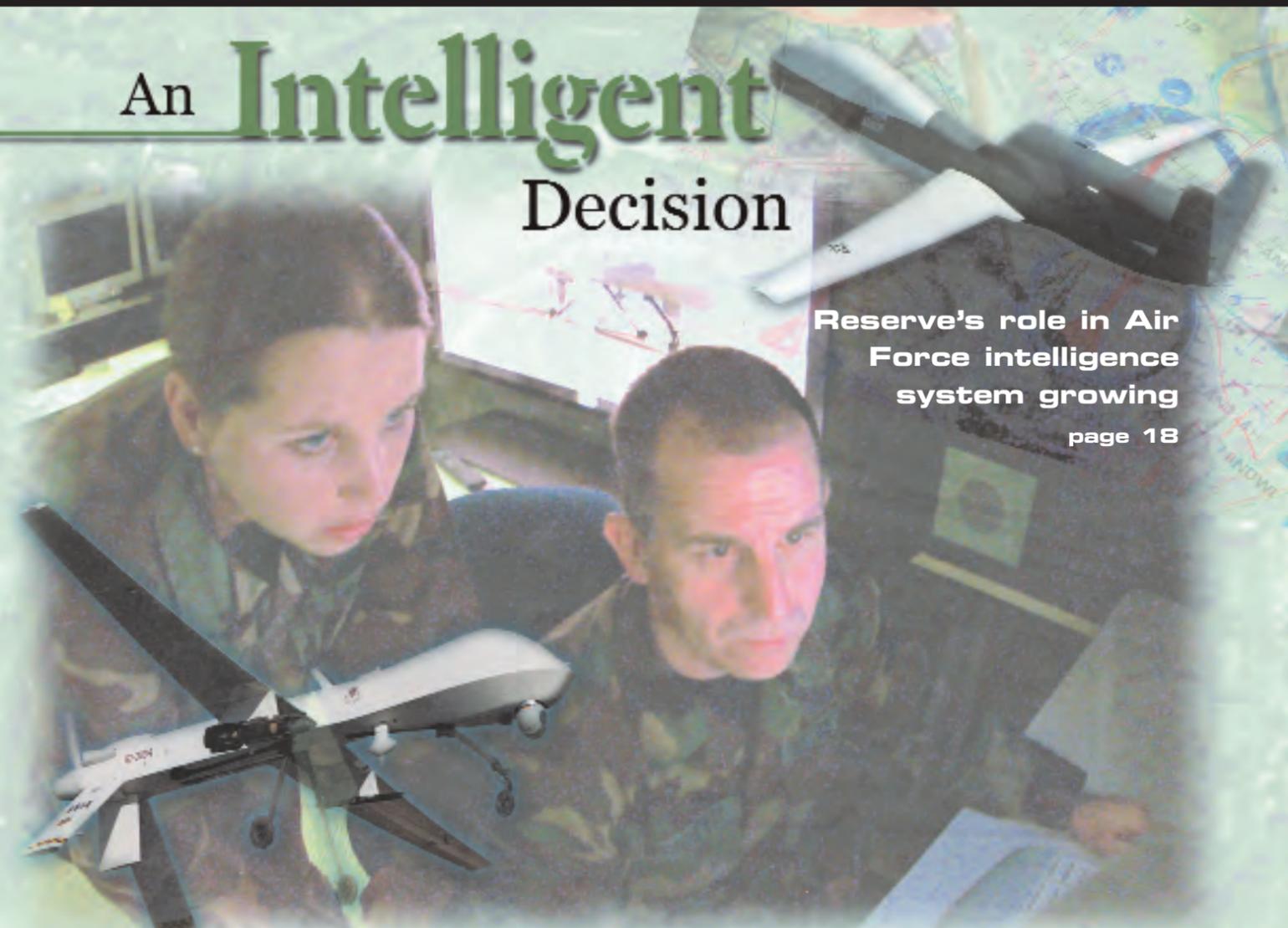


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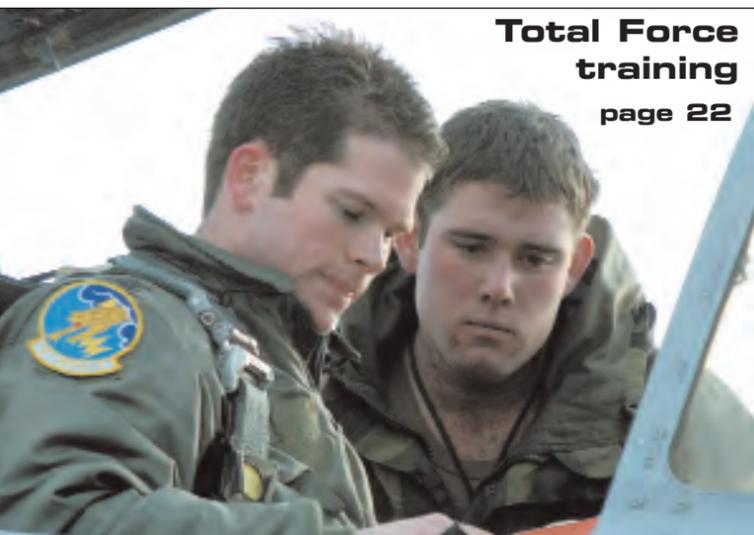
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An Intelligent Decision



Reserve's role in Air
Force intelligence
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**AFRC's Vision:
Combat ready**
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*Our Future ... We will train, activate
and fight — in that order.*

From the Top

By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command



Chief's View

By Chief Master Sgt. Troy J. McIntosh
Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air Force Reserve Command



You are vital part of DOD's No. 1 team — our AFRC recruiters

I appreciate each of you in our Air Force Reserve! The heart of this command is you, and we could not do what we do every day if not for your dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to standards of excellence.

I want to take this opportunity to spotlight a group of professionals who ensure we continue to recruit superstars like you, well into our future.

The word "recruiter" means different things to different people. In fact, sometimes it means different things to the SAME person at different times in his or her career. Let me tell you what it means to me.

First impressions: Our recruiters are the finest, sharpest and most motivated team in the Department of Defense. They are our first line to the outstanding young men and women who would otherwise not have an opportunity to become part of our family.

Opportunity: Our recruiters live and work in local communities. They provide alternatives to, and begin to build dreams for, some of this country's best and brightest.

Determination: Their goal is clear, and they have exceeded it for the last six years. Their leadership and self-discipline to achieve that goal are amazing!

Time-tested: Each of you has spoken to a recruiter at one time or another during your career. A recruiter may come to mind when you think about those who have helped you along your personal path as well as your professional one.

Whether you know it or not, YOU are a recruiter! Putting your best face forward each day in your civilian life, your military life and with your family is a reflection of all you've been taught — and others will look to you for guidance.

Throughout your years of service, you will have the opportunity to speak with many others who will be interested in all

you do. Speak up! Tell people what a great mission we have and that they, too, can be a part of it.

You are all aware of a recruiting program we call Get 1 Now. Many of you have been beneficiaries of this program, both overtly

by receiving an award for your efforts and unknowingly as you work beside someone who entered the Reserve as a result of this program.

Get 1 Now encourages us to refer people we know, those who could benefit from service as a Reservist and be a great addition to the Air Force Reserve. This is a very important program as Reservists are the best referral source for new members.

In the last two years, the awards have been totally updated and improved to reflect the importance of the program. We have also established a new Web site, www.get1now.us, that

makes it easy to learn about the program and enter referrals.

Last year Get 1 Now accounted for 447 accessions. Let's do even better this year!

What else can we do to help our recruiting efforts? Get involved in Air Force Week events coming to a location near you. Air Force Week events broaden the country's awareness of the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

The crown jewel of the 2007 Air Force Week schedule is the Atlanta, Ga., event, sponsored by the Air Force Reserve. It will culminate with the Great Georgia Air Show Oct. 13 and 14 and includes many other exciting events. For information and a full schedule of events, please visit <http://www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil/library/atlantaafweek/index.asp> on the Web.

The power of positive communication and referrals can make all the difference in being an unrivaled wingman. We must accomplish the mission, be safe and place our focus where it belongs — on you! ★

THE POWER OF POSITIVE

COMMUNICATION AND

REFERRALS CAN MAKE ALL

THE DIFFERENCE IN BEING AN

UNRIVALED WINGMAN.

Take time to learn Airman's Creed

The Air Force chief of staff recently released the new Airman's Creed. I encourage each of you to take the time to read each line. Although it means something different to each of us, the creed represents the Air Force and the personnel in it. We are proud of our contributions, and this will unite all ranks behind one creed — the American Airman!

The creed begins, "I am an American Airman." It starts with pride. Every day we support the efforts to win the war on terrorism, our top priority.

"I am a warrior." Hundreds of Airmen risk their lives each day to provide the right of democracy and freedom to the world.

"I have answered my nation's call." We are part of the world's largest volunteer force.

"I am an American Airman," faithful to the end at any cost!

"My mission is to fly, fight and win." As we streamline our force, we become more agile, ready to deploy anywhere in the world at anytime.

"I am faithful to a proud heritage." The Air Force Reserve has had many enlisted leaders who have paved the way for the future. People like Chief Master Sgt. Robert Boyle, our first senior enlisted advisor; Chief Master Sgt. Charles Joseph, our first African-American senior enlisted advisor; and Chief Master Sgt. Carol Smits, our first female senior enlisted advisor.

"A tradition of honor and a legacy of valor." The Air Force Reserve prides itself in its ability to meet war-fighters' needs with volunteers. We have always exceeded the expectation of the Air Force when it comes to answering the call to duty and will continue until the job is done.

"I am an American Airman." I stand tall and proud of who I am and what I represent — the American way.

"Guardian of freedom and justice." Thousands of Airmen have

paid the ultimate sacrifice for democracy. They will never be forgotten.

"My nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger. I defend my country with my life." On 9/11, we as a country learned that we

can never let our guard down and that the country depends on its Citizen Airmen to provide the security it needs. Our actions were swift and just, and many have lost their lives in this long pursuit. But we cannot and will not fail. We will provide a safe environment for our children and our future generations.

"I am an American Airman: wingman, leader, warrior." There is no doubt we are an unrivaled wingman!

"I will never leave an Airman behind." On each special event, we honor those who cannot be with us today; those who have been missing or detained for such a long time that we begin to forget their names. Let's not allow ourselves to enter such a hollow place. Instead, let's continue to honor their legacy and never forget the families that still wait for the return of their loved ones.

"I will never falter, and I will not fail." We belong to the most advanced Air Force in the world!

We will support each and every task as if it's the last. We will succeed or seek guidance and or leadership to help complete the task.

That is who we are — an American Airman. We stand proud, ready to succeed, ready to protect! We are the unrivaled Airman!

I hope each of you will put something personal behind each line of the Airman's Creed. We should all commit this creed to memory and trust that when we are asked to recite it, we are reciting a long legacy of heritage.

Once again, it is truly my honor to represent the most valuable asset to the Air Force Reserve — you! Together, we are the "unrivaled wingman" and true partners in the Total Force. ★

THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
I AM A WARRIOR.
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT AND WIN.
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,
A TRADITION OF HONOR,
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.

