

Airman Citizen

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Official Magazine of the Air Force Reserve

A Band like No Other

*With inactivation close at hand,
the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve
reflects on 70-plus years of service*

page 12





By Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson
Commander,
Air Force Reserve Command

Telling the Story of America's Citizen Airmen

"Every Airman, regardless of specialty, must understand and be able to explain how they contribute to producing unparalleled airpower for our nation. Each Airman has a compelling story that needs to be told. Tell your story." — **A Vision for the United States Air Force** (<http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130110-114.pdf>)

Since its beginnings in 1941, the Band of the Air Force Reserve has served as a goodwill ambassador, telling our story around the world. This issue of *Citizen Airman* (beginning on Page 12) is dedicated to the band's story: one of Emmy Award nominations, marching through Moscow's Red Square, and playing bagpipe music on St. Patrick's Day for our president and the prime minister of Ireland — a superb story for more than 70 years.

Force structure actions and adjusting to fiscal realities are a challenge for all of us. Senior leaders, including myself, are engaged in the National Capitol Region. We are telling the Air Force and Air Force Reserve story, ensuring everyone understands the impacts on our people, the mission and our national defense. The Air Force Reserve story is about you — your dedication, your achievements and your sacrifices as Citizen Airmen.

America, not just Capitol Hill, needs to hear from her Citizen Airmen. Your stories matter. They help illustrate what it means to live locally, yet serve globally. Your stories communicate how we are an effective combat force, particularly when the majority of us serve part time. Your stories describe our missions, how they traverse air, space and cyberspace, and what we bring to the joint fight.

We can all be goodwill ambassadors for our Air Force Reserve. You can explain your job, your unit and what it means to serve. You can convey how you keep a reserve-work-life balance between reserve duty, your employer and your personal life. Your local public affairs office can help tell your story.

Another resource is the Air Force Reserve Command website (www.afrc.af.mil) where you can download and show your community the "America's Citizen Airmen" video. You can also download the free book "Turning Point 9.11: Air Force Reserve in the 21st Century, 2001-2011" and share the remarkable stories of Air Force Reservists who answered the call after Sept. 11, 2001. How you have defended our nation with humility. How you have served with distinction. How you have made a difference. How you continue to do so today, in every part of the world.

Telling your Air Force Reserve story gives the complete Total Force picture and America the chance to say to her Citizen Airmen, "Thanks for all you do!" ★



By Chief Master Kathleen R. Buckner
Command Chief Master Sergeant,
Air Force Reserve Command

At the End of the Day, Ask Yourself Three Simple Questions

Sixteen months ago, I started this journey as your command chief. At the end of every day, I find myself having an enormous amount of gratitude, admiration and respect for you, your families and the multitude of those standing behind you supporting all that you do.

I have tried my best to support your goals, dreams and passion in our quest to defend our great nation against all enemies — foreign and domestic. All of you, not just those in uniform, have and continue to make enormous sacrifices. I hope you understand how grateful I am to have had the honor of serving with you and for you.

A year ago, I had a laundry list of expectations. This list included respect, fitness, accountability, competency and fun. I have asked for you to dig deep to be your best, to support your leadership in this time of great change, and to embrace our challenges and seek the truth.

We will continue to face many challenges in the upcoming months and probably into 2014. Don't lose focus. We have not lost our way. Remember why you serve and lead from the front. Don't let the actions or inactions of others dictate who you are! Be bold and be strong.

Provide timely and effective feedback. Don't walk by a problem. Don't be afraid to get in the face of that Airman who has lost his military bearing. He can't fix what he doesn't know is broken.

Give more kudos and praise to those who have earned it. Concentrate on the 95 percent of our Airmen who are out there kicking butt every day! Leading with gusto, passion and encouragement goes a long way, but be careful not to become only a cheerleader. Strive to make things better, but don't be discouraged if change is not immediate.

Each day, move that rock down the road, even just a little bit, and tomorrow will be that much better for us and for those who come next. Continue to develop yourself through off-duty education. You all know how I feel about getting a Community College of the Air Force degree. Don't let that diploma just be something to hang on your wall and fill a square. Put what you have learned into ACTION! Get off your butt and out from behind your desk. Lead from the front. Don't just get on the bus but drive the darn thing!

At the end of the day, ask yourself three questions: Was I the best Airman I could be; was I the best person I could be; and did I tell the ones I love that I love them? If you can answer yes to these three questions, then it was a darn good day.

I have been able to do what I do because of support from so many people. I want to take this time to tell those people that you helped me be the best Airman and the best person I could be, and I love you. I can't name you all; the list is way too long. My hope is that during the years, as you lifted me up, I have taken the time to tell you how much you mean to me. And if I haven't, I am telling you now — thank you!

Senior Airman Jeremy Goss, 307th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Senior Airman Joe Jarratt, 349th Logistics Readiness Squadron, are GREAT Airmen. Remember those names, as I am sure they will continue to amaze you with their passion, competency and pride.

There are so many more great enlisted members and officers out there who I have the greatest respect for. You know who you are, and I appreciate your continued support! One person, in particular, who has stood by me for the last 16 years is Chief Master Sgt. Karen Krause, 452nd Maintenance Operations Squadron. I owe most of who I am to her. She has never been afraid to tell the good and the bad — a true friend indeed! We all need a Chief Krause; get yourself one.

As we go into one of the toughest times in our careers, remember, at the end of the day to ask yourself those three little questions. Seek the truth, and never, ever stop believing!

Thanks Lisa, Sylvia, Des, Tina, Randy, Lynn, Melissa, Stephanie, Kim, Troy, Dave, Jim, Torey, Mesh, Ellen, Theresa, Rae, Lani, Nel, Kevin, Jill, Nancy, the Divas, Chris, Hope, Marv, Liz, Kandie, Josh, Wanda, Jody, Let, Cecilia, Sonya, Stan, Fred and just a few more! At the end of the day, I am truly blessed! ★

Citizen AIRMAN

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As a result of winter storm Nemo, 20 inches of snow covered Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., and its C-5s between Feb. 8 and 10. Massachusetts declared a state of emergency, and Gov. Duvall Patrick initiated the first driving ban since the blizzard of 1978. (Senior Airman Kelly Galloway)

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Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson *Commander, Air Force Reserve Command*

Col. Robert P. Palmer *Director of Public Affairs, Air Force Reserve Command*

Cliff Tyler *Managing Editor*

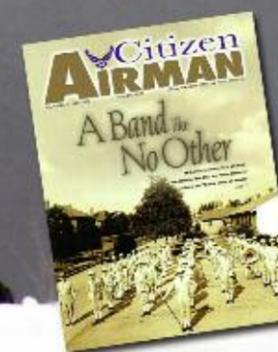
Bo Joyner *Associate Editor*

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On the cover: The Band of the Air Force Reserve can trace its history back to 1941 when the U.S. Army's Air Force Band was activated at Mitchel Field, N.Y. This photo shows the band in 1943. The band will be inactivated Sept. 30. A salute to the men and women who have made sweet music for more than 70 years begins on Page 12.

RESERVE SNAPSHOT

The boom on a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker is at the ready as an E-3 Sentry from the 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron prepares to gain elevation in order to start an aerial refueling training mission over the cloudy skies of St. Louis. Both the 507th and 966th are located at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Tech. Sgt. Bradley Green (left) and Senior Airman Frederick Beck, both with the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., use a new E-Tool Lite. Grissom is one of six test bases authorized to use the tablets with electronic reading capability that allows for easy navigation through more than 65,000 technical orders used in aircraft maintenance. (Tech. Sgt. Mark R.W. Orders-Woempner)



Capt. J. Justin Pearce, 403rd Wing, "pilots" a mini C-130 called Lil Bill down the street during the North Bay Mardi Gras Association parade in D'Iberville, Miss., in February. Reservists from the 403rd Wing paraded along with members of the 81st Training Wing honor guard during the event. Both wings are stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. (Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens)



13th Reconnaissance Squadron Reservists from Beale Air Force Base, Calif., perform a pre-flight inspection before launching a Global Hawk at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The Beale Reservists launched and recovered the aircraft for real-world missions in the Pacific Command during their annual training requirement. (Tech. Sgt. Kenny McCann)



ROUND THE RESERVE

Air Force Releases Nomination Criteria for New Medal

Air Force officials have released nomination criteria for the new Distinguished Warfare Medal. Department of Defense officials announced the new medal in early February.

The DWM will be awarded to honor individuals for single acts of extraordinary achievement, not involving acts of valor, that directly impact combat or other military operations approved by the secretary of defense.

Unlike other combat-related medals, service members may be awarded the DWM for actions completed from either inside or outside an actual combat zone.

The action must include hands-on employment of a weapons system, including remotely controlled assets, or any other activity, in any domain, that has a direct and immediate on-site effect on an engagement or operation against a target.

The domain is expansive in scope and includes air, land, maritime, space and cyberspace, according to Air Force Personnel Center guidance.

"In modern warfare, one individual can have a truly 'extraordinary' impact on combat operations, whether he is located on the front lines, elsewhere in the (area of responsibility) or halfway around the world," said Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "DOD has authorized the DWM, allowing the services to recognize their members, in our case Airmen, whose single act of extraordinary achievement directly and significantly impacts critical combat operations."

Though involvement in a combat operation is required, the medal will not be awarded for acts of valor under any circumstances. Actions involving valor should be considered for other decorations.

Valor is defined as "an act or acts of heroism by an individual above what is normally expected while engaged in direct combat with an enemy with exposure to enemy hostilities and personal risk," said Senior Master Sgt. Diana Gonzalez, the AFPC awards and recognition chief.

The criteria needed to be considered for the medal requires that the extraordinary achievement must result in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from comrades or others in similar situations. The approval chain sets the bar high as to what meets the criteria.

"The approval level (service secretary), in our case the secretary of the Air Force, testifies to the importance of this award and the importance of the action on combat operations," Jones said.

For Airmen, the final approval authority for the medal is the secretary of the Air Force. One step of the



MacAidan "Mac" Gallegos conducts a walk-around inspection of an F-22 with Lt. Col. Brian Baldwin, a Reserve pilot assigned to the 302nd Fighter Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. Baldwin flew a letter Mac wrote to his father who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009.

TECH. SGT. DANIA ROSSO

F-22 pilot in Alaska helps make youngster's dream come true

By Capt. Ashley Conner

MacAidan "Mac" Gallegos was only 5 years old when his father, Army Staff Sgt. Justin Gallegos, was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. Not a day goes by that he doesn't think about his loss.

For his father's 31st birthday on Jan. 24, Mac came up with a special way he wanted to celebrate the occasion and honor his memory.

"I wanted to write my dad a letter and get it as close to heaven as possible," he said.

Mac and his mother, Amanda Marr, discussed ways to get the letter to heaven and ultimately decided that having someone fly it would be best.

"I posted on Facebook that we were looking for a pilot who could fly the letter for Mac," Marr said. "Kyle Moxley from HAVE Alaska contacted me and said he would coordinate and try to make it happen."

Moxley and his wife, Karla, organized Helping American Veterans Experience Alaska, or HAVE Alaska, in 2010 to provide opportunities for military veterans to experience hunting and fishing excursions.

A few emails and phone calls later, Mac, his mother and his step-father, Army Master Sgt.

