

Airlifters fly, conduct training in Yuma

Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

» Wing Public Affairs

The 133rd Airlift Wing sought the clear skies and warm weather of Yuma, Ariz. in late February and early March, preparing for potential deployments. The C-130 "Hercules" cargo aircraft and Airmen flew in desert conditions, accomplishing required annual training missions while experiencing weather and terrain like Southwest Asia.

Eighty-five Airmen of the 133rd Airlift Wing's Operations Group, Maintenance Group and Small Air Terminal deployed for annual training to Yuma Proving Ground on Feb. 27, 2011, trading the snow and ice of Minnesota for five days in the sun in Arizona.

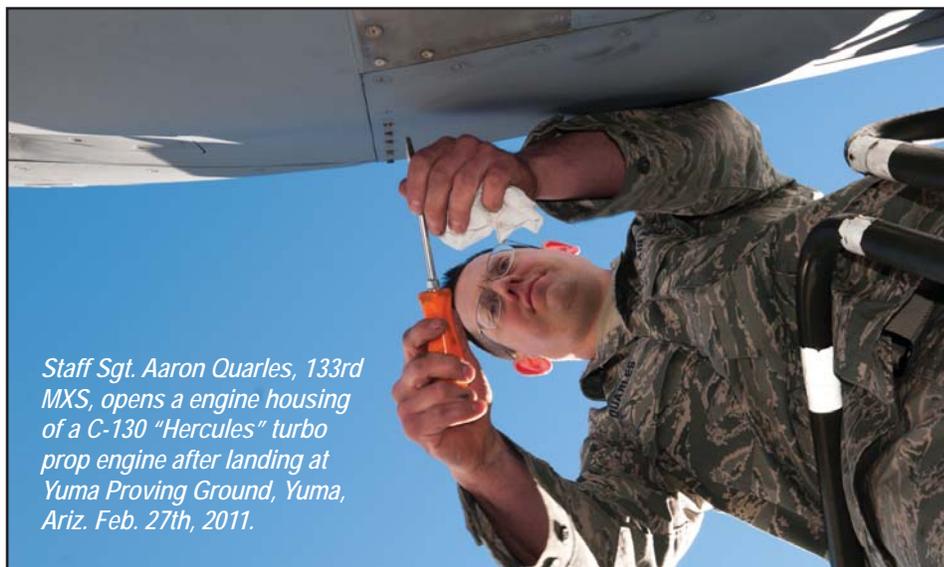
"We came here to support our next Air Expeditionary Force deployment," said **Maj. Jeff Wong**, mission commander of Yuma 2011.

He said the conditions in Yuma with very little precipitation and low desert with mountains are ideal for the C-130s of the 109th Airlift Squadron.

The squadron and support elements packed everything needed for the mission into four aircraft, including trucks to support drop zone operations and gator vehicles to support flight line operations.

Operations were run out of

(YUMA, continued page 6)



Staff Sgt. Aaron Quarles, 133rd MXS, opens a engine housing of a C-130 "Hercules" turbo prop engine after landing at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz. Feb. 27th, 2011.

Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

Wing receives another AFOUA

Capt. Ann Todd

» Airlift Wing



The U.S. Air Force announced the award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to the 133rd Airlift Wing for accomplishments from October 2009 to September 2010.

"The Airmen of the 133rd are dedicated to serving with excellence," said **Col. Greg A. Haase**, 133rd AW commander. "With a vision of 'Citizens serving America, Airmen defending freedom,' they continue to make a profound, positive difference."

This award is given annually to 10 percent of Air Force units that perform exceptionally meritorious service, accomplish specific acts of outstanding achievement or excel in combat operations against an armed enemy of the U.S., said **Col. Deon Ford**, Minnesota National Guard JFHQ director of staff-Air.

(AFOUA, continued page 3)



Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

▲ Airmen representing the 133rd AW pause in front of a C-130 H3 "Hercules" on the flightline for a photo used in a brochure called the "2011 Roadmap" on Oct. 17, 2010. For more information on this brochure and other Outstanding Airmen, see page 11.

Guard leaders observe 133AW: looking good!

Lt. Col. Dan Gabrielli
» Acting Vice Wing Commander



This may be called the spring column, but as I write this, it sure still feels like winter, only with a brighter sun. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, you'll see a more normal spring picture outside of your window.

Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, just paid us a visit in early April in conjunction with his participation at a local ESGR banquet. He was given an extensive briefing by Col. Haase as well as a tour of the 133rd, during which he honored many of our award winning Airmen.

