

THE

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2009 Distinguished Flying Unit



COYOTE LOG



Japanese tsunami's impact on 190th missions

By Capt. Joe Blubaugh

With the ferocity of Kansas weather, it's not uncommon for a mission to be impacted by thunderstorms, wind or even the occasional blizzard. However, it's not often that a 190th mission is affected by a tsunami, but that's exactly what happened following the massive earthquake and resulting tsunami that recently struck Japan.

Within minutes of the earthquake, officials issued tsunami warnings for Japan and dozens of other islands throughout the Pacific, including Wake Island and Hawaii, both of which were the temporary home of three 190th KC-135s and their crews.

The two tankers and crews at Wake Island were part of a six ship mission escorting 12 Marine F-18s from Japan to the United States. The Coyotes took off from Yakota AFB just hours before the devastating earthquake struck. They were unaware of the earthquake, or the resulting tsunami, until they landed at Wake Island.

It was actually several hours after their arrival that they learned they were in a tsunami warning. And once they learned of the approaching tsunami, they had less than three hours until the anticipated wave would strike.

Unlike many islands, Wake is extremely small and completely void of any elevated features. "The tallest features on the island are the two-story billeting buildings," said Maj. Dan Skoda, one of the 190th pilots on the mission. There are also only about 100 year-round personnel that are sta-

tioned at Wake, and they immediately implemented the island's disaster plan.

"They assured us that the geography of the reef around the island made the risk of a devastating swell very low," said Skoda. "We had to trust they knew what they were doing. We certainly had enough time and space on the tankers to evacuate all the personnel off the island."

When the wave did finally strike, the island was spared the disaster that struck Japan. Wake experienced just a two foot swell that caused no damage and the Coyotes were able to complete their mission on schedule. The crews rode out the wave on the roof of their billeting building.

The story was somewhat similar for the 190th crew that was in Hawaii at the time of the tsunami as part of a mission to move two F-15s to a Pacific country.

When Maj. Ryan Strong first learned of the tsunami warning, his first course of action was to gain accountability of his crew and restrict them to their high rise hotel in Waikiki. After discussing a possible unscheduled launch of the aircraft to avoid the tsunami, it was decided that the crews would ride out the wave from their hotel.

But being in an unfamiliar situation, the crews found it difficult to sleep with the approaching wave scheduled to strike at 4:00 a.m. local time. "Every hour there were public safety messages playing over the hotel intercom instructing

**Continued Page 5;
See TSUNAMI**

— Saluting the men and women of the 190th

By **Col. Keith Lang**

190th Air Refueling Wing



It's hard to believe that I have been the 190th ARW Commander for three years. As a traditional Wing Commander, my duties have been challenging and very rewarding.

I started my 32 year career as an Airman Basic and have climbed the military ladder to my upcoming assignment as Chief of Staff for the Kansas Air National Guard. I have had a blessed career.

Col. Ron Krueger will be my replacement, with the change of command during the May UTA. The Wing could not be in better hands; Col. Krueger is a dedicated professional with your best interest at heart.

When I replaced Col. Gregg Burden three years ago, I told him I thought the Wing was in great shape and I didn't want to touch anything. I was afraid I would mess things up. Fortunately that did not happen.

Our largest challenge under my command was our inspection cycle. A lot of time, frustration and effort went into the last two years - nine inspections, assessments and evaluations over 22 months. The wing is more professional and more prepared because of this inspection cycle. I could not be happier with our results. All I ask is that you

continue your efforts and keep the wing at this readiness level into the future.

Even with a busy inspection cycle I had a small list of minor initiatives I wanted to work on at the Wing. These initiatives targeted to improve the lives of our Airman.

- ◆ Telecommuting - to attack the ancillary requirements
- ◆ Increase communications - CAC connection at home
- ◆ Recognize our Airman with more awards
- ◆ Expand our UTA daycare program
- ◆ Increase TSP awareness and participation
- ◆ Improve our fitness program
- ◆ Friends of Forbes - Airman taking care of Airman

Some of these initiatives have been successful and others need more attention.

I also supported several major wing initiatives to compliment the Warfighter.

- ◆ Our AE enhancements: electrical MOD, LED cargo lighting, new patient litter system and AE seating configuration testing.
- ◆ LAIRCM - Large Aircraft Infrared Counter Measures testing
- ◆ AAR - Automated Air Refueling testing

Hundreds of hours went into these important projects and the Airmen of the 190th are responsible for the success

of these initiatives.

