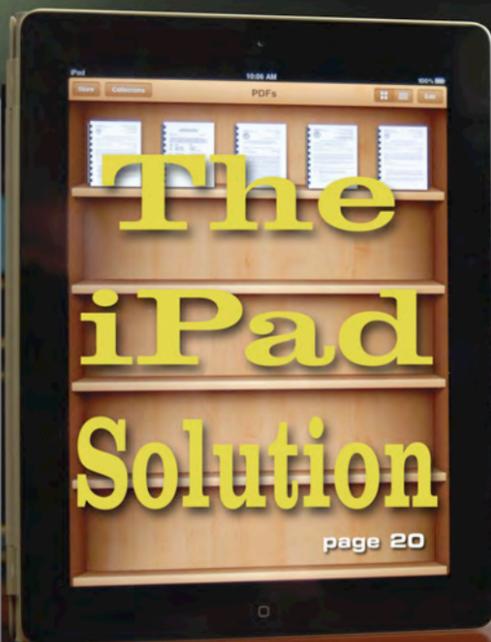
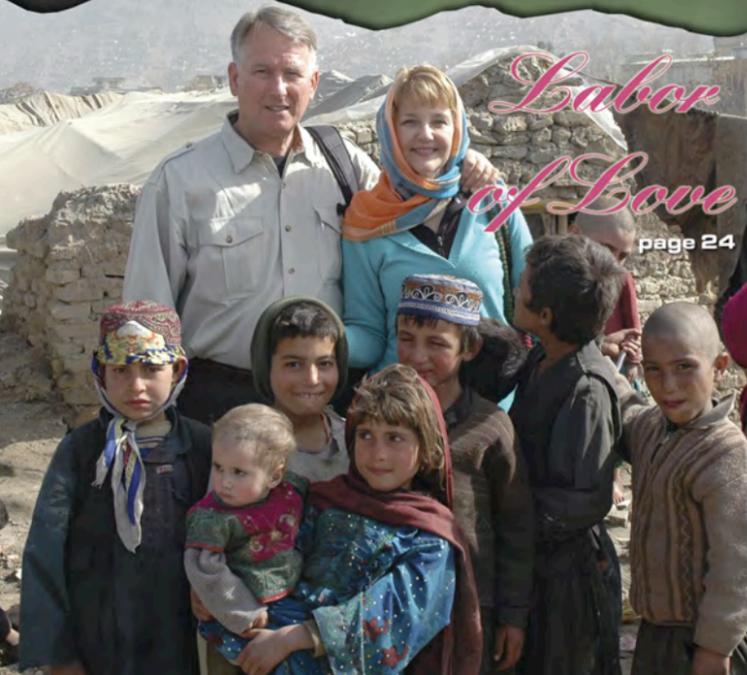




Energy Conservation

Huge savings to be had
when we all pitch in

page 16



From the Top

By Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr.
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command



Chief's View

By Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Badgett
Command Chief Master Sergeant,
Air Force Reserve Command

Numbered air force restructuring will help command meet fiscal challenges

The demand for Citizen Airmen to fulfill broad-spectrum mission requirements on the front line has never been greater. Through your professionalism, hard work and can-do attitude, we have successfully transformed the Air Force Reserve into an operational force that actively supports daily requirements around the world.

We consistently meet operational challenges while ensuring our surge capability is available when needed. As an effective, yet sustainable and affordable, reserve component, this diversity is absolutely essential in an era of unprecedented fiscal constraints.

One of the keys to maintaining our operational capability over the long term, particularly during a time of shrinking budgets, is to reform our organizational structure to achieve greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Accordingly, I announced changes last month to our three numbered air forces and regional support groups that will allow them to focus on their primary roles of command and readiness. I invite you to read more about these changes on Page 14.

Our restructured numbered air forces are the result of an extensive 13-month study and will shift functions not directly related to readiness to the appropriate Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command staffs. Manpower slots that are discontin-

ued at the NAFs will go to other command priorities.

Streamlining the NAF management structure is part of our overall AFR 2012 Full Operational Capability effort. AFR 2012 involves a series of initiatives that are based on lessons learned from nearly 10 years of combat and surge operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. All of these initiatives are designed to make the Reserve a full-component partner and the single manager of readiness, predictability and generation of Reserve capability.

The centerpiece of this program is the new Force Generation Center at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. The FGC serves as the single organization where major commands and combatant commanders access Reserve capability to conduct emerging and steady-state missions. In operation since October 2010, the center will reach full operational capability and 24-hour continuous operations by March 2012.

As we enter a new fiscal year, budgetary constraints will remain a prime consideration throughout the Department of Defense, and innovative approaches will play a vital role in offsetting fiscal challenges. I am confident that the NAF "re-missioning," along with the other initiatives we have undertaken as part of AFR 2012, have us poised to continue moving forward. ★

Shrinking resources require innovative solutions to accomplish the mission

If you have been in the Air Force more than 10 years, you know that it sometimes seems the only constant in our world is change. We have seen a lot of improvements in our Air Force as a whole and within Air Force Reserve Command specifically during this time, and we will experience many more during the next decade.

In recent months, the news media have reported the challenges we face with our national debt and reduced federal budgets and their effect on national security. Our secretary of defense has even called the federal debt a "matter of national security," and, as a nation, we have to address this now. The bottom line is we will see adjustments in the level of funding in the coming years as we balance priorities with available resources. But, make no mistake, national defense is not negotiable.

Our challenge as Airmen is we have to lead the way in finding innovative ways to provide a superior but efficient national defense. You are all leaders in our Air Force and in your communities. We need you to ensure we use all resources available to us to defend this nation and tell our story as a command.

Please do not allow the rumor mill to dictate how our Airmen respond to the challenges that will come. Make sure they have the facts about our mission, the available resources and how we use the national military strategy to protect this

THE BOTTOM LINE IS WE WILL SEE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE LEVEL OF FUNDING IN THE COMING YEARS AS WE BALANCE PRIORITIES WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES. BUT, MAKE NO MISTAKE, NATIONAL DEFENSE IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.

nation as our fellow citizens expect and demand.

Our leaders, both civilian and military, will have to make some very tough decisions in the next few years. Our job is to take the resources provided by our government and accomplish the mission as directed by our leadership.

You are the best Air Force in the world, and as you have always done, you will find innovative solutions to accomplish the mission with the resources provided. Aim high ... fly, fight and win. ★





One of the Air Force's Finest

Tech. Sgt. Ricardo Chavez, a military training instructor with the 433rd Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, is one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. A native of El Paso, Texas, Chavez completed basic training in 2001. He spent approximately the next six years serving on active duty in the security forces career field. In 2007, Chavez left active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve, retraining to become a military training instructor. He currently serves full time on an active Guard and Reserve tour of duty as the 737th Training Support Squadron unit training manager. The unit is the Air Force's largest BMT squadron with more than 150 people. In addition to his military training instructor duties, Chavez is responsible for the overall management of the unit's training program. (Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo)

Airman Citizen AIRMAN

Vol. 63 No. 5

October 2011

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On the front cover: (Top) People and organizations throughout Air Force Reserve Command are involved in projects designed to use energy more efficiently. For highlights of some of these projects, see the story on Page 16. (Bottom left) Since 2007, former Air Force Reserve Command commander retired Lt. Gen. John Bradley and his wife, Jan, have been heavily involved in volunteer efforts to provide humanitarian aid to women and children in Afghanistan. Read about their efforts to help in a story that begins on Page 24. (Bottom right) The staff judge advocate's office at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command is taking advantage of technology to improve its discharge board process. See the story on Page 20.

- Gen. Norton A. Schwartz** *Chief of Staff, United States Air Force*
- Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr.** *Commander, Air Force Reserve Command*
- Lt. Col. Les Pratt** *Director of Public Affairs, Air Force Reserve Command*
- Cliff Tyler** *Managing Editor*
- Bo Joyner** *Associate Editor*
- Staff Sgt. Alexy Saltekoff** *NCO in Charge, Magazine Operations*

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Moving? PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO *CITIZEN AIRMAN*. To continue receiving the magazine, unit Reservists, as well as people serving a statutory tour of duty, should send a change of address to their military personnel flight or unit orderly room. Individual mobilization augmentees should call the Air Reserve Personnel Center toll free at 800-616-3775 or DSN 926-6528/6730.

POSTMASTER: Please send all Forms 3579 to *Citizen Airman*, HQ AFRC/PAP, 255 Richard Ray Blvd. Suite 137, Robins AFB, GA 31098-1661.



Master Sgt. Eric Vesey from the 310th Space Wing, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., makes his way through an obstacle at the Tough Mudder challenge in Avon, Colo. Vesey was among a group of seven members of the 310th Mission Support Group to tackle the challenge to raise money for the Wounded Warrior project. (Tech. Sgt. Nick Ontiveros)



Senior Airman Matthew Ronan, a fuels distribution operator, pumped 5.5 million gallons of JP-8 fuel to coalition aircraft, which not only earned him the title of "Servicing King of the Rotation" but got him inducted into the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Hall of Fame. Ronan, a Reservist with the 512th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, Del., recently returned from his deployment in Southwest Asia. (Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo)



Staff Sgt. Juanita Dahmen from the 94th Security Forces Squadron, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., shows a youngster what it's like to handle weapons used by security forces personnel during the 94th Airlift Wing's Take Your Kids to Work Day. (Don Peek)



A KC-135R Stratotanker assigned to the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., is engulfed by a heavy fog that covered the airfield during a recent unit training assembly. KC-135s provide the core aerial refueling capability for the Air Force and have excelled in this role for more than 50 years. There are 16 of the aircraft assigned to the 434th ARW, making it the largest KC-135 unit in Air Force Reserve Command. (Tech. Sgt. Mark R. W. Orders-Woempner)



Retired mixed martial artist and former Ultimate Fighting Championship light heavyweight champion Chuck Liddell (right) poses with Staff Sgt. Brad Enoch, 931st Security Forces Squadron, McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. Liddell visited the McConnell bowling alley to help promote the Air Force Reserve recruiting program Get One, Refer A Friend Tour.

Round the Reserve

A brief look at what's happening throughout Air Force Reserve Command

Service Center Expands Hours for Civilians

The Total Force Service Center-San Antonio expanded its hours of operation for Air Force civilians requiring personnel assistance. The center is now servicing civilians 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help them resolve personnel issues.

The TFSC was able to expand its support for civilians by providing service delivery representatives with additional training so they are equipped to process civilian personnel transactions.

"Our contracted service delivery representatives worked with the TFSC training cell to provide civilian personnel

training to our swing shift SDRs so they could work civilian issues such as employment, health insurance, life insurance and the Thrift Savings Plan," said Buddy Young, TFSC manager.

Col. James Davis, TFSC director, said expanding the center's capabilities to better assist civilians is consistent with how the Air Force is transforming personnel services for all total force Airmen.

