

# CITIZEN AIRMAN

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## NEVER GIVE UP



Mother of four makes it through tough times with help from her family, friends and the Air Force Reserve.

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**The Official Magazine of the Air Force Reserve**

LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
*James F. Jackson*  
 ★★★  
 FROM THE TOP



**STAY CONNECTED**

On October 21, the Air Force Reserve lost one of its greatest advocates and heroes, Maj. Gen. Homer “Pete” Lewis (see story, Page 16). We will always remember him for his superior leadership as the chief of Air Force Reserve and for his keen insight, ensuring our role as an independent component. He left us with a legacy of outstanding leadership, but perhaps more importantly he left us with a legacy of embracing life. Major General Lewis believed life was a “grand adventure,” and he lived every day to its fullest. It is this spirit that I want us to remember and embrace as an organization, especially during this holiday season.

The Air Force Reserve attracts men and women who want to serve their country and make a difference, but it also calls to our adventurous spirits. We are connected through our sense of service and our dedication to this country. This connection makes us strong as a force and as a nation, and no one can break that bond. I challenge you to strengthen this connection by taking the time to understand the mission and vision of your organization and being loud and proud about the role you play in helping your unit and the Air Force Reserve accomplish the mission.

As important as it is, the mission should not be our only focus. We also need to focus on building connections with the men and women around us. Pete surrounded himself with

family and friends throughout his life. He understood that the relationships we build are the fabric of our lives. These relationships might be with fellow Citizen Airmen, friends from your civilian job or, most important of all, your family members. Regardless of how you get connected, these relationships add value to our lives and increase resilience at every level. Please, take some time this holiday season to slow down and spend time with those who mean the most to you and find time to celebrate together.

For those of you who are away from family and friends this holiday season, look for ways to get connected in your local community. This might mean reaching out to other members of your unit or volunteering to help those less fortunate in your area. Giving back not only improves the lives of those around you, but it can build strong connections with the community.

As Citizen Airmen, we all wear multiple hats. We are required to balance the demands of our Air Force careers, civilian employers and family obligations. Although all of these things add value to our lives, they can also add stress. During this time of year, those stressors may be even more pronounced. Make sure you are taking the time to take care of yourself and those around you. Utilize the comprehensive airman fitness model and look for opportunities to strengthen

your physical, mental, social and spiritual domains. If you do not have the Wingman Toolkit app on your smart phone, I urge you to download it today. (The app is available for free on the iTunes App Store for Apple devices or on Google Play for Android devices.)

Barb and I are very proud of our Citizen Airmen and their families. You continue to amaze us with your commitment and outstanding service. Enjoy the season, and take time to not only recharge but to strengthen your connections to those around you. I challenge you to think of each day as an adventure, just as Pete did. Let’s honor his legacy by living life to its fullest. Thanks for all you do!

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT  
*Cameron B. Kirksey*  
 CHIEF’S VIEW

**HOW’S YOUR READINESS?**

Are you ready for this holiday season? Readiness is a term we use at work to determine if we are prepared to meet operational demands and mission requirements. However, when you ask people if they are ready for the holidays, they will probably talk about the gifts they need to buy, the decorations they want to put out or the trips they need to plan. Although these are all important aspects of holiday planning, I want you to focus more on how you can use the holiday season to prepare and get “ready” for life.

Life often throws us curveballs that are unexpected and in many cases unwelcome. Events such as the death of a loved one, an unexpected job loss or an illness that impacts you and your family can be stressful. However, if we approach life with the same intention and planning as we approach our military operations, we can improve our ability to overcome chal-

lenges and stay strong in the face of adversity. By increasing our own readiness, we are not only ready to face our own challenges, but we are in a better place to help those around us when needed.

Readiness involves identifying requirements and ensuring we have the right people and the right equipment to accomplish the mission.

We need to be intentional about applying this same type of thought process to our daily lives by gathering resources and building support networks. We can improve our overall wellness and build a strong foundation by focusing on our physical, social, mental and spiritual domains.

I encourage each of you to check out the resources and guides available on all domains of Comprehensive Airman Fitness on the Wingman Toolkit web page, and if you haven’t done it already, download the Wingman Toolkit app. These resources give practical tips and advice on how to improve your ability to face adversity and come back stronger. By leveraging these resources and preparing in advance, we can increase our resiliency and improve our ability to respond to stressful situations.

I also encourage you to continue to focus on connections this year. Reach out to your fellow Airmen, family members and friends to develop relationships and a support network that will not only improve your daily life, but will give you the connections that can help you overcome future challenges.

My focus on team wellness fits into this idea of building a team through connections and a shared sense of responsibility. The holidays are a perfect opportunity to slow down and evaluate your personal readiness. Use this time to relax and focus on the connections that are important to you.

I challenge you to think about your operational readiness in life. Take the steps you need to build a strong foundation, and seek advice and help if needed. Enhancing our overall wellness ensures we are ready to respond not only as Citizen Airmen when called to serve our nation, but also as fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and friends when tough times hit.

Continue to challenge each other to create strong connections in your units and in your communities. Enjoy the holidays and remember: I’m here for you!



# CITIZEN AIRMAN

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Two F-22 Raptors assigned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, take part in a recent sortie. As the only Air Force Reserve unit in Alaska, the 477th Fighter Group is responsible for recruiting, training, developing and retaining Citizen Airmen to support the active-duty 3rd Wing as well as expeditionary force mission requirements. The group's traditional Reservists, air reserve technicians and civilian employees operate, maintain and support a fleet of F-22 Raptors that are assigned to the 3rd Wing. (Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso)

On the front cover: After going through a very rough period in her life, during which she had to deal with serious health issues as well as numerous personal and professional problems, things are looking up for Staff Sgt. Lucy Reyna of the 434th Operations Group at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana. Thanks to her strength of character, the support of her family and a little help from some others, the mother of four is back on track. Her health is good, she has a full-time job working for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and she recently got engaged. Read about her positive story of perseverance beginning on Page 12. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays, design by Adam Butterick)

On the back cover: A STARBASE Robins student gazes at a rocket launched by his fellow classmates during a class at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, in early November. Launching rockets is just one of the many hands-on activities students participate in during their time at STARBASE. See the story on Page 14. (Staff Sgt. Sarah Hanson)

**Gen. Mark A. Welsh III** *Chief of Staff, United States Air Force*  
**Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson** *Commander, Air Force Reserve Command*  
**Col. Bruce M. Bender** *Director of Public Affairs, Air Force Reserve Command*  
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Students render aid to a simulated smoke inhalation victim during the field training portion of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. TCCC is an international course that provides education for first-responders and offers realistic combat experiences in a tactical environment to prepare for upcoming deployments. (Staff Sgt. Josh Nason)



Tech. Sgt. David Mcalhany, 67th Aerial Port Squadron, gives his all as he digs in his feet during the tug of war competition at the Defender's Cup challenge at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in October. (Tech. Sgt. Michael McCool)



A firefighter removes his helmet after the completion of an exercise at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia. Smoke machines and flashing red and yellow lights were used inside a structure to simulate a fire. The team was responsible for retrieving a training dummy from a window on the second floor. (Senior Airman Andrew Park)

Staff Sgt. Mike Fisher, a crew chief for the 910th Maintenance Squadron, grabs a tool while working in the area behind one of the engines of a C-130H Hercules aircraft during an isochronal inspection at Youngstown-Warren Air Reserve Station, Ohio. (Tech. Sgt. Jim Brock)



A KC-10 Extender sits on the runway at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, before a flight to John. F. Kennedy International Airport. The 514th Air Mobility Wing celebrated the Air Force's 68th birthday two days early, displaying its air refueling capabilities for members of the media in New York City Sept. 16. (Master Sgt. Donna Jeffries)



## Reservists Deliver Humanitarian Aid to Haiti

Fifteen members of the 514th Air Mobility Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, traveled to Haiti in one of the wing's C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in October to deliver humanitarian aid.

