

THE CARGO COURIER

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FSRT delivers expertise at Patriot 12

Kentucky team trains disaster-response officials from Indiana

By Master Sgt. Philip Speck
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard's Fatality Search and Recovery Team brought their expertise to Volk Field, Wis., this summer to train other disaster-response officials during a key national exercise.

More than 1,100 military and civilian emergency responders participated in the event, known as Patriot 12, a National Guard scenario held July 13-20 to simulate the damage caused by a major earthquake.

The primary mission of Kentucky's FSRT was to train a Fatality Search and Recovery Team from the Indiana National Guard, according to 2nd Lt. Jonathan Fairbanks, the officer in charge of the Kentucky unit. The Indiana team, which has just been stood up, had never fielded its equipment before.

"We showed them everything, from the initial setup and the initial brief from the on-site commander, all the way through the end of the exercise and cleaning everything up afterwards," Fairbanks said.

The Kentucky team was hand-selected for the task by Brad Whitlinger, lead exercise planner for the National Guard Bureau, because he knew the unit was experienced, fully capable and could integrate well with other teams, Fairbanks said. FSRT teams from Arizona and Minnesota also provided training to the Indiana group.

Fatality Search and Recovery Teams are charged with locating and recovering the remains of victims killed in hostile action or natural disasters. Team members have special training and equipment that allow them to operate in a broad spectrum of dangerous environments, including those contaminated by nuclear, biological or chemical agents.

During Patriot 12, all four FSRTs con-



Courtesy photos

Above: Fatality Search and Recovery Teams search for simulated human remains during Patriot 12, a disaster-response exercise held at Volk Field, Wis., from July 13-20.



Left: Senior Airman Shelby Basham (center), a Fatality Search and Recovery Team member from the Kentucky Air Guard, talks to other FSRT members and the on-scene coroner during Patriot 12. The Kentucky team joined with the Arizona and Minnesota Air Guard FSRTs to train a newly established Indiana group during the exercise.

ducted training on the proper donning and doffing of personal protective equipment and the use of gear like litters and tents.

They also trained on proper procedures for handling remains in contaminated and uncontaminated areas.

Actors added a dose of reality to the rubble-strewn environment, requiring FSRT members to interact with simulated victims, injured survivors and distraught family mem-

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5-step process will help ensure success in CUI

Self-inspections should be part of wing's culture

By Capt. James Embry
123rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

As the 123rd Airlift Wing gears up for the May 2013 Consolidated Unit Inspection, it is critical that we do everything we can to adequately prepare for success.

Incorporating the following steps into your unit's comprehensive planning and preparation will ensure every unit member stands ready.

1. Start your process. Adequate preparation breeds a culture of compliance that maintains mission readiness within your unit. Compliance with Air Force regulatory guidance should not exclusively be driven by our impending inspections.

Air Force and Air National Guard functionals publish standardized inspection checklists which can be used to build a sound unit self-inspection program. For example, the Management Internal Control Toolkit, or MICT, was established to evaluate compliance within applicable mission areas. Use these tools and expand upon them to tell the story of the job you do.

2. Review past inspections. Evaluate previous performances on unit inspections, paying particular attention to repeat discrepancies. Research other units' recent inspection reports for trends and best practices. Look for successes and deficiencies,

finding ways to improve when necessary. Do you have a best practice within your unit?

3. Assess the situation. Unit leaders should be actively engaged in the self-inspection program. Are your unit pro-

do just prior to an assessment.

After analyzing the data, correct deficiencies and make improvements that will maximize your unit's efficiency and mission effectiveness.

4. Understand what's expected. Knowing the grading criteria will help your unit not only meet but exceed expectations. "Satisfactory" can be obtained by simply following prescribed checklists. An "Excellent" rating is achieved when added attention to detail is displayed when following the checklists. Going above and beyond what is required while displaying a detailed awareness of your unit function can yield an "Outstanding." Is your unit a model for others to follow?