Jeremy Marr, were meeting Senior Airman Jennifer Dunham, 90th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, who gave them a tour of an F-22 Raptor.

They also met Lt. Col. Brian Baldwin, a Reserve F-22 pilot assigned to the 302nd Fighter Squadron, who volunteered to fly Mac's letter, which was written on red construction paper. Red was Mac's father's favorite color.

"It is an honor to fly with Mac's letter," Baldwin said. "His father gave the greatest sacrifice to our country, and I am humbled to be able to do something for him and his family."

"Over the years, we would have a party for Justin on his birthday," said Marr, who grew up in Palmer, Alaska, but now resides in Anchorage. "As Mac has gotten older, we have turned it into a day when we do 'acts of service' for others. It is important for us to remember Justin and celebrate his life." ★

(Conner is chief of public affairs for the 477th Fighter Group at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson)

approval chain rests with the commander of air forces in the respective area of responsibility.

For an Airman nominated for action taken from outside the combat zone, the commander of Air Force forces will verify the direct impact of the action on the combat operation.

The DWM will immediately follow the Distinguished Flying Cross in order of precedence. Enlisted Airmen who earn the medal will receive five promotion points.

Eligibility for the medal is retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

Nominations for currently serving Airmen will be processed through their respective chain of command.

"Former Airmen who have since retired or separated can contact us for information on how to submit the medal request," Gonzalez said. "The medal can also be presented posthumously, so family members can query us as well."

For more information and full eligibility criteria, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil> and enter "DWM" in the search window. (Courtesy of secretary of the Air Force public affairs)

Charleston Airmen Provide Humanitarian Aid to Guatemala

Reservists from the 300th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., traveled more than 2,700 miles Feb. 3 to deliver about 77,000 pounds of cargo to a children's hospice facility in Guatemala.

The mission involved a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft delivering a donated school bus and supplies through the efforts of the Mission of Love Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Austintown, Ohio. It is estimated that more than 3,500 people from the rural area of Tecpan, Guatemala, will benefit from the donated school bus, food, clothing and medical supplies.

Missions like these are made possible by the Denton Amendment, a State Department program allowing the Air Force to deliver donated humanitarian aid on a space-available basis.

"We could not do it without the Denton program," said Kathleen Price, founder and director of the Mission of Love Foundation. "Through the Denton program and U.S. Air Force, our hands are extended worldwide."

"It's a cool opportunity to get aid to people who otherwise would not get the chance to receive these items," said Staff Sgt. Justin Palmer, a resident of Powell, Tenn., and 300th AS loadmaster. "It's an honor to take part in these types of missions. It makes the trip worthwhile to be able to see their faces and to see their appreciation."

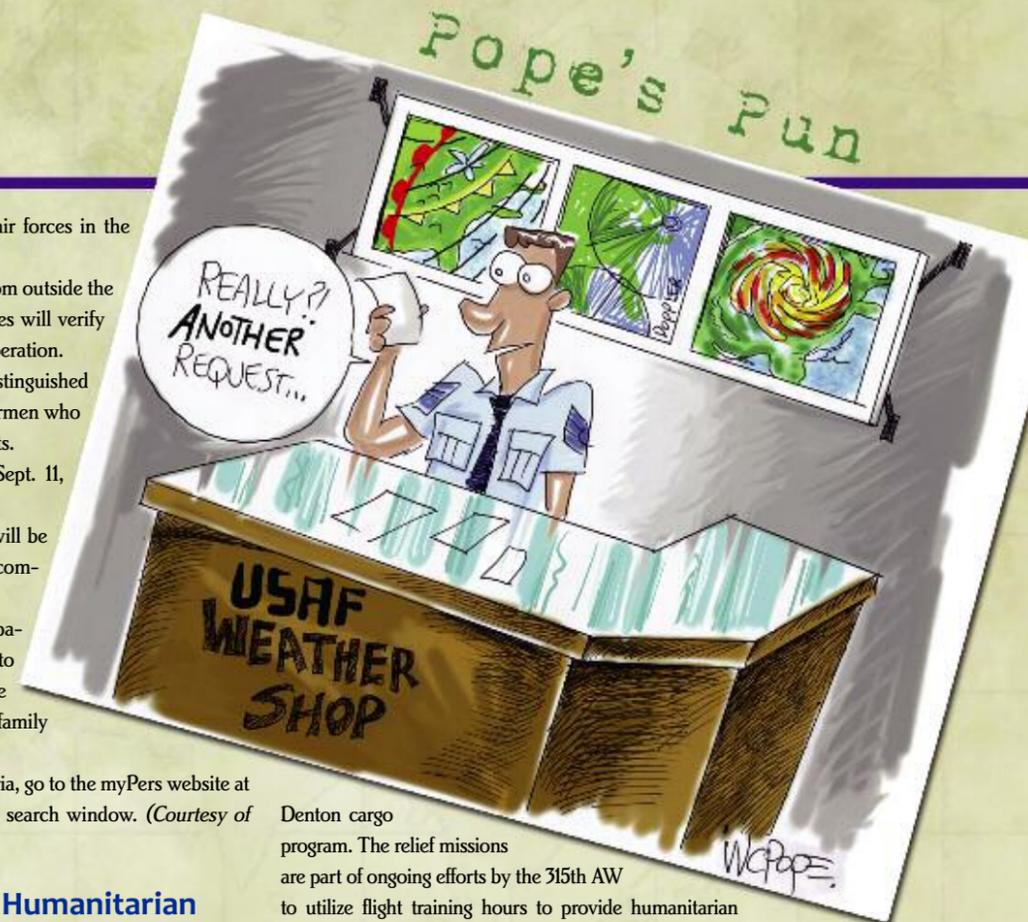
Thomas Nelson, a resident of Poland, Ohio, was on hand in Guatemala to see the school bus unloaded from the C-17.

"We are hoping the bus can change generations of lives," said Nelson, who, along with his wife, Dr. Kathie Nelson, purchased the bus for the foundation.

While Airmen assigned to the 300th AS execute numerous missions annually, they especially enjoy these types of opportunities.

"It makes you feel great and has a direct impact more so than just giving money away," said Lt. Col. Lance Livesey, one of the pilots on the mission. "Additionally, it adds to the crew's morale."

In the past year, the 315th Airlift Wing has flown seven missions to six different countries, transporting more than 84 tons of humanitarian aid, as part of the



Denton cargo program. The relief missions are part of ongoing efforts by the 315th AW to utilize flight training hours to provide humanitarian relief to countries in need while also providing mandated training to C-17 aircrew members. (Senior Airman Bobby Pilch, 315th Airlift Wing public affairs at Joint Base Charleston)

McChord Airmen Complete Operation Deep Freeze

As a cold, dark winter approaches Antarctica, the 2012-2013 season of Operation Deep Freeze has come to an end. A team of Airmen from McChord Field, Wash. — from both the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings — flew the last mission to the frozen white continent Feb. 26 before returning home to the Evergreen State March 1.

For the entire operation, which began in August, McChord Airmen successfully moved nearly 1,700 passengers and more than 2.1 million pounds of cargo from Christchurch, New Zealand, to McMurdo Station, Antarctica. This took a total of 42 C-17 Globemaster III missions and almost 450 flying hours.

While in New Zealand, the McChord Airmen joined the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron for the operation. An average of 14 Reservists participated in each of the five rotations supporting Deep Freeze. On every rotation of the main season, a Reservist filled the positions of director of operations, chief loadmaster and ramp coordinator.

Flying the C-17 missions was the 446th AW's role in the operation. The U.S. military started Deep Freeze to support the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Program with science and research activities in Antarctica.

This season, the overall number of C-17 missions was reduced compared to recent years due to a seven-week operational pause in December and January.

The pause was taken as a cost-saving initiative by the National Science Foundation, said Chief Master Sgt. Jim Masura, 446th Operations Group standardization evaluation loadmaster.

After beginning the break Nov. 30, operations were scheduled to resume in January. However, windstorms liquefied the runway in Antarctica. Operations resumed Feb. 11 when runways were returned to a suitable condition for a safe C-17 landing.

"We conducted the first-ever C-17 (landing) on an 8,000-by-90 foot ice runway," said Lt. Col. Brent Keenan, commander of the 304th EAS. "The runway is normally 10,000 feet long and 220 feet wide plus a 1,000 foot overrun."

Teams from McMurdo worked diligently to rebuild the ice runway because 90 feet is the minimum width for a safe landing.

"The trickiest part was making sure we didn't venture off the runway and sink," said Senior Master Sgt. Terry Philon, a standardization evaluation loadmaster with the Reserve's 313th Airlift Squadron, who has nearly 40 missions to Antarctica. "We had to have people looking out the doors on each side of the airplane so they could see the flags."

Airmen successfully conducted six landings and takeoffs on this runway before it was returned to its normal dimensions Feb. 24.

"Special thanks and appreciation go to the

McMurdo airfield team who, despite the odds Mother Nature stacked against them, were able to construct a new and safe reduced runway that allowed NSF sustainment operations to resume," Keenan said.

Landing on the shrunken runway wasn't the only success of the season.

On Oct. 14, McChord Airmen flew the 500th accident-free C-17 mission to Antarctica. They also flew seven successful medical evacuations throughout the season, including one emergency evacuation. The McChord crews also supported international Antarctic programs by moving South Korean and Italian personnel to the continent.

"The interaction between JTF-SFA (Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica), USAP (U.S. Antarctic Program), the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command and the Royal New Zealand Air Force represents a fantastic and total force effort by all involved with the 304th EAS," Keenan said.

Along with working as a total force, the Airmen teamed up to help the Christchurch community. They donated \$8,500 to different charities and programs in Christchurch, including the Antarctic Heritage Trust, Kidney Kids, Cookie

Time Trust, Kids Can and Cholmondoley.

"I know the mayor was very appreciative of last year's donations, so I wanted to pass along that we are continuing the effort to help aid those in need," Keenan said. "We love being a part of the community of Christchurch and look forward to seeing the city continue to rebuild (from the 2011 earthquake)." (*Airman 1st Class Madelyn McCullough, 446th AW public affairs, McChord Field*)

New Maintenance Platforms Increase Safety, Decrease Inspection Time

The 507th Maintenance Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., is using new KC-135 maintenance platforms that are designed to increase safety and efficiency while completing isochronal inspections.

The new platforms, each one measuring approximately 1,500 square feet, decrease the "fly to fly" time, which is the time it takes to conduct an inspection.

Also included in the new maintenance platform package are stands that wrap around the nose of the aircraft and down both sides of the plane.

Aeromedical evacuation technician in training helps save infant's life

By Airman First Class Madelyn McCullough

A 446th Airlift Wing Reservist saved his first life when a baby went into cardiac arrest the morning of Feb. 12 at the Madigan Army Medical Center emergency room.

Airman 1st Class Barrett Rayan, aeromedical evacuation technician in training at the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, McChord Field, Wash., was near the end of his 12-hour night shift when a baby was brought in because of low oxygen levels.

"The baby was having what are called retractions, which looks like the skin is being sucked under the ribs because he was trying aggressively to breathe," Rayan said.

In the ER, a team of two resident doctors, an attending physician, three nurses and Rayan, the only medic, began pumping oxygen into the infant's lungs to try and raise his oxygen level back to normal.

