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OA/ID Number: 13744
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Folder Title:
Myrtle Beach Air Force Base 1/29/91 [OA 8321]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	21	2	4

Col. Dalliger
Robert Rodco
354 TFW/cc
Myrtle Beach PFB, SC
29579

1/29/91

NO NSC or MIL

Myrtle Beach, SC

Col. Dalliger (803)828-4119

branch: Air Force

where are the men? Air base in eastern SA

When were they shipped out? 2nd string leaving soon?
Aug. 20 ← 2/3 squadrons sent
no rotation right now

any poignant family or personal stories that come to mind?

will call
deaf family

any support groups we should mention?
will call

base nicknames? no

base almost got closed
on closure list.

what kind of missions? going for sauds, close air support weapons

search & rescue
attacking armored vehicles

PJ Johnson Randy Goff rescued downed flyer (Way F-114)

a place where everyone meets to talk?
town mtgs every other night since 1/16
also had twice/week since Aug. 20
once a month during slow time.

the town bar?

any MAs: no

January 29, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR MARY KATE GRANT

FROM: CAROL BLYMIRE
SUBJECT: MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Myrtle Beach, S.C. is an Air Force base. The men are now on an air base in eastern Saudi Arabia (that's as specific as he can get). Their missions range from "going for scuds", close air support weaponry, attacking armored vehicles, and search & rescue. The two airmen who rescued the downed Navy F-114 flyer were from this air base. Their names are P.J. Johnson and Randy Goff.

So far, there are no MIAs from Myrtle Beach. Two of three squadrons were shipped out on August 20th. They are not on a rotation schedule right now. The base has no nicknames, but something interesting is that they were on the base closure list before this all started. I don't think we can say anything about that in the speech, I just thought I'd let you know.

Col. Dalliger will be calling me back about personal stories and support groups. He mentioned that there was a family who helped a deaf woman cope, and he'd get me the details. If this is true, we'd better get a sign language interpreter at this event.

The base has held "town meetings" every other night since 1/16. They also sponsored them twice a week when the troops were first shipped out. I think, with the type of audience expected, we should use the language from the President's address on 1/16. It was very down-to-earth and understandable, rather than some of the stuff coming out of NSC. These people care about their spouses and parents and kids, not cold, hard stats.

To CAROL

Date _____ Time 1:03

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Bill

of _____

Phone _____

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____

JPS

Operator



AMPAD
EFFICIENCY®

29579

~~MB RB, SC~~

354 TRW/CC

~~MB RB, SC~~

Rob Rocco

10260

TELEFAX ELECTROMAIL TRANSMITTAL			1. NUMBER OF PAGES 12
2. FROM: (Unit, FAS, Location) 354 TFW/CCE	3. TELEPHONE NUMBER AV 748-7673	4. CLASSIFICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> FOUO	
5. TO: (Unit, FAS, Location) Carol Blymire	6. DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION Speech Inputs		
7. REMARKS: (Indicate additional on-base distribution which will be made by the agency shown in Item 5) <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">Hope this does the trick!</p> <p>Fax # 202-456-6218</p>			
IT IS MISSION ESSENTIAL THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE TRANSMITTED VIA FACSIMILE			
8. DATE OF TRANSMISSION 29 JAN 91	9. TIME OF TRANSMISSION 1300	10. RELEASER'S SIGNATURE Robert J. Rocca	

TAC FORM APR 84 272

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**

HEADQUARTERS 354TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (TAC)
MYRTLE BEACH AIR FORCE BASE SC 29576-5000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

354 TFW/CCE

SUBJECT:

Inputs for Speech

29 JAN 1991

TO:

MS CAROL BLYMIRE (202) 456-7750

Follows is a list of facts you might find helpful:

1. In the Base contracting office, there is a worker who is a deaf mute. Her husband is currently serving in Saudi. We've made special arrangements to translate her morale calls -- giving her twice the allotted time to allow for translation. She is the inspiration of her office.

Her name: Mrs Vicky Perry

His Name: Sgt Jimmy Perry (Deployed Aircraft Maintenance NCO)

2. PROJECT SOLO (Send Our Love Overseas)

A local cable TV company sponsored a campaign to send over 500 care packages to the unmarried deployees (October timeframe). The project also included a letter writing campaign by several local school children. All 500 packages were packed, addressed, shipped and received in country within 5 days.