5. Evaluate your progress. Leaders within your organization should meet routinely to evaluate solutions to deficiencies. Critical suspense dates should be identified, and progress on corrective actions reviewed regularly.

Time is of the essence; early identification is the key to success!

These five steps, along with a positive attitude, can help provide the basis for a plan of attack that will yet again prove the wing's high standard of readiness and compliance. Doing "just enough" is only accepting mediocrity. This wing continues to have much higher expectations. Being prepared now for the challenges that loom ahead will provide every unit in the wing with an opportunity to set the standard!



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grams up to date? Be confident in your processes; ask questions now to avoid confusion later. Self-inspection checklists are living documents that should be routinely performed, not something you

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We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Our office is located in room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building.

Publication deadline for submissions to the next issue is Nov. 14.

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Public Affairs scores multiple awards in NGB Media Contest

The 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office has again been recognized for excellence, taking home multiple awards in the 2011 National Guard Bureau Media Contest.

The annual event recognizes the best work of PA offices across the National Guard, from news writing to photography.

Maj. Dale Greer, chief of public affairs for the 123rd Airlift Wing, won four awards:

- 1st place in the photojournalism category for a story and photo package on the wing's response to Hurricane Irene
- 1st place in the picture story category for a photo essay on the wing's support of Louisville Veterans Day celebrations
- 2nd place in the news photo category for a picture depicting the wing's role in a city-wide 9/11 remembrance ceremony
- 2nd place in the feature photo category for a picture depicting visitors to the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall traveling exhibit

Master Sgt. Philip Speck, public affairs manager for the 123rd Airlift Wing, took home an honorable mention for his environmental portrait of a Kentucky Airman.

Since 1995, the wing's public affairs shop has won more than 50 national awards of excellence from the National Guard Bureau, the U.S. Air Force and the Department of Defense.

Greer is a five-time National Guard Journalist of the Year, a former U.S. Air Force Print Journalist of the Year and the recipient of a Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Award for news writing — DoD's highest journalism prize.

He won 1st place in last year's NGB Media Contest for picture story and news photo.

Wing Fitness Challenge tests Ky. Airmen's mettle

Special Tactics repeats to earn top prize again

By Master Sgt. Philip Speck
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 123rd Special Tactics Squadron held on to its title of most physically fit team on base after competing against 14 other Kentucky Air Guard squads during the fourth-annual Wing Fitness Challenge here Oct. 21.

Sixty Airmen competed in the challenge, which tested four-person teams on their ability to complete a circuit of 80 pushups, 40 sit-ups and a 1.5-mile relay race. Teams could be either all male or co-ed.

The special tactics team set a new record this year, completing the challenge in 8 minutes and 54 seconds — 6 seconds faster than the record they set last year.

Tech. Sgt. Shaun Cowherd, base fitness program manager for the 123rd Force Support Squadron, said the challenge helps build esprit

de corps while promoting fitness.

