



# RHODE WARRIOR

Third Quarter 2011  
Home of the USAF's First C-130J-30 Aircraft

## Tropical Storm Irene Sweeps Through and the Guard Springs into Action!





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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the third quarter 2011 edition of the Rhode Warrior! I hope that everyone is enjoying the new digital Rhode Warrior format. For information about when new editions are released please become a fan of the 143d Airlift Wing on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/143dairliftwing](http://www.facebook.com/143dairliftwing)) or check out the Wing's website at [www.143aw.af.mil](http://www.143aw.af.mil).

The message from the Editor's Desk may seem to be getting redundant. Every quarter I mention how busy the Wing has been and what a great job the men and women of the 143d are doing. But what can I say? It's true! We just don't stop and we just keep getting better. Deployments, hurricanes, ORE/ORI prep? Whatever! We've got this! Airmen from the 143d are out the door again on another deployment right in the middle of a tropical storm and the Wing doesn't miss a beat. Outstanding! Take a moment to read Col Gallogly's article about the importance of Standards and Discipline on page 3 and then enjoy reading about and looking at photos of all of the great things our men and women are doing every day!

As always, recommendations are always welcome from all of our readers. If there is something you would like to see more or less of, let us know.

**HAPPY READING!**

MSgt Janeen Miller

401-267-3229

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Front Cover: Tropical Storm Irene hits Quonset. Photos by: Master Sgt. John McDonald



## Up front with THE COMMANDER



### Standards and Discipline

If you have heard MG McBride, our Adjutant General, speak to any of our military organizations, you have no doubt heard him mention "standards and discipline". After all, standards and discipline are the hallmark of the military and must form the foundation of our wing. When we joined this elite group we pledged to uphold the standards and discipline that set us apart from other organizations and we can never forget that responsibility.

As we focus on our ongoing deployments and the upcoming ORI, I would argue that how seriously we enforce standards and discipline is the key to success in both environments. This is not something that we can magically turn on and off as the situation dictates. This has to be the bed rock of our culture. I have seen many people who feel they can enforce standards and discipline on the important issues when they think it really matters and just ignore it on those less significant situations. That is a fallacy!

Just like integrity, you can't have standards and discipline some of the time. You either are that person or you are not. As members of the armed service, it is critical that we hold ourselves to the highest standards all the time and that we hold each other accountable to that standard. This seems easy to do when we are under the microscope of an inspection. We are all on guard for having our hearing protection, safety goggles, gloves and of course, reflective belts on when the IG lurks about and we quickly correct each other when we see a deficiency. But the reality is that those standards are just as important everyday here at Quonset or during deployments when the risks are compounded. It is a culture and part of our make up, not just an occasional practice.

Verifying the proper safety gear, checklist procedure or adhering to AFI's and wing policy is just doing things the right way and looking out for each other as a good wing man should. Again, it's our culture. So as we do look forward to continuing deployments and the looming ORI, it is time to focus on the basics. Focusing on

the standards and discipline that set us apart as an organization will guide our success. We need to do it every day.

We must enforce the same discipline and precision when there is no pressure so when we are under stress it will be second nature to us and our performance will be flawless. In the airplane we try to fly the approach on airspeed and on glide path even if the weather is beautiful because we know that level of precision will be required when the weather is terrible. It all comes down to self-discipline, constant practice, study and thorough preparation. In short, it's precision, its standards and discipline.

I ask that each of you look around your work place. Are you proud of it? Does your workplace reflect the pride you have in yourself and our unit? What can you do to improve it? We need to treat this place just like our own homes and work hard to ensure that it reflects the pride and professionalism of all of us who work here. Believe me, that pride will be evident to all who look at us.

Next I would ask that you look in the mirror. Do you see the pro you want to be? Do others see you as a shining example of standards and discipline? If not, you need to do something about it. Get back to the basics and remember all the little things you can do to be better. Remember that when you put on the uniform of our elite team it means something to everyone who sees you. It means that you are different, you are a professional. You are someone that has made a commitment to service and they expect more from you even though you have never met. We can't let them down.

