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403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.

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Photo by Senior Airman Xavier Navarro

**Deployments, hurricanes, and training exercises were just a few events that kept the Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., busy in 2018. This year in review highlights some of the wing's accomplishments.**

*By Lt. Col. Marnee A.C. Losurdo  
403rd Wing Public Affairs*

Deployments, hurricanes, and training exercises were just a few events that kept the Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 403rd Wing busy in 2018.

“Wing members have worked hard all year and have accomplished so much,” said Col. Jennie R. Johnson, 403rd Wing commander. “Whatever the task, the professionalism of this unit never ceases to impress.”

Here are some of the wing's top stories that showcased the excellence, achievements and readiness of the wing in supporting the Air Force Reserve mission.

#### **Wing members deploy to Southwest Asia**

The year kicked off with the wing, family members and friends bidding farewell to approximately 150 Airmen who deployed to Southwest Asia in Support of Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve in January and welcoming them back in May. The Airmen, along with several of the wing's C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, were assigned to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing based at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Aircrew from the 815th Air-

lift Squadron, maintainers from the 803rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and support personnel from the 403rd Wing provided airlift, airdrop and aeromedical evacuation support to operations throughout the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

#### **Another active hurricane season**

Another active storm season kept 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron crews busy. The Hurricane Hunters flew more than 655 hours and 83 missions into 12 named storms over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The unit flew Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Gordon, Kirk and the season's most destructive storms, Hurricanes Florence and Michael, which caused significant damage to the southeastern United States. While this year's Atlantic hurricane season wasn't as active as 2017, the hurricane season in the eastern Pacific Ocean was a record setter with 22 named storms. The squadron deployed to Hawaii three times to fly Hurricane Hector, Lane and Olivia.

#### **Exercise, Exercise, Exercise**

Wing members participated in a number of exercises and joint efforts throughout the year. To read more about these events and to view the video, [click here](#).

# Wing welcomes two new recruiters

By Senior Airman

Kristen Pittman

403rd Wing Public Affairs

For the first time since 2012, the 403rd Wing Recruiting Flight has a full recruiting staff.

Master Sgt. Young D. Chambers and Tech. Sgt. David J. Hutson are the wing's two newest recruiters, both began their duties with the "Keesler Recruiting Krewe" in September 2018.

Chambers, a native of Warner-Robins, Georgia, initially served four years of active duty in the United States Marine Corps as a M1A1 tank gunner before joining the Air Force Reserve in 2003. He is replacing Tech. Sgt. David E. Rau, who retires in February 2019, in the Hattiesburg, Mississippi, office.

Hogan said Chambers' experience in a different branch will allow him to provide potential prior-service recruits with comparisons between the benefits of joining the Air Force Reserve versus other branches.

From experiences in the aeromedical field to the safety field to being a first sergeant on the squadron and group levels, Chambers has a wealth of knowledge of what it takes to be a reservist to pass on to potential Reserve Citizen Airmen.

Despite having attended multi-



Master Sgt. Young D. Chambers

ple Air Force technical training schools, Chambers said that the recruiter's school was by far the most challenging. He proved he was up to the challenge and looks forward to serving the 403rd Wing from his Hattiesburg zone.

Chambers' own favorable experiences with his Marine and Air Force Reserve recruiters set the foundation for the hands-on approach he plans to take in his own recruiting career.

"The thing to take away from both of those recruiters was to treat people the same way they treated me," said Chambers. "They were respectful, honest and open with me, and that is what I want to be for the people I serve here."

On the opposite end of the recruiting experience was Hutson's experience when he was



Tech. Sgt. David J. Hutson

enlisting.

Hutson lived a few hours away from the office he was recruited into the active duty Air Force from Tallahassee, Florida, and said the only times he saw his recruiter were to do initial paperwork and when he shipped to basic training. He uses his own experience to provide a better one than he had for incoming recruits.

"I like more of a hands-on approach and being able to contact and talk to my people more throughout the process than what I had," said Hutson.

