

TRAVIS RESPONSE
TimeLine

September 11th

8:48 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) — American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the north tower of World Trade Center in New York.

6:15 a.m. (local time) — Travis begins implementing its highest security posture.

9:38 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) — American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Noon — A Travis C-5 departs to pick up three Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in Arizona to transport them to support relief efforts on the East Coast.

6:30 p.m. — Travis launches an Air Force Reserve C-5 heading to New York to transport a Sacramento-based Office of Emergency Services task force and their equipment.

7 p.m. — A C-9 based out of Scott AFB, Ill., departs from Travis to the East Coast with three critical care air transport teams from the David Grant Medical Center.

8 p.m. — A Travis C-5 deploys to pick up portable hospital equipment from Texas to transport to the East Coast.

September 2001

► A Travis C-5 departs to pick up urban search and rescue personnel, vehicles and equipment in Colorado destined to assist relief efforts in New York.

► Travis launches a C-141 aircraft carrying computer equipment to Maryland to assist with ongoing humanitarian relief efforts.

► The base's main gate is closed for approximately 1½ hours when a military bomb dog alerts on a truck delivering frozen food to the base commissary. The main gate reopens after close inspection of the vehicle determines that the alert was a false alarm.

► Thirty-four Air Force reservists from the 349th Air Mobility Wing depart on a Travis KC-10 bound for Dover AFB, Del. Thirty-two of the reservists are security affairs specialists who have volunteered to assist in identifying and processing remains in the wake of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

► Travis launches two aircraft with 63 SAR team members and more than 48,000 pounds of equipment. The team was transported to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., in support of the search and rescue efforts in New York.

October 2001

► In the month following Sept. 11, the 60th Supply Squadron issued more than four times the number of mobility bags and weapons that had typically been issued to deployees in previous military operations over the past decade. The 60th Services Squadron issued more than 500 cases of bottled water and Meals Ready to Eat.

► Medical personnel from Travis responded to the first casualty of the war, Master Sgt. Evander Anderson, who was killed in a forklift accident at their deployed location Oct. 10.

—TIMELINE continued on next page

RIGHT — Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Air Force F-16s have become a regular sight in Travis' air space. The fighters have sustained alert and random combat air patrol operations in support of Operation Noble Eagle. In the days following the terrorist attacks — when U.S. airspace was closed to civilian air travel to prevent additional air attacks — 9th ARS KC-10s launched seven times to pass 350,000 pounds of fuel to fighters flying combat air patrols over several major U.S. cities



A Sacramento Search and Recovery team departs Travis Sept. 11 on its way to support the rescue effort in New York City. Travis had 32 equipment tons of cargo and 278 search and rescue members in the air and headed for the East Coast within 10 hours.

One year later ...

Travis support integral to U.S. operations at home and abroad

By 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo
60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

As people worldwide take time next week to pay homage toward the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, one can look around here at Travis for a reminder that America's war against terrorism is far from over. The flightline is active as most of the assigned C-5 Galaxy and KC-10 Extenders aircraft constantly deploy worldwide. American flags line our streets and are still hanging in many windows throughout base housing.

The finance customer service lines are kept busy as Team Travis members file their travel vouchers for numerous TDYs. The signs are quite visible even though the headlines in newspapers and across the television news are less frequent — America is still at war.

The current conflict in Afghanistan marks the first time

in history where everything that has moved into or out of the theater of operations has done so by air. Base leaders emphasize that the men and women at Travis are the unsung heroes that are moving the mission to get mobility where and when it is needed all over the globe. Thus, many acknowledge that the fight is far from over as Travis members, ranging from active duty to civilian contractors to family members, grapple with how life has changed since Sept. 11.

More community involvement increases security

Perhaps the most visible effects of Sept. 11 are increased security measures to protect base personnel and resources. Since Sept. 11, Travis has transitioned through several force protection states ranging from Delta to Alpha, our current level. "Counterintelligence support and force protection are top pri-

orities for Air Force Office of Special Investigations," said Special Agent Lloyd Clark, chief, investigative operations of AFOSI Detachment 303 here. "Protecting the Air Force is our number one mission. With that comes a higher operations tempo, but at the same time we have to balance our peacetime mission. Crime does not stop even though we are busy. We have to focus our priorities." Balancing increased security requires a total team effort. Travis OSI has worked significantly with the community and other law enforcement agencies throughout the past year.

"One of the effects of Sept. 11 is that we have seen more community involvement such as 'Eagle Eyes,'" said Clark. "Eagle Eyes is a community-based defensive program combating terrorism. Basically, we brief people to teach them how to report suspicious activity."

Clark says the program is like a high-octane neighborhood watch program. Travis members

can report suspicious activity by calling 424-3293.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Travis OSI agents and the 60th Security Forces Squadron have responded to several potential threat situations and worked directly with other local and federal agencies, such as the FBI, to evaluate the credibility of each threat.

Additionally, 60th SFS members have provided security support away from base. Ten members provided "first-in" support for Operation Iron Clad by supporting security and transportation for 158 Taliban and Al Qaeda prisoners from Kandahar to Cuba, without incident or injury.

