

# Air Citizen AIRMAN

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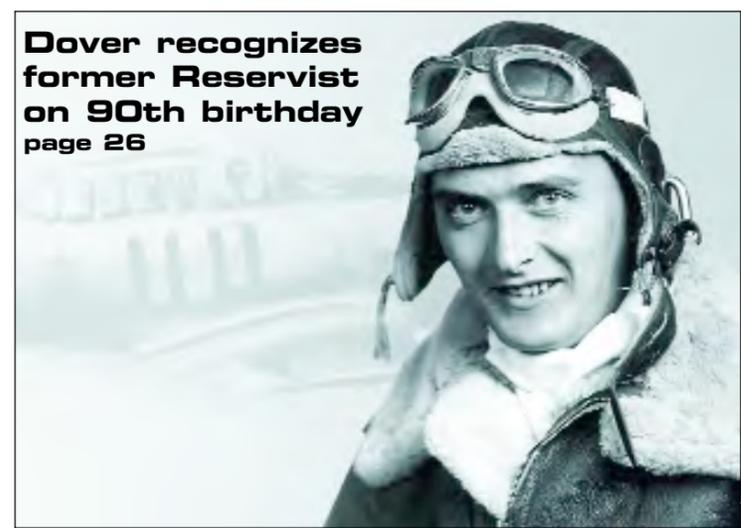


## SAYING GOODBYE

Reserve commander set to retire following 41-year Air Force career  
page 2



Reserve trap shooter  
is Beijing bound  
page 30



Dover recognizes  
former Reservist  
on 90th birthday  
page 26

# From the Top

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



## AFRC commander has come a long way in his 41-year Air Force career

This is my final opportunity to address many of you. It is hard to believe that my time as your chief and commander is coming to an end.

I can tell you it does not feel like I have been in the Air Force for 41 years or the Air Force Reserve for 35 years. But the reality for me is that I will begin to reflect on my service as a whole, where I came from, where the Air Force Reserve has been and where it is going. I would like to share a little bit about that with you.

I did not start out as a lieutenant thinking so much about service. I came into the Air Force because I wanted to fly airplanes, pure and simple. My uncle was an Air Force pilot, and he would take my brothers and me to the airfield when we were kids. He would let us climb all over the airplanes. My older brother went on to become a Navy aviator, and I wanted to be like both my brother and my uncle.

I was interested in the Air Force not so much to serve my country, but because I wanted to fly. That's what I did; and it was challenging, rewarding and fun for me. But I learned over time, from those around me, that it was really not about me but about service, sacrificing for a greater purpose and, ultimately, service before self.

I tell you this because the Air Force Reserve, like me, has come quite a long way since its inception 60 years ago. It was created as a strategic reserve to be used should Soviet tanks come rolling out of the Eastern Bloc nations into Western Europe. And when I entered the Air Force, many came to the Blue not as volunteers but, perhaps, a little reluctantly as draftees or potential draftees hoping to avoid duty in the infantry.

Today, our Airmen join and remain as volunteers, fully informed. They know they are likely to be deployed in real-world conflicts not once but many times throughout the course of their service. Today's Airmen face ever-increasing demands

from their civilian employers and pressures in their family lives, such as both spouses working, full-time child care and long commutes. And still they volunteer time and again to make the sacrifice of military service.

This sense of commitment permeates the Air Force Reserve in ways it did not when I first joined. I know we are a much better service for it. It is the reason we perform our missions so well; it is the reason the Air Force has opened itself to many more opportunities for Reservists to participate; and I believe it is a big reason the Air Force Reserve will remain strong well into the future. We are a very valuable asset to the Air Force.

I was blessed enough to get where I am because of the people who worked for me and influenced me over my career. I have been blessed by examples of leadership both good and bad. I have tried during my career to avoid the bad and adopt the good.

I have been fortunate, in the latter part of my career, to work closely with three of my predecessors, each of whom brought great strengths to the job. From them I have learned that if you give people the responsibility for doing a job, set clear expectations and motivate them, they will do their best to accomplish that job. In setting expectations, I have asked those around me to accept responsibility for the mission and to exercise discipline, not only in the maintenance and operation of aircraft and equipment, but also in their professional and personal behavior.

I have also learned, from my predecessors, that as chief of Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command, I have no greater responsibility than ensuring our Airmen have the proper training and equipment to do the difficult missions we ask of them. I absolutely, unequivocally, must know what is on the minds of the people doing the mission and whether they are get-

ting the tools and training they need to accomplish that mission. It is essential that I not lose sight of this in the performance of my other responsibilities. That is why I continued to fly; that is why I visited every single Air Force Reserve unit; and that is why I visited our Airmen in the area of responsibility, regularly.



(Left) Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley greets Airman First Class Jacob Schwen (center) and Senior Airman Travis Sykes of the 301st Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, during filming of an Air Force Reserve public service announcement in September. (Below) General Bradley greets an Afghani girl during one of his trips to the Southwest Asia area of responsibility. The young girl's name is Lamia. (Bottom) Of the many people who have influenced him over the years, General Bradley says no one has taught him more than his wife, Jan.

**AS I REFLECT, IN MY TRANSITION TO RETIREMENT, IT IS THE THOUGHT OF THESE HIGHLY COMMITTED, HIGHLY MOTIVATED PEOPLE NOW SERVING IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE THAT IS MOST HEARTENING TO ME AND MY GREATEST SOURCE OF PRIDE.**

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Ultimately, an organization is only as good as its people. The Air Force Reserve is full of highly committed, highly motivated individuals throughout. They have inspired me and influenced me along the way. They have sacrificed with me and for me, teaching me along the way to be a better person. They have helped me make the transition from a self-focused youngster wanting only to fly to an Airman willing to serve others, our Air Force and our nation.

Of the many who have influenced me, no one has taught me more than my wife, Jan. She has taught me kindness: how powerful it is, how necessary it is, how little of it there can be in this world and how essential it is to becoming successful. She has sacrificed greatly over my career so that I could serve the Air Force, and she has helped make me successful. As I reflect in my transition, I will miss serving with you, but I very much look forward to spending more time with Jan.

As I reflect, in my transition to retirement, it is the thought of these highly committed, highly motivated people now serving in the Air Force Reserve that is most heartening to me and my greatest source of pride. I have the utmost respect for each one of you, and I will miss you. I salute each of you and thank you for making the Air Force Reserve the great organization it has become and the great organization it will remain for years to come.

You are the reality of "one Air Force, same fight." You are my "unrivaled wingman." ★



## Chief's View

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



### Having a plan key to dealing with change

I would like to share some words from Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Thornton, 4th Air Force command chief. Change swirls all around us and is never ending. Some see it as "a series of unfortunate events," while others view change as an opportunity. Whichever way you view change, we all have the ability to control certain outcomes. How? By developing a plan or strategy to deal with change. Strategy is about choice, which affects outcomes and, ultimately, you.

How often do we hear the word "strategy" or a derivative of it? Lately, we've been repeatedly reminded that we're no longer a strategic (peacetime) Reserve but rather an operational force. And, then, what about the different levels of leadership outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure? Chapter 2 discusses the "Three Enlisted Leadership and Development Levels." The third and highest level is the strategic level.

The AFI says "this level normally applies to chief master sergeants, and a few other SNCOs, assigned to higher headquarters. These leaders serve in key leadership positions. They continue to develop their knowledge of Air Force institutional management processes, challenges and vision to improve their ability to advise senior leaders, participate in top-level decision-making processes, draft policies, manage career fields and lead far-reaching programs. The primary focus at this level is the strategic leadership and management of the force to best meet current and future requirements."

Wow! Are our senior enlisted people ready for this? Let's look further.

In the latest Air Force Key Talking Points, our "strategic imperative" is laid out for us: "The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace."

So many references to the word strategy! How does it all fit together, and how do we, as Air Force Reservists, play our part?

I can almost hear some of you saying, "So, chief, what does this mean for me at my level?" Well, as we progress through the enlisted ranks, we need to understand our ever-changing roles, and that, once we reach certain levels, we will be expected to be part of the overall strategic planning for our Air Force as a

whole. Are we ready for this responsibility? Are we equipped? Are we prepared? We should be!

With the investment the Air Force and our command have been willing to make to develop the enlisted corps through the Community College of the Air Force, professional military education and other opportunities, the message is clear: We need to take advantage and use these opportunities to not only improve ourselves but also to lift up those around us through better mentoring, leadership, advising and planning.