Multiple efforts were made to insert tubes and create an airway for him but nothing was working. They had to insert a paralytic so that the baby's muscles would relax enough to accept the tubing. When doing so, the doctor

knew the baby's oxygen level would plummet, but he was not expecting cardiac arrest.

"The baby turned blue," Rayan said. "I saw his O2 stats hit zero; zero oxygen."

That's a rare occurrence, he said. One nurse, who'd been working in the ER for five years had never before seen a pediatric cardiac arrest.

To keep the child's heart beating, they had to perform cardiopulmonary



Airman First Class Barrett Rayan, an aeromedical evacuation technician in training at McChord Field, Wash., helped save a baby's life by performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

resuscitation, which is different than doing CPR on an adult. The procedure involves wrapping the hands around the baby's body and placing the thumbs on his chest.

Rayan, who had never done CPR on a live person before, took the second turn.

"They told me I was up next, and I went in," he said. "Your training kind of takes over when you're in a situation like that."

After continuous compressions at 100 beats per minute for nearly 15 minutes, the baby's body finally accepted the tubes. He could breathe normally again, and his oxygen levels shot back up.

Aside from the shaky start, the effort was a success, and the team handled the emergency situation the best way it could, Rayan said. Everyone stayed calm, on point and did what they needed to do.

At the time of the incident, Rayan was into the third week of a three-month training period at Madigan. Overall, he had completed 5 1/2 months of medical technical training and 1 1/2 months of training at a hospital.

He still had seven months of total training left.

"It's a good feeling knowing everything I learned really can make a difference," Rayan said. "We have a lot of info we have to learn during tech school; it's very fast-paced. When the time comes, you either know or you don't, and I knew." ★

(McCullough is assigned to the 446th Airlift Wing public affairs office at McChord Field.)

"Once the aircraft is towed into the hangar and the stands are positioned, our inspection team has the ability to perform inspections and maintenance virtually anywhere on the aircraft," said Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Corporon, 507th MXS superintendent. "The inspection can be performed from start to finish without having to move or bring additional stands to perform different aspects of the ISO."

"It's going to save us so much time," said Master Sgt. Shaun Loeffler, 507th MXS ISO dock coordinator. "We will not have to climb up and down and move stands to different parts of the aircraft when someone needs help. We can just walk right over to them and give them the help they need." (*Senior Airman Mark Hybers, 507th ARW public affairs, Tinker AFB*)

Beale AFB Getting New RED HORSE Unit; First Such Squadron on the West Coast

A new Reserve mobile heavy construction civil engineering unit is in the process of standing up at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

The 583rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers will be the sixth such squadron in the Air Force Reserve Command and the first on the West Coast.

The activation of the new unit will come just months after the re-designation of the 940th Civil Engineer Squadron as the 940th Civil Engineer Flight at Beale.

Downsizing of the CES to a flight will lead to the loss of about 100 positions, with most of those being absorbed into the 583rd, said Col. Patricia Brewer, 940th Mission Support Group commander.

"Many of our current CE Reservists are simply transitioning to the new unit," Brewer said. "So, while they'll no longer belong to the 940th Wing, the majority of the members of the 583rd will be familiar faces."

The RED HORSE unit's projected end-strength is slightly less than 200, which includes civil engineering, logistics, security forces and support personnel, as well as a medical team.

"In essence, a RED HORSE squadron is a civil engineering unit with an added mission support group element," Brewer said, adding that the new organization will represent a growth opportunity in both manpower and resources for the base.

Previously, the 940th CES mission focused on base maintenance. In contrast, the RED HORSE mission focuses instead on providing the Air Force a highly mobile response force supporting contingency and special operations.

"Our civil engineers are excited about this change," said Lt. Col. Michael Onines, former 940th CES commander. "RED HORSE is a heavy construction team, trained and equipped to take on large projects in remote, high-threat environments worldwide. It's a capability that combatant commanders have been asking for more and more."

"The deployment footprint of a RED HORSE unit is huge," he said. "As this new squadron becomes fully capable a few years down the road, it will take its place in line for mobilization, and this base will see the movement of large groups of people."

The community should be excited about acquiring the new squadron, Onines said. "Beale was selected because of the surrounding community," said Onines, referring to a highly competitive base selection process that first began in September 2005.

According to the colonel, the base was chosen as the location for the new RED HORSE unit because of its expansive real estate and the local economy's ability to support the unit's requirements for construction materials, as well as skilled tradesmen.

"This area offers a nucleus of heavy construction engineers to draw from," Onines said. "And there will be opportunities for these professionals to join the Reserve."

"The new squadron will also afford high school graduates from around Northern California outstanding apprenticeship opportunities to enter the construction trades," he said. "If they'd like to join the Reserve, we'll provide them with the training they need to develop very marketable skills in all construction trades."

A RED HORSE unit provides yet another benefit to the local area: the ability to respond to civil emergencies, such as floods, tornadoes and earthquakes. The unit is capable of doing everything from removing rubble to repairing levees. (*Dana Lineback, 940th Wing public affairs, Beale AFB*) ★

It's Your Money

The Financial Game

By Ralph Lunt

All games, no matter what they are, boil down to the score. In the financial game, the score everyone looks at is your FICO or Fair Isaac and Co. score — a measurement of your historical performance of meeting your credit obligations. In short, your performance as a borrower.



Equifax, Experian and TransUnion are the primary reporting agencies for your creditworthiness. There are multiple reasons to monitor your credit and your score. First, it is imperative that you monitor the activity in financial accounts. Unauthorized charges and scams are always a threat to your financial well being. I monitor my banking and credit activity daily simply to ensure I am not being taken advantage of by some knucklehead who steals from me and the folks who have extended me credit.

I also check my credit activity at annualcreditreport.com to ensure there are no charges/debts against my Social Security number for which I am not responsible.

So, you have a credit report that includes information on where you live, how you pay your bills and whether you've been sued or arrested or have filed for bankruptcy. You also have a credit score, which, according to the annualcreditreport.com website, is a complex mathematical model that evaluates many types of information in a credit file. A credit score is used by a lender to help determine whether a person qualifies for a particular credit card, loan or service.

Most credit scores estimate the risk a company incurs by lending a person money or providing him or her with a service — specifically, the likelihood that the person will make payments on time in the next two to three years. Generally, the higher the score, the less risk the person represents.

Take a look at creditKarma.com, annualcreditreport.com and myfico.com to learn more about credit reports and how you can score well in the financial game. Fly safe! ★

(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 of the Great Lakes Region of the Civil Air Patrol adviser's program.)

A Band like No Other

**With inactivation close at hand, the Band of the U.S.
Air Force Reserve reflects on 70-plus years of service**

By Gene Van Deventer

With roots that date back to 1941, the Band of the Air Force Reserve has provided music and military pomp and circumstance to millions of service members, families, dignitaries and common folk across this continent and around the world. This distinguished group of professional musicians has played before prince and pauper, foreign and domestic, both in peacetime and during war. In March 2012, the Department of the Air Force, in a downsizing and cost-cutting initiative, announced its intention to inactivate the band, effective Sept. 30. After nearly 72 years of continuous service, one of the longest operating bands in the Air Force will soon be "history."

Originally known as the U.S. Army's Air Force Band, located at Mitchel Field, N.Y., the band has been known by a number of names over the years: the 81st Army Air Forces Band, the 581st Army Air Forces Band, the 581st Air Force Band, the Command Band of the Air Force Reserve, the Band of the Air Force Reserve and the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

I proudly served as the band's commander in 1988, 25 years ago. What a privilege to have led this group of talented musicians and professional active-duty Airmen. Our band members just didn't come in to work to beat the drums, toot their horns or tickle the ivory; they continually rehearsed and performed before a myriad of audiences and were our Air Force Reserve goodwill ambassadors of music.

Our band members were paired up with many associated tasks within the unit related to operations, from accounting to supply, transportation to contracting, public affairs to security. The many compliments I received for our performances were

of the highest praise as young and old witnessed the Air Force uniform worn proudly by men and women dedicated in service to our nation.

Preparation for a musical performance meant hours of rehearsal. Performance set-ups and tear-downs of portable stages were strenuous endeavors that kept band members physically fit and mentally alert.

For years, Middle Georgia residents have enjoyed the annual Independence Day concert at McConnell-Talbert Stadium in Warner Robins. Band leadership often recruited headline performers to join them in the musical salute to our nation's birthday, followed by one of the most awesome fireworks displays in the state. Back in the days before 9/11, an artillery detachment from Fort Sill, Okla., would be invited to the festivities, adding a thunderous ingredient to the band's signature closing tune of the evening, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

The band was a great recruiting tool for the Air Force

Reserve, with performances targeting high schools and college campuses throughout the Southeast.

Bottom line ... the band was just terrific. Hearing sounds from home when you were deployed half-way around the world in some isolated location meant the world to a homesick Airman.

What a joy to be able to listen to familiar music performed by a military band and accompanied, in many instances, by top-flight entertainers like Bob Hope, Celine Dion, The Lettermen, Aaron Neville, Lonestar, Crystal Gayle, Amy Grant, Vince Gill, Jonathan Pierce, Christ Church Choir, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Faith Hill, Restless Heart, Lee Greenwood, Wynonna Judd, Chris Daughtry, the Miracles, BJ Thomas, Toby Keith, Diamond Rio. ... and the list goes on.

Their performances helped you get through those days of loneliness and family separation by bringing a piece of Americana straight to your encampment tent.

Over the years, the band has been notorious for having a musical ensemble that no other major command band has — the bagpipers. Ron Hamilton, a member of the band in the early 1960s, recounted how the bagpipers came about.

"General Timberlake (Lt. Gen. Edward J. Timberlake, commander of Continental Air Command from 1962 to 1965) decided that his band needed a bagpipe unit," Hamilton said. "We were given the equipment and only two weeks to get ready for our first parade. The pipers were 'volunteered' from the clarinet section. ... they weren't too happy about that. I believe there were six pipers and two drummers in the first unit."

Today, like yesterday, talented woodwind musicians practice on an instrument that they have no prior experience with, successfully mastering the art of the "pipes" and marching in full festive regalia to the beat of snare and base drums.

Their kilts are authentic; their tartan colors officially registered with Scottish heraldry. There may be a few music aficionados who do not truly appreciate the sounds of bagpipes; however, if you've ever heard the pipes as they are being played during a parade, formal retreat or regimental military tattoo ceremony, you know their sounds instantly generate pride and patriotism. Whether playing "Scotland the Brave" or the old spiritual "Amazing Grace," the end result is always a deep appreciation of the men and women in uniform and an emotional connection with all in attendance.

Then there were special people throughout the years who helped to make the band what it is today. Professional senior noncommissioned officers and mentors, Airmen like Chief Master Sgts. John Grove, Jimmie Self, Dave Ballengee and Jay Willis; Senior Master Sgts. Roger Ferrell, Ken Rankin and Jake Story; Master Sgts. Jim Larimer, Deb Rankin and Jeff Bare; and so, so many others. I fondly recall Tech. Sgt. Will Jackson (deceased), who was most eager to learn the bagpipes from scratch and instrumental in helping to design the unit's patch.

However, from all my band memories, I remember

Saying goodbye difficult for band's members

By Bo Joyner

The active-duty musicians who make up the Band of the Air Force Reserve all have their orders now and will soon be packing up their gear and heading to their next assignment.

