

## Three Airmen Die in Japan

Three airmen on temporary duty at Kadena Air Base on the Japanese island of Okinawa died Oct. 5. They were washed out to sea as Typhoon Phanfone raged around the island.

SMSgt. James Swartz, 51, was pronounced dead at a local hospital after the Japanese Coast Guard pulled him from the sea. He was an aerospace propulsion superintendent with the 116th Air Control Wing, Robins AFB, Ga.

HH-60s from Kadena and the Japanese Coast Guard searched for the remaining two airmen, MSgt. Daniel Paschal, 34, and SSgt. Joshua Schoenhoff, 27. Rough seas complicated the rescue efforts, but their bodies were recovered on Oct. 7 and 8. Paschal, also with the 116th Air Control Wing, was an aerospace propulsion craftsman. Schoenhoff was an instrument and flight control specialist with the 461st Air Control Wing at Robins.

## Welcome Back, 19th Air Force

Air Education and Training Command reactivated 19th Air Force on Oct. 1. The new numbered air force, which had been inactivated in 2012, was brought back at the direction of Gen. Robin Rand, AETC commander, who identified a need for “realigning responsibilities to reinforce proper command relationships and training oversight,” according to an Air Force press release.

The new 19th Air Force is headquartered at JBASA-Randolph, Texas, and will include 19 training locations, 10 regular Air Force wings, six Guard and Reserve wings, approximately 32,000 personnel, and 1,350 aircraft spanning 29 different models.

Maj. Gen. Michael A. Keltz is commander of the numbered air force.

“This restructuring within AETC will move all formal aircrew flying training missions under General Keltz’s command,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, according to a Sept. 29 news release. “AETC has a wide range of responsibility when it comes to training and educating airmen. Our flying training mission requires a significant level of coordinated oversight to ensure our airmen in the skies remain the best in the world, and 19th Air Force will take on that responsibility.”

## ISR Agency Becomes 25th Air Force

The Air Force on Sept. 29 redesignated the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency as 25th Air Force during a ceremony at JBASA-Lackland, Texas.

The new numbered air force aligns under Air Combat Command and oversees ISR matters—analysis and production, platforms and sensors, and targeting analytics—for the combat air forces, according to a news release.

“Placing 25th Air Force under ACC is all about operations effectiveness,” said Gen. Gilmary Michael Hostage III, ACC commander, who officiated at the ceremony. “It’ll be the one-stop shop for operational ISR within the Air Force, which will streamline program accuracy and presentation by the Air Force,” he said.

Maj. Gen. John N. T. “Jack” Shanahan, who led AFISRA since June 2013, became 25th Air Force commander during the ceremony. As part of the changes, the Air Force also on

Sept. 29 realigned the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, Calif., and the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB, Neb., under 25th Air Force.

★ screenshot

10.05.2014

*Airmen at Robins AFB, Ga., prepare to load a C-60 Lodestar aircraft into a C-5M Super Galaxy to transport it to the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover AFB, Del. The C-5M is USAF’s only transport capable of carrying the World War II-era aircraft.*



### Nuclear Airmen Get Special Duty Pay

Airmen in selected nuclear career fields are now eligible for assignment incentive pay and special duty assignment pay. Effective Oct. 1, selected officers and enlisted airmen in 11 nuclear career fields and assignment areas will receive between \$75 and \$300 per month, according to an Oct. 2 press release.

“The airmen selected for this incentive are critical members of our Air Force’s No. 1 mission,” said Col. Zannis Pappas, nuclear and missile operations career field manager on the Air Staff.

Eligible for the extra pay are command post airmen, nuclear aircraft maintainers, security forces, missile maintainers, aircraft armament systems technicians, and nuclear weapons and support personnel for ICBM complexes, among others.

It will take several months before these airmen will see the bump in their pay, but the Air Force will retroactively compensate them back to the Oct. 1 start date, states the release. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James unveiled this initiative in September.