Final Flight

Tech. Sgt. James Baker, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, gives the "all clear" signal for a 326th Airlift Squadron crew to park a C-5 Galaxy on the Dover Air Force Base, Del., runway March 10. This marked the end of the last C-5 flight for the 326th AS, a unit in the Air Force Reserve Command's 512th Airlift Wing. The squadron, which has been flying the C-5 since 1973, is transitioning to the C-17 Globemaster III, scheduled to begin arriving at the base this month. (Tech. Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda)



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Reservist leads tornado recovery effort

Front cover: (Top) The Air Force is expanding the Reserve's role in the Distributed Common Ground System, where operators receive intelligence data from unmanned aerial vehicles, piloted aircraft and satellites around the clock. See story, page 18. (Bottom left) Capt. David Kirkendall, an active-duty pilot stationed in Germany, reviews maintenance forms with Reserve crew chief Airman 1st Class Jeremy Cline. See page 22 for the story. (Maj. David Kurle). (Bottom right) The fourth in a series of seven articles on the Air Force Reserve's new vision, "One Air Force, Same Fight ... An Unrivaled Wingman," takes a look at how the command maintains its combat readiness to both serve alongside the regular Air Force and take the lead when necessary. See story, page 16.

Gen. T. Michael Moseley *Chief of Staff, United States Air Force*

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley *Commander, Air Force Reserve Command*

Col. Tom Deall *Director of Public Affairs, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command*

Cliff Tyler *Managing Editor*

Bo Joyner *Associate Editor*

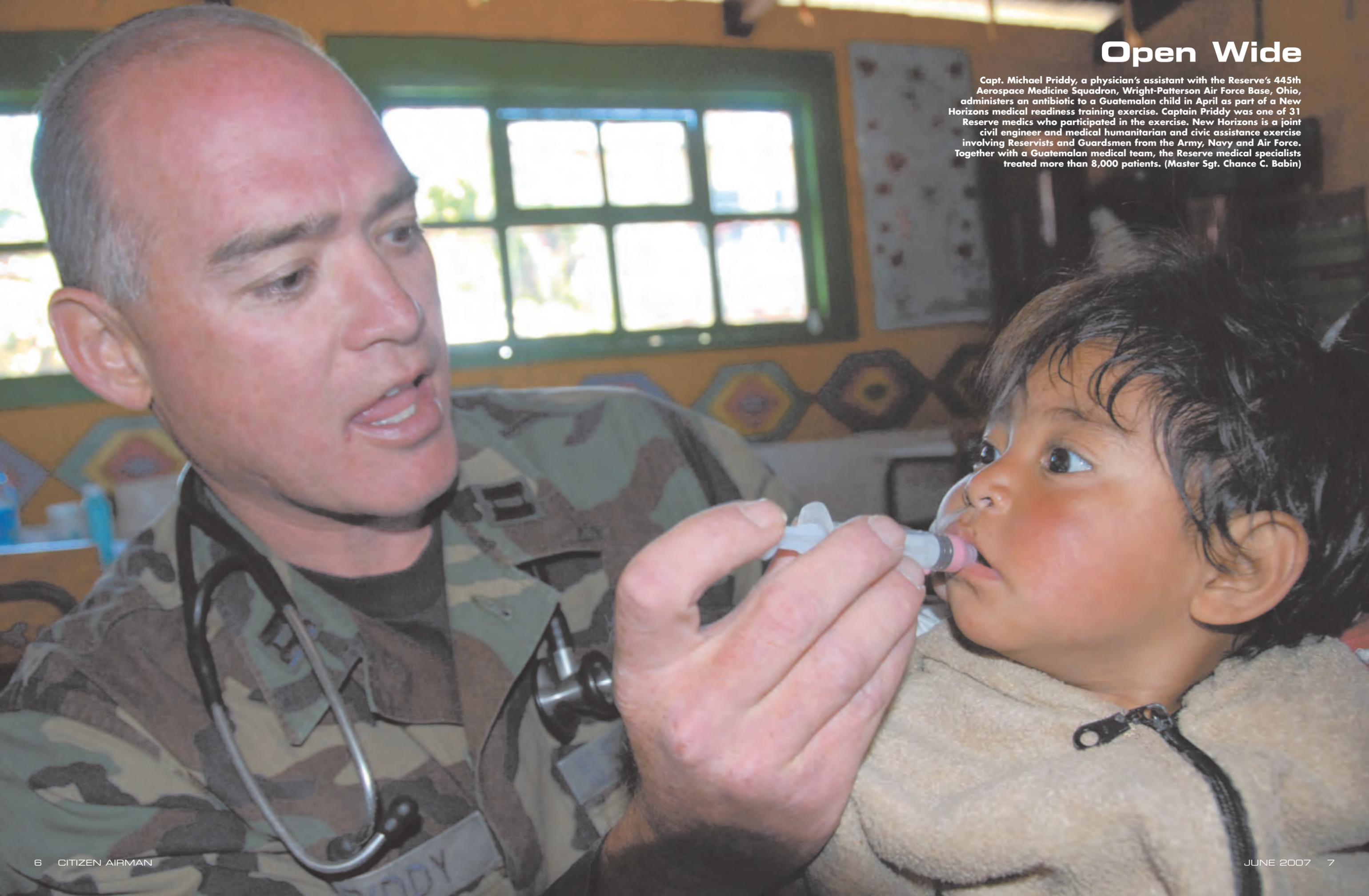
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Moving? PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO CITIZEN AIRMAN. To continue receiving the magazine, unit Reservists, as well as people serving a statutory tour of duty, should send a change of address to their military personnel flight or unit orderly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

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

Open Wide

Capt. Michael Priddy, a physician's assistant with the Reserve's 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, administers an antibiotic to a Guatemalan child in April as part of a New Horizons medical readiness training exercise. Captain Priddy was one of 31 Reserve medics who participated in the exercise. New Horizons is a joint civil engineer and medical humanitarian and civic assistance exercise involving Reservists and Guardsmen from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Together with a Guatemalan medical team, the Reserve medical specialists treated more than 8,000 patients. (Master Sgt. Chance C. Babin)





Tuning up for Combat

Airman First Class Robert Barnes, a keyboard player with the Band of the Air Force Reserve, learns attack response skills at the Air Force Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course at Fort Dix, N.J. The course, taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, prepared nearly 300 Airmen for upcoming deployments. Airman Barnes was one of 10 Air Force Reserve Command band members who attended the training March 12-24. This month they made history as the first band members to deploy to the Central Air Force area of responsibility, where they will stay 60 to 90 days before returning to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., where the band is based. (Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol)

Round the Reserve

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

Reserve Chooses to Unfund Nearly 5,000 Positions

Nearly 5,000 Air Force Reservists received a letter in April notifying them that they have a career decision to make because of authorization reductions.

To help pay for force modernization, Air Force Reserve Command will reduce its manpower authorizations by 7,700 over the next four years. Part of that reduction will come from not funding close to 5,000 individual mobilization augmentee positions.

"We tried to make this whole process as individualized as possible," said Col. Roxane Towner, commander of AFRC's Readiness Management Group. "Our people are important to us, and we're going to do everything possible to ensure we maintain our unrivaled wingman commitment both to our Reservists and their gaining major commands."

AFRC senior leaders worked closely with active-duty major commands to identify the IMA authorizations to be unfunded.

IMAs are Reservists assigned directly

against a person in an active-duty position. Most of these Reservists perform 24 individual days for training per year, in addition to 12-14 days for annual training.

While the command sent all individual mobilization augmentees a letter telling them whether or not their position was affected, IMAs directly impacted by the reductions received a certified letter with a list of career options available to them.

"The important thing to remember is that this isn't an end-of-the-road scenario," Colonel Towner said. "We have many options available to those who wish to continue their service in the Air Force Reserve. (AFRC News Service)

Mandatory Separation Ages Change for Officers

If otherwise eligible, Air Force Reserve officers can now stay in the service longer before reaching their mandatory separation age.

In the past, brigadier generals and below had to retire or separate when they reached age 60. Now they can stay until age 62. The age for major generals

rose from 62 to 64.

These changes are a result of provisions in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act.

With approval from the secretary of the Air Force, chaplains and officers in some health-care professions may remain in an active status until age 67.

Eligible officers still have the option of voluntarily separating or retiring before their mandatory age.

Additionally, mandatory separation dates because of years of commissioned service restrictions have not changed. Unless otherwise continued, lieutenant colonels must separate or retire when they reach 28 years of commissioned service. The limit for colonels is 30 years.

Although the authorization act changed mandatory separation ages, it did not change when officers become eligible to draw retirement pay. If they meet all other requirements for retirement, they may apply for retired pay upon reaching age 60.

Also unchanged is the requirement for a person to request approval from the secretary of the Air Force to continue to receive service credit for any service performed



KEEPING 'EM FLYING — Senior Airman Ron Arroyo (left) and Tech. Sgt. Dean Peterson, helicopter maintenance crew chiefs, service an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter rotor blade during a preflight inspection while deployed to Afghanistan. Both Airman Arroyo and Sergeant Peterson are assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. They are deployed to Afghanistan as part of a regular aerospace expeditionary force rotation. The 920th RQW's primary mission is to provide combat search and rescue support anywhere in the world as directed.

Pope's Puns



after becoming qualified for retired pay, which typically occurs at age 60.

More information and a list of frequently asked questions are available online at <http://arpc.af.mil/separations/msd.asp>. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Guard, Reserve Personnel Fact Sheets Available

The Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver has released its 2007 Guard and Reserve personnel fact sheets.

This collection of fact sheets offers valuable information on a variety of subjects including pay, promotions, retirement, entitlement benefits, assignments and much more.

The information is available online at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/pa/fact/factsheet.asp>.

ARPC Contact Center counselors are available Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. MST and the first weekend each month from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST. Call 800-525-0102 or send an e-mail to arpc.contactcenter@arpc.denver.af.mil. (ARPC public affairs)

Anthrax Vaccine Required for High-Threat Areas

Anthrax vaccinations became mandatory March 19 for Air Force Reservists who deploy to a high-threat area for more than 15 days.

Mandatory vaccinations are limited to Airmen in specific high-threat areas — U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and the Korean peninsula — for more than 15 consecutive days. Other people, such as emergency-essential and comparable Department of Defense civilian employees and certain contractors performing essential services, may also be included in the program.

"Each vaccine lot is authorized for release by the Food and Drug Administration before shipment," said Lt. Col. Tim Bennett, command public health officer at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "No other product is approved by the FDA to prevent anthrax before exposure."

The assistant secretary of defense for health affairs approved the Air Force plan for resuming mandatory anthrax

vaccinations. The new Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program allows voluntary vaccinations for people who have received one or more previous anthrax shots and want to continue the series.

After an extensive evaluation, the FDA re-issued a final order on the license status of the anthrax vaccine and again determined that the vaccine is licensed for the prevention of anthrax, regardless of the route of exposure. Taking the vaccine is consistent with good medical practice and personal protection, Colonel Bennett said.

The vaccine requires a series of six shots in an 18-month period and a booster shot every year after that. According to the AVIP Web site, the vaccine is effective against the three types of anthrax infection: cutaneous, gastrointestinal and inhalational.

According to U.S. intelligence agencies, inhalational anthrax is the most likely type to be used by an enemy because anthrax spores are cheap and easy to produce. Anthrax spores can be stored for a long time, can be dispersed in a variety of ways and are difficult to detect. Inhalational anthrax is highly lethal, and anthrax

spores can cause widespread illness and death among unprotected people.

The Air Force implementation plan does not require or advise people who have started the vaccination series and were deferred, for whatever reason, to start again at the beginning. Instead, Airmen will pick up the shot series where they left off. This practice is consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based in Atlanta.