A free exchange of insights shared by him to us and vice versa occurred, enhancing everyone's sight

picture of the pre-eminent issues facing the guard as a whole, as well as its individual air wings.

A lot has been going on during the past quarter in spite of the weather. We finally got a chance to celebrate our ORI and AEF successes as well as our most recent achievement, the 133AW's eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, at the February 133rd Wing Military Ball. The evening was filled with good food, music, and fellowship, as well as a great guest speaker, Don Shelby.

A lot of effort under a very high operations tempo is responsible for our successes. We are high achievers who often put the mission ahead, sometimes too far ahead, of ourselves. It is under these circumstances that we periodically have to step back, take a look around, and make sure that our fellow airmen are doing okay. To that end, we participated in Wingman Day during March UTA. This was our collective opportunity to

learn recognition and recovery skills when it comes to taking care of others and our selves.

It is important to know what resources are available within our wing to help keep us mentally and emotionally strong so that we can continue to serve as effective airmen, but just as importantly, as healthy members of our own families.

Please continue to use the skills gained from this presentation and continue to look out for one another.

(Commander, continued page 4)

Resiliency key to dealing with stress

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Echert
» Wing Chaplain



A big push Air Force wide in this calendar year is a focus upon resiliency--with good reason and hope for positive outcomes. Resiliency is the ability to cope and recover in the face of stressors and adversity.

We chaplains and medical personnel who have served at Landstuhl casualty hospital have witnessed the incredible ability of Wounded Warriors to be resilient in the face of the most horrific adversity, including lost limbs and severe burns. One phenomenon common among them is a lack of self pity; instead they are typically grieving

the loss of comrades and feeling guilt for their removal from the AOR. The irony is the greater the injury, the more intense such feelings. This in itself is no doubt an early coping mechanism in the long process of recovery.

At the same time, we do not have to be visibly Wounded Warriors to sometimes need extra time, patience with self, and support from others in order to bounce back from stress and adversity to return our own standard of "normal."

And while we strive to be resilient for our own good and that of the mission, let's be sure to continue to be good wingmen for each other in our common efforts to maintain a resilient Air Guard.

Remember, too, the many resource people available to help, including your chaplains.

NORTHSTAR Guardian

**133rd Airlift Wing
Minnesota Air National Guard**
"Citizens serving America,
Airmen defending Freedom."

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Two National Guard generals visit the Wing a few days apart



Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss

† Gen. Craig McKinley has been to the 133rd Airlift Wing before, but his visit on Apr. 4, 2011 was his first since becoming the Director of the National Guard. "I am most impressed with the professionalism of the people and your accomplishments," McKinley said about the members of the Minnesota Air National Guard. He spent the day with Wing leaders touring the base and talked at length with Airmen at all levels. He took the opportunity to recognize outstanding individuals at each stop, giving four-star coins and words of encouragement to men and women from each group. McKinley is pictured shaking hands with Senior Master Sgt. Matt Woods, 133rd Medical Group as Dr. (Col.) Dave Hamlar, 133rd MG commander tells the Director what a "stellar performer" he has in the organization.

► Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, III, Director of the Air National Guard (right), shakes hands with Air Force Lt. Col. Dan Gabrielli, acting Vice Wing Commander of the 133rd Airlift Wing as Army Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard (center right) and Air Force Brig. Gen. Bob Cayton, Chief of Staff of the Minnesota Air National Guard (left) greet the DANG at the Air National Guard base in St. Paul, Minn. on Mar. 22, 2011. Wyatt and other leaders in the Air National Guard came together at the 133rd AW to discuss Air Force Core Values.



Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss



Yellow Ribbon upcoming events

- 30 Day Post Deployment ~ April 13, 2011
- Pre-Deployment ~ May 19-20, 2011
- 60 Day Post Deployment ~ June 10, 2011
- 90 Day Post Deployment ~ July 15, 2011

Learn about your benefits and build resiliency for you and your family!
 Families highly encouraged to attend.
 Child care provided – must pre-register
 For more information and to register go to:
www.jointservicessupport.org

AFOUA (Continued from page 1)

The award is largely the result of excellent results in inspections and involvement in military operations both overseas and in the local community, said Ford.

Among the accomplishments the Air Force listed were:

- * Deployed over 470 Airmen to 11 different countries to fulfill Air Expeditionary and Combat Support assignments
- * Flew over one thousand five hundred combat sorties in Southwest Asia, supporting military and humanitarian airlift missions in C-130 H3 "Hercules" aircraft
- * Maintained an impressive rate of aircraft mission capable rate of nearly ninety percent while deployed in support of overseas contingency operations in an austere location

This is the eighth AFOUA awarded to the 133rd Airlift Wing since the mid 1980s, said Ford. Past awards were received in 2008, 2003, 2002, 1999, 1997, 1992 and 1987.