I can't thank you enough for being a part of our team and committed to service. The standards and discipline you uphold are vital to our state and nation and set you apart from the rest of the field.



# OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.



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IS PART OF OUR DUTY.**

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**MyDuty.mil**



Maj Lynne Hannon - 401-267-3535 - Alt Wing SARC  
MSgt Judy Jannitto - 401-267-3409 - Victim's Advocate  
TSgt Georgina Kalwak - 401-267-3504 - Victim's Advocate  
CMSgt Lori Ashness - 401-480-6028 - State SARC



## Vigilant Observers Wanted



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
**EagleEyes**  
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

### >>>Suspicious Persons Out of Place.

People who don't seem to belong in the neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. This also includes suspicious border crossings, stowaways aboard ship, or people jumping ship in port.

### >>>Deploying Assets.

People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is the last opportunity to alert authorities before the terrorism occurs.



### >>>Surveillance.

Someone recording or monitoring activities, including the use of cameras (video & still), note taking, drawing diagrams, writing on maps, or using binoculars or any other vision enhancing device.

### >>>Dry Run.

Putting people into position and moving them about without actually committing a terrorist act such as kidnapping or bombing. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

### >>>Acquiring Supplies.

Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or equipment to manufacture them), or any other controlled items.

### >>>Elicitation.

Anyone or any organization attempting to gain information by mail, fax, telephone, or in person about military operations or people.

### >>>Tests of Security.

Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures.

**The first step is knowing what to look for.**  
Always keep an **Eagle Eye** out for these suspicious behaviors.

**CALL THE 143d SECURITY CONTROL DESK**  
**401-267-3530**



## EANGUS: Enlisted Association of the National Guard United



### Rhode Island EANGUS Chapter:

President: William Smith

Treasurer: Nancy Sherman

Vice President: Georgina Kalwak

Secretary: Tonya Montella

### Nationally:

- Largest enlisted reserve component association
- Created to give a voice on Capitol Hill for enlisted National Guard issues
- Represent over 414,000 enlisted National Guard men & women, and their families, and retirees

### Why should you join EANGUS?

- Legislative Support, Scholarships, Retiree support
- **Pay!** We consistently lobby for pay raises to reduce pay inequity
- **Money!** Hazardous duty pay was increased
- **Money!** \$300 per weekend for IDT travel (with conditions)
- **Education!** New GI Bill with stipends and better benefits
- **Affordable!** Held TRICARE fees at today's level, not 350% increase
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- **Retirement points!** 130 points per year, up from 90
- **Earlier retirement!** Deployment time counts for earlier retirement

For more detailed National information, please check out:

[www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org)

**Volunteers:** RI EANGUS is a joint association, we need both Air and Army enlisted members to join and volunteer on the local committees:

- Membership
- Public Relations
- Legislative
- Bylaws

### Events:

Dec 2011: Premier of RI EANGUS Public Website, more details to follow  
5 December 2011, Sat: Bake Sale, 143 AW, 281st/282nd, 0800-1100, homemade goodies with proceeds going to RI EANGUS

Feb 2012: Spaghetti dinner, more details to follow

**MEMBERSHIP:** Please become a member, the stronger our numbers the stronger our voice! See Board Members for application.  
Annual Dues \$15, until the end of the year. The price will go up to \$16 in 2012, join now to get in before the price increase.