To be ready for this means we need to stay relevant and informed, understanding the strategy of our country and military, which, in turn, has shaped our Air Force priorities and created changes. Then, see these changes as an opportunity to grow and become the agents for these changes. As we become a leaner force, it will become increasingly important for our military to be smarter and fitter in order to accomplish the mission of guarding and ensuring the freedom of our country and allies.

What can we do to prepare? First of all, we can give our best effort at all times. Be aggressive about seeking the training we need and then become the best at what we do.

What else? Be fit! The Fit to Fight program is here to stay, and that's a good thing. Regular exercise and good nutrition are part of the overall plan to promote improved performance and relieve stress. It's part of the whole person package.

So, strategically, are we ready? As we forge ahead through these challenging times, these words of President John F. Kennedy still ring true today: "We in this country, in this generation, are ... by destiny rather than choice ... the watchmen on the walls of freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of peace on earth, good will toward men. That must always be our goal — and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. ..."

Above all, because of your perseverance, sacrifice and continued service, we move closer to peace on earth, good will toward all. American Airmen: be ready, be prepared. Have a plan.

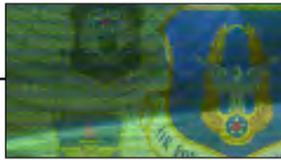
Great words from Chief Thornton for us to live and work by. I hope you enjoyed them. As always, it's truly a pleasure to serve you, our most valuable asset, our Airmen! ★

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Vol. 60 No. 3

June 2008

## Table of Contents

	<b>18</b>	
	<b>Units set to support Cyber Command</b>	
	<b>20</b>	
	<b>Training prepares IMAs for deployment</b>	
	<b>22</b>	
	<b>Test squadrons form unique partnership</b>	
	<b>23</b>	
	<b>Air Force pulls parachutes from KC-135s</b>	
	<b>24</b>	
	<b>Reserve F-16 pilot hits 6,000-hour mark</b>	
	<b>26</b>	
	<b>Liberty Wing honors retired Reservist</b>	
	<b>28</b>	
	<b>Remissioning effort increases communications capability</b>	
	<b>30</b>	
	<b>Trap shooter bound for China Olympics</b>	

On the front cover: (Top) Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, is on hand at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, to help send off members of the 301st Fighter Wing as they board an aircraft for a deployment to Balad Air Base, Iraq, in May 2007. General Bradley will retire later this month; his farewell editorial is on page 2. (Bottom left) Lt. Col. Dominic Grazioli will be representing the United States in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games as a member of the shotgun (trap) team. See story, Page 30. (Bottom right) Reserve leaders recognize retiree's contributions on his 90th birthday. See story, Page 26. (Courtesy photo)

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

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

**Lt. Col. Robert K. Thompson** *Acting Director of Public Affairs, Air Force Reserve Command*

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# THE BEST OF THE BEST

AFRC names its top Airmen and first sergeant for 2007

Senior NCO of the Year

**Senior Master Sgt.  
Glenn Greenwood**

Airlift tanker propulsion  
functional manager,  
Headquarters Air Force  
Reserve Command,  
Robins AFB, Ga.



NCO of the Year

**Staff Sgt.  
Eric Eberhard**

Explosive ordnance  
disposal technician,  
419th Civil Engineer  
Squadron,  
Hill AFB, Utah



First Sergeant of the Year

**Master Sgt.  
Jeffrey Gray**

First sergeant,  
328th Airlift Squadron,  
Niagara Falls International  
Airport Air  
Reserve Station, N.Y.



Airman of the Year

**Staff Sgt.  
Matthew Reece**

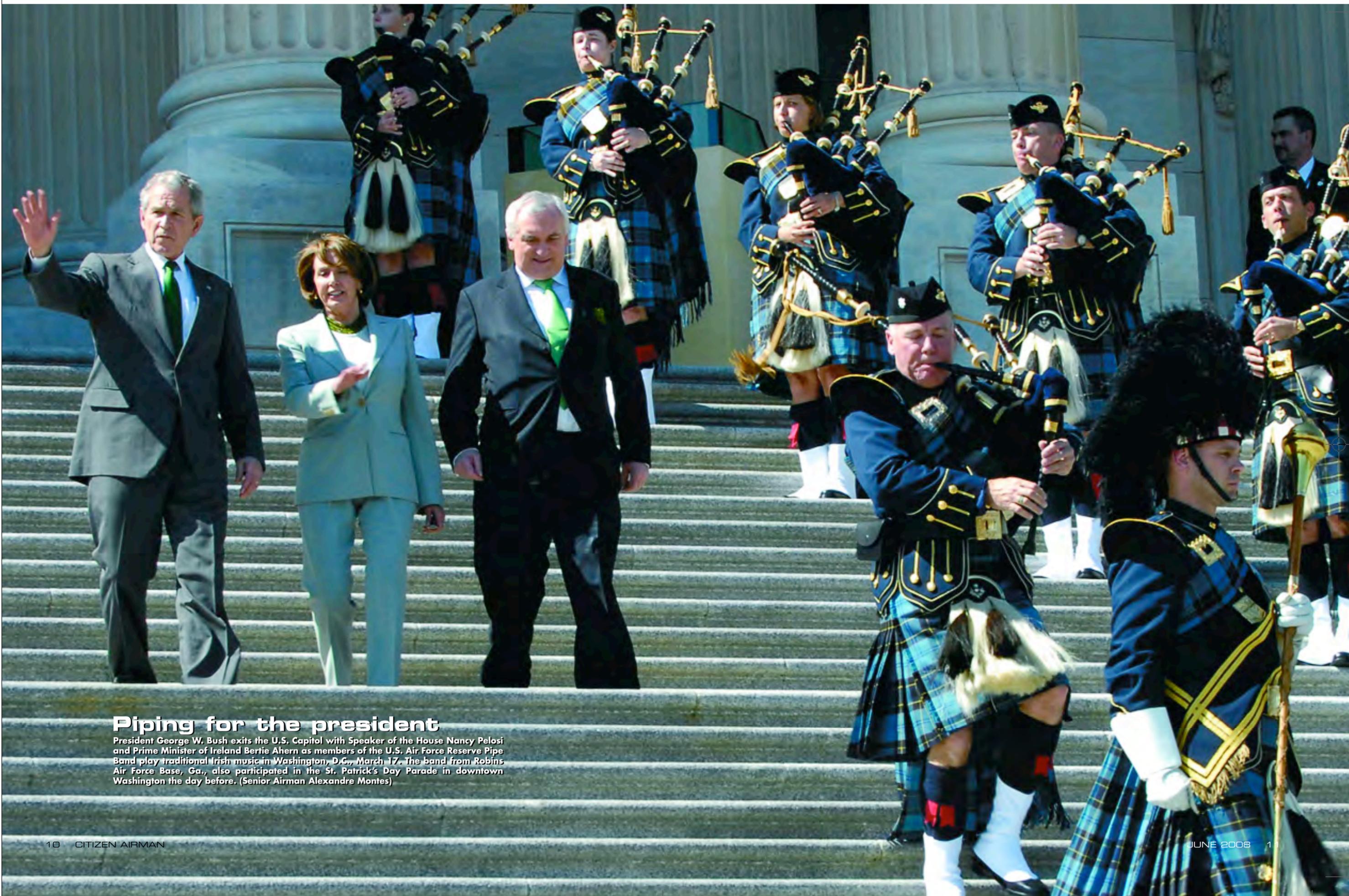
Explosive ordnance  
disposal technician,  
315th Civil Engineer  
Squadron,  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



## Brake check

Senior Airman Jason Ray, a non-destructive inspection technician from the 452nd Maintenance Squadron, applies a magnetic particle bath to a KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft brake plate at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. He is checking the brake plate for fatigue and cracks. (Val Gempis)





## Piping for the president

President George W. Bush exits the U.S. Capitol with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Prime Minister of Ireland Bertie Ahern as members of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Pipe Band play traditional Irish music in Washington, D.C., March 17. The band from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., also participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Washington the day before. (Senior Airman Alexandre Montes)

# Round the Reserve

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

## Change of command takes place this month in Washington

**A**ir Force Reserve Command will undergo a change in leadership this month.

Maj. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. will take over as commander of AFRC and chief of Air Force Reserve from Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley during a change of command ceremony June 24 at the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Just prior to the change of command, General Stenner will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant general. After the change of command is complete, General Bradley, who assumed the Reserve's top leadership position in June 2004, will officially retire from the Air Force after 41 years of service.

