training mission. With the new MAFFS unit the cargo ramp and door can remain closed, cutting drag considerably, and thereby allowing a greater performance margin than available with old MAFFS unit. It also allows the aircraft to remain pressurized during the drop sequence. The loadmasters that operate the system don't get the fire retardant sprayed all over them and most importantly, is considerably much safer. Photo by 156th Airlift Squadron



Master Sgt. David Lee and Senior Master Sgt. Philip Smith, loadmasters for the 156th Airlift Squadron, finish inserting the nozzle of the MAFFS unit into aircrew exit door of a NCANG C-130 Hercules aircraft prior to leaving for MAFFS training. The nozzles, instead of exiting out the rear loading dock, are routed through this sealed portal (a modified paratrooper door) on the plane's left side. This makes it possible for the plane to be pressurized; in addition, the crew and the rear door will no longer be soaked by the retardant. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



MAFFS 8, a C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System returns from a training mission while MAFFS 7 and her crew take off to conduct training by dropping water on target sites on National Forests in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Military pilots from the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard participated in the annual training in the Carolinas that enables them to assist with wildland firefighting when needed. The National Forests in North Carolina co-hosted the annual MAFFS training in May 2012, at the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center (aka Donaldson Center Industrial Air Park) in Greenville, S.C. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



Members of the 156th Airlift and 145th Maintenance Squadron, NCANG, insert the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, a portable fire retardant delivery systems, into the back of MAFFS 8 to convert the C-130 Hercules aircraft into an air tanker. Military C-130s equipped with MAFFS systems can drop up to 3,000 gallons of water on wildfires. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, instructor pilot with 156th Airlift Squadron and MAFFS Mission coordinator for the 145th Airlift Wing, NCANG stands by to be interviewed by local media during a weeklong training exercise held in Greenville S.C. May 2012. Photo by John Nichols, Forest Service Public Affairs

MAFFS 7, a C-130 Hercules aircraft and her six man crew from NCANG, drop water (simulating fire retardant) during firefighting training operations over a remote portion of the Pisgah Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest.



# Fallen Airmen Announced

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Four airmen died and two others were seriously injured when a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped C-130 belonging to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard, based here, crashed Sunday evening while fighting a woodland fire in Southwestern South Dakota.

Dead are Lt. Col. Paul K. Mikeal (pronounced like michael), 42, of Mooresville, N.C.; Maj. Joseph M. McCormick, 36, of Belmont, N.C.; Maj. Ryan S. David (pronounced da-veed), 35, of Boone, N.C.; Senior Master Sgt. Robert S. Cannon, 50, of Charlotte.

“Words can’t express how much we feel the loss of these Airmen,” said Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan, 145 AW Commander. “Our prayers are with their families, as well as our injured brothers as they recover.”

Mikeal was assigned to the 156th Airlift Squadron as an evaluator pilot and had more than 20 years of service. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

McCormick was an instructor pilot and chief of training for the 156th Airlift Squadron. He was married with four children.

David was an experienced navigator and was also assigned to the 156th. He joined the North Carolina Air National Guard in 2011 after prior service in the active-duty U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife and one child.

Cannon had more than 29 years with the Charlotte unit and was a flight engineer with the 145th Operations Support Flight. He was married with two children.

The names of the injured will not be released. Both of the injured airmen remain hospitalized.

The crew and its aircraft along with two other 145th C-130s and three dozen airmen flew from Charlotte to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., Saturday to assist with fighting forest fires in the Rocky Mountain region. They were due to move to a base in Cheyenne, Wyo., on Monday. The crash occurred around 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time near Edgemont, S.D., as the crew assisted with battling what is being called the White Draw fire. The cause of the crash is unknown and is under investigation.

North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue declared that flags be flown at half staff today and President Obama expressed condolences honoring the dead airmen.

“The support of civil authorities during natural disasters is a key and unique mission of the National Guard,” said Army Maj. Gen. Gregory Lusk, the adjutant general of North Carolina National Guard “The MAFFS mission is probably one of the seminal missions of the Air National



Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal



Maj. Joe McCormick



Maj. Ryan David



SMSgt. Robbie Cannon

Guard, representing interagency coordination between the Guard and the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense organizations to suppress the fires.”

MAFFS is a joint Department of Defense and U.S. Forest Service program designed to provide additional aerial firefighting resources when commercial and private air tankers are no longer able to meet the needs of the forest service.

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 5 seconds, covering an area one-quarter of a mile long by 100 feet wide. Retardant is discharged along the leading edge of a fire while water can be dropped directly on the flames. Once the load is discharged, it can be refilled in less than 12 minutes.

According to Forest Service records, the agency has been working with the North Carolina Air National Guard on fire suppression missions since the early 1970s.

# The Crash



A North Carolina-based Air National Guard cargo plane crashed in the southwest corner of South Dakota, July 1, 2012. The aircraft had been dropping flame retardant to aid the fire fighting missions against the White Draw Fire. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Anania Tekurio/Released)

Aerial view of the crash site of a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped C-130 in the southwest corner of South Dakota, July 1, 2012. The aircraft was aiding the fire fighting missions against the White Draw Fire. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Anania Tekurio/Released)



An Air Force Cargo plane crashed while fighting the White Draw wildfire near Edgemont, S.D., July 1, 2012. The aircraft had been dropping retardant on the 6.5 square-mile fire. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Anania Tekurio/Released)

A North Carolina Air National Guard Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped C-130 aircraft crashed in the southwest corner of South Dakota, July 1, 2012. The aircraft was aiding the fire fighting missions against the White Draw Fire. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Anania Tekurio/Released)



# MAFFS 7

1 JULY 2012

*In Remembrance of Our Citizen Airmen*

LT. COL. PAUL K. MIKEAL ▪ MAJ. JOSEPH M. MCCORMICK ▪ MAJ. RYAN S. DAVID ▪ SMSGT. ROBERT S. CANNON

# God Speed Your Recovery You've Been Missed!

Chief Master Sgt. Andy Huneycutt and Tech. Sgt. Josh Marlowe, loadmasters for the 156th Airlift Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard are transitioning back to life at home as the only survivors of MAFFS 7. Four of their fellow airmen died and Huneycutt and Marlowe were seriously injured when their Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped C-130 crashed Sunday, July 1, 2012 while fighting a woodland fire in Southwestern South Dakota.



# Memorial Service Honors Fallen Airmen

*Story By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins  
Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen  
145th Public Affairs*

Airmen gathered Tuesday July 10, 2012, joined by Air Force General Raymond Johns, USAF Air Mobility Commander, who led support by military leaders and fellow airmen from around the country, community leaders and supporters to mourn the loss of four airmen who died when a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped C-130 belonging to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard crashed Sunday, July 1, while fighting a woodland fire in Southwestern South Dakota.

North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue led the tributes during a memorial service for Lt. Col. Paul K. Mikeal of Mooresville, N.C., Maj. Joseph M. McCormick, of Belmont, N.C., Maj. Ryan S. David, of Boone, N.C. and Senior Master Sgt. Robert S. Cannon, of Charlotte. Declaring that the men are heroes, she reminded the audience of about 1100 attendees that included crews from other MAFFS partners in Cheyenne, Wyo., Colorado Springs, Colo., and Channel Islands, Calif. that they knew the risks and the rewards.

"They did it for their families. They did it for me, for you, and for the state and this nation," Perdue stated. Recognizing the valiant protection all of our service men and women have volunteered to provide, she continued, saying "Unfairly, they don't always come back. Today, we remember and honor them."

The simple military ceremony featured airmen closest to the departed who shared their most memorable qualities. Lt. Col. Jim Pearson said Lt. Col. Mikeal "exuded excellence in everything he did." Adding that Mikeal "inspired me to be a better aviator who lived life in the moment." Pearson related that his friend was passionate, with a calming spirit.