3. THE FREEDOM TREE

Readiness is our Profession

Surfside Beach, SC is decorating a Tree with Red, White and Blue ribbons one for each of the MBAFB deployees. (Surfside Beach is one of the towns the base helped most during Hurricane Hugo Recovery)

4. Air Transportable Hospital (ATH)

The first Fighter Squadron deployed on 15 August (Led by our Commander, Colonel Sandy Sharpe).

The ATH deployed with 120 people on 5 September. The ATH deployed 9 out of 12 of the wing's doctors and 17 out of 18 nurses. Our ATH is a 50 bed M.A.S.H. like operation.

5. HEROES

The first two American Heroes of the war were members of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing. Captain Paul Johnson and Captain Randy Goff assisted in last weeks rescue operation deep inside Iraqi territory. Their actions resulted in the successful rescue of a downed Navy A-6 aviator.

6. OPERATION VITTLES II

The MB Junior Chamber of Commerce (JAYCEES) sponsored a program in conjunction with our Family Support Center to raise food for the base food pantry (Food for families having financial trouble--sort of like our own version of free food for our own) They raised over \$500 worth of food

7. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Over \$5,000 worth of goods (sun tan lotion, munchies, writing materials, books, etc.) was collected for distribution to our overseas location.

In addition, dozens of local business' have begun catering to the needs of military dependents and active duty folks still here. Military discounts, discounts on utilities, etc. The town is One Thousand percent behind us and what we're doing!

8. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS

Several local radio stations are offering free "Proud to support the 354th" type bumper stickers. Also, they have sponsored large room size Christmas cards that were huge morale builders to the folks in Saudi. I'd estimate each card had over a thousand messages/good luck type slogans.

9. PETERSON OUTDOOR ADVERTISING (BILLBOARDS)

This company has donated space on over a dozen BillBoards in the MB area. All have a patriotic/support the troops/Good Luck MBAFB theme.

10. WING HISTORY

- The 354th fired the last shots and dropped the last bombs during the Vietnam war.
- The 354th was the Pioneer Mustang Group (1942) during WWII.
- We had more Aces then any other wing

- Air Offensives During WWII: Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe, others

11. RESERVES/GUARD/AUGMENTEES

Hundreds of Reservists, Guardsmen and Augmentees have deployed to support the wing (over 70 this week along)

12. BENEFIT SHOW

The Dixie Jubilee (MB Version of the Carolina Opry) put on a show for military and dependents. Over \$3,500 raised donated to the base chaplain's fund.

13. NUMBERS

TOTAL DEPLOYED: Over 2,035

Total Tonnage: 3,495,400

Total Aircraft (MAC): 62

54 C-141; 7 C-5; 1 747

Manhours supporting deployment: Over 22,500

14. MICKEY SPILLANE

Mickey Spillane, a mystery novelist (WW II pilot, local area resident) wrote the "Myrtle Beach Mystery" for the deployed members of the 354th. Very well received both here and there.

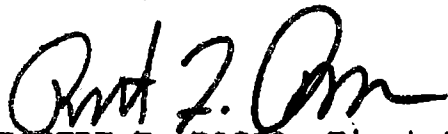
15. LEE GREENWOOD

Country Music singer Lee Greenwood spoke at the first town meeting after Desert Shield began. His reassuring words helped calm a lot of nervous dependents. He also had his photo taken with "everyone" and went above and beyond in the "Good guy" category.

16. Some Facts:

The 2 deployed fighter squadrons: The 353rd Panthers and 355th Fighting Falcons. They were led in our deployment by our wing commander Colonel Ervin C. (He goes by Sandy) Sharpe.

I hope this helps. Please call me at (work) (803) 238-7673/1 or (home) (803) 626-1943 if you have any questions.



