

From Fighter to Aggressor: 706th Fighter Squadron redesignated as the 706th Aggressor Squadron

by Tech. Sgt. Lucretia Cunningham

Nellis AFB, Nev.

The 926th Wing's 706th Fighter Squadron was redesignated as the 706th Aggressor Squadron during a ceremony on May 5, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The redesignation went into effect May 14.

As Nellis' third aggressor squadron, the 706th's mission focuses on continuing to know, teach, and replicate fourth-generation aggressor

air adversaries. The shift in mission set allows the 64th and 65th AGRS to pursue the next generation of air defense and Nellis' endeavor towards becoming the 5th Generation Center of Excellence.

Lt. Col. Owen Birckett, 706th AGRS commander, retired the 706th FS flag for a new 706th AGRS guidon. During the event, the squadron commander recognized the redesignation as another milestone in the reserve unit's integration with the 57th and 53rd

Wings in support of U.S. Warfare Center operations at Nellis.

The first part of this integration happened more than a year ago when 706th FS Cyberspace Operations officers and Cyber Warfare Operations Airmen shifted to offensive cyber ops with the 57th Information Aggressor Squadron.

"These are cyber professionals who are testing and exploiting the vulnerabilities of our mission systems, whether it's software or hardware, to



Air Force photograph by Tech. Sgt. Lucretia Cunningham

An F-16 aggressor with a 926th OG tail, serves as the backdrop for the 926th Wing redesignation ceremony for the 706th Fighter Squadron to become the 706th Aggressor Squadron, May 5, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.



Air Force photograph by Tech. Sgt. Lucretia Cunningham
Lt. Col. Owen "Tatu" Birckett, 706th Aggressor Squadron commander, replaces the guidon flag during the 926th Wing redesignation ceremony for the 706th Fighter Squadron to become the 706th Aggressor Squadron May 5, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

train for the next fight," Birckett said. "The flying portion of the 706th AGRS is just the second part of that integration plan."

The 706th AGRS is one of four aggressor squadrons in the U.S. Air Force to own fighter aircraft. By the end of this year, they'll receive their fleet of F-16 Block 30s to accomplish their dedicated mission.

"We will continue to challenge our future weapons officers and the Combat Air Forces with the highest fidelity air combat training available by providing the most capable and experienced Airmen we can to Aggressor Nation," said

See **FIGHTER**, on Page 8

101 Critical Days of Summer: Defending the human weapon system

by Lisa Gonzales
Kirtland AFB, N.M.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer began on Memorial Day weekend and continues through Labor Day weekend.

During this timeframe Airmen, and Guardians tend to participate more in outdoor activities, take time to travel, barbecue with friends and explore new things over a season that has historically come with a higher risk of danger.

This year the Air Force Safety Center is reinvigorating the 101 Critical Days of Summer with off-duty risk management materials created to educate Airmen and Guardians on the risks associated with summer activities. This year's theme will be "See Something, Do Something ... Live to be Lethal". The use of risk management isn't only for on-duty, but belongs in our daily lives to be used to defend the Human Weapon System, you, from unnecessary threats that could result in injury or even death.

Reaching the goal of zero mishaps and fatalities begins with every Airman and Guardian. Over the past ten summers, 2013-2022, beginning the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day there have been 134 unnecessary fatalities off duty. The top three riskiest activities were four-wheeled motor vehicles (47), followed by motorcycles (41), and water-related activities & sports (19). One Airman or Guardian lost to a preventable mishap is one too many.

Additionally, there is a new trend showing a growing number of e-bike and e-scooter mishaps. E-scooters and e-bikes provide a convenient and easy way of getting around in a crowded city, they are compact, lightweight, and environmentally friendly, but they can also be dangerous if not used with the proper training and the right personal protective equipment. Just like any motorized vehicle you should always follow the manufacturer's safety guidelines when it comes to use and PPE.

See Something Do Something...Live to be Lethal



Summer is a time to enjoy the warm summer days with family and friends, not spend time in the emergency room or worse, mourning the loss of a loved one, friend or co-worker. It is a time to be committed toward reducing the chance of disaster simply by speaking up before it happens.