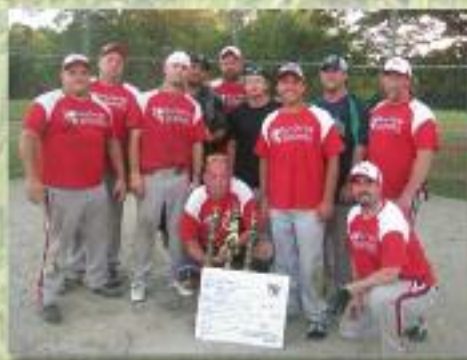


# FIT TO FIGHT!



**\$2,310 RAISED!**

## 7TH ANNUAL RIANG SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT



**1ST PLACE**  
ROCKY POINT PUB  
BEAVERS



**2ND PLACE**  
AMODIE & SONS  
BUILDERS/TRI-CITY ELKS



**3RD PLACE**  
BO'S BILLIARDS

## Collective Strength in New England Guard

By Staff Sgt. Erin Brogan

As members of the National Guard, we are sensitive to the fact that if our state needs us, we are there to help. It's more than a job, or even patriotism; it's personal--It's about protecting our families and our neighbors. When the call came down from the Maine National Guard that New England was looking to put together a special team to assist each other in the case of an extreme emergency, members of the Rhode Island National Guard jumped at the chance, including 35 personnel from the 143d Airlift Wing Medical Group and a group from the 861st Engineer Company.

"It is very significant to represent Rhode Island as extensively as we are in the region. There a lot of smart, motivated people here. It's pretty impressive what they do," said Lt. Col. Thomas Duggan of the 143d Medical Group.

The team is called CERF-P, or CBRNE Emergency Response Force Package, and consists of elements from the Rhode Island, Maine, and New Hampshire National Guard. Although agencies currently exist to aid in disaster relief including triage, none have the capability of triaging with decontamination factors.

According to Lt. Col. Manny Holbrook, the New England CERF-P Commander with the Maine National Guard, each of the three state Guards brings a particular specialty to the mission; Maine provides command and control, New Hampshire and Rhode Island provide triage and decontamination support. If an incident were to occur that overwhelmed the local and state ability to help its citizens, especially a situation involving contaminants, the team would be requested by the governor and The Adjutant General (TAG) of that state.

"It really provides a capability that is not there now on the local level," said Lt. Col. Holbrook. "We can bring personnel in full decon[tamination] outfits into a site, into a collapsed structure that is contaminated, and bring those casualties out."

The CERF-P first became tasked in October of 2010, leaving a very small window of opportunity to train. Each soldier and airman went through extensive training, individually logging approximately 80 hours in seven days. The first time all three states came together for a collective exercise was the week of August 7, 2011 and the second time will be at their evaluation in October of this year.

"One issue that keeps coming up is finding the funding to continue our training. We have the ball rolling now and we don't want to lose momentum," Lt. Col. Holbrook said. "It's an incredible asset for the region."