ROBERT F. ROCCO, First Lieutenant, USAF
Executive Officer to the Wing Commander

From: CAPT Don Langille
CSG EXEC

ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1989, HURRICANE HUGO STRUCK MYRTLE BEACH AND SURROUNDING AREAS. ONE OF THE WORST HURRICANES IN 30 YEARS, THE IMPACT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WAS DEVASTATING. HERE ON MYRTLE BEACH AFB, THE FOLKS WERE READY. IMMEDIATELY UPON GETTING THE ALL CLEAR NOTIFICATION, MEMBERS OF THE AIR FORCE STARTED ASSESSING DAMAGE, PRIORITIZING WORK AND AGGRESSIVELY STRIVING FOR 100% MISSION CAPABILITY. NOR DID THEIR EFFORTS STOP ON BASE, THE SUPPORT RENDERED TO THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY WAS OUTSTANDING. DETAILS WERE FORMED FOR CLEAN-UP AND POINTS OF CONTACT ESTABLISHED FOR THOSE IN NEED. IN DECEMBER 1989, AGAIN NATURE HIT MYRTLE BEACH WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED SNOW FALL. IN MINIMUM TIME, THE AIRFIELD WAS CLEARED AND AGAIN SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WAS FREELY OFFERED AND ACCEPTED.

A LONGTIME FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THIS BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES EXIST. WHEN POSSIBLE CLOSURE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED, IT WAS THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES WHO RALLIED AROUND THE BASE. SUCH STRONG SUPPORT ONLY COMES WHEN ONE IS GOOD NEIGHBORS AND WHEN BOTH THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITIES UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

IN AUGUST OF 1990, MYRTLE BEACH AFB AGAIN RESPONDED TO A CRISIS. THIS TIME TO DEPLOY TO SAUDI ARABIA IN SUPPORT OF WHAT WOULD BECOME OPERATION DESERT SHIELD. THIS WASN'T AN EXERCISE, THIS WAS WHAT THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE 354TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING

HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR, PRACTICED FOR, AND STOOD READY FOR. THE CALL WENT OUT. MEMBERS ON LEAVE CAME BACK, TDY'S WERE CANCELED AND EVERYONE PUT FORTH 100% EFFORT TO MEET THE TASKING. AND MEET THE TASKING THEY DID. A-10 THUNDERBOLTS WERE DEPLOYED, SUPPORT FOLKS, MECHANICS, AND ENOUGH EQUIPMENT TO BUILD A SMALL CITY. ALL DONE WITH SPEED, PROFESSIONALISM, AND YES, PATRIOTISM.

SUPPORT FOR THE 354TH DID NOT STOP AFTER THE PLANES LEFT THE RUNWAY. NOW, WITH A LARGE PART OF THE POPULATION GONE, IT WAS UP TO THE FOLKS LEFT ON BASE TO KEEP THINGS GOING AND PROVIDE A SUPPORT SYSTEM WHICH THEIR DEPLOYED FOLKS COULD RELY ON. OPERATIONALLY, THE FOLKS AT BASE X PERFORMED IN AN OUTSTANDING MANNER. FROM THE SANDS OF SAUDI THERE NOW IS AN ACTIVE MILITARY COMMUNITY WHICH HAS SET THE STANDARD DURING THIS DEPLOYMENT OF HOW TO DO THE MOST WITH THE LEAST.

I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE WAY THE 354TH HAS RESPONDED. IT WAS A TEAM EFFORT, BUT WHAT A TEAM. FOLKS LIKE:

ON THE SUPPORT SIDE OF THE HOUSE, MYRTLE BEACH AFB HAS ALSO SET NEW STANDARDS FOR THE CARING OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND. ALMOST FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE DEPLOYMENT, THE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER HAS SPONSORED TOWN MEETINGS FOR THOSE SPOUSES LEFT BEHIND. ISSUES, ANSWERS AND HOTLINE NUMBERS WERE PROVIDED TO HELP EVERYONE DO

WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP GOING.

THE CIVILIAN POPULATION RALLIED AROUND THE BASE. HUNDREDS OF CALLS CAME IN WITH OFFERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO HELP SUPPORT OUR FOLKS BOTH HERE AND AWAY. YELLOW RIBBONS, BUMPER STICKERS, AND EVEN BILLBOARDS ARE CONSTANT REMINDERS OF THE MUTUAL SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP ENJOYED BETWEEN THE BASE AND THE COMMUNITY. VOLUNTEERS WERE RECRUITED AND MATCHED WITH NEEDS. EVERYTHING FROM LAWCARE TO BABYSITTING WAS PROVIDED. THE CHAPEL ON BASE RECEIVED TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FROM DOWNTOWN AND THIS YEAR, THEIR FOOD DONATION PROGRAM WAS THE LARGEST EVER.