"The TFSC and Air Force Personnel Services website now delivers a global 24 hours a day, seven days a week personnel service capability to active-duty Airmen and civilians and provides integrated, standardized platforms that are easy to access and use from military and commercial domains," Davis said.

Michelle LoweSolis, the Air Force Personnel Center's civilian force integration director, said expanding the TFSC's support hours ensures civilians get timely personnel assistance from stateside bases as well as from overseas and deployed locations.

"Providing around-the-clock personnel assistance to our civilian work force helps ensure we give first-class personnel support for all members of our total force community," LoweSolis said.

While 24-hour service is available to civilians with questions regarding health insurance, life insurance and the Thrift Savings Plan, retirement counselors are only available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST.

ARPC moves into command's first large-scale 'green' facility

By Candice Allen

The Air Reserve Personnel Center's new facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., is Air Force Reserve Command's first large-scale "green" facility.

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., AFRC commander, officiated over a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new facility July 19. The personnel center staff moved east about 10 miles from a 1950s-era building to begin operations in the 80,000-square-foot, \$17 million facility Aug. 1.

ARPC provides administrative support to more than 980,000 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel. It tracks military careers from initial service entry to retirement. The center maintains records on assignments, promotions and separations.

"AFRC wanted to construct a model facility that was energy efficient to lower facility operating costs and to demonstrate our commitment to the environment," said Timothy Greene, who managed the building construction with the Army Corps of Engineers.

"AFRC's goal is to improve current and future infrastructure with high-efficient and sustainable design principles," said Scott Hastings, special projects engineer at the command headquarters at Robins AFB, Ga. "By integrating energy-related, sustainable design features into new projects, AFRC will maximize the energy performance of each building."

ARPC's green building is energy-efficient and made with sustainable material. The building has a sloped roof, which is created from reflective materials designed to reduce the heat island effect. The Energy Management Control System, inside the building, is designed to minimize energy costs and increase the system's reliability and maintainability. The open



QUINN JACOBSON

The Air Reserve Personnel Center's new facility is energy-efficient and made with sustainable material.

office areas have access to natural daylight, reducing the need for traditional light fixtures.

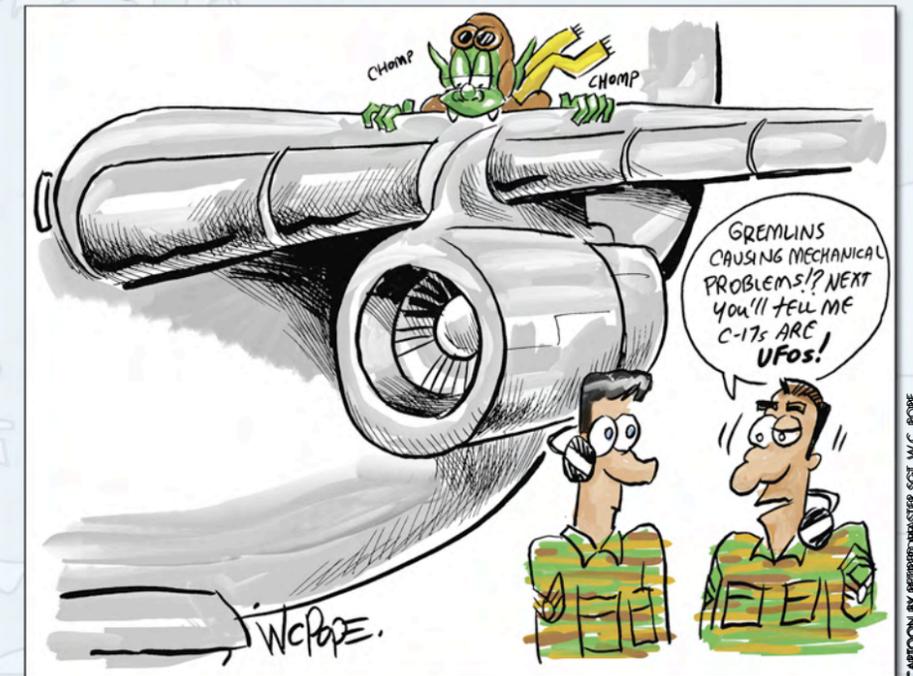
The facility's arid, high-desert landscape will increase water efficiency because it does not need a permanent irrigation system.

"In recent years, we have more than 50 facilities either constructed, under construction or in design that follow industry standards related to green features," Greene said.

All of AFRC's future building projects and major renovations will incorporate green, sustainable and energy-efficient design qualities. ★

(Allen is assigned to the Headquarters AFRC public affairs office at Robins AFB.)

Pope's Puns



CARTOON BY REBECCA WHESTER, SGT. W.C. POPE

For information on personnel services, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>. (Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever, Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower public affairs, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas)

44th Fighter Group Maintainers Face Uncertainty

Maintainers assigned to the 44th Fighter Group at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., attended an open forum at the base Aug. 7 designed to answer questions about the future of the unit.

The Air Force announced in July 2010 that Holloman's F-22 fleet is moving to Tyndall AFB, Fla. The move is scheduled to begin in January 2013. The 44th FG currently flies and maintains the F-22s under a total force integration relationship with the active-duty 49th Wing. With the move of the F-22s, the 49th will be transitioning to an F-16 training mission.

Since it stood up in April 2010, the 44th has grown from a group of 10 Airmen to about 200 people assigned to six squadrons. Reservists who are in positions that will be moving have the option of going to Tyndall or staying at Holloman.

Lt. Col. Scott Crogg, group commander, said the maintainers who plan on staying at Holloman face a lot of uncertainty.

"Uncertainty is tough," Crogg said. "When one door closes, another one opens. ... but it's hell in the hallway."

For now, the maintainers are waiting in the hallway for another door to open.

Two F-16 training squadrons from Luke AFB, Ariz., will move to Holloman, said Brig. Gen. Ronald Miller, 301st Fighter Wing commander. For administrative purposes, the 44th FG is attached to the 301st at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. Miller said it may be possible for the maintainers to transition to the new mission at Holloman, but no decisions have been made yet.

"The Reserve command has a history of change," said Miller, who, in 20 years as a Reservist, has served in two units that shut down and one unit that took on a new mission. "We are able to change, evolve and keep plugging along. As we are entering into a period of uncertainty, there will be change."

Miller assured the Reservists, who packed the base theater for the forum,

the Air Force Reserve Command leadership is advocating for the unit.

"We see the value and experience Reservists bring to the fight," Miller said. "We also see the value in cost that we can save the Air Force. The Reserve unit works at one-third of the cost (in comparison to active duty). AFRC leadership is fully engaged in taking care of our Airmen."

Both Miller and Crogg conveyed the same message: "There are no promises or guarantees" for Reserve maintainers.

There has been no "yes" or "no" given in response to proposals of continuing the "best total force integration in the Air Force" and allowing Reservists to continue with the new mission at Holloman, Crogg said. The commander of the 49th WG has been committed to TFI and continues to fight to keep the Reservists there, he said.

In the meantime, Reservists will continue waiting in the hallway for another door to open. Crogg said he anticipates an announcement to be made sometime next year.

Even though uncertainty looms, both leaders pledged to provide Reservists with the tools they need to transition with the new mission or to transition into other jobs. (Senior Airman Martha Whipple, 301st FW public affairs)

Air Force Normalizes Short-Tour Credit Policy

Airmen no longer receive short-tour credit for overseas temporary duty assignments of 181 consecutive days. This policy change, initially announced in a memorandum signed by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz in April, went into effect July 1.

In June 2003, a temporary exception to policy was approved to award short-tour credit to Airmen who deployed to hostile environments for at least 181 consecutive days after 9/11. This exception was initiated since traditional aerospace expeditionary force deployments at the time were 120 days. A similar exception was made for Airmen deploying in support of Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

The decision to terminate the short-tour credit exception to policy was largely based on the number of Airmen who now deploy for longer periods of time. Additionally, with transportation delays and mandatory overlap with successors, the vast majority of Airmen deployed for 179 days remain in the area of responsibility just long enough to reach the 181-day threshold.

"The standard Air Force deployment is now 179 days," said Col. Ken Sersun,

chief of the Military Force Policy Division on the Air Staff. "Granting short-tour credit based on 181 days deployment has become inconsistent with the short-tour credit earned by our Airmen who deploy for 365 days."

The following guidelines apply under the new policy:

- Airmen who were previously awarded short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy will keep their short-tour credit.

- Airmen who arrived in the area of responsibility prior to July 1, 2011, and serve at least 181 days consecutively in a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area will receive short-tour credit under the previous criteria.

- Airmen who arrived in the AOR on or after July 1, 2011, will not receive short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy.

- Airmen will be awarded short-tour credit based on TDY service stipulated in AFI 36-2110, Assignments.

Since the exception to policy went into effect in 2003, 16,795 Airmen have deployed more than once on 179-day taskings. Since 9/11, more than 52,000 Airmen have deployed for 181 to 200 days. The number of 179-day taskings also has grown significantly since January 2006 from about 6,500 taskings to about 16,600 taskings. (*Air Force News Service*)

VA Officials Explain Post-9/11 GI Bill Changes

Officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs are reaching out to inform veterans of recent changes made by Congress to the Post-9/11 GI Bill that take effect in 2011.

"The Post-9/11 GI Bill is incredibly important because it reduces the financial burdens of higher education so that veterans have an opportunity to achieve their education goals," said Allison Hickey, undersecretary for benefits. "VA believes it is important for veterans to be aware of changes to the GI Bill this year and learn more about how these changes may affect them."

"It's hard to believe how far we have all come with the Post-9/11 GI Bill the past two years. Today, more than 537,000 students have received over \$11.5 billion in GI Bill benefits to help them take



Six of seven members of an aircrew who flew a C-17 to Antarctica to evacuate an ailing government contractor were present to receive the Air Medal from Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr. (far left), Air Mobility Command commander, July 29 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Also present for the presentation was Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. (second from far left), Air Force Reserve Command commander.

Joint aircrew from McChord honored for rescue mission to Antarctic

By Master Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Members of a joint regular Air Force and Air Force Reserve C-17 Globemaster III aircrew, known as "Ice 68," from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., were recognized for the role they played in evacuating an ailing government contractor from McMurdo Station, Antarctica, June 28-30.

Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., Air Mobility Command commander, presented the Air Medal to Lt. Col. Robert Wellington, Maj. Dan Tarleton, Maj. Mike Parker and Chief Master Sgt. Harold Simpson, who are all from the 62nd Airlift Wing, and Lt. Col. Monty McDaniel, Chief Master Sgt. Jim Masura and Master Sgt. Scott Dellinger, who are all from the Reserve's 446th AW.

Crewmembers began planning for the emergency McMurdo mission at Joint Base Lewis-McChord on a short-notice tasking. Sixteen hours after first receiving the tasking, they were off and flying in a C-17.