The mission was made possible by the Denton Amendment.

"The Denton cargo program allows us to assist charitable organizations by working with the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of State to deliver humanitarian aid on a space-available basis on our C-17 aircraft," said Lt. Col. Mike Prodeline, 732nd Airlift Squadron evaluator pilot. "There are so many charitable organizations in the U.S. doing great things all around the world. If we can combine our training missions to deliver their donated goods, it is a win for everyone."

"In my opinion, during combat missions we are sending equipment to our forces to take down the enemy," said Tech. Sgt. Matthew Ingersoll, 88th Aerial Port Squadron team leader. "For this mission, however, we are sending equipment to help improve people's lives."

With the temperature reaching 93 degrees, Ingersoll and the other flight crew members worked in the sweltering heat to provide humani-

tarian cargo to members of HERO Client Rescue. Once it is up and running, HERO Client Rescue will be the only crisis-response and risk-management company in Haiti. It will provide 24-hour multi-lingual call center dispatch, rapid response, security, ambulance transportation, remote rescue and international evacuation services for individuals, corporations, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

"There are many pre-hospital needs for the country, and HERO is working on a collaborative solution for some of these needs," said Jordan Owen, HERO's deputy chief operating officer.

"With the support of many knowledgeable, skilled technicians, businessmen and medical crew members, both Haitian and American, this is a winning program," he said.

In addition to assisting the people of Haiti, the humanitarian mission provided an opportunity for Airmen to complete training requirements. For example, Senior Airman Gweneth Ashley Dunscomb, 35th APS load planning specialist, and Airman First Class Kevin Yeash, 732nd AS loadmaster, were assigned to NCOs for training and evaluation.

"I will always remember the happy looks and smiles of the people we encountered while in Haiti," Ingersoll said. (Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White, 514th AMW public affairs)

## Dobbins First to Test System for Documenting Flight Information

The 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, was the first unit in the Air Force to test a new system for documenting flight information.

A team from Air Force Reserve Command headquarters at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, traveled to Dobbins the week of Sept. 30 to test the new mobile mission kit. The kit, which the Air Force estimates could save the service at least \$19 million in man-hours, is an application installed on a tablet device that enables flight crews to enter all of the information they are normally required to fill out on an Air Force Form 781, otherwise known as a flight log.

"Dobbins was chosen, first, because of its proximity to AFRC and because the leadership of the 22nd Air Force (also located at Dobbins) and the 94th were very supportive," said Col. Paul Webb, chief of the Mobility Operations Division at the command's headquarters. "However, the more involved reason is because it is a C-130 base, and the C-130 is a grease-board, analog culture rather than a digital culture."

Webb said the best way to test the system is to take a culture that is used to being analog and bringing it into the digital culture.

Tech. Sgt. Susan Robinson of the 700th Airlift Squadron at Dobbins said it currently takes about four hours to fill out and process a single AF Form 781.

"You fill out the form and hand it to someone who then has to enter the data, not once or twice but three or four times," Webb said. "If you enter it once in the MMK, it should be up in all the data bases."

And the four hours per form applies only if there are not any mistakes, said Staff Sgt. Chantel Benjamin of the 700th AS. Benjamin explained since Reservists work only part time, the person who knows how to fix what's wrong may not be readily available, so hours can turn into days before the mistakes are fixed.

The new kit connects various systems together, enabling the app to pull whatever information it needs to process the form. Also, the app automatically performs mathematical functions, eliminating the

potential for human error. And it automatically shares data with other documents, eliminating the need to enter the same information multiple times.

Individual users are only given access to areas where they are qualified to provide the required information, and if an error does occur, the MMK flags it immediately for correction.

The app reflects crew members' pay status and the roles they play in a flight, so flyers are able to be paid quickly and accurately.

One added benefit beyond the user level is the MMK stores all data for easy access, allowing the command to provide accurate information to Congress.

"When the AFRC commander goes and testifies (before members of Congress) — where he is competing for dollars against other major command commanders — he will have empirical data he can use to support and articulate his arguments," Webb said.

AFRC will continue its testing of the MMK in the coming months. Test sites will include Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina; MacDill Air Force Base, Florida; Westover ARB, Massachusetts; and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. (Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps, 94th AW public affairs)

## Intelligence Squadron Achieves Full Operational Capability

The 71st Intelligence Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, recently reached full operational capability.

The squadron is a subordinate unit to the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group at Wright-Patterson and is a total force integration member unit of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, also at Wright-Patterson. The unit provides a cadre of multi-disciplined, mission-ready scientific applications specialists and intelligence analysts to the center. Squadron personnel conduct strategic-level research and analysis, providing intelligence to senior Department of Defense leaders, joint/combined forces, combatant commanders and component commanders.

The 71st IS comprises 54 Reserve members and was activated in September 2013. Achieving full operational capability means the squadron has sufficiently trained intelligence personnel to fulfill the mission requirements levied by its active-duty customer, NASIC.

"I couldn't be more proud of the dedicated, professional men and women of the 71st IS," said Lt. Col. Julie Spears, squadron commander. "They worked very hard to ensure we delivered the best-trained Reserve support possible for this new and complex mission." (445th Airlift Wing public affairs, Wright-Patterson AFB)

## New Program Designed to Streamline Pre-Deployment Training

The Air Force has implemented a new, more streamlined program designed to prepare Airmen — both active duty and members of the reserve components — for an upcoming deployment.

The updated program is designed to ensure expeditionary readiness training is relevant, effective, timely, synchronized, standardized and integrated in order to provide combatant commanders with a standard presentation of forces to support specified mission requirements, while maximizing efficiency.

"We recognize the importance of making sure our Airmen's time is used as efficiently as possible," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "Personal and professional time invested in readiness should be done purposefully and with the goal of improving Airmen's ability to



perform their duties in fulfilling global expeditionary requirements."

The new expeditionary readiness program aligns training cycles with the air expeditionary force construct, transitioning some training to meet "just-in-time" requirements to support deployments and eliminating most training currently provided in other venues.

"We've heard, listened and responded to Airmen's feedback regarding pre-deployment training," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. "It is my duty and highest priority to ensure our Airmen are prepared to enter any combat environment with the skills needed to be successful, and we do that by providing them with the right training at the right time, without redundancy."

Expeditionary readiness training changes include adding pretests at the beginning of computer-based training to allow proficient Airmen to bypass CBTs, aligning pre-deployment training with the air expeditionary force battle rhythm of 36-month cycles and waiving pre-deployment training for similar ancillary or functional proficiency training Airmen have already accomplished.

Effective Oct. 1, the new policy modifications will be captured in a new Air Force Guidance Memorandum that will eventually become a new 10-series Air Force instruction and will supersede information currently in Air Force Instruction 36-2201, Air Force Training Program. The AFGM will be posted on Air Force e-Publishing and to myPers. (Air Force News Service)

## Homestead Uses Online Feedback to Improve Customer Service

Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, has implemented a new web-based tool called the Interactive Customer Evaluation System that collects feedback on the services provided by various organizations on base.

