



Reservist volunteers his time for Katrina victim

By Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller
445th Public Affairs

I've known Master Sgt. Rick Little, 445th Airlift Wing Airlift Control Flight, for nine years and he is one of those guys who just can't sit still. He seems to be in perpetual motion. He was my first supervisor while I was part of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron a number of years ago and he kept me plenty busy. So when I found out about his involvement with Hurricane Katrina victims around Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., where he was attending Airfield Management School, I was not surprised at all. That's just Rick.

He arrived at Keesler with more than just tech school on his mind. Rick knew that there was someone close by the base that could use his considerable and varied construction trade skills and never ending energy. He was ready to volunteer and get to work.

"I contacted the Keesler Family Support office, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and even went so far as to e-mail CNN's Anderson Cooper, who was doing a story on the devastation in the area, hoping that he could give me a point-of-contact. I didn't get anywhere," Sergeant Little said.

Oddly, they all turned out to be dead end streets, but Rick kept probing. Three weeks into the search, leads finally materialized.

"After surfing the net one evening for a couple of hours, I came across the site of a local newspaper that had a chat-room for people looking or giving help to those who needed it. I was contacted by a lady who was helping in Waveland, Miss., which was basically wiped out, and she gave me a name of a mission located in Biloxi, Miss. I went there on a Saturday



Master Sgt. Rick Little, 445th Airlift Wing Airlift Control Flight, repairs a roof on a home for a Hurricane Katrina victim in Mississippi. (Courtesy Photo)

morning looking for something to do, but it didn't work out. I went back to my room that night and sent out a message venting my frustration over the chat-room homepage."

And with that venting, at last, Rick had success.

"It wasn't 10 minutes later that I started receiving e-mails from folks who had leads to people who needed help with the different trades that I possess."

Rick received an e-mail from a person in Dallas, Texas, whose friend was just 15 minutes from the base in Gulfport and without question needed help. The next day he went to meet her and to offer help.

"On March 15, after school, a Pennsylvania Air National Guard member and a Maine Air National Guard member and I went to the home of Judy

Connery to volunteer. We made pretty good progress that day. I went back that Saturday and spent all day there."

Judy is 60-year-old retired school teacher who had major back surgery a couple of weeks before Katrina hit. She's currently living in a F.E.M.A. trailer behind what's left of her home with her two dogs.

"I call myself the little old crippled lady," Judy told me without hesitation. She's tough though. Judy wears a gun because "we are fighting for everything down here." She also describes herself as the "neighborhood busy-body."

Judy, like a number of residents, did not leave the area and rode out the storm. She hid in her attic and survived virtually unscathed, but her home did not.

According to Rick, who is the Director

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Pre-deployment preparation lets you hit the ground running

By Col. Mary Henderhan
445th Mission Support Group Commander

Last year at this time I had just arrived at Manas AB Kyrgyzstan for a 120 day AEF tour. The weather was beautiful and surprisingly, just like the



Col. Mary Henderhan

weather I had left at home. Spring was in full bloom and I thought, hey, how bad can this be? Luckily, the answer was “not bad at all.” I had a room within walking distance of my office. The food was great, also within walking distance, and I didn’t have to cook it! At work, there was plenty to keep me busy during 10-12 hour work days, 6 days a week. And, I could get a manicure for less than \$5.00!

I had arrived at Manas AB prepared...ready to hit the ground running. In a sense, the hardest part, the preparation, was over. Deployment preparation, I found, was not an easy or quick thing to do. It took a lot more than just packing a bag and hopping on an airplane. It actually took lots of bags and several airplanes to get there, but even that didn’t occur until the pre-deployment preparations were completed.

So, how do you manage to arrive in the AOR, prepared and ready to go? Start at home. Take care of your personal matters. Make sure your family members have everything they need such as access to bank accounts and important papers, contact information for key personnel at

the base, and a strong support system to help them function in your absence. At the base, make sure all your administrative military actions are accurate and complete: DEERS enrollment, dependent ID cards and SGLI enrollment, to name a few. Ensure your medical requirements are up to date: physical exams, dental exams, and immunizations must all be current. Ensure individual training requirements are all met: Self Aid Buddy Care, CBRNE Refresher Training, Weapons Qualification, and Information Assurance Training – you can get the complete list from your Unit Deployment Manager (UDM). Secure and prepare your new Desert Camouflage Uniforms and your Air Force PT gear. Sixty days prior to your departure date, start out-processing. Make sure you clear all items on the out-processing checklist. Now you’re ready - Pack and go!