Commander

(Continued from page 2)

Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt, Air National Guard Director, paid a short notice visit to the 133rd as well as other Air National Guard Units in late March. This whirlwind tour was conducted in order to gather senior leaders, Air TAGs, Wing Commanders, Comptrollers and JAGs, from ANG Wing's around the country in order to address some trends of concern throughout the Air National Guard, and start the process of promoting a refreshed awareness of the Air Force Core Values.

He acknowledged the Air National Guard's reputation as a premier fighting force and the forging of that impression throughout the total force since 9/11.

His concern within the Air National Guard relates to a cultural slip. By this he means a process where small, sometimes even legal indiscretions relat-

ing to pay and entitlements, as well as procedures for conducting our duties, can eventually lead to a culture of acceptance of large violations of regulations and procedures.

Gen. Wyatt cited multiple examples of incidents ranging from BAH and travel voucher fraud, to omissions of critical information in personal records which would enhance entitlements. He pointed out that with the impending draw down of current conflicts there will be, as there historically has been, a peace dividend which will take place during which budgets to different commands and components of the military will be re-aligned. Now more than ever, the Director of the ANG needs to continue his vital mission as a promoter of our mission in the Air National Guard.

We need to be the next Command in line to procure the newest airframes such as the C-130J or KC-46 or F-35. Every incident which he has to

defend detracts from that mission of promotion. As we all know, when a member of the Air National Guard commits a legal transgression which ends up in the public media, there is always mention of that member's identity as an Air National Guardsman.

What all of this means to us at the 133rd, is that we must continue to hold ourselves to a higher standard, by adherence to the Core Values, "Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do."

I have no worries about the 133rd Airlift Wing. We've always done it the right way and our successes and reputation are evidence of that. It is great units such as ours', however, who continue greatness through constant vigilance against this slippery cultural slope. Thank you all for everything you do, and thank you most of all, for the high level of integrity with which you do the mission every day.

Wing members deploy for training in England

Staff Sgt. Amber Monio

» *Wing Public Affairs*

Twenty-five Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing deployed to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England February 27, 2011 to take part in a two-week deployment for training. The mission was a joint effort, with 11 Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minn. also participating in the training opportunity.

Together, the nearly 40 Guardsmen worked alongside members of RAF Mildenhall's 100th Air Refueling Wing, assisting their active-duty counterparts on communications operations and wing staff functions.

The majority of the deployed personnel supported the 100th Communications Squadron with cyber systems operations, client systems, cyber surety, knowledge operations

management, RF transmission and cyber transport systems.

"It has been an immense help to have the Minnesota Guard here," said **Master Sgt. Michael Bitson**, noncommissioned officer in charge



Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss

Airman 1st Class Brian Rominski, 133rd Comptroller Flight, watches the action on the flight deck of a KC-135 aircraft flying over the Atlantic Ocean. The 128th Air Refueling Wing from Milwaukee provided airlift support for the Minnesota Air National Guard during a deployment to RAF Mildenhall Feb. 27, 2011.

of the 100th Communications Squadron's cyber transport systems.

Without the Guard's help, many tasks would have been pushed off to the wayside and would not have gotten done on time, said Bitson.

Several wing staff members also executed their annual training during the DFT by providing assistance to many of RAF Mildenhall's work sections, including command post, financial management, public affairs, recruiting, wing plans, and sexual assault prevention and response.

The DFT presented a unique opportunity for Minnesota Airmen to engage in a total force collaboration with an active-duty workforce, while also providing a functional setting for deployed personnel to maintain proficiency in their career fields throughout the two weeks in the United Kingdom.



Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

▲ *Families and friends greet returning Airmen on Feb. 8, 2011.*

SFS back from Iraq

Thirty Security Forces Airmen returned to Minnesota in two waves in February 2011, following a six-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

The Airmen returned from duty from Sather Air Base in Iraq. While participating in Operation New Dawn, they handled law enforcement duties and installation security for U.S. and host nation forces at the air base located at the Baghdad International Airport.

▼ *Families and friends greet returning Airmen on Feb. 8, 2011.*

Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson



ALCF & SAT train at Operation Green Flag East

Senior Master Sgt. Lara Olson

» *ALCF Unit PA Rep*

Late last year, members of the 133rd ALCF and 133rd LRS Small Air Terminal augmented the 172nd ALCF out of Jackson, Miss. at “Operation Green Flag East” positioned at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Ft. Polk, La.