General Stenner comes to his new job from the Headquarters Air Force staff, where he serves as assistant deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs. In this position, he assisted in the development, integration, evaluation and analysis of the U.S. Air Force future years defense program that exceeds \$682 billion, as well as the Air Force long-term plan to support national security objectives and military strategy.

From July 2003 to July 2006, General Stenner was the director of operations and then director of plans and programs



**Maj. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. will succeed Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley as Air Force Reserve Command commander and chief of Air Force Reserve.**

at Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

His joint assignments include serving as deputy director and director of strategy, policy and plans, and director of transformation for U.S. Southern Command in Miami.

General Stenner commanded the 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., from December 1998 to May 2001 and the 442nd FW at Whiteman AFB, Mo., from August 1997 to December 1998. He also has served as commander of four operations groups.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant upon completing Officer Training School in 1973.

A command pilot with more than 7,000 flying hours in T-38, A-37, A-10, F-4 and F-16 aircraft, General Bradley flew 337 combat missions in Vietnam.

His command has been marked by some major achievements. The Reserve has branched out into new mission areas, including the F-22 at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and expanded existing missions, such as its involvement in space.

The associate unit program has grown to include a number of different mission areas, and the Reserve is taking the lead in more and more associations with both the regular Air Force and Air National Guard.

Under General Bradley's leadership, the Reserve has matured into an operational force, in both peacetime and war, and is an integral partner with the regular Air Force in its daily operations. ★

## Reservists Near Limit on Number of Man-days

**L**ater this year, hundreds of Reservists could reach the limit on the number of man-days they can serve in Air Force Reserve Command.

Three and a half years ago, Reservists through the rank of colonel received permission to serve up to 1,095 man-days of the previous 1,460 days in a rolling four-year calendar. Prior to Oct. 28, 2004, they couldn't work more than 179 days in a given year without an approved waiver.

Dr. David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said the Department of Defense and congressional staffers worked together to develop the 1,095-day provision. He said it elimi-

nated one of the biggest "impediments to effective reserve force use and total force integration: the '180-day rule.'"

The program encourages Reservists to volunteer and makes service more predictable for them and their families, as well as employers.

"Now, a waiver is not required until a member has reached 1,095 days, which helps streamline the waiver process," said Ed Turner, a technician in the Readiness Operations Branch of the Directorate of Manpower and Personnel at Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "We have numerous volunteers, and we want to encourage volunteerism."

Before the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act made the program law, the Air Force would have to take

volunteers off active duty if their tours crossed fiscal years so they would not count against the regular Air Force end strength. This process did not guarantee there would be funds the next fiscal year to pay the Reservists.

Since the law has been in effect less than four years, no Reservists will be impacted by the program's restrictions until October. Mr. Turner said potentially 2,000 Reservists on military personnel appropriation man-day orders or Reserve personnel appropriation man-day orders will reach or exceed 1,095 days by September 2008. He expects that number to grow in the future.

"This program affects the whole gamut of career fields," he said, "but the majority of those affected come from security forces,

operations and maintenance."

Although all MPA man-days, except mobilized days, count toward the 1,095 rule, there are exceptions for Reservists on RPA orders.

RPA man-days that count against the 1,095 rule are active duty for operational support, active duty for training for other commanders or due to reimbursable funds and funeral honors duty.

RPA man-days exempt from the rule are annual tours, initial active duty for training, ADT for own commander and non-reimbursable funds, and active Guard and Reserve duty.

If a Reservist reaches 1,095 days in a 1,460-day period, a waiver is required to work beyond the 1,095 days. Waivers for MPA and RPA man-days are approved by the secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.

Mr. Turner said the deadline for the Air Force to tell people about the results of this round of waivers occurs this month. (Master Sgt. Chance C. Babin, AFRC public affairs, Robins AFB, Ga.)

## KC-135 Wing Moves from Michigan to Florida

**T**he 927th Air Refueling Wing has a new home.

Formerly located at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., the 927th officially transferred to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., April 27. With the move, the wing went from owning its own KC-135 aircraft to flying and maintaining aircraft owned by the regular Air Force's 6th Air Mobility Wing.

"We are going to build the premier KC-135 associate wing," said Col. Kenneth Lewis, who took command of the 927th ARW on the same day as the transfer. "When I ask you to integrate with active duty everywhere, it makes sense to do so."

"Or, when I tell our Airmen (they) need to conceive, devise and implement better ways of utilizing resources in order to maximize our efficiency and productivity, it is because the better we do our jobs as individuals and collectively, as a wing, the more we contribute to the destruction of our enemies."

It has been about three years since the Base Realignment and Closure Commission directed the wing to relocate to MacDill AFB to become an associate wing,

## Pope's Puns



CARTOON BY MASTER SGT. W.C. POPE, WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, MASS.

Aircraft formerly managed by the 927th ARW went to Air National Guard units.

Wing Airmen and civilian employees continue to find employment through the Air Force Reserve Command clearinghouse and with Air Force Reserve units that are within commuting distance. Some went to work for other federal agencies or joined the Michigan ANG. Others returned to the regular Air Force or chose to serve with another military service.

Despite these changes, "morale remains high, and the remaining people realize there is a big job to do," wing officials said.

"The men and women of the 927th have a unique opportunity to build something great here, and I know that you will," said Col. Gary Beebe, who passed the wing leadership flag to Colonel Lewis.

Colonel Beebe now commands 4th Air Force, Detachment 2 at Selfridge, an organization that will close out Air Force Reserve business there in 2009.

The wing conducted its first unit training assembly the same weekend of the transfer. More than 150 Reservists participated in the UTA, with 142 in formation, beneath the nose cone of a KC-135 that bears the numeric designation of the Reserve and active-duty wings, for the transfer ceremony.

"We have a long and exciting future, and I'm thrilled about us being able to do this," said Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan, 4th AF commander, referring to the Total

Force Integration at MacDill. "There have been a lot of people who have worked very hard for this to come about, and we are ready for this relationship to begin."

"There are processes in place (at MacDill) to take care of our personnel, and they are ready for us to start flying operations. It will be here, as at other places, where you won't be able to tell the difference between the forces, whether they are active duty or Reserve." (AFRC News Service)

## Development Teams Provide Career Opportunities

**T**en to 15 minutes is all it takes to radically change an Air Force Reserve career — or not.

That's the amount of time it takes to fill out a Reserve Officer Development Plan. Filling out a plan can mean the difference between realizing career goals or falling short of those goals.

The R-ODP gives officers the opportunity to communicate with their supervisors, commanders and career field leaders what they want out of their careers and learn how to get there. R-ODPs can be completed online at <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/rodp.asp>.

R-ODPs are studied by career-specific development teams that convene at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

The 22 career fields that have met to date have provided more than 14,000 vectors or recommendations concerning assignments and continued education to help officers achieve their goals.

But does the process work? Lt. Col. Judi Patton thinks it does.

A traditional Reservist in the Medical Services Corps, with no prior active-duty experience, Colonel Patton had spent her entire 20-year military career in the 911th Airlift Wing at Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa.

She completed her R-ODP for the June 2007 Medical Services Corps development team, which recognized her leadership potential and decided the colonel was command certified. Because of the team, Colonel Patton was recommended, and subsequently chosen, for the position of 926th Aerospace Medicine Flight commander at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

"Would I have had command opportunities at the 911th?" Colonel Patton said. "Yes, probably. But they would have been limited."

Colonel Patton was one of five Air Force Reserve Medical Services Corps officers identified as command certified during the June development team who were then selected for command billets.

"Instead of looking at a small group of applicants, commanders can choose from a much larger pool of individuals identified by the DT," said Col. John Whitchurch, Air Force Reserve Medical Services Corps career field manager. Colonel Whitchurch is responsible for leading the group's development teams.

"They can choose the most qualified, rather than the most senior," he said. "We give them options."

But traveling across the country to perform Reserve duty is not practical for many Reservists. Not to worry, said Lt. Col. Vince Bugeja, Force Development Division chief.

"We hold fast to the Citizen Airman concept," he said. "We are Reservists. We have civilian careers and families. We don't all have the same flexibility. We understand and honor that."

Members of the development teams won't know, however, if Airmen don't tell them.

"Are you happy where you are? Do you have higher aspirations? Just open your heart," Colonel Bugeja said. "Filling



**Integrating with their regular Air Force counterparts will give members of the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., a better understanding of how to maintain a base and draw the two units closer together.**

### **Barksdale civil engineers join forces to work as an integrated unit**

**By Tech. Sgt. R.J. Horstman**

**R**egular Air Force and Air Force Reserve civil engineer squadrons at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., joined forces this spring to test working as an integrated unit.