You’ve probably got the picture now. Deployment preparation is a long and ongoing process. It takes a lot of time and work. And the time to start preparations is now. AEF Cycle 6 starts in January 2007 and runs through May 2007. Our wing will be “in the bucket,” expected to fill a number of positions at various locations. Details on the specific requirements are expected to be available in early FY07, and shared by the Wing Readiness office with your UDM. Currently the 445th has approximately 200 volunteers standing ready and proud to support our upcoming AEF requirements.

So, now is the time to start preparations. Volunteers should check with their UDMs to establish their eligibility and identify their specific requirements. Functional offices

providing training or deployment support should do an internal review to ensure their processes are accurate and efficient. Within 60 days of the deployment departure date, volunteers should start out-processing. Out-processing starts with a checklist initiated in the MPF Personnel Readiness Section and ends when the checklist is completed and you receive your travel orders. With travel orders in hand, you’ll be ready to set out on what will undoubtedly be a memorable adventure. You might even have some fun...I did!

The Great Commandments to live by

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jim Fisher
445th Senior Protestant Chaplain

It has finally happened! My 40th birthday! I know I look much younger, but it is true, I have reached the milestone! As with any birthday, it is a wonderful time of reflection. It is a time to ponder the past, evaluate the present and embrace the future.

I am reminded of what is often called the “Great Commandments” in Matthew 22:34-40. Herein, Jesus calls us to love God with the totality of our being and to love our neighbor as ourselves. It serves as a perfect summary of the Ten Commandments”- rightly related to God and then, with one another.

Such a commandment provides a filter through which to live life, doesn’t it? And, we don’t even have to wait for a birthday to reflect!

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Master Sgt. Rick Little, 445th Airlift Wing Control Flight, repairs a home for a Hurricane Katrina victim in Mississippi. (Courtesy Photo)

For Katrina victim

Continued from cover

of Public Works for the City of Highland Heights, Ky., if her 1902-era home hadn't been so well constructed she might not have been so lucky to be alive. Back then they used hardwood and installed tongue and groove planks on the 2x4 walls to help hold them together and then over-layed them with plaster.

"The front of her house had to be removed to relieve some of the stress from the main structure of the house. After that was

done, I spent several hours trying to button up the attic because of expected rain. I also started installing conduit so she can get electric to her shed that she purchased to hold what was left of her belongings. She wants to put her washer and dryer in there so she can start doing her laundry again," Rick said.

Rick also installed a new post on her carport to replace the one that had been washed away and cleaned up Judy's yard that had accumulated a ton (literally) of trash in the wake of the hurricane.

"He must have been to my half of a house 10 times," Judy said. "I can't brag on him enough. He's tireless. I felt guilty with as much work he did for me."

With his school winding down at Keesler, Rick couldn't just pack-up and leave Judy. He talked up her dilemma with other reserve and guard members in a different class and coordinated a continued flow of volunteers for her.

"That is one hard working man," Judy said. No kidding.

"The main thing I want people to know is that these people really need more help. I think that many people have lost focus of what is still going on down here. If anyone from the 445th is coming to Keesler for tech school and wants to help these people out, they can definitely use it. I don't want them to waste their time looking for a POC like I did. I could have really helped Judy out if I would have found her three weeks sooner," Rick said.

Knowing Rick, he would have been true to his word. I'll go all out and say he'd have finished Judy's home and found another person in need. Always busy, always helping. That's just Rick.

Reserve engineers build station for Saint Lucia police



Reservist from the 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, work on a new building for the St. Lucia police force on April 8, 2006. The project includes building an operations center and barracks on the southern edge of the island in support of St. Lucia's counter-drug operations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Larry A. Simmons)



Senior Airman Julian Cook grates rocks from sand to make mortar for the Saint Lucia project April 8, 2006. The project includes building an operations center and barracks for the police force in support of St. Lucia's counter-drug operations. Airman Cook is with the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Larry A. Simmons)

Reservists C-STARS for training

by Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th Public Affairs

Six members from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron had the opportunity to attend 14 days of medical training at the University Hospital of Cincinnati. Wearing medical scrubs with only a name tag and rank pinned on their breast pocket to identify them with the Air Force; medical technicians went from room to room in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit or SICU, helping hospital staff with patients.

Aeromedical members were part of a trial training curriculum at the Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills or C-STARS program at the hospital. The course is primarily geared for Critical Care Air Transport Teams or CCATT (pronounced see cat). These are medical doctors, nurses and respiratory technicians who transport critically wounded and sick on aeromedical flights on all types of flying platforms, but primarily on Air Force aircraft.