"Everybody knows where they are going now, and they will be leaving Robins (Air Force Base, Ga.) in increments over the next few months," 1st Lt. Thomas Gamboa, the band's commander and conductor, said during a recent interview. The band found out in March 2012 that it was being inactivated. The official inactivation takes place Sept. 30.

"We have had a few people retire, but the 30 or so members of the band who are still here should all be PCSed by mid-September," Gamboa said.

He said most of the members of the Band of the Air Force Reserve will be heading to four different locations: Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, home of the U.S. Air Force Band of the West; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., home of the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band; Scott AFB, Ill., home of the U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America or Travis AFB, Calif., home of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West.

The conductor has his own orders to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he will be assigned to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band.

The force structure announcement of March 2012 hit the Air Force bands hard. In addition to the Band of the Air Force Reserve, the U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty at Hanscom AFB, Mass., and the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Alaska at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, were slated for inactivation. The U.S. Air Force Band of Flight, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band, Offutt AFB, Neb., each went from 45 members down to 15.

Gamboa assumed command of the band on July 3, 2012, and he has been at the helm for what has been a difficult transition year.

"It's been tough because the Band of the Air Force Reserve has such deep ties with the local community," he said. "Saying goodbye to all of the friends we have made over the years is difficult."

A lot of the band members themselves have deep ties to Middle Georgia. Staff Sgt. Juan Jimenez, a French horn player, has been with the Reserve band since September 2002.

"I've been here for more than 10 years," he said. "This is the only assignment I have ever had. When I heard they were shutting down the band, it was heartbreaking."

Jimenez has orders to report to the Heritage of America Band at Langley later this summer.

The sergeant said he has some great memories of his time with the Band of the Air Force Reserve.

"Operation Season's Greetings, Holiday Notes from Home, the Independence Day concerts ... It's been a tremendous assignment," he said. "We've entertained thousands of people over the years, and we've had a ball doing it."

Gamboa agreed.

"We are all extremely proud of what the Band of the Air Force Reserve has done over the years," he said. "It's remarkable the places we have been, the shows we have put on and the audiences we have played for. Now it's time to look to the future and set our sights on serving the Air Force where we are needed the most." ★

The U.S. Army's Air Force Band poses for a photo at Mitchel Field, N.Y., in 1943. The band would later become the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve.



REFLECTIONS

Past commanders recall their time with the band

During my tenure as commander of the Band of the Air Force Reserve (July 2008 to July 2012), I was constantly impressed by the wide impact of our mission. As we travelled the world performing for the Airmen, their families and the employers who support our Citizen Airmen, I was always proud to represent the Air Force Reserve Command mission.

We performed all over the world with guest artists such as Kid Rock, Chris Daughtry, Little Big Town, Josh Turner and Lee Greenwood bringing that touch of home to our deployed men and women serving in harm's way. Once the cheering crowds left for the night, it was easy to compartmentalize the experience and quickly look to the next mission, concentrating on new objectives and new challenges.

I was in a hardware store in Warner Robins, Ga., dressed in my grass-cutting clothes getting a part for my lawnmower, when I was approached by a young man asking if I had performed in Iraq with the Band of the Air Force Reserve. I was shocked that he had recognized me out of uniform and asked him what he remembered about the show. He responded that our performance had broken the monotony of his deployment and temporarily transported him mentally to a "better place," bringing back fond memories of being with family and friends.

I was touched that he approached me, and it will always stay with me that our mission made such an impact on his outlook and morale — that is the impact of our unique mission set.

The picture that accompanies this reflection was taken during my first mission at the Band of the Air Force Reserve. The band on stage or me conducting is not what I like about the photograph. Rather, the photo shows impact to a target audience.

The photograph is from the back of the stage showing tens of thousands of people packing a stadium and being witness to the incredible professionalism of the



Air Force Reserve. Our mission as Airmen-musicians is to represent the pride and professionalism of the Air Force through the universal language of music. The positive impact of the Air Force Reserve remains indelible for millions of people worldwide because of the Band of the Air Force Reserve.

The Band of the Air Force Reserve carries the distinction of being the only military unit in the history of the Department of Defense to be a two-time finalist for an Emmy Award. In our broadcast mission to 177 countries, all U.S. embassies, and all ships and submarines at sea, we always defined our mission goal as bringing a touch of home to our total force deployed men and women — never to garner industry-standard awards. The multiple Emmy Award nominations validate the fact that the Air Force Reserve continues to cultivate world-class talent and carry a message of hope to a global audience.

It was truly an honor to lead this unit, and being a part of that world-class organization will always be a highlight of my military career.

— Lt. Col. Donald Schofield

From January 1996 to June of 2004, I was privileged to command one of the most capable, innovative and versatile professional bands in the world: the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

During those years, Air Force Reserve Command chartered a Tiger Team — a group that eventually became the AFRC Band Corporate Board — to find more effective ways to target band assets. This team developed multiple innovative annual initiatives including Operation Season's Greetings overseas troop entertainment packages, Holiday Notes from Home internationally broadcasted radio programs and AFRC Band Strike Package support deployments to many of the 36 AFRC wings across the continental United States.

These were in addition to our mission of providing public relations support to the Southeast region of the United States and military ceremonial and entertainment support to 60 military units in our geographic area of responsibility.

Our bagpipe band was the only active-duty pipe band in the U.S. military,



and we performed for the president, the speaker of the House and the prime minister of Ireland in Washington, D.C., every St. Patrick's Day during my seven-year tenure.

Our rock band, Reserve Generation, developed and performed a counterdrug show that reached thousands of school children across the country, and our lighting and sound production team deployed overseas with and supported other Air Force bands on several occasions. Our AFRC band team was outstanding, and our operations and products were mission focused and cutting edge. To say that I was stunned when I learned of the band's scheduled deactivation would be an understatement.

I am very proud of my Air Force, my Air Force bands and my years in the Air Force. I am extremely saddened at the decision to deactivate what I consider to be the most operationally capable regional band in the U.S. military.

— Retired Maj. N. Alan Clark

most a very important and key player in the band's success — a person who was neither a musician nor a conductor, but rather the unit's administrative support specialist. Her name is Sue Barfield. In addition to preparing travel orders, planning trips, typing performance reports, and making sure everyone's medical, dental and immunization appointments were met, Barfield was the "life" counselor who readily provided advice and guidance to the "family" at-large.

Whether it was a button that needed last-minute sewing, flowers that needed to be delivered to a loved one while the band was out of town or just some sound life advice that needed to be given, she handled the task with tact, humaneness and little fanfare. She took on the immense responsibility of keeping the band family together and pointed in the right direction for many years and did so superbly.

If you have ever been to a military funeral and heard a lone bugler play "Taps," if you have ever attended a retirement ceremony and heard a vocal-

ist belt out the national anthem, if you have ever heard the serenading sound of a lone bagpiper or a bagpiper playing in combination with fife and drums, or if you have ever stood tall and proud at the rendition of the Air Force song, then you know what we all will miss when the last Band of the Air Force Reserve musician leaves town and closes this chapter of notable achievements.

When the final curtain is drawn and the lights in the auditorium grow dim, our talented musicians and Airmen, both past and present, will deserve their final salute. And in the distant background, you will clearly hear the faint sounds and see the still silhouette of a lone bagpiper, proudly piping the band's colors into the dusk of the day. Day is done, gone the sun ... all is well ... all is well. ★

(A regular contributor to Citizen Airman magazine, Van Deventer is assigned to the Expeditionary Combat Support Division of the Installation and Mission Support Directorate at HQ AFRC. During his military career, he briefly served as commander of the band.)

Throughout my Air Force career, I have learned that the only constant is change. Among Airmen this is expected; they excel at change, even embracing it. However, as the Band of the Air Force Reserve closes its final chapter, I am wistful.

From my first encounter with the band, I knew I was joining a great legacy. ... one of service, excellence and proud tradition. In 2003, I participated in a recording session in Nashville, Tenn., for the band's annual holiday radio show for American Forces Network. What a thrill! Everyone had a driving passion for great music and providing a special gift to our military members overseas.

In June 2004, I soberly walked into the Century of Flight hangar at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and took command of the band. (Steffey served as commander until March 2008.) I will never forget my pride in the band and the Air Force Reserve Command. Looking out over the bagpipers in full regalia, marching to the rousing strains of John Philip Sousa, and hearing the world-class vocalists left me with an indelible impression that I was joining one of this nation's elite organizations. I was also humbled at the daunting task before me.

Fortunately, I was surrounded not only by brilliant musicians but also a professional NCO corps and staff. Beyond the innumerable highlights on stage, my lasting memories will be these wonderful people and the lifelong friendships we forged. Most especially, retired Chief Master Sgt. David



country and Air Force.

Of particular note, I am most proud of serving with our Airmen in Southwest Asia. In 2007, the Band of the Air Force Reserve was chosen as the first full-time deployed band since Vietnam. With 14 dedicated volunteers, we toured more than 50 bases throughout seven countries in the Middle East in just two months. We braved sand storms, meals ready-to-eat, stomach-churning helicopter rides, crowded tents with Soldiers and scorching temperatures. I wouldn't trade the experience for performing at Carnegie Hall!

I don't have enough words of gratitude or praise for the men and women of the Band of the Air Force Reserve. They all served with distinction and honor, and it was my humble privilege to be part of it. Best wishes!

— Maj. Chad A. Steffey

Senior Airman Mary Gant rocks out with the Band of the Air Force Reserve's funk/rhythm & blues group, High Flight, at the final landing of Space Shuttle Atlantis at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in 2011.

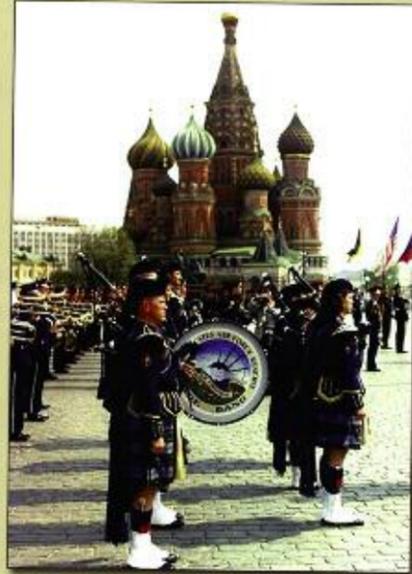


HISTORY

Reserve band has made more than its share over the years



FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS — The Band of the Air Force Reserve can trace its roots back to 1941, when the U.S. Army's Air Force Band was established at Mitchel Field, N.Y. Over the years, the band has been known by a number of names: the 81st Army Air Forces Band, the 581st Army Air Forces Band, the 581st Air Force Band, the Command Band of the Air Force Reserve and the Band of the Air Force Reserve.



MAKING HISTORY — The Band made history in 1992 when it became the first foreign military unit to march through Moscow's Red Square. The bagpipers and ceremonial band were selected to lead the historic Peace Victory Parade.



A HIT WITH THE KIDS — Reserve Generation, the band's popular music group, is always a big hit with young audiences. Over the years, RG has entertained thousands of students at high schools, colleges and universities throughout the United States. Here, Staff Sgt. Josh Byrd and Senior Airman Michelle Hooper entertain youngsters at a teen leadership summit.