"It is important not to compress this dosing schedule," Colonel Bennett said. "Individuals should not get vaccinated too soon. Their bodies need time to build antibodies to the vaccine. If they get doses too close together, they may not get the full protective value of the vaccine. Vaccinations should begin, to the extent feasible, up to 60 days prior to deployment or arrival in high-threat areas to provide the greatest protection."

People who are no longer deployed to a high-threat area or no longer assigned to designated special mission roles can take the later vaccine doses on a voluntary basis.

Some people, including those with

Aerial porter organizes 5K run to raise autism awareness

More than 300 Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen deployed to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, turned out to participate in a 5K run April 29 to raise awareness of and money for autism.

In addition to the runners, the event attracted another 100 supporters and volunteers.

Master Sgt. Fred Proctor, a Reservist from the 22nd Air Force Aerial Port Operations Division at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., led the effort to organize the event, which was sponsored by the 438th Aerospace Expeditionary Group Top 5 Organization along with the Al Asad Morale, Welfare and Recreation office. Sergeant Proctor has a personal interest in autism because his 6-year-old son, Cole, is autistic.

"If I cannot be with him to support him and participate in his therapy, I want him to know, one day when he can understand, that wherever I am and whatever I am doing, my heart and soul are with him," Sergeant Proctor said.

The event caught the attention of Autism Speaks, the nation's leading nonprofit organization devoted to autism. Autism Speaks promoted the event on its Web site, where people interesting in supporting the effort could go and make a donation. As of May 7, the 5K run had raised more than \$3,500.

"During the course of the morning, I had around 12 to 15 different people come up and thank me for putting this on because they either had children or siblings with autism," Sergeant Proctor said.

"I feel privileged to have been a part of this autism awareness event," said Army Spec. Judy Phothimath. "Being so far away from home, you would never think that there could be such an event. I know how challenging autism can be for people, because I have a young cousin with the illness. I ran on behalf of my cousin and a really good friend."

Sergeant Proctor was at Al Asad as part of a regular aerospace expeditionary force deployment. He was assigned to the 438th Aerial Port Flight along with a number of other Reservists. The deployment began in January and ended in the middle of May. While there, the aerial porters processed more than 32,000 passengers, 15,528 tons of cargo and more than 2,600 aircraft.

As a result of their efforts, nearly 12,000 American service members were able to stay off the roads in convoys.

"Convoy mitigation is a very large part of our mission," said Capt. Robert Golenberke, 438th APF commander. "Our unit and one other at Al Taqadum supply all branches of our



More than 300 service members deployed to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, participated in a 5K run April 29 to raise awareness of autism. In addition, the event succeeded in raising more than \$3,500 for Autism Speaks, the nation's leading nonprofit organization devoted to autism.

military in western Iraq through our aerial port operations."

"You hear people talk about how hard these deployments are on the family and the service members, and they most certainly are," Sergeant Proctor said. "Yet, the most difficult aspect about his deployment is being away from my son. My wife, Jamie, has told me that since I left Georgia, Cole has not slept at night very well and does not want to be alone.

"This type of behavior has never happened with Cole and did not start until I was gone. We cannot make him understand where I am and what I am doing. The only thing he knows is that I am gone." ★

(Staff reports)

pre-existing medical conditions that kept them from receiving the anthrax vaccine before and those who develop reactions while taking the vaccine series, may qualify for a medical exemption.

"Most people tolerate anthrax vaccination without significant reactions," Colonel Bennett said. "As with most vaccines, some may experience temporary

pain and swelling in their arm at the site of the injection." (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Individual Reservists Support Coats for Kids

Air Force Reserve contracting individual mobilization augmentees

are helping to keep children throughout the country warm during the winter through their active support of a charitable organization.

Coats for Kids provides new coats, hats, scarves and gloves to children in need. Over the past two years, contracting IMAs have donated 265 coats to the organization for distribution.

Community service has become an increasingly important part of the contracting IMA program, said Col. Vincent Napoleon, senior IMA to the deputy assistant secretary (contracting).

"Our contracting IMAs were looking for an opportunity to make a real difference and impact the lives of those in need," Colonel Napoleon said. "Our partnership with Coats for Kids has provided us with the unique opportunity to make this difference in a very significant way, notwithstanding the current operations tempo that causes us to focus more on deployments and providing war-fighter capabilities."

The first year of the partnership, 2005, contracting IMAs donated 46 new coats, said Lt. Col. Steven Miley, one of the leaders of the project.

"Our staff was pleased with this effort, but we felt we could do more," Colonel Miley said. "In 2006, we set a goal of 150 new coats. Through our expanded outreach efforts, we received 219 new coats, exceeding our goal by 46 percent."

Assisting Colonel Miley with the project were Maj. Lisa Craven and Bill Braden.

"The generosity of our Reservists, as well as civilians, in supporting Coats for Kids was overwhelming," Major Craven said. "People were calling to say they didn't have time to shop, but they were willing to donate funds toward the purchase of new coats."

Major Craven said the IMAs received support from the business community as well. For example, Target donated \$300 worth of coats.

"All in all, the response was outstanding," she said. (Staff reports)

Help With Employment Issues Available Online

Members of the National Guard and Reserve can now request assistance online from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ombudsmen for employment issues arising from military service or mobilization.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act is the federal law that protects the employment of military reservists and prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of military service.

Members of the Guard and Reserve can visit the ESGR Web site (www.esgr.mil) and select the link "USERRA Complaint Request" on the right side of the page. Members are asked to provide their contact and employer information, as well as a brief explanation of the issue. Information is stored on a secure server, and ESGR assigns the request to one of its 900 volun-

It's Your Money

By Lt. Col. Ralph Lunt

There's a way; it's your will

Of all the things I could recommend to people seeking advice, making sure you have a will may be the most important.

Unlike many other financial or investment planning recommendations, failing to make out a will has the potential to cause undue hardship for the ones you love, possibly for the rest of their lives. For example, how bad would it be for an ex-spouse to receive hundreds of thousands in life insurance proceeds, while your children get nothing? It could happen.



If you don't already have one, now is the time to sit down and develop a written plan for the disposition and distribution of your assets and liabilities after your death.

I know, I know. You've been meaning to do a will or update an existing will after a marriage/divorce or birth of a child. You just haven't gotten around to it yet. Or maybe you're young and bulletproof, so you think you don't need a will. Not so fast my fellow warrior.

A will is a cornerstone of a good financial plan and the first thing your family will look for when your number is called. I found this out the hard way in October 1988, when my squadron lost a KC-135 and six souls, and many times since.

Before I go any farther, I have to make it clear that I am not an attorney and have no legal background. My comments about this subject are based on my experience dealing with estate planning attorneys and real life.

In case you have never had a real-life attention getter, I'll share some of mine, in the hope that you will act before experiencing yours. There's the funeral I went to last month for a 47-year-old friend who died driving to work, the stroke I didn't plan on my mom having and the funeral I attended a few years ago for a 14-year-old "college fund" client whose life was claimed by cancer.

Real life happens, and we all are best served by planning for it. When it comes to the legal stuff, basic documents include a will, power of attorney, properly completed beneficiary forms, and provisions for guardians and financial trustees for minor children. No doubt there are a lot more inspiring things to do than planning for your demise, but it's vitally important that you do so. As a Reservist, this help is available as one of our no-cost benefits.

The first step is to contact the closest judge advocate's office for assistance. Additionally, I recommend you do some research on your own. A lot of information is available on the Web. For example, a resource called "What Military Families Should Know About Wills" is located at <http://www.wpaaf.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-070220-033.pdf>. ★

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

teer ombudsmen for informal mediation.

The online request for assistance does not replace ESGR's customer service center, which is still available by calling toll free 800-336-4590.

"While Guardsmen and Reservists have always been able to e-mail us from the Web site, the USERRA complaint request allows them the opportunity to initiate an ombudsman case online at any time of the day or night," said Philip T. Pope, acting executive director of ESGR. "The online request will complement the customer service center in making ESGR more accessible to Guardsmen and Reservists serving all over the world."

In response to USERRA complaint requests, an ESGR ombudsman will contact the service member within 48 hours. If the ombudsman is unable to resolve the issue through informal mediation within 14 days, the service member is referred to the Department of Labor, the federal agency with statutory authority for enforcing USERRA. (ESGR news release)

Exercise Tests Mobilization Processes, Systems

More than 300 Individual Ready Reserve Airmen will participate in a Defense-Department required exercise this month that is designed to test key mobilization processes and systems.

The exercise, called Push-Pull 2007, will begin June 18. The Air Force will "push" about 320 IRR Airmen, or about 1 percent of the IRR, to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for a five-day active-duty tour. From Lackland, about 100 of these Airmen will be "pulled" to other locations and continue on active duty through June 29.

"Push-Pull 2007 is designed to exercise and evaluate the mobilization process and crisis action procedures," said Lt. Col. Steven Cramner, the Reserve adviser at Headquarters Air Force Personnel Readiness Division.

Ensuring the nation has an adequate source of deployable, highly skilled Reservists to support any contingency is critical. Occasional reorientation is required for Airmen no longer actively serving but with a service commitment to the Air Force.

In addition, these types of exercises, typically conducted every other year, provide the Air Force with a true picture of the job skills available in the IRR.

"These Airmen provide depth in skills and capabilities if we need to quickly and efficiently surge to meet a national crisis or contingency," Colonel Cramner said.

He emphasized that this is a routine exercise and not a step toward activating members of the IRR.

"There are no immediate plans to mobilize the Air Force IRR," the colonel said. "The Air Force has not activated the IRR since Operation Desert Storm. We are, however, obligated (by law) to exercise our mobilization processes and systems to maintain a basic level of preparedness."

Airmen selected to participate in the exercise will receive pay and allowances

based on their grade and years of service. Also, participants are protected by law from any repercussions by their civilian employers.

Reservists with concerns about their employment rights should contact the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve call center at 800-336-4590 or visit the organization's Web site at www.esgr.mil.

When Airmen leave the active force and enter the IRR, they sign a statement acknowledging their remaining military service obligation. Air Reserve Personnel Center officials in Denver maintain regular communication with IRR members to ensure they are well informed regarding their military status and options available to them. (Senior Master Sgt. Kelly Mazezka, ARPC public affairs) ★

Information on volunteer opportunities more accessible

Reservists can now access information about volunteer temporary duty opportunities from their home computer without having to use their Common Access Card.



The Volunteer Reserve System Web site, which lists TDY opportunities and positions, is now available on ReserveNet via the Air Force Portal. Reservists can view the information using their existing Portal user ID and password. A CAC is not required.

The address to the Web site is <https://www.my.af.mil/reservenetprod/vrs>.

"The integration of the Volunteer Reserve System into the Air Force Portal marks an important milestone in the transformation of the volunteerism tools available to all Air Force Reserve Command war-fighters," said Col. Douglas Whitlow, co-chair of a command-wide volunteerism working group whose members were handpicked by Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, AFRC commander. "It is a crucial step in the pathway to providing a suite of services where Reservists stand more in control of their own destiny."

And more enhancements are on the way, Colonel Whitlow said.