The JRTC’s charge is to enhance unit readiness by providing realistic joint and combined arms training in a “dirt” combat training environment. The exercise scenarios are meant to replicate unique situations and challenges a unit may face while deployed; to include encounters with host nationals, insurgents and terrorists; news media coverage;

and non-governmental organizations.

133rd ALCF and SAT members supplemented the 172nd Jackson ALCF, which served as a deployed en route C2 Element at Self LZ, a dirt strip located at Ft. Polk JRTC.

During this comprehensive contingency response and combat skills exercise, members of the 172nd and 133rd participated in mobile C2 operations, on-load and off-load mission support operations, joint inspection operations, joint airfield support operations, and secure satellite and UHV/VHF voice/data communications.

The fifteen C-130 missions allowed members ample combat on- and off-load training as they on-loaded 30.9 tons and off-loaded 21.2 tons of cargo.



Courtesy photo

Members of the 172nd ALCF and 133rd LRS complete a method “B” combat offload at Fort Polk, La. in November 2010.

Yuma 2011 “Cactus caper”

A C-130 H3 drops a pallet during training on Feb. 28, 2011 at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz.



Story and all photos by Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson



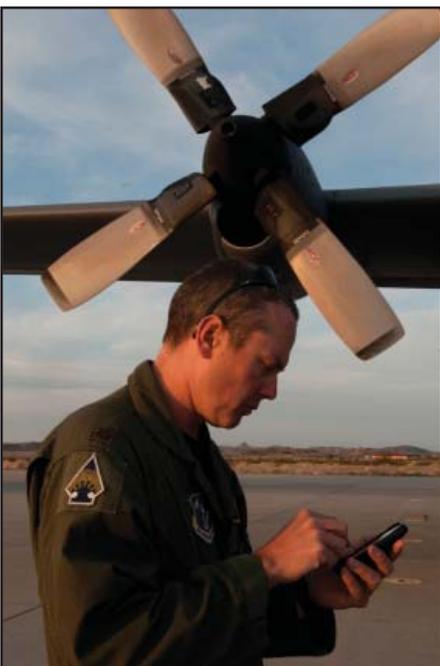
◀ *One of the hazards encountered by the Airmen of the 133rd Airlift Wing while deployed to Yuma, Arizona the week of 27 Feb. 2011 were the many cactus. These created a severe hazard to the delicate parachutes tumbling to the ground from the C-130 cargo aircraft of the Minnesota Air National Guard.*

Yuma (continued from Page 1) trailers much like the field conditions during a combat deployment.

Yuma is home to the Military Free fall School which appreciates air support from visiting units. The Minnesota crews provided about five lifts a day.

“The beauty of Yuma is the military free fall school, which makes completing personnel drops that are required training for both loadmasters and navigators,” according to

Crew members and the aircraft of the 133rd AW await departure in the early morning sun on Mar. 4, 2011 at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz.



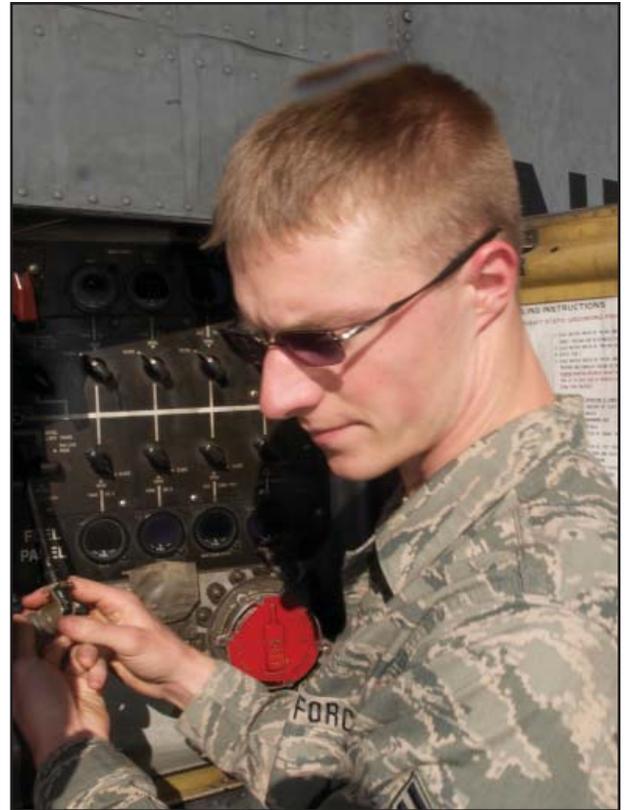
◀ *Maj. Scot Wilcox, a 109th Airlift Squadron pilot, crunches numbers before launching in the early morning sun on Mar. 4, 2011 at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz.*

Lt. Col. Andy Burda, 133rd Operations Support Flight commander. Getting this amount of training done in 5 days saves the 133rd Airlift Wing money and shortens the amount of time members are away from their civilian jobs.

