



DLNSEO DISPATCH

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THROUGH AIRMEN'S EYES: LINGUIST'S SEVEN DEPLOYMENTS IN FIVE YEARS

(af.mil)...1st Lt. Susan Harrington

Seven deployments in five years is a feat not many Airmen can claim.

Serving as a career enlisted aviator on the RC-135 Rivet Joint, Staff Sgt. Chris has spent nearly 735 days deployed flying more than 2,000 hours with more than 400 combat sorties.

The Nashville, Tenn., native joined the military in 2006, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who was an Army artilleryman during the Korean War. After two years of technical training as a linguist, he was assigned to his first operational flying squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Since the beginning of his operational career, Chris said, "I haven't stopped deploying."

And he couldn't be closer to the truth, as he recently served a tour here at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing.

While deployed, it was not uncommon for Chris to fly daily operational sorties over extended periods of time. The enlisted aviator flew and deployed often because of his unique ability as a linguist on the RC-135 Rivet Joint. Unlike many career fields, linguists are unique in the fact that their job on the Rivet Joint can only be accomplished while deployed. For this reason, Airmen like him continuously rotate in and out of the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

"Having a chance to do our job and knowing that it matters, makes the deployments easier to manage," Chris said. "It's extremely rewarding to know that we're providing support to our ground troops that helps ensure their safety and successful completion of their mission."

Linguists' unique capabilities allow them to directly support coalition forces by providing an airborne



Staff Sgt. Chris in front of the RC-135 Rivet Joint July 16, 2013, at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia. Chris is a career enlisted aviator who has flown more than 2,000 hours and more than 400 combat sorties

scout, increasing their situational awareness and in turn enhancing their capability to complete the mission. Because their career field is in high demand, linguists see a lot of deployment time, and not necessarily on a systematic basis.

"We don't fit into a normal (Air Expeditionary Force) deployment cycle," he said.

The linguists are enablers, and as such, they deploy more frequently and are away from home quite a bit, Chris said.

Quite a bit may be considered an understatement. In his just five years of operational service, Chris has deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, missing four of those five Christmases at home. This is no easy feat, but is particularly hard for someone who has been married his whole career. Together with his wife and son, they have endured deployment after deployment.

"Being a husband and a father certainly adds to the layers of responsibility we shoulder in the deployed environment," Chris said.

BOREN INNOVATORS

(DLNSEO)...*Katie Davis*

The National Security Education Program is pleased to share that two Boren Scholars have been chosen as 2013 Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF). The PIF program was launched in 2012 and pairs top innovators from the private sector, non-profits, and academia with top innovators in government to collaborate during focused "tours of duty" to develop solutions that can save lives, save taxpayer money, and fuel job creation. Michelle Hertzfeld and Christopher Cairns, both Boren Scholarship recipients, are two of the 43 talented and motivated individuals chosen out of more than 2,000 applicants.

Michelle Hertzfeld received a Boren Scholarship in 2003 to fund her study of Mandarin in China while a student at the University of Arizona. As a Presidential Innovation Fellow, she will be working on Open Data Initiatives at the Department of the Interior. Michelle is a science communicator. From teaching ranchers to use satellite imagery to improve land management, to creating digital interfaces that facilitate access to weather data, she bridges the divide between data and understanding with structure, intelligence, and empathy. She has worked with clients ranging from small businesses to government agencies and international organizations, helping them strategize both offline and online user experiences to reach business and project goals. Most recently, she lent her user interface expertise to international data-

sharing projects at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Satellite and Information Service.

Chris Cairns received a Boren Scholarship in 2000 to study Mandarin in China while pursuing a degree at the Pennsylvania State University. As a Presidential Innovation Fellow, he will be working on the 21st Century Financial Systems project at the Department of the Treasury. Chris is focused on leveraging new technologies to drive innovative change. Chris was a founding member of True North Equities, a private equity firm that acquires and operates innovative small businesses focused on public-sector markets. At True North Equities, he served as Director of Strategy and Technology and as interim COO of a member company, where he commercialized a DARPA-funded line of medical injury simulation products. These products are now used around the world at over 20 Army Medical Simulation Training Centers to train combat medics, helping to save American and Allied lives. Chris previously served as a Senior IT Program Manager at the Department of Homeland Security's US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), earning a CIO's distinguished Special Achievement award for his leadership overseeing an IT Strategy & Management Program of over \$20 million. Prior to ICE, Chris held various strategy and technology roles at SAIC, IBM, and Unisys.

INTERPRETERS BREAK DOWN LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN AFRICA

(dvids)...*Spc. Zach Sheely*

Gathering personnel and delegates from 38 African nations, five European and North American nations and several African and international organizations — many who speak different languages — to participate in a large-scale, joint military training exercise can present unique challenges.

Among these trials is a gap in communication as wide as the continent of Africa itself.

Interpreters provide the vital bridge over this gap during Exercise Africa Endeavor 2013 — U.S. Africa Command's (AFRICOM) annual, multilateral 10-day scenario-driven communications exercise, Aug. 6 to 15, in Lusaka, Zambia.