### Agencies Realigned Under AFMC

In a step toward the formal stand-up of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center in 2015, the Air Force realigned four operating agencies and two other organizations under Air Force Materiel Command.

As of Oct. 1, now under AFMC are: the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Air Force Financial Services Center, Air Force Installation Contracting Agency, Air Force Security Forces Center, the Air Force Cost Analysis Agency’s Financial Man-



USAF photo by Greg L. Davis



agement Center of Expertise, and the Air Force Personnel Center's Services Directorate.

The Air Force activated AFIMSC in August and temporarily located it at JB Andrews, Md. The center is meant to consolidate major command-level installation and mission support activities and save the service money.

### Revamped AEF Construct Launches

The Air Force launched its revamped air and space expeditionary forces construct, known as AEF Next, in October.

Under the new deployment model, airmen deploying overseas will have a more stable one-to-two split between deployment and dwell time at home station. The new construct will also keep larger groups of personnel of the same unit together during deployments.

"Previously, Air Force specialty codes played a large role in determining an airman's battle rhythm and deployment location; the redesign focuses on aligning airmen to deploy with their unit," said Col. Stephen Hart, chief of the Air Force's war planning and policy division.

The redesign will give most, but not all, airmen a standardized battle rhythm of six-month deployments separated by 12 months at home. There may still be some airmen in high-demand specialties who deploy under a different scheduling construct, stated the Sept. 5 release.

Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, who approved the changes in April 2013, called the new model "a more efficient way to get the job done."

**Hey, Whatcha Doin' Up There?: X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV-3), USAF's unmanned reusable spaceplane, landed at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., Oct. 17 after a 674-day mission on orbit around the Earth. The nature of the mission was not publicly announced, but the X-37B performs risk reduction, experimentation, and concept of operations development for reusable space vehicle technologies.**

"Centralized management of installation support capabilities at AFIMSC affords opportunity to make strategic decisions for the Air Force on installation support, maximizing the available resources," said Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger, AFMC commander, in a news release.

The Air Force is scheduled to select a permanent location for the center from 10 candidate locations in early 2015.

### Silveria Becomes First F-35A Qualified General Officer

Maj. Gen. Jay B. Silveria, commander of the Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis AFB, Nev., is the first general officer to qualify as an F-35A strike fighter pilot. Silveria received his qualification Sept. 26 after landing an F-35A at Eglin AFB, Fla., following a flight that completed the seven-week training program.

Silveria was chosen to receive the F-35 training due to his position at the Warfare Center. It is responsible for current and future F-35A operational testing, tactics development, and eventual advanced training exercises and weapons school, according to an Air Combat Command news release.

"The Warfare Center is so involved with the development and future of this aircraft that it was important for me to see and experience this new program at the lowest tactical level" and to bring that experience to higher level discussions, said Silveria, a veteran F-15 pilot. (See "Critical Patch, Smaller Window," p. 60).

### Dover To Start Construction of New Runway

Dover AFB, Del., is preparing for the removal and reconstruction of the base's primary runway, Lt. Col. Steven Sylvester, the 436th Airlift Wing's chief of safety, told *Air Force Magazine*.

The \$98.3 million overhaul on the 69-year-old 01-19 runway will address drainage issues, cracking, and spalling of the concrete.

The 18 C-5s on base, he said, will remain operative over most of the 16 months of construction, but they will have to be temporarily relocated in early 2016 for "roughly four-to-six months." Sylvester said the location of the temporary home for the C-5s is not yet known.

The runway is estimated to be completed "mid-June of 2016."

### SDB II Moves Into Low-Rate Initial Production

Raytheon and the Air Force recently completed three successful tests of the Small Diameter Bomb II Guided Test Vehicle, passing the last trials required for the start of low-rate initial production of the GTV.