“I can’t thank Minnesota enough for coming out and helping with our instructor course. I had never had that many C-130s supporting us simultaneously!” said **Alfonso Rocha** of the Military Free Fall School operations.



Staff Sgt. Casey Jaeger, 133rd LRS Drop Zone Recovery Team directs a forklift preparing to load pallets onto a C-130 March 3, 2011.



▲ Staff Sgt. Jordan Grigg, a 133rd AMXS Crew Chief, checks the fuel status of a Minnesota Air National Guard C-130 Feb. 27, 2011 at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz.



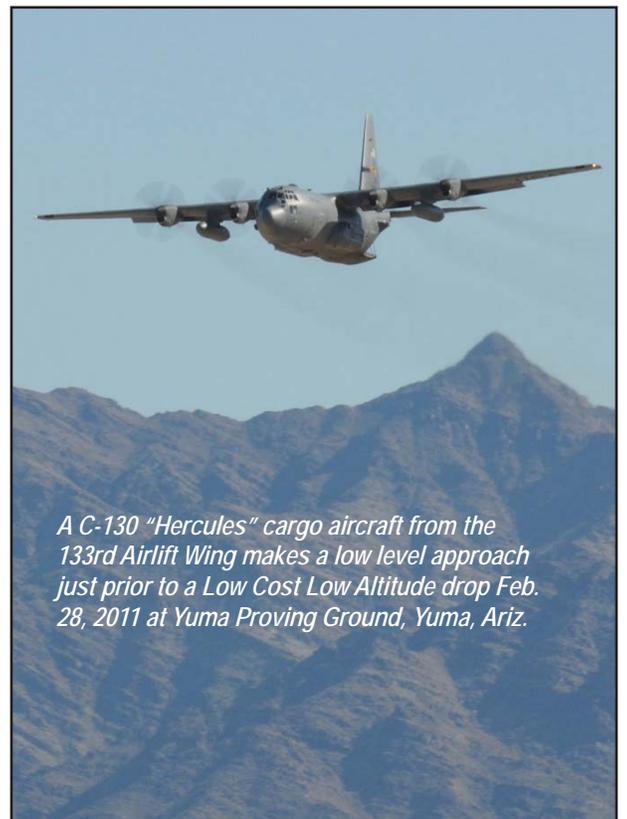
“From a training perspective, taking 36 air crew members and flying 3 times a day for 3 days completes a major portion of their semi-annual training requirements.

Air Crew members were able to complete Cargo Delivery Systems drops, Low Cost Low Altitude drops, personnel drops, and low level flying training.” said Wong.

When the mission was complete and all airmen and aircraft had returned to Minnesota, Wong commented about the success of the mission: “Everyone did their job and made my job easy. We had 100% launch rate and not a single injury or illness.”



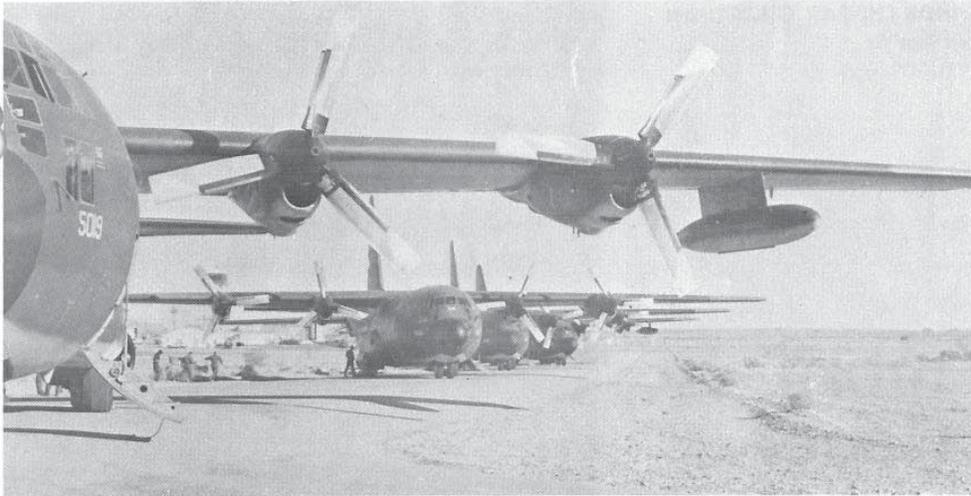
Tech. Sgt. Jacob Majerus 133rd LRS Drop Zone Recovery Team, packs up a cargo delivery system parachute after its drop from a C-130 March 1, 2011 near Yuma, Ariz.