Maj. Christopher Baker of the 482nd Force Support Squadron, who serves as the ICE administrator, said the system is designed to "improve customer service by allowing managers to monitor the satisfaction levels of services provided through reports and customer comments."

Baker said the system allows Department of Defense customers to quickly and easily provide feedback to service provider managers; gives leadership timely data on service quality; allows managers to benchmark the performance of their service providers against other DOD organizations; encourages communication across organizations by comparing best practices to increase performance results; and saves money by providing managers a free tool to collect and organize feed-



back data used for process improvement.

"For the FSS, it allows our customers to quickly and easily provide feedback to our managers and leadership, with data on the service quality, so we can find out how we can best service our customers," Baker said. "It also allows managers to benchmark the performance of their service providers against other DOD organizations and encourages communication across organizations by comparing best practices to increase customer service and performance." (482nd Fighter Wing public affairs)

### Medical Squadron Hopes to Expand Cost-Effective Training Program

Saving lives on the battlefield has always been the No. 1 priority of the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Recently, the squadron adopted a new mission: saving the Air Force money by developing an efficient, cost-effective training program. "We have developed an innovative teaching center where we expand

knowledge, enhance skills and provide certifications in order to create a deployable medical first-responder force able to support any contingency, anywhere, anytime," said Master Sgt. Christopher Martin, 944th ASTS NCO in charge of the Joint Military Operations Training Initiative and Critical Care Air Transport Team.

The program can save the military money as well as time, said Lt. Col. Leslie Martin, officer in charge of JMOTI. Members can accomplish 30 percent of readiness skills verifications through JMOTI courses. This on-station training saves on travel and adds flexibility for scheduling, since it is conducted locally, Martin said. There is no need to outsource because training can be accomplished in a moment's notice, since resources are available in the unit.

"We want to expand this within the Air Force," said Col. (Dr.) Michael Chesser, 944th ASTS chief hospital services flight critical care air transport physician. "Our total medical force enterprise is a newer way of thinking, and what we are building is a forum for ideas and mutual collaboration for all operational medics. We do not want to just

meet training requirements but build the most robust and versatile medics we can to meet future contingencies." (Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr., 944th Fighter Wing public affairs)

### Bomb Group Reactivation Gets Reserve in Business of Flying, Maintaining B-1B Lancer

The Air Force Reserve added to the long list of aircraft that it flies and maintains with the reactivation of the 489th Bomb Group Oct. 17 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.

Operating under a classic association arrangement with the active-duty 7th Bomb Wing, which flies the B-1B Lancer, the 489th BG includes the 345th Bomb Squadron, 489th Maintenance Squadron and 489th Aerospace Medical Flight. The group is a geographically separated unit under the 307th BW at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, which flies the B-52 Stratofortress.

"As the Air Force Reserve Command's only bomber wing, it is my great honor to partner with the 7th Bomb Wing in the B-1 mission area," said Col. Bruce Cox, 307th commander.

Col. Dennis A. Heinz is the commander of the 489th BG, which will have about 260 members when fully manned.

"I'm excited about being a part of the 489th Bomb Group legacy," Heinz said. He said the group's heritage dates back to the early days of World War II.

The group didn't waste any time recording its first flight. One day after the unit was reactivated, Heinz led a Reserve crew in performing the 489th's initial B-1 mission. (307th BW public affairs)

### Fighter Squadron Reactivated at Homestead

An active-duty F-16 Fighting Falcon unit that operates out of Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, has a new designation.

The unit was formerly known as Det. 93 of the 495th Fighter Group, which is located at Shaw AFB, South Carolina. In October, it was redesignated as the 367th Fighter Squadron. The 367th was first formed in 1943 and was inactivated in 1945.

The reactivated squadron has more than 150 members who serve in an associate unit arrangement with the Reserve's 482nd Fighter Wing under a total force integration initiative. TFI enhances the Air Force's ability to conduct missions by sharing resources, aircraft, crews and support.

"Total force integration came about due to increased pilot absorption needs," said Master Sgt. Jeremy Clements, 367th FS superintendent. "By embedding (active duty) personnel with Guard and Reserve units, RegAF pilots and maintainers alike get access to a wealth of knowledge and experience from our total force partners. This integration effort is pivotal to the creation of balanced, efficient, well-trained combat air force."

Members of the 367th will continue to work alongside their Reserve counterparts to accomplish their shared mission of combat support operations, just as they did prior to the name change.

"The 367th FS's role at Homestead is to seamlessly integrate personnel across the wing and enable Team Homestead to answer our nation's call through air, land and sea," said Lt. Col. Henry Jeffress, squadron commander. "Activating the 367th FS underneath the 482nd FW demonstrates the Air Force's strategic vision for Homestead. It is an honor and privilege to work hand in hand with our total force teammates."

When it was first formed in 1943, the 367th trained to fly P-40 Warhawks and provided air defense for the Philadelphia area. The unit moved to England where it transitioned to P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft, providing bomber escort support. It moved to the European continent where the squadron performed bomber escort and close-air support. The 367th was programmed for deployment to Okinawa to take part in the planned invasion of Japan, but the war in the Pacific ended before the move took place. The squadron was inactivated in November 1945. (482nd FW public affairs)

### Future leaders receive Academy opportunity through LEAD program

By Master Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

Three former members of the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, who were selected to attend the Air Force Academy's Preparatory School three years ago through a program that enables enlisted Airmen to become commissioned officers are in their junior year of study at the Academy and on schedule to graduate in the spring of 2017.

Cadets 2nd Class Chris Bissing, Dustin Johannsen and Krista Kelly all received their opportunity to earn a commission by attending the Air Force Academy through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program. All three say the school is a challenge, but it's a challenge that continually improves their leadership skills. They said they are looking forward to bringing their new abilities back to the operational Air Force.

"I am very proud to be here at the Academy," Johannsen said. "To be allowed this opportunity to continue serving my country while receiving an education will help me be a better servant leader in the future."

"The experience has been challenging, but I've learned a lot," Bissing said. "It's important to work as hard as you can when you're here so you don't close any doors. Many people's goals change when they get here. You have to be open-minded."

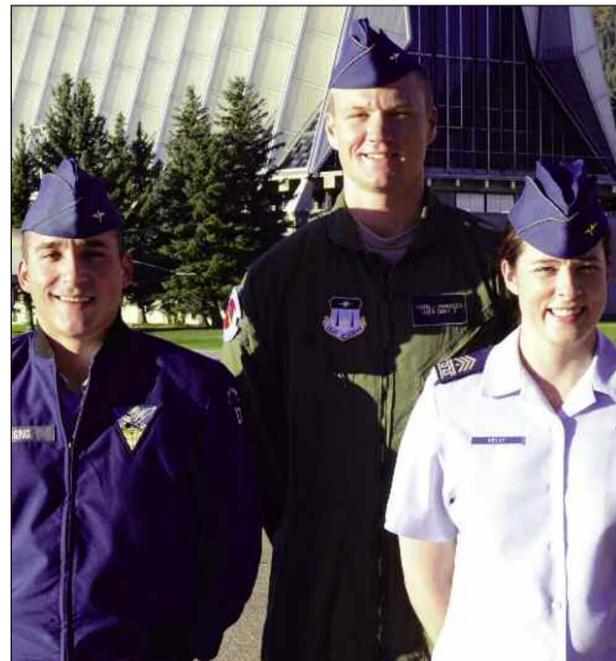
The cadets said the Academy is not for everyone. Future students need to be aware of the commitment the school demands.

