

THE TEXAN

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING



TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD



100,000 HOURS



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14657 Sneider St.
Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base
Houston, TX 77034

Phone:
281-929-2662

Email:
147RW.PublicAffairs@ang.af.mil

www.147rw.ang.af.mil
www.facebook.com/147RW

Commander

Colonel Stan Jones

Vice Commander

Colonel Gary Jones

Executive Officer

Lt. Colonel Shaunte Cooper

Public Affairs Officers

Captain Fredy Reyes

1st Lieutenant Alicia Lacy

Public Affairs Manager

Master Sergeant Sean Cowher

Journalists

Technical Sergeant Shawn McCowan

Senior Airman Chasity Lollis



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The icons to the left are interactive and will take you directly to the social media site of your choice.



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COVER:

A 147th Reconnaissance Wing MQ-1B Predator on the ground in Latvia and photos of the men and women that worked hard to reach the 100,000 hour milestone. (Air National Guard graphic by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher/Released)

147th Reconnaissance Wing reaches 100K flight hours on MQ-1

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Alicia Lacy
147th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

HOUSTON, Texas – Achieving 100,000 flying hours takes years to realize.

But for the members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, Texas Air National Guard, conquering this incredible feat is just a testament to their hard work and dedication to the mission.

The wing accomplished the milestone Oct. 8, 2015, just seven short years after receiving its new mission to fly the MQ-1B Predator.

“I’ve witnessed the constant hard work and professionalism required by the 147th Reconnaissance Wing to accomplish this achievement,” said Col. Gary Jones, vice wing commander.

In 2005, the Department of Defense recommended retiring the then-147th Fighter Wing’s F-16 Fighting Falcons and replacing them with the reconnaissance aircraft, with plans for the unit to be fully equipped and operational by 2009.

This change required airmen to adjust and re-train on a new aircraft that began its initial operational capability in the U.S. Air Force only a few years before the wing took its first flight July 2008.

“There have been many milestones along the way for the 111th (Reconnaissance Squadron) since Ellington took on this mission, and there will continue to be more, but this is a very significant accomplishment,” said Lt. Col. David Peck, 111th Reconnaissance Squadron commander.

“To put 100,000 hours in context, that amount of time is equivalent to flying for 11.41 years non-stop, and we did it in just seven years.”

Due to the unique structure of the National Guard, pilots can fly in different statuses from domestic Title 32 missions and federal Title 10 hours to flight hours during training exercises; however, the 100,000-hour milestone was all done while on federal Title 10 status.

The accomplishment cannot only be attributed to the pilots who fly the mission, but to the entire wing, from the member charged with writing orders to the maintainers who keep the aircraft mission ready and the combatant commanders who use the aircraft in theater.

“We have had to forge and maintain working relationships with a host of organizations over the years,” Peck said. “Additionally, we count on support from our advocates at NGB to give us the funding, manpower and voice we need to enable these missions.”

In addition to the one team, one



fight mentality, guard members accumulate years of experience, acquiring the expertise to be proficient in their jobs.

“What is not to be overlooked is the substantial amount of experience the Guard, and the 111th in particular, brings to the MQ-1 community,” Peck said. “I first began to fly the Predator in 2005. Over a decade later, I am still doing the same mission.”

“Many other members of the 111th have employed this asset for roughly the same amount of time,” he added. “That is experience that active duty simply cannot match, and the squadron anticipated converting to the MQ-9 within the next 18-24 months, and when that happens, I’m confident that our squadron will continue to be an ‘Ace in the Hole’ for the combatant commanders.”





CHIEF'S CORNER

GOING FORWARD

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. ROBERT HORTON

Opportunities do not just present themselves and may not always be available. That being said, the question one needs to ask oneself is: What I am doing to make these opportunities work for me? How do I meet all requirements to succeed such as PME, CCAF, TIG, TIS, and if so, then how do I make myself better than the competition? Always be looking ahead and going forward. Seek out; find help from peers and leadership on self-improvement. During my Career I have removed rank, cross trained 3 times, and taken on additional duties, always seeking and looking for opportunities. Career paths may change; life in general can cause change, but always look forward. Be ready when the time comes; don't miss out on a career opportunity of a lifetime because you were not prepared. Only 1% of the enlisted force makes it to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, so get your CCAF accomplished. Seize opportunity, don't wait for it, and do something for yourself. Along the way bring your airmen and others with you, always going forward. I have had a truly blessed career, and now being a new member of the 147th LRS, I realize that I am still going forward searching for the next opportunity.

North Shore High School AF JROTC visits Ellington Field

Story and Photos by Senior Airman Chasity Lollis
147th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

11/8/2015 - November 7, 2015 -- North Shore Senior High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets took a tour of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing at Ellington Field Saturday, making stops at the Air Support Operations Squadron as well as the wing's hangar to see the MQ-1 Predator.

"This is our first time doing this trip," said retired Master Sgt. David Clark, an AFJROTC instructor at the school. "The kids were very interested and very excited. In fact, we almost had to put a limit on how many we can bring just to make sure we could fit them all on the bus."

