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Courtesy photo

The Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron spent part of June in Sri Lanka flying missions over the Indian Ocean as part of a research project to study the island's atmosphere and predict monsoon patterns.

Hurricane Hunters assist with monsoon research

By Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
403rd Wing Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron spent part of June in Sri Lanka flying missions over the Indian Ocean as part of a research project to study the island's atmosphere and predict monsoon patterns.

The Hurricane Hunter crew arrived June 15 to assist with research in the Bay of Bengal on Monsoon Intraseasonal Oscillations, or MISO, which occur in the Indian Ocean on a 20 to 60 day cycle of heavy, or 'active,' rainfall and dry, or 'break,' periods during the monsoon season.

They worked with the University of Notre Dame and Government of Sri Lanka, which are partnering on a five-year study, funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research, of oceanic conditions across the Indian Ocean to better understand how the atmosphere and ocean interact with setting up MISO events to better predict weather and save lives.

The 53rd WRS is the only Department of Defense unit that flies

into storms to gather weather data for National Hurricane Center forecasts. However, this time they flew missions in conjunction with research vessel Thomas G. Thompson in the Bay of Bengal to gather information on complex phenomena across an air-sea boundary and how they set up rainfall patterns, said Harindra Fernando, a mechanical engineer at the University of Notre Dame and one of the project's leaders.

"The crews released dropsondes and buoys to collect both atmospheric and oceanic data," said 1st Lt. Garrett Black, 53rd WRS aerial weather reconnaissance officer. "It's a great and rare opportunity to be able to sample monsoonal conditions in the Bay of Bengal with both air and sea assets. The data will better help with understanding the dynamics and atmospheric setups that drive these seasonal, heavy rain events that are vital to the agriculture and economy for coastal Indian Ocean communities."

"This project also has large scale socioeconomic impact since this weather phenomena impacts 1 billion people," said Lt. Col. Kaitlyn Woods, 53rd WRS chief meteorologist

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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CHASING Dreams

Maintainer perseveres
with music, art career

Tech. Sgt. Abraham Partridge, a 403rd Maintenance Squadron intergraded missions systems technician, has topped music charts and exhibited paintings.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shelton Sherrill

By Staff Sgt. Shelton Sherrill
403rd Wing Public Affairs

From a church pulpit to a stage bar, this former preacher walks into the spotlight. As his fingers dance on the guitar strings, his voice sings tales of pain, perseverance and his journey to exuberance. As if in a trance, the audience hangs on to this every word, and in those moments, this native Alabama Airman is able to live out his dream.

"I'm living the best days of my life right now. Maybe the better days are in front of me, but I know these days are far better than the ones that preceded it," said Tech. Sgt. Abraham Partridge, 403rd Maintenance Squadron intergraded missions systems technician.

Partridge has topped music charts, exhibited paintings at events, and most recently played at exclusive music venues, but his

life wasn't always full of happiness. His road to happiness was filled with some tough times wrapped in despair.

At 18, Partridge moved out to pursue a theological degree. Four years later, he not only earned a degree, but he also met the woman who became his wife. They later moved to the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky where Partridge said he accepted a pastorate and was in charge of guiding other's souls.

Quickly realizing he had the ability to influence people's lives, Partridge began to look deeper into what he was actually teaching. Partridge said he began to see a different truth than what he was preaching to others. Tormented and conflicted, he said he had to decide to follow his own beliefs, which went against the church's beliefs, or accept this reality.

"It (preaching) became something that I couldn't do anymore," said Partridge. "So,

I packed everything I owned, my family, drove back to Mobile, moved in with my mother and started over."

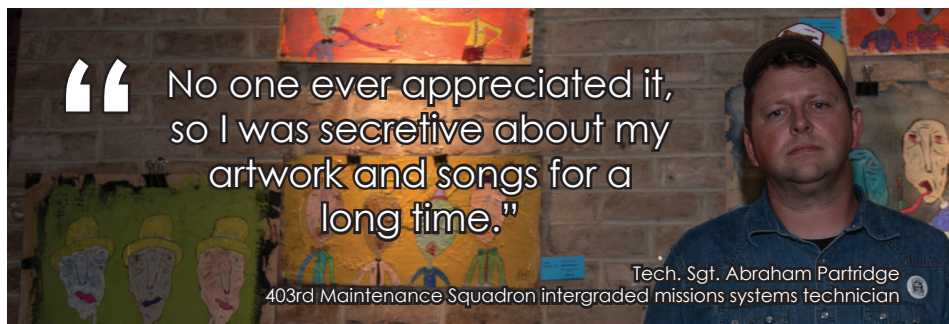
After returning home, Partridge took a minimum wage job and then bounced around doing various manual labor jobs until he joined the Air Force Reserve. During these dark times of doubt and uncertainty, Partridge's pen and paintbrush were a therapeutic guide and outlet that brought him back to happiness.