CE squadrons at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and Travis AFB, Calif., are also testing the process.

The Air Force is looking into finding better ways to integrate Reservists into the total force and ensure the reserve components get the resources and manpower they need, according to an Air Force press release.

"The integration will not change the mission of either squadron," said Maj. Charles Chapman III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command's 917th CES at Barksdale. "What it will do is enhance the cohesion between the two units."

"The 2nd CES has the equipment and vehicles we need on a monthly basis to train. What we've been doing in the past is just borrowing that equipment," said Col. Kevin Wolfe, 917th Mission Support Group commander. "By integrating, it's going to draw us closer together. The emphasis here is not only for us to borrow their equipment but to train together with them on that equipment."

The 917th CES is not the first Reserve unit at Barksdale to integrate fully with its regular Air Force counterpart. The 917th Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Flight joined ranks with the 2nd EOD Flight in March 2003.

"The EOD components of both squadrons have integrated so well that most can't tell who is who when they see all of the EOD personnel together," Major Chapman said.

"Several of our Airmen have back-filled for active duty when the 2nd CES deployed," he said. "In fact, we have several Airmen whose civilian jobs are working at the 2nd CES. This makes it easy to share resources if needed."

Major Chapman said the fire departments of both squadrons are also integrated.

"They are already co-located and share equipment," he said. "Many Reserve firefighters also work as civilian firefighters at the 2nd CES."

In December, Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg, Air Force civil engineer, will report to the Air Staff how the test integration is going. At that time, a decision will be made as to whether or not the integration will take place throughout the entire Air Force.

"We'll be training together, working together, so when they (Air Force officials) task Barksdale CES, they'll know they're getting a mix of active-duty and Reserve Airmen who are ready to go to war together," Colonel Wolfe said. ★

*(Sergeant Horstman is assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing public affairs office at Barksdale AFB.)*

out an R-ODP is not an extensive process like completing an OPR (officer performance report). You don't have to use fancy words or worry about filling all the available space."

Once members complete their R-ODPs, Colonel Bugeja said it's critical to get their leaders' recommendations. He suggests Airmen contact their career field managers to decide who can sign the R-ODPs.

For the latest force development information, visit the Web at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/developmentteams/index.asp>. *(Senior Master Sgt. Kelly Mazezka, ARPC public affairs)*

### **ARPC Honors Retiring Reservists by Sending Them U.S. Flags**

**H**onoring retiring Reservists with an American flag is a lot easier than it used to be thanks to a centralized process put in place at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

APRC officials now purchase and distribute flags for all Reservists who request one for their retirement.

Flags used to cost units nearly \$20 each and took between three and six months to get. However, through the new process, the cost is now \$12. The change is expected to save the Air Force Reserve about \$60,000 annually.

The initial shipment of flags arrived at ARPC April 4, allowing a backlog of more than 1,400 requests to be filled.

"It took us a bit longer than we anticipated to get the purchasing started and the initial shipment to arrive," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Beaudry, NCO in charge of outbound support at ARPC.

Each of the more than 8,000 Reservists approved for retirement since the virtual Personnel Center — Guard and Reserve retirement program was launched in July 2006 has been provided an opportunity to request a flag.

Before January, ARPC would provide flags only to individual mobilization augmentees, members of the Individual Ready Reserve and people in nonparticipating Reserve categories. Those flags would be sent to a Colorado senator in Washington, D.C., who would send them directly to the Airmen. Sometimes flags would not make it to Reservists before their retirement ceremonies, Sergeant Beaudry said.

The new process provides flags to Airmen well before their scheduled ceremony, he said.

"Everyone deserves to have their flag on time," the sergeant said.

Flags are sent in a package that includes a letter from the Air Force Reserve Command commander, certificates, a retirement lapel pin, an informal letter to provide information regarding

# It's Your Money

By **Ralph Lunt**

## My advice in today's uncertain economy: Don't panic

I feel like a shortstop taking hard infield practice! One after another the questions keep coming.

"When will the housing market turn around?" Ranging to my right, I lay out and with a grunt I moan, "Not for a while."

I jump up and ready myself for the next one: "How about the stock market? I'm losing money!" I've got to time this one just right. I jump and stretch as high as a 46-year-old can, only to watch the ball fly over the top of my glove. I fall back to earth and in the most reassuring voice I have, I answer, "I wish I knew, but it could be a while."

Next up, a hard hit ball to my left: "What should I do now?" I range toward second base and dive for the ball. I've got this one! "Use common sense and get back to basics," I say with confidence as I jump up and make the play at first. Let me explain.

Right now we're being bombarded with all kinds of advice: "Now's a great time to buy gold." "It's never been a better time to invest in foreclosed homes." "Don't miss out, go long on commodities."

Enough already! I'm not buying it. The foundations of a good financial plan include building a reserve fund, minimizing debt, having reasonable investment expectations and insuring against catastrophic losses. It takes time, but history has shown this approach to work.

I work with folks of every age with different levels of net worth, and the current environment has affected all of us. Home values and investment balances are down, and layoffs and prices are up. It's painful and frustrating, and there are no easy answers. But, as they taught us in flight school, don't panic.

I'd start by looking hard at expenses and credit costs; cut and reduce them where possible. Review your investment objectives, and monitor investments accordingly. Patience is important. It's a long game. Even the best make errors, and even the tough practices help.

History tells us that those who stay at it will be better off than those who quit. Hang in there! ★

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

retirement and the retirement orders. Orders are e-mailed as soon as they are completed, and hard copies are sent in the package.

While ARPC officials were waiting for the first shipment of flags to arrive, they continued to send the orders and other documents as they became available and kept the Reservists' names on a list to send them a flag as soon as they arrived.

"Now that the backlog is taken care of, we will be able to send the flags out in the retirement package as soon as we get the approval notification," Sergeant Beaudry said.

All Airmen are entitled to receive a flag in honor of their retirement. To make a request, all Airmen have to do is select "yes" on the "Would you like a U.S. flag?" question within the vPC-GR retirement application.

Once the retirement is approved, Sergeant Beaudry and his team automatically process the package.

For information, contact ARPC toll free at 1-800-525-0102. (Master Sgt. J.C. Woodring, ARPC public affairs)

### Davis-Monthan Fighter Unit Gets Designation

It's official. The 45th Fighter Squadron is the unit designation for the new A-10 classic associate unit at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

The 45th FS, assigned to Air Force



**From the TRICARE Advisor**

**Health benefits guide available online**

**The Air Force Reserve Command Guide to Reserve Health Benefits** is now available online. This short reference guide covers benefits available to Reserve members while in Reserve and active status.

Previously, the guide was only available to AFRC commanders. Recently, the guide was revised to address benefits that are of interest to all Reserve members and their families. Since this is an online guide, the information will be updated and the information kept current as rules and benefits change.

AFRC members may view and download the guide by going to <https://wwwmil.sg.afrc.af.mil/SGS/tricare.htm> and clicking on *AFRC Guide to Reserve Health Benefits* under the other links tab. ★

(Lt. Col. Alexander Alex is the AFRC health benefits manager. "From the Tricare Advisor" is a feature that will run periodically in Citizen Airman magazine.)



**Colonel Alex**

Reserve Command's 917th Operations Group at Barksdale AFB, La., will fly with the regular Air Force's 355th Fighter Wing. The squadron will support A-10 pilot training, according to Col. Ozzie Gorbitz, 917th OG commander.

After a site activation task force visit in

January, Lt. Cols. Rod Glass and Terry McClain, senior leaders in the squadron, began laying the groundwork to develop a 24-person team.

"Building a unit from scratch has its challenges," Colonel Gorbitz said. "They are establishing processes and proce-

dures, writing a host/tenant agreement, and building flight records. ... all from the ground up.

"This will be a Reserve association, where Reservists will associate (directly) with active duty. We're taking lessons learned from other associate units."

"This Total Force Integration initiative will provide highly skilled and experienced Hawgdrivers, who want to leave active duty but not the mission," Colonel Glass said. "This will give them the option to do so in the reserve component."

Colonels Glass and McClain are in the process of hiring their first four A-10 instructor pilots and one administrative support person. According to Colonel Glass, they hope to have their full staff of 24 people on board in the next three years.