A C-130 “Hercules” cargo aircraft from the 133rd Airlift Wing makes a low level approach just prior to a Low Cost Low Altitude drop Feb. 28, 2011 at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz.

A look back at Yuma from 1976:

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SUNNING THEMSELVES, C-130s stretched their wings in warmth of desert sunshine at Laguna Army Airfield, where the airplanes were parked for loading and rigging during Cactus Caper.

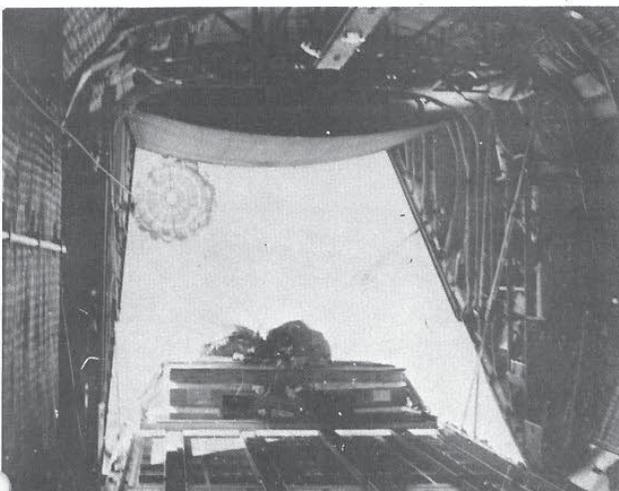
Cactus Caper

What could make 90 Minnesotans fly off to a desert airstrip in Arizona for five days in January?

Just about anything.

Trading snow and ice for five days in the sun was a happy fringe benefit for Minnesota Air Guardsmen on Cactus Caper, a trip to Arizona for intensive work to drop heavy and container delivered loads and accomplish a maximum of semi-annual training requirements in a short time.

On the trip to Yuma Marine Corps Air Station and Laguna Army Airfield, Ariz., was Guardian editor Capt. Neal Gendler, who took the photos on this and the following pages.



ON THE WAY - An extraction parachute pulls a heavy cargo load from a C-130 over the drop zone. The main parachutes, visible as rounded objects atop the load, open an instant after the load is clear of the airplane.



SAFETY PEEK is given inside a Hercules wheel well by TSgt. "Ole" Swenson, one of the maintenance specialists who kept the C-130s flying for five days of hard use.



GETTING THERE, Maj. Wayne Crowley reads course change instructions to the pilots of the Hercules he is navigating.

Norway exchange brings distant relatives together

Pfc. Tricia Betz

» 1/34th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

OLSO, Norway – For two distant relatives living over 4,000 miles apart, it was a chance to finally meet. The 38th Annual Norwegian Exchange program in Feb., 2011 provided the opportunity for **Senior Airman Alicia Sonstebly**, 133rd Airlift Wing Maintenance Squadron, to meet **Gunnar Fridtjof Thurmann Sonstebly** for the first time.

“I am very thankful for this opportunity to meet Gunnar,” said Ali. “It was an amazing experience.”

Gunnar Sonstebly is the currently the most highly decorated person in Norway. He was recognized for his work as a Norwegian resistance fighter during World War II. His list of awards includes, but is not limited to the War Cross with three Swords, Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav, Norwegian Defense Medal with laurel branch, Norwegian Police Cross of Honour, Distinguished Service Order, Presidential Medal of Freedom, the American-Scandinavian Foundation’s Culture Award and he was the first non-American awarded the United States Special Operations Command Medal in 2008.

“I was hunted by the Gestapo for five years and after five years they didn’t find me,” said Gunnar. “I guess they didn’t win; I won,” he added.

While Ali was deployed with the 133rd AW to Afghanistan in 2010, Gunnar came to United States for the signing of his book “Report From 24.” While in the U.S., Gunnar made contact with Ali’s aunt and met the Sonstebly family. Because of her deployment, Ali missed the chance to meet Gunnar at that time.