Maj. James Bodolosky said Maj. McCormick was the most honorable man, whose word was his

life. Bodolosky explained that McCormick could find something positive in every situation. About his family, Bodolosky said McCormick was totally in love with his wife and thought she was the most beautiful woman he'd ever seen. He added that he was in love with their newborn (one month old at the service) daughter long before he ever met her.

Maj. Toshio Sameshima declared that Major Ryan David's spirit was always positive. He said, "You could always count on Ryan's continuous smile and a laugh." With a more reverent tone he added that thinking of Major David's character would "remind me of how I should live life — as if there were no bad days."

When work was done, 1st Lt. Mike Nix said Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Cannon went right home to spend time with his family. He said that for Cannon, his brother-in-law, "business was business and family was family. He loved his family."

All four individuals' stories seemed connected by a common thread. They died doing what they loved. Following the service a second ceremony was held, with a military fly-over, to retire the aircraft, last known with the call sign "MAFFS-7."

The crew and its aircraft, along with two other 145th C-130s and three dozen airmen, flew from Charlotte to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., Saturday, June 30, 2012 to assist with fighting forest fires in the Rocky Mountain region. The crash, the first in MAFFS history, occurred around 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time near Edgemont, S.D., as the crew assisted with battling what is being called the White Draw fire. Two other airmen remain hospitalized, recovering from injuries sustained in the crash.

Representing 9.6 million grateful citizens of North Carolina, Gov. Perdue presented the widows of the fallen "Sons of North Carolina" with flags that had flown over the state capitol, embracing each one as she greeted them.



A five-person U.S. Forest Service honor guard, with members drawn from as far away as California, marched with an honor guard unit from the 145th Airlift Wing, the unit that operated the C-130 sent West last month to help battle wildfires in an unusually dry fire season.



North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue accompanied by her husband Bob Eaves, Maj. Gen. Gregory A. Lusk, The Adjutant General, North Carolina National Guard, Brig. Gen. Todd D. Kelly, assistant adjutant general for Air, North Carolina National Guard, Col. Tony E. McMillan, Commander of the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard, and Lt. Col. Joel Yow, Chaplain of the 145th Airlift Wing leave the second ceremony held at the Gateway Memorial site, after viewing a military fly-over, to retire the aircraft, last known with the call sign "MAFFS-7." Gov. Perdue led the tributes during a memorial service held before this ceremony, honoring the four fallen airmen from the North Carolina Air National Guard who died, July 1, 2012, while fighting forest fires from a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting (MAFFS) equipped C-130H aircraft in southwestern South Dakota.



Photos of Lt. Col. Paul K. Mikeal, Maj. Joseph M. McCormick, Maj. Ryan S. David, and Senior Master Sgt. Robert S. Cannon are displayed during the 145th Airlift Wing's memorial service honoring four fallen airmen who died, July 1, 2012, while fighting forest fires from a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting (MAFFS) equipped C-130H aircraft in southwestern South Dakota.



Airmen of the 145th Airlift Wing render their salute during the 145th Airlift Wing's memorial service honoring the four fallen NCANG airmen who died, July 1, 2012, while fighting forest fires from a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting (MAFFS) equipped C-130H aircraft in southwestern South Dakota.



The Charlotte Fire Department Pipes and Drum Band performs "Amazing Grace" during the memorial honoring the four fallen NCANG airmen who died, July 1, 2012, while fighting forest fires from a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting (MAFFS) equipped C-130H aircraft in southwestern South Dakota.



# North Carolina Guard Brings Heroes Home

By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs

Tears fell, heads bowed and hands were raised in salute as the 145th Airlift Wing Honor Guard completed the dignified transfer home of four fallen airmen today at the Charlotte Air National Guard base around 2 p.m. July 11. A television helicopter hovered in the distant sky, the clicking-whir of its rotor blades the only sound on the somber tarmac, while men and women belonging to the 145th stood in formation at the foot of the Hercules C-130 aircraft used to transport Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, Maj. Joe McCormick, Maj. Ryan David and Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Cannon. The Airmen died July 1 when their Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped C-130 crashed while fighting a woodland fire in Southwestern South Dakota.

North Carolina Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Greg Lusk led the contingent of Guardsmen in a single-file parade to the aircraft after it taxied in. Lusk and Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. D. Todd Kelly met 145 AW Commander Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan to lead the unit in receiving its fallen airmen, forming up to face their



Marching slowly down the ramp four times in front of the families and the family of the 145 Airlift Wing, the honor guard carried Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, Maj. Joe McCormick, Maj. Ryan David and Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Cannon to their corresponding hearse. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

the airplane ramp, onto the tarmac and into awaiting hearses, accompanied by special escorts for each of the fallen airmen.

Marching slowly down the ramp four times, the honor guard carried the airmen to an opened hearse. Moving two by two they would ease the coffin into the hearse. Salutes were drawn each time as the guard retreated from the vehicle. They returned to position in front of the ramp and awaited a signal to retrieve the next coffin. Cannon was removed last from the aircraft. Upon loading his coffin into the hearse the guard returned to position, performed an about face and slowly, precisely saluted the vehicles. As they lowered their salutes, the vehicles drove off, the families returned to their buses to leave and the guard led the 145th in a march away from the aircraft. With a crisp, concerted and fluid action the unit bid them farewell.



Hands raised in salute as the 145th Airlift Wing Honor Guard completed the dignified transfer home of our four fallen airmen at the Charlotte Air National Guard base on July 11, 2012. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

family members, waiting for the honor guard to retreat from the plane, carrying their loved ones to a corresponding hearse.

A stoic Lt. Col. Brian Ratchford flew the airmen home from Dover Air Force Base, where they were prepared for return, saying "it was an honor to fly them back on their last flight." The contingent from Charlotte flew to Dover this morning and Gen. McMillan was met there by Maj. Gen. Francis D. Vavala, Delaware Adjutant General and a delegation of Delaware National Guardsmen who were there to offer support and comfort to the North Carolinians. Ratchford, who served as commander on the South Dakota MAFFS mission added that the transfer to the North Carolina aircraft at Dover had been exceptionally professional and replete with respect and honor.

Families, who'd been brought to the aircraft by military buses, looked on in solemn silence, some weeping, others stood still as the American flag-draped coffins passed down



Members of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard stood in formation on the somber tarmac at the foot of the Hercules C-130 aircraft used to transport its fallen airmen back home. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs

# Healing and Possible Closure Community Support Outstanding

Community response, both locally and nationally to the deaths of four airmen who died and two others who were seriously injured when a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipped C-130 belonging to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard, based here, crashed Sunday while fighting a woodland fire in Southwestern South Dakota has been unbelievable.

Tributes received for Lt. Col. Paul K. Mikeal of Mooresville, N.C., Maj. Joseph M. McCormick, of Belmont, N.C., Maj. Ryan S. David, of Boone, N.C. and Senior Master Sgt. Robert S. Cannon, of Charlotte have been numerous and varied.

"We're working hard to track all donations and calls wanting to help and assist," according to Terry Henderson of the 145 AW's Family Readiness Center. Henderson continued, saying, "We've developed a "Resource Roster" so

that as we are informed of family needs or concerns we can respond quickly. Henderson said donations have already been made of offers to provide meals, keep up lawns, provide gift cards, and donations to memorial funds. Information regarding donations or memorials is available through the 145th Airlift Wing, Airman & Family Readiness at telephone number (704) 398-4949.

The crew and its aircraft along with two other 145th C-130s and three dozen airmen flew from Charlotte to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., Saturday, June 30, to assist with fighting forest fires in the Rocky Mountain region. The crash occurred Sunday, July 1; around 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time near Edgemont, S.D., as the crew assisted with battling what is being called the White Draw fire.



