JANUARY 2019

TAMPA CHAPTER—A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL REVISED EDITION

VOL. 25, Number 1

POINTS OF INTEREST

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

OPERATION HELPING HAND

LUNCHEON MENU:

Asian Salad, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Fried Rice, Stir Fry Vegetables— order Fruit or Chef's Salad when you make your reservation

Upcoming

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT 1000 on: -03 JANUARY -07 FEBRUARY **—07 MARCH**

LUNCHEON MEET-INGS WILL BE HELD AT 1130 AT SURF'S EDGE ON: -10 JANUARY

PUBLICATION DEAD-LINE FOR THE FEB-**RUARY 2019 ISSUE IS -25 JANUARY 2019**

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Volume 25, Number 1 JANUARY 2019

JANUARY SPEAKER TO INSTALL OUR BOARD

COL Terri Coles, USA (Ret) MOAA National's Senior Director of Council and Chapter Affairs



COL Terri Coles

COL Terri Coles served over 20 years in the U.S. Army as a Signal Corps officer, serving in a wide range of command and staff assignments including postings in Korea and Germany and command at both the battalion and brigade level. She also served on the Department of the Army staff as an Inspector General and culminated her military career serving as a division chief in the Command, Control, Communications and Computer -J6 Directorate, on the Joint Staff, Pentagon.

After leaving active duty, Terri became active in the local Frederick, Md., community and was selected as a member of the board of associates for Hood College, where she worked to nurture strong relationships between the student vets on campus and the greater Frederick community. Terri joined MOAA in 2012 and served as Deputy Director in the Career Transition Center before assuming her role as Senior Director in Council and Chapter Affairs.

She is a native of Philadelphia and holds a Bachelor of Arts in communications from Villanova University and a Master of Arts in strategic studies from the Army War College Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 2019 COL CAROL ZIERES, PRESIDENT, TAMPA CHAPTER



Happy New Year!!'ll start off with some highlights from our December luncheon: The Christmas spirit definitely filled the air at the Surf's Edge Club dining room during our annual Christmas luncheon! Our central focus was on gift giving to the TOYS FOR TOTS annual fund drive which netted a grand total of \$495, plus two boxes filled with toys were COL ZIERES presented to MAJOR MATTHEW MCNERNEY, USMC from the 4th Amphibious Assault

Battalion. A big "thank you" to all chapter members who generously donated items for our silent auction/raffle drawing, or brought in table decorations which added to the festive ambiance of the occasion. All proceeds help finance the Chapter's Scholarship program and also help defray the cost of doing business to run the chapter.

I'd also like to thank President, KATHY KENNETT, who presented a generous gift in the amount of \$1500 to the Tampa Chapter Scholarship fund from the Military Officer's Wives Club (MOWC). All of these wonderful gifts help to keep our chapter financially solvent so we can continue to offer scholarships each year to deserving college bound students. After enjoying live flute music of familiar Christmas Carols and a slide show of beautiful scenery from some of our National Parks I visited this year, the luncheon closed with a visit from old Saint Nick; aka Santa Claus! To be sure, 2019 will be a busy year for our chapter as we continue to participate in operational planning as host chapter for the FCOC convention, 20-23 June. We have a solid and highly motivated team to accomplish this great task. We are honored to have COL TERRI COLES, from Washington National MOAA Sr Director of Council and Chapter Affairs install the 2019 Board of Directors at our January 10th luncheon and to give us an update on chapter-related programs, which includes tools and tracking mechanisms for new member recruiting and retention. And speaking of membership, here's a gentle reminder to all reading this message that your annual membership dues are up for renewal this month. COL Bill Schneider is our Membership Chairman and will be contacting you via e-mail or letter reminder; options are you may bring in a check for \$25 made out to MOAA Tampa Chapter and give to him at the next luncheon or mail a check to the MOAA Tampa Chapter's mailbox: P.O. Box 6383 MacDill AFB, FL 33608-0383. I look forward to seeing you at our next luncheon!