Probably my proudest moment is accepting the national awards recognizing the performance of the 190th ARW - the NGAUS Distinguished Flying Unit Award and Maintenance Effectiveness Award. I expect many more awards in the future.

Finally, I want to say thank you! Thanks to my HQ Wing staff, to all commanders and supervisors, our hard working Chiefs and the backbone of our Wing - our Airman. I could not be more proud of our Wing accomplishments and the professionalism of each and every one of you.

Mission complete!!!

I salute the finest Airmen in the Air National Guard.

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On the cover:

A 190th KC-135 prepares to refuel F-18s over Wake Island during an escort mission from Japan to the United States.

(photo by SSgt. Ben Fulton)

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CCAF offers senior enlisted members professional certification

As of January 1, 2011, the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) began a new program that provides a validated credentialing process. The Professional Manager Certification recognizes SNCOs for their leadership and management education, skills and experience. The program provides SNCOs a structured professional development track that supplements Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) and Career Field Education and Training Plans.

Professional certification is a criti-

cal element of professional development. This professional credentialing program will recognize advanced levels of experience beyond the associate degree level and instill a higher level of accomplishment and professionalism within the Air Force.

If you are at least a 7 skill-level in your primary AFSC, have completed all of the EPME and have additional college hours, you could be qualified for the award. Contact your Unit Training Manager or the 190th Force Development Office for more information.

Coyotes complete Bataan Memorial Death March

By Master Sgt. Terry Martin
190th Contracting Office

The day started at 0430. That was the report time to White Sands Missile Range Base, New Mexico, on March 27th. This was a day of remembrance - a day to honor those American men who in 1942 were captured by Japanese forces and forced to march through treacherous terrain of the Philippines to the prisoner of war camp, Camp O'Donnell. American and Filipino troops were systematically executed; the sick and weak were pushed to exhaustion before being bayoneted or beat to death with the butt end of the captors' rifles. Many of the 54,000 who reached Camp O'Donnell would succumb to disease or torture while imprisoned. Within two months of surrender, more than 21,000 men perished. The Bataan "Death March" is known as one of the greatest inhumanities of WWII, and also as one of the greatest displays of heroism and human will power on the part of its survivors.

Every year Bataan survivors gather at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to remember their comrades in the Bataan Memorial Death March. This year, a record 6,400 people from all 50 states and four countries participated. The march is open to the public and mili-

tary members can participate in either the individual or team category (5 people).

This year, a group of five from the 190th assembled a team consisting of Col. Kyle Garrison, Lt. Col. Tim Stevens, Lt. Col. Bill Hefner and Master Sgt. Jeff Norling and Master Sgt. Terry Martin. Senior Airman Megan Carlson also participated in the individual category.

Garrison, who served as team captain and assembled the team, did it to honor the survivors. "When I first read about the march two or three years ago, I mentioned to Lt. Col. Hefner that we should put a team together," said Garrison. "Those men need to be honored... and I've always wanted to do it."

The team entered into the "military light" category, which required the wear of ABUs and a camelback. In addition, all teams were required to start and finish the 26.2 mile march within 20 seconds of each other or risk being disqualified.

The day before the march, the team had the privilege of visiting with one of the survivors, Mr. John Mims. Mims was very gracious with his time and was a rambunctious fellow. We later learned that Mims, then a Private First Class, observed a Japanese sergeant accidentally drop a bottle of Coca Cola. "I picked it up and handed it back" Mims said. The Japanese soldier then smashed the bottle into Mims's lower jaw, shattering his bottom row of teeth. Mims's infraction: "I didn't bow."

During the march Hefner served as the team motivator. He has completed more than 25 marathons and understood the



Master Sergeants Terry Martin (left) and Jeff Norling (right) change socks during the 26.2 mile Bataan Memorial Death March.

(photo by Lt. Col. Bill Hefner)

framework and challenges associated with completing a 26.2 mile course. He advised the team when to take their nutrient supplements and encouraged every team member at different points in the march. It seemed whenever anyone started to hit a mental wall questioning whether they could keep going Hefner was there.

It was a tough course, over 80% of the route consisted of sand and dirt. The winds were consistently 40 mph with gusts up to 60 mph in the first half of the course. Also at one point in the march, the team went up hill for six consecutive miles. "In all the marathons I have run, I have never gone up hill for six straight miles," said Hefner.