"I would tell them (prospective students) to make sure it (attending the Academy) is something they are fully committed to," Johannsen said. "If they fully commit themselves to being successful here and they work hard, they can overcome the challenges and learn more than they could anywhere else."

Kelly said she is planning to continue her studies after graduation with the goal of becoming a medical doctor.

"The experience has been difficult but amazingly rewarding," she said. "I never thought I would have the opportunity to grow with such an incredible group of people and have the chance to really practice leadership and positive change. The place is challenging, yes, but it has only made me realize what I'm capable of."

The LEAD program is available to Airmen who are at least 17 years old but not past their 23rd birthday by July 1 of the year they enter the



(Left to right) Cadets 2nd Class Chris Bissing, Dustin Johannsen and Krista Kelly, prior members of the 302nd Airlift Wing, entered the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School three years ago through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program. They just began their junior year and will graduate in the spring of 2017. (Master Sgt. Kenneth Bellard)

Academy. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and unmarried with no dependents. Each year, the Academy accepts 85 Airmen who are serving in either the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. To learn more about the LEAD program, go to <http://www.academyadmissions.com/admissions/advice-to-applicants/enlisted-airmen/> and download the LEAD handbook.

(Butterfield is assigned to the 302nd AW public affairs office at Peterson AFB.)



### The Folder

By Ralph Lunt

After being in the financial services business for more than 20 years, I have recently been getting calls from clients who have investments that are maturing. As a result, we have had to reposition investments in different programs in order to preserve capital for beneficiaries.

When someone dies, the family not only has the challenge of dealing with the loss but also in determining what investments are current. With the holidays approaching and 2015 coming to an end, I recommend that you suggest to the people in your life to create a folder that identifies and contains statements of active bank accounts and investments. Also, I strongly encourage you to engage those who are close to you and discuss the importance of providing you a way to verify current financial accounts.

Unfortunately, while I was on active duty, my squadron had a plane crash that resulted in the loss of six lives. As a result, I and another Air Force officer were faced with the role of determining which financial accounts were active. Not only did we lose comrades in arms, but we had to deal with the issue of properly dispersing people's estates.

I recommend that you or someone close to you make a record of all of your closed or transferred accounts. That way, should something happen, the responsible parties will be able to properly evaluate your assets and the disposition of your estate. By doing this, trustees and those who hold a power of attorney over investments or savings accounts will be able to focus their energy on accounts that have current balances.

Bringing up financial matters to family members is never easy. And when it comes to money or legacy planning, many people get uncomfortable. With that being said, I encourage you to share this article with the important people in your life to empower them to assist you with your financial affairs. 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, 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.)

# NEVER GIVE UP

Mother of four makes it through tough times with help from her family, friends and the Air Force Reserve

Life hasn't always been easy for Staff Sgt. Lucy Reyna, but she has persevered. She encourages people who are going through tough times to ask for help. "Everybody needs help sometimes, and people won't know what's going on unless you tell them," she said. (Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays)

**By Staff Sgt. Sarah Hanson**

Recently engaged with a full-time job, a roof over her head, good health and a career in the Air Force Reserve, life is good for Staff Sgt. Lucy Reyna. But that hasn't always been the case for this mother of four.

Reyna, who is an administrative assistant with the 434th Operations Group at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana, has struggled to overcome a laundry list of problems in both her personal and professional life.

To gain work experience in the criminal justice field, Reyna joined the Army Reserve in May 2001 as a military police officer. A year and a half later, she was deployed to Iraq where she spent 11 months sleeping on the ground with barely any food and no electricity.

"A lot that got me through in Iraq was the camaraderie with everyone being there together going through the same things," Reyna said. "There was also a sense of purpose, knowing that I was doing something for my children, for their future."

That wasn't Reyna's only deployment. She went back to Iraq in 2006 as a contractor. Between the two tours of duty, she spent a total of 14 months away from her children.

When Reyna returned from her second deployment in 2007, she experienced a panic attack for the first time in her life.

"I really didn't understand what it was, even though I had studied it. I thought I was having a heart attack," she said. "I got diagnosed with panic disorder and could not return to work overseas."

A doctor prescribed medication to treat Reyna's anxiety disorder and agoraphobia. In addition, she started attending counseling sessions, which is where she was diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder.

"I thought maybe I needed a change of scenery or to try something else," Reyna said. "I was stationed at Fort Bragg (North Carolina) at the time, so I moved to Miami. That was the summer of 2008.

"I enrolled the kids in school and started work, but I wasn't getting any better. My anxiety was getting worse."

Reyna visited a doctor, who told her she had a cervical polyp. The doctor performed a biopsy, which revealed that she had cervical cancer. To combat the cervical cancer, her doctor performed a loop electrosurgical excision procedure, which uses a thin, low-voltage electrified wire loop to cut out abnormal tissue.

Although the polyp was successfully removed, Reyna said she still has to remain vigilant in regard to her health.

In November 2009, Reyna joined the Air Force Reserve. She attended technical training in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 2010.

One day Reyna was still not feeling well and requested a mammogram. At first, her doctor did not want to schedule her for one because he thought she was too young. After Reyna wrote a letter to her senator, she was allowed to get a mammogram, which revealed that she had stage 1 breast cancer with calcification.

Reyna underwent surgeries to remove the calcification and started chemotherapy. Her body rejected the port for the self-administration of the chemotherapy drug, so her doctor put her on medications.

"I couldn't work or really get out of bed," Reyna said. "My health deteriorated, and that made my anxiety worse. So I got put on more medications. Eventually, I just started to not be

myself anymore."

Things continued to get worse. Reyna's finances started to suffer because she was unable to work. Her water and electricity were shut off, and eventually she and her children were evicted from their home. At that time, Reyna was stationed at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida. She worked in intelligence operations as a member of the 482nd Fighter Wing.

"I was in the Reserve at the time, but I kept having to reschedule my drill weekends," she said. "It took me a long time to tell [my leadership] what was really going on."

When Reyna opened up to her leadership about her situation, she started receiving help.

"They referred me to the Airman and Family Readiness Center. There I found a church that would help out my family, and I found child care for when I went to drill," she said. "I also sought assistance from a few veterans organizations."

Although Reyna and her family were getting help, she was still suffering from anxiety. In 2012, she experienced another panic attack.

"At that point, I just had enough," she said. "I had enough of the medication. I had enough of the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs) telling me to try another pill. I had enough of it all. So, I stopped taking everything cold turkey."

"I started researching holistic medicine and changed the way my family and I ate. I got rid of the medications, chemical products and processed foods, and I started to notice I felt better."

In June 2013, Reyna and her family moved out of Florida. They ended up in the Midwest near Reyna's family, who was from Chicago. She landed a full-time job as a project manager and analyst for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. And she is continuing her Reserve career at Grissom ARB.

"Everything is a lot better now," she said. "I'm engaged. I just had my baby [a boy named Jadyne who was born July 22]. I got a better handle on things in general, but it was definitely hard times."