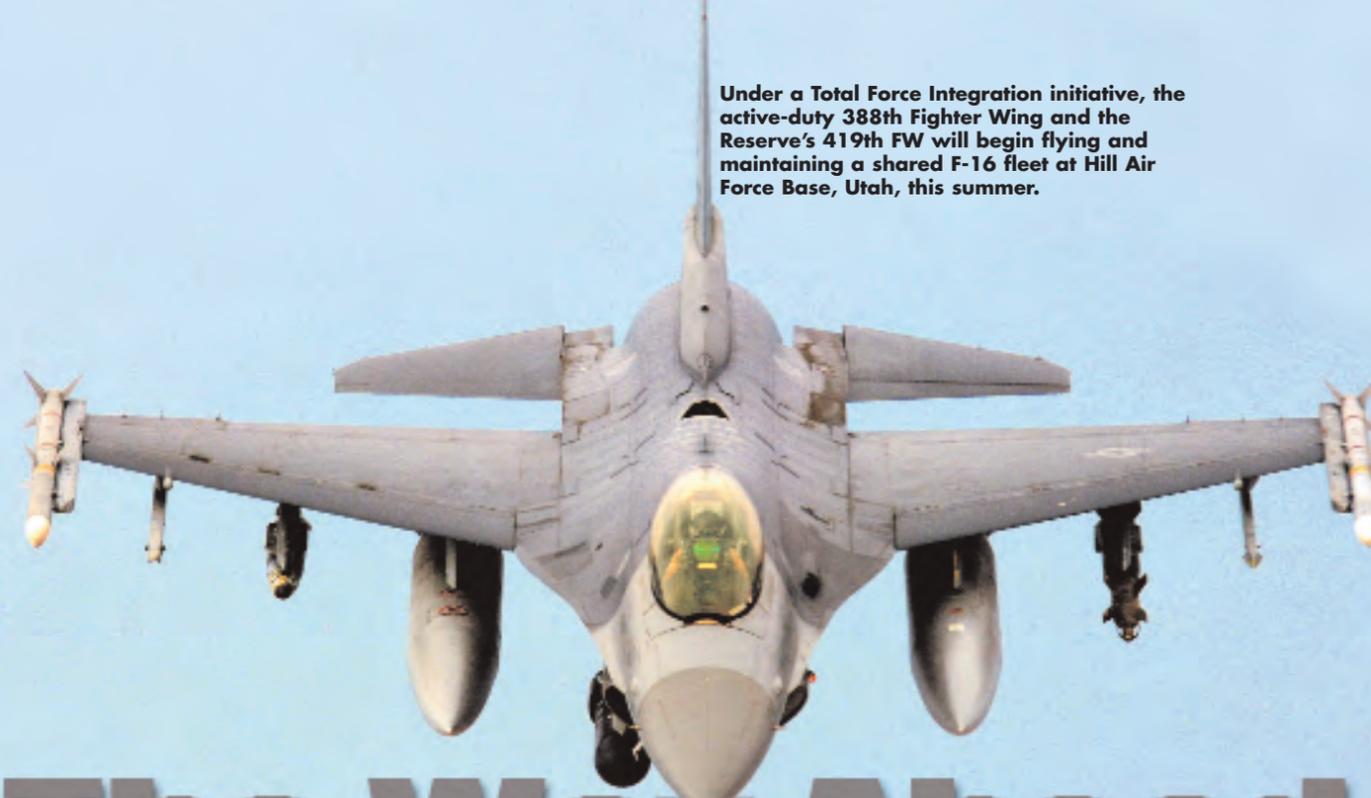
"The AFRC ReserveNet team, in collaboration with the volunteerism working group, will be making significant additions to the tools Reservists use to find duty opportunities," he said. "Specifically, you will hear more about the volunteer matching system called ViPS (Volunteers in Professional Service) that we are fielding via ReserveNet within the Air Force Portal.

"As we modernize technology with this tool, Reservists can expect timely updates so they can leverage the 'one-stop shopping' that can automatically match their interests and availability with service opportunities."



Reservists who would like to participate in pre-release "beta" testing of this new service can send an e-mail to douglas.whitlow@pentagon.af.mil.

Under a Total Force Integration initiative, the active-duty 388th Fighter Wing and the Reserve's 419th FW will begin flying and maintaining a shared F-16 fleet at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, this summer.



The Way Ahead

Hill moving forward with innovative fighter associate program

A historic agreement was signed into place April 16, finalizing the association between the active-duty 388th Fighter Wing and Air Force Reserve's 419th FW at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Gen. Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, and Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the way ahead for Hill's fighter wings, which will begin flying and maintaining a shared F-16 fleet this summer.

Total Force Integration between the 419th and 388th is the Air Force test case for future fighter associate programs. The MOU provides a framework for how the two wings will organize and operate.

While the active duty retains responsibility for the fleet of F-16 Fighting Falcons, operations and maintenance experts from both wings will work together on a daily basis to accomplish the flying mission.

Hill's fighter wings will integrate as part of the Air Force's TFI initiative, which aims to increase combat capabilities and efficiencies among like units while capitalizing on the high experience levels of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel.

"Our integration here is a necessity," said Col. Robert Beletic, 388th FW commander. "The Air Force is in a time of manpower cuts and consistent combat deployments in support of the Global War on Terror. We appreciate the support of dedicated Reservists, like those in the 419th."

"Our Reservists are typically older, highly experienced and offer long-term continuity of daily operations at Hill," said Col. Gary Batinich, 419th FW commander. "The TFI association will help maintain aircrew and maintenance expertise and experi-

ence levels by capitalizing on the active-duty Air Force investment in training while exploiting the resident experience of our Reservists."

The Air Force announced the TFI initiative in November 2004, and both wings have been working toward the association since that time. Several maintenance shops have been working side by side for nearly a year, and in-flight guides and standardization evaluation procedures have been completed and are shared by pilots from both wings.

In the next several months, the wings' pilots and maintainers will begin working together even more closely as the 419th FW's F-16 Block 30 fighter aircraft begin to depart Hill AFB for reassignment to Guard and Reserve bases across the United States. Alternately, the 388th FW will receive about 15 F-16 Block 40 aircraft from Cannon AFB, N.M., raising its total to more than 80 aircraft.

Later this year, 419th FW maintenance and operations personnel will deploy alongside the 388th FW's 4th Fighter Squadron.

"Our pilots and maintainers will serve as unrivaled wingmen to the 388th FW, and our support folks will continue to take care of 419th personnel," Colonel Batinich said.

"TFI has truly made us one team, one fight, one Air Force," Colonel Beletic said.

All 419th FW personnel will be administratively assigned to the 419th FW and will continue to carry out Air Force Reserve training requirements one weekend per month and two weeks per year. The 419th FW is also made up of about 500 support personnel who will not be integrated. ★

(The 419th FW and 388th FW public affairs staffs contributed to this story.)

Preparing not only to come alongside, but also to take the lead as needed

Combat Ready

By Senior Airman Eric Hofmeyer

(Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of seven articles on the Air Force Reserve's new vision, "One Air Force, Same Fight ... An Unrivaled Wingman." The subject of this article is Combat Ready, one of the six aimpoints contained in the vision document that are designed to establish markers to gauge the direction the Reserve is headed in the future. It is these aimpoints that make members of the Air Force Reserve unrivaled wingmen.)

Knowing that a war can literally begin and end before an untrained military force can be made combat ready, today's Air Force Reserve trains to the same combat-readiness standards as the regular Air Force to not only serve alongside it as an unrivaled wingman but to take the lead when necessary.

According to the Reserve's new vision document, "to be unrivaled wingmen, our people must learn how to lead."

Serving as perfect examples of this dual concept — demonstrating both unrivaled support and the ability to lead — are Airmen from the 914th Airlift Wing at Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y.

In its role as an unrivaled wingman to the regular Air Force and Air National Guard, the unit has been rotating aircrews, aircraft and support personnel in and out of Southwest Asia since May 2003, said Lt. Col. David Re, commander of the 328th Airlift Squadron at Niagara Falls. Early into its first deployment, the wing adapted its training and flight operations procedures to become fully combat capable with night-vision goggles. In addition, members of the wing constructed a bare base without a full civil engineering contingent, flew combat operations simultaneously into both Afghanistan and Iraq, and made

critical combat airdrops to resupply Army, Marine and special operations people on the ground, Colonel Re said.

Late in 2003, at Tallil Air Base (now called Ali AB), Iraq, the unit was charged with leading a large-scale C-130 operation in enemy territory. Air National Guard units from Georgia, Oklahoma and Nevada joined the 914th AW to form the 328th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Colonel Re said.

This operation was an example of the leadership role that the Reserve is ready, willing and able to assume in today's Total Force environment, said Col. Gary Crone, chief of the Air Force Reserve Strategy Division at the Pentagon.

In addition to leadership opportunities, a solid foundation of retention and full-time support must be available for Reservists to remain combat ready.

Educational opportunities give Airmen the potential to succeed. To prepare Reservists for command and leadership roles in the future, the AFRC Professional Development Center provides a learning environment for fundamental skills, knowledge in leadership and teamwork development, said Kurt Rover, PDC chief.

For example, if an Airman aspires to be a shop chief or supervisor, the center's noncommissioned officer leadership development program is available to prepare that person to achieve his or her goal and be a success. Mr. Rover said.

Combat readiness in the Reserve is heightened through the recruitment of prior-service Airmen with regular component experience. By focusing on recruiting qualified people with prior military service, the Air Force Reserve maintains high readiness levels at a lower cost, said Lt. Col. Dirk Palmer, AFRC Recruiting Service deputy director.

Current demographic information shows that about 89 percent of aircrews and 74 percent of support troops are prior-service Airmen, with an average of nearly 10 years experience. Recruiters actively seek prior-service people from all branches of the military, but they put an emphasis on separating regular Air Force members, Colonel Palmer said.

In many cases, prior-service people can join the Reserve without losing rank or attending basic or technical training. There are more than 225 career fields from other services that directly convert to 3-level qualified Air Force specialty codes, Colonel Palmer said.

The Reserve has about 60 in-service recruiters who primarily work out of regular Air Force military personnel flight offices. These recruiters not only provide briefings outlining Reserve opportunities, but they meet individually with each potential recruit, Colonel Palmer said.

However, the number of qualified people leaving the regular Air Force is expected to significantly decrease in the future. As a result, the Reserve will have to increase its recruitment of first-term Airmen.

This increase in first-term Airmen isn't likely to dilute the Reserve's experience level as much as one might think, Colonel

Palmer said. Reservists tend to stay in place longer and perform a single specialty longer than their regular Air Force counterparts, which quickly closes the experience gap, he said.

However, the combined effects of an increasing operations tempo and an expected influx of first-term Airmen into the Reserve may increase the need for full-time manpower, Colonel Crone said.

"A first-term Airman requires more one-on-one mentorship and training as to what it means to be an Airman than most prior-service personnel," he said. "This will require our senior NCOs and officers to increase the amount of interaction and direct supervision of our first-term Airmen."

The full-time support program consists of civilian, active Guard and Reserve and regular Air Force members charged with managing a large chunk of administrative, policy, training and readiness standards. ★

(Airman Hofmeyer is a traditional Reservist assigned to the 919th Special Operations Wing public affairs office at Duke Field, Fla. He wrote this article while on special assignment with Citizen Airman.)



Our Future ... We will train, activate and fight — in that order.





An Intelligent Decision

Air Force increasing Reserve's role in intelligence processing, exploitation and dissemination system

By Bo Joyner

Throughout history, the ability to gather, analyze and disseminate accurate information about the enemy in a timely manner has been instrumental in winning wars. And as the United States and its coalition partners continue to fight the Global War on Terror, they are finding that having the right intelligence information, at the right time, is more critical than ever.

"ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) has never been more important during our 60 years as an independent service," Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff, said in a recent Vector letter to Airmen. "ISR has become the foundation of global vigilance, reach and power."

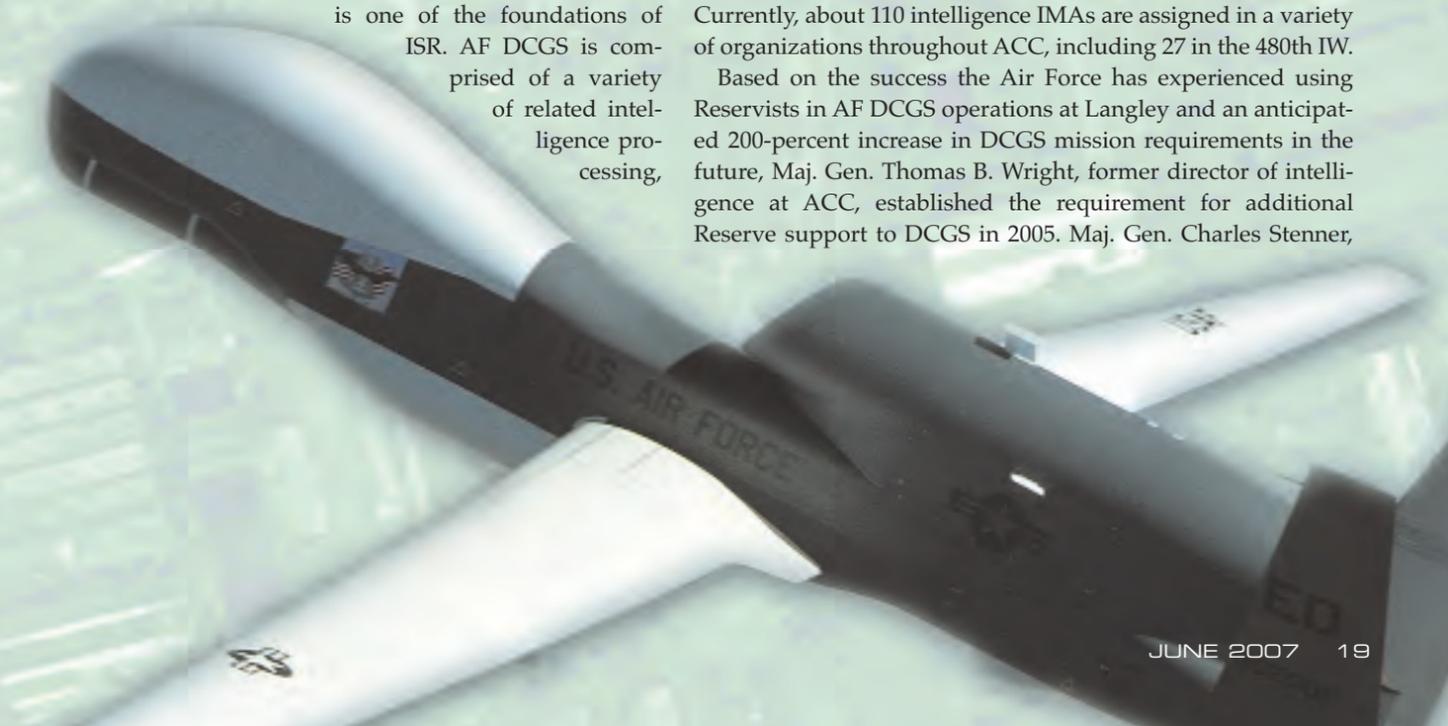
And, just as ISR is the foundation of global vigilance, reach and power, the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System

is one of the foundations of ISR. AF DCGS is comprised of a variety of related intelligence processing,

exploitation and dissemination systems that receive intelligence data from unmanned aerial vehicles, piloted aircraft and commercial satellites around the clock. Intelligence information processed by AF DCGS operators is then passed on to decision-makers and war-fighters in near real-time. It's all about getting timely and perishable information to the right individuals within minutes or even seconds.

For years, Air Force Reserve individual mobilization augmentees have been heavily involved in AF DCGS, primarily at Langley Air Force Base, Va., home of Air Combat Command's 480th Intelligence Wing and Distributed Ground System-1. The 480th is the Air Force's lead wing for DCGS operations, and Distributed Ground Systems form the anchor of the DCGS system. There are six active-duty DGS locations worldwide. Currently, about 110 intelligence IMAs are assigned in a variety of organizations throughout ACC, including 27 in the 480th IW.

Based on the success the Air Force has experienced using Reservists in AF DCGS operations at Langley and an anticipated 200-percent increase in DCGS mission requirements in the future, Maj. Gen. Thomas B. Wright, former director of intelligence at ACC, established the requirement for additional Reserve support to DCGS in 2005. Maj. Gen. Charles Stenner,



former AFRC director of plans and programs, validated the requirement, resulting in current plans for the stand-up of the 50th Intelligence Squadron at DGS-2, Beale AFB, Calif. The 50th IS, a Reserve associate unit to the DGS enterprise, will provide much-needed augmentation to the active component.

Requirements are also in the works for the 2010 program objective memorandum cycle for a second Reserve associate unit at Langley. Eventually, each associate unit will comprise approximately 110 people - about 30 full-timers and 80 traditional Reservists.

"The DCGS mission is really a nice fit for the Reserve component," Maj. Gen. Michael K. Lynch, mobilization assistant to the ACC commander, said recently after a tour of DGS-1 at Langley. "This truly is a Total Force Integration success story. Everywhere we went on our tour today, we saw active-duty members, Reservists and Guardsmen working side by side to get the job done, and as the mission grows, we will see the Reserve's role grow as well."

Brig. Gen. James Poss, ACC's director of intelligence, is a big proponent of using reserve component Airmen in AF DCGS operations.

"The war we are fighting today is very much a human war," he said. "It takes a network to fight a network, and it takes a cell to take down a terrorist cell. And with Reservists as part of our network, we can have the same eyes on the same target for a long period of time. Reservists give us that long-term presence that we can't get from our active-duty Airmen."

Maj. Aaron Wilson is one of the Reservists providing that long-term presence to DGS-1. An IMA who serves as a DGS mission commander, Major Wilson leads a team of dedicated professionals who process and analyze information provided by Predator and Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicles operating half a world away.

"When I'm commanding a mission, my crew is almost always a mix of active-duty Airmen, Reservists and Guardsmen," he said. "It's a Total Force team, and it's impossible to tell the three apart. They are all well trained and highly capable."

Maj. Lonnie Garris is another IMA supporting AF DCGS. After serving on active duty for 6 1/2 years, Major Garris joined the Reserve and was working as a civilian on Wall Street on Sept. 11, 2001. After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, he volunteered for duty and has been supporting intelligence operations at Langley ever since. He currently serves as the director of plans and programs for the 30th Intelligence Squadron.

"It's a great mission," he said. "You have the opportunity to directly support what is going on in the Global War on Terror. We have the ability to save lives. ... what we do really makes a difference."

In the near future, Reservists will be making the same difference at Beale AFB. Many of the people who will man the unit are coming from Beale's 940th Air Refueling Wing, which was targeted for transition by the most recent Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

"There has been a huge interest in cross-training from the people at Beale," said Col. Nidia Carrero, director of intelligence at AFRC headquarters, Robins AFB, Ga. "People are excited about moving into this mission. Thanks to Neil Greene



Maj. Lonnie Garris, an individual mobilization augmentee assigned to the 30th Intelligence Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Va., looks on as Senior Airman Jennilee Gergets, from the Virginia Air National Guard, analyzes data at an imagery workstation. Within the Distributed Common Ground System, it's common for active-duty, Reserve and Guard personnel to work together as a seamless team.

(Reserve adviser to the Air Force director of intelligence), Lt. Col. Bonnie Morrill (an Active Guard and Reserve Airman formerly assigned to ACC A2) and the efforts of Lt. Col. Rolf Madole, (AFRC's chief of ISR programs), our involvement in this key mission area is finally becoming a reality."

"DGS is a great new mission for us," said Col. Albert Reif, 940th ARW commander. "It's the glue between our reconnaissance assets and the shooter in the field."

In addition to DGS, Beale has a growing Global Hawk and war-fighting headquarters mission that will open new possibilities for Reservists affected by the air refueling wing deactivation who are willing to cross-train.

Technological advances in recent years have greatly altered the way intelligence information is gathered and disseminated.

"Through technological advances and Airmen's ingenuity, we can now surveil or strike any target anywhere on the face of the Earth, day or night, in any weather," General Moseley said. "A more challenging issue today - and for the future - is determining and locating the desired effect we want to achieve."

That's where the human factor comes in.

"In just a few years, we've gone from taking pictures from spy planes, developing the film and analyzing the still photos in a matter of hours to having live images from UAVs streaming back to us real-time," General Poss said. "But what hasn't changed is the need to have a highly skilled team of people who can analyze and interpret what we are looking at."

As that highly skilled team of people continues to grow in the years ahead, Air Force Reservists will play a major part.

"DCGS is definitely a growth area for the Air Force," Colonel Carrero said. "Our taxi, take off and fly approach to this new mission will ensure Air Force Reserve Command is a big and very relevant player in that growth." ★

For the Kids



AFRC partners with 4-H to provide positive youth development

By Master Sgt. Chance C. Babin

In an environment where deployments continue to be plentiful and operations tempos remain high, military families need all the support they can get.

With that goal in mind, Air Force Services Family Member Programs is partnering with 4-H, a national organization with strong ties in local communities throughout the country, to help provide positive youth development programs for children of Air Force Reservists.

The "H's" in 4-H stand for Heart, Head, Hands and Health. Through its almost 100,000 clubs, the organization serves more than 9 million members in the United States ranging in age from 5 to 21. 4-H clubs and related organizations now exist in many other countries as well.

According to the North Dakota State University Extension Service Web site, 4-H originated in the early 1900's because of a vital need to improve life in rural areas. Introducing improved methods of farming and homemaking, 4-H taught youth to "learn by doing."

Although it remains very much an agriculture-based organization, 4-H is about much more than just cows, plows and sows. It has evolved over the years to offer today's youth a wide variety of activities in such areas as photography, rocketry, arts and theater, and robotics. However, one thing that hasn't changed is the organization's steadfast emphasis on leadership development.

"While 4-H still meets the needs of children in agriculture and livestock projects, it offers additional activities in a variety of fields and teaches children life skills," said Kellie Day, a 4-H military parent. "From public speaking to computer skills and skateboarding to robotics, 4-H has projects available for every child's interests.

"4-H is a way for kids of all backgrounds to learn more and meet new friends while still having fun."

Nearly 50 million Americans from all

walks of life have been 4-H members. A few of the more famous 4-H alumni are Jimmy Carter, Julia Roberts, Roy Rogers, John Denver, Dolly Parton, Alan Shepard, Don Meredith, Tom Wopat, Charley Pride, Orville Redenbacher, Nancy Grace and Reba McEntyre.

"4-H teaches leadership, teamwork, decision-making, character development, community service and critical thinking," said Brandi Mullins, Air Force Reserve Command child and youth specialist. "Everything we do has to fit some life skill."

As part of the organization's partnership with the Air Force, each active-duty base must have at least three 4-H clubs. Air Force programs are geared toward children age 9 to 19. Those who don't live near an active-duty installation aren't out of luck, because 4-H clubs can be found in almost every county in the United States, Mrs. Mullins said. And membership is free.