The 445th AES has been in partnership with the CCATT program for more than four years, currently it is the only program that provides in-flight sustainment training opportunities. The unit identified the program as an excellent opportunity for nurses and medical technicians to obtain hands-on critical care aeromedical training.

“Not all the C-STAR slots were filled by qualified CCATT members, so we were invited to attend with our other aeromedical

personnel,” said Maj. Carlotta Webb, chief nurse for the 445th AES. “We had to submit a credential package on each member who is here.”

Packages were to ensure those attending met the university's and C-STAR standards and were qualified to work at such medical facilities.

There are three C-STARS programs in the Air Force. One is in Baltimore, Md., which focuses on first responder trauma training. The second is in St. Louis, Mo., which is geared to training active Guard and reserve forces, and the third is in Cincinnati, Ohio, which focuses on aeromedical and CCATT critical care transport. The Air Force Surgeon General developed the program to define skills requirements for all deployable medical personnel. Training is to refresh and reinforce basic training skills prior to the rigors of combat medicine, and before military members deploy to potentially hostile environments.

Major Webb stated ten is the normal class size and only four active duty CCATT members were scheduled, which left open student slots and gave us the opportunity to be involved.

Staff Sgt. Rachel Songer, one of the students, has only been flying for eight months. “I was qualified and deployed in the same month,” said Sergeant Songer.

The sergeant was deployed to Andrews AFB, Md., and was flying patients stateside. In three and a half months she flew 150 hours. She also flew in support of Hurricane Rita. The sergeant, as well as the rest of the reservists attending, is still activated.



Tech. Sgt. Dwain Slusher (left) and Master Sgt. Scott Luff from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron provide Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to a mannequin that is connected to a computer to monitor whether the procedures are correct. The members were part of a trial training curriculum at the University Hospital of Cincinnati, Ohio. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Maj. Ted Theopolos)

“This is great training to understand the critical care/medical care patients’ situations,” said Sergeant Songer. The sergeant had a helicopter flight with Care Flight. The helicopter took off on the 10th floor. “As soon as the helicopter went over the ledge, my adrenalin level went up,” said Songer.

Tech. Sgt. Dwain Slusher, a former boom operator, has been a medical technician since 1997 and was also impressed with the training he was receiving. “The idea is your experience is evaluated and the uniqueness of programs is to allow you the opportunity to experience hands on skills in areas that you identify as needing improvements, and to go to areas inside the hospital where you haven’t been before to see the similar types of injuries you might see in the field,” said Sergeant Slusher. “You get to provide patient care and increase your comfort level.”

“We’ve had the opportunity to work in areas not offered in other military training, like working in the hospital’s Burn unit, Level I Shock Resuscitation Unit, Neurological Critical Care Unit and in SICU,” said Sergeant Slusher.

In the SICU military students received outstanding hands on training. There were two members to every one hospital medical staff. This gave the opportunity to work with patients and ask questions on procedures.

The course is designed to be 50 percent class and lectures and 50 percent hands on training.

“Lectures are from military medical professionals and university staff members, said Master Sgt. Scott Luff who has been a medical technician for 11 years. “This is great “hands on training” for our young medical technicians prior to deployment.”

One of the skills labs is designed to simulate the inside of an aeromedical aircraft complete with patient support pallets, equipment carried on CCATT and AE missions, simulated aircraft lighting, sounds, and stanchions for litter patients.

“The skills lab is awesome,” said Capt. Barbara Kippins. “They can create a situation that you would find in the environment on an aircraft.”

The skills lab has approximately



During medical training at the University Hospital of Cincinnati, Ohio, Staff Sgt. Patrick McCoy (Left) adjusts intravenous medications during patient resuscitation while Staff Sgt. Rachel Songer provides ventilation support. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Ted Theopolos)

\$200,000 of equipment to create such an environment. There were two mannequins on litters with life support equipment. The mannequins are hooked-up to computers in the room where a technician can control the vital signs on the mannequin. The life-like mannequins are also geared with a speaker where the technician can speak at a terminal and project sounds or a voice from the mannequin. Aeromedical members were put through a whole host of patient scenarios.

“The next class is in April,” said Major Webb. “It’s not known yet as to how many aeromedical technicians can participate.”

Upon completion of the program, the class is scheduled to fly on an aeromedical training mission the next day at Wright-Patt. Students will take what they learned at the hospital and hone their skills on a C-130.

The C-STARS Program has been a success in sharpening and refreshing the military caregivers’ skills while increasing their knowledge base and confidence in the field. Allowing unfilled training slots to be filled with aeromedical technicians will no doubt increase the quality of care on aeromedical flights.