"This TFI is about building relationships with people of two different viewpoints," Colonel Gorbitz said. "The goals are common. We must learn how to communicate them."

A formal squadron activation ceremony is set for September. (Tech. Sgt. Robert J. Horstman, 2nd Bomb Wing public affairs, Barksdale AFB)

### Wear of ABU Approved for Commercial Travel

Air Force leaders in Washington, D.C., recently expanded existing uniform regulations and authorized Airmen to wear the airman battle uniform, battle dress uniform and desert camouflage uniform (as appropriate) while traveling commercially in an official capacity throughout the continental United States.

Airmen are still authorized, and encouraged, to wear their blue uniforms. Civilian clothes are also still authorized for wear while on commercial travel. Commanders have the authority to be more restrictive when conditions warrant. The policy does not extend to other utility uniforms, such as the flight suit.

Airmen are reminded that professional appearance and discipline are paramount to public opinion and confidence in the Air Force.

Questions regarding uniform policy can be answered via the Air Force Personnel Center Call Center at 210-565-5000 or toll free 800-616-3775, option 1, 1, 2. (Air Force Print News) ★



**Tech. Sgt. Juan Gutierrez (left) and Capt. Garrett Donnelly of the 7th Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., check on the status of a satellite to ensure it is operating within normal parameters. The Reservists are among the more than 700 members of the new 310th Space Wing.**

### Reserve activates its first space wing

Air Force Reserve Command recently expanded the critical role Reservists play in space operations with the establishment of its first space wing at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. The command activated the 310th Space Wing March 7, and an official ceremony took place April 4 at Peterson AFB, Colo. The new organization is the result of an expansion of the 310th Space Group, which was already located at Schriever.

Activation of the wing was a landmark event in the Air Force's long and proud history, said Col. Jeff Ansted, 310th SW commander. Colonel Ansted served as commander of the space group prior to formation of the wing.

"Our members have worked very hard over the past 15 years to provide unrivaled support in operating and defending our space systems," he said. "By increasing our unit's mission and responsibilities, the Air Force is again acknowledging that space is a vital component to fighting and winning our nation's wars."

The new organization comprises 16 subordinate units located at Schriever AFB, Peterson AFB and Buckley AFB in Colorado, and Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Its mission is to provide its gaining major command, Air Force Space Command, with experienced people in seven space squadrons to man space-based systems for weather observation, space surveillance, early missile warning and navigation.

The 310th's heritage dates back to World War II when it began as the 310th Bombardment Group on March 15, 1942. The unit flew B-25 Mitchell bombers in support of operations in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, Sardinia, France, Austria and Yugoslavia. The group perfected "skip bombing" techniques against bridge, airborne, rail yard and marshaling yard targets.

After several deactivations, the 310th was activated again Sept. 4, 1997, as a space group. The group was created from its original squadron, the 7th Space Operations Squadron. Over the past 10-plus years, it has grown rapidly to meet the Air Force Reserve's expanding role in space operations.

In addition to the wing, Colonel Ansted also officially activated the 310th Operations Group and 310th Mission Support Group. ★

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)



**REFUELER MAINTENANCE — Tech. Sgt. Christopher Walls (left) and Staff Sgt. Chris Wietecha use a breakaway force tester March 25 to check out a KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling drogue. The sergeants are members of the 452nd Maintenance Squadron's aircraft pneudraulics systems shop at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. March ARB is the home of the largest air mobility wing in Air Force Reserve Command.**

VAL GEMNIS

# Reserve Units Set to Support Cyber Command

## Seven from AFRC to be part of new AFCYBER organization

**W**hile the Air Force is actively looking for a location to host Air Force Cyber Command's headquarters, it knows which Air Force Reserve Command units will be part of the new organization.

The command's organizational structure will include seven Reserve units. These units will be among more than 65 squadrons assigned to AFCYBER when it reaches initial operations capability later this year.

"We are aggressively moving forward with plans for having initial operational capability by the Oct. 1 deadline mandated for us by the secretary of the Air Force," said Maj. Gen. William T. Lord, AFCYBER (Provisional) commander. "That (IOC) means we will have a portion of the staffing we need and the organizational structure in place to continue to build the command until we reach full operational status."

The seven AFRC units included in the AFCYBER organizational structure are the 310th Communications Flight at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; 622nd CF, Langley AFB, Va.; 917th CF, Barksdale AFB, La.; 610th Information Operations Flight, Offutt AFB, Neb.; 710th IOF, Brooks City-Base, Texas; 35th Combat Communications Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.; and 55th CCS, Robins AFB, Ga. When mobilized, members of these Reserve units will be gained by AFCYBER.

Conditions for obtaining initial operational capability include, but are not limited to, establishing a budget, articulating details of organizational realignments, developing and assigning manpower requirements, and establishing policies and procedures for daily operations.

Normally, having a permanent location is also part of IOC requirements. However, Air Force officials have not yet decided where AFCYBER headquarters will be located. Until that decision is made, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne has directed the command headquarters to function at Barksdale AFB.

HQ AFCYBER is authorized 541 positions to carry out its mission, and officials are planning to organize the command under a distributed command concept, whereby those positions will be spread across numerous bases.

The AFCYBER provisional team is still determining the exact numbers and details of what this staffing will look like, who will be assigned to the command and from where those resources will originate.

"We're looking at what's the best, most feasible way to

operate this command, so we're obviously doing what we in the Air Force do best — adapt and overcome," General Lord said. "We have to move on with getting this command established, and we can do that without a permanent location at this point. That's why one of our options is this idea to operate as a virtual community for awhile.

"Most of the units and people conducting the missions are already in place and can be easily reassigned to cyber duties without having to move. We live in a time where technology makes operating 'virtually' possible. ... and practical. But, let me be clear that we're still exploring all our options, and even this option may change."

The proposed organizational structure of the command calls for a headquarters, a numbered air force, to be designated as 24th Air Force, and four wings, which will comprise regular Air Force, Reserve and Air National Guard units.

The headquarters will oversee the Air Force Network Operations Center and, through the NAF, command an Air and Space Operations Center. These functions serve to set policy, enforce standards and guide the rest of the Air Force in its daily cyberspace operations.

The four wings will include the creation of the 450th Electronic Warfare Wing and 689th Cyberspace Wing, both brand-new organizations. Joining these will be the Air Force Information Operations Center, located at Lackland AFB, Texas, which will be re-designated as the 688th Information Operations Wing. Finally, the 67th Network Warfare Wing, also located at Lackland, will round out the command.

Establishing the two new wings will require the same basing process as the headquarters has undergone. Until then, they will operate at interim locations as well. Plans call for the electronic warfare wing's interim location to be at Lackland AFB and for the cyberspace wing to be at Scott AFB, Ill. Details about the structure and manning of these units are still under review.

Figuring out all of the details has been a task for the 160 members of the provisional staff, who have been working since September to chart the command's course toward achieving initial operational capability. Once that is declared, the new team will then continue to work to bring the command to full operational capability, which may take another year to complete. ★

*(Information for this article taken from an Air Force Print News article.)*



Maj. Ben Williams, an individual mobilization augmentee assigned to the Headquarters Defense Logistics Agency Joint Logistics Operations Center, uses a compass during a field training session at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

## Common training assembly prepares IMAs for deployment

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Richard Sater

In the old days, individual mobilization augmentees backfilled for deploying Airmen. IMAs didn't deploy themselves.

Those days are gone — the old "strategic" Air Force Reserve has evolved into an "operational" Reserve — and the Defense Logistics Agency is taking steps to ensure its IMAs are ready to fight the same fight as their regular Air Force and traditional Reservist counterparts.

With the global war on terrorism, the air and space expeditionary force concept has become the norm, and the IMA career field is changing to meet the demands of this environment. DLA — home to approximately 135 Air Force IMAs — recently completed a full-scale common training assembly at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., with a focus on readiness, training and education.

Sixty-seven Air Force IMAs participated in the 2 1/2-day joint training exercise. They were joined by 76 Army reservists, 29 Navy reservists and five Marine reservists. All are assigned to DLA, which

is headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va. The event marked the first time DLA reservists from all the military branches had come together in such numbers.

Objectives of the exercise were to complete service-required training, learn about DLA initiatives, enhance readiness, promote teamwork and have fun, according to Celia Adolphi, deputy director of Joint Reserve Forces for DLA.

To meet these goals, each service provided branch-specific common training, with all participants coming together for briefings from DLA senior leaders and other subject-matter experts. Reservists gained an understanding of the agency headquarters and how its six field activities work together to supply war-fighters with the equipment, weapons, subsistence and supplies they require to do their jobs.

