



VOL. 17 NO. 12

134TH AIR REFUELING WING

DEC 2017

Mission to Serve: Puerto Rico

By Staff Sgt. Teri Eicher, 134th ARW Public Affairs

Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 23, 2017 as a Category 5 hurricane. It was difficult to determine the extent of the damage early on, because communication infrastructure had been completely destroyed on the island. However, help would be needed, and a request reached East Tennessee. The 134th Air Refueling Wing sent eight Services Disaster Relief Mobile Teams on September 29th, and request arrived for three Contingency Operations to assist with accountability. Volunteers shipped out where they trained with them until they were able to secure Master Sgt. Matthew Dagnan, services manager, when they landed on "When we arrived it was a city with no skyline and a little unnerving. we were motivated to do what we trained to do."



Staff Sgt. Chris Holt, 134th Force Support Squadron, delivers supplies to Mayaguez residents in need after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Members of the 134th Force Support Squadron were deployed to the island to help obtain accountability and provide meals to the troops deployed there. (Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Matthew Dagnan, 134th Force Support Squadron)

The PERSCO team in San Juan, where they had a task: They needed to get National Guard assets in with no power, phones, or for people on the ground, bigger challenge. Maj. Jaime Blanton, PERSCO officer in charge, explained how they overcame this problem. "We're so used to working on email and phones, but when we were forced to go and communicate face-to-face, that is where we were the most successful. When we got there, we were operating on assumptions. When we decided to go out to the sites that was the most valuable thing we could do."

Following the hurricane, ANG units were sending people to four different entry points on the island as soon they could get them in. However, there was no on-scene personnel team to track their arrival, so no accountability had been compiled. The PERSCO team had to travel to each military location and create a list of individuals that had arrived.

It became clear that help call for volunteers soon Tennessee.

Wing received a request members to run a Kitchen Trailer (DRMKT) shortly after another Personnel Support for (PERSCO) members to On Oct. 2 the 11 for Louisville, Kentucky, the 123rd Airlift Wing until transport to Puerto Rico. Dagnan, Assistant described what they saw Oct. 13.

very disturbing to see the lights at all. It was surreal, Once we adapted to it, help people, and do what

was stationed in San a deceptively simple accountability of all Air Puerto Rico. However, even contact information the task became a much

(Puerto Rico cont. on page 3)



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“Volunteers Supporting and Defending America”



Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby, 134 ARW Public Affairs

Mission Statement:
Federal: Project Global Reach & Global Power in the interest of National Defense by providing world class personnel, vital Air Refueling & Airlift capabilities for contingency response & sustained combat operations

State: Provide personnel and equipment to protect life & property during emergency response operations as directed by the Governor of Tennessee & the Adjutant General

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Sat 1230-1500
Please adhere to the scheduled service times as studio will only be manned during these hours

Customer Service Hours for Security Forces:
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Clothing Issue: Customer Service Hours
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Customer Service Hours Mobility (Bldg 264):
Mon-Fri 0700-1100 & 1230 - 1600 UTA Weekends Sat 0830 - 1100 & 1215 - 1530 Sun 0730 - 1100



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U.S. Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby & Tech. Sgt. Daniel Gagnon

(Puerto Rico cont. from page 1)

By personally visiting every military site and obtaining on-scene data, they were able to locate over 500 people that previously hadn't been accounted for.

The DRMKT team forward deployed to Mayaguez along with members from the 123rd. They reached a bare base in the form of a closed airport, and learned that their mission was to feed the Army Soldiers who had been working to distribute aid to the local community since the hurricane. The location had no running water, electricity or facilities, and the soldiers had been living on MREs since their arrival. The DRMKT team quickly cleared space and set up their personal shelters as well as the DRMKT so they could start providing hot meals. Staff Sgt. Ruben Gonzalez, food service supervisor, explained how the team was driven to do more.



Homes were ripped apart from their foundations (above) after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico. Members of the 134th Force Support Squadron were deployed to the island to help obtain accountability and provide meals to the troops deployed there. Master Sgt. Chris Hope, Staff Sgt. Chris Holt, and Staff Sgt. Brent Leach purchase food for donations to locals at Wal-Mart in Mayaguez. (Air National Guard photos provided by Master Sgt. Matthew Dagnan, 134th Force Support Squadron)



“When we left, we thought we would be there to help the people. Once we found out we were there to feed the soldiers, we wanted to find our own way to help. So, as a group, we came up with the money.”