In the test drops, the SDB II's tri-mode seeker guided the bombs to direct hits against both stationary and moving targets, Raytheon said. The seeker was able to use sensor data to determine whether the targeted vehicles were wheeled or tracked, enhancing target identification and prioritization, according to a Sept. 4 company news release.

The SDB II can strike targets from up to 46 miles and enables pilots to change targets after release via a secure data link.

Two live fire tests are scheduled that will use SDB IIs with live warheads and fuzes to strike tactically representative targets, Raytheon said. The Pentagon has validated SDB II as meeting a critical combat need and has invested more than \$700 million in its development.

### NORAD F-15s Track Unresponsive Aircraft

Two F-15s under the direction of North American Aerospace Defense Command scrambled in early September to investigate and accompany an unresponsive aircraft flying over the Caribbean Sea.

The TBM-700 light business and utility turboprop airplane bound for Naples, Fla., crashed off the coast of Jamaica on Sept. 5. It was carrying two people.

According to a CNN report, fighter pilots tracking the airplane saw a pilot slumped over. As the aircraft entered into Cuban airspace, the F-15 escorts returned to the base for refueling, but continued to monitor the airplane's whereabouts via radar, according to NORAD updates.

### Rosecrans Adds C-130H Weapons Instructor Course

The Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center at Rosecrans Memorial Arpt., Mo., is adding a C-130H weapons instructor course to its curriculum.

Rosecrans is home of the Missouri Air National Guard's 139th Airlift Wing. The doctorate-level course is designed to teach tactics and leadership to C-130H pilots and navigators. On completion of the six-month course, they "will take key positions" in Air Guard and Air Force Reserve Command wings around the nation, "making our C-130 fleet stronger and more capable," said Army Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Danner, Missouri National Guard adjutant general.

The center will offer two WICs a year, beginning in February 2015, with each course having six students, according to an Aug. 28 press release. The center is expected to add some 30 new positions for the course.

### Martinsburg Gets First C-17

The West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Airlift Wing

***I Like To Move It, Move It: SSgt. John May (l) and SrA. Alex Vincent (r), of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group, carry equipment into the Joint Operations Center at Léopold Sédar Senghor Arpt., Dakar, Senegal, Oct. 5. The airmen were in Senegal for Operation United Assistance. The mission funneled humanitarian supplies and equipment into West Africa as part of the international effort to fight Ebola. DOD has committed to deploying up to 3,000 troops for the relief operation. See "Airmen Deploy to Africa for Ebola Relief Mission," p. 27.***



ANG photo by Maj. Dale Greer

in Martinsburg received its first C-17 transport as part of its transition from operating C-5As to the newer airlifter.

The C-17 touched down at Eastern West Virginia Airport on Sept. 25—the same day the unit flew its final training sortie with the C-5.

“I know that [wing] members are excited to be moving to a weapons system with a strong future,” said Col. Shaun J. Perkowski, 167th Airlift Wing commander.

The 167th is slated to take delivery of its full complement of eight C-17s by July 2015. The wing is scheduled to officially introduce the C-17 in early December and then commence C-17 flying operations in January.

The wing has been operating C-5As since March 2007. Its remaining C-5s are scheduled to depart by May 2015 for retirement in the Air Force’s aircraft “Boneyard” at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

**Russian Aggression Kills Vigilant Eagle**

A multilateral exercise with the US, Canada, and Russia was canceled because of Russia’s continued military aggression in Ukraine, according to several news reports.

Vigilant Eagle has typically been conducted near Alaska, in August or September, since 2007. During last year’s exercise, which utilized both US and Russian airspace, Canadian CF-18s and Russian Sukhoi scrambled to identify and follow a “hijacked” aircraft. Air Force and Russian command and control aircraft also participated.

Alaska’s *News-Miner* newspaper reported that the 2014 exercise would have included the Japan Self-Defense Force for the first time.