"No matter where you live, there is most likely a 4-H club in that area," she said. "This makes it easy for children (of military members) to bring their activities with them when they move. Moving from one club to another allows children to get plugged in with new friends in that area, making the transition much easier."

In addition to all of the "regular" activities, 4-H clubs with military ties also offer programs designed specifically to assist families with deployment issues and help keep parents and children connected during deployment, Mrs. Mullins said. One example is Operation Military Kids, which was developed specifically for Guard and Reserve families.

Operation Military Kids comprises four parts. One part involves the giving of "hero packs" that include items such as cameras, pens and journals to help parents and children stay in touch with each other during a deployment.

Another part of the program is mobile technology labs, which provide telecon-

ferencing opportunities as well as video cameras and digital cameras. Speak Out for Military Kids is a program that prepares teens to speak in public on military life and deployments.

"It's a chance for adults and kids to go out in the community and promote awareness about what kids go through when a parent is deployed," Mrs. Mullins said.

The fourth part of the Operation Military Kids program is Air Force Adventure Camps, which teach life skills through high-adventure activities.

Mrs. Mullins said 4-H provides children with a quality program they can be a part of while allowing Reservists and other military members to focus on the mission.

"So, if you haven't considered 4-H as a military-friendly, extracurricular activity for your child before now, you may want to look into it," Mrs. Day said. "4-H could be everything that you have been looking for in an activity for your child."

In addition to its partnership with 4-H, the Air Force has enjoyed a close working relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of America for the past 10 years. There are approximately 400 youth centers located on military bases within the United States and abroad that are affiliated with the Boys and Girls Club of America. Each provides a variety of educational, recreational, cultural and social activities for youth. Information is available at any youth center.

For more information on 4-H, contact your local cooperative extension office or go online to www.4HUSA.org. Also, Mrs. Mullins can be reached via telephone at (478) 327-2090 or e-mail at brandi.mullins@afrc.af.mil. For information about the Boys and Girls Club, visit www.bgca.org/military. ★

(Sergeant Babin is assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing public affairs office at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. He wrote this story while on temporary duty assignment to Citizen Airman at Robins AFB, Ga.)



Capt. David Kirkendall (left), a pilot with the active-duty's 81st Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, inspects maintenance forms with Airman 1st Class Jeremy Cline, a crew chief with the Reserve's 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., on the Whiteman flight line in February. Pilots from Spangdahlem flew with the 442nd for three months starting in February to catch up on training flights.

Together Again

A-10 units team up to perform Total Force training

Story and photos by Maj. David Kurle

In a continuation of a relationship forged about a year ago during an aerospace expeditionary force deployment, the 442nd Fighter Wing joined forces once again this spring with the active-duty 81st Fighter Squadron.

Twenty A-10 pilots from the 81st FS, part of the 52nd FW at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, traveled to Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., to fly training sorties with Reserve instructor pilots from the 303rd FS from February through April.

"It's a win-win situation for both units," said Lt. Col. John Hoff, 303rd commander. "It's a win for us because we keep our instructor pilots sharp. It's a win for our maintainers because they

bring in new Airmen on man-days to augment our full-time air reserve technician force. And it's a win for (81st FS pilots at) Spangdahlem because they get upgrade training."

"It was nice to see these guys again," said Capt. David Kirkendall, an A-10 pilot with the 81st FS who trained with the Reservists in February and March.

The two squadrons first teamed up in May 2006 for a four-month AEF deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, for Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The fighting was intense all summer, and we formed a strong bond with the pilots and operations, support and maintenance folks from the 442nd Fighter

Wing and 303rd Fighter Squadron," said Lt. Col. Keith McBride, 81st FS commander. "They were extremely capable warriors, and the 81st learned a great deal from their experienced pilots."

In the latest cooperative effort, pilots from the 81st FS rotated through Whiteman AFB in three 30-day stages to train with the Air Force Reserve pilots and catch up on training sorties, which are hard to come by at their base in Germany.

A number of factors combine to limit the number of training sorties the 81st FS is able to fly in Germany, including bad weather and restrictions put in place by the German government on the type and number of flights. Another issue was the

availability of aircraft, which needed maintenance after returning from a four-month AEF deployment.

"In Germany, we normally don't get to fly at 500 feet," Captain Kirkendall said. "It's great to come to Whiteman and train in a low-altitude environment."

Low-level training is important since the A-10 aircraft's primary wartime mission is to provide close-air support to combat units on the ground.

"We have no gunnery ranges in Germany where we can shoot (the A-10's 30mm Gatling gun) tactically and drop practice bombs," Captain Kirkendall said. "In January, we had two weeks when we couldn't fly because of ice-fog."

Colonel Hoff said some of the active-duty pilots dropped more practice bombs in a month of flying missions at Cannon Gunnery Range in central Missouri than they will in a year back at Spangdahlem.

His plan for getting the pilots the flying time they needed included three priorities. The first was getting them up to date on training sorties they required to maintain a status of "combat-mission-ready."

To maintain this status, an experienced active-duty A-10 pilot needs eight flights per month, while a pilot who is considered inexperienced needs nine flights, Colonel Kirkendall said.

Colonel Hoff's second priority was to provide "lead-upgrade" training, so that pilots returned to Germany fully qualified to lead two- and four-aircraft formations in combat.

This required four to eight training flights and a final "check ride" to make sure the pilots were fully "lead qualified,"



A two-ship formation of A-10 Thunderbolt IIs prepares for a takeoff roll from Whiteman in March.

Colonel Hoff said.

The third goal was to provide other associated training in such areas as night takeoffs and landings and the employment of the aircraft's targeting pod.

Of the 20 pilots who participated in the training, 10 graduated as new two- or four-ship flight leads, and the others completed one or more of the associated training programs.

Colonel Hoff credited the 442nd Maintenance Group with making the Total Force initiative a reality. Without well-maintained aircraft, flying the training sorties would not have been possible.

The 442nd FW generated 90 sorties per week with 18 dedicated solely for 81st FS pilots.

Both Air Force Reserve Command and U.S. Air Forces in Europe approved the training initiative. USAFE provided funding for 900 man-days in the 442nd MXG so that enough Reservists were available to support the additional sorties.

"The additional man-days allowed the maintenance group to bring in 10 Airmen for 90 days each," Colonel Hoff said. "Some of our younger Airmen volunteered to help. Instead of waiting for a 15-day annual tour, we brought in our inexperienced maintainers fresh out of initial training and built on their knowledge base with hands-on experience, reinforcing what they learned in tech school."

The initiative also benefited the 442nd in other ways, the colonel said.

"The future leaders in the A-10 community are some of these young pilots (from the 81st FS)," he said. "If they see now what the Reserve can do for them, they will trust us when they get into leadership positions. Some of these pilots will command squadrons in 12 to 15 years."

In addition, the wing's instructor pilots gained experience in teaching techniques and procedures while flying alongside the younger, active-duty pilots.

"The active duty has faith that we will train its pilots and train them right," Colonel Hoff said. "Reserve squadrons are heavy on instructor pilots. The 303rd has the experience, and we're willing to help them out."

The two units share the same AEF rotation schedule and could very well be deployed together again in the future.

"Flying together prepares the two units for combat," Colonel Hoff said. "We'll be flying again with these pilots." ★

(Major Kurle is chief of public affairs for the 442nd FW, Whiteman



Captain Kirkendall (left) and Lt. Col. Stephen Chappel, director of operations for the 442nd's 303rd Fighter Squadron, receive a briefing before a flight.

Defying the Odds

Aircraft maintainer battles cancer, returns to duty

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel

Just as she was finally nodding off after enduring several restless nights, Deb Marshall was suddenly awakened by a horrific thought. Turning to her half-awake husband, Lt. Col. William Marshall, she vocalized the thought responsible for robbing her of yet another night's sleep.

"What about his kids?"

Her husband mumbled something along the lines of, "Whose kids?"

"Robert's."

Not quite fully awake, Colonel Marshall tried to make sense out of what his wife was trying to say. He knew "Robert" referred to their son, but he didn't have any kids. He reminded her of that fact and finished his thought on a comical note: "At least not any that I know about."

"I know he doesn't," his wife said. "That's what's so unfair about this whole thing."

Lying awake in the middle of the night, the Marshalls were grappling with the painful possibility their young son may die before having the chance to give them grandchildren. They were living a parent's worst nightmare — their son had cancer.

Marshall, a staff sergeant in the Air Force Reserve's 446th Airlift Wing at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. And it wasn't just a minor case. With a tumor the size of a baby's head in his left lung, the cancer had already spread throughout his body and progressed to stage four, the most serious level of the disease.

Despite a poor prognosis, Sergeant Marshall would incredibly defy the odds to become cancer-free within six months, owing his recovery to treatment

described by his father as "seamless and amazing."

However, when all was said and done, it wasn't just the treatment Sergeant Marshall received at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Wash., that was amazing. So, too, was the inspirational attitude that Sergeant Marshall maintained throughout the whole ordeal.

Colonel Marshall, who has served 31 years in the military, mostly as a nurse in the Air Force Reserve, said his son "had about 30 minutes of woe-is-me" time. His attitude since has been nothing but positive as he has focused on beating the disease and moving on with his life.

Sergeant Marshall's grave diagnosis came shortly after returning home from a deployment to Kyrgyzstan in February 2006. However, the 22-year-old aircraft maintainer began experiencing the subtle symptoms of lymphoma — a dry, hacking cough and slight fever — well before then.

"I was coughing a little bit, and I thought it was just due to dry air and all the dust (of Kyrgyzstan)," Sergeant Marshall said.

Sergeant Marshall went through his deployment as if nothing was wrong. Despite the nagging cough, he refused to seek medical help in the deployed environment.

"We're sending guys into Afghanistan — you know — and they're getting shot at left and right. Here I was just working on aircraft, so there wasn't much to complain about," Sergeant Marshall said.

When Sergeant Marshall returned home from the deployment, he and his friend, Senior Airman Bryan Martin, decided to share an apartment and enrolled in classes at Western Washington University. Airman Martin

said his friend's cough continued, along with intense bouts of lethargy. Sergeant Marshall began taking frequent naps. However, through it all he managed to remain physically active.

"We were still going running all the time," Airman Martin said. "I remember he was complaining about a burning sensation in his chest, but he was still beating me. That's incredible."

Finally, concerned about her son's health, Sergeant Marshall's mother, who is a nurse at Madigan Army Medical Center, decided to intervene.

"It finally got to the point where I said, 'If you don't go into student health at Western and get an X-ray, I'm going to drive down there and make you go.'"

Luckily, Sergeant Marshall heeded his mother's advice and went to see a doctor. Since the symptoms of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are nearly identical to those of bronchitis, he was initially misdiagnosed. But after several more trips to the doctor, an X-ray was administered, and the Marshalls soon received the real diagnosis.

Doctors discovered a large cancerous tumor in his left lung. But, that wasn't all. Masses were discovered in his kidneys, and Sergeant Marshall's heart rate was hovering in the mid-130s. The normal heart rate for a healthy person of his age is 60 to 70 beats per minute, Mrs. Marshall said.

The tumor in his lung posed the biggest problem. It had grown so large that it had pushed his aorta over a full two inches, slowing the flow of blood and making it difficult for Sergeant Marshall to breathe.

"He sat with his mouth open, like a fish trying to get air," Mrs. Marshall said.