For the immediate future, Reyna plans to stay at home with her new baby and spend a lot of time with her three other children: Mason, 20; Sienna, 15; and Logan 10. Her long-term goals are to learn more about agriculture and farming and buy a house and land in the San Antonio area within the next two years.

"My siblings and I have been with [my mom] since she was 16," Mason said. "She has the innate ability to overcome obstacles in her life; I have seen her hit rock bottom and recover. I learned from her to never give up."

According to a 2014 Hunger in America report, the Feeding America network provides food assistance to an estimated 46.5 million unique clients in 15.5 million households annually. Four percent of these households have at least one member who is currently serving in the U.S. military.

"I know a lot of people who are active-duty who get WIC (Women, Infants and Children) or some kind of support," Reyna said. "Everybody needs help sometimes, and people won't know what's going on unless you tell them."

She urged people who need help to ask for it.

"I was trying to handle everything all on my own," Reyna said. "It's hard to stay strong and persevere, but it will get better eventually."

"My mother is the strongest woman I know," Mason said. "She has persevered through many tragedies in her life, and that makes me a proud son."

# REACHING FOR THE STARS

AFRC-sponsored STARBASE Robins celebrates 20 years of getting students excited about science

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Sarah Hanson

More than 20 years ago, a program to help Middle Georgia students in critical school subjects was developed, and since that time it has developed into a high-demand commodity for local schools.

STARBASE Robins is a program that satisfies the educational needs of today's youth through hands-on activities that focus on science, technology, engineering and math or STEM subjects.

"Our purpose is to try and get kids interested in going into one of the STEM fields," said Wesley Fondal, STARBASE Robins director. "We feel that all students should be STEM literate, especially in today's world with the advanced technology that surrounds them."

The STARBASE program at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. During that time, the program has graduated more than 20,000 students in 1,000 classes from schools all over Middle Georgia.

To celebrate the program's 20-year anniversary, the STARBASE Robins staff, Air Force Reserve Command leadership and students gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to introduce four new classrooms. The new classrooms consist of a brand-new computer lab with about 30 new computers and an innovation lab that has 3-D printers.

"The new classrooms are going to allow us to increase our capacity," Fondal said. "We now will be able to see four classes at a time, which will allow us to take on more schools."

Students at STARBASE Robins go through 25 hours of instruction over a period of five weeks. The children, mostly fifth-graders, learn STEM subjects by engaging in interactive, hands-on activities.

"Today we learned about rockets and CAD (computer-aided design)," said Ashton Harten, a STARBASE Robins student who attended the program in November. "It will help you become a better scientist if you want to become a scientist. It also helps you learn how the Earth works or how satellites are made."

STARBASE is a Department of Defense program that originated in Detroit, Michigan, in 1991. It was originally called Project Stars.

Barbara Koscak, one of the founders of STARBASE, attended the 20-anniversary ceremony at Robins. She talked about the importance of STEM and children's education.

"There's nothing more precious than our children, and the future of our world depends on the quality of life and education that we provide for them here and now," Koscak said. "STEM is a vital part of our hopeful future. And if our children are to succeed, we must intervene at an early age."

STARBASE Robins is one of four programs AFRC sponsors. The command is involved in the STARBASE programs located at Nellis AFB, Nevada; Kelly Field Annex, Texas; and Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.

In 2010, STARBASE Robins piloted STARBASE 2.0, an after-school mentoring program for at-risk youth making the transition from elementary to middle school. Members from AFRC headquarters at Robins AFB and the local community volunteer as mentors for this much-needed program.

In addition to the mentoring program, STARBASE Robins annually sponsors a Georgia First Lego League Super Regional Robotics tournament. The event has grown from six participating teams to 32.

Although STARBASE Robins has grown tremendously in the last two decades, the staff and fellow supporters still have big dreams for the program.

"STARBASE 3.0 needs to happen, and we need to continue to support this effort," said Maj. Gen. Richard Haddad, AFRC vice commander. "We need to continue to lobby for the funding to continue this program. It's important now and for our future. We can't overemphasize enough what this does for our nation and the world."



Fifth-graders learn all about rockets during a STARBASE Robins class at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, in early November. The students spent half the morning learning about how rockets work before building their own and then launching them outside. STARBASE Robins is an Air Force Reserve Command-sponsored program that has been teaching youngsters science, technology, engineering and math for 20 years.



Retired Maj. Gen. Homer I. "Pete" Lewis: Feb. 1, 1919 — Oct. 21, 2015

# Remembering a Hero

## Former commander praised for his superior leadership

During the past 67 years, literally thousands of people, through their outstanding leadership and accomplishments, have played a significant role in the history of the Air Force Reserve. But only a handful of people have earned the right to be called heroes for their contributions in helping to shape the Reserve into the world-class organization that it is today.

The Reserve lost one of those heroes with the passing of retired Maj. Gen. Homer "Pete" Lewis Oct. 21 at the age of 96. Lewis, the first person to hold the dual title of chief of Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve commander, died at his home in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Lewis was born in Ashville, North Carolina, in 1919. After

living in the New York City area and attending school there, he moved with his family to Texas in 1932. In 1938, after graduating from the Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana, he won a competitive appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He attended the Academy for a year before resigning and entering the University of Texas. In December 1940, Lewis was commissioned a second lieutenant, Reserve infantry.

Lewis was called to active duty in 1941, serving at Headquarters Gulf Coast Flying Training Command of the Army Air Corps at Randolph Field, Texas. Several assignments later, he found himself in England serving with the

Eighth Air Force's 486th Bombardment Group as a group gunnery officer, where he flew combat missions over Central Europe. After the war, in January 1946, Lewis left active duty but continued serving in the Reserve.

He occupied a number of positions, all of which were located in Texas, until 1968, when Lewis became Reserve deputy to the commander in Washington, D.C. Three years later, Lewis was nominated by the president to serve as chief of Air Force Reserve. The nomination was confirmed by the Senate on April 5, 1971.

In taking over the Reserve's top job,

Lewis was stepping into a bit of a hornet's nest. In mid-1971, an inspector general report focused attention on a problem that had been festering within the organization for a long time. The problem concerned the exact role of the Office of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon and Headquarters Air Force Reserve at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, in the organization's overall management. Without any clear definition of responsibilities, confusion and controversy reigned supreme.

But where others saw problems, Lewis saw opportunities. The general directed his staff to form a study group to evaluate the Reserve's management structure. To eliminate confusion, the group recommended that the general's position, as well as the positions of some of his directors at the Pentagon, be combined with positions at the headquarters. These people would continue to work at the Pentagon and assume responsibility for both organizations. In other words, the group recommended that the Reserve establish one set of leaders.

The proposal was approved, but only for the top position. Lewis took over as the Reserve's commander while keeping his Air Staff role at the Pentagon, thus beginning the so-called "dual-hatted" tradition.

Upon assuming his new position, Lewis made it clear to members of his staff at the Pentagon, as well as headquarters employees, that their bickering would have to stop.

To help him conduct the Reserve's day-to-day business, the general authorized the establishment of a vice commander position at the headquarters. This person would be in charge of everything related to operation of the field units, except that which Lewis was required to do by law or higher headquarters.

With this problem taken care of, Lewis turned his attention to other issues. First up was a study that recommended transferring the training command and administration of Reserve units from the headquarters to the gaining major commands. This would leave the chief of Air Force Reserve as an Air Staff adviser only.