“I was disappointed that I did not get to see Gunnar when he came to the U.S. in 2010, but I knew I had an obligation, he would have the patience to understand, to fulfill my military duty as an Airman,” said the younger Sonstebly.

“Gunnar made a big impact in a war and here I am in a different one,” said Alicia. “Knowing his success makes me proud to be in the military and proud to be a part of my family.”



Pfc. Tricia Betz

▲ *The 38th Annual Norwegian Exchange program enabled Senior Airman Alicia Sonstebly, 133rd Airlift Wing Maintenance Squadron, to meet Gunnar Fridtjof Thurmann Sonstebly for the first time Feb. 18, 2011. Gunnar is her distant relative and the most highly decorated person in Norway.*



◀ *Lt. Col. Don Dahlquist (right), the first commander of the new 133rd Comptroller Flight, watches along with Airman 1st Class Brian Rominski, 133rd CPTF, as Col. Greg Haase, Wing commander, unfurls the new guidon for the flight during a ceremony on Jan. 22, 2011.*

Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

Positions announced

133rd AW Public Affairs is accepting applications for a Public Affairs Specialist. Deadline to submit application package to **Master Sgt. Sheila Jessen** is April 16, 2011. The 210th EIS is also looking for a few good men and women.

☎Call **Tech. Sgt. Tom Gangi** at Ext. 2034 for these and other cross training opportunities.

Wing worship services

Sunday, April 17, worship services at the base chapel will be as follows: Protestant worship, 8 a.m., Catholic Mass, 9 a.m., both followed by fellowship in the chapel annex.

☎For more information contact **Chap. (Lt. Col.) John Echert**, Ext. 2521.

Base security augmentees

The 133rd Airlift Wing is looking for Base Security Augmentee's again this year to perform duty on Saturdays when the museum is open to the public. If you would like to help this summer, annual training orders will be authorized for the duty day. The base will provide

the required annual training days for this additional duty. Before you sign up for duty, please contact your immediate supervisor so they are aware that you would like to be a participant in the program. We need three to six people every Saturday that the museum is open to the public.

☎For more information call **Tech. Sgt. Daniel Mikkelsen**, Ext. 2759.

Strong Bonds is back!

Attention all married couples of the 133rd Airlift Wing: funding has been approved for a Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat for this summer. Mark your calendars for June 3 through June 5 (Friday evening through Sunday midday). Retreat location has not yet been selected but we promise it will be a wonderful, relaxing environment. Check out more details on or about April 12 and register at www.strongbonds.org.

☎For more information check out our SharePoint or call **Jill Lawrence** at the Airman Readiness Office, Ext. 2367, or one of the Chaplains, Ext. 2520 or Ext. 2521.

Air Expo in July

Lt. Col. Terrance Sieben

» *Mission Support Group acting commander*

Although it has not been released to the public yet, the 133rd AW will host an Air Expo on base Saturday, July 16, 2011 featuring current and vintage USAF aircraft and providing the local population an opportunity to see what the men and women of the Minnesota Air National Guard do while serving in the community.

Planning has been underway for a very long time with an emphasis on the Wing's 90th anniversary. Much of the activities will be coordinated with the Minnesota Air Guard museum. It is anticipated there could be over fifteen thousand people on base for this one-day event.

Airmen from across the base will have a part to play. It will be held on the flightline and in the hangars with much of the action at the museum.

Former members of the Wing will be heavily involved in the planning and execution.



Lt. Col. Sharon Burt (right) takes command of the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron

On Feb. 26, 2011, Lt. Col. Sharon M. Burt took the flag of command for the 210th EIS from 133rd Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Deon Ford as outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Paul Jacobson relinquished. 210th EIS First Sgt., Master Sgt. Bob Renning oversaw the passing of the guidon of command. Burt joined the Minnesota ANG in 1980.



Maj. Ken Heutmaker (right) takes charge of the 133rd Logistic Readiness Squadron

Maj. Kenneth R. Heutmaker became the 133rd LRS commander on Mar. 19, 2011 as outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Sandy Best moves to Joint Force headquarters. 133rd LRS First Sgt., Senior Master Sgt. Annette Toutant, joined in welcoming the new LRS commander. Heutmaker joined the Minnesota Air National Guard in February 1987.

OAY state winners

Staff Sgt. Jamie VanMeter

» Joint Force Headquarters

Five members of the Minnesota Air National Guard were selected as Outstanding Airman of the Year. Four of the five were honored at the state level during an awards ceremony at the Veterans Service Building in St. Paul, Minn. Mar. 6, 2011.