Participants were introduced to some of the tools available to track their readiness status as well as other aspects of their careers, including the web-based ReserveNet. Question-and-answer sessions identified a number of common

concerns about orders, man-days, inactive-duty training, official travel and the government travel card.

Deployment readiness was a primary focus of the training, a reminder that reservists must be mentally and physically prepared for the real possibility of wartime duty. Briefings introduced a variety of topics from suicide prevention to family readiness. Some participants accomplished their annual physical fitness test, and others received immunizations to bring them into the "green" status for deployment.

The reservists spent one entire day in the field conducting warrior-task training, brushing up on skills and basic tasks they might encounter during a deployment. Weapons familiarization on the M-16 and 9 mm pistol rounded out the day.

The field exercise garnered enthusiastic praise for its timeliness and the hands-on practice.

"It brings the unit together," said Master Sgt. Brenda Perez-Piris, an IMA assigned to DLA's Defense Supply Center-Richmond.

"We're getting information from the instructors and the other students, too."

The exercise was "the first of what will become an annual experience," said Col. Deborah Inman, mobilization assistant to DLA's vice director.

Feedback from participants will guide the structure of next year's exercise, she said. IMAs, being geographically separated, sometimes feel isolated, she said, and common experiences like this exercise help reduce that anxiety.

"The 'I' (in IMA) doesn't seem so big," Colonel Inman said. "We don't feel so alone." ★

(Colonel Sater, an IMA, is the public affairs officer for the Defense Logistics Agency Joint Reserve Forces at Fort Belvoir.)



Two DLA IMAs learn field movement and communication under simulated fire during field training.



IMA Senior Master Sgt. Charles Kobilis demonstrates the proper technique for applying a bandage with the help of Army Sgt. Rebecca Hernandez-Cartagena for a class of Army Reservists during the field training day of the DLA joint-training exercise.



Members of the 17th Test Squadron and its Reserve counterpart, the 14th TS, team up to test a Combat SkySat, a system designed to provide extended-range communications to units in-theater.

## UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

### Reserve test squadron teams up with active-duty Airmen

By 2nd Lt. Jeff Liang

Everyone has heard some version of this familiar horror story: A request for a new weapon system gets approved. However, by the time the project is finished, the end product is nothing like the original design. Or, it doesn't work because the system was fielded before getting all the bugs worked out. Then come several years of different "fixes" to try and get the new system to work as originally intended.

When it comes to Air Force Space Command, the stakes are higher than normal, since new systems are typically more expensive, more complex and more difficult to fix after fielding. For example, while a radio or vehicle can be worked on after production, it is virtually impossible to replace faulty onboard hardware once a satellite has been launched.

To ensure new systems work right the first time and current systems continue to meet the needs of the user, the 17th Test Squadron and its Reserve counterpart, the 14th TS, were created at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. Together, these squadrons work to provide independent assessments of new systems and present AFSPC senior leaders with fielding recommendations.

The partnership between the two test squadrons is unique in that unlike many other Reserve units, which provide back-

up or surge capabilities for the regular Air Force, the 14th is a fully integrated partner in the testing process.

Since the acquisition of highly complex systems can take several years, regular Air Force Airmen working on a project may make a permanent change of station move before the project is complete. On the other hand, Reservists provide critical continuity throughout the testing process, bringing extensive experience and expertise to test and evaluation.

This year has been particularly busy for the testing community. It has completed upgrades to the Nuclear Detonation Detection System, worked with Combat SkySat, a rapidly deployable system designed to provide extended-range ultra high frequency and extremely high frequency communications to units in-theater, and tested a new command and control system for Global Positioning System ground stations. The community also supported strategic and theater missile warning system upgrades in Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo.

Test results on these systems have validated new capabilities while also uncovering operational concerns. For example, the Nuclear Detonation Detection System now utilizes data from the Defense Support Program to provide better resolution of

nuclear detonations. For Combat SkySat, deficiencies uncovered during testing drove extensive engineering upgrades to the payload and platform. These upgrades have made the system more valuable to the war-fighter through increased range and improved system life expectancy during operations.

Members of both test squadrons have deployed to several locations in support of these tests.

"Their efforts ensure war-fighters receive systems that meet their requirements," said Lt. Col. Scott Jokerst, 14th TS commander. "In fact, one test had to be halted when testers identified several serious deficiencies that needed to be fixed."

Colonel Jokerst said if that particular system had not been tested, it could have had a significant impact on the war-fighters' ability to accomplish their mission.

"Rigorous operational testing ensured system capabilities matched the war-fighters' expectations," he said. "Critical systems must work the first time, and the teamwork from the men and women of the 17th and 14th Test Squadrons provide commanders with the confidence to use those systems on a daily basis." ★

(Lieutenant Liang, a traditional Reservist, is an assistant test manager assigned to the 14th TS.)



### Air Force pulls parachutes from KC-135s

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

Parachutes are designed to slow things down. Normally, that's a good thing. But when Air Force leaders decided the only thing parachutes were slowing down aboard KC-135 Stratotankers was the mission, they decided to get rid of them.

Removing parachutes from military aircraft may sound peculiar, but KC-135s are not like other aircraft. They seldom have mishaps, and the likelihood a KC-135 crew member would ever need to use a parachute is extremely low.

At the same time, a lot of time, manpower and money goes into buying, maintaining and training to use parachutes. With the Air Force hungry for cost-saving efficiencies under its Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century program, commonly known as AFSO 21, the parachutes were deemed obsolete.

Tech. Sgt. Chastity Forrest is in charge of life support for the 18th Air Refueling Squadron, the flying squadron for Air Force Reserve Command's 931st Air Refueling Group at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. She and the squadron's flyers were "thrilled" to learn hours of annual parachute training were going to be a thing of the past.

"It's one less thing to worry about," she said, also noting the time saved by not having to include parachutes in preflight procedures.

From a safety standpoint, Sergeant Forrest said, it is difficult to find a crew member who would grab a parachute and jump out of a KC-135 that was in trouble. It is statistically safer to stay with the aircraft, especially when flying over enemy territory.

Master Sgt. John "Tex" Austin, 18th ARS boom operator, agreed.

"If the plane is under control, you are going to stay with it," Sergeant Austin said. "If it's out of control, you're not going to be able to get to the parachute anyway."

Col. Clay Childs, 931st ARG deputy commander, said he has never thought about strapping on a parachute to bail out of a KC-135 in the 20 years he

has been flying Stratotankers. And the passenger planes he pilots for his civilian employer have never been equipped with parachutes.

Colonel Childs witnessed the advantage of leaving parachutes off KC-135s when he first learned of the decision to be rid of them. He was serving as a deputy commander while deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, when a KC-135 assigned to the base developed a maintenance issue.

The aircraft's escape spoiler, a device used to block wind and allow evacuees to jump clear of an in-flight aircraft, was not working. The KC-135 was grounded, Colonel Childs said, until a maintainer pointed out there were no parachutes on the aircraft. With no need to have a working spoiler, the aircraft became mission-ready. This is a prime example, he said, of how AFSO 21 thinking can benefit the Air Force.

A new piece of equipment, a harness that crew members can wear, is now required to be stored on KC-135s when parachutes are removed. The harness is used to attach flyers to an aircraft during those rare instances when there's the potential for a flyer to be sucked outside. A warning light signaling a door is loose is a good, but uncommon, example, Sergeant Forrest said, of when a flyer might need to wear the harness.