Lewis wasn't about to sit back and watch the organization get torn apart. He protested, arguing that such a reorganization would hurt management because the major commands would push Reserve missions and responsibilities to the back burner. The Air Force vice chief of staff agreed that the suggestion would recreate a system that had been previously



Senator John Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, talks with Maj. Gen. J. Minor Roberts (left), chief of the Army Reserve, and Lewis, chief of the Air Force Reserve, in this photo from the early 1970s.

abandoned because it was ineffective.

Another issue that required Lewis' attention was the recruitment and retention of Reservists. To address these problems, Lewis imposed a quota of one new recruit each week for each field recruiter and commander. In addition, he established an objective of achieving a 15 percent re-enlistment rate for first-terms.

Realizing the necessity of having a centralized recruiting program, the general established the Directorate of Reserve Recruiting. He then established full-time recruiter positions in the field and made people in these positions responsible to the unit commanders.

By providing strong leadership, Lewis was able to implement solutions to some very difficult problems. His tenure as the Reserve's first dual-hatted commander was marked by positive change that served to shape the Reserve into the organization it is today.

After leading the Reserve for four years, Lewis retired from the military in 1975 and returned to his home in Texas.

In a letter of condolence he sent to Lewis' family and friends, Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, Air Force Reserve Command commander, said "General Lewis will always be remembered for his contribution to the Air Force Reserve. His superior leadership and keen insight ensured our role as an independent component. He quickly recognized the importance of having a dual-hatted command structure as not only the chief of Air Force Reserve but also as the commander of Headquarters AFRES.

"His efforts are what laid the foundation for the almost 70,000 Citizen Airmen who still serve this great nation, and for that I say, 'Thank you.'"

(Staff reports. Information for this article taken from a story written by Staff Sgt. Annette Snyder that appeared in the June 1998 issue of Citizen Airman.)



Retired Maj. Gen. Homer Lewis talks with Col. Scott Russell, the Reserve Officers Association's national Air Force vice president, at the ROA National Security Symposium in Washington, D.C., in 2011. Lewis served as the chief of the Air Force Reserve from 1971 to 1975 and was a past president of the ROA. He passed away Oct. 21 at the age of 96.



Security forces troops practice basic skills during sustainment training at Fort Wolters, Texas, in 2013. The training was conducted by the 610th Security Forces Squadron, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas. After almost 25 years of providing training to Airmen for contingency operations worldwide, the 610th SFS has closed its doors. (Senior Airman Melissa Harvey)

# ‘We Always Got the Job Done’

Command bids farewell to highly decorated security forces squadron

By Capt. Candice Allen

After almost 25 years of providing immediate training to Airmen for contingency operations worldwide, the 610th Security Forces Squadron has closed its doors.

The squadron, located at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, was officially inactivated Oct. 6. At the time of its inception — Nov. 1, 1990 — at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, it was known as the Air Force Reserve Ground Combat Readiness Center.

Lt. Col. Keith Goodenough, squadron commander, said

that simply put, the squadron had two goals: provide safe, quality training with a positive attitude and deploy combat-ready Airmen.

“We always got the job done. ... no matter what,” Goodenough said. “We earned a lot of credit for the [Air Force Reserve] command over the years. This squadron has a remarkable history of accomplishments and training completed for forces everywhere that is unmatched by any other unit.”

“We are probably the most decorated security forces unit within the command,” he said.

Originally reporting to 10th Air Force, the unit served as the command’s most diverse security forces unit. It consisted of Airmen with 10 different Air Force specialty codes, which included services, medics, combat arms personnel and heavy weapons. Five years after its activation, the center was re-designated the 610th SFS. In July 1996, the 610th moved to

NAS Fort Worth. The unit continued to grow into one of the largest security forces squadrons in the command, with an assortment of unit type codes from those typically found at other security forces units in the command.

“As I remember, it was smaller in [the] number of bodies we had, with almost nobody below the rank of staff sergeant,” said Master Sgt. James Hettinger, former 610th SFS resource advisor who was assigned to the squadron for 12 years. “The unit was almost entirely made up of experienced security forces members.”

In the end, the unit maintained 64 UTCs and 180 authorizations, to include 135 traditional reserve positions.

During the squadron’s 25-year history, instructors were able to train 33,324 people. And, that’s only the recorded numbers.

To reach those numbers, the 610th designed a mobile training team concept that sent instructors to various Air Force Reserve locations to teach and certify other defenders on the road. Most recently, 610th SFS instructors taught nine courses: Patriot Defender, Combat Skills Orientation, Active Shooter Response Training, Combat Arms Management, M240B Crew Served Qualification, M249 Automatic Rifle Qualification, Tactical Automated Security System, Radio, Telephone Operator and the popular Antiterrorism Officer Level II course.

On average, 610th SFS defenders conducted 45-60 classes every year for all branches of service.

“The knowledge of the instructors impressed me. They knew their audience and taught to the level of those who knew the material and those who did not. It was perfect,” said Navy Chief Warrant Officer Dexter Allen, a security and antiterrorism officer who attended the ATO Level II course in October 2014.

“That class helped me to look at terrorism differently than I previously knew and understood,” Allen said. “I use the same expressions and the passion the instructors had in the courses I teach now.”

In fiscal year 2015, the unit conducted 53 classes across nine programs before completing its final course this past summer.

On Aug. 29, two instructors — Floyd Fontenot and 2nd Lt. Robert Reader — taught the squadron’s last course, Antiterrorism Officer Level II, at the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

“Lieutenant Reader and I took a different

## Military clearinghouse eases transition for displaced Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Sarah Hanson

Like every other Air Force major command, Air Force Reserve Command has been affected by a number of organizational changes and closures during the past few years as a result of numerous force structure announcements. These closures have had a major impact on Reservists and their families, forcing them to change units, move, retrain or retire.

Times like these can be stressful for everyone involved, but luckily AFRC has a program in place to help ease this transition. The command’s Military Clearinghouse is designed to assist dislocated Reservists by capturing individual career choices.

“[We know] it is a stressful time for members who have to find new jobs because their position is going away,” said Senior Master Sgt. Teresa De La Cueva, Headquarters AFRC personnel utilization superintendent. “This tool is here to help ease their transition.”

Currently, Reservists from one wing and nine squadrons are registered with the clearinghouse. Airmen registered in the program have options when it comes to finding a new job or position.

They can opt to be reassigned to another Air Force Reserve location with or without retraining. They can elect to cross-train into another Air Force specialty code so they can stay in the same unit or at the same base. Or, they can elect to separate from the Reserve, retire or be reassigned to the Individual Ready Reserve.

By separating, members will terminate their affiliation with the Reserve. Officers will need to apply for separation, while enlisted members can separate at the end of their current contract.

Airmen who opt to retire must first confirm their number of satisfactory years of service to ensure they have the appropriate credit for retirement. In order to retire, members need to have 20 or more years of satisfactory service.

Members who choose to enter the IRR maintain their Reserve affiliation but with a few additional requirements. For example, members of the IRR are subject to recall to active duty in time of war or national emergency, and they must be available to report immediately upon notification of mobilization.

Reservists who want to continue in their current career field or specialty may find opportunities with another reserve component such as the Army, Navy, Marines or Coast Guard. Reservists interested in component transfer must contact the applicable in-service recruiter.

Finally, Reservists can request an individual mobilization augmentee assignment. IMAs are members of the Selected Reserve assigned or attached to a reserve component position within a major command, forward operating unit, direct reporting unit, joint organization or outside agency.

