



THE TANKARD

Newspaper of the 128th Air Refueling Wing - Milwaukee WI

September/October 2013

U.S. Airmen with the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard participate in water survival training in 20-man life rafts on Lake Michigan Aug. 8, 2013. The Aircrew Flight Equipment section of the 128 ARW conducted combat and water survival training for aircrew members with help from the Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee Fire Department. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jenna Hildebrand/Released)



MISSION

To effectively communicate complete, accurate and timely information about events and activities concerning the 128th Air Refueling Wing to unit members, their families, and the public community through the use of the base newsletter, website, Facebook, Twitter and other tools. We build trust and support with the community through the use of media operations.



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The Tankard welcomes articles and ideas that will enhance the publication. If you have suggestions for features or specific articles, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 414-944-8715 or DSN 580-8715 or by email to *The Tankard* editor at: jenna.hildebrand@ang.af.mil

Colonel Daniel Yenchsky, Wing Commander

We are always building upon a strong foundation. We are in a time when we're going to be challenged by the fiscal environment, the budget, and sequestration. But because of the strength of the unit in the past, we have a strong foundation to go forward. We're flexible; we're adaptable; we are excellent at what we do.

We are excellent in the business of air refueling and all the support that's required to conduct air refueling. Our most recent UCI and many deployments have shown that the unit overall is in excellent health, so my job is to continue to keep the 128th Air Refueling Wing an excellent organization. My job is to also strive to improve, strive to adapt, and everyone has a part in that. It is everyone's decision to move toward excellence.



We have a brand that is the 128th Air Refueling Wing; how we are perceived by all of our stakeholders, our family members, our Airmen, AMC, the Air National Guard and the other units. When the Wisconsin tailflash shows up on a ramp down range, our customers have learned to expect an excellent product. Well maintained aircraft, proficient Airmen, and disciplined operations are our hallmark. In short, we have a brand that is associated with excellence.

Strong officer leadership, strong NCO leadership, and strong Airmen leadership will continue to develop our team. I ask all of the members of the 128th Air Refueling Wing to join me in aligning our time, attention and resources to achieving these goals. I'm proud to serve with you and I am proud to serve you.

GOALS

•Benchmark Excellence•

We must ensure that our programs, processes, proficiency, and equipment condition are in compliance with directives. High quality training and adherence to standards have served us well in the past, and will continue to do so.

•Support of and Readiness for Operations at home and abroad•

Our well trained Airmen bring a culture of compliance to any theater of battle and we have a great reputation in the tanker community because of that culture. To be ready for combat operations means to be personally ready and professionally deployable for any mission from AEF, to OPLAN 8010, to homeland response.

•Developing and caring for Airmen•

Our most valuable resource, our Airmen, deserve our time and attention. Deliberate Force Development plays a key role, as we set expectations, seek out growth opportunities, and provide mentorship throughout the course of their careers. Resilient Airmen and families help us meet those challenges.

M e s s a g e s f r o m t h e T o p

SURVIVAL TRAINING



AIRCREW MEMBERS COMPLETE COMBAT AND WATER SURVIVAL REFRESHER TRAINING

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jenna Hildebrand
128th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Aircrew members with the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard participated in combat and water survival training refresher training conducted by the Aircrew Flight Equipment section at Lakeshore State Park near downtown Milwaukee Aug. 8, 2013.

The Aircrew Flight Equipment section of the 128 ARW conducted combat and water survival training for aircrew members with help from the Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee Fire Department.

USAF aircrew members go through USAF Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape courses in order to learn and practice the skills necessary to survive in hostile and non-hostile environments in emergency situations. AFE survival instructors go through the same SERE courses as the aircrew so that they build the same foundation in survival knowledge.

Aircrew members refreshed their training in signaling devices/methods, procuring sustenance, building shelters, personal protection, and navigation. The Milwaukee Fire Department and Milwaukee Police Department provided boats to transport the aircrew members and AFE instructors to Lake Michigan where they actuated life rafts and continued with water survival training.

The aircrew members practiced using floatation equipment provided to them on the aircraft. They inflated their life preservers and learned how to prepare and use the 20-man life raft.

Combat and water survival refresher training is conducted annually by AFE survival instructors in the summer time frame.