Gonzalez and the rest of the 134th and 123rd DRMKT members pooled their own money and went on a shopping trip during their limited down time. They bought over \$500 worth of items they hoped would help the locals, including food, sanitary supplies and baby necessities. They made contact with a local minister who was able to direct them to people in need. Gonzalez explained that even with all of their struggles, the people of Puerto Rico were still in high spirits.

“One of the best things was that even though they were in that situation, they were still grateful. One of the things you saw (written) everywhere was, ‘Puerto Rico Se Levanta,’ which means, ‘Puerto Rico will Stand.’ Everyone was so grateful, and so happy.”

The DRMKT members arranged another shopping trip before their deployment was up, and found the locals as appreciative the second time as they were before.

“When we went to support the community, people came out of the woodwork and they were so grateful,” Sgt. Dagnan explained. “One man looked up at the sky and thanked God for us being there, and we were just giving a small bag of rice. You don’t get much more impactful than that.”

When it was time to return to Tennessee, the Volunteers were ready to enjoy some of the comforts of home. However, as PERSCO member Tech. Sgt. Chris Ayers explained, everyone was grateful to have been able to go.

“This is what most of us join the military for, to go help people in need” said Ayers. “It was very humbling. In my opinion it was just super cool to be a part of it.”

Sgt. Gonzalez was grateful that he was able to check on his family while he was there, and served as interpreter to help people that didn’t speak English.



FIVE-STEP BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM (BRS) CHECKLIST TO SUCCESS



www.militarysaves.org



“Dollars and Sense” Financial Education

We will be offering “Dollars & Sense” financial classes (lunch & learn) during the next 2 UTA Saturdays. Topics to be discussed will be:

- Basic Budgeting
- Debt Reduction/Repair
- Home Buying
- Saving for Retirement

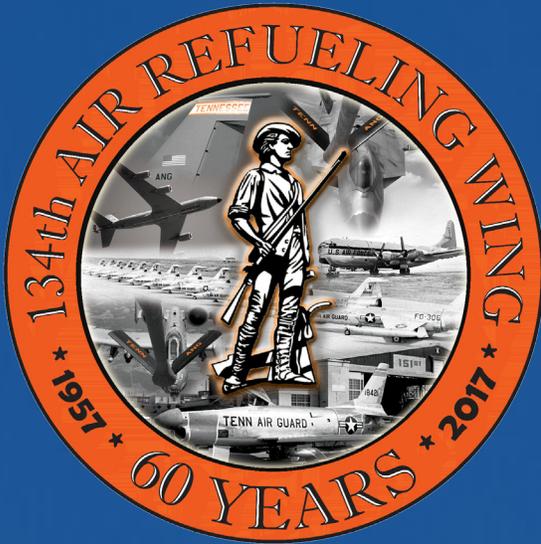
Instruction by Barbie Atkins Dyer from the ETMA FCU.

Classes will be held on 2 Dec and 6 Jan 2018 in bldg. 102, old Base Ops, from 1100 to 1230. (Pizza and drinks will be available)
Contact your First Sergeant for additional details!

Volunteer Airmen: 60 Years of Service (Operations Desert Shield and Storm)

By Staff Sgt. Teri Eicher, 134th ARW Public Affairs

In 1990 people were buying tickets to see “Pretty Woman,” and “Ghost.” Americans were listening to Whitney Houston, Garth Brooks, and Phil Collins, and were shocked when Grammy-winning duo Milli Vanilli admitted they were not the musicians on their records and had been lip-synching the entire time. The Simpsons debuted on TV, as did the Sci-Fi Channel. Kids were playing with the Super NES, Nintendo Game Boy and Furby, and the Hubble Telescope was placed in orbit. A new home cost \$123,000, a Ford Taurus cost \$14,594, and a gallon of gas was \$1.34.



In the Middle East, Iraq and Iran were at war from 1980 to 1988 and Iraq was consequently in debt to Kuwait. Kuwait refused to forgive Iraq’s debt, and Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq, accused Kuwait of taking possession of an Iraqi oil field on the border. On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait and completely occupied the country within hours of the attack. The United Nations Security Council immediately condemned the attack, and within days issued strict embargoes on Iraq. Iraqi troops begin to amass on the border with Saudi Arabia, and President George H. W. Bush ordered Operation Desert Shield to protect America’s ally from invasion.

In East Tennessee, life had been business as usual up to this point. The 134th Air Refueling Wing was flying regular missions to locations such as Germany, Hawaii and Alaska for training. When President Bush authorized Desert Shield, the training missions were recalled and the

Volunteers immediately began preparing. President Bush began calling up National Guard troops by executive order, and the number of troops and length of activation continued to grow. By December 1990, McGhee Tyson had received the notice that the Volunteers were going to war.