According to the National Safety Council, an average of 17,503 people died every summer between 2016 and 2020 on roadways across the United States. Don't be one of those statistics, prepare for your trip by getting your vehicle checked out, plan ahead to combat inclement weather and fatigue, and ensure that an emergency kit is included with your bags stocked with vehicle supplies, extra water,

food, batteries, and a phone charger.

Motorcycle riders should be 100 percent trained, prepared, and equipped with the required skills and proactive mindset, to ride safely. In the first four months of fiscal year 2023 alone, the Department of the Air Force experienced seven motorcycle fatalities. The leading cause of those fatalities pointed to the lack of risk management, speeding and alcohol.

"Enjoy your summer, but do it responsibly" said William Walkowiak, chief of Occupational Safety for the DAF. "I challenge each of you to make a risk assessment before participating in summer activities to prevent or mitigate injuries or deaths."

The World Health Organizations

facts on their website that drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide, accounting for seven percent of all injury-related deaths.

Water activities like boating, fishing, and swimming can cool you off, but one wrong decision could cost you or someone you know anything from injury to death. Remember to always use a life jacket around the water, don't drink and boat or swim, always keep an eye on small children and make sure they have life jackets on.

The summer days can become extremely hot, heat cramps, stroke or exhaustion can happen quickly. Be prepared if you spot someone in trouble. Get them out of the sun, cool them down by applying water, cool air, wet sheets or ice on the neck, groin, or armpits. Seek medical attention immediately.

Stay hydrated this summer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that an average adult loses about two and a half quarts of water each day. Water helps your body lubricate and cushion joints, protects your spinal cord and other sensitive tissues, and gets rid of wastes through urination, perspiration, and bowel movements. Drinking approximately eight to twelve glasses of water throughout the day will help the body stay hydrated. If you plan to be outside in the sun, consider drinking more. Dehydration can happen before you know it, if out in the sun know the signs, headaches, nausea, dry skin, muscle, or joint soreness are just a few.

It is imperative, that Airmen and Guardians implement proper off-duty risk management in every activity they engage in during the 101 CDS and beyond.

Go to the Air Force Safety Center's summer webpage for more tips at <https://www.safety.af.mil/Divisions/Occupational-Safety-Division/Summer-Safety/>.



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53rd Wing tests Angry Kitten Pod on MQ-9, completes full integrated combat turn in record time

By 1st Lt. Lindsey Heflin

Creech AFB, Nev.

The 556th Test and Evaluation Squadron completed the first round of MQ-9A Reaper ground and flight testing with the Angry Kitten ALQ-167 Electronic Countermeasures Pod at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., April 10-28, 2023.

The pod provides the MQ-9 elevated Electronic Attack (EA) capability against relevant ground and airborne threats. This capability enhances survivability for the Reaper and other friendly forces, and complicates adversary planning efforts. The test focused on proving the concept of conducting EA from the MQ-9 to provide operational planners new force application options when confronting Pacing Challenge threats.

“The goal is to expand the mission sets the MQ-9 can accomplish,” said Maj. Aaron Aguilar, 556th TES assistant director of operations. “The proliferation and persistence of MQ-9s in theater allows us to fill traditional platform capability gaps that may be present. Our goal is to augment assets that already fill this role so they can focus and prioritize efforts in areas they are best suited for.”

The Angry Kitten Pod represents the beginning of what the 556th TES hopes



Air Force photograph by Robert Brooks

The 556th Test and Evaluation Squadron completed the first round of MQ-9A Reaper ground and flight testing with the Angry Kitten ALQ-167 Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) Pod at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., April 10-28, 2023.



Air Force photograph by Robert Brooks

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to achieve with the MQ-9 in the EA sphere. Through participation in future Large Force Exercises (LFEs) such as Red Flag 23-3 and integrating with the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, the squadron aims to further develop Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) against complex target sets.

“Electronic Attack on the MQ-9 is a compelling capability,” said Lt. Col. Michael Chmielewski, 556th TES commander. “15 hours of persistent noise integrated with a large force package will affect an adversary, require them to take some form of scalable action to honor it, and gets at the heart of strategic deterrence.”

Earlier in April, the 556th TES also executed a Cold Integrated Combat Turn on an MQ-9 aircraft, which included simultaneous refueling and rearming of four Hellfires.

Overall, the event took less than 25 minutes, a record that crushes the standard three-hour typical turn time for the MQ-9 and only added four minutes to the previously demonstrated rapid refuel procedures that did not include weapon reloading.