The primary job of an IMA is to be prepared to support mobilization. IMAs organize, administer and train members of the active component and must individually maintain all training requirements to serve in the Air Force Reserve. IMA vacancies are listed in the Reserve Management Vacancy System, which is located on the Air Force Personnel Center secure website.

“AFRC solicits commander emphasis on informing Reservists of this great resource and ensuring maximum use of the clearinghouse placement tool,” De La Cueva said. “Use of this tool is a win-win for everyone because it will allow AFRC to retain valuable resources and at the same time minimize training costs.”

approach to the class since the class size was small,” said Fontenot, who came to the unit in 1996 and taught 130 ATO classes. “It was more of a hands-on ‘walk through, talk through’ approach, teaching the students through each aspect of their duties by utilizing the Management Internal Control Toolset ATO as a teaching aid. One can say it was more of a personal approach to instructing.”

In addition to conducting courses throughout the United States, 610th members trained internationally over the years, traveling to Europe as well as Central and South America conducting joint training.

“That part of it was always fun,” Goodenough said. “About every other year, we trained with our counterparts of Great Britain’s Royal Air Force Regiment. Those were some great opportunities and the best annual tour events.”

Goodenough first stepped through the squadron’s doors in 1995 as an enlisted Airman and became an officer in the unit through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program two years later. He then returned for a second tour from 2007 to 2010, serving as the 610th operations officer. In 2012, he came back for a third tour, this time as squadron commander.

“Coming back has been the highlight of my career,” Goodenough said. “The moment I became an officer, it was a career goal of mine to come back here as the commander.”

“Unfortunately in this instance, the realization of that career goal eventually meant I was the guy charged with the squadron’s inactivation. ... a real bummer, but I can’t think of anyone more appropriate for the task,” he said.

For the deployment aspect of its mission, the 610th SFS had at least one Airman with boots on the ground supporting a contingency, exercise or deployment from Oct. 1, 1999, to Oct. 26, 2012.

“Two of the fondest memories I have of the 610th was deploying to Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq with the unit and being a part of the instructor cadre at the Patriot Defender program,” Hettinger said. “Teaching and interacting with all the defenders who came through the program was very rewarding.”

Despite being busy meeting all its training and deployment requirements, the unit was able to find the time to build strong family ties through annual Family Days. These annual events brought members and their families together to enjoy each other’s company, and, in true security forces fashion, the unit typically added a physical element to the festivities. Divided into four-person teams, members competed in a variety of events.



**Staff Sgt. Arturo Maldonado, 610th SFS range officer, scores a target sheet for Tech. Sgt. Erik Barber, also from the 610th SFS, during a recent Excellence in Competition match. (Senior Airman Martha Whipple)**

“The last three years, we have been incorporating a challenge into our Family Day as a fun event to test the physical abilities and teamwork of our defenders,” Hettinger said.

The 610th conducted its last family day in July, inviting both current and former members to the event.

“The 610th SFS Airmen, both former and current, deserve pomp and circumstance for all they did to make the squadron great,” Goodenough said.

In February 2015, the Air Force Reserve announced a number of force structure changes, which included inactivation of the 610th. The Desert Defender Regional Training Center picked up the training portion of the squadron’s mission at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

*(Allen is chief of public affairs for the 301st Fighter Wing at NAS Fort Worth.)*

# IT’S SEYMOUR JOHNSON

Carolina base selected  
as first Reserve-led  
KC-46A location



Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, emerged from a list of potential locations to be named the preferred alternative for the first Air Force Reserve-led KC-46A Pegasus main operating base. Air Force officials made the announcement Oct. 29. KC-46A aircraft are expected to start arriving at the base in 2019.

Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts; and Grissom ARB, Indiana, were named as the reasonable alternatives to Seymour Johnson.

“It is absolutely critical that we replace our aging tanker fleet with the KC-46A Pegasus aerial tanker,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “I am pleased to announce Seymour Johnson AFB as the first Reserve-led location because it is a testament to the Air Force’s commitment to the total force.”

“We must use all three components — active, Guard and Reserve — operating cohesively and seamlessly as one team so we can release the full potential of airpower.”

James said the 179 planned KC-46A aircraft are just the first phase of a three-phase effort to replace the aging tanker fleet. Deliveries during the first phase of tanker recapitalization will be completed in fiscal year 2028.

During detailed, on-the-ground site surveys of each candidate base, the major commands evaluated the locations in terms of their ability to meet operational and training requirements as well as potential impacts the KC-46 would have on existing missions, housing, infrastructure and manpower.

The site survey teams also developed cost estimates to bed down the KC-46A at each candidate base. James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III evaluated the results of the surveys before selecting the preferred and reasonable alternatives for this mission.

“Seymour Johnson (AFB) was selected based on operational analysis, results of site surveys, cost and military judgment factors,” said Jennifer Miller, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for installations.

“The primary drivers for selecting this location as the pre-

ferred alternative were its lower costs and its highly successful existing active-duty association, which will lead to the lowest active-duty manpower required to stand up the KC-46A Reserve unit.”

Selection of this total force unit will minimize costs and the challenge of fielding a new weapons system while simultaneously establishing a new active association.

“Bringing the KC-46A online is a huge first step in recapitalizing a tanker fleet that has been the world leader in air refueling for more than five decades,” Welsh said. “The incredible Airmen who will fly this great machine, and the joint and coalition partners they support in contingency and humanitarian operations around the world deserve the improved aircraft availability rates, reliability and capability it will bring to the fight. Rapid global mobility has always been a core mission of our Air Force; the KC-46A will help us take it to the next level!”

The Air Force will also ensure Reserve component involvement from day one by establishing active/Reserve associations at all U.S. main operating base locations.

“The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve are vital to accomplishing our air refueling mission,” James said. “Therefore, the ability to recruit for and maintain a strong Reserve component association was a major consideration in this basing action.”

“We will now begin the environmental impact analysis process,” Miller said. “We look forward to the inputs provided from the communities as we proceed through the environmental impact analysis.”

“Once the requirements of the environmental impact analysis process are complete, the Air Force will make its final basing decision.”

Reasonable alternatives will continue to be evaluated during the EIAP. Subsequent KC-46 decisions will use similar criteria; therefore, candidate installations will likely compete for future continental U.S. basing decisions.

*(Secretary of the Air Force public affairs)*

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## There are lots of opportunities in the Civil Air Patrol Reserve Assistance Program

Traditional Reservists who are looking for opportunities to serve in a program that allows them to make important contributions to their local communities — or to make a difference during natural disasters and national emergencies — should take a look at the Civil Air Patrol Reserve Assistance Program.

Openings, both officer and enlisted, are available throughout the country, said Lt. Col. Scott P. D'Antoni, former commander of Civil Air Patrol-U.S. Air Force Southeast Liaison Region. The program provides opportunities for Reservists to serve as Air Force liaison representatives to the Civil Air Patrol, an all-volunteer organization that has provided 74 years of support to emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs.

CAPRAP members are Category E Reservists who serve as part of the Participating Individual Ready Reserve. Members of the PIRR typically serve for points only and do not get paid for their training. One point equals four hours of work, and a maximum of two points can be awarded per day. However, there are many opportunities for CAPRAP members to work man-days as well. Members are required to earn 50 points for a "good" year, which counts toward retirement, and they have no annual tour requirements. Man-days can be used for certain activities, and volunteer deployments, as well as promotion opportunities, are available.