Hutson, who is an addition to the New Orleans recruiting office, will cover Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. He comes to the wing with a multitude of recruiting experience already under his belt, as he had been an active duty recruiter for the

seven-and-a-half years prior to joining the Air Force Reserve. He served four years as an active duty recruiter in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and three years as a training and marketing specialist for an Air Force recruiting squadron in Arlington, Texas.

Hogan said Hutson's recruiting experience will be beneficial to both the office and the wing as he is able to provide a new perspective and as the Air Force transitions to a total force recruiting strategy.

Both Chambers and Hutson credited close proximity to home and the positive things they heard about the 403rd as determining factors in their decisions to come to the 403rd Wing.

"The team dynamic with Sergeant Hutson's and Sergeant Chambers' experience and knowledge will add measurable value to the 'Krewe,'" said Senior Master Sgt. Dominique Hogan, 403rd Wing Recruiting Flight chief. "Having a full staff enables us to reach out to the community and recruit viable candidates who will continue to make the 403rd Wing, the wing of choice."

For 403rd Wing recruiters' contact information, visit: <https://www.403wg.afrc.af.mil/About/Recruiting/>



## Reservists are recruiters too

Airmen already in the Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve civilian employees, can earn prizes by referring qualified candidates through the Get One Now program at <https://www.get1now.us/>.

Meeting with a recruiter is the first step in building a military career. Their job is to determine whether a person has the attitude and skills necessary to integrate into the Air Force Reserve and contribute to mission accomplishment. They make this determination by coordinating physical fitness screenings, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery tests, reviewing work and educational history and conducting background checks. They also sit down and talk with each candidate. Individuals who are ready to start their own adventure should call 800-257-1212, visit the 403rd's recruiting website or check out [www.afreserve.com](http://www.afreserve.com).

# 403RD HEADLINES

## C-130J WASHES NOW SAFER

The C-130J Super Hercules fleet here is a workhorse. The 403rd Wing aircraft deploy to the desert, land in austere locations on almost any surface, and fly into hurricanes and winter storms.

From Southwest Asia dust to oceanic salt spray, the hardworking aircraft need an occasional bath to remove all that grime to prevent corrosion from exposure to these harsh environmental conditions.

That bath happens every 30 days for each of the 20 Keesler aircraft because of the base's location to the Gulf of Mexico, said Lt. Col. Cody Whittington, 403rd Maintenance Group deputy.

Contractors wash the aircraft, and will now be able to do it more safely and more thoroughly as the 403rd Wing had safety harnesses installed in the Wash Rack Dec. 10-13, 2018.

"The original fall protection was deteriorated which forced the contractors to use a lift (cherry picker) to wash the top of the aircraft. However, not all areas can be reached by that method," said Whittington. "Now we will have the appropriate safety equipment, in compliance with Air Force requirements, so we can protect the contractors, complete a thorough wash, and prolong the life of the aircraft."



## PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP: MAJ DYKE

The fourth edition of the Air Force Reserve Profiles in Leadership featuring 16 Reserve Citizen Airmen, went on display in the Pentagon Dec. 14.

This year's display includes the 403rd Wing's Maj. Christopher Dyke, an aerial reconnaissance weather officer with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.



Profiles in Leadership continues a tradition of honoring Reserve Citizen Airmen and civilians who make significant contributions to their communities and the nation. Visitors to the Pentagon can view the display on the fifth floor A-ring, between corridors 10 and one. The individual portraits can also be viewed on the web at <https://www.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Profiles-in-Leadership/Volume-IV/>

## DAY OF INFAMY: PEARL HARBOR

The 77th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was Dec. 7, 1941. This day has special meaning for one Air Force Reserve Citizen Airman here.

Chief Master Sgt. Amanda J. Stiff, 403rd Wing command chief master sergeant, is the granddaughter of Joseph S. Pesek, a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Forces and U.S. Air Force. Her grandfather was a technical sergeant stationed at Hickam Field, Hawaii, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. At the request of his sons in 1995, he wrote about his experience that day. [Click here](#) to read his personal account of the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.



## Air Force News

### OCP guidance approves current subdued patches

WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, Mass. (AFNS) --Airmen wearing OCP uniforms are authorized to add their former Airmen Battle Uniform subdued patches until the mandatory brown subdued ones go into effect.