Senior Airman Kathryn Morrill, 133rd LRS, was chosen as the OAY in the junior enlisted category, **Master Sgt. John Kubes**, 133rd LRS, in the senior non-commissioned officer category, **Master Sgt. Jeremiah Graves**, 148th Fighter Wing, in the 1st Sgt. category, and **Senior Master Sgt. David Gonsoski**, 133rd CES, for the Honor Guard category. All awardees received the Minnesota Commendation Medal for their achievements and an engraved trophy listing their category.

Tech. Sgt. Jacob Norsten, 133rd LRS, was OAY in the non-commissioned officer category, but could not attend the ceremony.

“They are all exceptional airmen, said **Chief Master Sgt. Greg Close**, State Command Chief for the Minnesota ANG. “The packages that were sent forward to the national level place them in good staid to compete there.”

The annual competition for OAY starts at the squadron level and progresses in boards from squadron level, to group level, to wing level, state level and then to national level.

Guard called to state active duty “flood fight”



Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss

▲ *C-130s taxi past visiting UH-60 “Blackhawk” helicopters from the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade in front of the Operations building on Mar. 29, 2011. The Army Guard helicopters are temporarily operating out of the 133rd AW base because of potential flooding at Holman Field near downtown St. Paul. The Minnesota National Guard has been called to state active duty. As of press time, at least three Airmen from the 210th EIS have been tasked to assist Clay County officials to support communications efforts to combat the floods.*

More Airmen and organizations recognized

Along with OAY awards, several members and organizations of the 133rd Airlift Wing have been recently recognized for national level awards. **Maj. Georg Fischer**, 133rd MG, received the ANG Environmental Quality Award for Individual Excellence.

For the ANG Logistics awards, **Maj. Michael Donat**, 133rd is the ANG Field Grade Officer of the Year, **Master Sgt. Scott Listberger**, 133rd LRS, is the ANG Vehicle Management Senior NCO of the Year, **Tech. Sgt. Louis Dutra**, 133rd LRS is the ANG Vehicle Management NCO of the Year, **Master Sgt. John Kubes**, 133rd LRS is the ANG Air Transportation Senior NCO of the Year, **Tech. Sgt. Jacob**

Norsten, 133rd LRS is the ANG Air Transportation NCO of the Year and **Senior Airman Kathryn Morrill**, 133rd LRS is the ANG Air Transportation Airman of the Year. The 133rd LRS was awarded the best ANG base logistics activity in the country. The unit and each of these winners will represent the ANG in upcoming AF Logistics Readiness awards competition, which will be announced later this spring.

In addition, the 133rd AW Public Affairs Office was awarded 2nd place in the National Guard PAO media contest for special achievement publications for the 2011 Roadmap brochure “Citizens Serving America, Airmen Defending Freedom.”

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News

Military Ball a success

Capt. Georgette Danczyk

» Wing Public Affairs

About 200 members of the 133rd Airlift Wing, and their guests, attended the Military Ball Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Paul, Minn.

The theme of the evening, “celebrating our success,” marked the Wing’s accomplishments and provided Airmen the opportunity to socialize and reflect on recent hard work.

The program began with the Base Honor Guard presenting the flags, while **Senior Airman Darcy Reller, Airman 1st Class David Lockhart, and Airman 1st Class Jessica Reller** sang the National Anthem. **Maj. Michael Donat** of the Logistics Readiness Squadron, served as the Master of Ceremonies. The Honor Guard also conducted a POW/MIA ceremony.

Following the formal dinner, **Don Shelby**, retired news anchor for WCCO TV news, and a former Airman, was the guest speaker of the evening. He shared personal stories and experiences working with the military during his career as a broadcast journalist.

Shelby recalled one story in particular which was most meaningful for him when he served in the Air Force that illustrated the wingman concept. He suggested the metaphor “wingman” applied to more people than pilots, even when he served back in the 1970s. His



Staff. Sgt. Clint Firstbrook, USMC

Thank you for your good words, Don Shelby

Col. Greg Haase, Wing Commander, expresses his appreciation to keynote speaker for the Military Ball Don Shelby, former news anchor for WCCO on Feb. 26, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza hotel where hundreds of 133rd Airlift Wing members and their guests enjoyed an evening of celebrating and socializing.

story drove home the point for fellow Airmen to “know your wingman” so well that you could get each other out of any type of jam no matter what the situation.

The formal portion concluded by **Col. Greg Haase**, Wing Commander who expressed his appreciation to Airmen and families for their hard work and continued dedication to the Guard. “Night Wing-Heartland of America Band” provided live entertainment for the rest of the evening.