Wing Security Forces members return home from the Middle East

By Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th Public Affairs

Eight 445th Security Forces members returned from Baghdad April 17 at Dayton International Airport.

Family and friends were on hand to welcome home the security forces volunteers back with balloons and flowers. The reservists were returning from a 180 day duty assignment. The members were assigned to the International Zone; formerly know as the Green Zone.

The international Zone housed diplomats and Iraqi citizens, coalition partners, and U.S. Forces. The zone is protected by coils of razor wire, chain link fence, earth berms, and armed checkpoints.

Their plane arrived at Dayton International Airport around 9:00 p.m. Reservists were the last ones off the aircraft giving way for their children and family members to rush up and see their loved ones.



Sean Williams, son of Staff Sgt. Sean Williams, does his homework on the Dayton International Airport floor waiting for his dad to come home from a 179 day assignment in the International Zone in Baghdad.



Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Cottrell gets a hug from his family upon arrival to Dayton International Airport April 17, 2006. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Maj. Ted Theopolos)

C-141 Starlifter Farewell Weekend

Hanoi Taxi's Last Lift Friday POW Flights

When: May 5, 2006
Where: Hangar Bldg. 206, South Hangar
Times:
1000 – 1030 first lift (60-70 POWs)*
1200 – 1230 Second Lift (60-70 POWs)*
1500 – 1700 DV/POW Tours of Aircraft
1530-1700 Base Personnel Open Tours*
* Times may vary due to flight conditions

C-141 Starlifter Farewell Tribute

When: May 5, 2006
Where: Hangar Bldg, 206, North Hangar
Times:
1800 Event begins, social dinner hour
1900 Program begins
2130 Last call for drinks
2230 Event is closed

445th C-141 Send Off

When: May 6, 2006
Where: Hangar Bldg. 206, North Hangar
Times:
0730 Arrive
0800 Engines start
0815 Taxi under water arch
0830 Take-off
0835 Buses available for those wishing to go to Museum for arrival ceremony

C-141 Arrival Ceremony

When: May 6, 2006
Where: The National Museum of USAF
Time: 0930 Landing

For more information contact 445th Public Affairs office at 257-5784.
Note: The C-141 Starlifter Farewell Tribute is now closed for registration.



Newcomers

Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:

- Capt Patrick Shields, 445 CES
- TSgt Barbara Webb, 445 CES
- SSgt Matthew Murrell, 445 AMDS
- SSgt Robert Steele, 445 CES
- SSgt Johnny Wilson, 445 MXS
- SrA Alisha Cole, 445 ASTS
- SrA Mallory Dalrymple, 445 AES
- SrA Rebeca Morejon, 445 ASTS
- SrA Kelly Wilkerson, 445 AES
- SrA Gary Wilson, 445 MOF
- A1C Devin Clark, 445 MSF
- A1C Mary Payne, 445 AES
- Amn Michael Cagle, 445 SFS

Awards

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.

Meritorious Service Medal

- Lt Col Michael Licata, 445 ALCF
- Maj Paul Neef, 445 MOF
- Maj Michael Sander, 445 CLSS
- Maj Richard Webster, 89 AS
- SMSgt Dennis Myers, 445 CES
- MSgt Dale Amsden, 445 AMXS
- MSgt Darrell Crum, 445 SFS
- MSgt Gerald Ewing, 87 APS
- MSgt Jeannine Neubauer, 445 MSF
- MSgt Harley Sheppard II, 445 CES
- MSgt Monte Snyder, 445 MOF
- MSgt Patricia Wortham, 445 MSF
- TSgt Clay Bucy, 445 CES
- TSgt Larry Greenawalt, 445 AMXS
- TSgt Terry Lewis, 445 CES
- TSgt Garry Merrill, 445 MOF

Air Force Commendation Medal

- Maj Richard Webster, 89 AS
- 2Lt Jamon Hill, 445 MOF
- TSgt Dennis Kees, 445 MXS
- SSgt Jan Christensen, 445 MXS
- SSgt George Stucker, 445 MXS

Air Force Achievement Medal

- TSgt Charles Bucy, Jr., 445 CES
- TSgt David Ortman, 445 CES
- SrA Toby Ellis, 87 APS

The Lt Gen Leo Marquez Award for 2005

- Maj. Patricia Latham - Outstanding Field Grade Maintenance Officer
- Capt. Todd Reeder - Outstanding Company Grade Maintenance Officer
- Mr. Matthew Sleigh - Outstanding Civilian Technician
- SrA Amanda Crooker - Outstanding Maintenance Technician

The CMSgt Thomas Barnes Award for 2005

- SrA Christopher Falloon – Outstanding Aircraft Crew Chief

Promotions

Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated.