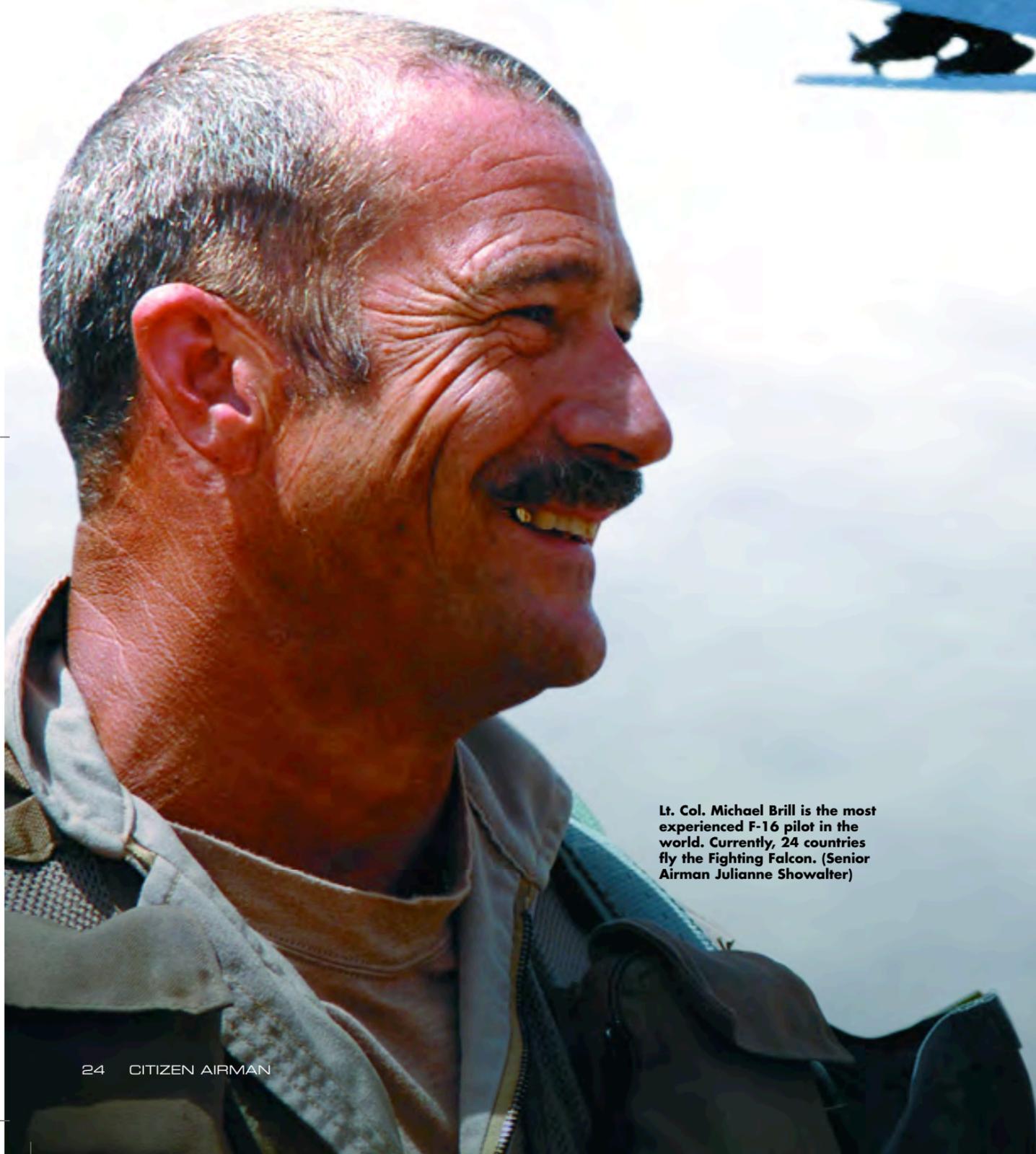
The harness is a new responsibility that life support technicians and flyers gladly accept in lieu of parachute maintenance and training, Sergeant Forrest said.

An entire parachute has to be unpacked for inspection, whereas a harness inspection can be done in minutes. The parachute class Sergeant Forrest taught for flyers was four hours long. She can teach them how to wear the harness in about half an hour. ★

(Sergeant Schaap is assigned to the 931st ARG public affairs office.)

Tech. Sgt. Clay Dotson wears a new harness that replaces parachutes on board KC-135 Stratotankers. Sergeant Dotson is a boom operator assigned to the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.





# 6,000 Hours

## Reserve pilot is first to hit milestone in Fighting Falcon

**A**n Air Force Reserve pilot assigned to the 419th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, made history in May as he became the only pilot to amass 6,000 flying hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Lt. Col. Michael "Brillo" Brill hit the 6,000-hour mark in a combat mission out of Balad Air Base, Iraq, where he has been deployed since late March. Brill was also the first pilot to reach 5,000 flying hours in the F-16 in November 2002 and 4,000 flying hours in the F-16 in August 1998. He holds the world record as the most experienced F-16 pilot among the 24 countries that fly F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

"Six thousand hours equates to 250 days in the cockpit, not counting all the time in ground ops before and after flight," said Brig. Gen. Burt Field, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad AB. "That is an incredible amount of time in a high-G, high-speed, high-stress arena."

The 6,000-flying-hour milestone is also equivalent to traveling nearly 2.5 million miles — enough to circle the earth 97 times.

"Lieutenant Colonel Brill has worked extremely hard to reach this milestone," said Col. Gary Batinich, 419th FW commander. "While serving in the 419th Fighter Wing over the past 19 years, he's held a variety of key positions and has always managed to balance the demands of his day-to-day duties with the demands of a rigorous flying schedule."

Reaching even 5,000 hours in a fighter aircraft is a rare feat, according to officials with Lockheed Martin, the aerospace corporation that produced the F-16.

Colonel Brill has accumulated 226 combat flying hours and has flown more than 50 combat sorties. After Sept. 11, 2001, he led the first F-16 strike into Afghanistan.

"Brillo has been leading the world in this area for a long time," General Field said. "(He) is something of an icon in the F-16 community."

Colonel Brill's combat experience includes three tours in support of Operation Northern Watch, two in support of Operation Southern Watch, two in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and one in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The colonel is a Virginia native and has called Utah home for the past 28 years. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in May 1979 where he earned a bachelor of science degree with a major in civil engineering.

After completing pilot training at the top of his class, Colonel Brill was selected for training in the F-16 Fighting Falcon and was assigned to the regular Air Force 388th FW at Hill AFB in 1980. He became an instructor pilot in 1984. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and Aerial Achievement Medal. ★

*(419th FW public affairs)*

**Lt. Col. Michael Brill is the most experienced F-16 pilot in the world. Currently, 24 countries fly the Fighting Falcon. (Senior Airman Julianne Showalter)**

# SAYING THANKS

## Liberty Wing honors retired Reservist on his 90th birthday

By Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Often referred to as members of the “greatest generation,” most World War II veterans don’t consider themselves as heroes or what they did as “great.” Instead, they say they only did what any good American would do when their country calls.

One daughter of a man who is a part of that generation, Karen Kissane of Venice, Fla., wanted her father to know how exceptional his life and service were to the nation, so she approached the 512th Airlift Wing about recognizing him on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Lt. Col. James Methven, a former 512th AW Reservist, joined the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1942, transferred to the Reserve in 1947 and retired from the Liberty Wing in 1977.

“I wanted to recognize my father’s service and make it known that his accomplishments were appreciated and valued,” Ms. Kissane said. “Like everybody else who has served their country, he deserved to be thanked for his years of service.”

Upon hearing of her request, Col. Randal L. Bright, 512th AW commander, and Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, each wrote the retired lieutenant colonel a letter.

“Our United States Air Force is much better off for having folks, such as yourself. ...” Colonel Bright wrote. “On the occasion of your 90th birthday, I extend to you the warmest birthday greetings and a heartfelt thank you for your service.”

Colonel Methven said he was touched by the letters and called them an unexpected, nice surprise. The colonel is one of 16.5 million Americans who served in World War II and is among the 15 percent of those veterans who are still sharing their stories.

He was born in New Brunswick, N.J., Feb. 25, 1918, the year World War I ended. Twenty-three years later, the United States entered World War II.

Knowing his draft number was coming up, the 24-year-old joined the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1942 and went to pilot training at Grider Field, near Pine Bluff, Ark. He received his pilot’s wings at Aloe Field, near Victoria, Texas, in 1943.

“I knew how to fly already,” said Colonel Methven, who grew up in Ridley Park, Pa., a small town south of Philadelphia International Airport.

The father of one of his classmates insisted he learn how to fly a seaplane, a fixed-wing aircraft designed to take off and land on water. By age 22, the colonel had earned his private pilot’s license. Two years later he earned a mechanical engineering degree from Temple University.

Colonel Methven spent the early war years at Randolph AFB, Texas, as an instructor and trainer for test and combat pilots.

“Luckily, I didn’t lose any students,” he said. “But, I did plow up a few acres of a Texas field once during an AT-11 emergency landing.”

In 1944, he was assigned to the 5th Air Force Combat Cargo Squadron, which was engaged in operations against the Japanese in the Southwest Pacific area.

“We flew out of New Guinea and worked our way up into the Philippines and Japan,” he said. “We came back out of Japan during Christmas of 1946, which was a very good Christmas to be heading home.”