Photo by Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The outpouring of love and support for the crew members and families of MAFFS 7 was visible from the main road as day by day the flowers and tributes for our fallen airmen were placed at the fence line that surrounds the base of the North Carolina Air National Guard in Charlotte N.C. There has been a tremendous response from the local community which then spread nationally, and is still ongoing. Photos that were taken of MAFFS 7 and her crew before their last mission, were sent by other members of the Air National Guard family from other states in remembrance of our fallen heroes. Hundreds of Patriot Guard members rode in a sea of motorcycles giving their unwavering respect at each and every memorial service. For the military family of the 145th Airlift Wing; we are all humbled and grateful.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



# Healing and Possibly Some Closure

By: Col. Marshall Collins, 145th MXG Commander

In the week following the aircraft accident of 1 July 2012, and following the Memorial Service at the “Gateway”, the Memorial Park at the North Carolina Air National Guard, I was asked by Master Sergeant Derek Hastings if it would be possible to get a piece of wreckage from aircraft 93-1458. At that time I told him that due to the ongoing investigation and rules concerning the remains of aircraft involved in an accident; I did not expect that to be possible anytime soon.

Earlier in the week of August 30, I was contacted by the 145th Airlift Wing Commander, Brigadier General Tony McMillan and asked to come to his office. Upon my arrival he told me that he had come into possession of a unique item. When he showed it to me I was a bit taken aback and a little emotional, as it was the Aircraft Identification Plate for aircraft 93-1458, given to him by the Safety Investigation Board accident investigators. He wanted to present this to the 145th Maintenance Group for safe keeping until such a time as an honorable and suitable venue could be constructed in the vicinity of the “Gateway.”

At that time I mentioned to him that I thought it would be a better idea if he were to present it to the Maintenance Group. Following this I developed a plan for him to present the Aircraft Identification Plate to members of the Maintenance Group and suggested that he present it to four individuals, Lieutenant Colonel Allan Cecil, the full-time Production Officer in Charge, Chief Master Sergeant Scott Brawley, the first crew chief of 458 (1994-1998), Master Sergeant Eddie Scott, the second crew chief of 458 (1998-2006), and Master Sergeant Derek Hastings, the present crew chief of 458 (2006-present). Due to leave schedules Master Sergeant Derek Hastings was unable to attend the presentation. I approached Brigadier General McMillan with this plan and he agreed. On 30 August 2012, General McMillan presented the 145th Maintenance Group with the Aircraft Identification Plate of aircraft 93-1458, in front of an audience of maintainers, operators, and support personnel.

“I was very proud and honored,” stated Chief Master Sgt. Brawley, “To be a part of the presentation of the Identification Plate from aircraft 93-1458. Being the Crew Chief that picked 458 up from Lockheed in August 1994, this was especially sentimental to me. This has been and will continue to be a very difficult event to deal with, the loss of friends and an aircraft. But having this plate to remember the crew and aircraft by and being able to display it in their memory will be an honor for me.”

While the aircraft identification plate is simply a piece of metal that is a literal certification of an aircraft’s airworthiness, to maintainers and aviators it represents the birth certificate of this aircraft. Now, like the men who flew this aircraft and perished, it’s as if 93-1458 has come home to its final resting place.

For many, this was an emotional event, and for others it provided some comfort, healing, and possible closure.

*Chief Master Sgt. Scott Brawley emotionally holds the Aircraft Identification Plate from aircraft 93-1458, the North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 Hercules that crashed on July 1, 2012, killing four and injuring two of the crewmembers while supporting firefighting efforts in South Dakota. Brawley, the first crew chief of 93-458 (1994-1998) was also the Crew Chief that picked 458 up from Lockheed in August 1994. Reflecting on the moment is Master Sgt. Eddie Scott the second crew chief for MAFFS 7 aircraft (1998-2006). Scott, along with members of the 145th Maintenance Group will proudly safeguard the plate until such a time as an honorable and suitable venue can be constructed in the vicinity of the “Gateway” memorial site on the base. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs*



*On August 30, 2012, Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan, Commander of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard, Charlotte N.C. presented the 145th Maintenance Group with the Aircraft Identification Plate from the C-130 Hercules aircraft 93-1458, which crashed on July 1 2012, killing four and injuring two of the crewmembers while supporting firefighting efforts in South Dakota. The presentation was witness by an audience of maintainers, operators, and support personnel. Accepting the ID Plate for the squadron were three individuals, Lt. Col. Allan Cecil, the full-time Production Officer in Charge, Chief Master Sgt. Scott Brawley, the first crew chief of 458 (1994-1998) and Master Sgt. Eddie Scott, the second crew chief of 458 (1998-2006). Master Sgt. Derek Hastings, the present crew chief of 458 (2006-present) was not available to attend the presentation. This was an emotional event for many, and for others it provided some comfort, healing, and possible closure. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs*



*During a presentation held on August 30, 2012, Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan, Commander of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard, Charlotte N.C. describes the meaning and significance as he presents the 145th Maintenance Group with the Aircraft Identification Plate from the C-130 Hercules aircraft 93-1458, which crashed on July 1, 2012, killing four and injuring two of the crewmembers while supporting firefighting efforts in South Dakota. While the aircraft identification plate is simply a piece of metal it is a literal certification of an aircraft’s airworthiness, to maintainers and aviators, it represents the birth certificate of this aircraft. For many here for the presentation, like the men who flew this aircraft and perished, it’s as if 93-1458 has come home to its final resting place. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs*



# Air Guard Unit Rebounds from Fatal Mishap 145th Airlift Wing Re-Launches Wildfire Fighting Mission

By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs

Although they tried to make it a routine day, North Carolina Air National Guard aircrew kept running into reminders it was not a routine day. The crew was leaving for the Sacramento, Calif. area to help extinguish the many wildfires rampaging through the region. They were to be part of the operation known as MAFFS, for the U.S. Forest Service Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System their C-130 Hercules aircraft would carry, to drop fire retardant from the sky.

That part was routine. The NCANG has played a role in providing aerial support to fight fires across the country every year since the early 1970s. It is peculiar to National Guard units in that way. Many hold a perception that the Guard is a supplemental force to America’s military defense, waiting to fulfill a mission when disaster strikes in their state. For North Carolinians, as with Guardsmen from Colorado, California and Wyoming, the unit has a proud, storied history of protecting American lives and property from the devastation caused by fire, year in and year out.

But on this day there was more. Media haunted the base, and it seemed more people; friends were around to bid them farewell, many offering advice of extra caution for care or a special awareness. The chaplain even showed up on the plane for a special prayer. So, as much as they tried to treat August 13 as just another day they would embark on the next MAFFS mission, the crew was reminded at every turn that this was the first MAFFS mission the unit had undertaken since a critical incident six weeks earlier.

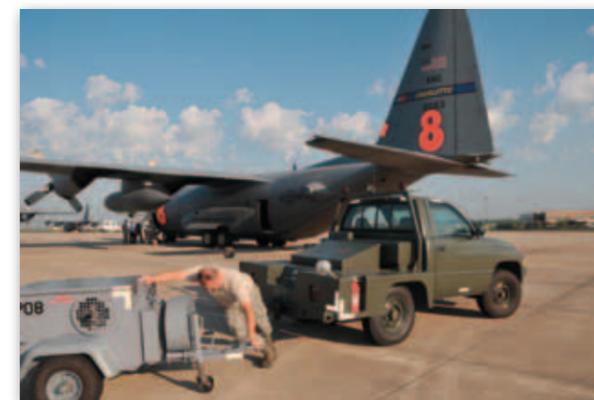
So, after the special farewells and the media hoopla were over, they were off, destined to rendezvous with other MAFFS assigned aircraft at McClellan Air Base, near Sacramento, Calif. The North Carolina-based crews of the 145th Airlift Wing had been restricted from the fire-fighting missions as a precautionary measure following the accident, to allow for reflection and to regain composure from the shocking effect of the tragedy.