NOW THAT WE HAVE TRANSITIONED FROM OPERATION DESERT SHIELD TO OPERATION DESERT STROM, THE FOLKS FROM THE 354TH ARE DOING THEIR MISSION, DOING IT WELL, AND DOING IT PROUDLY.

HERE ON BASE, WITH ALL THE NORMAL ROUTINES TO ATTEND TO, THE FOLKS STILL INSURE THAT THEIR FRIENDS AND COWORKERS OVERSEAS RECEIVE THE BEST SUPPORT POSSIBLE AND ALSO INSURE THAT THE ONES THEY LEFT BEHIND ARE PROVIDED FOR TOO.



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**354TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (TAC),
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION (803) 238-7552 AV748-7552**

354th Tactical Fighter Wing

The 354th Tactical Fighter Wing is headquartered at Myrtle Beach, S.C., where it was activated as a Tactical Air Command unit on Nov. 19, 1956.

The wing traces its lineage to World War II when it was first established as the 354th Fighter Group at Hamilton Field, Calif., on Nov. 15, 1942. The 354th was one of the first U.S. Army Air Corps units to fly the P-51B Mustang aircraft in combat, earning the nickname "Pioneer Mustang Group".

During the group's short combat life of 17 months and eight days, the 354th flew 1,383 missions and produced 38 aces. It achieved the highest air-to-air combat record of any fighter group, downing more than 701 enemy aircraft and destroying 255 more on the ground. The 354th also destroyed 150 armored vehicles, 584 locomotives, 55 bridges, 113 gun sites, 15 ammunition dumps, 37 hangars, 834 buildings, nine airdromes, 34 horse-drawn vehicles and 5,282 railroad cars.

Maj. James H. Howard, 356th Fighter Squadron commander, was the only fighter pilot of the European Theater of Operations to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Major Howard earned the medal for singlehandedly warding off more than 30 enemy single and twin-engine aircraft as they attempted to shoot down U.S. B-17 bombers.

The 354th returned to the United States on Nov. 15, 1945, and was inactivated at Bolling Field, Washington, D.C., on March 31 the following year.

The unit was reborn as a fighter-day wing at Myrtle Beach in 1956 and was redesignated as the present-day 354th Tactical Fighter Wing on July 1, 1958. Initially equipped with B-25s, C-45s and SA-16 aircraft, the wing received F-100D Super Sabres between February and June 1957. During the next 13 years, units of the wing participated in training exercises, pulled rotational duty in support of North Atlantic Treaty Organization commitments, took part in several crises, and saw action in Southeast Asia. Near the end of the period, all of the wing's tactical fighter squadrons were deployed overseas (Spain, Japan and Vietnam), and the wing was transferred without personnel and equipment to Korea.

(Current as of March 1990) -more-

MYRTLE BEACH AFB, SC. 29579-5000

In June 1970 the 354th returned to Myrtle Beach, converted from the F-100D to the A-7D Corsair II, and subsequently became the first operational A-7D unit in the United States Air Force. In October 1972, the wing deployed to Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, and introduced the plane into combat. On Aug. 15, 1973, two A-7Ds assigned to the wing fired the last shots and dropped the last bombs expended by U.S. forces in the Southeast Asia war. When the wing ended its Thailand operations on May 24, 1974, some 10,000 sorties had been flown. The wing was back at Myrtle Beach flying combat training missions by the end of the same month.

In early 1977 the wing began conversion to the A-10 Thunderbolt II close air support aircraft, becoming the first operational A-10 wing in the U.S. Air Force by October 1978. Since the conversion the wing's flying units have participated in training exercises in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canada, Cuba, Germany, Korea and Egypt.

The mission of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing is to maintain the capability to deploy worldwide and to provide close air support and anti-armor operations in a low, medium or high threat environment.

Its flying units are: 353rd Tactical Fighter Squadron (Black Panthers), 355th Tactical Fighter Squadron (Fightin' Falcons) and 356th Tactical Fighter Squadron (Green Demons).