The primary language of Africa Endeavor is

English. However, the official language of many African nations is French, or Portuguese, so much translation is needed to ensure that

everyone is operating in synch.

"Africa Endeavor is an opportunity to learn from each

other's experiences and build that interoperability in joint, multinational, multilingual, peace-keeping operations," said Mustapha "Mus" Kjaouj, public affairs language specialist, AFRICOM.



U.S. Army National Guard 1st Lt. Pessegrou Yoma (center), a native of Togo and fluent French speaker, translates a conversation between Lt. Col. Honnet Michel Sahiry (left) of the Ivory Coast, and U.S. Navy Lt. John MacLean (right)

ENGLISH FOR HERITAGE LANGUAGE SPEAKERS GRADUATE COHORT

(DLNSEO)...Dr. Kevin Gormley

The eighth iteration of DLNSEO's English for Heritage Language Speakers (EHLS) program drew to a close on Monday, August 26, as the members of the 2013 EHLS cohort crossed the stage in Gaston Hall at Georgetown University to receive certificates of completion. The 20 scholars in the 2013 cohort, evenly divided between women and men, are native speakers of a variety of critical languages, including Arabic, Balochi, Igbo, Kyrgyz, Mandarin Chinese, Pashto, Persian Farsi, Turkish, Uzbek, and Yoruba. Their participation in the EHLS program has enabled them to raise their English proficiency to the professional level and develop increased awareness of the norms of the federal workplace. They are now actively seeking employment with the federal government.

Keynote speakers at the graduation were Ambassador Maura Harty (Ret.) and Dr. Michael Nugent. Ambassador Harty spoke of the importance of federal service and the potential that the 20143 EHLS graduates have to contribute to agencies' success in achieving their missions. Dr. Nugent described the varied activities and programs overseen by DLNSEO, and the special nature of EHLS among those programs. Two 2013 EHLS graduates, Ayça Akal-Strader and Hala Kebaish, also spoke of their

experiences in the program, the challenges they had faced and overcome, and the sense of accomplishment that they felt as a result of completing it.

The National Security Education Program has sponsored the EHLS program since 2006, following the legislative mandate contained in the FY2005 Intelligence Authorization Act. The program's purpose is to identify native speakers of critical languages who are interested in and committed to federal service, and give them the professional English and workplace skills they need to obtain and retain federal employment. The program is managed by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL); all instruction takes place at Georgetown University. The program consists of six months of full-time intensive instruction followed by two months of part-time online polishing work.

Participants are recruited nationwide, and all participants are naturalized U.S. citizens. Each program participant receives a scholarship that includes full tuition and a monthly stipend for the duration of the program. In return, each agrees to fulfill a one-year service commitment with the federal government.

For more information on EHLS, visit www.ehlsprogram.org.

ARMY ROTC PERFORMS SERVICE ABROAD



Cadets MacDonal and Findlay learn to make El Salvadorian pupusas

(The Digital Universe)...Amber Nance

Each summer, BYU sends a group of Army ROTC cadets abroad as part of the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program in Beyond the

Horizon, an annual humanitarian and civic assistance exercise. This May, some cadets traveled to El Salvador and others to Panama, where they used their Spanish language skills to interpret for U.S. Army medical specialists.

“[Through translation] I helped birth a child my

very first day, so that was exciting. It was quite the experience,” said Cadet Jon Selee, a junior political science major, who facilitated conversation between civilians and Army doctors in Panama.

For a month, the Army specialists in Panama set up a full clinic, including family medicine, optometry, OB/GYN and pharmaceutical services. Selee and two other BYU cadets worked with all doctors to help them communicate with their patients.

“It was a humanitarian project but it was also a military thing at the same time, so I really liked being able to understand pre-deployment training,” Cadet Findlay said. “I found out what it’s going to be like when I do graduate and become an officer and that was...my biggest takeaway.”

AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN HANDS

(U.S. Navy JAG Corps)

Lt. Stephen A. Murray and Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Chatham, Judge Advocate General Corps, are pictured with Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.). The Senators visited International Security Assistance Force Headquarters (ISAF HQ) in Kabul, Afghanistan, on independence Day to conduct reenlistment, promotion, and award ceremonies. Murray is an Afghanistan-Pakistan (AFPAK) Hand from Naval District Washington. He serves in the ISAF HQ Rule of Law Office as a legal advisor to Commander International Security Assistance Force. Murray uses the Dari language skills that he gained during pre-deployment training to engage with Afghan partners at the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office to advance the rule of law mission. The AFPAK Hands program was launched in 2009 to establish a cohort of experts that specialize in the complexities of Afghanistan and Pakistan language and culture. These members provide persistent engagement on regional issues while advising leaders and commanders throughout the levels of governance and command. An AFPAK Hand is committed to more than 40 months with the program.



Lt. Stephen A. Murray and Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Chatham pictured with Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) right, and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), left



CALENDAR

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| Defense Language Action Panel | Sept 10 |
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