Many needed the time for reconstitution: the incident had challenged the core of their essence. Some spoke to their spouses about their concerns and feelings. Others were glad to have the ear of a chaplain. Some have braved the treacherous trail of healing alone. They know help is there if needed. But for now they have elected to answer their own questions.

They were greeted warmly upon arrival by many seasoned MAFFS friends, including MAFFS mission Commander Lt. Col. Bryan Allen, who said he spoke



*Chief Master Sgt. William R. Harper, a Chief Flight Engineer in the 156th Airlift Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard, gets a little help loading his flight gear from Capt. Jeff Kidd, Chaplain, 145th Airlift Wing as he prepares to start his pre-flight inspection onboard a C-130 Hercules cargo plane, MAFFS 8. The North Carolina Air National Guard’s 145th Airlift Wing return to flying Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission, six weeks after four of the unit’s Airmen were killed in a C-130 crash during a fire fighting mission in South Dakota. The MAFFS 8 departure signifies the North Carolina Air National Guard return to our nation’s fire fighting mission. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs*



*Technical Sgt. Robert “Wayne” Craft, an Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) Craftsman in the 145th Maintenance Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard, drops off a MC20 air compressor to C-130 Hercules cargo plane, MAFFS 8, in preparation for deploying to support the U.S. Forest Service’s wild land firefighting mission from McClellan Airfield near Sacramento, Calif. The 145th Airlift Wing return to flying MAFFS (Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System) mission, six weeks after four of the unit’s Airmen were killed in a C-130 crash during a fire fighting mission in South Dakota. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs*

for the group as he enthusiastically welcomed the group back to the fold. Later, the next morning, during a morning briefing for the collective MAFFS team, Allen echoed the words Lt. Col. Harkey had given his crew prior to their leaving Charlotte: “take your time, be methodical, think things through. Be safe and follow your manuals.”

It wouldn’t be too difficult for them to do. Most had resolved for themselves the reality that the crash had been the first incident in the operation’s 40 year history; and that they and their co-workers were good at what they did; things happen.

They continued to carry complete confidence in their teammates’ abilities to prepare and fly the aircraft. But, crew members said the intellectual struggle to accept what happened in the same attitude as losing a comrade on the battlefield was tough. For some it is a difficult proposition because that wasn’t the deal for this type of mission. Even though they knew the risks and remained wary of the hazards, they’d found comfort in the misconception that, ‘you always came back.’ Now their dedication to the mission has been hardened by the reality that sometimes, you don’t.

They keep that in mind now, with the knowledge of the incredible value the mission has for affected citizens, and they remember the value placed on the mission by their fallen brethren. Their increased determination to complete the mission has replaced the false sense of security. According to Lt. Col. Harkey, “Emotions were high for that first drop as we returned to the fight.” They were anxious, with steeled dedication, to continue with an even greater sense of ambition and pursuit of excellence.

On the first day Lt. Col. Harkey said his team flew 5 sorties, making 5 drops in southern California on the Valecito fire south of San Bernardino, Calif., of 3,000 gallons of retardant, each. After the first drop,

Harkey added that the lead plane pilot congratulated them, declaring, “Excellent drop MAFFS 8.” The comment encouraged the crew. After an emotional first effort to complete the drop, they felt much more confident about their jobs. Harkey said the crew felt much to be proud of on their first day back in the saddle, confirming it with the emphatic statement, “I knew we were back,” and concluding that the crew showed obvious indications they felt a sense of reward and satisfaction. They followed up the second day of flying with three sorties/drops to the Salmon and the Star fires in Northern California. Proudly, Harkey remarked, “we were able to save valuable property and homes in one the local communities.”

# In Memory of Captain Neal Taylor

## 156th Airlift Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard

*In flight deck — Capt. Neal Taylor served as a pilot with the 156th Airlift Squadron from 2 May 2003 through 29 March 2012. He loved the guard and his family and was dedicated to both. His dedicated service to his nation and fellow airmen was an inspiration to many; and his exceptional presence will be missed by all.*



*Homecoming — Capt. Neal Taylor is welcomed home by his family after returning from Afghanistan where he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.*



*Bagram — Capt. Neal Taylor and fellow crewmembers pose beside a North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft, upon arrival at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The members of the 156th Airlift Squadron returned safely from another successful mission supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.*

## In Memoriam

Senior Master Sgt Robert Cannon  
 Major Ryan David  
 Tech Sgt Gary L. Estes  
 Master Sgt Robert E. Fish  
 Master Sgt Gerald F. Fisher  
 Brig Gen James S. Forrester  
 Master Sgt Kenneth M. Funderburke  
 Master Sgt Walter S. Hayes  
 Tech Sgt Drury N. Helms

Master Sgt James C. Lammonds  
 Master Sgt Harold B. Locklear  
 Major Joseph McCormick  
 Lt Col Paul Mikeal  
 Master Sgt Don L. Murphy  
 Senior Master Sgt Michael C. Reid  
 Master Sgt Worth S. Russell, Jr.  
 Capt Neal P. Taylor  
 Tech Sgt William B. Ward

### Love Lives On

*Those we love remain with us  
 for love itself lives on,  
 and cherished memories never fade  
 because a loved one's gone.  
 Those we love can never be  
 more than a thought apart,  
 far as long as there is memory,  
 they'll live on in the heart.*

# 145th CES/RTS Hosts Royal Norwegian Army During Operation Impeccable Glove

*Story and Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs*

For two weeks, members of the 145th Civil Engineering Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard host the Royal Norwegian Army at the Regional Training Site in New London, N.C. The airmen worked in collaboration with the Norwegian Army and Air Force Military Academy cadets in support of Operation Impeccable Glove.

During this two week training, the RTS airmen train the cadets on how they maneuver and conduct day to day operations in the military so they can continue to build relationships with joint operations at deployed locations. The Norwegian cadet's got a complete overview of Air Force Engineering from planning operations to engineering principles, building structures to specialized training of individual career fields. Emergency Management which includes Chemical-Biological-Radiological and Nuclear response and defense is just one of those specialized careers that training was accomplished in.

Training in the planning, building and repairing of an air strip was also implemented by the 145th CES. Norwegian Army Colonel Arne Opperud, Commandant of the Norwegian Military Academy remarked, "We are a small nation and very outnumbered especially in the Air Force. We don't have the capabilities of educating our cadets in air damage repair. We know about it in theory but we don't have the equipment to train on. It is extremely important to come here and have hands on training."

These are soldiers and cadets that will more than likely deploy with airmen in the future so building relationships and learning about the cultural differences is a great benefit. Mission success can be achieved by the joint efforts and partnerships built with the Norwegian Army and Air Force Cadets and the North Carolina Air National Guard.



*Master Sgt. Kenneth Hanna, 145th Civil Engineering Squadron, teaches cadets from the Royal Norwegian Army and Air, as he creates a scenario of what to do in case a hazard material comes through the mail. Here, Hanna is showing that the hazard material will be documented, samples taken and tested then collected and sent to a lab to see if it is a biological agent.*



*Cadets from the Royal Norwegian Army and Air, train as Hazmat Technicians while they prepare to cap off a cylinder to stop a simulate chlorine leak during Operation Impeccable Glove.*



*Master Sgt. Anthony Bowen and Tech. Sgt. Matthew Johnston, 145th CES, serve up a healthy lunch to visiting cadets from the Royal Norwegian Army and Air Force during Operation Impeccable Glove. This two week joint training exercise is hosted by the 145th Civil Engineering Squadron.*



*Cadets visiting from Norway to participate in Operation Impeccable Glove, put on protective chemical masks as instructor Master Sgt. Kenneth Hanna, 145th Civil Engineering Squadron, explains the procedure and breathing techniques.*



*Classroom instruction is very important as cadets from Norway learn how to plan, build or re-build a piece of land or an existing airstrip at a simulated deployed location. This is all part of the training program Operation Impeccable Glove, hosted by 145th Civil Engineering Squadron at the Regional Training Site, New London, N.C.*



*Cadets from the Royal Norwegian Army and Air prepare to don Level A chemical protective suits while training with the 145th Civil Engineering Squadron during Operation Impeccable Glove. Operation Impeccable Glove was established in the mid 90's, and is owned and operated by the National Guard Bureau. Currently there are four locations throughout the United States.*

# 145th Civil Engineer Squadron Heads to Germany for Silver Flag

**Story and Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs**

In March of 2012 I had the privilege of accompanying members of the 145th Civil Engineering Squadron from Charlotte, N.C. to Ramstein Air Base, Germany to participate in Silver Flag, a week-long contingency operation.