A WHO'S WHO OF CELEBRITIES — Over the years, the band has played with hundreds of elite musicians and celebrities, including Benny Goodman, Danny Kaye, Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, B.J. Thomas, Crystal Gayle, Faith Hill, Wynonna Judd, Kid Rock and Daughtry, just to name a few. Here, the band performs with Celine Dion in 2002.



OPERATION SEASON'S GREETINGS — For more than 10 years, the band teamed up with the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band and a host of big-name celebrities to bring some hometown entertainment and a little holiday cheer to military members stationed and deployed overseas, including austere locations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here, the band plays with John Popper of Blues Traveler.



AN INDEPENDENCE DAY TRADITION — Thousands of people from throughout Georgia turned out for the band's annual Independence Day concerts at McConnell-Talbert Stadium in Warner Robins. In recent years, the band shared the stage with the likes of Josh Turner, Diamond Rio, the Miracles, Lonestar, Lee Greenwood and a host of other famous musicians. Here, the band performs with John Berry.



ONE OF A KIND — The Band of the Air Force Reserve's Pipe Band is the only professional pipe band in the Department of Defense. Since 1993, the pipe band has been invited to perform for the president of the United States and prime minister of Ireland at the Capitol on St. Patrick's Day. The band also regularly participates in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Washington.



IN HIGH DEMAND — Not every band can say it has played with the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir, but the Band of the Air Force Reserve can. The band has also played for numerous presidents and heads of state, the crews of the Nautilus atomic submarine, and the Apollo 8, 9 and 10 moon flights, as well as for fans at the Indianapolis and Daytona 500s.

GLOBE-TROTTERS — Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Mogadishu, Kuwait, Iceland ... the list goes on and on. Over the years, the band has performed in more than 25 foreign countries. Here, band members rock out during a performance at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, in 2008.



HOLIDAY NOTES FROM HOME — Since 1996, the band has been teaming up with some of Nashville's biggest names to bring a little holiday cheer to troops deployed overseas and their family members who are left behind. The concerts are featured on the American Forces Network and the Great American Country Channel. Here, the band performs with Little Big Town and Lee Ann Womack. The band earned an unprecedented two Emmy nomination for its work with Holiday Notes from Home, one in 2009 and another in 2011.



CYBERSPACE

It's a battlefield, and Air Force Reservists are getting more and more involved in the fight every day

By Bo Joyner

Cyberspace — the global network of intertwined information technology infrastructures, telecommunications networks and computer processing systems in which all online communication takes place — pulses through everything the Air Force does every day. That's why a growing number of Air Force Reservists are working around the clock to make sure the Air Force can continue to operate and thrive in the cyber world.

"Cyber touches everything we do," said Col. Patrick Ryan, chief of the Communications Directorate's Operations Division at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "But the cyber world is changing at an incredible pace, making it harder and harder to operate safely and effectively in the cyber arena."

To make sure AFRC is positioned to meet all of its cyber challenges, the command recently established the first cyberspace operations group in the Air Force. The 960th Cyberspace Operations Group, located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, was officially activated March 1. Led by Col. Lloyd Terry Jr., the 960th CYOG is charged with providing combat-ready forces with specialized expertise in the operation and defense of Air Force and Defense Department global information grids.

"The 960th is the one belly button for cyber in AFRC," Terry said. "Just like the 310th Space Wing is the one-stop shop for all things space in AFRC, we are the one-stop shop for cyber."

The 960th CYOG has administrative control over the 10 Reserve cyber organizations spread throughout the country.

There are four combat communications squadrons — the 23rd CBCS at Travis AFB, Calif.; 35th CBCS at Tinker AFB, Okla.; 42nd CBCS at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.; and 55th CBCS at Robins AFB — that provide theater-deployable communications during wartime and contingency operations or humanitarian missions in austere locations.

The command's two classic associate network operations squadrons — the 960th NOS at Peterson AFB, Colo., and 860th NOS, JB Langley-Eustis, Va. — work with their active-duty counterparts to operate, sustain and defend assigned Air Force networks.

Two classic associate network warfare flights — the 860th NWF at JB San Antonio-Lackland and 960th NWF at Offutt AFB, Neb. — monitor Air Force communications-computer systems to determine if any information is being revealed that may be of intelligence value to an adversary.

Finally, there are two 960th CYOG detachments that operate as classic associate units with the 624th Operations Center and the 33rd Network Warfare Squadron at JB San Antonio-Lackland that are on track to become squadrons later this year.

Detachment 1, associated with the 624th OC, interfaces with theater and functional air operations centers to establish, plan, direct, coordinate, assess, and command and control cyber operations in support of Air Force and joint warfighting requirements. Detachment 2, associated with the 33rd NWS, produces effects for the Air Force and combatant commands in, through and from cyberspace by employing synchronized network defense operations to detect, respond to and prevent network intrusions.

"We currently have about 800 people working in cyber throughout AFRC," said Chief Master Sgt. Patti Miller, functional area manager for AFRC's Communications Directorate. "And that number is sure to grow. There are currently between 15 and 20 other mission areas where Cyber Command wants AFRC involvement. Cyber is definitely a growing field throughout DOD."

And AFRC's role in cyber is growing right along with DOD's.

"AFRC is a great fit for the cyber mission because of the talents that our Reservists bring to the table," Miller said. "We have people who have a wealth of experience in cyber in their civilian jobs, and we have a lot of young people in the Reserve saying, 'This is what I want to do.' Young people today have grown up with the internet and social media, and they are comfortable in the cyber world."

"I think cyber is perfect for the Air Force Reserve," Terry said. "We've got people like Lt. Col. Steve White (commander of the 960th NOS), who is a senior director with Microsoft, and Lt. Col. William Monahan (commander of the 860th NOS), a senior guy with SAIC (Science Applications International Corp). We have a lot of Reservists who bring a wealth of civilian network expertise to Reserve cyber operations."

"We also have a lot of Reservists who worked cyber on active-duty and decided to switch over to the Reserve, and they definitely have a lot to bring to the table."

Terry said that while there is great talent among AFRC's cyber force, he is looking to bring in even more.

"We are definitely hiring, both TRs (traditional Reservists) and ARTs (air reserve technicians)," he said. "That's one of our primary challenges right now — to fill all of the openings we have. And we're not just looking to bring in prior-service people. We know there are kids in high school today who have a lot of the basic skills we are looking for."

A lot of the Reserve cyber positions that are currently open are found at JB San Antonio-Lackland, but Terry said there are some opportunities at locations throughout the country.

"Besides, you don't have to live near Lackland to serve at Lackland. You just have to be willing to commute," he said.

The colonel said another challenge involves changing the way people in the cyber world think.

"We have to make the switch from a support mindset to an operational mindset," Terry said. "A lot of our people come



Col. Lloyd Terry Jr. (center), commander of the recently activated 960th Cyberspace Operations Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, poses with leaders from some of the Reserve's 10 cyber organizations. The 960th is the first cyberspace operations group in the Air Force.

from a comm background where support was the name of the game. But, whether we like it or not, the cyber world we operate in today is a battlefield, and we are at war every day.

"Our networks are constantly under attack, so the vast majority of what we do in cyber is defense," he said.

While defense is definitely a top priority, Terry said there are other components of the Air Force's cyber strategy — operating and extending — that are taking place all the time.

Col. David Hathaway, director of operations and plans for 24th Air Force, the Air Force's component of U.S. Cyber Command, compares military cyber support to a soccer match, saying that it's definitely more like soccer than American football.

"It's not the offensive team or the defensive team playing; they're both on the field all the time," he said in a recent *Defense Systems* magazine article. The challenge is that the rules of the game and the very field it is being played on are constantly changing, and if your team loses the match, the results could be catastrophic.

Cyber attacks are becoming more and more sophisticated all the time, and it's easy to see how devastating a successful attack could be. Miller said you needn't look any further than the Stuxnet computer worm, discovered in June 2010, to see how dangerous a cyber attack can be.

Stuxnet, which has been called the world's first cyber super-weapon and the first weapon made entirely out of computer code, was designed specifically to attack Iran's nuclear facilities by interfering with the industrial software and equipment that ran the centrifuges in a top-secret Iranian nuclear facility. The worm showed for the first time that a cyber attack could cause significant physical damage to a facility.

While the vast majority of cyber attacks are nowhere near as sophisticated as Stuxnet, the U.S. military endures millions of probes against its networks every day. It's the responsibility of the DOD's cyber warriors to make sure none of those probes make it through.



"It's such a challenging mission because we don't own and control all of the networks we operate on," Ryan said. "The internet was originally a military initiative, but today's internet has a civilian backbone. That makes operating effectively and safely in the cyber world even more

challenging."

"The cyber mission is constantly changing and evolving," Terry said. "That's one reason I think it is such a great career field to be involved with and a great mission for the Air Force Reserve."

Terry encouraged Reservists or active-

duty Airmen who might be interested in a cyber career to check out www.usajobs.gov for a listing of current positions available. Young non-Airmen who would like to pursue a Reserve cyber position should contact their local Air Force Reserve recruiter. ★

Reservists providing communications support for African Lion exercise

By Bo Joyner

Every year, a Marine-led contingent of U.S. service members teams up with members of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces for a large-scale exercise called African Lion that is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures. This year, for the first time ever, an Air Force Reserve squadron was chosen to provide the critical communications support for this vital endeavor.

Fourteen members of the 55th Combat Communications Squadron, based at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and five pallets of computers, cables, switches, satellite dishes, tents and other supplies were scheduled to leave Robins on a KC-135 early this month. After their arrival in Agadir, Morocco, the comm specialists were tasked with setting up the communications network that would serve as the backbone for African Lion.

"We will be providing SIPR (secure internet), NIPR (non-secure internet), voice and some VTC (video teleconferencing) for this large-scale exercise," said Senior Master Sgt. Bart Sawyer, 55th CBCS superintendent.

"Our folks have been training hard," said Lt. Col. Lee Mumford, 55th CBCS commander. "We finished an ORI in December of 2010 and a UCI in August of 2012, and we're ready to put our training to the test and show that we can provide comm to the warfighter in an austere location."

It will be a challenging mission. More than 1,400 U.S. military service members will join more than 900 Moroccan soldiers in various regions of the country to take part in a wide variety of training, including command post operations, live fire and maneuvering, peacekeeping operations, amphibious operations, and aerial refueling and low-level flight training. In addition, exercise participants will provide medical, dental, pediatric and optometry care to thousands of Moroccans throughout the country.

"This is a great opportunity for our people to train in a joint environment with people from the other services and other countries," Mumford said. "Providing comm to all of the participants who need it will definitely put us to the test."

"This exercise is the real deal," Sawyer said. "Our mission is to deliver tactical communications systems for dominant combat operations anytime, anywhere, and we're ready to prove we're up to the challenge."

African Lion is already the largest exercise for U.S. Africa Command, and it is expanding every year. This year, Marines and Sailors will conduct a large-scale offload of both a Marine prepositioned ship and a commercial shipping vessel at the Port of Agadir. They will offload more than 200 vehicles and containers, move them to locations more than 200 miles away, use the equipment, and then bring it back and load it aboard the ships in a 24-day period.

This year also marks the first time rocket training will take place during African Lion.

