



# Combat Airlifter

## 19th AW teams up with Dyess for BACE exercise

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U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA

Airmen from Dyess Air Force Base board a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft from Little Rock AFB after completing a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, on Dec. 12. The exercise tested Airmen's capabilities to travel to an austere location with minimal manning and equipment as they support the B-1B Lancer mission.

### ★ ★ ★ GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

#### **CENTRAL ARKANSAS RECOGNIZED**

Central Arkansas, home to Little Rock Air Force Base, is one of five communities across the country named to the 2020 Class of Great American Defense Communities.

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#### **DO YOU READ THE COMBAT AIRLIFTER?**

We need your feedback to determine the future of the base paper.

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#### **TAKING CARE OF AIRMEN, DEVELOPING LEADERS**

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Austin Brill, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft hydraulics craftsman, took on the responsibility of bringing about subtle changes that boosted individual morale and brought Airmen together as a unit and enhanced overall camaraderie.

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#### **TLR OBSERVES ARBOR DAY**

Team Little Rock Airmen recognize Arbor Day during the 27th annual Arbor Day Ceremony at Little Rock Air Force Base on Dec. 13.

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# Central Arkansas named 2020 Great American Defense Community

By Staff Sgt. Dana J. Cable

Little Rock Air Force Base Public Affairs

Central Arkansas, home to Little Rock Air Force Base, is one of five communities across the country named to the 2020 Class of Great American Defense Communities, a recognition program which is part of the Association of Defense Communities.

The program, now in its fifth year, was established to recognize the role that communities and regions with active installations play in supporting service members and military families.

“We are thrilled the LRAFB community has been recognized as a Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities,” said Annabelle Davis LRAFB Community Council executive secretary. “We have always tried to support the base above and beyond what is typically expected, and it is wonderful that those efforts have been rewarded on a national level. This unique relationship will continue to benefit LRAFB and our communities in Central Arkansas.”

Communities are chosen for the award through a competitive nomination process.

The criteria evaluated included:

- Community building and integration that provides an environment in which service members, their families, and veterans are welcomed and integrated into the community fabric.

- Support and collaboration from a formal military-community support organization including advocates from local governments, non-profit organizations, and area businesses to form installation-community partnerships that enhance services to service members, their families and veterans.

- Educational and employment opportunities that provide a wide range of job opportunities for service members and their families and ensures quality



educational opportunities for military children, spouses, service members and veterans.

- Family support that offers a range of support to service members and their families before, during and after deployments and as they transition from the military.

A few examples of how Central Arkansas and the LRAFB Community Council met many of the criteria include:

- Support of an air show and Air Force Ball through fundraising efforts totaling over \$150,000 during the last two years.

- The construction and opening of two new schools in Jacksonville, Arkansas, including Bobby Lester Elementary that replaced Arnold Drive Elementary on base.

- The LRAFB Community Council being awarded a \$330,000 grant for the development and implementation of the Cyber Security curriculum at Jacksonville High School – the first of its kind – which began this fall.

- The successful passage of state legislation to benefit our military and retiree community, including the exemption of military retirees from paying state income tax, automatic licensure for military spouses and veterans coming in from other states, and exempting all Arkansas National Guard members from tuition for higher education opportunities.

Other communities recognized in the 2020 Class of Great American Defense Communities are Abilene, Texas for its support of Dyess Air Force Base; Greater Ogden, Utah, for its support of Hill Air Force Base; Junction City, Kansas, for its support of Fort Riley; and St. Clair County, Illinois, for its support of Scott Air Force Base.

“The Home of Herk Nation benefits immeasurably from the unparalleled support we receive,” said Col. John Schutte, 19th Airlift Wing commander. “From caring for our Airmen, to resourcing improved educational opportunities for military families, to helping us celebrate airpower, to advocating for changes to state laws to allow Arkansas to lead the nation in military spouse licensure reciprocity—our community partners are absolutely vital to our ability to execute our combat airlift mission. It is a pleasure to see them recognized as a 2020 Great American Defense Community. On behalf of Team Little Rock, thank you for your unwavering support!”