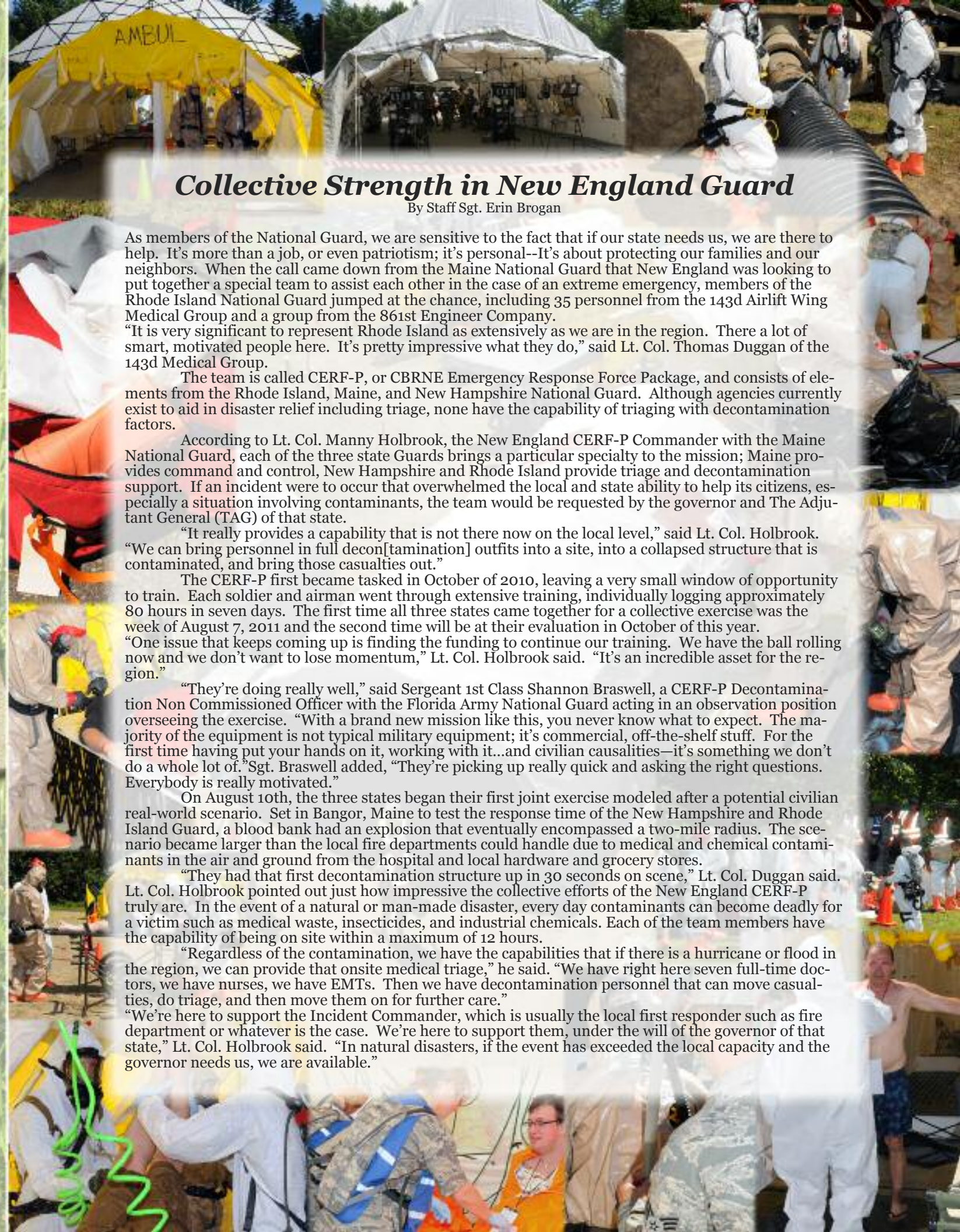
"They're doing really well," said Sergeant 1st Class Shannon Braswell, a CERF-P Decontamination Non Commissioned Officer with the Florida Army National Guard acting in an observation position overseeing the exercise. "With a brand new mission like this, you never know what to expect. The majority of the equipment is not typical military equipment; it's commercial, off-the-shelf stuff. For the first time having put your hands on it, working with it...and civilian casualties—it's something we don't do a whole lot of." Sgt. Braswell added, "They're picking up really quick and asking the right questions. Everybody is really motivated."

On August 10th, the three states began their first joint exercise modeled after a potential civilian real-world scenario. Set in Bangor, Maine to test the response time of the New Hampshire and Rhode Island Guard, a blood bank had an explosion that eventually encompassed a two-mile radius. The scenario became larger than the local fire departments could handle due to medical and chemical contaminants in the air and ground from the hospital and local hardware and grocery stores.

"They had that first decontamination structure up in 30 seconds on scene," Lt. Col. Duggan said. Lt. Col. Holbrook pointed out just how impressive the collective efforts of the New England CERF-P truly are. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, every day contaminants can become deadly for a victim such as medical waste, insecticides, and industrial chemicals. Each of the team members have the capability of being on site within a maximum of 12 hours.