Military members both active duty and guard, participated together in this training exercise turning a barren plain of dirt into a base suitable for working, sleeping, eating and bathing. Their job is to ensure the base is functional, complete with latrines, showers, electricity, roads, pure water, air conditioning or heat, and many more modern conveniences to provide a comfortable environment for deployed troops. But their main priority is paramount for the mission.

two days spent in field conditions, simulating war scenario exercises which will prepare them for real-world deployments. Silver Flag prepares Airmen not only for mission success, but to save lives as well.

Lt Col Mike Miller, Commander, 435th CTS, Ramstein Air Base said, "This week was one of the most remarkable weeks as the combined forces of active duty members from both CONUS and USAFE came together and worked as a team in a deployment exercise. Members from USAFE, active duty members from Ramstein AB, South Carolina and Las Vegas are here, along with the members of the Charlotte Air National Guard in North Carolina. Due to the ongoing deployment cycles, it is a must that Airmen are highly trained and ready to deploy."

Silver Flag Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Timothy Moran, 145th CES, added, "It has been interesting for me to watch. The first couple of days each base kind of stuck to themselves but by the end of the week they have come together as a team. They've learned how to interact with each other. It's been an eye opening experience not only for our troops but for the young active duty troops as well."

Through rain, sleet, freezing temperatures, power outages and furry rodents sharing space with us in our tent; my experience with the members of the 145th CES was both rewarding and inspirational. I have a higher admiration for these Airmen and what they are responsible for and trained to do. They are the ones that have to endure unsanitary conditions plus all the elements that the environment throws at them not to mention being exposed to hostile situations. They are the first ones down range, setting up tents, generators, reverse osmosis water purification units, and plumbing to make what could be an intolerable living situation, safe and habitable for the rest of us. It would be an honor to serve and deploy with these fellow airmen.



Air Force fire fighters respond to a simulated contained fire while participated in a week-long contingency operations training exercise on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, March 2012. The exercise consisted of several scenarios that included victim rescue and uncontained fires. Silver Flag gives participants the basic contingency skills to set up a bed-down operation anywhere in the world.

Silver Flag training consists of participating in a classroom environment led by instructors that specifically train the member in services, personnel support for contingency operations and in the myriad of areas that are implemented in the CE career field. This five-day in classroom course allows members to perform combat support training with another



Tech. Sgt. Matthew Johnston, 145th CES, works as part of the roads and grounds crew during Silver Flag Exercise held on Ramstein Air Base, Germany. His responsibility is to dig up and replace a patch of concrete slab to demonstrate capabilities to perform this task down range. This particular road has quite a history. A section of this road which is now used as the local autobahn was used by the Luftwaffe as an airstrip; the airstrip later was also utilized by advancing U.S. forces towards the closing months of World War II.



# The 145th Maintenance Group Gets a New Commander

**By: 1st Lt. Michael Wilber, 145th Public Affairs**

During a Change of Command ceremony, as Col. David Zartman relinquished command of the 145th Maintenance Group to Lt Col Marshall C. Collins several attendees commented on how Zartman cared about and focused on his people.

"As long as I have been in the military I have never heard a commander stand up and say he loves his people, he does it and means it." said Senior Master Sgt David Ferrell.

Under Zartman's tenure there were numerous programs put in place, including some to increase communication up and down the chain of command. One allows all the enlisted members of the Maintenance Group to ask questions and

voice concerns to a panel of all of the Chief Master Sgts in the Group.

Where it is evident Zartman will be missed, but Collins is no stranger to leading the Maintenance Group.

"Marshall (Collins) was chosen to command the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron, a role he served in for more than 2 years, because that is where there was a need, although outside of his flying role, he graciously accepted the challenge and exceeded expectations. When we needed a Maintenance Group Deputy, he was my first recommendation. Col Zartman, the Maintenance Group Commander, whole heartedly concurred with his selection based on his abilities and people skills." said Brig Gen Tony E. McMillan, the 145th Airlift Wing Commander.

Under Zartman and Collins, the Maintenance Group successfully completed a recent Logistics Compliance Assessment Program inspection.

"He (Collins) knocked it out of the park leading towards the LCAP with an overall 'Outstanding' for the Maintenance Group. He was the full-time force behind the preparations." said McMillan, continuing his support.



▲ Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan, Commander 145th Airlift Wing and Col. David Zartman, 145th Maintenance Group Commander pass the guidon as Zartman, in turn, will relinquish his command to Lt. Col. Marshall C. Collins. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

Col. Marshall Collins congratulates Col. David Zartman on receiving an award before the 145th Maintenance Group Change of Command Ceremony during the June 2012 Unit Training Assembly. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

# Airlift Wing Ushers New Leadership into Units

**By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs**

Under a cloud of mourning; the anguish of losing an aircrew to a crash while fighting fires still heavy, the 145th Airlift Wing went back to work in earnest August 4 and 5, during its first Unit Training Assembly since one of its C-130 aircraft went down while fighting fires last month.

Still, the unit had plenty to be positive about over the two-day weekend, as several previously scheduled changes in command were finally implemented. Unrelated to any pending investigation of the mishap, leadership changed hands for several subordinate 145 AW units.

Guidon flags were passed to new commanders, signifying their control of the subordinate units with hopeful expectancy. Although the Wing recently underwent important inspections that confirmed its readiness, upcoming inspections over the next 24 months will continue to test the readiness of the 145 Force Support Squadron led by new commander, Maj. Lisa Kirk, the 156 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, now under the leadership of Lt. Col. Susan Martello and the 145 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, now under the command of Lt. Col. Michael T. Gerock.

As command of the 263 Combat Communications Squadron changed hands from Lt. Col Robert McManis to Lt. Col. Martha Dickens, a recurring theme was conveyed throughout the 145th to airmen in a variety of capacities and professional levels, which shared the assurance that with continued pursuit of excellence and a desire to further enhance the already tight bonds developed through teamwork, passion and intensive effort, the Wing would continue to meet and exceed mission requirements.

Once relinquishing command of the 263 Combat Communication Squadron, McManis was then promoted to the rank of Colonel and ascended to command of the Combat Operations Group in a separate change of command ceremony where leadership was exchanged with retiring commander, Col. Robert McGrath.

145th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is now under the leadership of Lt. Col. Michael T. Gerock as he accepts the guidon from Col. Marshall Collins, 145th Maintenance Group Commander. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

▲ Col. Roger Williams, 145th Operations Group Commander passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Susan Martello accepting command of the 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



Brig. Gen. Tony E. McMillan, Commander, 145th Airlift Wing, NCANG passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Robert McManis symbolizing the acceptance of taking the leadership role as Commander of the 145th Combat Operations Group. In a time honored ceremony, passing the guidon represents not only the lineage and honor of the unit, but also the loyalty and unity of its airmen. The guidon is a symbol of authority, representing the commander's responsibilities to the organization. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



► Maj. Lisa Kirk takes command of the 145th Force Support Squadron as she accepts the guidon from Col. Elburn Daughtry, 145th Mission Support Group Commander. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



► Lt. Col. Martha Dickens takes command of the 263rd Combat Communications Squadron as she accepts the guidon from Col. Robert McGrath, Commander, 145th Combat Operations Group. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



# NCANG Members Hear Message of Perseverance from Top Air Force Spiritual Leader

**By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs**  
**Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs**

Airmen based at North Carolina's Air National Guard Base here in Charlotte left their monthly training assembly in December with a little more than usual to think about. The group heard Maj. Gen. Cecil Richardson, Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Air Force speak during the 145th Airlift Wing Commander's Prayer Breakfast. Chaplain Richardson brought a message of faith and perseverance.