**Air National Guard Takes Part in NATO Exercise**

Nearly 140 Air National Guardsmen participated in the NATO-led exercise, Steadfast Javelin II, in Eastern Europe.

The airmen from six ANG bases supported the exercise “by providing personnel air drop and air landings in support of forcible entry, force projection, and reinforcing the joint commitment,” states a Sept. 10 release.

The US supplied 10 ANG C-130 aircraft to provide airlift support. Air National Guardsmen from the 166th Airlift Wing in Delaware, California’s 146th AW, the 123rd AW from Kentucky, Missouri’s 139th AW, 182nd AW from Illinois, and the 143rd AW from Rhode Island all participated.

Steadfast Javelin II spanned Sept. 2-8 and was part of another two-week exercise, Sabre Junction, led by US Army

**Sex-Assault Prevention Needs Evaluation**

The Air Force has fully or partially implemented all but one of the 46 recommendations from an Air Education and Training Command report on how to prevent, investigate, and respond to sexual assaults and sexual misconduct, according to a Government Accountability Office report, released Sept. 9.

However, the service has not instituted a method to evaluate the effectiveness of its corrective actions, states the report.

“Without fully establishing an oversight framework for evaluating the effectiveness of its actions to prevent sexual assaults during basic training, the Air Force will not know whether to sustain the efforts it has implemented or undertake different actions,” states the report.

AETC ordered a command investigation in 2012 after 34 basic military training instructors at JBSA-Lackland, Texas, were implicated in sexual assaults or other improper sexual actions with recruits. The resulting report recommended 46 actions intended to stop sexual misconduct, to deal with violators, and better serve the victims.

GAO investigated the Air Force’s response and found it had fully implemented 39 of the recommendations, partially implemented six, and took no action on one. GAO recommended the Air Force establish an oversight framework to evaluate the effectiveness of its efforts.

Europe. The exercise took place over Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

**QF-16 Conducts Final Operational Test**

The Air Force closed out the development phase of the QF-16 program on Sept. 5 when an unmanned Viper was shot down over the Gulf of Mexico.

The final operational test was a joint effort between the Test and Training Division at Eglin AFB, Fla., and the 82nd Aerial Target Squadron at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

It “was the culmination of years of planning and aircrew training specifically tailored to stand up the next generation of full-scale aerial targets,” said Lt. Col. Ryan Inman, 82nd ATRS commander.



**By the Numbers**

**120**

The number of miles of wiring in the Air Force’s KC-46A Pegasus tanker.

# The War on Terrorism

## Operation Enduring Freedom

### Casualties

By Oct. 21, a total of 2,349 Americans had died in Operation Enduring Freedom. The total includes 2,345 troops and four Department of Defense civilians. Of these deaths, 1,804 were killed in action with the enemy while 509 died in noncombat incidents.

There have been 20,023 troops wounded in action during OEF.

### Poor Communication, Mistake Led to Fratricide

Miscommunication among the US ground forces and an Air Force joint terminal attack controller's mistake about the targeting capability of a B-1B providing close air support led to the "friendly fire" incident that killed five US soldiers and one Afghan soldier June 9 in eastern Afghanistan, according to a US Central Command investigation, released Sept. 4.

"The key members executing the close air support mission collectively failed to effectively execute the fundamentals, which resulted in poor situational awareness and improper target identification," the investigating officer, Air Force Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigan, said in the report.

"While this complex combat situation presented a challenging set of circumstances, had the team understood their system's capabilities," executed standard tactics, and communicated effectively, "this tragic incident was avoidable."

The fratricide occurred when a US-Afghan ground force took fire from insurgents and the six soldiers moved to higher ground without informing their commander. The JTAC airman and the US ground commander mistook that group's muzzle flashes for insurgents and directed the B-1 to drop two bombs on that spot. This was after the Lancer

crew told the controller it did not detect infrared strobes that would have identified friendlies. The B-1's Sniper targeting pod cannot see the strobes.