"Regardless of the contamination, we have the capabilities that if there is a hurricane or flood in the region, we can provide that onsite medical triage," he said. "We have right here seven full-time doctors, we have nurses, we have EMTs. Then we have decontamination personnel that can move casualties, do triage, and then move them on for further care."

"We're here to support the Incident Commander, which is usually the local first responder such as fire department or whatever is the case. We're here to support them, under the will of the governor of that state," Lt. Col. Holbrook said. "In natural disasters, if the event has exceeded the local capacity and the governor needs us, we are available."











# *Tropical Storm Irene*

**The RI National  
Guard is called into  
action to help the state  
of Rhode Island.  
Always Ready.  
Always There.**



# THE RLANG FAMILY READINESS GROUP PRESENTS

## JIMMY BUFFETT Night!



## 143d Operations Group

Colonel Arthur Floru, 143d OG Commander



### *Back in the Fight*

LtCol Rick Hart

The first wave of one hundred and twenty nine deployed members of the 143rd Airlift Wing's Operations and Maintenance Groups "hit the ground running" when they arrived at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan on August 24th, 2011. Marking the organization's fourth OEF deployment in the last 5 years, their arrival into the AOR initiated the execution phase of an intense 15 month long training and preparation program designed to ensure all personnel and equipment were ready to get "back into the fight". The highly complex and dangerous mission, though very familiar to many in the organization, involves providing Tactical Airlift and Airdrop capability to coalition forces operating throughout Afghanistan. Executing this mission effectively requires an enormous amount of training and preparation among the operators and maintainers of the 143rd Airlift Wing.

This particular AEF deployment tasked the Rhode Island and California Air National Guard units to provide a total of ten C-130J model aircraft with associated aircrew, overhead staff, and maintenance support personnel to provide theater airlift for a 3 month period. The transition plan called for all ten aircraft to arrive into theater over the course of one calendar week. All ten aircraft arrived into Afghanistan right on schedule, mostly due to the "top-notch" maintenance support from both units.

Within just a few days of arriving in theater, the Rhode Island crews, now members of the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (known as the "Weasels"), began flying combat airlift missions in and around Afghanistan. Typical daily missions include tactical airland resupply sorties in and out of different airfields throughout the AOR. Many of the airfields are categorized as unimproved landing surfaces such as gravel or dirt, short runways with challenging surrounding terrain only suitable for the durable C-130J. Other missions support Aeromedical teams during their evacuation of critical care patients. The cargo hold of the C-130J can be converted into a flying ambulance, carrying Doctors, Nurses and medical equipment required to transport critically injured soldiers from the outlying forward

operating bases to the fully operational hospital located at Bagram Air Field.

Without a doubt, the most complex mission undertaken by the Rhody C-130J crews in Afghanistan is the precision airdrop of supplies to troops on the ground. Special Operations forces bed down in forward operating bases and combat out-posts throughout Afghanistan and are typically located in areas of challenging mountainous terrain or in areas with few usable roads or supply routes. In some cases, the only method of resupply for these troops is by airdrop. Aerial delivery of supplies to troops in the field avoids the need for vehicle convoys susceptible to IED attacks and enemy fire and without a doubt, directly saves lives.

Rhode Island C-130 crews fly airdrop missions daily throughout the AOR, delivering critical supplies such as ammunition, fuel, water, food and building supplies. Precision airdrop requires an enormous amount of preparation, training and skill to avoid collateral damage to troops and civilians on the ground near drop zones.

Operating in such a harsh environment takes its toll on the equipment. The aircraft are subject to intense heat and dusty conditions common in Afghanistan. Many of the dirt or gravel airstrips damage the underside of the aircraft. Tires and brakes are worn at an accelerated rate due to the large amount of takeoffs and landings. If not for the hard work and expertise of the Rhode Island maintenance troops, these missions would not be possible. Rhody maintainers work around the clock, repairing damaged and worn aircraft parts and by some miracle keep all deployed C-130J aircraft operating at a 100 percent utilization rate.