The cadets' first stop was at the ASOS to speak with Tactical Air Control Party members and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers about their job.

"One of our instructors, Master Sergeant Clark, he worked as a TACP," said AFJROTC cadet Col. Christopher Rodriguez. "So I got

some insight on his job."

The cadets looked through a pair of night vision goggles, wore a helmet and Kevlar vest and handled an array of tactical equipment.

They also got a behind the scenes look at the squadron's newest addition-their \$2 million Air National Guard Advanced Joint Terminal Attack Controller Training System. The Virtual Reality Scene Generator was a big hit with the students, who flew a virtual airplane and

trekked through a mock deployment zone.

The last stop of the tour was at the wing's hangar to learn more about the MQ-1 Predator and how it aids in the wartime mission.

"It was a really fun, really exciting trip," said Rodriguez. "We got to learn quite a bit, a lot of interesting stuff."

"It was a success, a big success," said Clark. "The kids loved it so we'll definitely be back."





1st. SERGEANT'S COMMENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By Master Sgt. Jason Knotowitz
147th Mission Support Group First Sergeant

As an airman in today's Air Force, you hear phrases like "career development" or "professional development" at nearly every commander's call, but very rarely do you hear these phrases coupled when we hear our leaders talking about the Wingman Concept. From day one in basic training, you adopted the Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in all that we do. Naturally, it is in our best interest to apply these values as it relates to our own professional development, but, do we think about these Core Values when we practice the Wingman Concept?

"The term Wingman stems from a time-honored tradition within our Air Force flying community that essentially says a lead pilot will never lose his/her Wingman. It's a promise, a pledge, a commitment between Airmen who fly. The Air Force wants to cultivate and instill this same culture of commitment between all Airmen and Air

Force civilians in all career fields and specialties via the Wingman program" (www.wpafb.af.mil).

Whether enlisted or officer, we are all airmen, and all in a position of influence. There will always be someone looking up to you simply because you are wearing the uniform. Now, you can look at this like this is a burden that you have to carry until your date of separation, or you can view this as an opportunity to shape the careers of those around you.

We must adopt the mindset that every interaction is an opportunity to influence our fellow airman's career. As you develop within your own career field, the knowledge and experience of your predecessors is passed down to you. Every deployment experience, and kernel of knowledge from PME and formal education, shapes your perspective of the world and your performance of duties. By sharing that knowledge and experi-

ence through your everyday interactions, you are not only investing in the professional development of those around you, but you are also developing your own leadership style.

Think about the word "leadership". There are many ways to define this word, and it is often considered to be synonymous with the word management. It is important to realize that there is a distinct difference; people aren't driven by being management, they are driven by inspiration.

Lastly, if you want to work with, and be surrounded by, intelligent, high-achieving individuals, consider what part you have in your surroundings. Colin Powell once said, "Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others, it increases your mediocrity". There is nothing mediocre about the USAF, so use your sphere of influence to keep Excellence at the heart of it.

Is Microsoft Listening

Microsoft can track everything you type or say to its digital assistant Cortana while using its newest operating system, Windows 10. That's right, according to Microsoft, "When you interact with your Windows device by speaking, writing, or typing, Microsoft collects speech, inking, and typing information including information about your Calendar and People (contacts)." Basically this is keylogging, where a computer program records keystrokes made by a computer user, more often than not to gain fraudulent access to passwords and PII. You can, however, turn this keylogger off.

- Click on the Start Menu, then open Settings
- Click on Privacy settings
- Once in the privacy menu, click on General
- Under 'Send Microsoft info about how I write to help use improve typing and writing in the future' switch to Off
- Then go to the 'Speech, Inking, and Typing' menu and click Stop getting to know me. This turns off the speech tracking through Cortana or dictation.

(Source: thehackernews.com, Reminder! If You Haven't yet, Turn Off Windows 10 Keylogger Now, By Swati Khandelwal)

Safety Shorts



Holiday Safety Tips

If you are going to be away from home during the holidays be sure to:

- Have your newspaper and mail stopped
- Put timers on your lights and TV's
- Make your residence looked lived in
- Have trusted friends / relatives watch residence

Shopping Tips:

- Do not carry large amounts of cash
- Keep vehicles locked at all times and cover items with a blanket
- Have keys out & ready when approaching vehicle
- Do not park in dark or isolated areas
- Make sure children stay with adults so they do not get lost in crowded and strange areas

Commanders Hotline
Ideas | Comments | Suggestions

929-2000



AMERICAN AIRMEN | SPIRITUAL WINGMEN



C147 RECONNAISSANCE WING
CHAPLAIN CORPS



DUTY HOURS: 281-929-2636
NON-DUTY HOURS: 281-929-2716
147RW.CHAPLAIN@ANG.AF.MIL

Judge Advocate

147 Reconnaissance Wing



UTA Weekends – 0800 - 1600

281-929-2199

147RW.JA@ang.af.mil

buzzed
driving is
drunk
driving
designate a sober driver

What's for lunch?

5 December 2015

Chicken Alfredo
Meatloaf
Rice
Winter Blend Veggies
Corn
Green Beans
Garlic Sticks

8 November 2015

Unit Holiday Parties