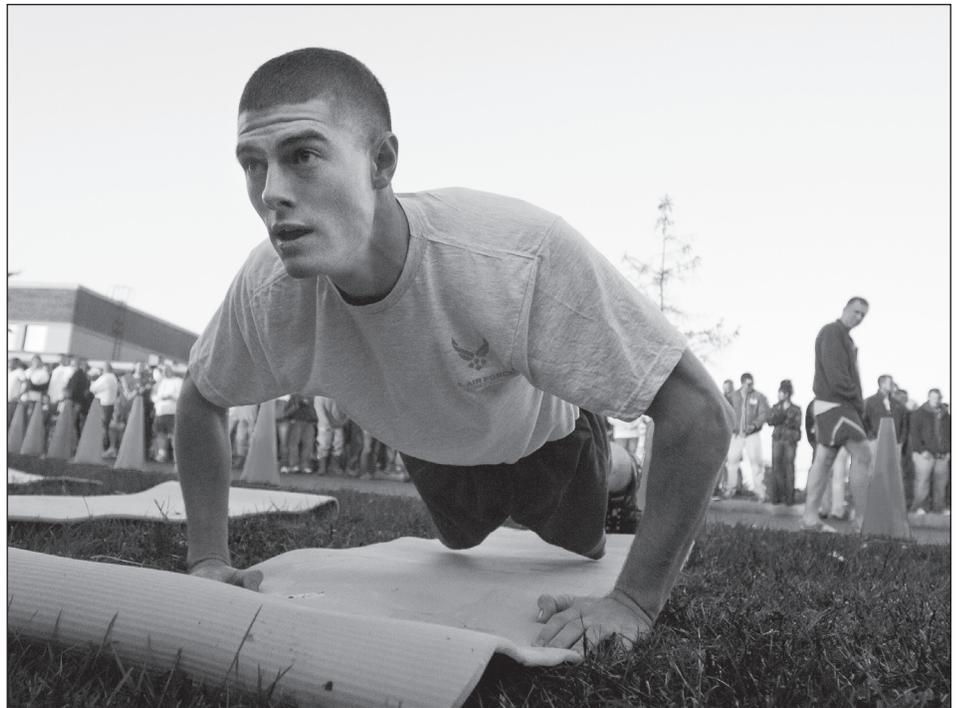
"Year after year, we're seeing the times get faster and faster," he said. "It shows that people are paying attention to fitness and being fit to fight."

The STS team was comprised of Capt. Nathan Tingle, Tech. Sgt. Harley Bobay, Staff Sgt. Oliver Smith and Senior Airman Matt Ray, all of whom received a wing commander's coin.

The 123rd Security Forces Squadron team came in a close second at 9:01, followed by a team from the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron at 9:22.

The top-scoring co-ed team hailed from the 165th Airlift Squadron.

"Being my first year involved with the Fitness Challenge, I was excited to see the participation from each unit, both from the competitors and the spectators," said 2nd Lt. Jonathan Fairbanks of the 123rd Force Support Squadron. "I think events like the Fitness Challenge increase camaraderie within individual units and have a morale-boosting affect base-wide, strengthening the 123rd as a whole."



Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

The Wing Fitness Challenge tested the ability of four-person teams to complete 80 pushups, 40 sit-ups and a 1.5-mile relay race. The team with the fastest overall time — the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron — took home top honors for the second consecutive year.

Family First

Hundreds turn out for 123rd Family Day during October UTA

**By Senior Airman Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

Bounce houses, games, a popcorn stand and a fire truck lined Thoroughbred Express Blvd. as Airmen, family members, guests and volunteers converged onto the Kentucky Air Guard Base Oct. 21 for the 123rd Airlift Wing's 2012 Family Day.

Col. Warren Hurst, wing commander, greeted more than 500 spouses and children during a welcome address in the Fuel Cell Hanger.

"We are very excited to have all of you here to share this day with us," he said. "Our families play a vital role in our mission and make sacrifices every day to support what we do here. This day is about celebrating that family spirit."

Guests were treated to motivational speaker Kay Frances' humorous look at military life, followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in a miniature C-130.

Following the theme of "Christmas in October," a small AAFES store was set up in the hangar by the Fort Knox Post Exchange. Uniform items, electronics, perfumes and many other items were available for purchase.

On the main activity field, family games including a duck pond and bingo, along with activities such as face-painting and washable tattoos, rounded out the afternoon. A picnic-style lunch was served, and several prizes were raffled off.

"Today was a great day," said event coordinator Dave Rooney, program manager for the 123rd Airlift Wing's Airman and Family Readiness Group. "The amount of family members who came out to support their Airmen and spend the day here is tremendous. We had so many volunteers who came to help (and) more activities for families to take part in. It was a very successful event."



