

"Little did I know 3,000 days later this routine would be the normal mode of operations," he said.

Typically, deployments are a little more than 120 days, Anderson said, meaning that there have been more than a million "airmen days" of deployment since the first.

Dyess' C-130s have been key in providing combat and humanitarian aid in overseas operations, most recently in Operation New Dawn since the withdrawal of combat troops from Iraq, said Master Sgt. Matt Rossi, 39th Airlift Squadron loadmaster superintendent.

"But when we're not doing that, we answer the nation's call with humanitarian aid, whether it's in South America, Japan, Africa or wherever it's needed," Rossi said.

Anderson said that the airdrop and medical evacuation are essential pieces of what the 317th's planes are regularly called to do.

"The airlift piece is probably something you could equate to the air-land mission of FedEx or UPS," he said. "We are delivering goods, but with us, we're delivering what the military needs. So it's not only beans, bullets and water but people, as well, to different locations. And a lot of the time, we do that in harm's way, so that's where we're different."

The airdrop portion of the C-130 mission is primarily dropping "air packages, supplies, sometimes even special reconnaissance teams" to forward-operating bases, such as those in the mountains of Afghanistan.

The medical evacuation component is "the saving lives piece" of the mission, Anderson said.

"You can think of us as a hospital in the sky," he said.

Wounded soldiers, "even wounded Iraqis," are served by that part of the mission, he said, while other humanitarian missions, such as providing aid to those affected by flooding in Pakistan, are another vital component.

Time away from home can be tough, said Rossi, who once spent a year deployed in Afghanistan as an air adviser.

Being away from home for a year, and working with individuals of an at-times profoundly different culture, proved challenging but rewarding, he said.

"You're not only building an air force but a good relationship between the Americans and the Afghans, and not just the soldiers but the civilians," he said.

When squadron members come home, their work doesn't end, Rossi said.

"We have to maintain proficiency in the aircraft," he said. "We're constantly training, and we train like we fight."

Such training can include low-level flying, tactical approaches and landings, Rossi said, with a goal of becoming proficient in such before being in a deployed environment, especially if facing combat.

For Anderson, training also is time to prepare for "a multitude of different types of contingencies."

"We have to be forward-looking at what could happen and make sure our military is ready," he said. "If we fight in other theaters, like we're down in South America or we're in a different theater, it's a very different scenario."

Looking back on the accomplishment of 3,000 deployment days Tuesday, Bridwell said he was exceptionally proud of all the Dyess personnel "who serve our country so well."

"I especially want to thank the families for their daily contributions to our nation's hard-earned security," he said.

Anderson said that the support of the community is essential in achieving the milestone.

"Living in Abilene, folks here understand what we go through and support us, and they do that in a million different venues," he said.

Rossi said that the accomplishment was important not only to highlight what troops had done but also to "highlight the support that we've received."

"People on the base would be lying if they say they don't get a warm spot in their heart when someone out in the public thanks them for their service," he said.

A seven-aircraft launch is among activities scheduled today, a day of storytelling and remembrances, Anderson said.

"When you're running so hard, a lot of the time you don't remember how far you've gone," he said of the need to stop and reflect.

And then? Back to work.

"We know this is not stopping," Anderson said of the 317th's future. "And we know we are ready and will be ready to answer the nation's call."

HONORING DR. BERNARD SIEGEL
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to stand today to join the many family, friends, colleagues and community members who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Dr. Bernard Siegel, as he is honored by the Connecticut Children's Center of Hamden. Bernie, an Oncologist who earned national and international acclaim for his focus on the correlation between a patient's emotional state and the healing process, has not only brought a powerful voice to patient empowerment, but has also devoted much of his time to supporting local organizations like the Children's Center of Hamden. His work has touched countless lives around the world and I am honored to have this opportunity to join our community in recognizing his remarkable career and invaluable contributions.

Bernie has dedicated a lifetime to teaching those facing the most difficult of life's challenges about the healing power they hold within themselves. Well before its time, Bernie recognized that the better a patient was able to cope with the emotional complexities of health issues, the more improved their overall health outcome was—the mind-body connection. Upon this simple, yet innovative idea, Bernie has built a distinguished career. He is the founder of ECaP, an individual and group therapy program for recovering cancer patients, the author of twelve books which have been invaluable resources to patients and loved ones alike, and retired from Yale-New Haven Hospital as the Assistant Clinical Professor of General and Pediatric Surgery.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Bernie for his many years of special friendship and counsel. During my tenure in Congress, I have focused much of my attention on health issues and I have often sought Bernie's expertise and guidance. He has always made himself available, proving to be a wealth of knowledge on even the most complex of matters. I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to call him my friend.

Physician, author, advocate, mentor, community leader, and friend, Dr. Bernard Siegel has changed the face of how we view the re-

lationship between the patient and the healing process. His compassion and generosity has also gone a long way in helping those most in need in our community. For his many invaluable contributions, I am proud to rise today to join the Children's Center of Hamden and all of those who have gathered in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to Bernie Siegel as well as my very best wishes to him, his wife, Bobbie, and their five children and eight grandchildren for many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
MILITARY SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL MICHELLE
GREENE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Michelle Greene, an exceptional Army officer and true patriot, in honor of her upcoming retirement. For over twenty years, Lieutenant Colonel Greene has worn her nation's colors with grace and honor. Her career-long steadfast commitment to the defense of liberty is a testament to her inherent courage and selflessness.

Lieutenant Colonel Greene began her distinguished career in the Army at Fort Stewart in Georgia, where she served as the C Company Ambulance Platoon leader and Battalion S-1/Adjutant in the 24th Forward Support Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, and then as the Patient Administration Officer at Winn Army Community Hospital. From there, she went on to work at Walter Reed Medical Center as the A Company Commander of the Medical Center Brigade, before going to work within the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, first in the Office of Clinical Operations, and then as Secretary to the General Staff.

After earning a Master's of Science in Health Evaluation Sciences from the University of Virginia in 2001 through the Army's Long Term Health Education and Training program, Lieutenant Colonel Greene moved to Hawaii, where she served in the Patient Administration Division at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu.

Lieutenant Colonel Greene's most recent assignments have been in Washington, DC. In 2004, she became the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Surgeon General. After two years in this capacity, she went to work as a Legislative Liaison in the Army Budget Congressional Liaison Office. It was here that then-Major Greene began working with my boss and predecessor, the late-Congressman John P. Murtha—and she soon became a capable and trusted liaison between the Chairman and the Army. Most recently, she has served as Chief of Congressional Affairs for the Office of the Army Surgeon General.

Lieutenant Colonel Greene moves on to the next chapter of her life bolstered by the abiding love and support of her husband, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Craig Greene, her two sons, Jackson and Austen, and her parents, Ken and Linda Snow.

Mr. Speaker, the strength of Lieutenant Colonel Greene's character will ensure that she is successful in whatever she chooses to