### Afghan Security Agreements Signed

After months of uncertainty following a disputed election to succeed President Hamid Karzai, the newly sworn-in Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Sept. 30 signed the long-delayed bilateral security agreement with the US as well as a follow-on status of forces agreement (SOFA) with NATO.

President Barack Obama praised the agreement. It gives both US and NATO forces the necessary legal protections to remain in country in an advise-and-assist capacity following the end of the International Security Assistance Force mission in December.

"The BSA reflects our continued commitment to support the new Afghan unity government, and we look forward to working with this new government to cement an enduring partnership that strengthens Afghan sovereignty, stability, unity, and prosperity, and that contributes to our shared goal of defeating al Qaeda and its extremist affiliates," said Obama.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, then NATO's secretary general, said the agreements open "a new chapter for cooperation between NATO, our partners, and the Afghan National Security Forces."

The new NATO SOFA provides the legal basis for the Alliance's follow-on mission, dubbed Operation Resolute Support. It will begin on Jan. 1, 2015. Rasmussen said NATO would remain committed to help advise and assist the Afghan security forces through 2017.

The QF-16 was targeted by air-to-air missiles after an auto-takeoff from Tyndall, stated a news release.

"The aging fleet of the QF-4s and their limited capabilities against modern fighters have rendered the aerial target workhorse, Phantom II, at its technological limit," Inman said. "The QF-16 initiates the next chapter in advanced aerial targets, predominately in support of more technologically superior air-to-air weapons test and evaluation programs."

### Airmen Deploy to Africa for Ebola Relief Mission

Airmen from the 633rd Medical Group at JB Langley-Eustis, Va., departed for Africa Sept. 26 to support hu-

manitarian relief operations in countries suffering Ebola outbreaks.

The airmen, accompanied by the Expeditionary Medical Support System (EMEDS), supported a 25-bed deployable hospital facility designed to treat a population of up to 6,500, according to a press release. While in Africa, the airmen will train the international health workers on the proper use and application of the medical equipment in the new pop-up facility.

Generally, EMEDS are set up for trauma care, said Navy Rear Adm. Scott Giberson, acting deputy surgeon general for the US Public Health Service. The use of an EMEDS unit for "an infectious pathogen and treatment of international health care workers" may set a precedent, he said.

### C-17s Testing Tires That Can Be Retreaded

With budgets getting tighter, the Air Force is seeking to adopt a cost-saving practice the trucking industry has used for decades, putting new tread on worn-out tires instead of throwing them away.

To advance that effort, the C-17 Global Reach Integrated Test Team at Edwards AFB, Calif., has been putting new Dunlop tires through rigorous testing to ensure they can handle the widely varying runway surfaces, weather conditions, and operational considerations they will face.

"While structural integrity and load capability are tested in a laboratory, parameters such as wet-runway stopping distance and minimum aircraft turning radius have to be tested in the real world with a wet runway," said Michael

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## F-22 Maintenance Consolidation Begins

The consolidation of depot maintenance for the F-22 Raptor at Hill AFB, Utah, began in September with the incremental transfer of work from a Lockheed Martin facility to Ogden Air Logistics Complex, Air Force Materiel Command announced Sept. 3.

The decision to concentrate all of the Raptor depot modification and heavy maintenance, currently split between Ogden and Lockheed's plant at Palmdale, Calif., is intended to improve efficiency and reduce cost. A comprehensive business case analysis by the F-22 System Program Office determined the consolidation could save more than \$300 million over the life of the program.

Based on those findings, the program office, Ogden, and Lockheed implemented a 21-month incremental transition plan that will require improvements at the ALC, movement of support equipment, and hiring of some 200 new workers at Ogden.

The consolidation "will create greater efficiency in the F-22 program by allowing the Air Force to cost-effectively maintain the F-22 and ensure this critical front-line weapon system is readily available to the warfighter," said Maj. Gen. H. Brent Baker Sr., Ogden ALC commander.