This was more than a year after the Japanese surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945.

Colonel Methven returned to the states, as did his two brothers who served in the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. He finished his active-duty service in Smyrna, Tenn., where he continued to train pilots after the war. In 1947, the colonel moved back to Pennsylvania and transferred to the Air Force Reserve, drilling at Pennsylvania Military College in Chester, Pa.

Once the Korean War began in 1950, Colonel Methven joined the 512th AW, which was then located in New Castle, Del. He saw the wing’s transition to Dover AFB, Del., in July 1973, when the 512th became an associate unit and began flying the C-5A Galaxy.

“At one time, Dover Air Force Base was bigger than the city of Dover,” he said. “There were 24,000 people in Dover and 26,000 people on base.”

Today, 8,000 people live on base, while 32,000 people live in the city.

During his 36-year career, Colonel Methven flew more than 35 different aircraft, ranging from the L-5 to the C-5.

Although he finished out his Air Force career in the Reserve, he did see active service again in Korea and Vietnam, serving as an instructor pilot and a line engineer for aircraft maintenance. Before he retired from the Liberty Wing in 1977, he had the privilege of serving alongside his son, James Methven III.

The 90-year-old remains a very active Floridian, his daughter said. As for his war buddies and Reserve friends, Colonel Methven said he’s sad to say he is the only one left.

World War II veterans are dying at a rate of about 1,500 a day, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. By 2022, VA officials estimate that only about 115,000 World War II veterans will remain.

Ms. Kissane said she and the rest of her family appreciate the Reserve for taking the opportunity to thank her father for his service to his country.

“Our family will be forever grateful for the willingness of officers such as General Bradley and Colonel Bright to take the time to thank an old fly-boy who was so very touched to receive not one but two letters, extending the gratitude of the U.S. Air Force and Reserve,” she said. ★

(Captain Losurdo is chief of public affairs for the 512th AW at Dover AFB.)



Retired Lt. Col. James Methven, shown at left and as a young Air Force pilot in the photo above, recently turned 90 and received letters of appreciation from Air Force Reserve Command leaders for his years of service.



# Remissioning Phase 2

## Reserve command takes program to increase its communications capability to the next level

**A**fter the terrorist attacks on Washington and New York in 2001, U.S. Central Command Air Forces communications officials were given the task of developing a plan for providing communications support for any forthcoming military operation.

Col. John Hayes, who was the CENTAF director of communications at the time, organized a planning conference to discuss available communications capabilities in the event the United States went to war. All of the Air Force major commands, except for one, were invited to attend, as was the Air National Guard. The one command not included in the conference was Air Force Reserve Command.

"The Reserve did not have the capability I could use," Colonel Hayes said.

As a result of being left out of the discussion, AFRC comm officials soon embarked on an effort they called "remissioning phase 1," a program aimed at increasing the Reserve's relevancy to the war-fighter by providing the capability needed to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

"When completed, this (remissioning effort) not only enabled Reserve communication and information units to better support Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom requirements, but it increased AFRC comm air and space expeditionary forces participation more than two-fold," said Capt. James Koenig, assistant chief of the Force Readiness Management Branch in the Directorate of Communications, Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

"Although it met the need," Captain Koenig said, "remissioning phase 1 did not go far enough, and concerns were clearly visible. A lack of commonality across AFRC comm units developed, as well as rank and career progression issues. Reserve comm also had limited capability to support operational readiness exercises and was not totally in sync with changing Air Force deployable concepts."

When Colonel Hayes became the AFRC director of communications in June 2005, he immediately saw the need to take remissioning to the next level, thus increasing Reserve comm capability.

His first step was to submit a fiscal year 2008 program objective memorandum or POM input for \$12 million for deployable communications equipment. Initial funding for equipment procurement is scheduled for fiscal 2009.

"Remissioning phase 2 includes the development of 'expand

the base' force module packages, realignment of manpower to standardize units, and the development of standardized rank and career progression to enhance recruitment and retention, which will impact our comm units for many years and improve our readiness posture," said Lt. Col. Carl Carwile, chief of the Force Readiness Management Branch.

To ensure proper implementation to meet existing requirements, manpower realignments will be needed. These were identified to senior leadership and approved last September. Implementation of remissioning phase 2 is expected to begin in the third quarter of this fiscal year with completion expected by the first quarter of fiscal 2009.

"When complete, Reserve comm will have organized, trained and equipped its units to meet the war-fighter requirements, provided a capability to our wings, standardized the structure of comm units, and developed the first-ever career progression for all ranks," Captain Koenig said.

"Most AFRC communications squadrons and flights will be base-lined around the same equipment and personnel packages," he said.

Those packages will contain the ability to provide both secure and non-secure internet protocol router communications, defense switched network capability, a small network control center, ground-to-air and land mobile radios, ultra-high frequency tactical satellite communications, Giant Voice capability, microwave links, client support administrators, and staff support, the captain said.

"Comm remissioning phase 2 accomplishes 100 percent of our objectives," Colonel Hayes said. "I'm very pleased with the direction of this effort and commend the efforts of my force readiness staff." ★

Following phase 2 of remissioning, Reserve comm will have organized, trained and equipped its units to meet the war-fighter requirements, provided a capability to Reserve wings, standardized the structure of comm units, and developed the first-ever career progression for all ranks.

# BEIJING BOUND

Individual mobilization augmentee Lt. Col. Dominic Grazioli will be shooting for the gold at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China, in August.

## Reserve lieutenant colonel sets sights on bringing home the gold from 2008 Summer Olympic Games

**D**ominic Grazioli, an Air Force Reserve individual mobilization augmentee lieutenant colonel and world-class trap shooter, is bound for Beijing and the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. The expert marksman has his sights set on bringing home a gold medal after placing second at the U.S. Olympic team trials in Kerrville, Texas, in March.

The four-day competition at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center was full of drama. After battling high winds, cold temperatures and rain, and enjoying only a hint of south Texas sunshine, Colonel Grazioli and John Mullins of Bremerton, Wash., entered the final round of competition locked in a heated battle for the second and final spot on the U.S. Olympic team. Colonel Grazioli went first in the single-shot final.

After hitting 23 of 25 targets, he had to sit back and watch Mr. Mullins take his turn. The IMA held a one-target lead when his opponent's last target flew through the sky. Colonel Grazioli thought for sure he was headed for a tie-breaker.

"I had already hung my gun on my shoulder and was getting ready for the next phase when I looked up to see John shoot his last target," he said. "I was shocked when I heard the shot and saw the target continue to fly. My mind started screaming, 'You just made the Olympic team. You just made the Olympic team!'"

Colonel Grazioli joins Bret Erickson on the two-man U.S. Olympic shotgun (trap) team. Mr. Erickson, a three-time Olympian and former member of the U.S. Army marksmanship unit, finished the team trials with a score of 499 targets. Colonel

Grazioli had a total score of 491 targets, while Mr. Mullins placed third with 490 targets.

Colonel Grazioli, an alternate on the 1996 U.S. Olympic team and a member of the Air Force shooting team for 20 years, said he is thrilled about having the opportunity to represent his country.

"Competing and winning at the Olympics is the ultimate goal for any international shooter," he said. "I'm thrilled to be representing the United States and hope I can perform well in Beijing."

As a Reservist, Colonel Grazioli is an IMA assigned to Air Education and Training Command headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. He also works at AETC headquarters as a civil service employee.

"As both a Reservist and civilian employee, I am proud to serve with my active-duty teammates and hope to continue to demonstrate the seamlessness of the Total Force," he said. "I sincerely appreciate the support of my family, teammates, supervisors, co-workers and friends. I would not have made it without them."

Colonel Grazioli will be training hard until he heads for Beijing in late July. Men's trap qualifying is scheduled for Aug. 9 and 10, with the finals also scheduled for Aug. 10. ★





## A PROUD NEW CITIZEN

Senior Airman Cassandra Obermuller Brandon waves an American flag after accepting her naturalization certificate from Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England during a naturalization ceremony in April in the Pentagon's center courtyard. More than 20 service members became American citizens during the ceremony. Airman Brandon, who was born and raised in Guyana, moved to the United States with her father in 1991 and joined the Air Force Reserve in 2002. She is the unit training monitor for the 69th Aerial Port Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. "It's the absolute freedom to choose that makes America so great," Airman Brandon said. "I consider myself an American every day, and this was the culmination. I have the paperwork to prove it now. I've earned the right to call myself an American." (Staff. Sgt. Julie Weckerlein)