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August 4, 2021

Children's Health Fair

After announcing last week that the Rotary Club's Children's Health Fair would be in September, we have now been told that it is now cancelled due to the spike in COVID cases.

District Cabinet Meeting

This Saturday, there will be a District 30-S Cabinet meeting at the Woolmarket Lion's Club building. Registration starts at 0830 hrs with the meeting starting at 0930 hrs.

Application for Eye Glasses

The application for eye glasses is now on our web site for those that need one.

New Member

At this week's meeting, we installed our newest member, Glenn Quave! Please congratulate him when you see him.



<u>Guest Speaker</u>

Today, our guest speaker was Colonel Stuart Rubio, Commander of the 403rd Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Keesler AFB. As Commander, he leads over 1,900 Reserve and civilian professionals in the first C-130J unit equipped wing in the Air Force. The wing's mission is to train, equip, and employ airlift forces in support of the nation's interests. The 403rd Wing is capable of providing aeromedical evacuation, tactical airlift and air drop, and agile combat support as well as operating the only weather reconnaissance mission in the Department of Defense.



As a Reserve unit, we are sometimes referred to as Citizen Airmen, meaning that we augment the Active-Duty Airmen when needed. You may have heard about the "1 weekend a month and 2 weeks in the summer", but we serve a whole lot more than just those few days. While we do have a portion of our team (1,200 traditional Air Force Reservists) who work those times, there is also a portion of our team (350 Air Reserve Technicians) that work Monday – Friday as civil servants and work the weekends (as needed) as Air Force Reservists. We also have 61 regular civil servants who fill vital roles in our Wing.

We have 20 C-130J aircraft. Most people know about the 10 aircraft used for weather reconnaissance (the Hurricane Hunters). The other 10 perform tactical missions.

While we know the contribution the Hurricane Hunters make to our local area and the U.S. east coast, there is another mission that they do as well. In the last winter months, they have a mission in the on the west coast where they fly through something called "atmospheric rivers". The scientific research is still fairly new, but these high-altitude phenomena are basically rivers of water that can flow up to 5 times more water than the mouth of the Mississippi river.

Our Air Medical Evacuation Squadron are trained to set-up medical operations (an airborne hospital) in the back of a plane. Their work has increased the survival rate from injuries to above 90%.

Speaking about our aircraft, we were the first unit in the Air Force to get the new C-130J aircraft. That also means that we have the oldest C-130J aircraft! Part of that responsibility, though, is at as our aircraft age, we are seeing any maintenance issues that arise and can pass on this information to the depots that repair them as well as other maintenance units to help them keep their aircraft flying.