"This was a scenario we've worked on for many years," said Masura, a loadmaster who has flown on more than 80 Operation Deep Freeze missions.

"This was a pretty big deal," he said. "We don't normally fly there in June, but we were always prepared if we got the call. This time we did get the call and got the mission done."

The crewmembers made their way to Christchurch, New Zealand. On the way, they loaded aeromedical evacuation and critical care air transport

teams at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, before staging in Christchurch. Once at Christchurch, the Airmen received their required crew rest and soon after were off to Antarctica.

McDaniel was the pilot who touched the C-17 down on the Antarctic ice. He said it was done just like the crew practiced it.

"We've trained and practiced enough with this that I knew there was no doubt in any of us that we'd get it done," McDaniel said.

The crew faced extreme challenges in the Antarctic environment, including temperatures dipping to 42 degrees below zero. Also, the runway lights and markers hadn't been used since the normal flying season for Operation Deep Freeze missions ended in March. Thanks to the efforts of the ground crews from Raytheon Polar Services, said Tarleton, a pilot on the mission, everything on the runway was operational when the aircrew arrived.

The aircrew was only on the ground for 42 minutes while the critical-care patient was being prepared to fly back to New Zealand. The aircrew "quickly airlifted her to life-saving medical care less than 48 hours after departing their aerial port of embarkation nearly 10,000 miles away," the citation states. ★

(*Sturkol is assigned to the Air Mobility Command public affairs office at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.*)

charge of their future."

Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, effective Aug. 1, include paying the actual net cost of all public in-state tuition and fees rather than basing payments upon the highest in-state tuition and fee rates for every state, capping private and foreign tuition at \$17,500 per academic year, and ending payments during certain school breaks, to preserve veterans' entitlement for future academic semesters. Also, certain students attending private schools in select states can now continue to receive benefits at the same rate payable during the previous academic year.

As of Oct. 1, eligible individuals are able to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for pro-

grams such as non-college degrees, on-the-job training and correspondence courses, and they are eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when only enrolled in distance learning courses.

The VA outreach has helped to increase participation by colleges and universities in the Yellow Ribbon program, which helps students avoid out-of-pocket costs that may exceed the benefit. Currently, more than 2,600 schools are participating in the Yellow Ribbon program.

Complete information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill is available at www.gibill.va.gov. VA's education information phone num-

ber is 1-888-GIBILL-1.

For ongoing benefit information, veterans and service members can log into the VA eBenefits website at www.eBenefits.va.gov. (*Air Force News Service*)

Services Agency Launches Gift Card Program

Air Force Services Agency officials said the joy of giving is a little easier after the launch of an Air Force-wide gift card program.

Installations worldwide now provide Force Support Squadron gift cards available for use throughout all FSS activities. Officials said the cards are simple to pur-

Son surprises father at retirement ceremony

By Lt. Col. Rich Curry

A retirement ceremony turned into a surprise homecoming moment for a member of the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Master Sgt. Wayne L. Ellison of the 507th Maintenance Group was preparing to retire after 30 years of service. His son, Jay, a sergeant in the Army National Guard, had recently deployed to Afghanistan. Ellison wanted to schedule his retirement ceremony for when his son was home from the war. Jay requested leave but was denied, so it appeared that he would not be able to return to the United States until sometime next year.

While Ellison was disappointed, he accepted the fact that his son wouldn't be able to attend his retirement. So he went ahead and scheduled the ceremony for Aug. 6.

What he didn't know was that once he confirmed his retirement date and his unit had received the official order, one of Ellison's co-workers, Master Sgt. David Wallis, and his supervisor, Master Sgt. Johnny Baker, began to coordinate with Jay via e-mail.

"I was e-mailing with Jay and his wife since the middle of July," Wallis said. "He asked for leave, and the Army finally granted it. He almost didn't make it because his flight got pushed back. He arrived a couple days prior to the retirement ceremony, so that worked out great. Nobody in his family knew he was going to be here except his wife."

The retirement began with a welcome to Ellison's family members and guests. Then came time for the official presentation of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of Ellison's most recent accomplishments supporting the wing and national defense mission while deployed to Southwest Asia as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Once the official retirement citation was read and Ellison's wife received recognition for her contributions to his career, it was time to present him with a retirement flag. Ellison's commander, Capt. Michael Maule, made the announcement: "Master Sergeant Ellison, on behalf of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, please accept this flag in grateful appreciation of your faithful and dedicated service from our



Master Sgt. Wayne L. Ellison visits with his son, Jay, and his grandson, Langston, after his retirement ceremony. Jay, a sergeant in the Army National Guard, surprised his father by coming home from a deployment to Afghanistan to attend the ceremony.

special guest, Sgt. Jay Ellison, U.S. Army."

The puzzled look on Ellison's face soon changed to one of happiness as he realized his son was walking across the room toward him amid roaring applause and exclamations of joy from those assembled.

"I had a lot of thoughts and memories going through my mind during the ceremony," Ellison said. "So when the captain said Jay's name, it really didn't register at first. I really didn't hear what he had said. I was completely surprised to see my son standing there."

With the ceremony finally concluded, father and son continued to visit while Jay held his own son, Langston, in his arms.

"I was so happy Jay was able to come back for my retirement," Ellison said. It meant so much to me for him to be able to take part in this." ★

(*Curry is chief of public affairs for the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB.*)

chase and easy to use, giving Air Force members special purchasing power.

"The overwhelming benefit of the new gift card is the convenience," said Frank Black, AFSVA chief of community programs. "It takes the worry out of what to give someone for a special occasion. The card can also be used for anything FSS activities offer, from lunch at the bowling center to white water rafting down the Colorado River."

Gift cards, which are standardized so they can be used at any installation regardless of where they're purchased, are sold at many FSS point of sale outlets. The patron decides how much to load on the card, from \$5 to \$1,500. The cards are reloadable, and balances can be checked anytime online at www.myfssgiftcard.com.

"Patrons will also be glad to know the FSS gift card never expires, and penalty

fees are never assessed," said Fred McKenney, AFSVA Food and Beverage Division chief. "That means people can take as much time as they want to use the card." (*Gary Lott, Air Force Services Agency strategic marketing, San Antonio, Texas*)

IMAX Film Features McChord Reservists

Six members of the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at McChord Field, Wash., are featured in an IMAX film titled "Rescue."

The 3D film shows the massive effort of responders from around the world who helped the victims of the earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010.

Members of the 446th Airlift Wing were treated to a free screening of the film July 21.

The movie is also playing at selected theaters nationwide, listed below:

- Birmingham, Ala. — Jan. 12 through July 31, 2012, McWane Science Center, John W. Woods IMAX® Dome Theater, 200 Nineteenth Street North, (205) 714-8300.

- Huntsville, Ala. — U.S. Space and Rocket Center, One Tranquility Base, (256) 837-3400, show dates to be determined.

- Washington, D.C. — National Air and Space Museum, Lockheed Martin IMAX Theater, 4th and Independence Ave, S.W., (202) 633-1000, fall 2011 (specific show dates to be determined).

- Tampa, Fla. — Aug. 8, 2011, through Feb. 5, 2012, IMAX Dome Theater, 4801 E. Fowler Avenue, (813) 987-6100.

- Davenport, Iowa — July 1, 2012, through Jan. 1, 2013, Putnam Museum and IMAX Theatre, Putnam Museum of

History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, (563) 324-1933.

- Hutchinson, Kan. — June 17, 2011, through Dec. 17, 2011, Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center, IMAX Dome Theater, 1100 North Plum, (620) 662-2305.

- Boston — June 17, 2011, through December 17, 2011, Museum of Science, Mugar Omni Theater, 1 Science Park, (617) 723-2500.

- Dearborn, Mich. — Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., (313) 271-1620, showings start in October.

- St. Louis — St. Louis Science Center, Omnimax® Theater, 5050 Oakland Avenue, (314) 289-4444, showings started July 1.

- Charlotte, N.C. — June 18 through Dec. 18, 2011, Discovery Place, Charlotte Observer IMAX Dome Theatre, 301 N. Tryon St., (704) 372-6261.

- Dayton, Ohio — June 17, 2011, through June 17, 2012, Air Force Museum Foundation, IMAX Theater, Bldg. 489, Area B, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, (937) 253-4629. (*2nd Lt. Denise Hauser, 446th AW public affairs, McChord Field*)

Award Allows Spouses to Honor Civilian Employers

Civilian spouses of Reserve and National Guard members often must rely on the flexibility and support of their employers, particularly during deployments.

While most employers will grant a time-off request and, in some cases, a shift change for their spouse employees, others go above and beyond in their support. They may arrange for the family's lawn care during a deployment, send care packages overseas or create telework agreements so parents can be at home more with their kids.

In the past, a thank-you note or email would have to suffice. But now, a Defense Department program is offering spouses a more visible way to express their gratitude.

The Spouse Patriot Award, established by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve agency, honors extraordinarily supportive employers of reserve spouses. Initially open only to employers of National Guard and Reserve members, the Patriot Award program expanded earlier this year to include spouses.

The program is open to all National Guard and Reserve spouses. More information is available on the ESGR website at <http://www.esgr.org/site/Programs/PatriotAward.aspx>. (*Elaine Sanchez, American Forces Press Service*) ★

'Portraits in Courage' honors Patrick pararescue jumper

An Air Force Reservist whose rescue team was credited with directly saving 15 lives and assisted 49 more with their rescue skills is among 18 Airmen honored in the Air Force's latest publication of "Portraits in Courage."

Staff Sgt. Daniel Warren, a pararescue jumper assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., was the lone Air Force Reserve Command representative among the 18 Airmen.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz announced the honorees Sept. 20 during the Air Force Association 2011 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in National Harbor, Md. The stories featured in "Portraits in Courage" describe ordinary Americans who accomplished extraordinary deeds despite harrowing challenges.

Warren deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in 2010 as a Guardian Angel team member with the 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. During the deployment, the pararescueman flew numerous rescue missions to recover coalition members and local Afghans.

One of Warren's most demanding missions came Feb. 8, 2010. Several devastating avalanches had taken place along the Salang Pass, the major mountain pass connecting northern Afghanistan and Kabul province with further connections to southern Afghanistan and Pakistan. The avalanches had stranded hundreds of local nationals in their vehicles. High winds had blown a lot of the vehicles off the main road, trapping people inside, buried in snow.

His team's efforts were further hampered by the threat of secondary avalanches and insurgent activity.

After exiting a CH-47 helicopter that transported him to the area, Warren spent five hours battling exhaustion, freezing temperatures and high winds while moving from vehicle to vehicle, extricating and triaging as many people as possible.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Warren of the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., is among 18 Airmen throughout the Air Force honored in "Portraits in Courage" for their extraordinary accomplishments. Warren was recognized for his involvement in numerous rescues while deployed to Afghanistan.