Since Sergeant Marshall was within

Staff Sgt. Robert Marshall, 446th Maintenance Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, Wash., returned to duty in March following his battle with non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

120 days of getting off active-duty orders, he still qualified for full medical coverage — a Reserve benefit that he says may have saved his life. Immediately after his diagnosis, the medical professionals at Madigan began radical treatment to kill the cancer growing in his body.

“It’s just amazing what people did for him and how receptive they were to his questions and concerns,” said Colonel Marshall, who works alongside his wife as a nurse at Madigan in his civilian career. Finding themselves on the other side of the patient-doctor relationship, the Marshalls had to trust the expertise of their co-workers at Madigan to save their son’s life.

“Everyone laid all the options out on the table, and they were like, ‘What do you think?’ It wasn’t like, ‘This is what we’re going to do, and you have no choice,’” the colonel said.

“There’s absolutely nothing they won’t do for the patient,” Mrs. Marshall said. “If something has to get done, it gets done.”

To treat the tumor in his lung, Sergeant Marshall immediately began an intense chemotherapy regimen that lasted almost



Sergeant Marshall receives chemotherapy treatment at Madigan Army Hospital.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBRA MARSHALL



Sergeant Marshall rings the ceremonial bell signifying he is done with chemotherapy. Diagnosed with lymphoma in June 2006, he is now in remission and has returned to duty as a Reservist with the 446th Maintenance Squadron.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBRA MARSHALL

five months. This was followed by 20 days of radiation therapy.

At the same time, doctors administered treatment for his kidneys. Their approach was so successful that Sergeant Marshall’s treatment was the subject of an article in the “Journal of Urology.”

While on the path to remission, Sergeant Marshall decided to stay active in both his personal and professional education. Between his chemotherapy treatments, he managed to complete his 5-level maintenance career development course and Airman Leadership School by correspondence. After the third or fourth session, he decided to start school again, enrolling in a community college close to Madigan.

At the same time, because he was on light duty and could not perform his maintenance job, Sergeant Marshall spent time volunteering at the Washington State Veteran’s Home in Orting.

“When I asked him what he got out of this volunteer effort, he told me that those folks are the true heroes and that in this way, he could show his appreciation for them and the sacrifices they have made,” Colonel Marshall said.

Refusing to be a victim, he confronted the disease on his terms.

“Whenever you see a TV show or something about cancer, you see all these people suffering through chemotherapy and being just so miserable,” Sergeant Marshall said. “It wasn’t like that at all (for me).”

Two days after a chemotherapy session, Sergeant Marshall was running around, playing sports with his two sisters on the Fourth of July. Golf was one sport in particular that he took up last summer in order to stay active.

Colonel Marshall recounted a story that symbolized his son’s tenacious — and humorous — attitude during the chemothera-

py treatments. After the first treatment, Sergeant Marshall’s heart rate dropped from 130 beats per minute to 70, his father said. On top of that, his appetite came back with a vengeance.

“The six of us were sitting around a table (at a restaurant),” the colonel said. “Robert mentioned he would probably be promoted when he got back to work, and Chris (Senior Airman Chris Kaplan, another friend and fellow Reservist) said that Robert would probably be his supervisor.”

Reminding his possible supervisor of favors performed for him in the past, Airman Kaplan asked Sergeant Marshall, “Remember that time I helped you move?”

Sergeant Marshall immediately quipped, “Yeah, that was the time I had, ummm, cancer.”

“I wish I could bottle that and show it to some of our patients,” Colonel Marshall said. “Life-threatening diseases or not, there are a lot of people who play the sick game very well. Robert’s not a fair competitor in the sick game. He doesn’t stay with the game very long.”

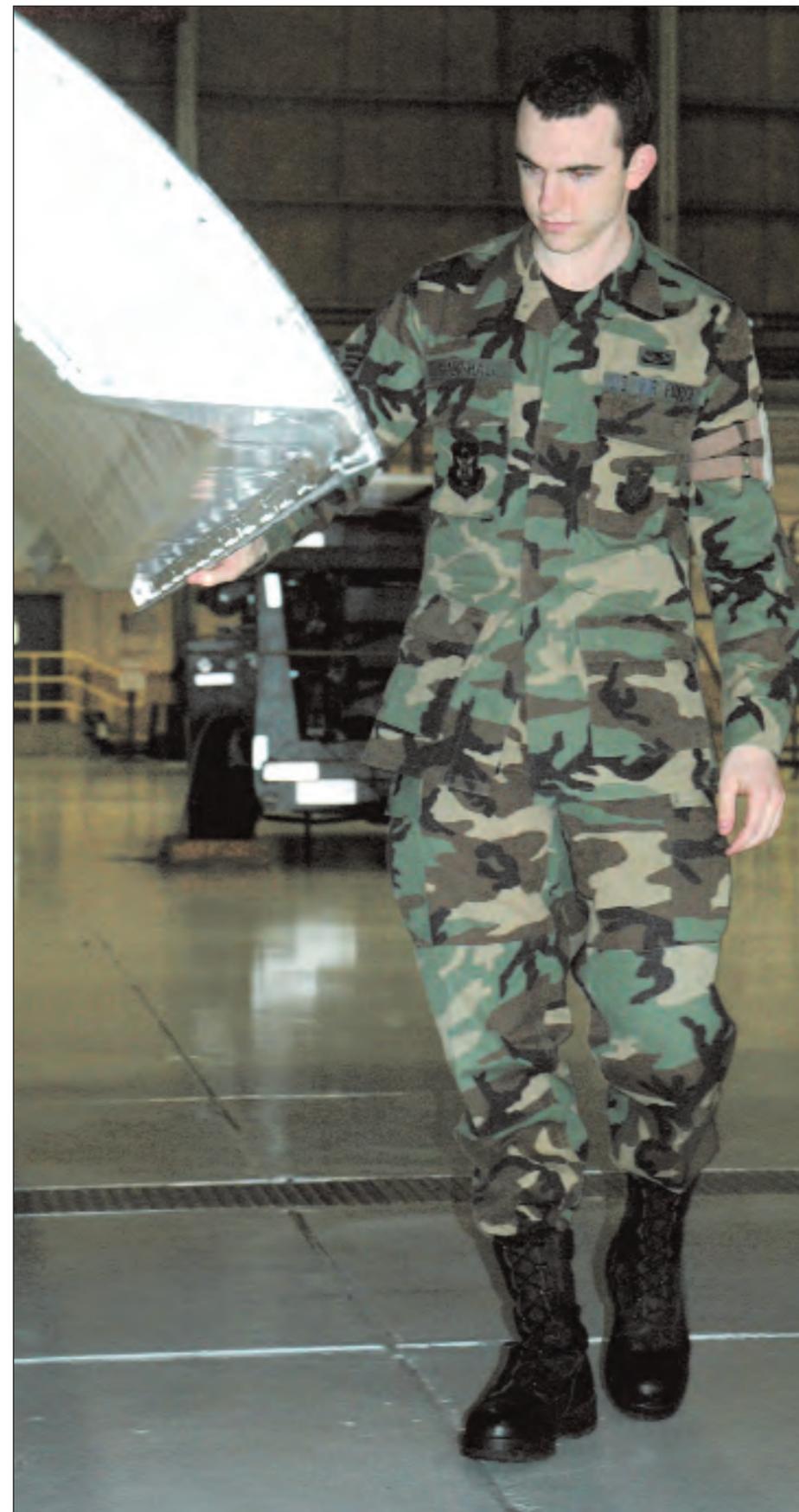
In March, Sergeant Marshall returned to normal duty with the 446th Maintenance Squadron at McChord and plans on transferring back to Western Washington University.

“Through all of this,” said Colonel Marshall, “he has had tremendous support from his chief (Chief Master Sgt. Danny Bass) and two of his best friends (Airmen Martin and Kaplan). I mention these names because they just reaffirm to me that you just can’t find better family than in the military.”

As for his parents, they credit their son with reassessing how they perform their jobs each day at Madigan.

“On our badge at Madigan there’s a little thing that says, ‘Care with compassion,’ and I know we do that every day,” Colonel Marshall said. “But now, having been on the other side of it — being the recipient — I make sure that we do that.” ★

(Sergeant Przybyciel is a traditional Reservist assigned to the 446th AW public affairs office at McChord AFB.)



Sergeant Marshall inspects a C-17 as part of his maintenance duties with the 446th Maintenance Squadron

SANDRA FISHER



Maj. Gen. Alan G. Sharp was a quiet and intuitive officer who led with dedication and humility.

Greater Heights

General Sharp helped prepare command for 21st century

By Gene Vandeventer

(Editor's note: In 2008, the Air Force Reserve will celebrate its 60th anniversary, having been established in 1948 as an organization separate from the regular Air Force. This is the first in a series of six articles leading up to this celebration that honor some of the people who are responsible for where Air Force Reserve Command is today and how it got here. The articles are based on the personal experiences and fond memories of Gene Vandeventer, who served as an aide-de-camp at Headquarters AFRC from 1986 to 1990. Mr. Vandeventer currently works as a civilian in the Directorate of Historical Services at HQ AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. People of diverse ranks and grades are listed in no special order. By telling these people's personal stories, Mr. Vandeventer hopes to both recognize their outstanding sacrifice, determination and foresightedness and expound upon the Reserve's prestigious history to the next generation of Citizen Airmen.)

Maj. Gen. Alan G. Sharp was a quiet and intuitive officer who knew well the airlift days of old and yet leaned forward into the fast-approaching future of high technology and the Air Force Reserve's ever-broadening missions and global taskings.

In 1986, General Sharp assumed the duties as vice commander, Headquarters Air Force Reserve. He brought years of airlift experience and a proven leadership style to an Air Force Reserve that had begun to acquire greater roles thanks to the Total Force concept.

General Sharp joined with the newly appointed commander, Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer, a seasoned veteran from the fighter world, and together these two officers set about the task of preparing to lead the Air Force Reserve into the 21st century. As

General Scheer learned more about the airlift environment from General Sharp's perspective and experience and visa versa, the duo molded into an effective leadership team that helped propel the Air Force Reserve forces to greater heights of combat readiness. This proved to be a key factor in how these forces successfully conducted themselves during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

General Sharp began his Air Force career in 1953. He flew several airframes throughout his career, becoming a qualified pilot in the C-46, C-119, C-124 and C-141. I first came to know him when he assumed his final Air Force Reserve assignment before retiring as vice commander.

As his executive officer and aide-de-camp, I can honestly say I never met a more dedicated and ethical officer in my lifetime. The general quickly became my mentor. General Sharp wanted to literally take the headquarters to the field. As I understand it, this visitation initiative (to the extent that he conducted it) had not been accomplished with this much intensity since the days of Maj. Gen. Richard Bodycombe (circa 1979).

From 1986 to 1990, I became a travel agent extraordinaire, arranging visits, transportation and itineraries that involved not just the two of us but several members of the general's headquarters staff as we journeyed on unit training assembly weekends across the globe. During this four-year period, we visited more than 90 installations stretching from the East Coast to the Pacific Island of Guam.

General Sharp's purpose in making these visits was two-fold. First, his presence sent a strong signal that the senior leadership was appreciative of Reservists' service and wanted to hear firsthand about their unique unit problems as well as their benchmark processes. Additionally, taking some of his key staff members along with him gave them the opportunity to see and hear how the UTAs were being conducted and all the pre-planning involved in making things happen.