Also, according to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, the U.S. flag patch is mandatory and will be subdued using the spice brown color criteria, centered at the top of velcro and worn while in-garrison and deployed.

Current subdued black and green U.S. flags may be worn until June 1, 2020, then spice brown will be the only accepted version. Infra-red U.S. flags are not authorized.

The higher headquarters patch is mandatory and will be subdued using the spice brown color criteria and centered under the U.S. flag patch. The current subdued version of the higher headquarters patch may be worn until the patch color conversion has been completed or until April 1, 2021, whichever is sooner.

A maximum of two patches may be worn.

### Uniform Code of Military Justice changes

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Effective Jan. 1, 2019, the Military Justice Act of 2016 will in-state the most reform to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Manual for Courts-Martial in decades, modernizing dated aspects of the military justice system while also providing transparency.

Among its major reforms, the Act will establish fixed numbers of members for courts-martial, expand judge-alone sentencing, expand the opportunity for convicted service members to appeal their convictions and require most court-martial documents be made publicly accessible under a system similar to those used in civilian criminal justice systems. Additionally, the Act adds some new offenses such as retaliation against a person for reporting or planning to report a crime, fraudulent use of credit cards and debit cards and sexual activity between military members in a position of trust and specially protected junior members. While these offenses were prohibited in the past, they are now specifically enumerated crimes under the UCMJ.

## UTA FY19 DATES

Jan. 11-13      Feb. 9-10  
March 9-10      April 6-7  
No May UTA      June 6-9  
July 13-14      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.appmachine.com/keeslerafb2>.



## AIRMEN CAN SUBMIT INNOVATIVE IDEAS ONLINE

Airmen who have an innovative idea that could save the 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/>.

## JOINT HOMETOWN NEWS

Members can highlight career achievements with their hometown media by submitting a Joint Hometown News Release online [here](#).



## 403RD FLYER

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## THIRD QUARTER AWARD WINNERS ARE ...

Congratulations to the 403rd Wing 2018 Third Quarter Award Winners.

The Airman of the Quarter is Senior Airman Rachel Smith, 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

The Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter is Staff Sgt. Joshua Cummings, 403rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The Senior NCO of the Quarter is Master Sgt. Jeremy Coleman, 5th Operational Weather Flight.

The Company Grade Officer of the Quarter is 1st Lt. Anthony Gehl, 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

## AES ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND SUNDAY

Lt. Col. Deborah S. Deja will assume command of the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron during a ceremony Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Don Wylie Auditorium in the Keesler Medical Center. The uniform for the event is uniform of the day and business casual for civilian members. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Sydney Negrete, 36th AES, at 228-376-8329.

## WING PHOTO SUNDAY NEAR BASE OPS

The 403rd Wing photo is Sunday at 8 a.m. Wing members will need to access the flight line through the gate between Base Operations and the Wash Rack. The uniform is the Airman Battle Uniform, Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform or flight suits. As a reminder, sunglasses are not authorized for wear in formation. For more information, contact the 403rd Wing Public Affairs Office at 228-377-2056.

## MASQUERADE PARTY SATURDAY

The 403rd Wing is hosting a Masquerade Party during the Unit Training Assembly Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The theme is "To everything there is a season." The event is free and there will be food, dancing, music, a pay-as-you-go-bar and prizes. The dress is business casual. People who would like to attend will need a ticket. For tickets or additional information, contact Kevin Waterhouse, 403rd Wing command section secretary, 228-377-2695 or at [kevin.waterhouse@us.af.mil](mailto:kevin.waterhouse@us.af.mil).



## COMMANDERS CALLS IN FEBRUARY

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

## NCO INDUCTION CEREMONY FEB. 10

The Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony is Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. at the Roberts Consolidated Maintenance Facility Auditorium. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Michelle Santiago, 403rd Maintenance Squadron, 377-3475.

## UPDATE DTS PROFILE INFORMATION

All wing members need to sign into the Defense Travel System and verify their profile information and update their personal data. Also, members who have received a new Government Travel Card or have a new mailing address will need to update their profile to avoid delays with booking flights, hotels or rental car reservations. Access the DTS website at <https://www.defensetravel.osd.mil>.