During one of three evacuation flights back to Bagram Airfield, Warren performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on an unconscious patient for approximately 30 minutes before other medical specialists took over.

In total, Warren and his team directly saved 15 lives and assisted 49 more with their rescue skills. Senior military officials lauded their efforts as a great strategic victory for the United States by pulling 282 stranded Afghans out of a deadly environment, therefore fostering civilian support for coalition forces. ★

(*Staff reports*)



It's Your Money

By Ralph Lunt

End of year 'money-do's'

Always looking to provide value to readers, I asked a friend of mine at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service what he would be interested in, and he quickly responded, "Year-end stuff." So, here are some things I'd recommend you look at as 2011 winds down.

First is life insurance. When I discuss life insurance, I focus on how big the check from the insurance company has to be, and then I talk about what kind. Servicemembers Group Life Insurance is a good deal, but if you need life insurance, chances are you should have some purchased from a private company. My daughters will be 17 and 15 at the anticipated end of my military career; you bet I have additional life insurance. Staying on topic, both my daughters have policies as well.

Next are savings and investments. In the 19 years I have been a financial planner, it's obvious everybody's situation is different, and we can't cover everything. You may have been promoted this year, retired, bought a house or been blessed with a child. Before you do anything else, you should knock out "bad high-interest debt" such as credit cards.

If you have additional money you'd like to save for retirement, the Thrift Savings Plan is a good low-cost option. If you are already participating, log on to TSP.gov to see your 12-month personal investment performance report and look at your account distribution.

The end of the year is a great time to re-balance your account to coincide with your risk tolerance and compare your actual investment performance against your planned or desired performance.

On the "to do" list should be a note to look into Roth individual retirement accounts for your family, to include your children. If they have earned income, they are eligible for a Roth, and I can't think of a better gift than money for retirement.

If you moved during the year, make sure your address is up to date. Did you get married, have a child or get divorced? Are your designated beneficiaries, will and legal documents up to date with the latest information? I'd also recommend, when possible, you arrange to have your documents emailed to you.

Finally, whether it's reducing debt by 30 percent or increasing your TSP contributions by 2 percent, make a plan for 2012 that has an attainable, measurable goal with the ultimate end of being a member of the most powerful financial force in the world! ★

(*Editor's note: This feature is designed to provide financial advice and information of a general nature. Individuals should conduct their own research and consult a financial adviser before making any financial decisions. Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Lunt is a certified financial planner and vice president of a financial planning and consulting firm. He is also a colonel in the Air Force Reserve, serving as the reserve forces director for the Great Lakes region of the Civil Air Patrol adviser's program.*)

Restructuring

Proposed changes highlighted by leaner numbered air force structure

Air Force Reserve officials announced plans in September to streamline unit structures and adjust manpower in California, Georgia and Texas by fiscal year 2012.

"These changes are the result of a 13-month analytical effort intended to ensure we are operating as effectively and efficiently as possible," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon and commander of Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "Today's Reservists serve every day as interchangeable partners in the total force and are no longer held back just for big surges. This new reality led the 2008 Commission on the National Guard and Reserve to recommend a force restructure."

The biggest changes will affect the Air Force Reserve's three numbered air forces: 4th Air Force at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas; and 22nd Air Force at Dobbins ARB, Ga. These three headquarters will now focus on readiness, ensuring their subordinate units are trained and ready to deploy when needed.

Overall, California will see an addition of 132 manning positions. The state of Texas will gain one position, while Georgia is scheduled to lose 101 positions.

However, as Congress reviews the FY 2112 budget request, many resourcing and manning requests are subject to changes and reductions, especially during the current effort to tighten federal spending.

"Focusing on readiness results in a leaner numbered air force structure," said Col. Greg Vitalis, the Headquarters AFRC program manager. "The major command headquarters will provide support to the wings in functional areas no longer resident at the numbered air forces and regional support groups. The numbered air forces will advocate for units' readiness requirements and support inspection preparation."

This action will remove personnel, intelligence, communications, chaplain, history, public affairs and medical directorates from the numbered air forces. Also, three regional support groups — the 604th at March, 610th at Fort Worth and 622nd at Dobbins — will be inactivated.

"We will provide our people time to adjust to these changes and help them understand their options," Stenner said. "We're going to set up an employee-assistance database to assist them so we can retain their expertise in the Air Force Reserve wherever and whenever possible."

A total of 132 manning positions will be added in California.

March ARB will have a manpower reduction of 63 part-time and one full-time Reservist as well as 50 civilian authorizations due to the 4th AF restructure. However, the base will add five part-time Reservist slots and one civilian authorization as part of a new exercise evaluation team mission.

Beale AFB will have an increase of 213 part-time Reservists and 17 civilian authorizations with the activation of a new civil engineer unit. Also, the base will add four part-time Reservist slots and one civilian authorization as part of a new exercise evaluation team mission.

Travis AFB will have an increase of four part-time Reservist slots and one civilian authorization as part of a new exercise evaluation team mission.

Texas will gain one manpower position as a result of the changes. At NAS JRB Fort Worth, manpower will be reduced by 61 part-time Reservist and 51 civilian authorizations due to the 10th AF restructure. However, the base will add five part-time Reservist and one civilian authorization for the exercise evaluation team mission.

Joint Base San Antonio will see an increase of 77 part-time and 24 full-time Reservists as part of a new cyber operations unit. In addition, the base will add five part-time Reservist slots and one civilian authorization for the exercise evaluation team mission.

Georgia will lose a total of 101 positions. Dobbins ARB will see a manpower reduction of 128 part-time and one full-time Reservist slots and 35 civilian authorizations due to the 22nd AF restructure. The base will add five part-time Reservists and one civilian authorization for the exercise evaluation team mission.

Robins AFB will see an increase of 57 civilian billets associated with the establishment of the new Air Force Reserve Force Generation Center.

"The number of mission areas supported by Reservists have doubled over the past decade," Vitalis said. "The total force needs us to fill requirements in leading-edge missions in space, intelligence, cyberspace and new weapons systems."

The demand for Air Force Reservists on the front lines has grown as well. According to Air Force Reserve officials, 2,300 Reservists filled deployment taskings in 1999. However, since 9/11, on any given day, approximately 5,000 Air Force Reservists are serving in the United States, Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations around the globe. ★

(Air Force Reserve Command news release)

"THE MAJOR COMMAND HEADQUARTERS WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE WINGS IN FUNCTIONAL AREAS NO LONGER RESIDENT AT THE NUMBERED AIR FORCES AND REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS. THE NUMBERED AIR FORCES WILL ADVOCATE FOR UNITS' READINESS REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT INSPECTION PREPARATION."

Col. Greg Vitalis,
Restructuring program manager



Broad experience is vital to success of Reserve force

By Maj. Christina Hoggatt

Developing officers who have a broad range of experience beyond the unit level and who gain valuable joint credit is vital to the success and future of the Reserve force.

Joint credit provides essential strategic-level decision-making opportunities that officers cannot gain at the tactical level, said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Air Force Reserve Command commander.

"To become a senior leader, a Reservist must move beyond unit-level experience in order to develop the critical thinking skills needed to stay relevant in tomorrow's military environment," Stenner said. "I consistently tell our Reservists that senior leader advancement must include key leadership, command and joint positions, as well as experience in the national capitol region and assignments above wing level."

Reserve officers became eligible for joint qualification in 2007. The change in policy was an effort to provide an opportunity for Reservists to more closely match the experience gained by their counterparts in the regular Air Force.

The need for joint qualification is not specific to any group of officers; it applies to all officers and all Air Force specialty codes, according to officials at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver. Although acquiring joint qualification does not guarantee promotion, it can be a whole person discriminator for personnel decisions.

ARPC officials said there is a difference between "working in a joint environment" and "being involved in joint matters." Simply working with the Air Force's sister services, coalition partners or other federal agencies will not earn an officer joint qualification. Earning joint qualification requires direct strategic-level involvement in the planning or decision-making process that requires knowledge of operations beyond the Air Force.

How do officers know if working in a particular joint assignment will earn them joint qualification? They need ask three key questions:

- What will I be doing that is different from my Air Force job?
- What strategic implications will my position impact?
- Will I be a decision-maker, or will I provide input so someone else can make decisions?

ARPC officials said what it boils down to is this: If an officer's duties apply organizational competencies and critical thinking skills that articulate strategic vision or joint decision-making, then joint qualification is earned. An example is an officer who serves as the director of a Joint Operations Center.

Since the person in this position has direct involvement in joint matters, then joint qualification is applicable.

On the other hand, if an officer serves as the operations officer within a JOC, doing tactical-level work in a joint environment, then he or she does not meet joint qualification standards, because there was not direct "involvement in joint matters."

ARPC officials said there are two ways an Air Force Reserve officer can become joint qualified. One is by occupying a standard joint duty assignment. This is the most common pathway. The Reserve has 390 joint duty assignments, though most are in the individual mobilization augmentee world, but ARPC is working to add more positions in the future.

Currently, standard joint duty assignments are filled the same as any other assignment — through vacancy announcements. However, changes are in the works to fill these positions through a nominative process based on ARPC developmental team inputs. Tour length requirements will vary depending on part- or full-time status and the amount of participation.

The other way to become joint qualified is through joint duty experience. This is the more difficult process. It requires officers to nominate their experiences gained in certain deployments and man-day tours for consideration through the Defense Manpower Data Center website. Officers can submit for consideration retroactive credit until Sept. 30, 2013. Experiences gained from Oct. 1, 2013, and beyond must be submitted within one year of the end date.

"Officers who earn joint qualification gain unique experiences and perspectives," said Col. Pat Blassie, ARPC commander. "Joint experiences increase an officer's strategic-level thinking and provide individuals new insights that will ultimately benefit the Air Force."

Brig. Gen. James Muscatell, mobilization assistant to the director of operations at U.S. Transportation Command, said he believes his joint experience has been invaluable to his career.

"Joint credit is not a square filler, it is about the joint experience," Muscatell said. "I have been a wing commander three times, and after my current joint assignment, I see myself as a more effective officer. Joint experience offers us a chance to really learn about the other services and offers a solid foundation so that when we are put into a contingency operation, we understand their culture and how they do business." ★

(Hoggatt, an IMA, wrote this article while serving a temporary duty assignment at the ARPC public affairs office at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.)



Energy Conservation

There are huge savings to be had when we all pitch in

By Bo Joyner

As the energy manager for the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Sam Pier is always looking for ways to use energy smarter at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind. Recently, he found an opportunity inside Grissom's fuel cell.

The fuel cell is a maintenance hangar where the KC-135 fuel system is maintained, repaired and replaced. There is a requirement for 100 percent of the outdoor air to be heated or cooled, supplied and then promptly returned at eight locations on the aircraft. This is called the purge air system. The system can treat up to 8,000 cubic feet of outside air per minute, which takes a tremendous amount of heating or cooling depending on the air's temperature.