"The launching of HIMARS will take our U.S./Moroccan team to greater limits in terms of our coordination and interoperability," Col. Roger Garay, Task Force African Lion commander, said in a recent Marine Corps Forces Africa news article.

The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System is the Marine Corps' premier artillery system, accurately engaging targets over great distances and under all weather conditions.

Military representatives from close to 20 different nations are expected to

check out what African Lion is all about this year.

"The embassy has invited a host of nations this year to expand African Lion into a true multi-lateral exercise," U.S. Army Maj. Barrett McNabb, U.S. Embassy Rabat liaison officer, said in the Marine Corps Forces Africa news article. "The intent is to invite our partner nations from Europe and Africa to act as observers this year and expand to participation in the years ahead."

Mumford said he hopes Reserve combat communications participation might also expand in the years ahead.

"We're hoping that our participation in African Lion this year might open up some more doors for us," he said. "This training is a perfect fit for us, and we'd love to provide more support of this type in the future." ★



Members of the 55th Combat Communications Squadron, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., assemble a pallet of communications equipment that will be used in support of African Lion — a Marine-led joint exercise with members of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces.

BO JOYNER

Additional Airlifters



The Air Force is restoring the Air Force Reserve's 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa., to a size of eight primary assigned aircraft and associated personnel.

Air Force announces it will retain more aircraft through fiscal year 2014

The Air Force announced it will retain additional airlift aircraft through fiscal 2014 in response to a congressional mandate to retain an inventory of 358 intratheater airlift aircraft.

The fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act signed into law Jan. 3 included language directing the retention of additional intratheater airlift aircraft above what was brought back in a previous Air Force proposal submitted in November.

"Although we were required to retain aircraft only through the end of this fiscal year, we extended the aircraft through FY14 to allow time to complete additional analysis and coordinate with our stakeholders," said Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley.

To develop options to comply with the guidance in the fiscal 2013 NDAA, Air Force officials established an Intratheater Airlift Working Group comprising members from the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Air Mobility Command and Headquarters Air Force.

"The task of the IAWG was to provide the secretary of the Air Force with recommendations for the locations, numbers, primary or backup status and duration of the aircraft we retained," said Col. James Jacobson, the group chairman. "The Air Force evaluated numerous criteria. Among the criteria, the Air Force focused its attention on intratheater airlift locations still affected by force structure reductions taken as part of the fiscal year 2013 president's budget and locations that did not receive a backfill mission as part of the Air Force Total Force Proposal."

In FY13, the Air Force will restore the Air Force Reserve's 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa., to a size of eight primary assigned aircraft and associated personnel. These aircraft will be retained through FY14.

In addition to the actions at the Pittsburgh wing, the Air Force retained aircraft through FY14 at multiple locations. The following aircraft will be backup aircraft:

- Two aircraft at the 109th AW, Schenectady, N.Y.
- One aircraft at the 123rd AW, Louisville, Ky.
- One aircraft at the 130th AW, Charleston, W.Va.
- Two aircraft at the 139th AW, St Joseph, Mo.
- One aircraft at the 189th AW, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.
- One aircraft at the Reserve's 440th AW, Pope Field, N.C.
- One aircraft at the Reserve's 910th AW, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio
- One aircraft at the Reserve's 914th AW, Niagara Falls IAP ARS, N.Y.

While the FY13 NDAA directed the Air Force to maintain a floor of 358 aircraft only for the current fiscal year, the Air Force elected to voluntarily extend the floor through FY14. Extending the 358 floor through 2014 allows the Air Force to complete additional studies and readdress force structure needs with its stakeholders. Also, it allows for resolution of sequestration before the Air Force reassesses its force structure during the FY15 budget cycle.

In 2014, the Air Force also elected to restore the Reserve's 934th AW and its eight primary aircraft and associated personnel at Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP ARS, Minn.

In addition to actions at the Minneapolis wing, the Air Force retained aircraft at multiple locations. The following aircraft will be backup aircraft:

- One aircraft at the 123rd AW.
- One aircraft at the 130th AW.
- One aircraft at the 136th AW, Fort Worth, Texas.
- One aircraft at the 139th AW.
- One aircraft at the 145th AW, Charlotte N.C.
- One aircraft at the 176th Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
- One aircraft at the 914th AW

Finally, in addition to the aircraft allocated to units affected by the president's 2013 budget, the Air Force also added aircraft to enhance mission effectiveness. The following aircraft will also be backup aircraft:

- Two aircraft to 22nd Air Force Det. 1, Little Rock AFB.
- One aircraft to 19th AW, Little Rock AFB.
- One aircraft to 152nd AW, Reno, Nev.
- One aircraft to 165th AW, Savannah, Ga.
- One aircraft to 166th AW, New Castle, Del.
- One aircraft to 182nd AW, Peoria, Ill.
- Two aircraft to 189th AW, Little Rock AFB.
- One aircraft to the Reserve's 302nd AW, Peterson AFB, Colo.

Leaders pointed out that none of the aircraft are newly acquired.

"These aircraft were all scheduled to be retired in 2013 and 2014," Jacobson said. "So, to meet the fiscal year 2013 NDAA directive, we retained the aircraft and, in some cases, restored the associated personnel."

The service will reassess force structure during the FY15 budget cycle. ★

(Story provided by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas)



Taking the Reins

Reservists selected to lead new special operations center

By Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.

Air Force Reserve Brig. Gen. Jon Weeks speaks to the audience after assuming command of the new Air Force Special Operations Air Warfare Center at Duke Field, Fla. Fellow Reservist Chief Master Sgt. Michael Klausutis was selected to serve as the center's command chief.

Two Reservists, both former members of the 919th Special Operations Wing at Duke Field, Fla., were selected to lead a new total force organization within Air Force Special Operations Command.

Brig. Gen. Jon Weeks assumed command of the new Air Force Special Operations Air Warfare Center Feb. 11. Weeks previously served as commander of the 919th SOW. Chief Master Sgt. Michael Klausutis, who most recently served as the 919th command chief, was chosen to serve in the same capacity at the center.

"I'm honored, excited and humbled to accept the honor of command in this new chapter in the history of Air Force Special Operations Command," Weeks said.

"Through our total force integration efforts, we can make this a model for the Air Force."

The warfare center combines the efforts of units across AFSOC that work with doctrine development, education, training and execution of the command's irregular warfare capabilities. It is responsible for organizing, training, educating and equipping forces to conduct special operations missions; leading major command irregular warfare activities; executing special operations test and evaluation and lessons learned programs; and developing doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures for Air Force special operations forces.

"This is the most significant day I've had in the last 18 months," said Lt. Gen. Eric Fiel, AFSOC commander, during the warfare center's activation ceremony. "Not only because we're standing up this new center, but to reintroduce the 919th SOW. It has been supporting AFSOC for 32 years in various missions and throughout every conflict."

Duke Field was chosen as the home of the new organization due to its existing classic association between Reserve and active-duty maintenance components. The SOF advantages offered by an association with the 919th SOW were also a key

consideration in the decision where to locate the new center. Duke's proximity to AFSOC headquarters and pre-existing infrastructure made it a timely and logical choice, according to AFSOC public affairs.

Duke's already strong relationship with AFSOC will only increase as Reserve Airmen are incorporated into AFSOAWC. When fully manned, more than 260 active-duty and 370 Reserve Airmen will be involved in the new center.

AFSOC's confidence in the Reserve force is apparent with the selection of a Reservist as the center's first commander.

"Jon Weeks is the right leader to take on this new task," Fiel said. "He has the ability to lead and to unite our collective strengths. His knowledge of both the Air Force Reserve and the special operations mission is critical in this new integrated force endeavor."

The activation of the warfare center is a large step in the 919th SOW's remissioning from the MC-130 Combat Talon I to the new aviation foreign internal defense aircraft, the C-145 Skytruck. The last of the Talons will exit the base by 2015. The Skytrucks are scheduled to start arriving this fiscal year.

The AFSOAWC mission has four distinct areas:

- Develop doctrine, tactics, techniques and equipment for Air Force and special air warfare forces in the air aspects of counterinsurgency, unconventional warfare, and psychological operations.
- Train and equip forces in strike, reconnaissance, and airlift roles of irregular warfare while maintaining a capability to deploy rapid-reaction, combat-ready forces to meet contingencies anywhere in the world.
- When needed, provide advice and assistance in the preparation and execution of military assistance plans and programs
- Air support of the U.S. Army Special Forces. ★

(King is assigned to the 919th SOW public affairs office at Duke Field.)

Nuclear Certified

Barksdale wing passes critical test; makes Reserve history

By Master Sgt. Greg Steele

The 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., reached a milestone in March by becoming the first Air Force Reserve unit in history to become nuclear certified.

The wing achieved the certification after passing its initial nuclear surety inspection March 14-18.

The 343rd Bomb Squadron and 707th Maintenance Squadron, units under the 307th BW, are tasked to support the 2nd Bomb Wing's nuclear and conventional missions through the auspices of the Total Force Initiative. 307th BW Airmen underwent five days of intense inspection to certify that the wing is qualified to perform the U.S. Air Force nuclear mission.

The inspection team, headed by Lt. Col. Hank Jenkins, presented the results of the inspection to Col. Jon Ellis, 307th BW commander, March 18.

"This certification is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our people," Ellis said. "This historic milestone could not have been reached without their hard work

and the great support we received from the 2nd Bomb Wing."

The inspection process, which involved the Air Force Global Strike Command inspector general's office and the Air Force Inspection Agency, examined five major areas for the 343rd BS and 707th MXS. Inspectors evaluated management and administration, technical operations, safety, personnel reliability program, and nuclear control order procedures.

Weapons loaders assigned to the 707th MXS were evaluated on their ability to upload air-launched cruise missile packages, both internally and externally, on the B-52H Stratofortress. They earned the highest rating possible.

"It's amazing how far we've come as a load crew in the past year," said Staff Sgt. Erin Bernik of the 707 MXS. "The evaluation was really exciting to be a part of, and we had a great time."

In a message sent to all members of the 307th BW, Lt. Gen. James Kowalski, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, extended his congratulations.

"This achievement reflects the superior expertise the 307th BW provides day to day," he said. "Being recognized by the AFGSC inspector general with a 'ready' rating is a significant achievement and exemplifies our Air Force's vision of a highly disciplined Total Force team. Well done!" ★

(Steele is assigned to the 307th BW public affairs office at Barksdale AFB.)



Senior Airman Jarod Feller marshals a B-52H Stratofortress back to its parking spot after returning from a nuclear training mission March 5, 2011, at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Feller is a crew chief assigned to the 707th Maintenance Squadron. The 707th MXS is an Air Force Reserve classic associate unit assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing maintenance group and supports the 343rd Bomb Squadron. (Master Sgt. Greg Steele)

The Fight of Her Life

Reservist's wife uses mixed martial arts to battle MS

By Master Sgt. Veronica Aceveda

Dawn Fiore has been studying martial arts for 17 years, but it was only last year that she went public about her toughest opponent — multiple sclerosis.

The wife of Maj. Christian Fiore, a Reserve C-17 pilot assigned to the 326th Airlift Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, Del., was diagnosed with MS in 2005 and can still remember what she was doing when she felt her first symptom.

"I got up from my desk one day, about to go to lunch with some friends, and I had this horrifying experience of vertigo; everything was spinning around me, to the point where I was holding on to a wall," Fiore said.