With only 7 weeks remaining in the deployment, the 774th EAS has executed an enormous amount of airlift. In the last 6 weeks, the "Weasels" have airdropped over 1.5 million pounds of critical war fighter supplies, flown over 3,000 sorties, moved over 23,000 passengers and carried over 7,000 tons of cargo to troops throughout Afghanistan. Once again, the Rhode Warriors are "back in the fight" and setting the highest standards in tactical theater airlift!



# C-130Js improve Bagram's airlift, airdrop capabilities



The sun begins to set on the horizon behind a C-130J Hercules aircraft from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here Sept. 20, 2011. The C-130J incorporates state-of-the-art technology to reduce manpower requirements, lower operating and support costs. The aircraft's improved engines enables the J model to climb faster and higher, flies farther at a higher cruise speed, and takes off and lands in a shorter distance. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. John Wright)

**By Staff Sgt. John Wright**  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

The 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron recently filled its ranks with C-130J Hercules aircraft and aircrews as two new units ripped in to comprise the squadron at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Almost two dozen C-130Js and a full complement of aircrew and maintenance personnel split between California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing and Rhode Island Air National Guard's 143rd Airlift Wing replaced C-130H-model guard units from Alaska and New York.

"Our mission is airlift and airdrop to all the forward operating bases within country," said Lt. Col. Bill Willson, 774th EAS commander and C-130J pilot. "The primary way the forward operating bases

get supplies is by airlift or airdrop. We are their lifeline of sustainment."

The previous guard units Willson's crews replaced maintained consistently high, fully mission capable and sortie effectiveness rates, but his people are ready to tackle the challenge and set the bar even higher, since the C-130J model is considered the "latest and greatest."

In their first month alone, the 774 EAS flew more than 900 sorties with a 99.9 percent sortie effectiveness rate, completing approximately 40 airdrops and delivering more than 3,100 tons of cargo.

The C-130J incorporates state-of-the-art technology to reduce manpower requirements, lower operating and support costs. The aircraft's improved engines enables the J model to climb faster and higher, flies farther at a higher cruise speed, and takes off and lands in a shorter distance. It has 15 extra feet in the fuselage, increasing usable space in the

cargo compartment.

"These airplanes are considerably more capable than the H model," Willson said. "It's the equivalent of adding an additional engine and two pallet positions. It can carry approximately 40 percent more load, giving us a much higher fully mission capable rate. We can actually do the same job with 10 Js that it takes 15 Hs to do."

Willson said one of the more significant improvements is the ability to more accurately airdrop from high altitudes, which makes it safer for the aircrews, especially in the area of operations.

"We have the capability of doing a joint precision air drop system drop that requires dropping a Sonde out of the airplane," Willson, a Thousand Oaks, Calif., native said.

A Sonde is a device attached to a parachute that takes wind readings every

500 feet and transmits the information back to the aircraft. At that point, the airplane's computers determine a computed air release point.

They fly to the CARP, which is accurate to within one meter, and let the bundles out, Willson said.

The automated systems like the JPADS Sonde airdrop make the job smoother for the 774 EAS loadmasters like Master Sgt. Jessica Barry.

"The J makes my job much easier," the Pawtucket, R.I., native said. "We have a computer that controls our load plan. We also have electric locks as opposed to ratchet locks. It's a very efficient 'push button' system."

As a loadmaster, Barry is responsible for configuring and overseeing the loading of people and cargo onto the aircraft. However, even though the J model makes the job easier, Barry said the job has unique challenges in Afghanistan.

Ordinarily, the cargo and airdrop bundles are planned well in advance and a computer comes up with how it should be loaded on the aircraft.

"In this deployed environment, we get a lot of last-minute requests to add cargo," Barry said. "So, we have to manually figure out how to accommodate the additional weight. We don't mind though. It's very rewarding knowing we're getting the troops on the ground what they need."