"As we invest that energy into the air and supply it to the maintainers, we then remove it and route it through energy recovery ventilators, which allow the exhausted air to pre-treat the incoming outdoor air, saving energy," Pier said.

The energy recovery system at the fuel cell is comprised of two fixed-plate energy recovery ventilators supplying the air handling unit that provides conditioned outside air to the wings of the KC-135s.

"The ventilators save a significant amount of heating and cooling energy that would have otherwise been exhausted,"

Pier said. "We also cap the unused duct runs so a variable frequency drive can run the air handling unit and the ventilators based on pressure inside the duct. The maintainers need the capability to utilize all 16 duct drops (eight supply and eight return) at the same time, but rarely if ever do so. So about 95 percent of the time, we can run all five fans at the minimum 20 Hz (as opposed to 60 Hz), saving significant power."

"This is a great example of the kind of things we are doing around the command to use energy more efficiently," said Ed Saleem, Air Force Reserve Command's resource efficiency manager. "We're looking everywhere we can for energy savings."

At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn., for example, Carlos Batista is leaving no stone unturned as he looks for ways to save on energy. The base's energy manager, Batista is known as Captain Megawatt because of the passion he has for cutting the air reserve station's power bill.

He is in the process of installing motion sensors in restrooms, replacing standard faucets with low-flow models, providing smart power strips for people to plug their computers and peripheral items into, replacing high-pressure sodium lights

with more efficient fluorescent lights, repairing roofs, and replacing leaky windows with energy-efficient ones.

As a result, the base was able to reduce its annual natural gas consumption by 28.5 percent and reduce water consumption by 32 percent.

"We get the majority of our energy savings from conventional methods, like using more efficient lighting, more efficient heating and cooling systems, and Energy Star appliances," Saleem said.

But that doesn't mean the command is opposed to pursuing energy savings through alternative energy sources.

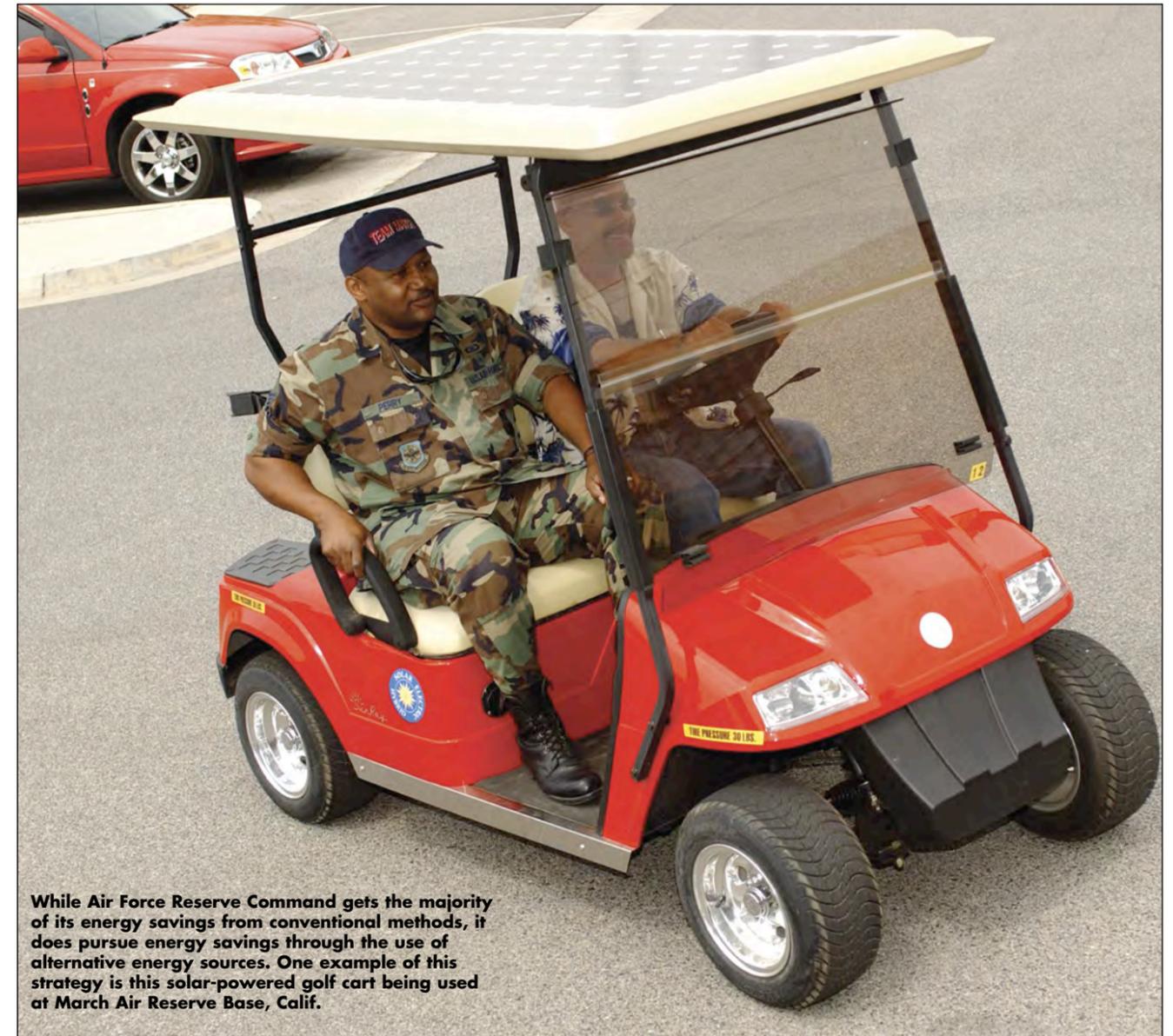
"We're using solar energy at some of our bases, like March (ARB, Calif.) and Homestead (ARB, Fla.) and are always on the lookout for new and innovative ways to save energy. We try a little bit of everything. If something works, we'll bring it to a higher level," Saleem said, adding that the command has also had some success with techniques like xeriscaping — landscaping that requires very little if any watering and minimum maintenance.

These are all examples of energy efficiency — saving energy by improving the ability of equipment to operate while consuming less energy. Other examples are having a car that gets 40 miles per gallon instead of 15 MPG or buying an energy-efficient air conditioner that can cut an energy bill from \$200 per month to \$150 per month.

"At our bases, we strive to be energy efficient by installing energy-efficient lighting systems in the buildings and controls to efficiently operate the heating and air conditioning systems, and designing energy-efficient buildings that use less energy than the older buildings," Saleem said. "Essentially, everything we build, install or renovate will be designed to use less energy."

And while there are some promising new technologies on the horizon to improve energy efficiency, Saleem believes the command's greatest opportunity for savings is in the area of energy conservation.

"Energy conservation is when we save energy by improving our ability to use equipment only when we need it," he said.



While Air Force Reserve Command gets the majority of its energy savings from conventional methods, it does pursue energy savings through the use of alternative energy sources. One example of this strategy is this solar-powered golf cart being used at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

“Examples of this are when we ride share so that we keep five vehicles parked and use one 40 MPG vehicle for six folks or when we use a programmable thermostat to cut back energy use when no one is around.

“Our big push right now is for everyone working for Air Force Reserve Command to make energy use and conservation a consideration in everything they do,” Saleem said. “It’s amazing how the little things will add up if you can get everyone on board and doing them.

“Energy conservation doesn’t mean sacrificing or doing without. It means being responsible for energy use as a way of life. When you see energy being wasted, simply make the small effort to stop the waste. That’s all it takes.”

Batista has compiled a top 10 list of things everyone can do in their workplace to help the command conserve energy. Here’s what he recommends:

- Use fluorescent or LED desk lamps for close work instead of overhead fixtures and keep all lamps and lighting fixtures unobstructed and clean.
- Make sure cracked or broken windows are fixed.
- Make use of sunlight to heat and light your work area.
- Make sure the break room refrigerator door seals are tight and in good condition and the freezer is defrosted regularly.
- Do not obstruct the flow of conditioned air (cooling or heating) with curtains, furniture or appliances.
- Turn off lights when leaving the room for an extended period of time.
- Turn off radios when leaving the room.

- Keep all exterior doors and windows closed.
- Close shades in the summer to prevent warming by the sun and open shades in the winter to heat and light your work area.

• If you notice any building problems — heating or air conditioning not working properly, weather stripping and caulking absent or peeling, or air leakage in and around electrical outlets, windows, doors, etc. — let your building manager know right away.

Saleem believes there is a potential for big savings just by better managing monitors, printers, speakers and any other accessories connected to desktop computers.

“Try plugging everything but the CPU into an approved power strip/surge protector,” he said. “When this equipment will not be in use for extended periods, simply turn off the switch on the power strip. This also prevents these devices from drawing power even when they are shut off as many electronic devices do.

“If you don’t use a power strip, simply unplug extra equipment when it’s not in use. However, when installing new power strips, one word of caution: Do not plug one power strip into another power strip because this may cause them to overload.”

Saleem said he believes the sky is the limit for AFRC when energy efficiency is combined with energy conservation.

“Where energy efficiency can save millions of dollars, adding our efforts at energy conservation can multiply those savings to tens of millions of dollars, if we each do our part.” ★



Air Force Reserve Command has made great strides in improving energy efficiency, like utilizing more efficient fluorescent light bulbs throughout the command. Officials are hoping to produce more energy savings by focusing on energy conservation.

Tricare extends coverage for eligible young adult dependents

By Lt. Col. Alexander Alex



In May, Tricare extended health-care coverage to eligible young adult dependents. In the past, a son or daughter of an eligible military sponsor was no longer eligible for health benefits coverage past age 21 unless he or she was a full-time college student, in which case the age was extended to 23.

With the initiation of the new Tricare Young Adult Program, children are now eligible for coverage until age 26. Since May, eligible dependents could take advantage of Tricare Standard worldwide coverage, but as of Oct. 1, the Tricare Prime enrollment option is added to the mix.

The Tricare Young Adult program is a premium-based health-care plan available for purchase by qualified dependents. It includes medical and pharmacy benefits, but excludes dental coverage.

Dependents of Reserve members may purchase Tricare Young Adult coverage under the following conditions:

- They must be a dependent of an eligible uniformed service sponsor who is enrolled in Tricare Reserve Select or Tricare Retired Reserve.
- They must not be married.
- They must be at least age 21 (or age 23 if enrolled in a full-time course of study at an approved institution of higher learning and if the sponsor provides at least 50 percent of the financial support) but have not yet reached age 26.
- They must not be eligible to enroll in an employer-sponsored health plan.
- They must not be otherwise eligible for Tricare coverage

Tricare Young Adult offers open enrollment, so those who qualify may purchase coverage at any time. Application are available online at www.tricare.mil/tya. When applying, applicants must verify that they are not married, not eligible to enroll in an employer-sponsored health plan and are enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System.