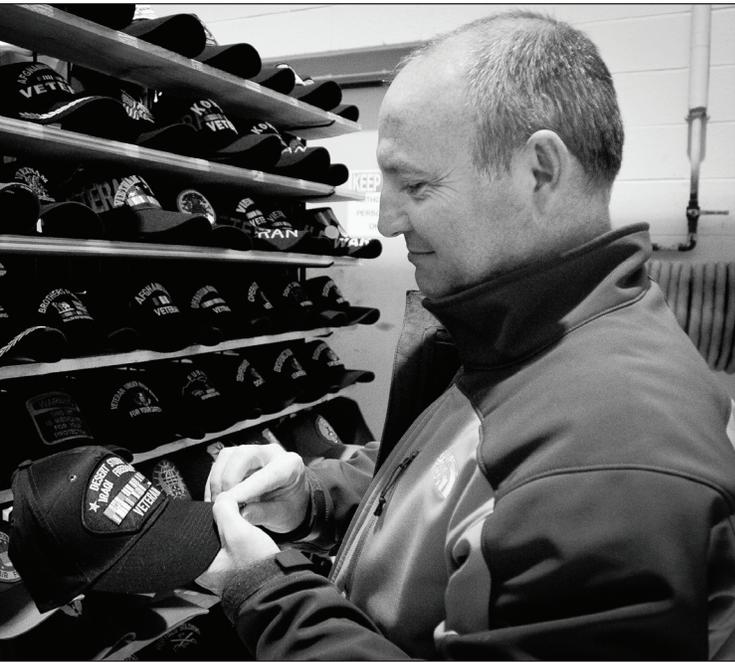
Above: Family Day events included a wide variety of activities for children, including a duck pond and face painting. (KyANG photo by Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel)



Above: Lt. Col. Kevin [Name] amines hats offered for Senior Airman Maxwell [Name]



Above: One of the highlights was an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who posed for Base Fuel Cell Hangar as part of "Christmas in October." (KyANG photo by Senior Airman [Name])



Morris of the Wing Plans Office ex- sale by a vendor. (KyANG photo by Rechel)



Left: Adarius Hite, son of Kentucky Air National Guard member 2nd Lt. Angela Hite, shows his support for the University of Kentucky Wildcats while he paints pictures during Family Day. Other attractions included a picnic-style lunch and raffle for prizes ranging from gift baskets to overnight lodging at local resorts. (KyANG photo by Senior Airman Vicky Spesard)



photos with family members in the Maxwell Rechel)



Above: Scores of children took advantage of two "bounce houses" and a slide in the field between Headquarters and Civil Engineering. (KyANG photo by Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel)



Left: Representatives from a number of area schools and government agencies were on hand to answer questions posed by visitors. (KyANG photo by Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel)

Base initiatives reduce energy consumption

By Master Sgt. Philip Speck
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 123rd Communications Flight recently installed new network servers at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base that will reduce energy consumption by up to 84 percent while maintaining the same level of performance, officials said.

“This initiative is one of many being implemented to help conserve energy at the Air Guard Base,” according to Tom Spalding, an environmental technician for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

The U.S. Air Force is the largest energy consumer in the federal government, and the Kentucky Air Guard is constantly looking for new ways to conserve energy, Spalding added. Under an executive order, federal agencies have established a goal of reducing energy consumption by up to 3 percent annually.

“The 123rd Airlift Wing is fully committed to improving resiliency, reducing demand, assuring supply and fostering an energy-aware culture,” said Lt. Col. Robert Hamm, vice wing commander.

“Our overriding concern is securing energy for the future.”

One way the base ensures energy conservation is through the use of “smart meters” on each building. The meters record continual usage of electricity and natural gas, then feed the data into a report that helps officials identify usage patterns and opportunities for increased efficiency.

“There is a little broadcast station on each building that sends metrics to a central computer that helps us create a monthly report on each building’s energy usage,” Spalding said.

Interior lighting has been upgraded across the base, too. New bulbs use less energy but produce the same amount of light. The 123rd



Master Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Tom Spalding, an environmental technician for the 123rd Airlift Wing, checks a gas meter on base Oct. 12. Many of the wing’s utility meters collect and wirelessly transmit energy-usage data for monthly reports, helping officials identify opportunities to reduce consumption.

Civil Engineer Squadron also is on constant watch for opportunities to improve insulation and weather stripping around windows and doors.