The United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSCC), also referred to as the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service, is the federal uniformed service of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), and is one of the seven uniformed services of the United States.

During WWI

64 officers

INFLUENZA

fight a major

outbreak.



COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

America's Health Responders



Commissioned Corps administers the MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICES

1889

1902

MHS EXPANDS INTO the PUBLIC HEALTH & MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICES (PHMHS)

129 Years





nurses, scientists, dietitians physical therapists and sanitarians.

> COMMISSION COMPS



Public Health

9 Years

1912

1955
Agroundbreaking report
SMOKING & HEALTH

HEALTH HAZARDS

129 Years

194

The INDIAN HEALTH
SERVICE program is
TRANSFERRED
to the USPHS from the
BUREAU of INDIAN
AFFAIRS.



plays a Commissioned Corps physician tracking down a

bubonic plague victim

in Panic in the Streets.



2,400⁺ Officers DEPLOY before, during and after hurricanes KATRINA, RITA & WILMA.

129 Years
COMMINISTORED
CORPS

200



200⁺ Officers deploy to Liberia to help EBOLA infected medical workers. 2015

30⁺ OFFICERS respond to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan.





The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation. As America's uniformed service of public health

professionals, the Commissioned Corps achieves its mission through Rapid and effective response to public health needs Leadership and excellence in public health practices.



USPHS CAPT Spaulding is an occupational therapist and serves as a senior Corps officer and supervisor at a medium security prison at the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) in Allenwood, PA. As part of his many responsibilities, CAPT Spaulding oversees a residential drug treatment program for inmates. "You have to ensure programs are well functioning, are meaningful to inmates, and are making a difference so that they don't come back to prison."



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

Copied from The Council Communiqué



GUEST COLUMNIST Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF, Ret., Legislative Chairman,

For the first time in ten years DoD started the Fiscal Year under a full spending measure; however, that same bill put in place a Continuing Resolution (CR) until December 7th for most of the rest of the government.

On December 3rd, Republican and Democratic leaders agreed to a two-week stopgap spending measure that would put to rest fears of a partial government shutdown when that CR expires. President George H. W. Bush's passing upended what was expected to be an intense week of negotiations ahead of the December 7 funding deadline.

The short-term spending deal, yet to

be passed as of this writing, would fund government agencies and extend expiring programs such as the National Flood Insurance Program through December 21. It also would postpone the likely fight over funding levels for President Trump's proposed border wall.

The pause in action gives lawmakers more time to negotiate a bigger deal that addresses funding for Trump's top policy priority, a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. But Republicans acknowledge that the chances of reaching a significant agreement on border security and immigration are dropping with each passing day. At this point, they are scrambling to find a way for Trump to declare victory on border security and avoid a shutdown they fear would inflict political damage on their party heading into the 2020 election cycle. GOP lawmakers say they want to avoid a shutdown and have told the president and Vice President Pence that provoking one would be counterproductive.

Republican and Democratic sources say they don't see any type of grand bargain emerging. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said last week he is not willing to add funds for border security beyond the \$1.6 billion provided in the bipartisan Homeland Security appropriations bill the Senate passed over the summer. An alternative, he said, was to simply extend 2018 funding for the Department of Homeland Security through a continuing resolution alongside new versions of the other six remaining spending bills.

The new Dec. 21 deadline raises the stakes, potentially setting up another showdown that would affect thousands of federal workers and close national parks across the country just days ahead of Christmas.

The remaining seven bills cover, among other things, Transportation, State and foreign operations, the Commerce and Justice departments, Interior, Agriculture, HUD and, crucially, the Department of Homeland Security, the bill that would include any potential wall funding.

[Excerpted from: https://thehill.com/policy/finance/419559-lawmakers-buy-more-time-forspending-deal]



OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE

"As long as we are needed, Operation helping hand will be there..."