The Commander's Prayer Breakfast is an annual opportunity for all base personnel to gather for fellowship and a discussion of topics the commander may feel are valuable to all airmen.

As Chief of Chaplains, Richardson leads approximately 2,200 chaplains in service to more than 800,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian forces throughout the United States and abroad. He also advises the Secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff on religious, ethical and quality-of-life concerns.

Chaplain Richardson spoke about how faith can allow people to look beyond immediate circumstances for ultimate grace in life. He used his personal story to illustrate that experiencing the worst things in life brings many closest to God. To support the concept he used an allegory of fishermen lost at sea, guided home by the light of a burning house near the shore. Although the house was lost, he said, the lives of the men were spared.

Stating that "God is never late, but will scare you to death some times," he said his own story of dire personal struggle lead to his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force as an intercept operator and Russian interpreter, and then eventually his life's calling as an example of how people can be guided by both good and bad.

Understanding that he leads a flock, leading their own flocks; he said later that this country's national treasures, the men and women who have dedicated and sacrificed their lives and health for the rights America stands to defend are part of a cycle that the chaplains, themselves are members. He added that while chaplains bear the honor of carrying other's burdens, they continue to carry their own loads, and often require the same level of spiritual care they impart to troops around the world.

Proudly, Chaplain Richardson claimed, the moment a military person is injured there just isn't any better care anywhere than the military medical system. But, he continued that, "often chaplains come back with a tear in their eye and a quiver in their voice." He continued, saying, "We pour our everything into caring for them; caring for the wounded, honoring the dead, nurturing the living."

The Chaplain said it's a tremendous calling because of the good feeling, imagining they as spiritual leaders are at the center of God's will, doing exactly what God wants them to do, that is also a horrible job, because of the sinister aspects of life they must walk through to address adversity in their ministries. Through it all, he says "I only have one goal and that's to be faithful to my calling." Chaplain Richardson is committed to revitalizing the spiritual strength of the Chaplains Corps, as they return from war.



Maj. Gen. Cecil Richardson, Chief of Air Force Chaplains greets A1C Raymond Cannon during the 145th Airlift Wing Commander's Prayer breakfast, where Gen. Richardson gave the keynote address. The Commander's Prayer Breakfast is an annual opportunity for all base personnel to gather for fellowship and a discussion of topics the commander may feel are valuable to all airmen.

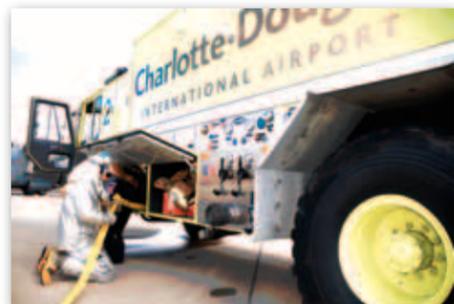
145th Airlift Wing Chaplain Joel Yow, together with visiting Maj. Gen. Cecil Richardson, Chief of Air Force Chaplains, and other members of the NCANG join in as Chaplain Debbie Kidd leads the singing during a service held in February 2012 at the 145th Airlift Wing, Charlotte N.C.



Several members of the 145th Airlift Wing stand in line for eggs and sides during the Wing Commander's Prayer Breakfast, an annual opportunity for all base personnel to gather for fellowship and a discussion of topics the commander may feel are valuable to all airmen.



## CES / Fire Department



(Above left and right) In February 2012, during the Unit Compliance Inspection at the North Carolina Air National Guard 145th Airlift Wing, members of the Civil Engineer Fire Dept. undergo an emergency response exercise. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



While visiting the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard Airlift Wing in Charlotte, NC, Gen. Raymond Johns, Jr., Commander, Air Mobility Command, tours Fire Station 41 located at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, Charlotte NC. Chief Master Sgt. Daryl Cook, Fire Chief of the 145th Airlift Wing and Gen. Johns discuss joint Mutual Aid Response between military members and civilian firefighters while touring the newest fire station in the city of Charlotte. The 145th Airlift Wing is the only Air National Guard unit in the United States that has city fire fighters operate out of a military fire station. This joint effort provides protection for civilian and military aircraft operating at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, the sixth busiest airport in the country. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



# 145th Recruiting Team Keeps NCANG on TARGET

**Story and Photos By: Tech. Sgt. Lonnie J. Brooks, North Carolina Air National Guard Production Recruiter**

The Recruiting Team had one of its busiest years. From training a new recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Michael Baity, to passing the Recruiting Office Supervisor torch from Master Sgt. Parsons to Master Sgt. Laskowski. The team has consistently been on target, all while putting the right people in the right jobs at the precise time! Four of the R&R team members were Gold Badge Winners this Year.

Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Brooks received the Century Club Award for reaching a milestone of 100 plus accessions, while Baity lead the team in TACP recruiting, accessing six very much needed TACP's his first year. Although this has been a challenging year for the Recruiting and Retention Team, with the help of Air Guard members referrals they have rose to the occasion once again keeping the North Carolina Air National Guard at 100 percent manning.

The North Carolina Air National Guard Recruiting/Retention Department currently has six recruiters/retainers all coming from diverse backgrounds. Senior Master Sgt. Deborah Dunlap is assigned to Joint Force Headquarters and is the Recruiting/Retention Superintendent whose background is in Information Management. Master Sgt. Michael Laney is assigned to the 263rd Combat Communication Squadron as the Recruiting/Retention NCO. His background is in Weather Forecasting and Observation. Master Sgt. Melissa Smith is assigned to the 145th Force Support Squadron as the Retention Office Manager. She came to recruiting after serving as a Medical Technician. Master Sgt. Joseph Laskowski has a Security Forces background and is the Recruiting Office Supervisor Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Brooks is assigned to the Force Support Squadron as a Production Recruiter and comes to the recruiting office with a maintenance background. The last recruiter assigned to the team is Tech. Sgt. Michael Baity. Baity is a Production Recruiter. He is currently detailed to the 118th ASOS for Tactical Air Control recruiting.

Lt. Col. Bill C. Burnside, Chief of Dental Services with the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard Medical Group swears in Maj. Michael Smith, a dentist transferring to us from the Arizona Air National Guard, as Col. Jill Hendra, Commander, 145th MDG stands at attention for oath of enlistment.



Lt. Col. Shawne Johnson, Commander, 145th Force Support Squadron swears in SrA Nicklous Moore into the Aerospace Maintenance (Crew Chief) position with 145th Maintenance Squadron. Moore transferred to us from the Air Reserves.



# 145th Medical Group Takes on New Mission

**Story by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs**

Members of the 145th Medical Group take on a new mission that was once held by the 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron during a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility and Aeromedical Evacuation Exercise held in August 2012 at the North Carolina Air National Guard base in Charlotte, N.C.

Working with their civilian counterpart, the military challenge faced by the MASF is MASF personnel must be knowledgeable of joint service operations and work as a team with the user service medical element in delivering quality patient care and subsequent AE. A MASF is employed at operating locations where level two medical care and fixed wing airfields are available. The MASF supports medical elements of the US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force or other coalition force medical elements. The primary purpose of the MASF is to stage and care for patients prior to their being enplaned. The secondary purpose of the MASF is to verify and coordinate physiology of flight issues and patient flight/movement requirements, using embedded communications assets and processes

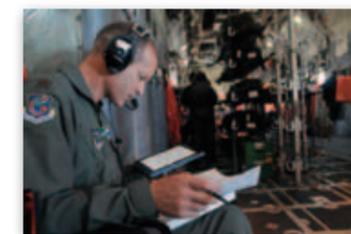
Training culminated in a simulated exercise based on a state response to a high yield explosion in the Charlotte area. Military members would work together in tandem with civilian counterparts in the event of an act of terrorism or natural disasters that resulted in mass casualties.