While base officials continue to identify systemic solutions for energy conservation, Spalding encouraged every Airman to do his or her part with simple actions that can become part of a daily routine:

- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.

- Replace inefficient items. If a piece of equipment is loud, hot or old, that’s probably a good indication that it’s not energy efficient.

- Connect all computer peripherals (but not the computer itself) to a switched power strip, and turn that strip off at the end of each day. By eliminating the stand-by power used by monitors, speakers and chargers, the wing can save a substantial amount of electricity over the course of year.

Ky. Guard deploys 5th agribusiness team to Afghanistan

By Capt. Stephen Martin
Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs

FRANKFORT, Ky.— Approximately 39 members of the Kentucky National Guard’s Agribusiness Development Team 5 departed here Oct. 23 for a deployment to Afghanistan.

Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, adjutant general for Kentucky, and the Kentucky National Guard command staff joined friends and families of the team members for a send-off

ceremony held at the Kentucky State University Demonstration Farm.

“This mission is certainly unique,” said Tonini. “The ADT mission was designed to rebuild Afghanistan’s economy and give stability to its government. Because of our background in agriculture and the stellar reputation of the Kentucky Guard, we’ve led the way in providing these skill sets to the Afghan people.”

ADT 5 will take the reins from Kentucky’s ADT 4, which has been in Afghanistan since

February. The mission of the new team is to continue the work undertaken by the previous four Kentucky units in assisting local Afghans to become agriculturally self-sufficient and develop their agriculture marketplace.

In addition to agriculture activities, ADT 5 will be instrumental in coordinating an effort with the Kentucky F.F.A. (previously known as Future Farmers of America), Kandahar

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McKinley retires, capping an historic career

Florida Guardsman was first to wear 4-star rank at NGB, hold JCS seat

**By Sgt. 1st Class Blair Heusdens
Florida National Guard**

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — Gen. Craig R. McKinley spent the past 14 years serving in the nation’s capital, but he returned home to northeast Florida Oct. 19 to celebrate his nearly 40-year military career with the people he served with the longest.

“On behalf of all the men and women who make up our National Guard — about 460,000 nationally — I’m deeply honored to be back in my home state of Florida and honored to have the commander and chief of the Florida National Guard retire me today,” McKinley said.

Flanked by his friends, family and peers, McKinley received the Governor’s Medal of Merit from Florida Gov. Rick Scott and the

Florida Cross from the adjutant general of Florida, Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw Jr., during a formal retreat ceremony on the parade field of the historic St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine.

McKinley, a Florida National Guardsman, made history at the beginning of the year when he became the first National Guardsman to serve as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It was not the first time, however, that he set a “first.”

McKinley was the first National Guardsman to head the National Guard Bureau as a four-star general. He also made history in 1991 when he took command of the Florida National Guard’s Fighter Interceptor Group, becoming the youngest group or wing commander in the history of the Florida Air National Guard.

The elevation of the chief of the National Guard Bureau to a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff was a significant step in recognizing the importance of the National Guard to the safety and security of the nation.

“It is a great tribute to the Senate Armed

Services Committee for realizing these last 12 years of men and women in the National Guard serving alongside our active components, to give us an opportunity to be at the table where decisions are made,” McKinley said.

McKinley received his commission in 1974 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Southern Methodist University.

He joined the Florida National Guard in 1980 as a T-23 and F-106 alert pilot. He has served in numerous assignments in flying and operations, as well as command positions at group, wing, sector and field operating agency levels.

Like many who retire after a long and successful career, the day held mixed feelings for McKinley.

“It’s a tough day, it’s a bittersweet moment,” said McKinley. “But all of us know when we put on the uniform there will come a day when we have to say goodbye. Today’s that day for me, and I couldn’t have been more proud to be here.”

Patriot

Continued from Front Page

bers who were frantically searching for loved ones.

Fairbanks said he was extremely pleased with the performance of his members, who had to balance the challenges of responding to exercise inputs in a dynamic environment with the need to train the Indiana unit while integrating with FSRTs from two other states.