She said that feeling continued through lunch. Six weeks later, the mother of three — ages 25, 14 and 9 — had to take a leave of absence from work, because the vertigo continued to worsen.

After a year of research, tests and mistreatments, Fiore received a spinal tap, which revealed some of the indicators for multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease of the central nervous system. MS can cause mild to severe neural and muscular impairments.

"(The doctor) saw lesions in my brainstem, and he told me I needed to take a daily injection of MS medication," she said. "I didn't believe or accept the diagnosis until I had three reputable neurologists confirm its accuracy."

That affirmation came in 2005 after a trip to Maryland, where she saw the head of the MS Center for the Johns Hopkins Health System.

"I was horrified at first," she said. "But I quickly learned the shots weren't as bad as I thought. I'll have to take them for the rest of my life."

She said her immediate family was in disbelief.

"My mother and brothers were terrified and very worried for me," Fiore said. "I think they were thinking of the worst-case scenario. I actually found myself consoling them."

Her husband of 16 years said his initial reaction was fear of the unknown.

"We didn't know where this would lead us or how it would affect our lives," he said. "But then we began the learning process."

"MS is not a death sentence," said the victim of MS, who is a first-degree black belt.

She maintains the highest degree of competency in taekwondo, a martial art that combines combat and self-defense techniques. In addition, she holds a yellow belt in Haidong Gumdo, also known as Korean sword fighting.

Currently, she's a student of Brazilian jujitsu, judo and mixed martial arts at a school in Newark, Del., where she trains under Jeff Mitchell, a first-generation black belt of Robson Moura, who Fiore said is considered one of the greatest Brazilian jujitsu masters of all time.

Fiore said she acknowledges how far she's come from watching her 7-year-old son participate in a six-week trial membership taekwondo class, which is what moved her to enroll herself.

"I was also painfully shy growing up," Fiore said. "And the idea of being able to fight with competency and confidence really prompted my passion for learning how to fight."

Last year, during an interview by a retailer known for promoting female fighters, Fiore credited practicing martial arts for her multiple sclerosis' lack of progression. Aside from her immediate family and friends, it was the first time she spoke publicly about the disease she has been battling for eight years.

"Accepting the invitation to do the interview and telling the world was a huge step for me," Fiore said. "People were shocked, especially in my MMA and Brazilian jujitsu classes. It's hard to believe that I often fight with guys younger than my oldest son; other students in my class had no idea."

Despite her illness, Fiore said she leads a normal life and feels strongly it's because of her level of fitness.

"Being active has an extraordinary effect on your mental capacity, your nervous system and your body's ability to regenerate cells," said the 134-pound exercise enthusiast. "And the endorphin rush promotes your body's sense of well-being, which is often challenged by the daily stressors we all experience."

Fiore said she recognizes her resilient situation is not always the case among people suffering from MS.

"As I understand it, statistics show a high percentage of those diagnosed move to the progressive stage, and my heart goes out to those who are suffering," she said.

The full-time graphic designer said she knows her quality of life is a gift, and she feels compelled to give back.

"I want to help others," she said. "I feel driven to move in this direction, and I feel very positive about the future."

Fiore has created a workout program called KICKinetics, which blends traditional martial arts, kickboxing and some high-impact jump training. She said her goals include leading a class at the base fitness center and sharing her story with several fitness-related magazines.

"Staying fit and healthy to the level she has taken it to is awe inspiring," her husband said. "Obviously, I wish she wasn't diagnosed with MS, but she's doing a great job holding it at bay. She is the ultimate lesson in perseverance."

No longer silent about her battle with MS, Fiore has her diagnosis displayed on the opening page of her KICKinetics website, where she offers exercise tips, links to MS-related topics, and other information about health and well-being, including empowering quotes.

"Hopefully, one day there will be a cure for MS," she said. "But until that day comes, I'll keep fighting." ★

(Aceveda is assigned to the 512th Airlift Wing public affairs office at Dover AFB.)



(Left) Dawn Fiore stands with her husband, Maj. Christian Fiore, a Reserve pilot assigned to the 326th Airlift Squadron, Dover Air Base, Del. For half of their marriage, Dawn battled multiple sclerosis discreetly until she went public in 2012 in an online interview about her using fitness and martial arts to battle the disease.





Families First

Family and Medical Leave Act expands protections for military members

By 1st Lt. Andre J. Bowser

Recent expansions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act extend support to military family members. More support has been extended to military dependents through expansions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, which include unpaid, job-protected time off for care of injured servicemembers or veterans, and activities arising from a servicemember's deployment.

While family members have enjoyed entitlements under the FMLA since 2008, when it was amended to include them, the latest changes refine and further extend leave entitlements, including unpaid, job-protected time off to care for injured service members or veterans and for activities arising from a service member's deployment.

"Military families can find themselves facing great challenges. Caring for an injured service member, arranging for alternative child care when a spouse is deployed to a foreign country or attending arrival ceremonies when a loved one returns from a deployment may present family members with difficult decisions about time spent at work versus time spent with family," according to a statement published by the U.S. Department of Labor, the government agency responsible for administering and enforcing the entitlement. "The FMLA helps to ease the burden that can come with needing time away from work when faced with such commitments."

The amendment to the act, which was first signed into law by President Clinton in 1993, grants protections for eligible workers under the FMLA's military family leave provisions. This includes up to 12 work weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave for dependents of a service member deployed to a foreign country. The leave may be used for such purposes as making alternative child care arrangements, attending military ceremonies and briefings for family, and making financial or legal arrange-

ments to address the military member's absence, according to the Labor Department.

The FMLA also entitles eligible family members to take up to 26 work weeks of military caregiver leave in a single 12-month period to care for a qualified, injured service member or veteran.

An eligible service member is either a current member of the armed forces, including the Guard and Reserve, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is in outpatient status, or is on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness; or a veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable within the five-year period before the family member first takes military caregiver leave to care for the veteran.

"In announcing this rule, the Department of Labor is taking great steps toward protecting those families who have given so much of themselves to protect us," according to the department's statement. "Provided that FMLA coverage and eligibility requirements are met, family members of current service members and veterans will now have far greater abilities to attend to personal matters and medical needs related to their family members' service."

The FMLA makes it unlawful for an employer to interfere with, restrain or deny the exercise of any right provided by the act. The Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division is responsible for administering and enforcing the FMLA for most employees. To contact one of the division's offices, visit <http://www.dol.gov/whd/america2.htm>. ★

(Bowser is a traditional Reservist assigned to the 439th AW public affairs office at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. As a civilian, he is a regional deputy director for public affairs at the Department of Labor.)

PAYING DIVIDENDS

Focus on comprehensive fitness helps Reservists, families meet challenges

By Bo Joyner

For the past few years, Air Force Reserve Command has made a concerted effort to focus more attention on overall Airman fitness, balanced lifestyles and resilience in the belief that Airmen with strong mental, physical, social and spiritual wellness have the ability to withstand, recover and even grow in the face of challenges and stress.

While the command has definitely ramped up its efforts to promote comprehensive Airman fitness in recent years, it's difficult to measure exactly what effect these efforts are having on Citizen Airman and their family members. One key indicator, however, shows that the command's efforts may be paying dividends.

"Thanks to the many vigilant, well-prepared and quick-thinking Air Force Reserve wingmen, calendar year 2012 was the lowest year for reported suicides in the 10 years since AFRC began reliably tracking them," said Lt. Col. David F. Ubelhor, chief mental health consultant to the AFRC command surgeon and the Air Force Reserve's Suicide Prevention Program manager. The command had three suicides in 2012.

"We should still consider a single death by suicide too many," Ubelhor said. "It's fair to say, however, that a 64-percent reduction from the previous nine-year Air Force Reserve average is remarkable. This achievement is even more incredible because it occurred in a year when the military as a whole set a new record high for active-duty suicides."

Ubelhor said he is often asked how the Reserve achieved such a dramatic drop in its number of suicides.

"That's a really difficult question to answer," he said, "because it's impossible to establish definite cause-and-effect relationships. What I can tell people is that we've deployed a positive, broadly designed and multi-faceted program intended to reach the many unique Airmen across the command and the people with whom they associate. Our program also rests on a foundation of basic, long-standing principles of suicide prevention and two fundamental assumptions."

The first assumption is that suicide can be prevented. The second is that suicidal ideations can be likened to the influenza virus.

"We should take precautions to not be exposed but, because we are human, we are all susceptible," the colonel said. "In both cases, individuals should not be alone until the situation improves. Always know when to consult a professional."

At the center of AFRC's suicide prevention program is the AFR Wingman Project. Launched in October 2010, the Wingman Project emphasizes pro-activity, resilience, health and wellness to avoid emotional crises.

"The Wingman Project cultivates a broad wingman ethos by

translating the traditional wingman practice into concepts, messages, themes and actions that anyone can understand and use," Ubelhor said.

A principal component of the Wingman Project is the Wingman Toolkit website (<http://AFRC.WingmanToolkit.org>). The website is a repository for and portal to many helpful resources for any AFR wingman, military or non-military.

Also key to the Wingman Project are a mobile application for iPhones and Android devices, an SMS texting application (text "WMTK" to 24587), a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, a YouTube video page, and a designated Wingman Day 2013 page on the website with ready-made materials and marketing tools.

When looking for AFR products on the web, use the search term "Wingman Toolkit."

"Most of what we do is promote Total Force fitness and resilience, whether it's through the Wingman Toolkit; articles, publications and outreach materials; monthly commander's call topics; or strong, continual support from AFR senior leaders," Ubelhor said.

"AFRC also has an active Community Action Information Board and Integrated Delivery System and day-to-day outreach, assistance and intervention by many AFR wingmen across the command," he said. "The command has increased wing chaplain support for counseling and improved active outreach to Airmen and families by the Aerospace Medicine Division within the command surgeon's office, Yellow Ribbon and other headquarters personnel, and there are three regional Psychological Health Advocacy Program teams with wing-level director of psychological health positions on the way."

Ubelhor said AFRC still relies heavily on the official Air Force Suicide Prevention Program, which promotes preventing crises by identifying and targeting early the fundamental risk factors for suicide and knowing how to ask, care and escort when necessary.

"We've worked hard over the past few years to sustain a unique program that promotes an extensive culture of comprehensive fitness, but I think much of the credit for our recent drop in suicides has to go to our Airmen and their family members," Ubelhor said. "They have taken the wingman concept to heart by taking better care of themselves, asking for help and really looking out for each other."

"We can all be proud of the accomplishments of 2012 and the start of 2013, but we can't afford to be boastful or complacent going forward," he said. "Each of us must continue to proactively pursue comprehensive fitness and strive for wellness but also remain vigilant wingmen in the event we or somebody else is faced with a crisis situation." ★



The last regenerated F-4 Phantom is greeted by an arch of water from the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., fire department after its second test flight. The QF-4 Phantom Drone program came to an end in February after more than 15 years. (Staff Sgt. Sarah Pullen)

Organizations wrap up effort to turn old F-4s into full-scale target drones

By Master Sgt. Luke Johnson

THE DRONE RANGERS

February marked the end of an era for a small Air Force Reserve organization and the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

The two completed a project to take the last F-4 Phantom aircraft out of long-term storage and get it ready for conversion to a Q-F4 full-scale target drone equipped to carry electronic and infrared countermeasure devices. The Q-F4 program had been operational at Davis-Monthan since 1997.