He started working a steady civilian job while serving as a reservist until going on a deployment overseas in 2013. After that, Partridge took a full-time position as an Air Reserve Technician. This newly found job security and benefits that the Air Force Reserve provided, allowed him more time to realize what made him happy in life. So he started to perfect those talents which were once his savior: art and music.

"At the same time I started to write songs, I created visual art," said Partridge. "It made me feel good. No one ever appreciated it, so I was secretive about my artwork and songs for a long time."

The more his skills grew, the more he would let other people peek into the artistic world that he had created.

"His passion for music is beyond anything I have ever witnessed," said Tech. Sgt. Earnest Scruggs, 803rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron maintainer. [Click here to read more.](#)



“No one ever appreciated it, so I was secretive about my artwork and songs for a long time.”

Tech. Sgt. Abraham Partridge
403rd Maintenance Squadron intergraded missions systems technician

403RD HEADLINES

HUNTERS FLY STORMS CHRIS, BERYL

The Air Force Reserve's Hurricane Hunters spent the weekend of July 7-8 flying weather reconnaissance missions into Tropical Storm Chris off the North Carolina coastline and Tropical Storm Beryl in the Caribbean Sea to gather data for the National Hurricane Center in Miami.



The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron began flying missions out of Keesler July 7, into then-Tropical Depression Three, which developed into TS Chris July 8. That same day, three Hurricane Hunter aircraft departed for Curacao where they staged operations and began flying into TS Beryl July 8, which weakened into a tropical wave later that day. [Click here to read the rest of the story.](#)

AFRC ANNOUNCES OG AWARDS

Airmen from the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 815th Airlift Squadron, part of the 403rd Operations Group, were named 2017 Air Force Reserve Command Award winners.

Lt. Col. Rosalind Johnson, 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron director of operations, won the AFRC's Outstanding Aeromedical Evacuation Air Reserve Technician Officer of the Year. As an ART, Johnson oversees the day-to-day activities of the 36th AES which consists of specialized teams that routinely move critically ill or injured troops after they've been stabilized or received damage-control surgery.

Capt. Erica Seagle, 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, won the AFRC's Outstanding Aeromedical Evacuation Company Grade Officer of the Year. As a flight nurse, Seagle provides Airmen who are injured and need to be transported to a medical facility with lifesaving emergency and prehospital care while in transport.

Senior Master Sgt. Darren Bannister, 815th Airlift Squadron, was awarded the AFRC's U.S. Air Force Henry E. "Red" Erwin Outstanding Enlisted Aircrew Member of the Year. [To read more, click here.](#)

TOUGH JOBS: COPING WITH TRAGEDY

I couldn't do your job! I don't know how you do it? How do you deal with it, seeing the things you do?

These are three things I hear all of the time when people find out what my civilian job is. My response to this has always been, "Most people can't and shouldn't have to. Someone has to do it. And, I just do." Now I know these do not seem to be good answers, but I can explain.

You may be asking, "What does she do for a living?" Well, I am a crime scene investigator, and not the kind you see on television. There is nothing glamorous or even pretty about my career choice. I see people on the worst day of their life or actually after their life is over. I see things people have nightmares about which ranges from accidents to murder scenes where there are multiple victims. I have seen beatings, shootings, stabbings, and even vehicles being used as a weapon.

With only a couple exceptions, the worst things I see and deal with are suicides. [Click here, to read more about 403rd Public Affairs Superintendent Master Sgt. Jessica Kendziorek's experiences.](#)



Air Force News

Central command releases June airpower summary

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar (AFNS) -- U.S. Air Forces Central Command published its monthly Airpower Summary today, highlighting U.S. and coalition airpower operations in June 2018 in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility.

In Afghanistan, Airmen are involved in combat operations as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, while U.S. and NATO partners train, advise and assist the Afghan National and Defense Security Forces as part of the Resolute Support Mission.

U.S. and coalition Airmen continue fighting ISIS as part of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria, alongside partners including the Syrian Democratic Forces and Iraqi military forces. [Click here for the complete summary and statistics.](#)

AF revises "Enlisted Force Structure" handbook

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright announced the changes to [Air Force Handbook 36-2618, "Enlisted Force Structure"](#) over social media July 5. The biggest changes include that an Associate's Degree from the Community College of the Air Force is no longer a promotion requirement and the way enlisted members address senior master sergeants.

AF updates AFI 36-2903 Dress, Personal Appearance

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force announced a series of uniform updates to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, July 13.