Airman
Danielle Kremer, 89AS



Airman First Class
Danielle Beckley, 445 ASTS
Jordan West, 87 APS
Matthew Broadick, 445 AMXS



Senior Airman
Tyrel Babb, 445 MXS
Jennifer Bowersock, 87 APS
Alisha Cole, 445 ASTS
Gregory Coryell, 445 MXG
Mallory Dalrymple, 445 AES
Kenji Eison, 445 LRS
Tameka Elliot, 445 OSS
Megan Fraley, 445 SVF
James Harris, 445 AMXS
Ryan Maloney, 445 LRS
Sara Stanley, 445 ASTS
Melissa Walters, 445 ASTS
William Willis, 445 CES



Major
Richard Hayes, 445 ASTS



Registration open for Operation Purple Summer Camp



The National Military Family Association (NMFA) is now accepting applications for its popular Operation Purple Summer Camps.

The camps provide unique experiences to more than 2,500 military children coping with the deployment or pending deployment of one or both of their parents. The 26 Operation Purple Camps provide children from military families with fun and memorable opportunities to learn new skills for managing deployment-related stress.

NMFA developed this free summer camp program, sponsored this year by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and TriWest Healthcare Alliance, in response to the need for increased support for military children.

“We at TriWest are privileged and proud to serve those who wear our Nation’s uniform and their families,” said TriWest President and CEO David J. McIntyre, Jr. “This very special Operation Purple program is vital to military children, who also are making sacrifices in defense of our country, and we are pleased to support these deserving children.”

The Operation Purple camp program is the only summer camp program that focuses on helping kids deal with deployment-related issues. Each camp is “purple,” meaning it is open to children of any service member of the uniformed services.

Applications for the camps are available March 15 through May 15 at <http://www.operationpurple.org/>. (National Military Family Assoc.)



News Briefs

C-141 Starlifter memorabilia is available for purchase

With the upcoming retirement of the C-141 aircraft, various memorabilia



will be available for purchase in Bldg. 4014, Room 174. Some items available are: Miniature C-141A models for \$2.00, a book on the C-141 for \$15.00, C-141 Patches for \$5.00, C-141 print for \$5.00 and Coins for \$10.00. Maj. Rick Webster will also be selling T-shirts in the 89th Airlift Squadron for \$16.00. For more information call 257-0712.

Wing's C-141 Farewell Ceremony is here

The 445th Airlift Wing's C-141 Farewell Ceremony for the final flight of the C-141 is May 6 in Hangar 206 at 7:30 a.m. The C-141 will take-off from



Hangar 206 and land at 9:30 a.m. at its final destination, the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Buses will be available to transport personnel to the museum for the landing.



May 29, 2006

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Wing Airman survives C-5 crash



Emergency responders are on the scene of a C-5 Galaxy crash April 3, 2006 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. (U.S. Air Force photo/Doug Curran)

*By Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th Public Affairs*

An Airman assigned to the base was among the 17 survivors aboard the C-5 Galaxy that crashed near Dover Air Force Base, Del., April 3.

On board was Senior Airman Scott A. Schaffner assigned to the 89th Airlift Squadron which is a subordinate unit to the 445th Airlift Wing. The senior airman, a former Vandalia, Ohio, resident, was on his third C-5 training mission learning to become a loadmaster. The aircraft was loaded with cargo heading for U.S. Naval Station Rota, Spain and then further to the Middle East.

Airman Schaffner was transported to Kent General Hospital after the crash where he was examined and released by medical professionals.

On the phone around noon time after the crash, Airman Schaffner said he was doing fine.

"I have some bumps and bruises but nothing broken or cut," said the Airman. "I was told to come back to the hospital if my health changes for any reason."

The huge cargo plane crashed at 6:30 a.m. April 3. The last C-5 crash was on Aug. 28, 1990, during Operation Desert Shield. A C-5 crashed after takeoff from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, killing 13 of the 17 people on board.

The C-5 is the Air Force's largest transport and has been in the fleet since 1969. The plane stretches almost the length of a football field and stands as high as a six-story building. The cargo compartment is 121 feet long, 19 feet wide and 13 feet high.

The 445th Airlift Wing is converting from C-141 Starlifter aircraft to the C-5 Galaxy aircraft. The wing is scheduled to get 11 C-5s.

A board of Air Force officers will convene to investigate the cause of the accident, officials said.