The 134th ARW was not sure when they would be leaving, or for how long. The 109 deploying Airmen were able to spend Christmas with their families, then were in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia by New Year’s Eve. They forward deployed to Dubai, UAE, and joined the 1713th Air Refueling Wing, Provisional, commanded by their own Col. Frederick H. Forster. They arrived at a bare base that was 45 minutes from the airport where the aircraft were kept, and were bussed back and forth for work. Once the Volunteers were settled in they had nothing to do but wait for the war to kick off.

The assault began on Jan. 17, 1991 and the 1713th members in Dubai watched it on CNN with the rest of the world. Chief Master Sgt. John Patterson was one of the deployers and said there were some small benefits to the start of the war.

“When war kicked off they shut down the airport, so they set up meals from the airline caterers for us,” Patterson said. “No one wanted a day off, because the food at the tent city was terrible. Most would take a bus to the airport on their off day just to eat. We had these blue jumpsuits we had to wear, and some active duty guys got ahold of our jumpsuits just to eat with us.”

The 1713th flew refueling missions for the length of the war, and a cessation of hostilities was declared on Feb. 28, 1991. While they were never involved in hostile action, the Volunteers knew their role was critical in fulfillment of the mission. They had regular routes to fly as well as specific missions that would come up, and there was no room for error.

“We didn’t have the luxury of having spare airplanes,” Patterson said. “We had a mission for every aircraft, so if one broke we had to fix it and get it airborne and it took everyone one we had. We were told we were the only unit that never missed a mission. That was significant to me.”

Operation Desert Shield began on Aug. 7, 1990 and Operation Desert Storm ended on Feb. 28, 1991. The Volunteers flew 177 sorties and off-loaded 4.5 million pounds of fuel in Operation Desert Shield. During Operation Desert Storm, the 1713th ARW(P) flew 568 sorties and off loaded millions of pounds of fuel to combat and support aircraft. They received an Outstanding Unit Award for their performance.

After Desert Storm, things returned to normal in East Tennessee. The 134th ARW fell under Air Combat Command beginning in 1992 and Air Mobility Command in 1993. The wing continued to train and uphold its status as a highly effective, well-trained unit of the Air National Guard. It would be another ten years before the tragic events of 9/11 would launch the 134th ARW into the Modern War era.

An Important Message from your Force Support Squadron

Updating Beneficiary Designations for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance:

If you had a recent life event such as a change in marital status, the addition of a child or the death of a loved one, now is the time to review your beneficiary designations for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) and VA Insurance policies. This is the best way to ensure your life insurance benefit is paid to whom you want.

Keeping your beneficiary information up to date is vital. Failure may result in your benefits going to a former spouse, deceased parent's estate, your estate, or no one. It could also result in payment delays at a time when a loved one needs the money. For example, if the listed beneficiaries are children from a first marriage, children from a current marriage may contest the claim if they believe they have more recent documents proving they should be the beneficiaries. No one may be paid until it is determined who is legally entitled to the money.

It is important to review your beneficiaries at least once a year. Make this review at the same time you receive the reminder email to review your vRED, DD Form 93. Remember, you have the legal right to name or change any beneficiary at any time.

If you would like to update your SGLI beneficiaries please access milConnect via the AF Portal. Once in milConnect, the link to update your SGLI can be found under the Benefits tab. <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>

Virtual Record of Emergency Data (vRED):

The Virtual Record of Emergency Data (vRED) satisfies the requirement of the DD Form 93, and is the official source document required by law for you to provide the Air Force with emergency contact information in the event you

become a casualty and for designating beneficiaries for certain benefits in the event of your death. It is your responsibility to keep this information current, and completion of this program is mandatory. If any of the

information changes, the vRED should be updated as soon as possible. Delays in next of kin notification are most often associated with incomplete or outdated information. vRED is located on the Virtual Military Personnel

Flight (vMPF) at <https://w45.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecurenet40/PKI/MainMenu1.aspx>



RECRUITER'S CORNER

Submitted by the 134 ARW Recruiting Office

Student Flight – Listen Up!

*****Pre-BMT class** – You will report to the FSS breakroom in the Headquarters building for roll call on **SATURDAY** of each drill at **1245**. This is a **mandatory** class (as directed by Col. Cauthen) until you ship out to BMT. You must report to roll call in order to get paid. Any absence must be cleared prior to rollcall through the recruiting office supervisor, Master Sgt. Aaron Sawyer.