Security has also taken on new facets, such as homeland defense and biological or chemical weapons detection.

The 60th Support Squadron provided the critical beddown of the F-16 Homeland Defense Team with amazing speed and efficiency. Contractors and airman built the fighter detach-

TravisStats

Tanker Support

During the past year (since Sept. 11, 2001), Travis KC-10s have delivered more than 25,000 gallons of fuel in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Since 9-11, Travis tankers have off-loaded more fuel than during seven years of Operation Southern Watch.



Illustrative graphic by Staff Sgt. Mark Diamond / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Carrying the Load

Travis aircrews have contributed to humanitarian missions that have delivered about 2.5 million humanitarian daily rations to the people of Afghanistan.



Flying double-time

Flying hours have almost double at Travis since Sept. 11. Last fiscal year, Travis C-5s flew about 21,000 hours and the base's KC-10s flew 19,000. This year, those numbers reached 36,000 and 35,000 respectively.

ment's data and voice communication systems within 72 hours. For the first time, KC-10s flew combat-support air refueling missions over our largest West Coast cities for Operation Noble Eagle — a mission KC-10 aircrews are familiar with, but never so close to home.

In April 2002, the 60th Medical Group led Air Mobility Command's first-ever foray into biological agent detection in support of homeland defense initiatives. This resulted in David Grant Medical Center being the only tri-service military facility on the West Coast and one of only eight Level-B laboratories in the state

of California with this capability. Additionally, Travis is the only base within AMC and second in the Air Force to have accomplished this feat. "We've seen a great partnership with our local law enforcement agencies," Clark said. "It's been positive to get combined reporting and sharing of information amongst local, state and federal agencies. It's a great improvement."

Travis also hosts AMC's largest and busiest airfield, supported over 175,000 aircraft operations in the crowded Northern California airspace. Travis earning top honors as AMC Airfield Operations Flight Complex

of the Year for 2001. "We saw the first shipment of bombs go over," Hale said. "They were Mark-84s, which are big 2000-pound bombs. There were 37 pallet positions on the C-5 with 2 bombs per pallet. So imagine a C-5 loaded down with bombs — it's pretty amazing. You felt like you were really part of something big."

Changing jobs was just one major alteration Hale had to go through as Operation Enduring Freedom kicked off. He was also facing the prospect of becoming a new father.

"My wife was pregnant at the time," Hale said. "On Sept. 11, I was extremely proud and extremely scared. You knew that the United States had been attacked and you knew that Air Force would be in a position to do something about it. The idea of raising a child in that environment was frightening."

Hale saw his first-born baby born in March. One month later, he deployed for a two-month stint to a remote, forward operating location.

"We had a lot of help from our extended family, Hale said. "It made it a little easier to know everything was taken care of at home but it was difficult. My son started smiling while I was gone and I missed him turning from a newborn into a little person."

The deployment was difficult

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► In addition to receiving much of the airflow coming into bases closest to Afghanistan, members of the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group assisted with the aeromedical evacuation of a seriously injured Army soldier Oct. 10.

► In support of one forward operating location alone, Travis C-5s helped deliver more than 8 million tons of cargo and 2,500 passengers during September and October 2001.

► On Oct. 31, the first of three Travis C-5s transporting half a million humanitarian daily rations departs the base. More than 687 tons of HDR's — 500,000 individually packaged meals — left Travis in support of humanitarian relief efforts in Afghanistan.

November 2001

An Air Force C-5 from Dover AFB, Del., departs here carrying more than 12,000 blankets from local defense depots to assist the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts for the Afghan people. The aircraft is destined for Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where the cargo will be transferred to Air Force C-17s to be transported to Afghanistan.

December 2001

A KC-10 crew and two aeromedical evacuation specialists from the 349th Air Mobility Wing helped locate and rescue the crew of a B-1 that crashed in the Indian Ocean Dec. 12.

July 2002

Travis C-5s flew down range into the rugged territory of Afghanistan to extract Canadian forces and equipment from the international airport at Kandahar. This was the first time C-5s had been used in the combat environment of the Afghan theater of operations. During this deployment, Travis C-5s achieved a 100 percent on-time departure rate. The Tanker Airlift Control Element from the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group was a key team of mobility specialists on the ground at the Kandahar International Airport preparing for the C-5's first missions into the country in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

More Travis Stats

► During the past year, the 9th Air Refueling Squadron has accomplished 2,374 Operation Enduring Freedom sorties, off-loading 22 million pounds of fuel and fulfilling 109 percent of air tasking order requirements. The 9th ARS also delivered more than 64,000 pounds of critical cargo and passengers last year.

► The 715th Air Mobility Squadron deployed more than 70 percent of its unit within 12 hours of notification to fight the war against terrorism. They moved more than 60 million pounds of cargo and 5,314 troops with a 99 percent mission reliability rate. They sent people and equipment to 10 different austere locations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

► The 60th Security Forces Squadron provided "first-in" support for Operation Iron Clad. The 10-member team helped transport more than 158 Taliban and al Qaeda prisoners to Guantanamo, Cuba.