Besides being dedicated to his job as vice commander to more than 68,000 Air Force Reservists, General Sharp always kept ethics at the forefront of his day-to-day life. As his aide, I was instructed to always pay for our keep. I say that with admiration because there were countless times the hosting commanders during our UTA visits would schedule breakfasts, lunches and dinners with their troops and families. Nearly always the commanders said, as I began to pay them for the costs involved, that it wasn't necessary. Although he appreciated their hospitality, the general's response was always the same: "Thank them for their efforts, but make sure we pay them in full."

I recall once at Grissom Air Force Base, Ind., as the door to our C-12 transport closed for the trip home, one member of our traveling staff discovered that he neglected to pay for dinner the previous night. He told the general that he would send them a letter with a check to cover the costs. The next thing I knew, the co-pilot was dropping the side door as I collected the money and ran it to the hosting commander, who was standing sharply on the tarmac waiting for us to depart.

The general insisted that we all pay our own way. It was a point I never forgot, and throughout my Air Force career, I stuck to his example. Ethics would never be an issue with General Sharp.

Besides being dedicated to the uniform and what it represented, the general was devoted to his family. A man of immense faith and love of family, the general was, once again, an unknowing mentor to me, for I truly admired his life priorities and his obvious adherence to principles and common sense.

I remember one unit visit to a 10th Air Force location where we were to have an icebreaker with the commander's staff and our traveling contingent on the first night. The rumor was out that the general did not drink, and, therefore, he did not tolerate those who did. This was only half true; he didn't drink.

Our party was waiting in the Officers Club dining room, but there were no host staff members in sight. Finally, nearly 15 minutes after our designated rendezvous time, I went off to the back bar to see if I could use a phone. To my surprise, I ran into the commander and his staff, drinks in hand. The commander said they were just finishing up and would be joining us shortly.

"Got to get a drink down the hatch before we go drink-less for the next two hours or so," he said.

To which I replied, "Why was that?"

"Because the ole man (military jargon) didn't want us to drink," he said.

I replied with the certainty of a priest that the general didn't drink, but it was perfectly OK if they did. To see the looks on their faces, you

would have thought the IRS had just given them a year's reprieve on paying their taxes!

"One more drink lads, and bring it with you. ... it's time to eat with the general," the commander said.

The general had a dry sense of humor, and he showed it that night. A waitress asked him what he wanted to drink, and he said, "Adam's Ale." As everyone pondered what he was talking about, he continued. "Yes, Adam's Ale. The refreshing drink that's been around since Adam and Eve. I'll have water."

A vice commander, I soon learned, regardless of rank, never took credit for actions that reflected well on him. Credits and praises were always deferred to the commander and to the command. However, Reservists knew when it was appropriate to acknowledge talent, sacrifice and all that General Sharp had done to enhance the careers and recognition initiatives of the Air Force Reserve enlisted corps. In 1981, the general was inducted into the prestigious Order of the Sword, becoming the Air Force Reserve's fifth recipient of the enlisted corps honor.

General Sharp handled his final assignment in uniform with ease, for he was that type of gentleman who always gave credit to the troops, his family and his God before allowing someone to acknowledge him personally. This was a great life lesson that I came to emulate throughout the course of my career and, more importantly, my life. Humility, it's a great gift that keeps on giving. ★

(General Sharp makes his retirement home in South Jordan, Utah.)

Master of Disasters



When the second deadliest tornado in Florida history touched down in February, Master Sgt. Jerry Smith, (top left), along with Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (top center), and Florida Governor Charlie Crist sprang into action. (At left) An aerial view of a destroyed trailer shows the tornado's destructive power.

Reservist leads Florida county in aftermath of deadly tornado

By Master Sgt. Chance C. Babin

When Master Sgt. Gerald “Jerry” L. Smith woke to a ringing phone the morning of Feb. 2, in a hotel just outside Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., he thought it was time to get up and report for Reserve duty at the 39th Rescue Squadron.

Glancing at the clock, it was 3:40 a.m., his mind quickly shifted gears when he realized that what he originally thought was a normal wake-up call was actually the last thing the emergency management director for Lake County, Fla., wanted to hear.

On the other end of the line was word that a powerful tornado had touched down in his county at the worst possible time: in the dead of night while most

people were sleeping. Initial reports were bad. He jumped out of bed, threw his things in the car and immediately headed back home for the start of what would be one of the longest days of his life.

“When I got that call, I felt sick to my stomach,” Sergeant Smith said. “You try to build teams and thought processes (to deal with potential emergencies), but you hope you never have to put them to use.”

Sergeant Smith was about to put all of his years of training, in both his civilian and military careers, to work in the aftermath of the second deadliest tornado in Florida history.

As a member of the 920th Rescue Wing — he currently serves as first sergeant for the 39th RQS — at Patrick AFB, the ser-

geant is trained to conduct rescues during emergency situations. His civilian job involves everything from disaster preparedness all the way through recovery.

“I had to drive about two hours,” although he admits that with the adrenaline rush he made slightly better time that morning. “The whole drive back I was calling people and doing phone interviews. It was still pitch black outside, so you couldn’t really get a good idea of how bad it was.”

When he got to Lake County’s emergency operations center, the situation was still very chaotic. However, his years of training both in the military and in the civilian sector kicked in, and he immediately began to take control of the situation.

“My job is to get the group of people together that will support first responders to help the victims,” Sergeant Smith said.

The mission of the operations center is to coordinate all local emergency response, disaster relief and recovery actions, as well as collaborate with state, federal and volunteer agencies.

“When the EOC is fully staffed, there are roughly 100 people at any given time working on various disaster response and relief efforts,” Sergeant Smith said. “To relate it in Air Force terms, the civilian EOC is a combination of base command post, unit control center, survival recovery center and wing battle staff.”

However, there is one key difference between the civilian operations center and the military, which creates some challenges, he said. In the military, everyone involved in an emergency response reports directly to the wing commander. With the operations center, “none of the departments and agencies I work with has any direct reporting process to me. So, it is a matter of facilitating functions to match needs.”

Among the many things Sergeant Smith had to coordinate was setting up shelters for those people whose homes were destroyed or damaged, getting the power companies to help restore power, working with law enforcement to make sure there was no civil unrest or looting, and bringing in specialized urban search and rescue teams.

He was also heavily involved in working to clear county roads, coordinating with school board officials on school closings, getting animal services people involved to help victims of the storm with their pets, providing food and water to victims and rescue workers, keeping the public and media informed regarding the rescue efforts, and working with the medical examiner.

Sergeant Smith credits the Air Force Reserve — specifically, his NCO and first sergeant training — for helping him get through that day and the many trying days that followed.

“The significance of what the Reserve did for me was leadership training,” he said. “It seemed like at times I was the guy everyone was coming to for the answers.

“What I learned (in the Air Force) about human nature — how to lead peo-

ple and that not everyone responds the same — came in very handy. As a leader, you must respond to individual needs.

“I understand the concept of organization and how to build a team and how to get the right people to the table.”

In total, the tornado killed 21 people in Lake County. More than 600 structures were damaged, including 185 totally destroyed, accounting for \$26.3 million in property damages. On the Enhanced Fujita Scale, which is a set of wind-speed estimates that goes from 1 to 5 and is based on observed damage, weather experts said the storm that hit Lake County rated a 3 with winds approaching 165 mph.

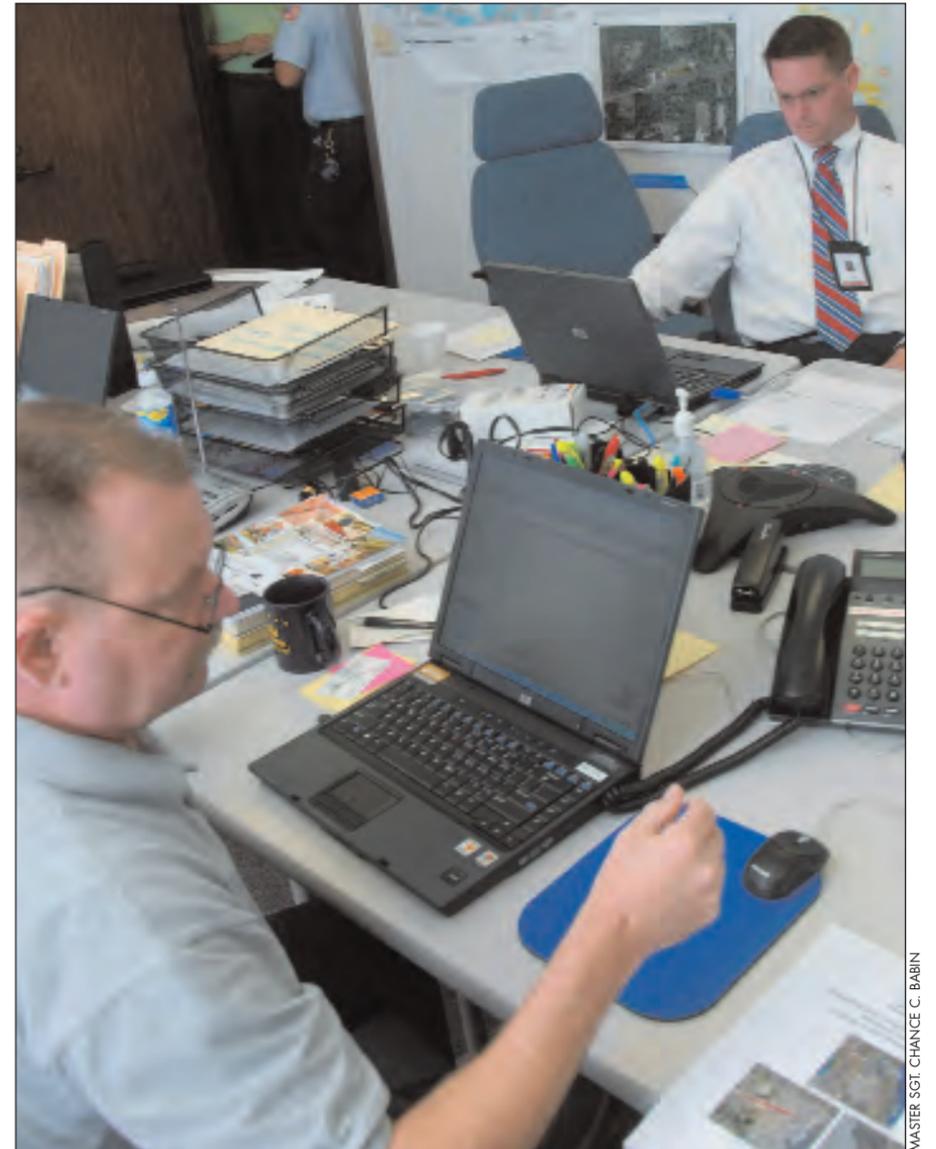
“During the event, I used the Air Force

first sergeant creed as my personal mantra, ‘My job is people. Every one is my business,’” Sergeant Smith said.

It’s this first sergeant mentality that makes Sergeant Smith view his county as a really big squadron. The fact that he lost 21 people — members of the squadron — that day really weighed heavy on his heart.

“I cried. I sat and talked to my pastor and a mental health expert,” he said. “It’s still hard to talk about. I take it (the loss) personally. I think that comes from my first sergeant’s creed. I take my job, taking care of my people, seriously.” ★

(Sergeant Babin is a traditional Reservist assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing public affairs office at Patrick AFB.)



Sergeant Smith sits in on a conference call with all 67 counties in Florida March 1 as he prepares for yet another powerful storm. Lake County missed out on this storm, but several twisters struck Alabama and Georgia that day killing 17 people.

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