



TEAM TALK



117th Air Refueling Wing
Birmingham, Alabama



Volume 40, Number 11

117th Air Refueling Wing

November 2012



Colonel Cliff James
Commander, 117ARW

Take a look at our accomplishments

As I write this article, Thanksgiving is only two weeks away. This is a special time of year: a time for celebration of holidays and evenings spent with family and friends eating way too much desert, a time to reflect on our past and contemplate the future. As I reflect on our wing's success, I am very thankful and honored to be a member of the 117th Air Refueling Wing.

I would like to share with you some of the accomplishments of our 117th in FY12. We flew 1,274 local and deployed sorties, amassing 5,600 flying hours resulting in more than 9 million gallons of fuel offloaded with a value of \$31,186,803 in fuel dollars. These numbers represent an increase of 133% in flying hours and a 136% increase in offloaded fuel since the wing's active component integration in October 2009. We maintain a 24/7 alert mission as a continuing part of Operation Noble Eagle. This has been an ongoing mission since 2001—over a decade! Those numbers would not be possible without the efforts of every member of our wing.

The wing deployed 192 personnel and 77,250 pounds of cargo overseas on various missions around the world, in tours ranging from 14 to 179 days. Our Small Air Terminal within the newly completed \$2 million Mobility Processing Center processed 1,879 passengers and 241,000 pounds of cargo; a 190% increase in passenger movement and 200% increase in cargo movement from FY11. It has become a major hub of military movement for all branches of service.

During the year, the 117th Air Refueling Wing completed the military construction project for the Mobility Processing Facility (\$1.9 million). Construction continued on the Alert Crew Quarters (\$1.25 million) and is scheduled to be completed in early FY13. One sustainment restoration and modernization project was awarded and completed in FY12 for an aircraft apron repair (\$810,000) and another was started in FY12 for the renovation of a Vehicle Maintenance Facility (\$1,100,000). Renovation of a Jet Engine Shop (\$920,000) is still underway.

Several projects on the horizon began design in FY12: Two military construction projects in Security and Services Training Facility (\$6,400,000) and an Addition and Alteration to the Distributed Ground Station (DGS) Intelligence Facility (\$8,500,000). One energy conservation project to replace lighting and heating systems (\$810,000) is also underway.

As you can see, FY12 was a productive year for the 117th Air Refueling Wing. In FY13, we will continue to deploy to CENTCOM throughout the year and the Pacific in February. We will continue to train and exercise in order to be prepared for our NORI and ORI in FY14. Your 117th is strong and positioned for future success. However, it takes everyone in the wing to ensure our success. I want to personally thank you for your outstanding efforts and ask for your continued support.



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Mission

Provide quality worldwide air refueling, airlift, support, logistics, intelligence, and medical services in support of our community, state, and nation.

Vision

A world-class team of empowered men & women committed to continuous improvement and excellence, operating as the model Air National Guard unit into the twenty-first century.

Announcements

117 ARW Social Media Corner



<https://www.facebook.com/117thAirRefuelingWingPublicAffairs>

<http://twitter.com/117ARWPA>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/117thARW>

Unit Public Affairs Representatives

The 117th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office is looking for service members who are interested in working with the media, photography, videography or writing. If you are interested in learning more about the UPAR program, please e-mail Jonathan.Russell@ang.af.mil

Tell us Your Story

The 117 ARW Public Affairs office is looking for stories from your deployment experiences. We are accepting stories in writing, photos or videos of deployments. We are also interesting in interviewing service members who would like to share their deployment experiences with us. For more information contact 117ARW.Public.Affairs@ang.af.mil



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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 117 ARW Public Affairs Editorial Staff.

The Team Talk staff continues to take submissions for articles via e-mail and is counting on units to highlight their missions through their stories.

E-mail submissions to our staff at 117ARW.Public.Affairs@ang.af.mil

All submissions are due by COB Sunday UTA for publication.

TEAM TALK

Occupational Safety and Health Administration Inspections

Senior Master Sgt. Trey Hamm
117 ARW Ground Safety Manager



OSHA conducted unannounced inspections on 19 Air Force and ANG bases in 2012, and issued 130 citations on those bases. Forty nine of the citations were considered Complex Citations. These are citations that required engineering or other resources to be corrected. The following is a list of the rest of the citations that could have been corrected by the shop supervisors:

- 6 Fire extinguishers blocked or not hung up
- 11 Emergency exits blocked
- 13 Extension cords in use a permanent wiring, or damaged electrical cords
- 5 Bench grinders improperly guarded
- 7 Drill presses and lathes not properly guarded
- 3 Electrical knockouts missing
- 3 Emergency exits not marked
- 4 Chemicals not properly labeled
- 4 PPE not used
- 3 Warning signs not posted
- 10 Blocked electrical panels
- 8 Electrical panels with exposed wiring
- 4 Housekeeping

Our ESOHCAMP is January 15 - 17, 2013. Are you ready?



Are your ribbons up to date?

Master Sgt. Stanley Burroughs
117 ARW First Sergeant



The 117th has seen a large number of retirements this year in all Squadrons on the base. As a First Sergeant in the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron I have had the opportunity to put together the ribbon racks for several of our troops retiring from maintenance. The Ribbon Rack symbolizes your career from the beginning to the end. Three recently retired with over 30 years of service in the Air Force

combined with their time served in the 117th for a total of 96 years.

Medals and ribbons were first used to award honorable service beginning in 1782 for bravery and meritorious service. Medals and ribbons were brought about in the United States Armed Forces by one of the country's founding fathers, President George Washington. Washington also served as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. He understood that the troops he commanded needed to be honored for their accomplishments.

Ribbons and the devices are used to recognize merit, good conduct, multiple tours of duty and other worthy milestones in a troop's career. Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, both officers and enlisted personnel proudly wear a set of ribbons above the left pocket of their service dress uniform. Many of the ribbons are exactly the same ribbons for all armed services with some small distinction of difference. The one that all branches proudly wear is the National Defense Service Medal. This service ribbon is the oldest service ribbon in circulation for the United States Armed Forces. This service ribbon was commissioned by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. This ribbon is given for service beginning with the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and now the War on Terrorism. All three of the troops in Maintenance who are retiring have service connected with the War on Terrorism and they proudly earned the National Defense Service ribbon. They have many of the same ribbons but one ribbon stood out to me more than the others and that is the Longevity Service ribbon. This ribbon is given to all troops after four years of service and awarded devices (bronze oak leaf or silver oak leaf cluster) for the next four year period. These troops have a minimum of seven periods which is real testimony to their dedication to the military service.

As I put together the racks for these troops, they are not getting ready to go on their Service Dress Uniform, but in their shadow boxes to present to them at their retirement ceremonies. These troops have served their country and their community well. Congratulations to these troops on a JOB WELL DONE and all of the troops that have recently retired.