(Above left and right) Special Operations Medic for Mecklenburg County reviews the capabilities of the Emergency Management MASS Casualty Transportation Unit with members of the North Carolina Air National Guard 145th Medical Squadron. The MASS Casualty Transportation Unit provides seamless transfers between civilian and military agencies in the event of natural disaster or humanitarian missions resulting in mass casualties. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th AW Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Wes Hamilton, Commander of the 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, gets the ceremonial ice bath from members of his squadron as he retires after serving almost four decades in the United States Air Force. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs



Major Paul R. Sanford, Flight Nurse with the 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron currently assigned as the operations group nurse evaluator and medical Mission Medical Crew Director gives all the simulations Mission paper work on the 781 insuring the patient manifest is complete for flight records. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

(Below, right) Members of the 145th Medical Group and 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron conducted a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility and Aeromedical Evacuation Exercise August 24 through 27, 2012 at the North Carolina Air National Guard base in Charlotte, N.C. During this exercise, Captain Jeffrey Wnek, Officer in Charge and Major Kelly Philbeck (Air National Guard Critical Care Nurse of the Year) discuss the integration of using civilian and military assets while working together in tandem with the Mecklenburg County Emergency Management Mass Casualty Mobile storage unit. These assets would be used in the event of natural disasters or humanitarian missions resulting in mass casualties. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th AW Public Affairs



# Henderson Feted by Past and Present Airmen, Leaders of NCANG

**By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs**

On his death bed, four minutes before expiring, a man looked over and told his wife, "Call Terry Henderson; he'll know what to do." Excerpt of a story told during the retirement celebration for NCNG State Command Chief Master Sgt. Terry R. Henderson.

After more than four decades a member of the North Carolina Air National Guard took steps toward leaving the organization he has helped to build and mold. November 5, NCANG members past and present came together to honor Chief Master Sgt. Terry R. Henderson in Charlotte, prior to his retirement after 42 years. Henderson has been a leader of Citizen-Airmen for many years and the top enlisted Airman since his selection as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant on 25 July 2008.

Chief Master Sergeant Terry R. Henderson is the Command Chief Master Sergeant of Joint Forces Headquarters, North Carolina National Guard. He advises the Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutant General, Air on matters influencing the health, welfare, morale and effective utilization of the state's more than 1400 enlisted personnel.

Friends and colleagues gathered to pay tribute to Henderson, who began his military career enlisting as an Administrative Specialist on 20 June 1970. Since then has been a trusted professional, confidante and guide to those he encountered in a career that includes other state and national posts.

Guests shared stories of poignant moments of encouragement during challenging times, advice on career



Command Chief Master Sgt. Terry Henderson, Chief of Joint Forces Headquarters, North Carolina National Guard, affectionally thanks his wife Cindy for all her love, support and dedication at a celebration held in his honor as he retires after serving in the North Carolina Air National Guard for over four decades. Photo by Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs

progression, personal guidance and strength through adversity. A recurring theme of the evening became Henderson as a man you could trust for support in every situation. Former Air Guard leadership returned to the base for the occasion. They, with current State and 145th Airlift Wing leadership repeated their confidence in his judgment, temperament and his sensibility.

Brig. General Tony McMillan shared that, "When I suggested an idea to him, [Chief Henderson] would ask: 'have you thought about this, or this, or that?'" McMillan, 145 AW commander, admitting those thoughts usually had not occurred to him, concluded the ideas generally made their way into his plans as significant portions of those platforms.



Assistant Adjutant General for Air National Guard, Todd Kelly presents Terry R. Henderson, Command Chief Master Sgt. of Joint Forces Headquarters, North Carolina National Guard with the United States flag which was flown over the United States capitol and the capitol of the State of North Carolina. Henderson retires after serving faithfully in the North Carolina Air National Guard for 42 years. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs

Henderson spent years contributing to the development of NCANG units including the 145th Combat Support Squadron, 145th Civil Engineering Squadron, a unit he also served as its First Sergeant, then the Chief was selected as the NCANG's first Safety and Occupational Health Manager. He served in this capacity until 1992 when he became the NCANG Personnel Manager, with responsibility for all units of the North Carolina Air National Guard. He was the third person to hold this prestigious position since the unit was formed in 1948. Henderson became the 145th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant in 2002. He has been the unit's institutional memory and conscience to generations of Airmen.

# Comptroller Flight Performance Shines Bright

**By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs**

Three 145th Comptroller Flight Airmen were nationally recognized among the best in their career fields. Lt. Col. Gregory Goforth, Flight Commander, 1st Lt. Jeanie Helms and Senior Master Sgt. Latonya McPhail received recognition as the Financial Management Comptroller, Company Grade Officer and Superintendent of the year for 2011, respectively.

The group humbly acknowledged appreciation for the other members of the shop, all asserting they couldn't achieve the performance marks worthy of recognition without the daily assistance and cooperation of their coworkers. "I feel very fortunate to work with such an inspiring commander and extremely supportive office," stated Lt. Helms.

The Comptroller's office, led by Lt. Col. Goforth, who manages a budget in excess of \$50 million, was able to achieve a reduction in average processing time for paid travel vouchers by 14 percent, an aspect of

Sgt. McPhail's administration of more than 5,000 travel transactions totaling over \$7.6 million the office managed through the year. McPhail was recognized in 2005 as the National Guard Financial Management Non-Commissioned Officer of the year. Among a variety of other notable achievements throughout the office, Lt. Helm's performance included a reduction of interest penalties per \$1 million to less than \$45, well below the \$203 national average.

The entire office is comprised of superlative Airmen, having been recognized in 2007 as the National Guard's Financial Services Office of the year and again in 2010 as the Financial Analysis Office of the year. Lt. Col. Goforth was quick to lavish the staff with his appreciation, saying, "I am proud to lead the finest group of people in the North Carolina National Guard and the United States Air Force. The awards are merely a validation of their merit and embodiment of the Air Force Core Values.



Lt. Col. Gregory Goforth discusses accounting files with fellow 2011 National Guard Bureau award winners from the 145th Comptroller Flight, (l-r) 1st Lt. Jeanie Helms and Senior Master Sgt. Latonya McPhail. Lt. Col. Goforth was recognized as National Guard's Financial Management Comptroller of the Year, while Lt. Helms received the Guard Bureau award for Financial Management Company Grade Officer and Senior Master Sgt. McPhail copped the Financial Management Superintendent of the year award. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs

# Guardisman Recognized for Life-Saving action

**By: Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs**

A North Carolina Air National Guardsman was recognized for his heroic effort to help a car accident victim. Master Sgt. Robert C. Ritchie of the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron received the Red Cross' Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action April 14, 2012. The award recognized Ritchie's efforts to help a woman who had been pinned against a wall by a misguided vehicle in late February of this year.

The victim, Coan Link's femur had been split by the vehicle impact and severed her artery. Ritchie rushed to the scene and removed his belt to control the bleeding from her leg until paramedics arrived on the scene.

Ritchie, a combat lifesaver-trained Airman attributes the Guard's continuous training and indoctrination to maintain vigilant situational awareness for his swift reaction to the accident.

Link said in a recent facebook post, "I was bleeding so much that if he hadn't done that I would have bled out before the

ambulance got there." Red Cross spokesperson Katie Meier said that the award is given to just a few individuals each year.

"I'm lucky I lived and even got to keep my leg," Link said of the ordeal, referring to initial official medical counsel she received.