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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# COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MARCUS TAYLOR

**NAME AND RANK**

Airman 1st Class  
Carmen Knox

**UNIT**

19th Healthcare  
Operations Squadron

**DUTY TITLE**

Aerospace medical service  
technician

**HOMETOWN**

Chesapeake Beach, Maryland

**TIME IN SERVICE**

1 year, 7 months

**TIME AT LITTLE ROCK**

11 months

**GOALS**

Finish career development course, start college, achieve senior airman below the zone and get personal trainer certification.

**HOBBIES**

Dancing, painting  
and working out.

**AIR FORCE CORE VALUE  
PORTRAYED**

Service Before Self

**WHY WAS THE INDIVIDUAL  
SELECTED AND HOW DO THEY  
DISPLAY THE CORE VALUE?**

Knox is always ready and willing to help. Whether it's pacing/running with someone for a PT test or performing duties as dorm president, she is engaged and takes action. She is bold and speaks up to share ideas for process improvement.

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# Taking care of Airmen, developing leaders

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAYDEN FORD**  
 19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Austin Brill, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft hydraulics craftsman, took on the responsibility of bringing about subtle changes in the squadron that not only boosted individual morale for the Airmen on his shift, but brought them together as a unit and enhanced overall camaraderie.

Seeing that Airmen needed their voices to be heard, the NCO brought about a solution to improve a process the squadron already used — a suggestion box — by having direct supervisors know what issues their Airmen are having.

“Normally squadrons have a suggestion box that goes straight to the commander and first sergeants but instead of bypassing the whole chain of command, we’re getting the NCOs involved because they have the most power in any unit to positively affect morale,” Brill said.

The suggestion box gives NCOs a chance to develop critical thinking and leadership in Airmen by showing them the process of implementing changes. If something is not achievable, they explain to the Airmen why it cannot be done then search for an alternative solution for the problem together.

“There’s always solid answers provided to them,” Brill said. “NCOs explain to them in detail the steps needed to make their requests happen. Now, I would say, a lot more Airmen really understand the inner workings of maintenance and how we operate.”

Another morale boost Brill helped bring about was a weekly barbecue for the shift he worked on that allowed families to grow more connected in the squadron and exposed to the mission.

“Our Airmen’s families come in and bring food,” Brill said. “They are getting to meet each other’s families, and it’s made a night-and-day difference on swing shifts.”

Recently, Brill assisted one of his Airmen as he worked through the process of getting the National Alliance on Mental Illness to attend one of the morale-boosting cookouts and provide information to Airmen about mental health issues.

“He helped organize the event and got me in contact with the first sergeant,” said Airman 1st Class Patrick Shafer, 19th AMXS communication navigation apprentice. “As an Airman, I didn’t know how these processes worked. He led me through the process, and he decided to start small with an informational session at one of the cookouts.”

This process acted as a good opportunity for Brill to let one of his Airmen learn a process themselves with limited help and guidance in order to develop their leadership skills early on.

“You’re not just making them put shapes in holes,” Brill said. “You’re telling them why they have these different shapes, where they are supposed to put them, and you help them figure it out for themselves. That’s how you get the best, not only leadership training but education in general.”

The visit from NAMI was seen as beneficial to all because the information they provided could help all Airmen around the squadron recognize signs of mental

See Care, 6



(Above) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Austin Brill, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft hydraulics craftsman, observes pilots preparing to take off at Little Rock Air Force Base on Dec. 4. Brill took on the responsibility of bringing about subtle changes in the squadron that not only boosted individual morale for the Airmen on his shift, but brought them together as a unit and enhanced overall camaraderie.

(Left) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Patrick Shafer, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communication navigation apprentice, loosens a bolt on a C-130J Super Hercules radar system while U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Austin Brill, 19th AMXS aircraft hydraulics craftsman, looks over the job description on a laptop at Little Rock Air Force Base on Dec. 4. Recently, Brill assisted Shafer as he worked through the process of getting the National Alliance on Mental Illness to attend a squadron cookout and provide information to Airmen about mental health issues.



