



# Flying Jennies receive final C-130J-30

By Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks  
Staff Writer

**A** crew from the 815th Airlift Squadron will deliver the unit's final C-130J-30 aircraft to Keesler Tuesday after taking delivery from the manufacturer at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

Maj. Gen. Hanferd "Rusty" J. Moen Jr. was selected to pilot the aircraft from Georgia to Mississippi. General Moen is the Director of Intelligence, Air, Space and Information Operations, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Delivery ends a conversion to the J-model that began Oct. 12, 1999. The 815th AS, also known as the Flying Jennies, has been instrumental in the process of qualifying the J-model for combat. The unit has participated in testing and evaluation of this new weapons system since 1998.

Most recently, the unit was deployed to Central and South America to assist U.S. Southern Command with drug interdiction efforts. In the past, they have deployed an aircraft and aircrews to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Their participation in the Air Force's first combat deployment of the new C-130J-30 a "stretched" version of the aircraft, proved it can travel faster, farther and higher than older Hercules while carrying more troops and equipment.

This delivery fleshes out the full complement of aircraft for the 403rd Wing.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks

Senior Airman A. Z. McKenzie, services specialist, makes adjustments to a Babington Burner before lighting it up during the November UTA. The new burner is far safer and more efficient.

## HOT MEALS • Services Fires Up New Mobile Kitchen

By Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks  
Staff Writer

**M**eal-to-meal is the way many Airmen mark time in the field. A biological clock sounds the alarm that lets them know it is time for chow as the smells of hot rations steam from the kitchen.

In the past, troops filed through the old cramped Mobile Kitchen Trailer. Today, Services specialists have a new way to prepare those hot meals. The Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, a deployable tent loaded with the latest in cooking and food preparation technology, is where most Airmen will go to ward off their hunger in the field.

A team from the 403rd Services

Flight "Prime Beef" were excited to try out their first SPEK at November's Unit Training Assembly. They spent the weekend putting together and preparing meals in the deployable kitchen that has taken the place of the MKT.

"It is a lot more convenient than the MKT," said Senior Airman Zandra Thigpen. "It only takes 45 minutes to warm the burner and another 45 minutes to cook the food."

Thigpen was a Services specialist with the 926th Fighter Wing at New Orleans Naval Air Station and was transferred to the 403rd after Hurricane Katrina. She and a small group from the unit went to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. in September

for training on the SPEK. The team spent a week learning how to assemble, store and take care of the SPEK. They also explored the safety aspects of working with new equipment in the portable kitchen.

Master Sgt. Jeff Mulvaney and Tech. Sgt. Kelly Kruger, Services combat instructors from Dobbins, came to the 403rd UTA to help teach the flight how to set up a SPEK.

"Within four hours, we can have the tent built and a meal prepared," said Mulvaney.

The SPEK is equipped with a 3-section Temper Tent with specialized flooring, the Multi-Ration Heater and generator, a three compartment sink, cleaning supplies and safety equipment such as an eye wash and fire extinguishers loaded onto a standard palette that is highly mobilized, according to Mulvaney.

The crew spent most of Saturday setting up the kitchen. They built the tent and set down the flooring. After they moved in the tables and other equipment, Kruger explained the process of lighting and using the Babington Burner, the heating source for the MRH which runs on diesel fuel.

Sunday morning, the flight spent

some time troubleshooting a difficult burner while Kruger showed them how to make quick field repairs. There will always be technical difficulties, she said.

When everything was ready to go, they began to prepare Unitized Group Rations for lunch. The MRH can feed up to 550 Airmen in a two-hour time period more than doubling the capacity of the the MKT which could only feed up to 250 people per meal.

The SPEK is definitely more efficient than the MKT and is also much safer, according to Staff Sgt. Wayne Cox, Services specialist.

"The MKT was so small and ran on compressed unleaded gasoline," said Cox. "If the burner got too hot, we had to shut everything down. We might as well have been sitting on a bomb."

The SPEK is spacious and allows more comfort for the Services workers leaving less room for injuries, according to Cox.

The 403rd will continue to train in the SPEK so that they are well prepared in case of deployment to an undeveloped location where this efficient, temporary kitchen would be necessary. It normally serves up to 30 days in the field or until an expanded bare base kitchen is built.

Food Services Technicians from 403rd Services "Prime Beef" complete the first set up of the unit's new Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen. After spending a day practicing erecting the structure and preparing the work areas, the team fired up the system's more efficient Babington Burners and started warming the Muti-Ration Heaters. The team can get the tent set up in about four hours.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Spinks

# Gulf Wing back in print

By Tech. Sgt. James B. Pritchett  
Editor

This issue of the Gulf Wing Lite is the first print edition of the wing newsletter since Katrina. In addition to a few hundred print copies available in the Public Affairs Office, this issue will also be posted on the 403rd Wing's public website at [www.403wg.afrc.af.mil](http://www.403wg.afrc.af.mil).

There are also a number of great stories about what the wing has been up to for the past year posted on the site.

A new contract that will bring the full version of the magazine back into circulation is currently out for bid and is expected to be completed soon. In the meantime, Public Affairs will be producing this newsletter "in-house."

For those of you who have story ideas or photos to share stop by PA and visit us in our new office on the second floor of the newly renovated headquarters building. We are always looking for your input and will certainly need submissions for upcoming issues.

Unit Public Affairs Representatives are encouraged to stop by during the UTA to pick up a few hardcopies of the newsletter to share in you units and share your story ideas.

Since our last publication, PA has welcomed Maj. Chad Gibson, formerly an aerial reconnaissance weather officer with the 53rd WRS as our new Chief of Public Affairs. Major Gibson is available to answer questions about employer relations and will lead the community relations and media relations efforts of the office.

## FY2007 UTA DATES

- 10-11 February
- 3-4 March
- 14-15 April
- 5-6 May
- 9-10 June
- 14-15 July
- 4-5 August
- 8-9 September



Photo by Jessica Brady

A new roof tops the 403rd Wing Headquarters after construction was completed in October. Some staff agencies are beginning the process of moving into their freshly renovated quarters during the January UTA. The unique triangular shape of the building was an award-winning design when it was built.

# Wing Headquarters ready for tenants

Staff agencies are on the move during the January UTA as contractors are completing work on the 403rd Wing Headquarters building.

Since Hurricane Katrina caused significant damage to the building and furnishings in August 2005, people were displaced to several separate facilities. Many of the agencies, including the command section moved into temporary trailers in early 2006.

Visitors and occupants of the refurbished headquarters will notice many changes including tiled hallways on the first floor and inset tiles bearing the wing shield in the foyer.

Demolition inside was completed by 403rd CES in the weeks following the storm, however, before interior work could begin, contractors had to install a pitched roof to prevent flooding.

Interior renovations began in mid-2006 with furniture going in quickly at the end of the year.

This is one of many construction projects the wing faces in coming months and years. Currently the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron building is under renovation and the 403rd Maintenance Group is close to completing planning for a new maintenance complex. A new facility is also planned for the 403rd ASTS.



Photo by 2nd Lt. J. Justin Pearce

Tiles adorned with the 403rd Wing shield spruce up the foyer in the freshly renovated wing headquarters building.

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### Gulf Wing Awards

- 1st Place, Best Magazine, Air Force Media Contest, 2003, 2004
- 1st Place, Best Command Publication, AFRC Media Contest, 2004, 2005
- 1st Place, Best Magazine, AFRC Media Contest, 1989, 2003, 2004, 2005

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