« U.S. Airmen with the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard swim to a 20-man life raft during water survival training on Lake Michigan Aug. 8, 2013.



« Aircrew members with the 128th Air Refueling Wing practice making snares at Lakeshore State Park near downtown Milwaukee.



« Aircrew members with the 128th Air Refueling Wing, swim toward the 20-man life raft, while Aircrew Flight Equipment instructors assist them with boarding it during water survival training on Lake Michigan.



SENIOR AIRMAN NIKOLAS ILICH

HOMETOWN

Antioch, IL

ENSLISTED

December 2010

EDUCATION

BA in Speech Communication, minor in Religion
Currently working on MA in Systematic Theology

ASPIRATIONS

"I am just taking one day at a time and trying to figure out where I am being led. Right now I am just trying to do my best and enjoy the Guard, Fire Department, and Grad School."



▲ BOOM OPERATOR

"The people I work with, the excitement of the job, and the travel has been an amazing experience and more than I could have ever asked for in a military career."

"Being a Boom Operator and a member of the 128th has been a great blessing in my life."



◀ BMT HONOR GRAD

In Basic Military Training Nik was an element leader, achieved Honor Graduate, and his flight was awarded Honor Flight. He also completed Basic Boom Operator Course as the top graduate.



▲ ANTIOCH FIREFIGHTER

As a paid-on-premises firefighter, Nik participates in drills and courses in safety, communication, and firefighting techniques.





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128th AIR REFUELING GROUP

The Tankard

'Peace is our profession'

VOL. 10, No. 4 GENERAL MITCHELL ANG BASE SEPTEMBER 1985
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



128TH COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT TO EXOTIC SPAIN

El Cononil, Gibraltar, Costa Del Sol, Malaga, Bar Carma's, Antonie's, and the animal house, all places and locations which for fifteen days became a permanent part of the vocabulary of 200 Guardsmen from the 128th.

The purpose of the deployment was to augment the European Tanker Task Force. Augment we did. Flying 20 sorties for a total of nearly 104 fly-

ing hours and off-loading nearly 880,000 pounds of fuel to A-10's, F-16's, RF-4's, F-111's, C-5's, and C-14's from such foreign sounding bases as Lakenheath, Brentwaters, Alconbury, and Terrejon. Beyond flying the mission requirements with superb proficiency, we learned lessons that involve the very essence of our military memberships.

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Training in Spain

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Beginning with the mobility exercise on Friday evening, the element of practice seemed gone; it involved all of us with an end that was for real. Rather than returning to our desks, four KC-135 aircraft and the accompanying members were deployed to Moron AB, Spain.

As our operations plan stated, we were deploying to a "Bare Base"

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THE PICTURESQUE SCENE OF THE VILLAGE OF EL CONONIL



AN INTERVIEW IN PROGRESS



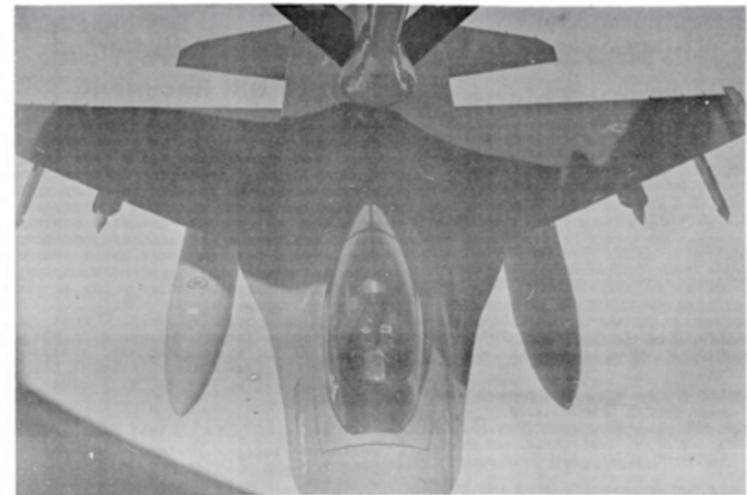
MAJOR OBERHOLTZER POSING FOR PHOTOS



SPANISH SOLDIERS AND GUARDSMEN BATTLE IT OUT ON THE FIELD



KATHY MYKLEBY AND MIKE DIORIO IN SPAIN



THE WORK OF AIR REFUELING IN PROGRESS

Spain Deployment

continued from page 6

which would test our ability to move to a forward location and operate independently. We did operate independently, and as a group interdependently and cohesively.