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Patrick Shafer, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communication navigation apprentice, tightens a bolt on the radar system of a C-130J Super Hercules at Little Rock Air Force Base on Dec. 4. Shafer recently worked through the process of getting the National Alliance on Mental Illness to attend a squadron cookout and provide information to Airmen about mental health issues.

## Care

Continued from page 5

illness in other Airmen or even their family members before it causes a negative impact on anyone.

“My thought process for bringing NAMI in was that maybe they could help teach us a little bit more, give somebody a little bit more power, and maybe they can help somebody out just a little bit better than we could,” Brill said. “Maybe somebody that nobody knew needed help at all is now going to be more comfortable in this family-driven environment and they’re going to speak up and say something. They will get to see that a lot of people are going to come together and lift them up together, as a team.”

Brill’s efforts, along with other NCOs, to change the atmosphere of the unit have not gone unnoticed by the Airmen around the squadron.

“He’s always trying to improve the squadron,” Shafer said. “He’s always the one person that you can go to for anything and will drop everything he’s doing to help. He cares about morale more than anyone else I’ve ever seen.”

With the recent changes made by the NCO tier, Brill urges the Airmen to step up and keep the momentum they have created going.

“If you see something wrong and you don’t like it, you are more than capable and encouraged to say something about it,” Brill said. “Not only should you say something about it but if you don’t know how to fix it – we’re going to teach you how.”



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# Team Little Rock recognizes Arbor Day



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN KRISTINE M. GRUWELL

(Above) Team Little Rock Airmen recognize Arbor Day during the 27th annual Arbor Day Ceremony at Little Rock Air Force Base on Dec. 13. The Arbor Day ceremony is hosted each year to spread tree conservation and preservation awareness to the community and base populace.

(Right) U.S. Air Force Col. Derrick Floyd, 19th Mission Support Group commander, speaks at the 27th annual Arbor Day Ceremony at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 13, 2019. The Arbor Day Ceremony is hosted each year to spread tree conservation and preservation awareness to the community and base populace.





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U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA

A B-1B Lancer pilot completes a helmet check during a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, Dec. 12, 2019. The B-1B Lancer aircraft completed multiple training sorties during the exercise to test the personnel's capabilities to complete the mission in potentially austere locations.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA

A B-1B Lancer aircraft taxis toward the runway during a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, on Dec. 12. This training is part of a local initiative at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, to develop and improve Airmen's capability to deploy B-1B Lancer aircraft, personnel and equipment to austere or unfamiliar locations worldwide and on short notice in support of Air Force strategic objectives.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA

An Airman with the 317th Airlift Squadron directs a K-loader away from a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft during a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, on Dec. 10. The training is part of a local initiative at Dyess AFB that tested the abilities of multiple wings coming together to develop and improve the capabilities of Airmen to deploy B-1B Lancer aircraft and send personnel and equipment to austere or unfamiliar locations worldwide on short notice in support of Air Force strategic objectives.



# 19th AW teams up with Dyess for **BACE** *exercise*

BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA,  
7TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

7TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Airmen from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, and Little Rock Air Force Base completed a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, held Dec. 10 through Dec. 12.

The training is part of a Dyess AFB initiative to develop and improve the ability to rapidly deploy B-1B bomber aircraft, personnel and equipment to austere or unfamiliar locations worldwide in support of Air Force and Combatant Command strategic objectives.

“As we look toward our future, and the threats we may encounter, this training will help us deploy and employ our aircraft and personnel quickly within much closer striking range of our adversary,” said Maj. Gen. Jim Dawkins Jr., 8th Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center commander. “We want to be agile as we move around unpredictably with a small footprint. This experiment allows us to see how small our footprint can be while generating combat power.”

During the exercise, three C-130J Super Hercules aircraft from the 317th Airlift Wing and the 19th Airlift Wing transported the equipment and personnel needed to successfully maintain and support flying operations for two B-1B Lancer’s from the 7th Bomb Wing’s 9th Bomb Squadron.