LTC Jim Griffin, Chairman, OPHH

OPERATION HELPING HAND finished 2018 with a spectacular 176th DINNER AT THE JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL. BOB EVANS CATERED A DINNER THAT PUT EVERYONE IN A HOLIDAY STATE OF MIND. THANKS BOB EVANS- you were our CHRISTMAS DINNER CATERER for a reason!

We cannot say thank you enough to the folks at ARMA GLOBAL for their continu-

ous support over the past decade. There sponsorship and the very special gift to all of the patients.



To JOE TRAGAKIS and all the ARMA-GLOBAL family we extend our thanks and HAPPY NEW YEAR.



THANK YOU MARINES FOR YOUR GRACIOUS TOY DONATION! I know the joy that you have brought to lots of kids cannot be measured, but it is appreciated by all.



A very special thanks to the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS-ST PAUL for their continued support and participation with OPERATION HELPING HAND.



The BUFFALO BILLS BOOSTERS thought they could raise \$2000 for OPERATION HELPING HAND. Thanks to SCOTT AND GINA, they presented a check for over twice that amount! I don't know about you, but I have become a BUFFALO BILLS FAN!



It was an distinct pleasure to honor BOB AHERN as the OPERATION HELPING HAND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. His fund raising BBQ EVENTS were not only very beneficial, but also very delicious!



MARIE PETRESKY'S donation of the beautiful POINSET-TIAS provided a very festive upgrade to the HERO'S CAFÉ. THANKS MARIE!

All of the credit for this truly fantastic evening goes to all of the volunteers who make this whole organization work. It takes a lot of dedicated folks who seek perfection anytime we honor the wounded and injured and their families. THANKS TO YOU ALL!

2019 DUES ARE DUE NOW

❖ Have you paid your 2019 dues yet??? If not, SEND YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF MOAA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25.00 TO OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: COL WILLIAM A SCHNEIDER USA RET

COL WILLIAM A SCHNEIDER USA RET 15888 SANCTUARY DRIVE TAMPA, FL 33647-1076



BULLETIN BOARD

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



COL MICHAEL WEBB USAF AD, 2810 MOSSY TIMBER TRL, VALRICO, FL 33596-7950

SUBMITTED BY COL WILLIAM A SCHNEIDER $USA\ RET,$ $Membership\ Chairman$



TAPS

General Ray Shulstad died Nov 1.

SUBMITTED BY MAJ RICHARD TINSLEY USMC RET

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, homebound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact CW3 Bill Farrow, USA (Ret) at (813) 884-7823 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed. Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to:

moaatampachapter@tampabay.rr.com

CW3 Bill Farrow, USA, Sick Call Chairman

HOW TO JOIN THE TAMPA CHAPTER: Come to a luncheon (2nd Thursdays) at 11:15 at the Surf's Edge Club and ask for COL WILLIAM A SCHNEIDER USAF OR_fill in, print and mail the form on our web:

http://www.moaatampa.org/

NOTE: to be eligible for membership in the Tampa Chapter, one must be a member of MOAA National or join National at the same time the Chapter is joined.

Climbing Skyward



Members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Sky Soldiers conclude Exercise Alpini Climb with a hike to over 8500 feet where they will dig temporary snow shelters to face a frigid night in Passo del Tonale, Italy, Dec. 11, 2018.

MOAA PRESIDENT OUTLINES KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF ARLINGTON CEMETERY



Preserving promised burial eligibility for military retirees should be key to the future of Arlington National Cemetery, MOAA's president and CEO wrote to a committee charged with advising on the site's strategic plan. To that end, cemetery officials should request funds from Congress both to acquire and develop land touching Arlington's grounds, as well as examine and eventually purchase "noncontiguous land to be used as an Arlington annex," Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret) wrote to the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery.

MOAA was one of a group of veterans organizations whose input was requested by committee officials. The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act requires the secretary of the Army to establish revised eligibility criteria—rules that must allow the cemetery to remain active "well into the future"—by Sept. 30, 2019.