“What I thought was going to be our biggest challenge — integrating with the other teams — actually was our biggest strength,” he said. “When you bring in four teams with four different ways of doing things, sometimes you run into issues. But we didn’t really have that.”

Master Sgt. Krista Lindsey, non-commissioned officer in charge of Kentucky’s FSRT, said the exercise helped prepare the team for real-world deployments in which members will be required to work with a broad range of disaster-response officials.

“This was a great training experience since it is very likely we’ll be working with other units and augmentees in a mass-casualty environment,” Lindsey said.

Lindsey and Fairbanks both noted the crucial nature of the FSRT mission, which ensures that the remains of deceased citizens are recovered with dignity.

“I tell my team there aren’t very many jobs more important than ours,” Fairbanks said. “We ensure they get to bring their



2nd Lt. Jonathan Fairbanks (right), 123rd Force Support Squadron Fatality Search and Recovery Team officer in charge, talks with Arizona FSRT officer in charge Capt. Paul W. Jefferson during Patriot 12 at Volk Field, Wis.

loved ones home, to get a proper resting place.”

Lindsey agreed.

“Our job as the Fatality Search and Recovery Team is essential because we are there to maintain the dignity of the family’s loved one with respect at the scene of a mass casualty, in both a chemical and non-chemical environment,” she said. “Our team is prepared to operate knowing that we support the local authorities and we can bring our capabilities, processes, procedures and lessons learned from our training to effectively support each mission.”

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Heiniger takes charge of Contingency Response

By Master Sgt. Philip Speck
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Mark Heiniger assumed command of the 123rd Contingency Response Group during a ceremony held Sept. 15 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.



Senior Airman Maxwell Rechel/KyANG

Lt. Col. Mark Heiniger receives his first salute as commander of the 123rd Contingency Response Group during a change-of-command ceremony held Sept. 15 in the Base Annex. Also pictured is the group's former commander, Col. Warren Hurst, who was promoted to command the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Heiniger, a C-130 pilot who most recently served as deputy commander of the 123rd Maintenance Group, was selected for the job because of his experience and dedication, said Col. Warren Hurst, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"Colonel Heiniger is a highly experienced C-130 pilot who has flown numerous contingency missions worldwide for over 25 years," Hurst said. "He knows how an operation should run to safely maximize airlift capability.

"As a traditional Guardsman, his level of volunteerism has earned him the moniker 'war horse,' which is fitting because he has participated in so many deployments. His civilian and military experience will be a great asset to the CRG."

The 123rd Contingency Response Group is designed to be an early responder in the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other major emergency anywhere within the United States. It also can support military contingency operations worldwide. The group facilitated civil-military air relief efforts during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, delivering more than 725 short tons of humanitarian aid.

Heiniger earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 1984 and completed pilot training in 1985. For the next six years, he served as a C-130 pilot for the 50th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

He joined the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1995 and became an evaluator pilot for the 165th Airlift Squadron before serving as chief of standards and evaluation.

Heiniger was named commander of the 123rd Operations Support Flight in 2002 and later led flying operations in support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom during a seven-month overseas deployment to U.S. Central Command.

In 2007, Heiniger was named commander of the 165th Airlift Squadron, leading the unit through two successful Operational Readiness Inspections, three Air Expeditionary Force deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and numerous Joint Forge and Coronet Oak deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Puerto Rico, respectively.

Heiniger is a veteran of multiple combat operations, including Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He also has deployed in support of Operations Volant Pine, Restore Hope, Provide Promise, Volant Oak, Joint Enterprise and Coronet Oak.

Afghanistan

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University in Afghanistan and several non-profit organizations to create programs to improve the incomes of Afghan farmers.

ADT 5 is made up of Airmen, Soldiers and civilian agricultural specialists with a variety of skills and backgrounds in agriculture matters.

Col. Bob Hayter, the commander of ADT 5, feels fully prepared for the mission they're about to embark on.

"We have five more weeks of training before we put boots on the ground in Afghanistan, and I know we could go today. We're that ready."