Both the 317th Airlift Wing and the 7th Bomb Wing are stationed at Dyess AFB, making it the only U.S. Air Force base to host both bomber and transport aircraft at the same location.

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A pilot assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base signals the “thumbs-up” as they taxi a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft during a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, on Dec. 12. The exercise tested Airmen’s capabilities to travel to an austere location with minimal manning and equipment as they support the B-1B Lancer mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mercedes Porter)

# BACE

Continued from page 9

“Integrating both of our wings allows us to practice and execute employment methods that would take a great deal of coordination if not geographically collocated,” said Lt. Col. Brenton Gaylord, 317th AW Chief of Safety. “Even though our wings have trained together before, this scenario is groundbreaking because it is developing new competencies in both communities preparing us to execute distributive operations in the future. The planning and logistics of organically integrating tactical airlift and strategic bombing assets without centralized command and control drives toward a level of agility that will be necessary in the Air Force going forward.”

The exercise also gave Airmen across the base the opportunity to develop new competencies to help execute potential real-world operations.

Airmen with the 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron conducted minimum regeneration time maintenance on the B-1B Lancer aircraft, where they tested the proficiencies of using Airmen from multiple career fields, coming together, to launch aircraft, as quickly as possible.

“Completing this training is important because the world is constantly changing and we need to be able to provide global power to combatant commanders throughout the world,” Maj. Kolt, 9th Bomb Squadron B-1B Lancer instructor pilot. “As we continue to perform these types of exercises we are going to increase its complexity so we can successfully complete real-world missions like these, if and when, they come our way.”



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA

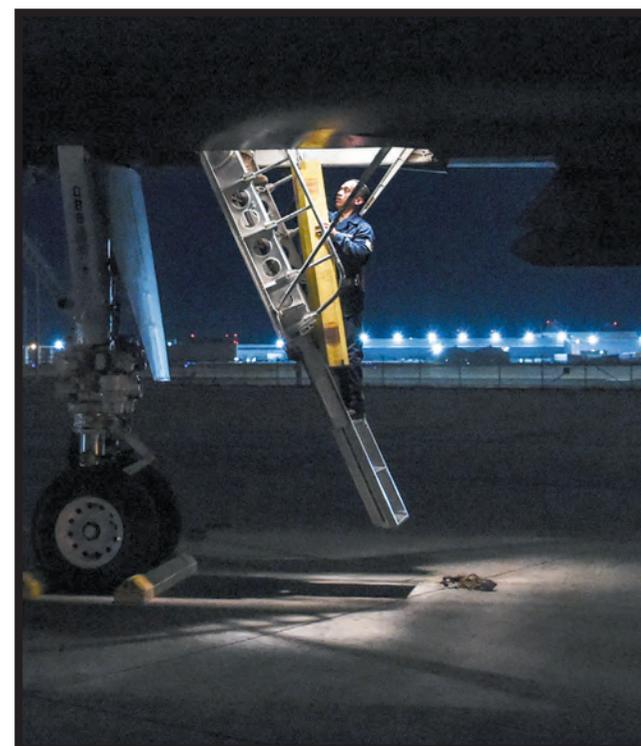
(Above) A B-1B Lancer aircraft takes off during a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, on Dec. 12. Airmen with the 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron conducted minimum regeneration time maintenance on the B-1B Lancer aircraft. During this time, they tested the ability to use Airmen from multiple career fields coming together to launch the aircraft.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN MERCEDES PORTER

(Above) A Little Rock Air Force Base on C-130J Super Hercules aircraft takes off at Dyess AFB, Texas, on Dec. 10. The 19th Airlift Wing and 317th Airlift Wing often involve each other in training efforts to ensure lessons learned and expertise gained is not limited to Dyess or Little Rock, but rather is shared across the C-130 enterprise.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Lesner Dimaoala, 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, takes equipment out of a B-1B Lancer aircraft cockpit during a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, on Dec. 12. This integrated training tested the capabilities of multiple wings coming together to develop and test short notice deployment capabilities to cold base and civilian locations throughout the world.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN MERCEDES PORTER