MOAA has three key recommendations:

—Avoid restricting eligibility for the military retiree population, other than reserving a set number of plots for specific honorees, such as those killed in action or those who receive a Medal of Honor;

—Urge Congress to appropriate funds for acquisition and development of adjacent land, including completion of the Southern Expansion project currently underway; and—Seek funds for the study and eventual acquisition of noncontiguous land to be used as an Arlington annex.

The letter outlines MOAA's request that these rules maintain eligibility for the current retiree population, with an exception for "reserving a set number of plots for specific honorees, such as those killed in action or those who receive a Medal of Honor."

"The expectation and earned right to be laid to rest at Arlington for the currently eligible population should not be exchanged for an active duty service member who dies from a noncombat-related incident many decades in the future," Atkins wrote.

More information can be acquired by the following UR: https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/O18-News-Articles/MOAA-President-Outlines-3-Key-Recommendations-for-the-Future-of-Arlington-Cemetery.aspx? utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=NC+AFHR+I+ERet+L+NC



Capt. Mike Covell, USN (Ret), president of the Western North Carolina Chapter, conducts a pinning ceremony for a veteran in hospice care at Four Seasons Compassion for Life. (Photo courtesy of the Western North Carolina Chapter)

In the spring of 2014, the Western North Carolina Chapter was seeking ways to expand its veteran support. After reading that another North Carolina chapter was participating in the We Honor Veterans (WHV) program, the board of the Western North Carolina Chapter contacted its local hospice organization, Four Seasons Compassion for Life. Unbeknownst to the chapter, Four Seasons leadership recently had become aware of the same program and was looking for help in implementing it in western North Carolina.

DOD RELEASES REPORT ON ENHANCING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN

Today the Department of Defense provided to the Congress the semiannual report "Enhancing Security and Stability in Afghanistan" covering events during the period from June 1 to November 30, 2018. The report was submitted in accordance with requirements in Section 1225 of the Fiscal 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as amended by Sections 1231 and 1531 of the Fiscal 2016 and Fiscal 2017 NDAA

The principle goal of the South Asia Strategy is to conclude the war in Afghanistan on terms favorable to Afghanistan and the United States. During this reporting period, the United States and its partners used military force to drive the Taliban towards a durable and inclusive political settlement. There have been some notable developments – the June Eid al-Fitr ceasefire and the support for peace from the broader Islamic community—which threatened the legitimacy of the Taliban.

The Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation (SRAR), Ambassador Zalmay Khalilizad, has reinforced U.S. diplomatic engagements with Afghans, neighboring states and interested parties in the broader region. Increased military pressure on the Taliban, international calls for peace, and the new SRAR's engagements appear to be driving the Taliban to negotiations.

The introduction of additional advisors and enablers in 2018 stabilized the situation in Afghanistan, slowing the momentum of a Taliban march that had capitalized on U.S. drawdowns between 2011 and 2016. The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) remain in control of most of Afghanistan's population centers and all of the provincial capitals, while the Taliban control large portions of Afghanistan's rural areas, and continue to attack poorly defended government checkpoints and rural district centers.

The reinforcement and realignment of U.S. and coalition forces and authorities under the South Asia Strategy have significantly increased pressure on the Taliban. Continued DOD partnership with the Afghan Special Security Forces (ASSF) has produced an extremely lethal and agile offensive force. Enhanced efforts to train, advise and assist (TAA) the ANDSF, from strategic to tactical levels, including the employment of the Army's 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) improved Afghan offensive capabilities.

NATO allies and partners remain committed to Afghanistan's long-term security and stability. At the July 2018 NATO Summit in Brussels, allies and partners reaffirmed their commitment to the Resolute Support (RS) TAA mission and agreed to extend financial sustainment of the ANDSF through 2024. Furthermore, RS welcomed Qatar and the United Arab Emirates as new operational partners, increasing the coalition from 39 to 41 allies and partners and providing evidence that our partners and allies know that our strategy is working.