The deployment placed 200 of us together often with people who knew only from brief encounters during the conduct of UTA business. The deployment provided an opportunity to get to know unit members better, to sit and chat for awhile without the stress of the UTA business.

The deployment provided a lesson in self confidence, in our abilities to go to a bare base and to become acquainted with a foreign language, custom and culture. We established a level of comfort in this foreign country that allowed us as Milwaukeeans to do such basic things as order from a menu or ask directions, and, as Col Staz directed us the first evening, "to have fun."

The deployment provided a lesson in being able to perform our jobs excellently without all the comforts of home.



A SPANISH CASTLE: ONE OF THE MANY SITES



POOLSIDE BARBEQUE AT MORON AB, SPAIN

This Month in History



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REFUEL YOUR THIRST
128th ALL RANKS CLUB
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

PACKERS

1	SEP 8	N<	@	49ers	FOX	SUN 3:25 PM ET	1
2	SEP 15	N>		Panthers	FOX	SUN 12:00 PM ET	2
3	SEP 22	N A	@	Tigers	FOX	SUN 12:00 PM ET	3
4				BYE			4
5	OCT 6	N A		Panthers	FOX	SUN 12:00 PM ET	5
6	OCT 13	N A	@	Panthers	FOX	SUN 12:00 PM ET	6
7	OCT 20	N A		Panthers	FOX	SUN 3:25 PM ET	7
8	OCT 27	N A	@	Panthers	NBC	SUN 7:30 PM ET	8
9	NOV 4	N A		Panthers	ESPN	MON 7:40 PM ET	9
10	NOV 10	N>		Panthers	FOX	SUN 12:00 PM ET	10
11	NOV 17	N>	@	Panthers	NBC	SUN 7:30 PM ET	11
12	NOV 24	N A		Panthers	FOX	SUN 12:00 PM ET	12
13	NOV 28	N A	@	Panthers	FOX	THU 11:30 PM ET	13
14	DEC 8	N>		Panthers	NBC	SUN 7:30 PM ET	14
15	DEC 15	N>	@	Panthers	FOX	SUN 3:25 PM ET	15
16	DEC 22	N A		Panthers	FOX	SUN 3:25 PM ET	16
17	DEC 29	N A	@	Panthers	FOX	SUN 12:00 PM ET	17

WATCH THE PACK @ THE CLUB



I would like to make a point of saying thank you to all who helped coordinated every aspect of a great day for our Boy Scouts and Eagle Scout project. From ages 11-17-yrs, it was an exceptional day for these young men and their leaders. What started as an idea from Major Tom Mielcarek came to fruition. Seventy care packages were assembled and will be mailed to multiple locations where our folks can distribute the packages to fellow Airmen and servicemembers.

Thank you for going out of your way to attend to these young men for which they were especially grateful.

*Elaine M. Schachelmayer, MA NCC LPC
Airmen & Family Readiness Program Manager*

A n n o u n c e m e n t s



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THE GUARD HOUSE
AND ACT UNION

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

September 16, 2013

New Berlin Hills Golf Course

Cost: \$60 a person

Reward: Food, Prizes, and a Good time

Submit form with 4 players listed and team name to Chris Rogers, Pete Gauerke, Anthony Walter, Lindi Ermers, Matt Wilkening or Guard House Bartender. Pay at Credit Union.

CHAPLAIN SERVICES

CONTEMPORARY
PROTESTANT
SERVICES

Sunday 0800

CATHOLIC MASS

Sunday 1400

Services are held in
the Family Readiness
area, Bldg 522



Staff Sergeants and below join the Junior Enlisted Council for a **NEW YEAR'S PIZZA PARTY** at the October UTA meeting!

1100 in the HQ breakroom
Sunday, Oct UTA

Enhance your military career as an E-5 or below by joining the JEC
Objectives: Military education, volunteerism, and socials events

Contact President SSgt Steve D'Addio
steven.daddio@ang.af.mil



128 ARW Junior
Enlisted Council

A n n o u n c e m e n t s