Completed applications, along with the first three months worth of premiums, may be delivered to any Tricare Service Center or mailed or faxed to a regional contractor (see accompanying chart). After the initial three-month payment, premiums must be paid in advance by monthly automated withdrawals.

The 2011 monthly premium for Tricare Standard coverage is \$186. As of the first of September, the monthly premium for Tricare Prime had not been announced. Premiums are adjusted annually, effective Jan. 1.

After submitting an application and the initial three-month

payment, sponsors and their adult children must visit a uniformed services identification card issuing facility to obtain a new ID card. Two forms of ID are required. One must be an unexpired government-issued ID card with a picture.

Adult children may choose to end their coverage at any time by completing the fields related to terminating coverage on the Tricare Young Adult application and submitting it to the appropriate regional contractor. Those who decide to end their Tricare Young Adult coverage will be prohibited from re-enrolling in the program for one year from the date of termination. There is no lockout if the coverage is terminated because an adult child gains access to employer-sponsored coverage.

Tricare Young Adult coverage ends when:

- You reach age 26.
- You get married.
- You become eligible for an employer-sponsored health plan as defined in Tricare Young Adult regulations.
- You gain other Tricare coverage, or
- Your sponsor ends Tricare coverage.

More information on the Tricare Young Adult program is available online at www.tricare.mil/tya. E-alerts about benefit changes and updates are available by searching “Tricare Young Adult” under “Benefit Updates” at www.tricare.mil/subscriptions. While on this website, it’s a good idea to sign up for all applicable subscriptions regarding Tricare benefits.

Tricare Covers Vaccines

Tricare recently expanded the list of covered vaccines that beneficiaries may receive at Tricare network pharmacies. As long as the pharmacist meets all state requirements to administer vaccines, the medicine is covered under the Tricare pharmacy benefit.

Those interested in taking advantage of this benefit need to keep the following things in mind:

- Although all 50 states authorize pharmacists to administer vaccines, state laws vary on which vaccines may be administered in retail pharmacies. Contact your pharmacist for more information.
- There is no copayment for covered vaccines administered at a participating network pharmacy.
- Approximately 50,000 retail pharmacies nationwide are able to administer covered vaccines using Express Scripts’ commercial vaccine network.

For information, including a network pharmacy directory and a complete list of vaccines that are now covered at pharmacies, visit www.tricare.mil/vaccines or call Express Scripts Inc. toll free at 1-877-363-1303. ★

(Anyone who has a question regarding a benefit as it relates to a Reserve member or family beneficiary member may email the Tricare advisor at Alexander.Alex@us.af.mil.)



Lt. Col. Alexander Alex

<p>Tricare North Region Health Net Federal Services, LLC 1-877-TRICARE www.hnfs.com</p>	<p>Tricare West Region TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. 1-888-TRIWEST www.triwest.com</p>
<p>Tricare South Region Humana Military Healthcare Services Inc. 1-800-444-5445 Active duty: 1-877-249-9179 www.humana-military.com</p>	<p>TOP Regional Call Center Eurasia-Africa +44-20-8762-8384 (overseas) 1-877-678-1207 (stateside) tricarelon@internationalsos.com</p>
<p>Tricare Overseas Program Regional Call Center Latin America and Canada +1-215-942-8393 (overseas) 1-877-451-8659 (stateside) tricarephl@internationalsos.com</p>	<p>TOP Regional Call Center-Pacific Singapore: +65-6339-2676 (overseas) 1-877-678-1208 (stateside) sin.tricare@internationalsos.com</p> <p>Sydney: +61-2-9273-2710 (overseas) 1-877-678-1209 (stateside) sydricare@internationalsos.com</p>

The iPad Solution

Tablets let legal office replace piles of papers with electrons

Story and photos by Bo Joyner

The staff judge advocate's office at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., has made the switch from piles of paper to iPad computer tablets for its discharge boards.

Using state-of-the-art computer tablets, the staff judge advocate's office at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., is saving lots of time and eliminating the need for piles of paper associated with the discharge board process.

In years past, when the three officers selected to serve on a Reserve discharge board reported for duty, they would each be faced with a hefty stack of papers, usually about 350 pages worth, that included evidence, laid out instructions and spelled out the government's case against the respondent. As the case progressed, more pages would be added or deleted as evidence was entered or withdrawn and objections were made by each side.

Today, the only thing on the table before each board member is a sleek iPad preloaded with everything the board members need to decide the case before them.

"This is a great way of doing business," said Col. Melvin Giddings, a member of one of the first Reserve discharge boards conducted using iPads. "Since this was my first time using an iPad, I was a little skeptical at first, but I think they made it a lot easier to review all of the information we had

to sift through. I've served on boards in the past, and I definitely prefer the iPad."

"They are extremely user-friendly," said board member Col. Julio Lopez. "They're lightweight and easy to handle, and because they are synched to one computer, all of the information presented to each board member is exactly the same. That eliminates the human error that was possible when you had someone copying several hundred pages of documents."

With simple-to-use search, bookmarking and highlighting functions available, the iPads make it easier and faster to find and keep track of key bits of information. In addition, the ability to zoom in or out on the screen with the touch of a finger makes it easier for everybody to read.

Senior Master Sgt. Robin Whelan, AFRC JA office superintendent, and Maj. W. David Vernon, who was working as the deputy chief of adverse actions in the AFRC JA office at the time, first began exploring the idea of replacing piles of papers with electrons last year. Vernon currently serves as the legal adviser for AFRC's Reserve Management Group.

With the backing and support of the staff judge advocate, Col. Jeffrey P. Wilcox, the pair got to work to make their vision a reality. To prove their concept, they downloaded all of the materials needed to laptop computers and passed those out to the people assigned to work discharge boards.

The laptops proved somewhat cumbersome and difficult to move between the board room and the deliberation room. Working with AFRC's Communications Directorate, Sergeant Whelan procured the iPads, and they have been a hit with board members ever since.

"I thought this would be a great way for us to cut back on the time we were having to spend printing out, marking, copying and putting together multiple packages for our discharge boards," Vernon said, explaining that up to seven printed packages would be needed for each board — one for each of the three board members, one for the AFRC legal adviser, one for the respondent, one for the respondent's counsel and one for the court reporter. "It would



Senior Master Sgt. Robin Whelan and Maj. W. David Vernon saw the potential for savings by switching to iPads.

take one person who really knew what they were doing hours to get all of the paperwork ready," he said.

"Then, once the board was over, all of the copies but one had to be shredded. This would take way too many hours to accomplish," he said.

Now, once all of the instructions and evidence for a discharge board package are accumulated on a dedicated MacBook, the information can be downloaded to the JA office's six iPads in a matter of seconds. And, of course, there are no extra paper copies that need to be shredded when the board is over.

AFRC, which conducts all of the discharge boards for the command at its Robins AFB headquarters, averages more than 40 boards each year.

"When you figure we are saving one person approximately a day before each board and a half day after each board at least 40 times a year, the manpower savings for the JA office are huge," Vernon said.

Then, there are the paper savings, which the major puts conservatively at 100,000 pages per year, as well as the savings in ink, toner, and wear-and-tear on the office's printers and copiers.

"The time and materials we save are great, but it wouldn't be worth it if the iPads were difficult to use or the board members didn't like them," Vernon said. "So far, the response from the board members has been extremely positive." ★



Discharge board members read over instructions on their iPads.

OUTSIDE THE WIRE

Reserve lawyer's heroics aren't limited to the courtroom

By Bo Jayner

Maj. Grady "Jed" Morton is one of Air Force Reserve Command's top lawyers, but he doesn't do all of his fighting in the courtroom. On a recent deployment in Afghanistan, Morton showed he is just as effective with an M-4 rifle in his hands as he is with any law book.

For most of 2010, Morton was deployed as the in-theater rule of law attorney in the staff judge advocate's office supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

"My primary job was to help build cases and send insurgents through the Afghan criminal justice system," he said.

To help build a case, Morton would often go outside the wire with Soldiers as they conducted raids.

"Most of these missions would go off without a hitch," he said.

The one he went on June 30 was not like most missions.

"I was going along with an Army assault force conducting a raid on a suspected insurgent hideout in Helmand province," Morton said. As the assault force maneuvered toward its objective, enemy fighters attacked with machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. While the group Morton was in suppressed the enemy positions with machine gun and mortar fire, additional assault members maneuvered and destroyed the enemy.

Morton's element then maneuvered to clear and secure a compound on the southern edge of a small village. After clearing several buildings, Morton posted as a sentinel on the western wall of the compound. From there, he observed several possible enemy fighters maneuvering toward friendly forces. On each occasion, he exercised discipline and restraint in recognizing that the rules of engagement had not been satisfied to allow him to engage these individuals.

Later, as members of the joint force moved toward their helicopter pick-up site, Morton's element was targeted by snipers firing AK-47 rifles from a tree line. While under direct enemy fire and despite a lack of available cover, Morton engaged the enemy with his M-4, suppressing the sniper attack while an effective close-air support mission was called in. Morton and the assault force then successfully flew out of the target area while still under the imminent threat of enemy attack.

No coalition troops or civilians were killed during the six-

hour raid, and the assault force killed dozens of enemy fighters and captured a high-level Taliban commander. In addition, coalition forces discovered and destroyed a huge cache of weapons and a large quantity of opium.

For his actions on that day, Morton was awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal and the Army Combat Action Badge, an unusual honor for an Air Force member. For his overall service in Afghanistan, he received the Bronze Star.

While it might seem unusual for a staff judge advocate to be going along on ground combat operations, Morton is not your typical lawyer. An Air Force Academy graduate, Morton served for 12 years as an F-16 fighter pilot, instructor pilot and mission commander on active duty and in the Air National Guard. He flew 63 combat missions in support of Operations Desert Storm and Southern Watch.

"I really felt comfortable going along on those raids outside the fence," Morton said.

Even after feeling AK-47 rounds pass by him during the June 30 mission, he went out on several more missions with troops on the ground. He has since volunteered to deploy again.

After leaving active duty in 1997, Morton flew F-16s for three years with the Air National Guard's 163rd Fighter Squadron in Fort



Maj. Grady "Jed" Morton is a lawyer for the Air Force Reserve who is not afraid to go outside the wire to help build a case.

Wayne, Ind. He left the Guard in 2000 and took a job flying for Delta while serving in the Inactive Ready Reserve. It was during this time that Morton decided to go to law school. Today, he practices as a civil trial lawyer in Atlanta and still flies Boeing 777s for Delta.

As a Reservist, he served as the executive officer in the 908th Maintenance Group at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., from 2007 to 2009. Today, he is an assistant staff judge advocate assigned to the 42nd Air Base Wing at Maxwell. He was recently selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel and received the 2010 Harmon Award as the most outstanding judge advocate of the Reserve and Air National Guard.