"These changes stemmed from the 100th Air Force Uniform Board, which incorporated direct feedback from Airmen," said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel, and Services. "There are additional Uniform Board initiatives that are ongoing and still being analyzed for consideration and implementation by senior leaders."

For the complete list of changes, visit: http://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/afi36-2903/afi36-2903.pdf

UTA DATES, FY 19

July 28-29 No August UTA
Sept. 8-9

Fiscal Year 2019 UTA Dates

Oct. 13-14	Nov. 2-4
No December UTA	Jan. 11-13
Feb. 9-10	March 9-10
April 6-7	May 4-7
June 8-9	No July UTA
Aug. 3-4	Sept. 7-8

WING NEWS ON BASE APP

The 403rd Wing now has its own section in the Keesler Air Force Base app. This section includes Air Force Reserve-specific news and resources, important dates and events, and even the latest edition of the 403rd Flyer accessible on any mobile device. To download the app search "Keesler" in the app store or visit <https://apps.apple.com/keeslerafb2>.

JOINT HOMETOWN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS RESERVISTS

Members who have been promoted, re-enlisted, received an award or deployed can highlight these achievements with their hometown media outlets by submitting a Joint Hometown News Release online [here](#).

AIRMEN CAN SUBMIT INNOVATIVE IDEAS ONLINE

Wing members who have an innovative idea that could save the Air Force or Air Force Reserve money can submit those plans online through either the Airmen Powered by Innovation or Replication Proven Innovations programs. To learn more, visit: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Innovation/Submit/>.



403RD FLYER

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UNIT EFFECTIVENESS INSPECTION

The 403rd Wing's Unit Effectiveness Inspection Capstone is July 26-31 in conjunction with the July 28-29 Unit Training Assembly. About 50 inspectors and augmentees from the Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General Office will visit the base. For information, contact Maj. Lisa Breal, 403rd Wing director of inspections, 228-377-0767.

WING COMMANDER'S CALLS SEPT. 8

Col. Jennie Johnson, 403rd Wing commander, will have two 403rd Wing commander's calls Sept. 8 at the Roberts Consolidated Maintenance Facility. The first commander's call is at 7:30 a.m. for the 403rd Operations and Maintenance Groups and Aeromedical Staging Squadron. The second commander's call is at 9 a.m. for the 403rd Mission Support Group and Wing Staff Agencies. For more information, contact the 403rd Wing Public Affairs Office at 228-377-2056.

MCCRaine TO ASSUME COMMAND OF MSG

Lt. Col. Rodney E. McCraine will assume command of the 403rd Mission Support Group during a ceremony at the Roberts Consolidated Maintenance Facility Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 8. His previous assignment was at the Chief, Air Force Reserve Protection Program, Directorate of Programs and Requirements, Office of the Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.

WING TO HOST AIRMAN, FAMILY DAY

The 403rd Wing Airman and Family Day is Sept. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Marina Park. Members may bring as many family members as they'd like, but for those traveling from out of town, only one room will be allotted per Airman. Tickets cost \$1 per person and can be purchased from the unit first sergeant. The tickets will be used for drawings at the event. The menu is traditional picnic fare to include hotdogs and chicken. For more information and to make lodging arrangements, members should contact their first sergeant. The planning committee is looking for volunteers. To learn more, call Capt. Brenna Coleman, 403rd Force Support Squadron Sustainment Flight commander, 376-6901.

SWAN 38 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Hurricane Hunters Association awarded the Swan 38 Memorial Scholarships to Madison Latham, daughter of Master Sgt. Jay Latham with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, and Garrett Christofferson, son of Staff Sgt. Bret Christofferson with the 41st Aerial Port Squadron. The recipients were awarded \$1,600 for their college education.

22ND AF HOSTS NOSE ART CONTEST

The 22nd Air Force is holding a contest encouraging unit members to create Nose Art designs in order to showcase the diverse missions, heritage, and locations. The Nose Art will be judged under two categories: aircraft or vehicles and equipment. While the art doesn't have to be in place on the equipment to be entered into the contest, it is highly encouraged and authorized with wing commander approval. This year's contest is centering around three styles of design: Best Air Force Reserve 70th Celebration Design; Best Community Representation Design; and Best Unit Heritage Design. There will also be a Best of the Best award for both the aircraft and vehicle and equipment categories. For more information, [click here](#).

OPSEC, SOCIAL MEDIA: KNOW RISKS

With social media being so popular and so many life events to share, it is easy to forget that someone may be watching. Airmen may unknowingly jeopardize the safety of themselves, their family, their friends or fellow military members. The Operation Security program aims to reduce the vulnerability of Air Force missions by reducing the vulnerability of critical information. [Click here to learn more.](#)