Afghanistan held parliamentary elections in late October, and did so with minimal U.S. military support. Although the elections were not without violence, ANDSF preparation to secure polling stations resulted in an election that was less violent than any election conducted over the past ten years. The parliamentary elections demonstrated the significant growth and development of Afghanistan's institutional and security capabilities, and help set the stage for presidential elections in 2019.

https://dod.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1719572/dod-releases-report-on-enhancing-security-and-stability-in-afghanistan/source/GovDelivery/

OPPORTUNITY STILL KNOCKS

Are you looking for an active volunteer opportunity to make a difference with a really important program?

If so, you may want to consider committing minimum of 4 hours a week volunteering at the Fisher House. Volunteer hours are available Monday thru Friday from 9:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The house needs assistance with administrative tasks such as picking up mail, dropping off paperwork, inventorying donations, filling kitchen cupboards with food, etc.

If you're interested in making a difference, please consider visiting the James A., Haley, VA Hospitals web site at www.tampa.va.gov (Volunteer or Donate section) to learn how to apply. Or contact the Voluntary Service office at 813-972-7533."

Paula Welenc, MSW, Manager



You may remember that our Board of Directors approved a new Chapter initiative: we are now an affiliate of the United States Central Command Memorial Foundation on MacDill Air Force Base which has entered Phase two. It has taken ten years but it's never too late to become part of a great project and we need your help. The Central Command Memorial structure is 95% complete at MacDill AFB. It stands proudly in front of two new additions to MacDill, namely the CENTCOM BUILDING and the JOINT INTELLIGENCE Command Headquarters Building.

It is about the American Soldier serving his country and the comrades in arms from our coalition partners that stand side by side with us. We shall provide for those who have given of themselves, we will be there for them and their loved ones.

When the Memorial is completed and secured for perpetuity, any excess funding will be set for scholarships, education, and grants through affiliate organizations. It will be a reminder that we take care of our own; no one shall be alone; no one forgotten. Your checks can be mailed to: US CENTCOM Memorial Foundation, PO BOX 47157, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33743-7157

http://centcommemorial.org/



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



A chaplain friend told the story of a little girl walking up a mountain path with her younger brother. When he complained about the rocks and bumps she said to him, "Silly, they are what you climb on."

In this New Year of 2019, I suspect there will be rocks and bumps in each of our life's paths. Some of them may be physical - injuries or disease; some

emotional – sorrow or loneliness; some spiritual—wondering where God is in the midst of our rocks and bumps. We can choose to see them as obstacles in our lives or we can use them as stepping stones to overcome, by God's grace, whatever awful thing may come into our lives.

FLORIDA LOE RECIPIENTS AT MOAA NATIONAL MEETING







TOYS FOR TOTS DONATION

Press Release by Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Sawallesh, US Army, Retired



The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) hosted their annual Christmas luncheon at the Surf's Edge Club on December 13th at MacDill AFB. Proudly in uniform, left to right, are Major Matt McNerney, US Marine Corps, Toys for Tots Officer; Colonel Bernard H. Lieving, Jr, US Army, Retired, Chapter Senior Chaplain; Lieutenant Colonel Barbara Brotherton, USAF, Retired; Major Richard C. Tinsley, former US Marine, Chapter Personal Affairs Officer, Tampa; Santa Clause; Colonel Carol L. Zieres, US Army, Retired, Chapter President, Safety Harbor and Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Sawallesh, US Army, Retired, Reserve Component Liaison Officer, Valrico. The chapter donated \$465 and many toys to Toys for Tots.



US ARMY

MAN'S BEST FRIEND HELPS HIM DEAL WITH PTSD By C. Todd Lopez



Former Soldier, proponent for sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder, and author, Luis Carlos Montalvan, spoke Nov. 30, 2011, at the Pentagon Library about his service dog, "Tuesday." He also spoke about the book he wrote that documents how his struggle with PTSD was aided by "Tuesday."