Nearing the finish, in the last 1/2 mile the team could start to hear the cheers and sense the end. Legs gained strength as the team of five formed into a straight line across locking arms about 20 yards before the finish line. In those final steps some of the team members experience self contained moments of emotion. It was an overwhelming feeling of joy, relief and a sense of something bigger than ones' self. A few minutes after crossing the finish line, the team reflected on what they had just accomplished. "No matter what we say, no words can describe how difficult this was," said Norling. Indeed it was a physical strain, but nothing compares to the suffering of those men who in 1942 endured one of the greatest death marches in history know as Bataan.



Members of the 190th Bataan Memorial Death March meet with Mr. John Mims (seated), a survivor of the death march in the Philippines in 1942. The team consisted of (from left to right) Master Sgt. Terry Martin, Lt. Col. Bill Hefner, Master Sgt. Jeff Norling, Col. Kyle Garrison and Lt. Col. Tim Stevens.

(photo submitted)

Saving money while in college

Saving money and attending college are two activities that are typically NOT thought of together. In fact, many college students might tell you that they don't have enough money to buy a pizza on a Friday night, let alone to add to a savings account. But what if we rethink the traditional notion of "savings" to make it a goal that is a bit more realistic for this cash-strapped chapter of life?

Consider this: If you purchase a used text book online using sites like DealOz or TextbookLand instead of buying a brand new book at the campus bookstore, what is likely to happen? You got it...savings. Sure, these dollars won't necessarily end up in a savings account. In fact, you will probably spend that money before the week is out securing a new bus pass for the term or getting an oil change for your car. But think about it this way: for every dollar you save, that is one less dollar you need to borrow in student loan money - thus minimizing your

debt burden and freeing up future dollars for your savings account as a young professional. Sure beats throwing money at interest payments!

Let's try another one. Are you grabbing lunch on the go throughout the week as you juggle classes, work and student involvement? Dining out adds up fast and meal time can typically be made much cheaper with grocery shopping and careful meal planning. What if you pack your lunch two more times a week using easy recipes from sites like YumYum or Budget Bytes? More savings!

OK, one more. Do you have a budget? No? Then how do you know you're spending wisely, putting your dollars towards your biggest priorities and not over-borrowing? Living on a budget is an easy and effective way to minimize your student loan burden, meet your financial goals and plan long term for building wealth. Mint.com is a free and easy-to-use resource that links with your online accounts to help you create a realistic and livable budget. Remember -

every dollar in savings is a dollar put towards your future.

With a little thoughtful financial planning your money can go a long way towards meeting your goals. Who knows...you may even be able to cut back hours at your campus job, graduate early or even take a trip this summer! Either way, living frugally as a college student will help you hit the ground running financially when you take that first job after graduation, setting you up for long-term financial success.



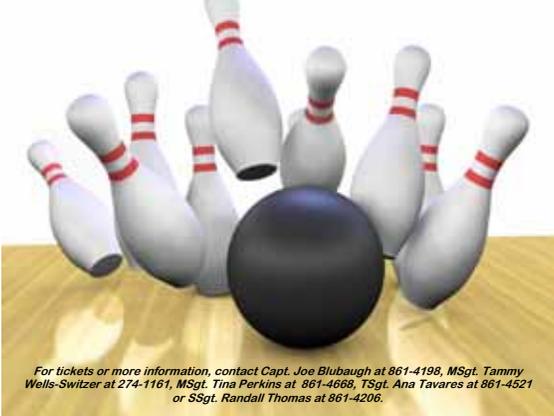
Come bowl with us!

Saturday, June 4, 2011

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
(Check-in open at 5:00 p.m.)

Gage Center Bowl
4200 S.W. Huntoon

\$10.00 per person
Includes two hours of bowling and shoes.



For tickets or more information, contact Capt. Joe Blubaugh at 861-4198, MSgt. Tammy Wells-Switzer at 274-1161, MSgt. Tina Perkins at 861-4668, TSgt. Ana Tavares at 861-4521 or SSgt. Randall Thomas at 861-4206.