“The Cold Integrated Combat Turn furthers our validation efforts on the MQ-9 agile combat employment model and further maximizes the MQ-9’s relevancy across the continuum of strategic competition and the phases of combat operations in all theaters that require agile operations,” said Chmielewski.

Following the successes in April, the 556th TES is slated to work on multiple tests during Northern Edge 2023, a joint field training exercise at various locations in and around Alaska, beginning May 4, 2023.



Maj. Gen. Michael Koscheski, left, 15th Air Force commander, accepts the 800th Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineer RED HORSE Group (RHG) guidon from Col. Matthew Welling, the outgoing RHG commander, during a change of command ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 16, 2023. The 800th RHG provides the Air Force with a highly mobile civil engineering response force to support contingency and special operations worldwide.



Maj. Gen. Michael Koscheski, left, 15th Air Force commander, passes the 800th Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineer Group (RED HORSE) Group (RHG) guidon to Col. Andrew Cullen, during a change of command ceremony on Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 16, 2023.

800th RED HORSE Group Change of Command



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Jordan McCoy

Nellis Airmen attend the 800th Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) Group change of command at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 16, 2023. As a group, the 800th RED HORSE Group will continue to provide multi-capable Airmen in garrison and deployed environments.

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AF Battle Lab supports cross-service airspace/fires management field experiment

The 805th Combat Training Squadron, also known as the Shadow Operations Center — Nellis, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., hosted Field Experiment 1, or FX-1, to increase efficiency in airspace management and joint fires integrations between U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force Tactical Command and Control, or TAC C2, units through automation of information flow between multiple disparate systems.

Using the Airspace Total Awareness for Rapid Tactical Execution, or ASTARTE, software, air and surface fires were tasked and deconflicted faster, directly leading to increased effectiveness within the joint operations area. The Army Joint Air Ground Integration Cell and Control Reporting Center personnel served as the TAC C2 agencies sharing control of airspace that consisted of Nevada Test and Training Range, or NTTR, China Lake, and Utah Test and Training Range.

The Field Experiment 1 included currently fielded C2 systems within the Air Force and Army inventory: Battlespace Command and Control Center, or BC3, Air and Missile Defense Workstation, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Dis-



Air Force photograph

The 805th Combat Training Squadron, also known as the Shadow Operations Center — Nellis, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., hosted Field Experiment 1, or FX-1, to increase efficiency in airspace management and joint fires integrations between Army and Air Force Tactical Command and Control, or TAC C2, units through automation of information flow between multiple disparate systems on April 19, 2023.

tribution System, Joint All Domain Operations Control System, Theater Battle Management Control System, and Tactical Airspace Integration System. Additionally, the ShOC-N was able to

receive the live NTTR Link-16 feed via a joint range extension and combine it with Modern Air Combat Environment, or MACE, constructive entities to provide ASTARTE and fielded C2 systems with

a live over constructive scenario using the Red Flag 23-2 exercise air picture and MACE-produced land-based division

— See **EXPERIMENT**, on Page 8

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SSamuel and SSeneca retire from the



Maj. Keil Lubber, left, 432nd Security Forces Squadron commander assigned to Creech Air Force Base, Nev., and Tech. Sgt. Albert Middleton, 99th Security Forces Kennel Master, pose for a picture after Lubber presented SSamuel, a now retired 432nd SFS military working dog, with a service award during his retirement at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 12, 2023. SSamuel retired with SSeneca, his sister and fellow MWD from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., on the same day.



Tech. Sgt. Albert Middleton, 99th Security Forces Squadron Kennel Master, switches the Military Working Dog collar for a civilian collar on SSeneca, a retired SFS MWD, during her retirement at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 12, 2023. MWDs are used by the security forces and other agencies to assist with searches for weapons, drugs and bombs, directly contributing to the lethality and readiness of our installations and resources.



Nellis Honor Guard presents the colors during the opening ceremony for the retirement of both SSeneca, a retired 99th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, and SSamuel, a retired 432nd SFS MWD, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 12, 2023. Security Forces Squadrons provide flight line security, police services, antiterrorism and force protection for the base.



their duties as military working dogs



Maj. Andrew York, 99th Security Forces Squadron commander, left, and Staff Sgt. Sirmann Toliver, 99th SFS military working dog handler, pose for a picture after York presented SSeneca, a now retired 99th SFS MWD, with a service award during her retirement at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 12, 2023.