According to Col. Stephen Mallette, Ritchie's commander at the 118th ASOS, "The Guard trains its members to be ready whenever called. Sgt. Ritchie's quick thinking and swift action have demonstrated why the National Guard is called upon to assist in domestic crises as well as international conflict. I am proud that his instinctive effort helped to save a life where we live and work."

Ritchie said of the incident, "I believe that God happened to put me in the right place to do the right thing at the right time.

The Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action is one of the highest awards given by the American Red Cross to an individual or team of individuals, according to Tim Patton, the Red Cross representative on hand to make the presentation. Patton added that Ritchie's actions to save a life exemplified the aims of the Red Cross.



Master Sgt. Robert C. Ritchie of the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard is awarded the American Red Cross Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action by Tim Patton of the Carolina Piedmont Region of the American Red Cross. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs

# Spirit of Freedom Award

**By: Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs**

Tech. Sgt. Joseph F. Hall, a member of the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron, has been selected to represent the North Carolina National Guard at the USO "Salute to Freedom Gala" event being held in Raleigh, N.C., October 27, 2012. He will be the recipient for the USO-N.C.'s Spirit of Freedom Award. Hall was selected based on these criteria's: The Soldier/Airman should be someone who has truly gone above and beyond, distinguishing him or herself with heroic, extraordinary acts, while serving in our Armed Services stateside, overseas or in combat deployment. Hall competed with members from each branch of the service.

Tech. Sgt. Hall was also awarded the Bronze Star during his recent deployment. He will receive The Adjutant General Meritorious Achievement Medal as well, for being selected to represent the NCG at this event.

Since he was a small boy, Hall always wanted to serve his country. He read a lot of books to try and prepare for life in the service. After graduating from high school, the Wisconsin native followed his dream and enlisted in the military.

Hall, a Joint Terminal Air Controller is the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of a six member flight at the 118th ASOS in New London, N.C.

"I take my responsibilities very seriously," said Hall. "It takes over two years to train new graduates returning back from completion of their technical school and get them fully qualified and combat ready. It is my job to guide them through all this training so at the end they can be mission ready and deployable at a moment's notice."



Tech. Sgt. Joseph Hall, a Joint Terminal Air Controller for the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron, New London, N.C. simulates radio contact with air assets in a close-air support role by giving positions of enemy and friendly's in the area. The ASOC is the primary command and control agency for integrating joint air power with Army operations. Fighter Duty Technicians coordinates air support for the JTACs and provides airspace de-confliction for tasked aircraft. Once JTACs receive a handoff of aircraft from the ASOC, it's their job to direct the fighters to the correct targets within close proximity to ground forces using radios and communications equipment.

The training is physically, mentally and technically intense as the JTAC teams have to be able to operate under any environmental condition alongside some of the military's most elite special operations teams.

JTACs are one the few true front-line combat jobs in the Air Force. As a tactical air control party radio operator, maintainer and driver Hall deploys with the Army to forward operating locations as enlisted air liaison for ground forces. He and his team establish an observation point that gives them a clear view of the area which allows them to observe any enemy positions.

Almost all JTACs are assigned to Army units so they are also familiar with procedures for artillery and MEDEVAC. They train together for several months prior to deploying. Both services have important aspects like being able to share battle space information to ensure whatever munitions or aircraft they are calling in does not have a negative effect. If there is a situation where there are casualties and mortars or enemy fire get too close to their position, JTAC maintain contact with the aircrafts above. At the same time they began moving the wounded to a casualty collection points after coordinating an aerial medical evacuation. By relaying information to aircraft overhead, enemy forces can potentially be neutralized and the potential for any civilian casualties can be reduced.

Hall said he was honored to be the recipient of this award but maintains it is a TEAM EFFORT that makes the missions successful!

## Around the Base — Photos



Airmen of the 145th North Carolina Air National Guard stand at attention during a ramp formation held in February 2012. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs



Patriot Riders render a salute on the tarmac of the Air National Guard base in Charlotte, N.C. as members of the 145th Airlift Wing return home from a four-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, 156th Airlift Squadron, go over MAFFS operations with Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan, commander, 145th Airlift Wing and The Adjutant General of North Carolina, Maj. Gen. Gregory Lusk during MAFFS training held in Greenville, S.C. Mikeal is an instructor pilot for the wing and the MAFFS coordinator for the North Carolina Air National Guard. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs, photographs awards ceremony during a ramp formation in February 2012. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs

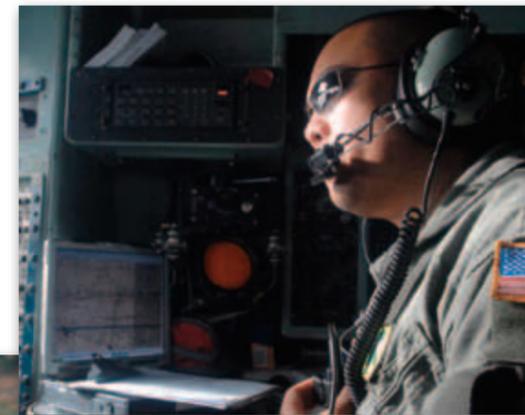


Retired Lt. Col. Kathleen Flaherty receives a memorable shadow box presented to her by Lt. Col. Allan Cecil, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fisk Outwater and Lt. Col. Shawne Johnson on behalf of many well wishes from a variety of colleagues and friends as she departed her role as Director of Family Programs for the 145th Airlift Wing in Charlotte. Flaherty closed the book on more than two decades with the unit as a trail-blazing military member and civil service technician. Photo by Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs

## Around the Base — Photos



(Left) Staff Sgt. Derek Hampton, 145th MXS, replace fuel tank fasteners inside the wing of a C-130 Hercules after completing routine maintenance on the fuel system. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



(Above) Maj. Ryan David, a navigator for the 156th Airlift Squadron, directs his crew to their destination onboard a C-130 Hercules aircraft while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

(Below) Staff Sgt. Antronus Marsh and Technical Sgt. Bryan Smith 145th MXS, gain access by removing the dry bay cover off the wing of a C-130 Hercules to perform routine maintenance of the fuel components. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



(Right) Aircrew from the 156th Airlift Squadron, NCANG, wait for the weather to break during their one week Modular Aerial Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) annual re-certification training exercise held in May 2012, in Greenville, S.C. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



(Left) Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Cannon and Maj. Joe McCormick, 156th Airlift Squadron, help out a fellow crewmember during water survival training. Photo by 156th AES

(Below) Tech. Sgt. Eric Kennedy, 145th Communications Flight and Staff Sgt. Jimmy D. Gibson, 263rd Combat Communications Squadron, install switches providing network connectivity to the base. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



(Right) Staff Sgt. Stephen D. Xavier, a Flight Engineer in the 156th Airlift Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard, checks the oil level on the auxiliary power unit (APU) during a pre-flight inspection. The North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing return to flying MAFFS (Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System) mission, six weeks after four of the unit's Airmen were killed in a C-130 crash during a fire fighting mission in South Dakota. Charlotte's MAFFS 8 will support the U.S. Forest Service's wild land firefighting mission from McClellan Airfield near Sacramento, Calif. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patricia Findley, 145th Public Affairs



(Above) Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145th Public Affairs, interviews Maj. Gen. Cecil Richardson, Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Air Force during a prayer breakfast held at the North Carolina Air National Guard base in Charlotte, N.C. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Kerner, 145th Public Affairs





*After the unveiling of a portrait of a C-130 with tail number 1458, Chief Master Sgt. David Kurtz, 145th Operations Support Flight and Chief Master Sgt. William Harper, 156th Airlift Squadron, the number "7" from Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System was retired from future missions, during the memorial honoring four fallen airmen who died, July 1, 2012, while fighting forest fires from a MAFFS equipped C-130H aircraft in southwest South Dakota. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen, 145th Public Affairs*

**145TH AIRLIFT WING  
NORTH CAROLINA AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
4930 MINUTEMAN WAY  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28208-3866**

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHARLOTTE, NC  
PERMIT NO. 1076