"The IMA program is a great fit for me," Morton said. "I'm glad I was able to stay connected to the military through the Air Force Reserve, and I'm committed to helping the legal office at Maxwell make the best use that it can out of its Reservists." ★

(Editor's note: The account of Morton's role in the gun battle in Afghanistan was taken from witness statements used to award Morton the Army Combat Action Badge.)



John and Jan Bradley visit Afghanistan in May 2010. Through their Lamia Foundation, they are building three schools and working to provide clothing and food to Afghan children in need.

Labor of Love

Former commander and his wife make it their life-long mission to help the people of Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

For a former commander of the Air Force Reserve Command and his wife, a single trip to Afghanistan almost four years ago was a life-changing event. In the summer of 2007, Lt. Gen. John Bradley was preparing to go on his fourth trip to Afghanistan. He said he heard about a volunteer effort at Bagram Air Base that involved providing humanitarian aid to women and children who received medical care at a nearby base. In their free time, military members handed out humanitarian aid as part of a program they called Operation Care. Bradley said he wanted to get involved and help.

So, before he left for his trip in December 2007, Bradley and his wife, Jan, visited schools, churches and civilian thrift shops in the Washington, D.C., area gathering donations of gently used clothing.

"We brought it all home and began to fill my garage and my basement," he said. "We practically had a Goodwill store going at my house. Over the course of a few months, we had collected 40,000 pounds of donations, and Jan had boxed up all the items almost entirely by herself."

As his trip approached, he worked with the aerial port Reservists at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., who built 14 pallets worth of donated items. A C-17 Globemaster III picked up the pallets and transported them to Afghanistan.

"The Denton Program, named for a senator from Alabama, allows any non-profit organization to use space-available military aircraft for transporting supplies to people in need," the general said. "That's the great thing about it: Anyone can do it."

When Bradley arrived in Afghanistan, he spent a day working with the volunteers of Operation Care, traveling to a village to pass out blankets, kites, jackets and other supplies to children.

That's when Bradley said he first saw a little girl pushing past a group of boys, something he said is unusual to see in Afghan culture. The 9-year-old girl, named Lamia, approached the general and asked for nothing more of him than a pair of warm boots for the winter, a pair just like his. Bradley didn't have a pair of shoes for Lamia, but he promised he'd send her some when he returned to the United States.

"When I got home, I told Jan about her and showed her Lamia's photos," Bradley said. "So we went out and bought four boxes of things for her, including four different sizes of boots, because she didn't know what size she wore, and some blankets and sheets."

Bradley sent the boxes to Afghanistan and asked military members in the region for help deliver the items to the little girl. The service members arranged for Lamia and her uncle to visit the base, where they met in a small shack used by members of the Office of Special Investigations. There, they fed Lamia and her uncle and gave her the boxes to open. An interpreter read a letter Bradley had written to the little girl. In it he wrote, "I was glad to meet you, Lamia, and I will be back soon to see you."

When Bradley returned to Afghanistan in 2008 to visit deployed members of the 303rd Fighter Squadron and 442nd Maintenance Group, part of the 442nd Fighter Wing, which he

commanded at Whiteman AFB, Mo., from July 1989 to January 1993, he worked with local military members and Afghani police to find Lamia.

"A policeman in the area told me he had seen her out occasionally looking for firewood in the town," Bradley said. "I don't know if it was true, but he also told me she hadn't eaten in three days."

Again through the Denton Program, Bradley had brought with him 15 boxes of collected donations and a bicycle for Lamia.

"She was just thrilled with everything we gave her," he said. "A purse, clothing, even lotion — last time I was there, her face was very chapped — she was thrilled to see me, too," he said.

A few months after he returned from Afghanistan, Bradley and his wife took a short trip to New York City. He was about to retire from the Air Force Reserve, and the two discussed their plans after retirement.

"We really wanted to devote the rest of our lives to helping the people of Afghanistan," Jan said.

She said she had grown to love the people she heard about each time her husband went on a trip.

"I have an emotional attachment to these children in Afghanistan. Once you see the extreme poverty they live in, your maternal instinct just takes over. They don't know what they don't have, so they smile and they're happy."

Jan Bradley

The Bradleys have collected hundreds of pictures of children they've met over the

years.

"They are all over us when we're there," he said. "They have the most beautiful faces you've ever seen. Their faces may be filthy and dirty, but they are beautiful."

In 2008, the Bradleys decided to start a non-profit organization for Afghan children named after the little girl that inspired them. They called it the Lamia Foundation.

Since his retirement, the Bradleys have been back to Afghanistan three times, most recently in May. Occasionally, they receive calls from Lamia and others they've met on their visits.

"Now, we try to go twice a year," he said. "We work with the military people on their off time to hand out stuff there."

Providing women and children with an education, the Bradleys said, is the single most important thing they can do to make a difference in Afghanistan. They said they believe this so much that the Lamia Foundation is currently in the process of building three schools southeast and east of Kabul. Two of the schools, they said, will be for girls only, while the third will be for underprivileged students currently attending a non-religious school in a mosque.

The Bradleys said they realize the risks involved with building an Afghani school.

"Some schools have been attacked," he said, "but we believe the areas we're building these schools in are relatively safe. We're asking the villages to protect schools and have them locally maintained and secured. We believe the elders (believe in our cause enough) that they will protect them. The reality is there is always a threat."

But the education the children will receive, the Bradleys said, far exceeds any risk.

"If they can read, write and think for themselves, they will be less susceptible to extremism," Jan said. "They will have more opportunities for growth and free will."

"They'll be able to say, 'I can be a carpenter, engineer or doctor! I can read and understand math.' Women will know how to read labels on medicine and know how to better take care of their children."

Bradley said he knows it will take a while to change the culture in Afghanistan, but the potential benefits of this change are immeasurable. Even domestic violence toward women, which is a prominent concern in the Middle East, could be greatly reduced by educating children and women.

"Educated girls eventually become mothers," he said. "Women have a great influence on children's education, particularly boys since they grow up to be men. Educated boys will know how to treat women right."

Women, Jan said, will also attain more freedom to make their own choices because they will have more options with their education and careers.

Although the Bradleys work primarily with educating women and children, they said they have an even greater vision. They said they are working on several projects with hopes of bettering living conditions in Afghanistan. They are now members of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council, which Jan said empowers women throughout the country. Additionally, they are working with a project to provide portable sewing machines and fabric to women and train them to sew in order to create a business selling items at local bazaars.

"We are also working on a soybean project," she said. "In the project, farmers are trained to plant soybeans, which are a sustainable agricultural product for them. This is a great thing because it will directly address the country's problem with severe malnutrition."

The Bradleys have been working with universities and non-profit organizations to gather donations to bring on future trips to the Middle East. In the past 2 1/2 years, they have shipped 500,000 pounds of humanitarian aid donations to Afghanistan.

School supplies are the greatest need, Jan said.

"Kids there sit on the ground or in old shipping containers and go to schools in crumbling buildings," she said. "Kids may have a pencil and two or three sheets of paper, but that's it. The kids love toys, but a kid will turn down a toy or a pair of shoes for a pencil and a piece of paper. What does that tell you about the burning desire of these children to learn? A lot!"

Jan said her dream is to build partnerships with U.S. schools and get the kids involved in what's going on around the world. Students completing secondary education in Afghanistan want to be like high school students in the United States, she said.

"They want to know about America and American students," she said. "The students in Afghanistan are kind, generous, patient and extremely hard working. You don't get to hear these stories because you only hear about the suicide bombings. You don't hear about the wonderful projects going on over there."

The Bradleys have not forgotten how they got to Afghanistan. Ultimately, he said, the work being done to make Afghanistan a better place for the people will also make it a better place for the U.S. troops on the ground.

"A while ago, a Navy chaplain e-mailed Jan from his deployment," Bradley said. "He told us how he was stationed at a remote location in Afghanistan with some Marines who hadn't been able to take

showers in five or six weeks, so he was asking if we could send some baby wipes to them."

Sending a few boxes of baby wipes wasn't enough for the Bradleys. Instead, they solicited donations and collected 8,000 pounds of baby wipes.

A commercial shipping company helped them out by sending the donations to Atlanta, Bradley said, and then, when military air wasn't available, another company sent everything overseas, at no cost to us, to Camp Leatherneck.

"It makes us feel very good," he said. "We want to do anything we can to help our folks and make their lives a little better. I just can't imagine going that long without a shower."

"The work with the Afghan people is helping win hearts and minds, maintaining security, building a better government and will hopefully bring our troops home sooner."

Jan said their ultimate goal is for the Afghan people to have self-respect and peace.

"The country has been through 31 years of war," she said. "For some people, that's all they know: oppression and illiteracy. The people of Afghanistan are no different than anyone else in the world. They want to live in peace, have a roof over their head, a good job, clean water, medical care and an opportunity for their children to be educated." ★

(Wolf is assigned to the 442nd FW public affairs office at Whiteman AFB.)

Denton Program delivers assistance around the world

Jim Bailey helps impoverished people around the world by working to get donated clothing, food and medical supplies delivered to Latin America, Afghanistan and other countries in need.

Bailey manages logistics for the Denton Program at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. The program allows non-government organizations to transport, on a space-available basis, donated humanitarian goods and equipment aboard military cargo aircraft.

Established in 1985 as an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act by former Alabama senator and Vietnam prisoner of war Jeremiah Denton, the program strives to assist civilian organizations in easing human suffering while also supporting U.S. foreign policy.

A career Air Force aerial port specialist who retired from active duty at Charleston two years ago, Bailey is well-suited for the job. Before leaving active duty, he provided quality assurance on dozens of humanitarian airlift missions to Latin America and worked closely with local officials and U.S. embassies.

Bailey coordinates logistics with Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units to deliver donated goods to Charleston. Then, he makes sure the goods are delivered to their final destination.

The Denton Program keeps Bailey as well as the 437th Aerial Port Squadron at Charleston busy. So far this year, more than a half million pounds of humanitarian goods and eight vehicles have been delivered around the world.

Donated goods come from a variety of sources. For example, the Rotary Club from Athens, Ga., recently donated an ambulance to the people of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. The airlift mission to deliver the mission took place in June.

The process of picking up donated goods somewhere in the United States to delivering them to the final destination is pretty involved, Bailey said. It starts with a donor submitting a request for assistance. Once the donor's request is approved, Bailey posts the request for support to all airlift

units. When a flying unit and aerial port commit to moving the cargo, he coordinates logistics for cargo preparation and delivery.

Typically, the processing time takes four to six weeks with cargo transportation and delivery taking anywhere from two weeks to several months.