Upcoming Family Readiness Group events

MAY

31st - FRG meeting at Nickell Armory

JUNE

2nd - Dinner out at On the Border

4th - Bowling night at Gage Center Bowl

JULY

8th - Golf scramble at Fire Keeper Golf Course

13th - Dinner out at Texas Road House

AUGUST

2nd - FRG meeting at Nickell Armory

6th - Family Day at the Topeka Zoo

6th - Back to school supply fair (details TBD)

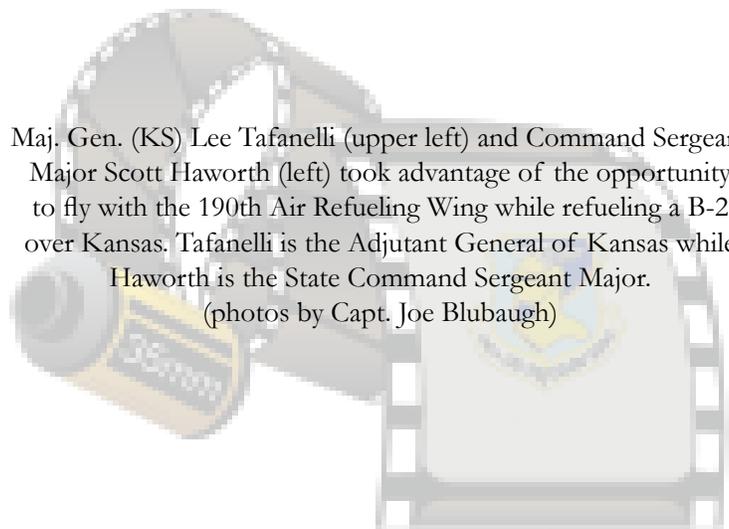
6th - 7th - Commissary Case Lot Sale at Nickell Armory

SEPTEMBER

6th - FRG meeting at Nickell Armory

16th - Golf Tourney (details TBD)

Caught on film



Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafarielli (upper left) and Command Sergeant Major Scott Haworth (left) took advantage of the opportunity to fly with the 190th Air Refueling Wing while refueling a B-2 over Kansas. Tafarielli is the Adjutant General of Kansas while Haworth is the State Command Sergeant Major. (photos by Capt. Joe Blubaugh)

Tsunami ~ Cont.

us to stay in our rooms above the second floor,” said Strong. “The streets were empty except for the occasional police vehicle.”

Although Hawaii did experience some localized flooding and minor damage from the wave, it was uneventful at Waikiki beach. The biggest impact to the crew was later that morning said Strong.

“We had a 0700 crew show that morning, but there were no taxis or crew transportation due to gas stations being sold out,” said Strong. The Coyotes were eventually able to

secure transportation and the rest of their mission was uneventful.

Although the tsunami ended up having no negative impacts on the missions, it was still a unique situation that reinforces the professionalism and flexibility aircrews must maintain even on routine missions.

Neither pilot said they ever felt like they were in danger. However, Skoda said, “there was definitely some apprehension on the part of the crew members as we waited for the wave.”

The DoD released information regarding the removal of social security numbers from all identification cards. As of June 2011, social security numbers will no longer be printed on any new ID card. New cards will feature a DoD ID Number in place of a social security number. If the person is eligible for DoD benefits, there will also be a DoD Benefits Number printed on the ID card. When can you get a new card? Current ID cards will not be replaced until the card is within 30 days of its expiration date. Cards with an INDEF expiration date may be replaced anytime after the functionality is available.

—Portrait of an Airman

Airman 1st Class Mitchell Plowledge



Organization: 190th Operations Support Flight

Job Title: Aviation Resource Management

Main Responsibilities: Ensure aircrew training and properly maintaining aircrew records.

Education: I graduated from Hayden High School in Topeka and am currently attending Washburn University majoring in Computer Information Sciences.

Military Experience: I enlisted into the Air National Guard in 2008 immediately after I graduated from high school.

Hobbies/Activities: I really like to be around friends and play video games.

Goals/Ambitions: I want to do the best I can to learn my job and ensure that everything I affect runs smoothly. Outside of the military, I would like to graduate from college and put my degree to use.

Most Memorable 190th Moment: My most memorable moment was on my introductory flight. It was just amazing to see what it is that I am helping to support.