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 1, 2011) -- "He knows how I'm feeling. And if I were feeling unwell, which could be any number of things: PTSD, TBI or other type of pain, he would proactively do something to help me."

Former Soldier, proponent for sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder, and author, Luis Carlos Montalván, spoke Nov. 30 at the Pentagon Library about his service dog, "Tuesday." He also spoke about the book he wrote that documents how his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, was aided by "Tuesday."

Montalván enlisted in the Army in 1990, first as a communications specialist, then a military police officer, and then an infantryman. He accepted a commission in 2002 as an armor officer, and he served twice in Iraq.

"The experiences before, during and after war, particularly those after, were very difficult," Montalván said. "I felt compelled to share what I think so many service members and veterans have gone through in the war, and at home, and offer points of light if you will to help and offer hope for many who are struggling."

His book, "Until Tuesday" covers the relationship between him and his service dog "Tuesday," who came to him in 2008, after he left the Army.

"I was wounded in Iraq in 2003, but the effects of some of those wounds caused me to deteriorate in health over subsequent years and a second tour," Montalván said. "Ultimately, I had to get out of the Army to care for myself and get the help I needed."

Tuesday was part of the help he needed, Montalván said. "He helps me with everything from mitigating the effects of PTSD to helping me balance [a result of] traumatic brain injury," Montalván said. "He helps me with mobility when I walk. So physically and psychologically, he helps me with my disabilities and is allowing me to move forward in the healing process."

Montalván said he believes many don't know what service members endure during their service or after, and he hopes his experiences, which he shares in "Until Tuesday" will enlighten those who choose to read.

"There are a lot of service members, as is well known, who are suffering silently, with the wounds of war," he said. "Many who, for fear of coming forward, don't. There are many veterans who have exited the military who are struggling with getting help, struggling with recognizing issues that they have.

We really want them and the general society to know the vastness of the problem and details of the problems as well as the light that exists in spite of disabilities, physical and psychological disabilities."

In his book, Montalván explains how his service dog "Tuesday" helps him through the ongoing healing process. He said there's hope for all those who have suffered from service-related injuries and PTSD.

"You can be happy, you can be employed, you can achieve educational and life goals. You can achieve a happy and successful marriage," he said. "But that will require recognition, that will require treatment, and it will require being committed to a journey of healing, almost for the rest of your life."

Montalván said there's been some efforts in how service members can receive care after they leave the military, but he said more needs to be done.

"There have been a number of macro movements to help mitigate the colossal and corrosive problems of invisible disabilities and other wounds of war," he said. "But the juggernauts of the DOD and the VA and other institutions are slow and there is a lot more that needs to happen."

Today, Montalván lives in New York City, with his service dog, Tuesday, and is in the process of earning a second master's degree in strategic communications at Columbia University, to augment his first masters in journalism.

http://www.army.mil/media/228553/

















2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM 20-23 JUNE 2019 Safety Harbor Resort & SPA

NAME	Rank	ADDRESS	
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	RESC	ORT RESERVATION COST	
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Mail Form and Check to: NOTE: Send questions or	Lewis VanDyke 1151 Shipwatch Circle Tampa, FL 33602-5786 pecial accommodation needs to: vandykeRL@verizon.net		
Provide any comments you			



US AIR FORCE

AIRMEN COMPLETE IMPORTANT GPS AIRDROP MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

by Staff Sgt. David Salanitri (Senior Airman Patrick McKenna contributed to this article) U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs



A parachute bundle with the Joint Precision Airdrop System, or JPADS, is airdropped from a C-130J Hercules to a remote forward operating base Nov. 27, 2011, in Afghanistan. JPADS uses GPS navigation to guide parachute bundles to precise drop zones, minimizing collateral damage, troops' ground travel, and the vulnerability of the aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tyler Placie)

Airmen from the 772nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron successfully completed an airdrop mission to Combat Outpost Herrera in east Afghanistan, using GPS-guided bundles to deliver the supplies Nov. 27.