While Willson and Barry comprise the aircrew, the people who make sure the planes are fit to fly are maintainers like Master Sgt. Jason Sturtevant, C-130J crew chief and a Warwick, R.I., native.

As a maintainer, Sturtevant services and works on any discrepancies on the aircraft. He performs, preflight, postflight and throughflight inspections.

"We do everything from servicing hydraulic fluid to liquid oxygen," Sturtevant said. "Basically, we look at the entire aircraft and its systems."

The 20-year veteran said the challenges of his job include parts supply and high-operations tempo, but, like Barry, he diligently works through the problems. He said in the end, he finds the job highly rewarding.

"I love watching these planes fly, knowing I'm helping the guys on the ground," he said. "I feel like I'm directly contributing to the fight. I also take pride in keeping my aircrews safe."

While the 774 EAS is comprised of Air National Guard Airmen from different



Senior Airman James Mitchell removes an engine cowling on a C-130J Hercules aircraft from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here Sept. 20, 2011, as Tech. Sgt. Wayne Warner looks on. Both Airmen are 774 EAS maintainers. Mitchell hails from North Kingston, R.I., while Warner is a native of Warwick, R.I. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. John Wright)



C-130J Hercules aircraft from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron stand ready to be loaded with cargo here Sept. 20, 2011. The C-130J incorporates state-of-the-art technology to reduce manpower requirements, lower operating and support costs. The aircraft's improved engines enables the J model to climb faster and higher, flies farther at a higher cruise speed, and takes off and lands in a shorter distance. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. John Wright)

units and varying walks of life, they have deployed together since 2004 and consider themselves one big family.

"We complement each other very well," Willson said. "One of the nice things about the guard is you stay with the same people for sometimes decades. Most of the pilots here I have flown with for 20 years."

The continuity that comes with working with the same people for so long is something the loadmasters and maintainers tout as the reason they operate like a well-oiled machine.

"There is a great chemistry here," Barry said. "These guys are great to work with."

Sturtevant echoed the loadmaster's words.

"We maintainers mesh very well," the sergeant said. "They are very easy to work with. I noticed as soon as we got here, everybody just wanted to work together."

Willson also noted the sense of pride and dedication his unit has for the work they perform.

"We all recognize the importance of coming here to do this mission," Willson said. "We have a tremendous sense of patriotism. Most of these people have very well-paying jobs on the outside, yet they still come here. They do this because they want to. The love of wearing the uniform and doing the job outweighs everything else."





## 143d Medical Group

Colonel (M.D.) Stephen R. Carr, Commander



*Article and Photos provided by MSgt John Cabral*

The 143 Medical Group enjoyed their summer while participating in various events. The Med Group deployed several members on humanitarian missions and also to support the war effort. Word is getting around that the Med Group knows how to do the humanitarian thing. Humanitarian missions are missions to other countries under austere conditions. They require security support for the home nation to individuals that would not have a chance to get medical care without the US military missions.

Lt Col Doug Genereux, Wounded Warrior Landstuhl Germany, Maj Kathleen Katamura, SSgt Josh King –Bagram Afghanistan contributed to the war effort overseas while Maj Tom Stegnicki, Maj William Rebuck –awaited incoming patients at a Contingency Aero medical Staging Facility Andrews AFB Washington DC.

The 143 MDG supports the homeland CERF-P also. Lt Col Tom Duggan (DECON) and TSgt Paul Attardo (Extraction) attended Region 1 CERF-P Training in New Hampshire. CERF-P is the formulated response to disasters at home.