Airman 1st Class Trayvon Jackson, 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, left, and Airman 1st Class Lance Blankenship, 317th AMXS guidance and control systems journeyman, salute the pilots inside of a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft as it taxis off the flightline at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, on Dec. 10. Both the 19th Airlift Wing and 317th Airlift Wing trained together during the Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN MERCEDES PORTER

Airmen assigned to the 7th Logistics Readiness Squadron load cargo onto a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft during an exercise at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, on Dec. 9. The exercise is part of a series of Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercises designed to develop and test Dyess AFB's capability to deploy B-1B bombers, personnel and equipment to austere or unfamiliar locations worldwide and on short notice in support of Combatant Commander objectives.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA

Airmen sit in a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft as they prepare to depart for a Bomber Agile Combat Employment exercise at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, on Dec. 10. The training is part of a local initiative at Dyess AFB to develop and improve Airmen's capabilities to deploy B-1B Lancer aircraft, personnel and equipment to austere or unfamiliar locations worldwide and on short notice in support of Air Force strategic objectives.

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The goals of the embedded A&FRC teams are to leverage the technical expertise of the 12 A&FRC core programs, services and resources and as certified professional life coaches incorporate life coaching into every interaction to create a safe and open environment. Teams are in a unique position to destigmatize helping agencies, encourage help-seeking behaviors, and intervene early to maximize potential, improve health and wellness to Airmen in the flight line areas that might not be able to get the assistance they are seeking due to mission requirements.

## MOBILIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT

### READINESS

The A&FRC is the focal point for personal and family readiness services, as well as serving as a consultant for leadership on family separation concerns. Assistance and support are given to individuals, families, and leadership during mobilization and deployments, evacuations, local or national emergencies, and disaster response. Services and activities help prepare members and families to successfully manage separation and reintegration, increase individual and family morale and unit cohesion, and support operational readiness.

### PERSONAL WORK LIFE

Offers programs and services designed to enhance the individual's knowledge, skills, and abilities to anticipate and meet challenges throughout various stages of the military family life cycle. Services include: one-on-one assessment counseling, crisis intervention, information and referrals, track and trend data, design activities based on identified needs and strengths of the community, Air Force 101 and Heart Link for spouses new to the military and Key Spouse Program.

### RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

The A&FRC offers programs and services to help mitigate stress and challenges of moving to a new area. Up-to-date information on inbound/outbound locations to include schools and higher institutions education and technical training, housing, labor market, health care choices, recreation, and other pertinent topics. We provide training for new sponsors and collaborate with other base agencies to ensure families feel welcomed into their new community.

Air Force Spouses are welcomed by the unit Key Spouse volunteers. Youth and teens receive a welcome package. Contacting the A&FRC is an excellent first step in exploring the right options for you and your family.

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# Programs

Continued from page 12

## PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

When families have personal financial difficulties or wish to be proactive and develop a family financial plan, the A&FRC is the place to go. Offers information, education, and personal counseling to help individuals and families maintain financial readiness/stability and achieve their financial goals. When leaders discover that members are having financial problems, the A&FRC should be their first resource.

## TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

The A&FRC is the focal point for transition assistance activities at the base level, providing retiring, separating, and demobilizing members and families information, skills, and knowledge needed for a successful transition to the civilian community. By executive order and Air Force policy, transition assistance is also provided to Depart-

ment of Defense civilian employees and family members impacted by restructuring and reductions.

**Exceptional Family Member Program**  
The Exceptional Family Member Program -- Family Support is designed to provide support to military family members through a variety of personal, medical, and family support functions. The EFMP program is mandatory for all Department of Defense Active-Duty service members. It is designed to identify family members with special medical and/or education needs.

## LEADERSHIP CONSULTATION

The A&FRC is the commander's consultant on family issues. Consultants are always available to commanders when they are developing family policies or dealing with a difficult family concern.

## EMPLOYMENT/CAREER SUPPORT

Employment assistance supports customers in achieving short-term and long-term employment, education, training, and career goals. The A&FRC is the place to go for spouses who are reentering the work force or seeking paid employment.

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