*****In-processing checklist - Saturday** at **1230** of your first drill weekend you are required to report to the Public Affairs/Multimedia Photo Studio (in the headquarters building) to have your **portrait** taken. This photo is **mandatory** in order to complete your in-processing checklist.

*****Security Clearance Process** - All new enlistees please ensure you have logged onto www.opm.gov/e-quip, to initiate your clearance. Once you have logged on, you have **30 DAYS** to complete this. This is a **mandatory** item. **Failure to complete on time will result in a counseling session with the Force Support Squadron Commander, Maj Jaime Blanton.**

To Contact the Recruiters: Call DSN 266 or (865) 336-3242, 3257, 3258, or 3262; or go to: <http://www.134arw.ang.af.mil/careers/index.asp>



Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Gagnon, 134 ARW Public Affairs



MEDICAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY UTA

0815-0900 HOURS FLU SHOTS – MXG BLDG 101 CONF ROOM
0815-1130 HOURS PHYSICAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS (PHAs)
0830-0850 HOURS FITNESS FOR DUTY EVALUATIONS
0830-1130 HOURS IMMUNIZATIONS/FLU SHOTS
0830-1130 HOURS QNFT TESTING
0830-1100 HOURS DEPLOYMENT PROCESSING/ANAM TESTING
0900-1100 HOURS DEPLOYER PROCESSING
1000-1100 HOURS FITNESS TESTING EVALS (MacLellan/Blythe)
1130-1230 HOURS LUNCH
1230-1400 HOURS WAIVER/MEDCON/LOD APPS w /DOCs & PAs
1300-1400 HOURS BALLISTIC EYEWEAR for DEPLOYERS (OPTOMETRY)
1300-1400 HOURS HEARING EXAMS/ANAM
1300-1500 HOURS IMMUNIZATIONS/FLU SHOTS



SUNDAY UTA

CLOSED FOR TRAINING W/EXCEPTION OF FOLLOWING TIMES:

0830-0850 HOURS FITNESS FOR DUTY EVALUATIONS
1130-1230 HOURS LUNCH
1230-1330 HOURS IMMUNIZATIONS/FLU SHOTS

**** CONTACT 134MDG AT 336-4277 TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE SEEN OUTSIDE OF THESE TIME FRAMES**



PLEASE REMEMBER TO REPORT ALL MEDICATIONS THAT YOU ARE TAKING TO THE MED GROUP IMMEDIATELY!!!

NOTE 1: INDIVIDUALS REQUIRING LIPID TESTS MUST FAST FOR 14 HOURS PRIOR TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.
NOTE 2: INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT TO CONSUME ANY ALCOHOL FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

NOTE 3: IF YOU WEAR GLASSES YOU MUST BRING THEM WITH YOU FOR PHYSICAL. PLEASE DO NOT WEAR CONTACT LENSES FOR EXAM.

NOTE 4: IF YOU ARE DEPLOYING, PLEASE CHECK WITH THE CLINIC WELL IN ADVANCE OF DEPARTURE DATE FOR IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

NOTE 5: DNA TESTING IS CONDUCTED FROM 0830 - 1100 HOURS OF SATURDAY UTA. PLEASE HAVE YOUR PERSONNEL REPORT AT SCHEDULED TIME.



AROUND BASE

OPSEC

Quote of the Month:

“Even minutiae should have a place in our collection, for things of a seemingly trifling nature when enjoyed with others of a more serious cast may lead to valuable conclusions.”

- George Washington

Follow the 134th ARW on Social Media

Keep up with your fellow Airmen and 134th Air Refueling Wing stories, photos and videos by checking out the 134th ARW website, DVIDS (Defense Video Imagery Distribution System), The quarterly Volunteer State Guard Magazine and by liking our FACEBOOK page:

www.facebook.com/134ARW

www.134arw.ang.af.mil

<https://www.dvidshub.net/>

<http://www.tnmilitary.org/volstate-guard-magazine.html>



JEAA



The Junior Enlisted Advisory Association welcomes all junior enlisted members to join the group. All E-1s through E-6s are encouraged to attend. JEAA meeting times/locations are announced at Sat. roll calls. Hope to see you all there!



ROCKY TOP DINING FACILITY

Sat:

- Herbed Baked Chicken
- Orange Spice Pork Loin
- Steamed Rice
- O'Brien Potatoes
- Carrots
- Spinach
- Chicken Gravy
- Bean Soup

Sun:

- Shrimp Cocktail
- Roast Turkey
- Baked Ham
- Roast Rib
- Cornbread Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Glazed Sweet Potatoes
- Corn on the Cob
- Peas w/mushroom/onions
- French Green Beans
- Chicken w/Rice Soup