Ogden will add six production lines—the first opened in September—and will reach full capacity in February 2015.

Quinton, 773rd Test Squadron project engineer, according to a Sept. 10 news release.

The Dunlop tires are intended to replace the Michelin tires that have been used on C-17s. The key difference is that the Dunlops incorporate tighter geometric tolerances designed to facilitate retreading.

## Hercules to Reaper

Members of the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station flew the unit's final mission at the controls of a C-130 transport before converting to their new mission: operating MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft.

"We are transitioning from the C-130, which we've been flying since 2008 and have become comfortable with, having deployed with it to Iraq and Afghanistan," said Col. John J. Higgins, the wing's commander, in an Oct. 1 unit release. "However, we look to the future with excitement as we take on the MQ-9 mission."

The flight took place on Sept. 25. It ended the Air Guard unit's C-130 association with Air Force Reserve Command's 914th Airlift Wing.

Members of the 107th are now training as RPA pilots, sensor operators, intelligence coordinators, and communications specialists. The unit is expected to be fully operational in the RPA mission by 2017.

The Reservists of the 914th AW will continue to fly the C-130s from Niagara.

## More Squadron Officer Students

The Squadron Officer College at Maxwell AFB, Ala., has shortened the Squadron Officer School course from eight to five weeks to give more captains an opportunity to attend, according to a Sept. 10 Air Education and Training Command news release.

The shorter course will allow the college to increase the number of students from 3,600 to 4,700 a year and will go into effect on Oct. 1. That should enable all Active Duty captains to attend the school and open more slots for Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Defense Department civilians, and international officers. The change also is expected to save \$1.9 million annually.

The shorter course will be a modification of the existing curriculum that focuses on leadership, communications, warfare, the profession of arms, and international security studies.

## A-29 Training Squadron Activated at Moody

The 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, Ga., formally stood up on Oct. 1. It will train Afghan pilots to fly the A-29 Super Tucano. The squadron was slated to begin training by the end of October, stated a release.

The 81st Fighter Squadron is a geographically separated unit of the 14th Flying Training Wing, based at Columbus AFB, Miss., and is responsible for training international airmen.

The squadron is expected to train 30 Afghan pilots and 90 maintainers under a requirement from the International Security Assistance Force, leader of the NATO-supported effort to support Afghanistan in its fight against the Taliban insurgency.

The A-29 light air support aircraft will replace the Mi-35 attack helicopters currently flown by the Afghan Air Force. The Tucanos will be "a monumental leap in capabilities," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hogan, the A-29 light air support training unit commander.

## Bargain C-27s for Afghan Construction Company

Sixteen of the 20 C-27A transports the Air Force bought for the Afghan Air Force for \$486 million did not to meet operational requirements in Afghanistan and were sold as scrap for \$32,000, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said.

In letters addressed to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, SIGAR John F. Sopko said the transports, also designated as G222, sat on the tarmac at Kabul Airport for a considerable time "experiencing continuous and severe operational difficulties, including a lack of spare parts," before they were sold to the Afghan construction company for six cents a pound.

The fate of the other four C-27s, currently at Ramstein AB, Germany, has not been decided. Sopko said he was "concerned the officials responsible for planning and executing the scrapping of the planes may not have considered other possible alternatives in order to salvage taxpayers' dollars."

He requested DOD and US Central Command provide all communications and documents associated with the decision to scrap the aircraft for use in his continuing investigation.

## So Help Me God—Or Not

The Defense Department's general counsel has ruled that airmen may choose to omit the words "So help me God" from enlistment and officer appointment oaths.

The Air Force requested the opinion after an airman at Creech AFB, Nev., omitted the words while taking his verbal oath.

"We take any instance in which airmen report concerns regarding religious freedom seriously," said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James in a Sept. 17 news release. "We are making the appropriate adjustments to ensure our airmen's rights are protected." ★