For example, when a donated vehicle arrives at Charleston, the process for delivery is just beginning. Aerial porters work behind the scenes to ensure it is delivered safely and in working order. Most of the smaller donated supplies are packed onto pallets, making it easier for loading and unloading. A few items, like vehicles, require specialists to prepare them for shipment.

"The ambulance shipped to Haiti presented a challenge because we wanted it to arrive in working order," said Tech. Sgt. Timothy Crowe, a load planner with the 437th APS.

Crowe has worked with the Denton Program since 2009 and has overseen the shipment of vehicles ranging from fire trucks to tractors.

"The ambulance's axels had to be shored up. Otherwise, they would start bending under the g-forces during flight and break," he said.

The aerial porters take their responsibility of preparing donated goods for safe delivery very seriously.

"Although they look like a bunch of boxes, I know it's critical that someone a world away receives it," said Staff. Sgt. Duane Olds, a load planner with the 437th APS.

Bailey and the aerial porters who plan, load and deliver the donated items realize their efforts often mean life or death for the recipients.

"This job is so gratifying to me," he said, "and a daily reminder that the American people are truly the most generous people in the world." ★

(This article was written by Maj. Don Traud, 2nd Lt. Zachary Anderson and Sandra Pishner while attending the Air Force Reserve Command Video, Photo & Writing Workshop June 20-24 at Joint Base Charleston.)



While serving as commander of Air Force Reserve Command, Bradley first met Lamia in 2007. The young girl inspired Bradley and his wife to establish the Lamia Foundation to help the people of Afghanistan.

PRIDE IN HER RIDE

Alabama Reservist highlights Native American, military heritages

By Gene H. Hughes

A person's choice of transportation says a lot about the individual. The make, model, color, type of accessories and even the choice of bumper sticker lets you know what type of individual is behind the wheel. While some cars might keep you guessing, there are others that leave absolutely nothing to the imagination.

Master Sgt. Caterina Durham of the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., drives such a vehicle. Her sleek black and gold 2009 Hummer H3T, custom painted with scenes honoring her heritage and military service, definitely makes a big, bold statement.

Durham purchased the vehicle right off the assembly line, and she knew she wanted to have it custom painted. So she contacted artist Bo Pittman of Wetumpka, Ala., and started to save her pennies.

When she started thinking of a possible mural design that would bring together both her Native American (Cherokee and Iroquois) and military connections, the ideas just started to flow.

"I went to Pittman and told him my vision of incorporating these two aspects and portraying it in ghostly images," she said. "He was excited to get started. We sat down a couple of times to brainstorm. I brought him some personal pictures, and he researched ideas. This is the finished product. How exciting."

Why a black-and-gold color scheme? It might have something to do with the fact that Durham is a die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan.

Durham joined the 908th AES in 2001, 11 days after her 32nd birthday. She has deployed three times in her capacity as a flight medic, picking up and caring for wounded troops while they were being transported to more advanced treatment centers or home to their units. She said it's the best job she's ever had.

"It was very humbling, very rewarding and very hard at times," she said. "It's an honor and a privilege to take care of those who are fighting for the cause and getting them home to recover."

After her third deployment, Durham heard that the financial management office was looking for some help. Wanting to take a break from her medical duties, she went to work in FM as a customer service and travel voucher specialist. Her

new job requires her to know the regulations well enough to know where to look for information, and to have good people skills and "a lot of patience."

"The similarities are that I'm working with people," Durham said, although it's under much different circumstances.

The driver side door of Durham's vehicle features a depiction of her being watched over by her guardian angel, a medicine man. Other artwork includes:

- Left passenger door: A C-130 Hercules releasing its flares. "I love the C-130. My first deployment, I felt the flares go off a couple of times," she said.
- Right front door: Soldiers treating and protecting a fallen comrade while a medicine man watches over them.
- Right rear door: A spectral horse, a universal sign of strength, power, freedom and loyalty. "Before I go on a mission, the Good Lord/Great Spirit and I have a moment with each other, and I ask for these things so I can do my job to the best of my abilities."
- Tailgate right side: A piece of art, based on an old photograph, that depicts Durham, her horse, Hardtime Buck, and her dog, Loachapoka. "That pic says it all about me. If you really look at it, you will see what I mean."
- Tailgate left side: The Airman's Creed. "That's self-explanatory," she said.

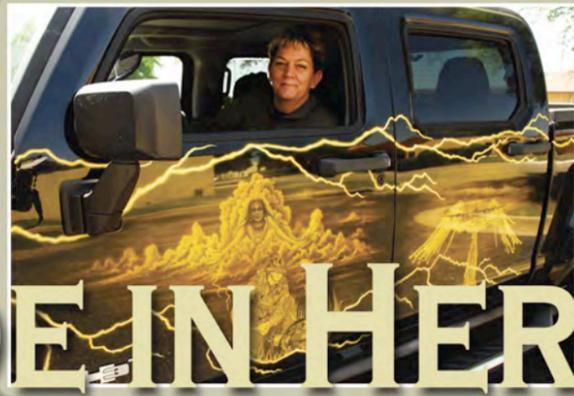
Durham regularly receives "thumbs up" approval for her truck from pedestrians and other drivers, some even nudging closer to get a better look at the decorative pictures. The most common reaction, she said, is, "Hey, I love your truck."

Several people have approached her in parking lots and asked to take photos of the truck. Afterward, she said, all of thanked her for her service.

Now that she's reached all of her goals as a flight medic, she's moving into the health administrative department as part of the ground support team. But whatever lies on the road ahead, she's definitely got the wheels to get her where she's going.

"I want to learn every aspect of AES I can," she said. "I'm looking forward to the systems knowledge and challenges heading my way." ★

(Hughes is assigned to the 908th AW public affairs office at Maxwell AFB.)



Master Sgt. Caterina Durham of the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., has her truck covered with scenes that honor her Native American heritage and military service.



The Civil Air Patrol

Program offers Reservists opportunity to serve, flexibility in training to balance different facets of their lives

Air Force Reservists interested in making an important contribution to their local community or making a difference during natural disasters and national emergencies should consider joining the Civil Air Patrol Reserve Assistance Program. There are openings throughout the country for motivated Reservists.

"CAPRAP is an incredible program, but we're really undermanned right now," said Col. William Martin, reserve forces director, Southeast Liaison Region. "It's a great fit for Reservists who want to make a difference and might be looking for a more flexible training schedule to balance their civilian career, military service and time with their family."

CAPRAP members are Category E Reservists who serve as part of the Participating Individual Ready Reserve. They are required to complete 50 points each year but have no annual tour requirements. Man-days can be used for certain activities, and volunteer deployment opportunities are available.

CAPRAP Reservists are attached to CAP-USAF, headquartered at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. CAP-USAF is divided into eight geographic regions covering the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The Civil Air Patrol is a federally chartered non-profit corporation that is often utilized as the auxiliary of the Air Force. It has about 60,000 volunteer members and more than 1,700 individual units. The secretary of the Air Force can employ CAP in non-combat missions, including support of homeland security operations, consequence management and support to civil authorities. CAP's three primary missions are emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs.

The Air Force provides personnel, logistical and financial support and assistance to CAP. Reservists advise, assist and motivate CAP members and provide valuable continuity and blue suit presence for mission essential training.

"One of the most attractive aspects of CAPRAP is the ability to tailor your participation to any number of CAP programs," Martin said. "Cadet activities alone include glider academies, leadership schools, drill competitions, civil engineering programs, cyber security contests, moral leadership and much more."

CAP has 550 aircraft, more than 900 vehicles and an expanding homeland security mission. It performs 95 percent of the nation's inland search and rescue mission and even provides direct support to training deploying brigade combat teams using Cessna aircraft equipped with Predator sensor balls. These activities, in addition to emergency services and disaster relief operations, require vigorous support from CAP-USAF and CAPRAP Reservists.

CAP's contribution in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is just one example of the difference the organization makes to the coun-

try and its citizens. After the hurricane, CAP deployed 1,800 members who contributed more than 50,000 volunteer hours, flew more than 1,000 sorties, provided more than 2,000 time-critical aerial images and distributed 30,000 pounds of supplies.

"As this extraordinary year of humanitarian need draws to a close, we wanted to take the time to express our gratitude to the volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol for the rapid execution and keen professionalism demonstrated by the Air Force Auxiliary," Lt. Gen. Carrol H. Chandler, deputy chief of staff for Air Force air and space operations, wrote after the event. "While certainly not surprised, we were gratified and impressed by our auxiliary's professionalism, skill and wide-ranging capability."

"Every talent was demonstrated during the more than 900 sorties conducting search and rescue, air reconnaissance, air transport of key personnel and digital image of key infrastructure. Additionally, the unprecedented success the auxiliary achieved while conducting full door-to-door searches was impressive by any measure."

In 2010, after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, CAP members flew 54 aircraft a total of 2,387 hours in support of disaster response efforts. Over the course of 120 days, CAP members provided more than 100,000 aerial images showing shoreline conditions and oil boom effectiveness. CAP operations proved vital to mitigating oil damage throughout the Gulf Coast region.

Lt. Col. Steve Doyle said he joined the CAPRAP so he could serve in his local community and have a direct impact on the leaders of tomorrow.

"My CAPRAP experience has been extremely rewarding," he said. "Working with motivated youth and dedicated adult volunteers has renewed my faith in the future of our great nation. CAP is a launch platform for some of our newest and brightest citizens. CAP also provides real-world mission accomplishment at an incredibly reasonable cost to the American taxpayer. Working with the outstanding people of CAP and the CAPRAP program has been the highlight of my Reserve duty."

Maj. Hugo Villalobos joined CAPRAP for the "flexibility to continue serving in a variety of challenging roles that make a difference in the local community and with the Air Force mission."

"One weekend I am supporting an inspection for the Civil Air Patrol and working with its volunteers, and a few months later I am supporting USCENTCOM or USSOUTHCOM in the area of responsibility," he said. "The CAP-USAF leadership is outstanding and very supportive. It just doesn't get better."

To find out more about joining CAPRAP, contact a Reserve recruiter or go online to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/CAPUSAF/recruiting.asp>. ★



Reserve Lt. Col. Dave Rickard shows a Civil Air Patrol cadet the T-6 unit training device during the CAP specialized undergraduate pilot training familiarization course.



Reserve Lt. Col. Ike Algaze briefs Maj. Craig Needham (left) and Maj. Paul Shadle on the CAP specialized undergraduate pilot training familiarization course.



459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron specialists like Staff Sgt. Matt Gauvin worked around the clock during the Northern Viking 2011 exercise in Keflavik, Iceland, recently to ensure their KC-135 Stratotanker was able to provide fuel to NATO forces. Northern Viking tests the capabilities of Iceland and the country's NATO allies. The Reserve's 459th Air Refueling Wing from Joint Base Andrews, Md., participated in this year's exercise along with other active-duty and Air National Guard units.
(Tech. Sgt. Steve Lewis)