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

"Our members are involved in a wide range of duties, from oversight of CAP programs such as emergency services to aerospace education to cadet activities," said Lt. Col. Mike Schwartz, reserve forces director for the Southeast Liaison Region. "Examples of these national-level cadet activities include the Glider Academy, the Powered Flight Academy, the Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course, civil engineer and pararescue jumper orientation courses, and the Cadet Officer School, which is similar to Air Force company grade officer professional military education.

"Reservists also frequently have opportunities to participate on active duty in areas such as combatant command and major command tours, aerospace expeditionary force deployments, and air operations centers, as well as serving as liaisons to emergency operations centers/joint operations centers during real-world contingencies," Schwartz said.

In August, the Air Force announced that when conducting missions for the Air Force as its official auxiliary, CAP is now included in the service's definition of the total force. The expanded description of total force and Airmen now consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, civilian and auxiliary members.

CAP members fly nearly 100,000 hours per year performing disaster relief, counterdrug, search and rescue, fighter interceptor training, aerial observation, and cadet orientation flights.

"Civil Air Patrol enjoys a proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and

service to country and community that spans decades," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, CAP national commander. "Our ability to augment the Air Force is second to none. We provide 85 percent of inland search and rescue missions and disaster-relief support to local, state and national agencies as well as aerial reconnaissance for homeland security, and remain continually postured to offer more."

Schwartz said service in CAPRAP offers Reservists two major benefits: flexibility and opportunity.

"Members have significant control over when and where they perform scheduled duty, and it may often be within their local commuting area during a mutually convenient time," he said. "Duty tours that involve oversight of national CAP activities or support to MAJCOM/COCOM components are often projected months in advance, which is a tremendous help to members who have to juggle busy civilian careers and family responsibilities.

"This program works very well with Reservists who may have rotating civilian work schedules such as airline flight operations, law enforcement or university teaching," Schwartz said. "Reservists have a mandatory minimum participation level to obtain a good year of 50 points, but they can often be much more utilized should they choose. Our program also provides opportunities for Reservists to expand and utilize skills within domestic operations and defense support to civilian authorities. This is also a great follow-on position for someone who may have been involved in these activities as a member of the Air National Guard or a traditional community-based Reserve unit."

Maj. Jamey Haigh became familiar with CAPRAP opportunities while his teenage children were serving as cadets.

"An Air Force lieutenant colonel who was conducting a unit visit told me I could keep my Reserve position while augmenting CAPRAP if my home unit commander approved," Haigh said. "I was already highly impressed with CAP as a volunteer, and this option gave me the chance to continue interacting with its outstanding people while earning points toward my Reserve retirement."

Haigh served as a CAP senior member for four years prior to becoming a CAPRAP augmentee for almost three years. Because CAPRAP provides oversight of the Civil Air Patrol, CAPRAP members cannot simultaneously be members of the Civil Air Patrol. They must put their CAP membership on hold while serving in the CAPRAP.

"I am an OTS (Officer Training School) flight commander and AETC (Air Education and Training Command) master instructor at Maxwell AFB, as well as a CAPRAP augmentee in the Southeast Liaison Region," he said. "Whenever OTS needs me, I provide accession training for the Air Force's newest leaders. When I'm not on orders with OTS, I support CAP by teaching its Cadet Officer School, visiting local CAP squadrons, and inspecting assigned airplanes and vans."

Haigh described his CAPRAP experience thus far as "amazing." "Everyone associated with CAPRAP is interesting and has con-



tributed to improving my life," he said. "Those assigned are eager to welcome new members and get them up to speed on what we do and how to do it well. Senior members at the units have a wealth of civilian and military experience they are often willing to share, and cadets reinvigorate my faith in the future of our nation every time I observe their activities.

"In addition to extra retirement points and pay, CAPRAP has given me the opportunity to meet people I otherwise wouldn't have met and to learn from them," he said. "That's the top benefit I've received — the relationships. They allow me to positively influence our nation's next generation of citizen leaders, while their accomplishments and commitment to excellence inspire me to be a better person."

Reservists who are interested in finding out more about CAPRAP or in joining the program may visit the Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions & Citizen Development website at

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/CAPUSAF/recruiting.asp>. Or, they can contact Flo Edwards, CAP-USAF reserve affairs manager, at 334-953-5225 or [florence.edwards@us.af.mil](mailto:florence.edwards@us.af.mil). Reservists have access to CAP-USAF Reserve position vacancies through the Volunteer Reserve System on the Air Force Portal, where there is an ad for each of the eight liaison regions.

*(Staff reports. Some information was taken from an article written by Staff Sgt. Whitney Stanfield, secretary of the Air Force public affairs.)*

# SAPR Changes

## Improvements made to increase program's effectiveness

Recent changes to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program affect program eligibility, the status that traditional Reservists and individual mobilization augmentees can be in to make a report, and the way reports are handled once they are made.

Traditional Reservists, IMAs and Air Force civilian employees may now report a sexual assault that they experience regardless of their military status at the time they were assaulted. No longer do traditional Reservists or IMAs need to be in military status at the time of their assault in order to make a restricted or unrestricted report. Those who are not in military status at the time of the assault, as well as Air Force civilians, will receive sexual assault response coordinator/victim advocate support, along with resource and referral information. These are the same services available to military members who report an incident that occurred while in military status, minus the potential to file a line of duty or to receive other associated care.

"The ability for traditional Reservists and IMAs to make reports, regardless of duty status, is something the command lobbied for," said Jim Woodyard, Air Force Reserve Command's SAPR program manager. "Members may benefit from assistance for assaults that occurred in their civilian lives or from even prior to them entering service. It's simply a matter of trying to assist all Airmen, military and civilian, who might be in need."

In another change, under congressional direction, the Air Force has instituted the Sexual Assault Incident Response Oversight Report. When an unrestricted report is filed with the sexual assault response coordinator, Air Force commanders now have eight days from that filing date to provide non-personally identifying information about the assault. The names of the member filing the report and the accused are not included in the SAIRO Report.

In the case of a restricted report being made, the SAIRO Report does not apply due to the confidential nature of restricted reporting.

The purpose of the SAIRO Report is three-fold:

- To detail the actions taken or in progress to provide the necessary care and support to the adult victim of sexual assault;
- To ensure that sexual assault allegations are referred to the appropriate military criminal investigative organizations; and
- To provide initial notification of the serious incident to appropriate commanders.

In most cases, the victim's immediate commander is responsible for completing the SAIRO Report and passing it on to the first colonel and general officer in the victim's and accused's chain of command. The installation sexual assault response coordinator and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations provide almost all the data that is contained within the report.

The SAIRO Report details what progress has been made since the sexual assault was initially reported, including what services have been provided to the victim and the status of the investigating organization's investigation.

Woodyard said he hopes the changes will increase the members' confidence that they can receive assistance when needed.

"The Air Force and AFRC take sexual assault very seriously and encourage individuals to come forward when they believe they have been assaulted," he said. "I think sometimes there still is a belief among some people that allegations of sexual assault in the military get swept under the rug. Requiring commanders to submit a report within eight days sends a message that reports will be investigated and services will be provided to those in need. The SAIRO Report ensures that everyone knows the processes are in place to provide support and appropriately investigate all reports."

For more information on reporting eligibility and the SAIRO Report, contact your installation SAPR office.

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