Taking an F-4 Phantom from the desert floor at AMARG and turning it into a target drone takes a lot of mechanical know-how.

"It can be very, very challenging," said Rob McNichol, F-4 flight chief and retired Air Force chief master sergeant with decades of experience working on various aircraft. "The last F-4



F-4 Phantoms rest in the "boneyard" at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group on Davis-Monthan. In a few months, the 309th will begin regenerating F-16 Fighting Falcons as part of the Air Force drone program.

MASTER SGT. LUKE JOHNSON

we are converting into a drone was put into storage Jan. 18, 1989, and getting it into an airworthy condition can be extremely difficult, due to the age of the aircraft and parts issues."

Once an F-4 is removed from storage in the "boneyard" at AMARG, it has to go through a series of inspections and repairs to ensure it's safe for manned flight before being sent off to the contractor, BAE Systems,

to be outfitted as a drone.

"We don't have to make the F-4 combat-mission ready," McNichol said. "However, we've got to be sure it's a safe aircraft to fly. We don't compromise on any safety issues with the F-4."

Flying an aircraft that has been sitting in the desert for decades is where a three-person Reserve organization — an operating location of the 413th Flight Test Group at Robins AFB, Ga. — comes into play.

Lt. Col. Michael Leach, a four-year veteran of test flying F-4 Phantoms, said it takes maintainers about six to nine months to get an aircraft ready for its initial test flight.

"We take the F-4 on a planned two-flight profile; we're looking for basic airworthiness of the aircraft before it gets turned into a drone," Leach said. "The major thing we are looking for is basic aircraft performance and making sure the aircraft doesn't do anything unexpected. We look at the basic instrumentation to make sure it's working properly."

Richard Nelson of the 309th AMARG, who has more than 25 years of active-duty experience flying in the F-4, said he is amazed at how the maintainers can take an aircraft that has been sitting in the desert for many years and make it airworthy.

"On the first test flight, we take these things up to 50,000 feet at 1.7 Mach; we have a lot of confidence that they put it together right" Nelson said.

Master Sgt. Brian Alexander, production supervisor, said a big challenge in the preparation process is locating parts.

"Finding a specialty part for the F-4 is kind of like searching for parts for a classic car; they just don't make them anymore," Alexander said. "We either have to do a special order for parts or, if they are simpler parts, have our machine shop fabricate them for us."

Most of the F-4s pulled out of storage to be used as drones had been sitting in the harsh environment of the Sonoran Desert for many years. The conversion process begins by inspecting all of the major flight systems to make the aircraft safe for its initial manned test flight and subsequent test flights.

"I rely on my experience and my crew to get the job done to make it airworthy," said Steven J. Herman, hydraulic maintenance lead for the Q-F4 and retired Air Force engine mechanic. "We disassemble the plane, take panels off and look at everything for damages.

"Sitting out in the desert for so long, you've got rats that chew up the wiring and even make nests in the aircraft," he said. "We've got to clean it out and look at all the wiring. We've had to completely rewire from the nose back to the aft cockpit because it was chewed up so badly."

Even though it can be frustrating to spend countless hours working on a jet that has long been forgotten in the desert sun, Herman said he feels an immense amount of pride knowing that the work is important and necessary.

"First-time flights, you get

goose bumps," he said. "I don't care who you are, if you've got pride in your work, even if it's a small portion of the job, watching a plane take off after more than 20 years, you get a lot of goose bumps."

Another point of pride for Herman is his direct involvement in helping the Air Force maintain its air superiority.

"It's improving our technology so we can be more prepared and better at air superiority," he said. "It's not just me; it took my crew and all of us who worked on this project to produce the 300-plus drone aircraft."

Leach and Nelson said it's both humbling and an honor to play a part in the F-4's illustrious history.

"More than 5,000 F-4s were built," Leach said. "This thing has been the backbone of fighter aviation for the Air Force. F-15s and F-16s were built upon what we learned in the F-4. It has been a huge part of our Air Force, and for Mr. Nelson and me to be part of the closing of its history is an honor."

The end of the QF-4 program does not mean an end to Air Force drones. The service is pushing ahead with the implementation of a QF-16 program that will push the envelope for testing air defense systems.

"The F-16 is a lot faster and has a smaller radar signature," McNichol said. "It's going to put some of the missile systems to a greater test than what they faced against the QF-4."

The drone fleet is operated and maintained by the 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron at Tyndall AFB. The squadron is a subordinate unit of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, also located at Tyndall. ★

(Johnson is assigned to the 943rd Rescue Group public affairs office at Davis-Monthan AFB.)

Lt. Col. Michael Leach (left) and Mr. Richard Nelson step out of an F-4 Phantom after its second flight test Feb. 12. (Staff Sgt. Sarah Pullen)



From Air Force mom ...

Barbara Swartzberg was commissioned as a nurse practitioner in the Air Force Reserve with the rank of major in October 2006. Now a lieutenant colonel, she is the commander of the 413th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. Her sons, Greg, left, and Andrew, right, began their military service in 2001.



to squadron commander

Inspired by her two sons, Barbara Swartzberg joined the Air Force Reserve in 2006; today she is leading the 413th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

By Bo Joyner

It's not unusual for a person to follow his or her father or mother into military service, but the Swartzberg family decided to do things a little differently. Drawing inspiration from her two sons, Barbara Swartzberg joined the Air Force Reserve in 2006; and, in a relatively short period of time, she has gone from Air Force mom to squadron commander.

It all started in July 2001 when one son, Greg, was a sophomore at the University of Georgia. Looking for a way to help pay for school and find a way to step out of academia, Greg investigated the Air Force Reserve and discovered it was a per-

fect fit.

"The Reserve had everything I was looking for, and it gave me the chance to broaden my horizons," he said.

Knowing how competitive her two sons are, Barbara said she wasn't surprised to learn that Greg's older brother, Andrew, decided to enlist as well. However, Andrew opted for the active-duty Air Force, signing up soon after Greg enlisted in the Reserve.

"My brother and I were at Lackland (Air Force Base in Texas) at the same time for basic training," Greg recalled, adding that

he and Andrew were eager to start their military careers. When the 9/11 terrorist attacks occurred, "everything took on a whole new meaning, and my resolve was that much stronger."

After technical school, Greg was assigned to the 94th Civil Engineer Squadron at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., as a firefighter. Greg served in that capacity for eight years before taking a short hiatus while completing law school. He was commissioned as a Reserve judge advocate general officer in December 2011 and completed the Commissioned Officer Training Course and the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course, as well as seasoning training, in 2012 and 2013.

Andrew started his career as a U-2 crew chief at Beale AFB, Calif. He quickly realized that his education and talent could be put to better use and applied to Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Once Andrew was accepted, he was commissioned as a captain and served as an air battle manager based at Tyndall AFB, Fla., and then at Tinker AFB, Okla.

Like his brother, Andrew decided to enter law school. He went into inactive Ready Reserve status in October 2011 to complete his law studies and begin a career in the private sector. Currently, Andrew is exploring the option of becoming a JAG officer in the Reserve.

"I was so proud of both of them," Barbara said. "They did not flinch in their decision to join the armed forces and stepped up to serve at a time when their country really needed them."

While her sons were helping fight the Global War on Terrorism, Barbara was tenaciously battling the difficult challenges of a busy inner-city emergency room as a doctor of nursing practice. Since 2003, she has served as the lead advanced practice provider in the emergency room as well as one of the associate medical directors with Emory Clinic's Department of Emergency Medicine in Atlanta.

Andrew and Greg both said their mom has always had a heart for helping people. They said that with both of them serving in the military while the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were at their peak, the brothers knew their mom wanted to support the military and the Air Force. She believed her broad experience translated well into an ability to help troops during a time of such high deployments.

Greg said he wasn't surprised at all when his mom told him she wanted to join the Air Force Reserve.

"She had talked about it on and off for quite some time," he said. "My brother and I were both very encouraging and supportive of her decision."

Greg said he still remembers the day his mother's commissioning package arrived in the mail. She was hedging on the decision a little bit, and he said, "Let's go to Dobbins and do this." He physically drove her from her Atlanta home to Dobbins to take the oath.

"We had a great talk," he said. "She told me she has had a great life and that it would be a privilege to support the young men and women who were putting themselves in harm's way. That's when I knew this was, without a doubt, the right thing for her to do."

Andrew, too, remembers when his mom told him she had decided to join the Reserve.

"I was a captain at the time, and my first thought was that she was going to outrank me, and I will have to salute her," he

joked. "Seriously, I was thrilled when she decided to join."

Barbara said she was initially worried that her age would keep her from joining the Reserve, but her medical recruiter told her it wouldn't be a problem. With a wealth of civilian emergency room experience, she was commissioned as a nurse practitioner with the rank of major in October 2006 and assigned to the 622nd (413th as of March 1) Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Robins AFB, Ga. She assumed the role of chief nurse in December 2010.

Barbara's Air Force journey continued as the opportunity to contribute to the unit's wartime mission first-hand arose. She deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in 2011 and served as the officer in charge of the night shift at the base's contingency aeromedical staging facility. The CASF's mission is to ensure safe and expedient care of wounded soldiers as they transit through the aero-evacuation system in route to definitive care for their injuries.

"That deployment was an amazing experience," Barbara said. "Being able to help our wounded warriors on their road to recovery was by far one of the most gratifying experiences that I have been graced with in my life. I feel so honored and privileged to be a part of one of the branches of the world's greatest armed forces."

On Jan. 6, Barbara, now a lieutenant colonel, assumed command of the AES at Robins. She is in charge of a diverse medical unit with a robust peacetime as well as wartime mission. The wartime mission involves caring for patients in the CASE, preparing them for transport to a health-care facility out of theater.

The peacetime mission of the 413th ASTS is multifaceted and encompasses medical clearance for deployment and redeployment to home station, fit for duty, pregnancy and hearing monitoring for nearly 700 members of the Air Force Reserve assigned to Robins AFB. Swartzberg commands a squadron of about 100 Reservists who make all of this happen.

"We keep extremely busy but have an unbelievable group of professionals here at the 413th ASTS," she said. "It's an honor to lead such an outstanding organization. I find it awesome to work with men and women who take the time out of their busy civilian lives to come to Robins AFB once a month, sometimes more often, to contribute their time and talents to guarantee that the assigned 700 Reservists are expeditiously and expertly monitored and ready. I feel blessed with the right to work alongside the members of the 413th ASTS. No other word can express how I feel except humbled."

She has similarly kind remarks to say about her two sons.

"It is an honor to have followed my sons into military service," she said. "Their commitment to the country and themselves is a reflection of what a synergistic relationship can realize." Both Greg and Andrew are now lawyers, and Greg continues to serve in the Air Force Reserve as an attorney. Andrew said he is currently considering joining his brother as a Reserve lawyer.

"I think it's incredible what my mom has done in such a short time in the Air Force Reserve," Andrew said. "She's a great leader, and I think she's an inspiration to everyone in the 413th ASTS. She is always looking for ways to improve herself, either by going to school or tackling a new challenge. I couldn't be more proud of everything she's accomplished." ★

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