Maj. Andrew York, 99th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) commander, left, and Staff Sgt. Sirmann Toliver, 99th SFS military working dog handler, holds the attention of SSeneca, a retired 99th SFS MWD, during her retirement at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 12, 2023. Security Forces specialists and their MWD counterparts go through extensive training in law enforcement and combat tactics to protect bases.



SSamuel, a retired 432nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog from Creech Air Force Base, Nev., lays down during the final proceedings of his retirement at Nellis AFB, Nev., May 12, 2023. Security Forces specialists and their MWD counterparts go through extensive training in law enforcement and combat tactics to protect bases.



SSeneca, a retired 99th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, licks U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Sirmann Toliver, 99th SFS MWD handler, after her retirement at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 12, 2023. The poem Guardians of the Night was read during the ceremony and serves as an oath for both the dogs and handlers to keep each other safe.

SSeneca, a retired 99th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, chews on a bite sleeve after her retirement and final bite at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., May 12, 2023. MWDs are used by the security forces and other agencies to assist with searches to detect drugs and bombs, directly contributing to lethality and readiness of our installations and resources.

Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Josey Blades

FIGHTER, from Page 1

Col. Sean Rassas, 926th Wing commander.

The 706th Fighter Squadron's flying operations moved from New Orleans Naval Air Station to Nellis Air Force Base in 2007 and is assigned to the 926th Operations Group.

For 16 years, the 706th has been fully integrated into approximately 20 active-duty units at the installation and performs cohesive missions like Aircrew Flight Equipment,

operations support, intelligence and aviation resource management.

They also perform operations test and evaluation and tactics development with the 57th Wing at Nellis and the 53rd Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for aircraft including the F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-22 Raptor and A-10 Thunderbolt II.

"Reservists have planted roots in the Las Vegas community and will continue to support this mission long into the future," said Rassas.

EXPERIMENT, from Page 5

fires elements and red enemy land/air entities.

The ASTARTE prototype is under development by Raytheon Missiles & Defense, managed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA. The ASTARTE system consists of software microservices and algorithmic functions that can ingest an Airspace Control Order, Air Tasking Order, Joint Range Extension Applications Protocol-C, and dynamic airspaces input by a Tactical Air Integration System operator with BC3 airspace integration. ASTARTE's algorithms examine all these data points to project a holistic mission environment. During operations when an airspace conflict is identified, ASTARTE provides recommended means to resolve it based on the commander's priorities. ASTARTE provides courses of action for the operator to take to resolve the conflict. These courses of actions are rank ordered and enable the operator to see the cause of the conflict and potential actions to resolve it.

Planning and coordination for this experiment began with the Army Mission Command Battle Lab, or MCBL, sending personnel to the ShOC-N to coordinate equipment integration and experimentation objectives. Army and Air Force personnel worked together to identify experimentation objectives to demonstrate joint airspace management capabilities and to identify future system integration tasks.

As the experiment got closer, ShOC leadership garnered 728th Battle Management Control Squadron personnel to man the CRC and utilize BC3 and ASTARTE next to each other for compare/contrast/integration purposes.

Critical Air Force development objectives were identified during the event, including increased Air Force air battle management participation in ASTARTE development sprint cycles, improved integration with BC3 to enable Hi-Density Airspace Control Zone, or HIDACZ, and other high-density air domain management operations, and further Link-16 integration to pull fuel, weapons status, and current mission information from the Precise Position Location Information that many air assets are capable of producing.

ShOC-N personnel are already working with DARPA and MCBL teams defining requirements for Field Experiment 2 to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to support further experimentation.

"We are at an exciting point in the life of a DARPA program," said Dr. Mary Schurgot, DARPA ASTARTE program manager. "We have progressed from initial program concept to having prototype software reasoning over live data feeds providing a much-needed capability. Our recent engagement at ShOC-N provided invaluable feedback on system functionality and performance. We're looking forward to continued collaboration with operational partners during future experiments."