The C-130 Hercules, operated by its crew from the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, airdropped 18,000 pounds of fuel to Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry, using the Joint Precision Airdrop System while high above the reach of enemy weapons.

JPADS is a dynamic tool in the world of resupply. Once a bundle is launched from the aircraft, it is directed by an Autonomous Guidance Unit. While floating down to Earth, the AGU guides the bundle to a programmed point of impact -- much like joint direct attack munitions.

"The bundles, when released from the aircraft at a previously calculated location, guide themselves to the drop zone using mechanical servos attached to the parachute's canopy risers," said Maj. Justin Brumley, the aircraft commander for this mission. "It flies its profile to the PI, negotiating terrain and other obstacles -- much the same way a parachutist exacts a free-fall jump."

Before the mission can launch, the bundles must be built and loaded on to the aircraft.

"Our mission begins with building pallets and rigging parachutes," said Army Spc. Clifton Walker, a 10th Sustainment Brigade parachute rigger. Our job "continues onto the aircraft where we work with Air Force joint aircraft inspectors to ensure the parachutes are rigged properly in the aircraft. We feel responsible for the loads until they hit the ground."

Combat Outpost Herrera sits 8,700 feet above sea level. Looking out from that location, the post is surrounded by mountains, trees and local national villages. Accuracy for an airdrop is imperative as the threats of cliffs and civilians are near.

"I was real skeptical (of JPADS) at first," said Army Capt. Brandon Kimbrel, the COP Herrera commander. "After the drop, I was real impressed. We didn't see or hear the 'bird' at all. All of a sudden, we looked up and saw parachutes above us."

Dropped at 17,000 feet, the AGU navigated the bundles to the center of the drop zone.

"There was one bundle off in the distance," said Kimbrel. "It was way off and we figured it was gone. Then all of a sudden it circled around and landed smack in the middle of the DZ. It was pretty cool to see."

As the weather gets colder and snowfall begins at remote bases in high elevation areas, convoys become more dangerous and less reliable.

"We're surrounded by mountains -- the snow sets in. The helicopter passes are impassible by helicopter and the roads could be clogged up," said Army Staff Sgt. Denton Poe, 1st platoon sergeant here. "Utilizing airdrops with the GPS-guided parachutes allows us that avenue to use in case we can't get resupplied by helicopters or vehicles by the road, which is a typical case come winter here."

For Herrera, the fuel that was airdropped in will survive the base through the winter.

"Without that unique tool that we have (JPADS), some of the stuff could come to a screeching halt here," said Poe. "Everything here runs on fuel -- generators, heaters, vehicles. Without that fuel, a lot of stuff would come to a stop. Fuel is a live line."

http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123281759



JANUARY

LTC WILLIAM DRIVER USA AD COL JOHN EANES USA RET COL EVELIO OTERO USAF RET LTC JAMES PEARSON USA RET LTC GERALD PEFFERS USA RET

LT COL DONALD KENDRICK USAF RET LTC HARRY LIVINGSTON AUS RET LTC GLENN NIELSEN USAF RET CAPT DARRELL A RUSSELL USN RET CPT WILLIAM WEITZ USA RET

CAPT DAVID KRIEGER USN RET CAPT HOWARD E LYON USPS

MAJ GLENN REINKE USAF RET

LT COL EDWIN H GEASA USAFR RET LTC DAVID MOUNT USA AD COL CLAYTON LEE VANNES USA RET

10 LT COL CAROLYN EBERHART NC USAF RET 12

> MAJ KENNETH PAYANT USA RET 13

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

DUE TO A SCHED-

ULING CONFLICT-OUR LUNCHEONS

FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY

WILL BE HELD AT THE GOLF COURSE ON MACDILL AFB

THIS IS A REVISED **EDITION**