To prepare for these tasking Maj Anne Powers attended Medical Readiness planner's school and SMSgt Chris Jones and MSgt Matt Leone attended Readiness Frontiers conference. Other travelers included Maj Chris Nasin a new provider who attended Flight Surgeon school and SSgt Roger Richards went in residence ALS training at Hanscom AFB,

At home station, the troops were busy redesigning the PHA process to comply with AF standards. WebHA re-replaces the Annual Physical Health Assessment (PHA) paper form SF 507. The new process allows the member to go on line and complete the questionnaire. There are questions that the member can answer about their current physical and mental health. Responses will prompt WebHA to ask follow up questions. The member can submit specific concerns to be answered by a provider at the next visit.

This process greatly reduces the time out of a member's work area unless there is a health concern. Healthy members do not have to come to the Medical Group to fill out the form. The assessment is located at <https://afwebha.afms.mil>. Thanks to Maj Thomas Stegnicki and his PHA redesign team (Maj William Rebuck, SMSgt Chris Jones, and TSgt Kelly Caisse.

Getting ready for deployments and the ORE/IGX involved many hours of prep time including our own members going through the Mobility Line. The Prep time involves reviewing medical records to ensure the member is qualified and fit to deploy. Current Immunizations, current dental exams, and current eye glass inserts get members IMR green. The 143 MDG looked inward to ensure that their members know how to check their IMR status on the Air Force portal. The unit's green numbers jumped significantly.

Supporting the Air Show was an adventure from providing Medical Support, traffic Control, manpower support to the ever fun loving sponsorship of the Air Show Survivor Party. This is the second year in a row the Med Group has been tasked and the word is that they did an awesome job.

A first for the group occurred in July, an off drill off site family picnic day was observed. Kendbrin Swim and Tennis Club in Riverside, RI hosted the event with volunteer support from former guardsman Ollie Dinsmore (father of Maj Michelle Gerosa) and Brian Fontaine Sr. (father of Captain Brian Fontaine).



## 143 AW RIANG LRS/LGRF Fuels Management Flight New Horizon



The current Fuels Management Flight has been together for the past three years taking up the torch that had been passed to them. SMSgt. Brian Robitaille Fuels Superintendent, MSgt. Jason DeMania Compliance & Environmental section chief, TSgt. Jeff Koeppen FISC section chief and TSgt. Slade Tulip Fuels Quality Control supervisor along with outstanding Traditional Guardsman have pulled together ready to supply the fight.

During this time the team has been awarded an Excellent rating in the 2009 UCI inspection, augmented on ORI and LCAP Air Force inspector general teams, deployed to Turkey, Qatar, Kirgizstan, and Afghanistan OCONUS and to Nellis AFB, Bangor and Pease ANGB CONUS supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, US Transcom and the Air Bridge Missions.

Team members have achieved many milestones in their quest for "Excellence in all that they do". Some of their achievements were receiving the SNCO Academy's first ever CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger team award, SNCO of the Year award 2010, distinguished graduate fuels laboratory school, to include Top Performer recognition from Al Udeid AB and the Meritorious Service award for outstanding performance during deployment at Bagram AB Afghanistan.

Over the past year the team placed "Service before self" safely handling of 2 million gallons of aviation fuel, supporting 680 missions, to include South Africa, India and Afghanistan with zero mission delays. They volunteered during the flood of 2009 and the hurricane of 2011 supporting the efforts to protect the community and recover from these state of emergencies.

As the team pushes into the future preparing for the upcoming ORI, the focus will continue to be on military professionalism, technical expertise and "Integrity above all else".

A special thank you to the 143d LRS Commander Lt Col. Richard Taito and the Distribution Deployment Commander Major Lynne Hannon, for it is with their continued support that the Fuels Management Team has the opportunity to achieve their goals.

BRIAN ROBITAILLE, SMSgt, RIANG  
Fuels Superintendent



# Proud Airman.

Photo by: Master Sgt. Janeen Miller



Master Sgt. Kevin Short of the 143d Maintenance Group gets interviewed by Eyewitness News just prior to leaving for his 9th deployment since 2001! Thank you for your service, Kevin!