Air Force photograph by Tech. Sgt. Lucretia Cunningham

Lt. Col. Owen "Tatu" Birckett, 706th Aggressor Squadron commander, speaks during the 926th Wing redesignation ceremony for the 706th Fighter Squadron to become the 706th Aggressor Squadron May 5, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

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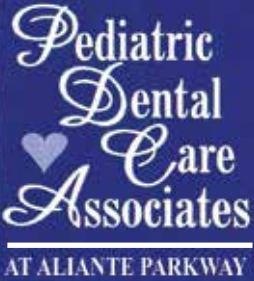
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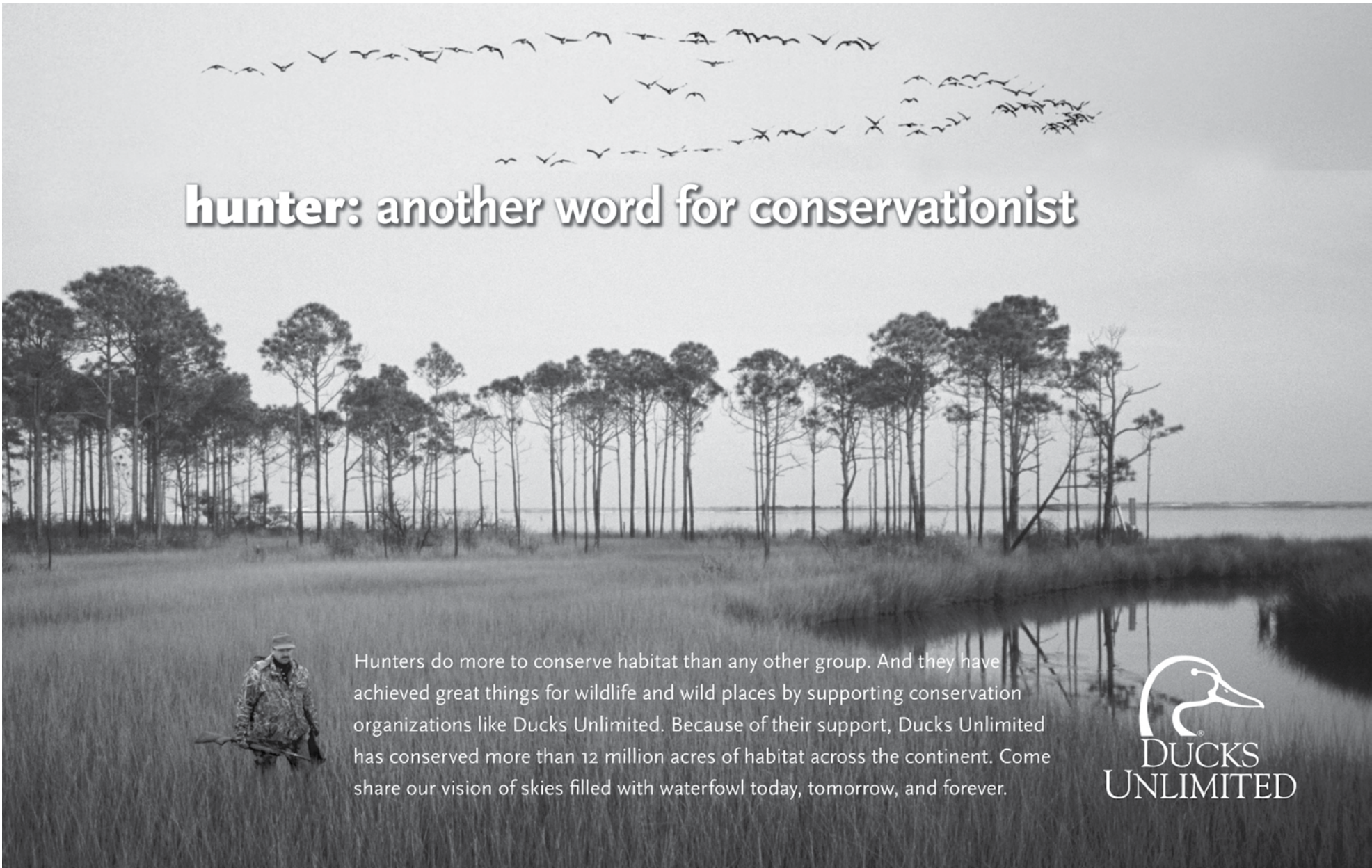
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