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for Hale as he struggled to balance his career and first-time fatherhood. At one point, one out of every four Travis members was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"My wife sent me a book called 'The Joys of Fatherhood,'" Hale said. "It was hard to read the two chapters that covered the months while I was gone. I missed his first smile. When I finally got to him smile for the first time ... I can't think of words to describe how I felt."

He cherishes the time he can now spend with his son.

"You learn to appreciate the little things," Hale said. "I don't mind changing his diaper or when he cries at night because at least I am there. There are still a lot of people who can't be there to do that. I'm really thankful. I am really proud to be serving the Air Force with or without Sept. 11 because I feel like I am making a difference."

KC-10 couple balance marriage with deployments

Most newlyweds kick off their first year of marriage by spending as much time with each other as possible, lost in the bliss of love. That wasn't a privilege that 1st Lt. Connie Holen and 1st Lt. Wade Holen could enjoy. Both are KC-10 pilots here and the newlyweds hit the ground running as soon as they reported into their respective squadrons.

"We had just gotten to Travis and had not even inprocessed yet," Connie said. "I saw everything unfold from the billeting room. Once I got to my operational unit, everyone had a sense of urgency. People were really moving."

The operations tempo increased significantly after Sept. 11, and continues to stay at a high rate. Flying hours have almost doubled due to the war against terrorism. Last fiscal year, Travis C-5s flew about 21,000 hours and Travis KC-10s flew 19,000.

This fiscal year, Travis C-5s will fly more than 36,000 and our KC-10s will fly about 35,000. In fact, 75 percent of the Travis KC-10 fleet operates from foreign soil.

"Since this is my first operational assignment, it was my first opportunity to be involved with what I have been training to do for a long time," Wade said. "It's good to see the other side of it by actually doing real missions."

The couple dated and got

married while at pilot training at Columbus AFB. They had only been married about six months when the terrorist attacks happened. They quickly discovered that taking care of normal taskings, such as paying bills, required time management and planning because their jobs kept them so busy.

"It was so different from the training environment, which we had just come from," Connie said. "It took a little getting used to being in a mobility role. I didn't have a lot of time to take care of things like moving into a house and paying rent."

"Before Sept. 11, most KC-10 pilots deployed about once a year for about 45 day and everyone fought or get hours and upgrade as possible," Connie said. "Since Sept. 11, you don't have to fight for trips because there are so many. The ops tempo has been good for a young lieutenant because we can upgrade right away. Down the road it will help for airmanship and experience."

"When we got out here, we didn't get deployed right away because we were still in training," Wade said. "But as soon as we were done we started leaving on trips and we spent a lot of time apart because we deployed separately."

The couple deployed to a remote location as part of the 9th Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron, which consisted of members from the 6th, 9th, 70th and 79th Air Refueling Squadrons. They kept in contact via telephone and e-mail.

"We would like to see each other more and it took some getting used to. Being newly married ... that was tough," Connie said.

However, the couple looks forward to their next deployment because they finally get to go together to the same location. They are going to a forward operating location for 45 days in the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

"Certain countries have different rules about having spouses together at the same military bases," Connie said. "If we deploy together then we can be home together, that what is important to us."

They are thankful for the time they can spend together, especially since so many people lost loved ones on Sept. 11.

"The biggest stories for me were about people losing a spouse or fiancé," Connie said. "The impression of those stories I will remember for the rest of my life. I worry about Wade.

Most 24-year-olds don't worry about losing their spouse but we do now because of Sept. 11.

When I think about those people who are the spouses left behind it makes me thankful ... at least we have each other even though we can't always be together."

During the past year, the 9th EARS successfully accomplished 2,374 Operation Enduring Freedom sorties, off-loading 22 million pounds of fuel and fulfilling 109 percent of air tasking order requirements.

Travis KC-10s launched and refueled the first combat aircraft to strike Taliban forces in Afghanistan. They refueled B-1, B-2 and B-52 aircraft and they also refueled C-17 aircraft on their inaugural combat air-land missions that delivered 101st Airborne troops into Kandahar. The 9th EARS completed these combat and combat-support missions with a 99.9 percent mission success rate.

Total force picture

These stories provide a brief glimpse into the total force picture that encompasses the hard work and dedication the men and women of Travis have devoted towards our nation's war against terrorism worldwide. Yet Air Force leaders feel the war against terrorism is far from over.

"As I look to the future I don't think anything is going to change," said Gen. John W. Handy, Commander in Chief, U.S. Transportation Command, and Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. during a visit to Travis in August. "We have hit a 'steady surge state.' We will see some peaks over time. For the most part, this 'marathon' that we are in is going to last as far as I can see into the future. We as leaders, commanders, directors, superintendents and supervisors have to look at — even though we are in a 'marathon' — how do we find ways to rest our people, look at work schedules, mitigate the challenges, and help families. We have to look at how do we pull together as a team to make sure we are not overstressing any one piece of the team or any one person. We are going to be tasked in a war on terrorism for a long time to come and we are learning as we go."

There are 1,070 Travis members currently deployed from the base.

Seatbelts are hugs from your car!

2x5

2x6