For Your Information

Promotions

AIRMAN

Jeremiah T. Palmer, FSS



AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

Lexi R. Green, 117 ARS
Timothy D. Seelbach, AMXS



SENIOR AIRMAN

Thomas L. Vansel, MOF
Kayla S. Kohn, Wing HQ
Kelsey R. Barnes III, LRS
Holly A. Johnson, LRS
Shayna I. Nelson, MDG



STAFF SERGEANT

Christian D. Petrie, 127 WF



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Bridget C. Combs, SFS
Matthew S. Hogan, SFS
Jerry S. Holloman, SFS
Brian W. Paynes, SFS
Latosha S. Ramos, SFS
Christopher M. Tener, SFS
David R. Wright, SFS
David E. Mabery, LRS



MASTER SERGEANT

Charity E. Gillam, MDG



SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Denise E. Montgomery, MDG



Retirements

MSgt Joe Seley

Retirement Date: May 1, 2011

CMSgt David Rodriguez

Retirement Date: April 15, 2011

Col. Keith Lang's promotion to Brigadier General and the 190th change of command ceremony will be held on May 14, 2011, at 1430 in Building 662. Family and retirees are invited to attend.

Appointments/Enlistments

AB Mark A. Douglas, FSS

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 23 Feb 2011

AB Neal J. Douglas, FSS

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 23 Feb 2011

A1C Staci D. Bell, CES

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 6 Mar 2011

A1C Fredrick P. McDowell, CES

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 24 Mar 2011

TSgt Nicholas L. Clair, CF

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 14 Feb 2011

2LT Rudy J. Belew, 117 ARS

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 3 Mar 2011

2LT Waylon E. Jones, 117 ARS

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 3 Mar 2011

2LT Adam H. See, 117 ARS

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 3 Mar 2011

2LT Jarrod A Brunkow, CES

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 3 Mar 2011

Capt Jeremy J. Brandt, MDG

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 24 Mar 2011

Maj. Robert C Beebe, 127 WF

Enlistment/Assignment Date: 2 Mar 2011

190 ARW

Officer Vacancy

The 190th Operations Group has a traditional Intelligence Officer position open to O-1 through O-2 and enlisted members eligible for commissioning. If you are interested, submit your package to 1st Lt. Janet Peterson by 23 May 2011.

Officer Package consists of:

- Resume with cover letter
- Three letters of recommendation
- Last OPR (if applicable)
- Current passing fitness assessment
- Current RIP



Outstanding Performers

190th 2011 Airmen of the 1st Quarter

Airman category - SrA Noe Garza
NCO category - TSgt Justina Saucedo
SNCO category - SMSgt Doug Copeland

Dining Facility Schedule

The following list is the Dining Facility meal schedule for units assigned to the 190th ARW & JFHQ:

1030 - Wing HQ, SFS, MSG

1100 - MXG(A), JFHQ

1130 - LRS, OG

1200 - CE, CF, WF

1230 - MXG(B), MDG



Coyote Grill May 21A Menu

Saturday, 14 May

Roast turkey, enchilada casserole, refried beans, Spanish rice, new potatoes and gravy, assorted vegetables, rolls, soy burger, hotdogs, hamburgers, pizza, fries, salad bar and assorted desserts

Sunday, 15 May

Beef and noodles, herbed baked chicken, mashed potatoes, rice and gravy, assorted vegetables, rolls, soy burger, hotdogs, hamburgers, fries, onion rings, ham or turkey sandwiches, vegetable soup, salad bar, assorted desserts



Coyote Heritage



Sometimes you just get lucky. Out of the blue we found this picture. It has not only 190th ARW history, but is also a window into the past of Forbes AFB.

The only thing we could make out at first was the B-57's on the ramp. This suggested that the picture was taken with 190th jets. Had there been only one, then it could have been any other unit's jet that just happened to lay over at Forbes. Since we had no real idea of when it was taken, we started to speculate. It appeared to be taken at the north end of Forbes. Active duty had the north end until Forbes closed in 1973. The B-57G were all dark camo colored, so it couldn't be them leading us to believe they were EB-57's with their orange and silver colors. Carefully rolling back the photo, which was on a glue board, we found the words "Compliments of the 190th DSEG", confirming the facts that these were EB-57s, the first which arrived in April of 1974.

The big hangar at this time had doors on both the north and south sides, with the power plant being the dark colored building at the top center. Also the smaller hangers at the upper left had not yet been torn down to allow for the new fire station, CE and vehicle maintenance buildings. These were gone and the new buildings were going up when the first tankers arrived in 1978.



Please record your story and send it to the historian's office at: 190th Historian, 5920 SE Coyote Dr., Topeka, KS 66619-5370.



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Forbes Field (ANG)
Topeka, KS 66619-5370
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ang.af.mil. Please allow 2-3 months for updates to
reflect on your log.**

To The Coyote Family of:

