

Citizen AIRMAN

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Air Force Reserve



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From the Top

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



Chief's View

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

Lessons learned over the past decade lead to number of program improvements

I often say that this is the best time in history to be an Air Force Reservist. Our Citizen Airmen are proven in combat, and our reputation for excellence has never been higher.

We are recruiting and retaining the best and brightest Airmen the Air Force has ever had. Our units employ the most leading-edge equipment on the planet. We have the best benefits since our program began. And, our future is brighter than ever before as we continue to prove that we are the most cost-effective and efficient solution for Air Force manning challenges.

An integral part of our success is the depth of our strategic reserve and our ready-now status. In this issue of *Citizen Airman*, (see Page 16), we are featuring how our command is using the lessons learned from nearly a decade of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to improve our programs.

Our headquarters staffs at the numbered air forces are reinvigorating their focus on readiness — ensuring our people

and programs are ready to lead the Total Force team. Also, to better ensure we're all-in the joint fight, Air Force Reserve Command is standing up a new Force Generation Center. Read the article on Page 17 and learn about how this new center will streamline processes for coming on active duty and make it easier for all Citizen Airmen to volunteer, mobilize and deploy.

Our Reserve team has proven itself vital to the success of military operations around the globe. Every day, Citizen Airmen make contributions and sacrifices for our country, our communities and our families. We expect the new Force Generation Center and the renewed NAF focus on readiness to remove barriers and better prepare our Reservists who sacrifice so much to serve. ★

Fitness program goal is to be fit to fight, not just fit to test

Most of you have heard by now that changes to the Air Force fitness program are in full effect as of July 1. The discussions I have had as I travel around the command center on the expanded testing requirement; but the fitness program is much more than testing. Yes, we will test all Title 10 Airmen, while in status, twice a year, with one exception, which I will cover later, but we need to adjust the way we look at fitness.

This program is not a fit-to-test program but a fit-to-fight program. We have to look deeper than the testing requirements and understand that the changes should drive a cultural and lifestyle change across the Air Force. Airmen have to think about fitness not only because the Air Force says so but also because it is the right thing to do for ourselves and our families.

Many think that the updates to our fitness program mean we have a new standard, but we don't. The standard continues to be that we are fit and healthy enough to accomplish the mission in a deployed environment and at home station.

The numbers on the tables may have changed, and we now have fitness assessment cells that will administer the tests, but the requirement to maintain a level of fitness remains constant. Our goal should be to exceed the standard by training to a higher level than the minimum requirements.

If we do more cardiovascular training and upper-body and core conditioning, and watch what we eat, completing the test will simply reward all of our hard work. But, if we only train to complete and pass the test, we are short-changing ourselves. Meeting the minimum standards to pass the test is not the goal of the program.

The exception mentioned earlier is to reward those who exceed the standard and earn an excellent on the test by assessing them once a year. But, this only happens if you score a 90 or above on the overall test, meet all four of the minimum/maximum measures of the components and are not exempt on any portion of the assessment.

For example, a male in the 40-49 age group must score an overall 90 points, correctly complete at least 34 sit-ups and 21

push-ups, have an abdominal circumference of no more than 39 inches, and a run time of no more than 14:52 on the certified mile and a half course. Keep in mind that just meeting these minimums will not ensure an overall passing score.

As a matter of fact, a person with these numbers would score 65.9 points on the test and fail. The bottom line is that if you only meet the minimums on some components, you have to exceed the standards on others to make up the difference.

Testing has become the easy target of the changes in our fitness program. Whether it is the fact that we will test twice a year or that a group of fitness professionals will administer the assessments, most of us seem to have an opinion about this part of the program.

The requirement to test twice a year is driven by the goal to instill a lifestyle change that allows us to be fit all the time, not just a few months before or after the test. The health benefits of working out aside, we need to be ready to deploy at any time.

Having a regular fitness routine will help us be ready for that. But, the health benefits are huge. Being fit helps you sleep better, reduces illness, lowers the risk of daily aches and pains, and just makes you feel better. When you train your body through a sensible fitness program, you are stronger and less likely to suffer injuries that can occur in your daily routine.

Fitness needs to be something we do for ourselves. We are healthier and enjoy life more when we are fit. Participating in a regular, personal fitness program provides you with the stamina and endurance necessary for today's complicated life as a Reservist.

Balancing your civilian and military careers and your family life can be very challenging, especially with today's level of deployments and additional requirements at home. Being fit helps us adapt to all the challenges life throws at us and helps us live longer to enjoy the benefits of living in this great country. If you don't have one, start a regular fitness regimen today. You will be glad you did. ★



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GAS ON THE GO

A KC-135R Stratotanker assigned to the Air Force Reserve's 916th Air Refueling Wing, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., refuels a B-2 Spirit during recent training operations.

On the front cover: (Top) AFR 2012 promises to make it easier for Reservists to volunteer, mobilize and deploy. For the story, see Page 16. (Bottom left) Air Force Reserve aerial spray aircraft maintainers assist with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup effort. For the story, see Page 18. (Tech. Sgt. Adrian Cadiz) (Bottom right) Senior Master Sgt. Bill McAnelly, 919th Maintenance Group, was among a group of maintainers sent to Gowen Field, Idaho, to prepare four MC-130E Combat Talons for retirement and decommissioning. For the story, see Page 20. (Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.)

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz *Chief of Staff, United States Air Force*

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

Lt. Col. Leslie J. Pratt *Director of Public Affairs, Air Force Reserve Command*

Cliff Tyler *Managing Editor*

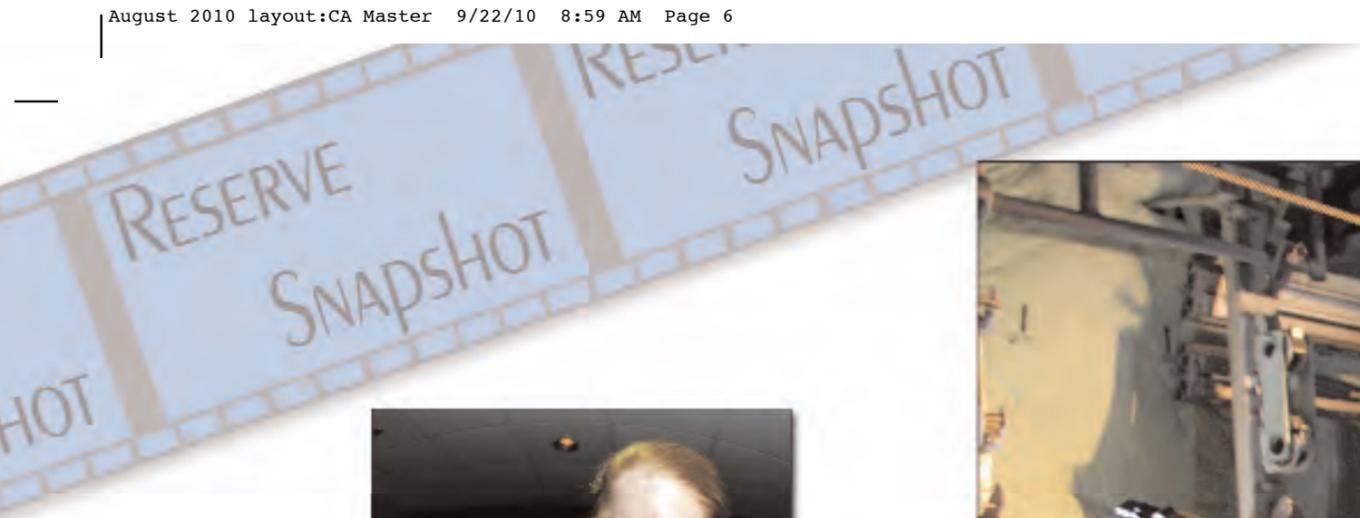
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Senior Airman Crystal Craver, 442nd Medical Squadron technician, prepares to administer an H1N1 flu shot during a recent unit training assembly. The 442nd MDS is part of the 442nd Fighter Wing, an Air Force Reserve unit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. (Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert)



Master Sgt. Justin James, a weather reconnaissance loadmaster with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., demonstrates the process of launching a dropsonde during a training mission for local and national media members as part of the 403rd Wing's annual media day. The "Hurricane Hunters" conduct this media day in preparation for the hurricane season to help the weather news crews obtain first-hand knowledge of their mission of flying through hurricanes and gathering crucial data for the National Hurricane Center. The Reservists collect a large amount of this data using dropsondes, which are dropped from the aircraft as they fly through a storm. (Staff Sgt. Celena Wilson)



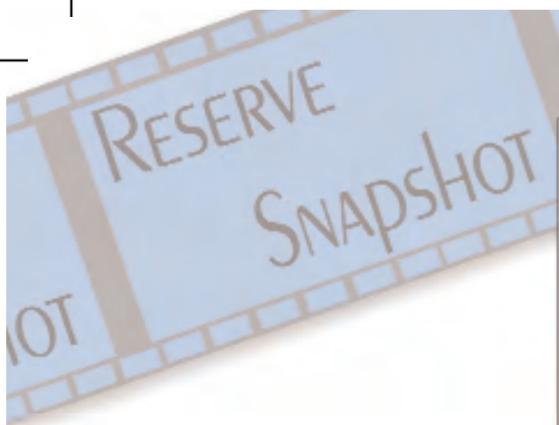
Maj. (Dr.) Javier Tapia, a physician with the 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., checks a Dominican baby during a medical training readiness exercise in the Dominican Republic May 24. A team of 39 medical specialists from Air Force Reserve Command provided medical care to people in four towns in the Puerto Plata region of the country. (Master Sgt. Chance C. Babin)



A photographer takes photos at the March Field AirFest, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., May 1. The AirFest is a bi-annual, two-day event featuring military and civilian aerial performances and static displays of modern and historic aircraft. (Staff Sgt. Angel Gallardo)



Airman Ashley Wiley and Master Sgt. Mark Finney put the finishing touches on the first 911th Airlift Wing C-130 to receive the new steel beam tail flashing at Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa. The steel beam represents the strong bond the 911th has with the community of Pittsburgh.



Reservists from the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., took part in Ability to Survive and Operate training prior to their April drill weekend. They learned about their weapons, Airman's manual, and taking care of themselves and others. (Tech Sgt. Chris Parr)



Staff Sgt. John Petrie, 433rd Maintenance Operations Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, stops to pick up a piece of debris from the flight line during the 433rd Airlift Wing's Monday morning foreign object debris walk. Everyone from the wing commander to brand-new Airmen participate. The FOD is collected in a bag and properly disposed of so it doesn't get caught up in a jet engine. The wing vice commander, Col. Dale Andrews, hides a gold-painted bolt somewhere to be found as an incentive during the walk. (Airman 1st Class Brian McGloin)



Donovan York expresses his delight after a few moments of getting to sit in the pilot's seat of a C-130H during Aerospace Adventures Day at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., home of the Reserve's 908th Airlift Wing. (Gene H. Hughes)



Staff Sgt. Lynn Magistrale, 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y., places American flags on graves during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, N.Y. During the ceremony, thousands of flags were placed on the graves of men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. (Staff Sgt. Joseph McKee)

Brig. Gen. William Binger, commander of the 482nd Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., conducts the coin toss at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament prior to the women's final in April. Joining General Binger at center court were players Venus Williams (far left) and Kim Clijsters (far right). Tournament referee Alan Mills and chair umpire Eva Asderaki also took part. (Tim Norton)



Round the Reserve

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

CCAF Awards Milestone Associate Degree

An Air Force Reservist earned the distinction of being the 350,000th graduate of the Community College of the Air Force May 5.

Tech. Sgt. Brannen Parrish received an associate in applied science public affairs degree during the 2010 Senior Enlisted Leader Summit at the Senior NCO Academy, Gunter Annex, Ala. Sergeant Parrish is an Air Force Reserve individual mobilization augmentee on active

duty with Air University public affairs.

He earned a bachelor's degree in hospital administration from the University of Alabama in August 2006.

The 350,000th degree emphasizes CCAF's mission of offering and awarding job-related associate in applied science degrees and other academic credentials. This recognition enhances mission readiness, contributes to recruiting, assists in retention and supports the career transitions of Air Force enlisted members.

"In front of this distinguished audience, we had the opportunity to award a

milestone Community College of the Air Force associate degree, the 350,000th diploma, to a member of this spring's graduating class," said Lt. Col. Tim Albrecht, Community College of the Air Force commandant.

"The Air Force gives you every opportunity to continue your education with tuition assistance, the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 Bill," Sergeant Parrish said.

"You need to take advantage of the opportunities."

CCAF was established in the early

908th AW offers realistic water survival training

By Gene H. Hughes

As a fully qualified survival, escape, resistance and evasion specialist, Senior Airman Chad Braunschweig has one goal: to make SERE training for the 908th Airlift Wing as realistic as possible.

The opportunity for realistic training came one Sunday in May on the Alabama River in Millbrook, where about 20 members of the operations group and life support received mandated water survival training.

"The majority of them are type-A personalities," Airman Braunschweig said. "When you tell them you're going to hoist them up in a helicopter, every single one of them is like, 'Heck yeah, let's do it!' There's not a lot of selling involved."

According to Air Force instructions, water survival training has to be conducted every three years, and seven requirements have to be met. However, Airman Braunschweig didn't want to stop there. He had been hoisted up in a helicopter and blasted by rotor wash, so he wanted his people to also experience it.

He called the Army, the Coast Guard and Air Force pararescue. They all turned him down.

Airman Braunschweig then spoke to a couple of co-workers at his civilian job, who are former Montgomery police officers. They put him in touch with Lee Hamilton, the Alabama Department of Public Safety's chief pilot, who was enthusiastic about the joint training opportunity.

The Alabama State Troopers of the marine, aviation and crisis response team divisions gladly shared their expertise with the Airmen. The state's fish and wildlife department and 42nd Air Base Wing security forces also lent support to the exercise.

The Reservists, along with two members of Air University, practiced donning survival suits and carrying out emergency procedures for 20-man and one-man rafts. After a break, each was hoisted out of the water and deposited safely ashore.

Getting wet, however, wasn't the only challenge. There was also the combination of a 35-knot wind and a 4-knot current, enough to carry the swimmers about 150 yards within a mat-



Senior Airman Chad Braunschweig (red floatation vest) observes as members of the operations group help each other into a 20-man raft during the 908th Airlift Wing's water survival training in the Alabama River.

ter of moments and separate rescue rafts from four 50-pound cinder blocks.

"Usually, it's a refresher course in a classroom or by the pool," said Capt. John Moody. "To actually get in the water and experience the helicopter and watch the state troopers get involved was the best training I've seen in the last eight years. I think we walked away with a lot better experience than just looking at a slide show."

For Airman Braunschweig, feedback was the best part. It allowed him to make program adjustments in real time. He made a few changes, such as anchoring the rafts, but overall was satisfied with the day's results.

"I walked away thinking that if they ever had to (perform in that situation) in a real-world environment, they could," he said. ★

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

1970s to serve the enlisted corps by providing college credit, degrees and certifications for the outstanding training and education the Air Force has always delivered. In return, the Air Force has reaped the rewards of having a highly educated enlisted force. After 38 years, CCAF's focus continues to be the professional development of enlisted Airmen.

Sergeant Parrish said "education is not just checking a box" on one's military career.

"Education helps you grow as a person and a professional Airman," he said. "It allows you to contribute more to society and the Air Force."

The CCAF is the largest multi-campus community college in the world with affiliated schools located in 37 states and at nine foreign locations. The college has issued more than a million transcripts in the last 10 years. Each year CCAF students earn more than 1.6 million college credit hours. (Staff Sgt. Eric Donner, Air University public affairs, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.)

Most NSPS Transitions Expected by September

The transition of Defense Department civilian employees from the National Security Personnel System is proceeding, with 75 percent of the work force expected to be transferred into the General Schedule classification and pay system by late September, the defense official overseeing the effort told Congress June 9.

More than 53,000 defense civilian employees who had been enrolled in the NSPS system have been shifted to the GS system, John H. James Jr., director of the Pentagon's NSPS Transition Office, told a subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

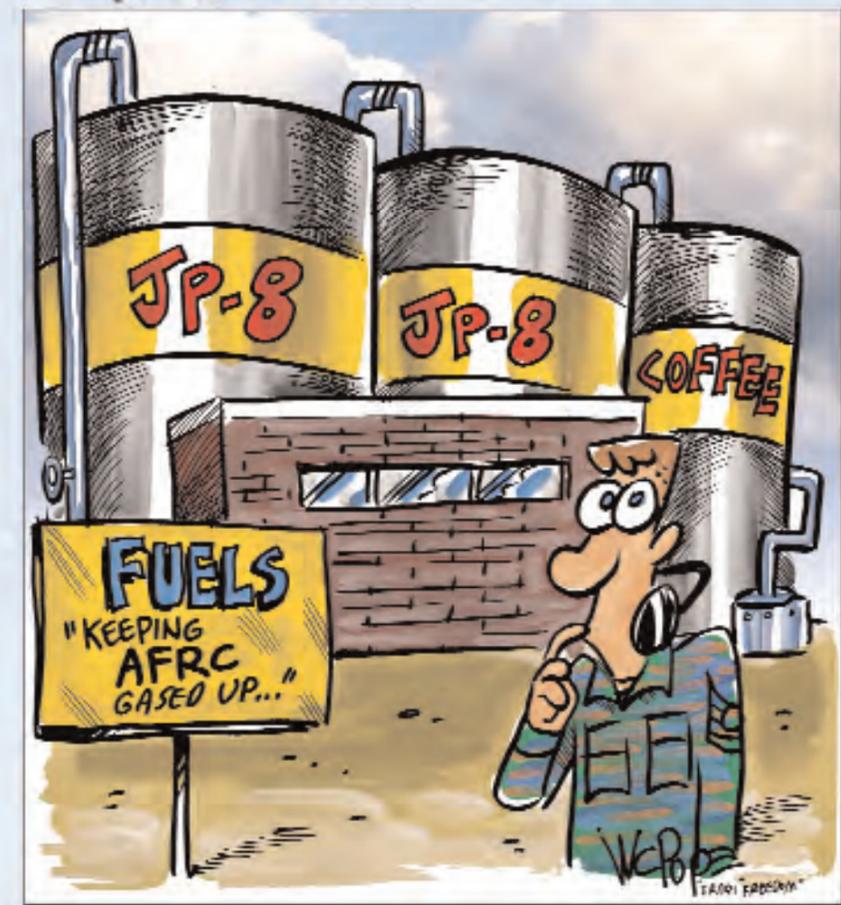
About 170,000 remaining NSPS employees will transition to the GS or other pay and personnel systems by Jan. 1, 2012, the congressionally mandated deadline, Mr. James said.

In the 2010 Defense Appropriations Act, Congress directed a repeal of the NSPS system and set the timeline for its completion.

Congress also mandated that no employee lose pay due to the transition.

As of the date of his meeting with the

Pope's Puns



CARTOON BY RETIRED MASTER SGT. W.C. POPE

subcommittee, 71 percent of the employees who had transitioned from NSPS had actually received pay increases averaging almost \$1,400, Mr. James said. That's because their NSPS pay levels put them between steps on the GS pay scale, which qualified them for the higher step.

Eight percent of employees maintained the same pay level because their NSPS salary matched a step within their new GS grade, Mr. James said.

The other 21 percent of employees earned salaries under NSPS that exceeded the Step 10 pay level for their GS grade.

They, too, retained their full pay level as they converted to the GS system, Mr. James said. However, they will receive only one-half of any future pay raises until their pay reaches parity with the high end of their GS pay level.

The military services and Defense Department components have launched information and education campaigns to ensure their workers understand how

the NSPS transition will affect them, Mr. James said. In addition, the NSPS website is updated regularly to provide employees the most up-to-date reference materials and training modules on the GS system and performance management basics.

Mr. James noted the challenges associated with transferring employees between two fundamentally different classification and pay systems.

NSPS is based on pay bands that encompass a broad range of duties and responsibilities, and allows employees to advance within a single pay band based on performance.

In contrast, the GS system tightly defines duties and responsibilities in discrete pay grades based on a position's difficulty, responsibility and qualification requirements.

While overseeing the NSPS transition, Mr. James' office is also charged with forming a plan for an enterprise-wide

performance management system that provides hiring flexibilities and a work force incentive fund.

He assured the committee the Defense Department will make the process as open, transparent and inclusive as possible.

"We have a strong desire to build an effective relationship and fully participative process with labor organizations in developing these new authorities," he said.

The Defense Department, he said, is "committed to open, ongoing communication about NSPS transition, and development of the DOD-unique performance management and hiring authorities"

provided in the 2010 National Defense Appropriations Act. (Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service)

ESGR Expands Patriot Award to Include Spouses

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has expanded its Patriot Award program to include employers of service members' spouses.

Traditionally, the Patriot Award certificate, which is intended for an immediate supervisor, has recognized employers for implementing employment policies and

practices that are supportive of their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve. The change now allows service members' spouses to also nominate their employers for the award.

ESGR officials said the program was expanded because it is significant to have employers who show flexibility and support for military families, to allow military spouses to juggle and balance the responsibilities of being parents and employees, especially when their spouses are deployed.

Spouses and service members can go to www.esgr.org/pa to nominate their

employers and learn more about the Patriot Award. (ESGR news release)

Secretary Gates Addresses 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told troops worldwide May 28 that any repeal of the so-called "don't ask don't tell" law will be delayed until the ongoing Defense Department high-level review is completed and only after he,

the president and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff all can certify that the department is ready to make the change without hurting unit cohesion, military readiness, military effectiveness, and recruiting and retention.

Members of the House of Representatives passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Bill May 27 that would allow gay men and lesbians to serve openly. Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee passed a similar

amendment the same day.

President Barack Obama said he is pleased with the congressional actions. He has long favored repealing the law, which has been in effect since 1994.

"Key to successful repeal will be the ongoing Defense Department review, and, as such, I am grateful that the amendments ... will ensure that the Department of Defense can complete that comprehensive review that will allow our military and their families the

F-16 crew chief selected for aerial demonstration team

By Capt. Jessica Martin

A maintainer from the 926th Group at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., recently assumed a spot on the U.S. Air Force Aerial Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds.

Staff Sgt. Andru Donaldson, an F-16 crew chief, was "patched" during a ceremony March 12 in the Thunderbirds hangar.

"The amount of professionalism on this team is amazing," Sergeant Donaldson said. "I feel a huge sense of accomplishment becoming a part of this organization, and I look forward to contributing my part."

Sergeant Donaldson was stationed in Colorado when he made the decision to apply for the team. The three-month-long process was highly competitive, as he had to make the cut on both the Reserve and regular Air Force sides. After a review of his enlisted performance reports, resume, prior-service accomplishments, letters of recommendation, fitness scores and several other materials, Sergeant Donaldson was notified in December that he had made the team.

He relocated to Nellis AFB in February 2010 and began the 21-day orientation soon thereafter.

"Las Vegas seems nice, but I haven't had much of a chance to explore yet," Sergeant Donaldson said.

The rigorous indoctrination program keeps candidates busy with memorization work, waxing the patch on the hangar floor and brass twice a day, giving museum tours, and meeting three evaluation boards and answering 75 questions at each one about the team's history.

The culmination of this process is a patch ceremony. In March, Sergeant Donaldson stood in front of the team of more than 120 members where the squadron commander inspected him and once again assessed his dexterity and practical knowledge of the team's history. Sergeant Donaldson passed the test and joined the ranks of the Air Force's premier demonstration team.

"His work ethic is phenomenal; he is always asking what can be done next and how he can help," said Tech. Sergeant Joel Banks, Thunderbirds assistant section chief. "He strives for excellence in everything he performs."



Staff Sgt. Andru Donaldson inspects the wheel and tire assembly on one of the Thunderbirds' F-16s.

This year's show season runs through November with 73 air show demonstrations scheduled across the United States and Canada. During a typical show week, team members leave Nellis AFB on a Thursday, set up at the air show base on Friday, fly Saturday and Sunday, and return home on Monday. Sergeant Donaldson began accompanying the team on the road in May.

The sergeant is the second member of the 926th to join the Thunderbirds. Maj. Sean Gustafson made history when he became the first Reserve pilot ever selected for the team. He joined the squadron in November 2009 and currently occupies the No. 4 slot.

Sergeant Donaldson will serve a three-year tour on the team as a full-time Reservist.

"It's a really good experience," he said. "I enjoy the teamwork and camaraderie of the regular Air Force, Reserve and Guard working together." ★

(Captain Martin is chief of public affairs for the 926th at Nellis AFB.)

Pilot gets closer to realizing dream of becoming astronaut

By Senior Airman Danielle Wolf

At 12 years of age, Maj. Olivia Elliott knew she wanted to be an Air Force pilot. Within a few years, she had broadened her goals, planning to use a career as an Air Force pilot as a stepping stone that would eventually lead her to a job with NASA as an astronaut.

Earlier this year, Major Elliott, an A-10 pilot in the 303rd Fighter Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., moved one step closer to achieving her goal of hanging up her flight suit and putting on a space suit when she was selected to attend Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, Calif.

"When I found out I was accepted to Test Pilot School, I was shocked," Major Elliott said. "I was on my way out to fly, and Col. (James) Mackey, whom I was going to be flying with, got a message on his Blackberry that I was accepted."

Colonel Mackey served as 442nd Fighter Wing vice commander at the time. He has since moved on to the 10th Air Force staff at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

While attending TPS at Edwards, Major Elliott will receive academic training for a year, which will include the systematic gathering and interpretation of flight data, while flying the C-12 Huron, a twin-engine turboprop aircraft. She will also fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon and T-38 Talon.

After her training at Edwards is complete, Major Elliott will spend a year traveling to Air Force bases around the country, spending a week at a time flying more than 20 different types of aircraft. Not only will she be responsible for testing developmental aircraft, but also their munitions.

Major Elliott said she hopes to be stationed at Eglin AFB, Fla., where she can test new developments for the A-10, after her training is completed.

"I like the A-10 because it is a single-purpose aircraft," she said. "The A-10 is not a supersonic, pointy nose, fast aircraft, but it has what a (close-air support) aircraft needs."

The school only has two 24-student classes each year, and each class comprises 12 pilots and 12 engineers. All students are required to have scientific and engineering knowledge, critical and reasoned judgment, and excellent managerial skills, in addition to superior flying skills.

Major Elliott said she has found many mentors from around the squadron.



Maj. Olivia Elliott, an A-10 pilot with the 303rd Fighter Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., was selected to attend Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, Calif. She is hoping that the school will ultimately lead to her realizing her dream of becoming an astronaut.

"There's so much experience in this Reserve squadron," she said. "Instead of always flying with lieutenants and captains, I am flying with majors and colonels with thousands of flying hours. There are more viewpoints and experience, and it's a very tight-knit community here."

While someday, hopefully not too long after completing Test Pilot School, Major Elliott hopes to board a vehicle bound for space, she said she is thankful to have had the 442nd FW as a stepping stone to reach her goals. ★

(Airman Wolf is assigned to the 442nd FW public affairs office.)



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT — Firefighters Staff Sgt. Jeffery Griffen and Staff Sgt. Chad Carrier try to access the “unconscious” pilot, Lt. Col. Eric Roman, during an exercise at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The firefighters are with Air Force Reserve Command’s 419th Civil Engineer Squadron and exercise regularly. Colonel Roman is with the wing’s plans office.

opportunity to inform and shape the implementation process,” President Obama said in a written statement released by the White House May 27.

Any change in the law will take time, Secretary Gates said in his recorded message.

“The legislative process is long and complex,” he said. “While it appears likely that Congress will eventually change the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ law, we do not expect the legislation that would do this to be presented to the president for months — perhaps not until the end of the year.”

The amendment is the result of a compromise worked out between the administration and Congress. It allows the military to revoke the “don’t ask, don’t tell” provisions 60 days after a military study group chaired by Jeh C. Johnson, the Defense Department’s general counsel, and Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, presents its report in December.

The legislation is a deferred repeal, Secretary Gates stressed.

“It would repeal ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ but only after — I repeat, after — the ongoing Department of Defense high-level review is completed, and only after the president, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I all can certify that we are ready to make this change without

hurting unit cohesion, military readiness, military effectiveness, and recruiting and retention,” Secretary Gates said.

As the legislative process continues, nothing will change in current policies and practices, the secretary said.

“Current law, policies and regulations remain in place, and we are obligated to abide by them as before,” he said.

The vote in the House and at the Senate committee makes the results of the Defense Department study even more important, Secretary Gates said. The panel will conduct a thorough and fact-based assessment of the impact of the potential law change and will develop “an implementation plan that minimizes any possible disruption to the department’s mission and ongoing operations,” he said.

The secretary asked all service members to stay informed on this issue but to not let it distract them from the “critical mission to defend our country and our duty to uphold the values represented by the uniform you wear.” (*Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service*)

AFRC Introduces Maintenance Enlisted Training Program

Air Force Reserve Command has a new program for enlisted mem-

bers designed to help maintenance group commanders find people for those hard-to-fill aircraft mechanic air reserve technician positions.

The training program is similar to one AFRC has had for maintenance officers for a number of years. Individuals can be hired into WG-3/5/8 developmental-type positions and progress to the target grade of WG-10. Advancement to the next higher grade is primarily through formal training and on-the-job training.

To be hired into a WG-3 position, applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, meet all requirements for entry into the applicable Air Force specialty code and sign a memorandum of understanding that the position is dependent on graduation from the applicable Air Force 3-level technical school.

Requirement to advance or be hired into a WG-5 position is successful completion of the applicable Air Force 3-level technical school. Prior-service members who have not attended the applicable 3-level awarding school should be hired at the WG-3 grade. Participants are eligible to be promoted to WG-8 six months after completion of the applicable career development course and certification of all core tasks in the Career Field Education & Training Plan.

To be hired at the WG-8 level, applicants must meet applicable civil service hiring

standards. Participants are eligible to be promoted to WG-10 (journeyman level) after certification of all duty position tasks in the CFETP. It is up to a commander’s discretion, with input from the supervisor/trainer, as to when a trainee is promoted to the next higher grade.

Supervisors simply attach the WG-3/5/8/10 core personnel documents to the Request for Personnel Action to indicate developmental candidates will be considered if WG-10 qualified candidates are not available.

AFRC logistics officials plan on adding other aircraft maintenance jobs to this program in the future. For information, contact Maj. Dan Moore, chief of the Force Management Branch in the Directorate of Logistics at Headquarters AFRC, at DSN 497-1612 or via e-mail at daniel.moore.3@ us.af.mil. (*Capt. James Grove, HQ AFRC Directorate of Logistics*)

Command Looking to Hire 1,600 IMAs by September

With 400 new funded billets and recent attrition rates in fiscal year 2010, the Air Force Reserve individual mobilization augmentee program is looking to hire 1,600 people by September.

“We’re hiring and that is terrific news on several fronts,” said Col. Nancy Zbyszinski, commander of the Readiness Management Group at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, which oversees the Air Force’s 8,700 IMAs and 1,500 participating individual ready Reservists.

“The IMA program offers a unique opportunity to serve in Reserve status for those who are not located near a traditional Guard or Reserve unit, for anyone who cannot commit to one weekend every month, or for anyone who wants to participate in new Air Force missions.”

The hiring initiative gives members of the PIRR the chance to come back to the program and get paid for their annual duty.

Guard or Reserve members who need more flexibility in location, duty dates or types of missions will find what they’re looking for in the IMA program, Colonel Zbyszinski said.

Reserve members can refer potential IMAs using the AFRC Recruiting Service’s rewards program “Get 1 Now.” From iPods to flat-panel televisions, the prizes available to program participants make a statement about how important “Get 1 Now” is in assisting the recruiting service in meeting its goals.

Reservists can submit referrals any time at Get1Now.us. Awards are totaled between Oct. 1 and Sept. 30. For more information or a web password, call toll free 877-786-2372.

For more information on becoming an IMA, visit www.afreserve.com. (*Capt. Kimberly Champagne, HQ Readiness Management Group public affairs*) ★

It’s Your Money

The business of financial advice and investing

About six months ago, a young Reservist wrote to me and asked how my business worked and how he might get started as an investor. The subjects of my last two columns — staying out of debt and taking advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan, and understanding your investments before you buy them — partially answered his questions. This column wraps it all up.



A lot of people involved in the financial services industry tend to dance around the question, “What’s it cost?” I won’t! So here’s the deal: You can either invest on your own, or you can pay for help and advice. Either way is fine by me.

For those who like to do their own research and subsequently pick investments, I’d recommend, for the most part, that you use a discount brokerage. A discount brokerage service tends to focus more on the transaction and typically charges a fee for executing a trade. This typically means a robust online service that provides both information and investment screening tools along with a platform to buy and sell investments. It’s not uncommon for these services to have brick and mortar offices in large cities.

If you’d rather sit down with someone like me, a financial adviser — because, quite frankly, sometimes it’s nice to have some help — we get paid in one of two ways: fees or commissions. Fees can be hourly and range between \$100 and \$200 or a percentage of assets and typically are recurring. For instance, you might pay .25 percent on a \$50,000 portfolio each quarter. Commissions, on the other hand, typically get charged only at the initial purchase. On mutual fund “A” shares, this averages about 5.5 percent of the amount invested.

Given that financial advisers get paid, what’s the value of using them? First and foremost, I’d say, is education. Investments and tax laws can be pretty complex, and a good financial adviser can be a huge help. Secondly, I’d say a good, honest — and most of them are — financial adviser provides continuity and, unfortunately, protection. An adviser can help you set and keep realistic goals as well as protect you from unsuitable investments and unscrupulous financial crooks!

You can check the record of financial advisers and learn more about investing on the web at www.FINRA.org. And always remember that if something sounds too good to be true, it’s not for you! ★

(*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.*)

AFR 2012

Command makes it easier for Reservists to volunteer, mobilize, deploy

Air Force Reserve officials are proposing comprehensive changes to how Reservists are managed and called to active duty based on lessons learned from nearly nine years of combat and surge operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Collectively called "AFR 2012," this series of projects establishes a single organization to access Air Force Reserve capability, streamlines the numbered air force management structure, and strengthens Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command expertise in a wide range of new and emerging Air Force missions.

"We are revising our management structures and practices to make it easier for our Reservists to volunteer, mobilize and deploy," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Air Force Reserve Command commander. "As our Air Force prepares for the future, streamlining how we bring highly capable and cost-effective Reservists on to active duty is vital to our nation's defense."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Air Force and Department of Defense have asked all reserve component organizations to take on an expanded operational role. In the last almost nine years, more than 32,000 Air Force Reservists, representing nearly every Air Force mission area, have volunteered or been mobilized for active duty to fill critical worldwide combat and support requirements.

"AFR 2012 is our vision to enhance the predictability and sustainability of our Reserve force," General Stenner said.

"We're going to remove bureaucratic redundancies and barriers to service."

As the first step to redesigning its processes, functions and structures, the Air Force Reserve did an internal review of its headquarters staffs at the Office of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.; HQ AFRC at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; and the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

The most significant organizational change proposed by the Air Force Reserve is a new "Force Generation Center," projected to be fully operational by 2012. This new organization will be the single manager of the readiness, predictability and availability of Air Force Reserve resources. This will include visibility over Reservists and Air Force Reserve organizations supporting operational missions as well as developing better predictability for individual Reservists, their families and their employers.

In addition, the Air Force Reserve will propose staff changes that enhance headquarters expertise in new and emerging missions, streamline the overall command management structure, improve oversight of Air Force Reserve forces, and enable leadership to assess and address the stress on Reservists serving at a greatly increased operational tempo.

"The Air Force Reserve is first and foremost a strategic reserve," General

Stenner said. "We have to have measures to protect the depth of our forces and ensure our nation has the ability to surge when we really need it."

With about 70,000 people actively participating, the Air Force Reserve is the smallest of the Air Force's three components. The regular Air Force comprises about 336,000 Airmen, while the Air National Guard has about 109,000 people.

Reservists save taxpayers money because they are called to active duty in a pay status only when the nation needs them. When they are no longer needed, Reservists return to their civilian lives and a non-pay status. Nearly 80 percent of the Air Force Reserve is maintained on a called-up-as-needed but ready-now status.

"We provide nearly 17 percent of the Air Force's capability for about 4 percent of the Air Force's budget," General Stenner said. "Our units and people make outstanding contributions to the national defense. Every day, we leverage a portion of the strategic reserve to support today's operations with a careful eye not to deplete the strategic reserve's surge capability until absolutely needed." ★

(This article was provided by the Directorate of Strategic Communication at the Office of Air Force Reserve in Washington, D.C.)

Force Generation Center at heart of new initiative

Air Force Reserve planners are designing an organization that will serve as the single path to request and receive, as well as oversee and deliver, Air Force Reserve forces and capability. Called the "Force Generation Center," the new unit is projected to begin initial operations in October and be up to full speed by the end of 2012, contingent upon Air Force approval.

"The Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command staff is currently working with the Air Staff, through the Air Force strategic basing process, to finalize the Force Generation Center location," said Col. Greg Vitalis, lead planner for this new effort. "The center is expected to increase the availability of Air Force Reserve capability through greater insight into all tiers of Air Force Reserve manpower, streamlined deployment processes, and faster response to Air Force and combatant command requirements," he said.

AFRC officials say this change is based on lessons learned from nearly a decade of combat deployments and responds to the increasing need for operational capability from the Air Force Reserve. Originally briefed at the 2009 fall Corona — the Air Force summit meeting of four-star generals — this initiative is expected to holistically manage the Air Force Reserve force. This includes tracking unit availability and tempo and timing of Reserve resources, as well as developing better predictability for individual Reservists, their families and their employers.

"This is an exciting opportunity to really take care of our people," said Brig. Gen. William Binger, commander of the new center. "Also, we're building a better partnership with the other Air Force major commands and the combatant commands. We're going to be the one-stop shop to fill war-time taskings."

By creating a single focal point, Air Force Reserve Command officials plan to simplify coordination as well as create stronger partnerships with the other Air Force major commands and the combatant commands.

"Preliminary plans for the Force Generation Center give it the responsibility and the authority to ensure that Reserve forces sourced to support the priorities of the air forces, combatant commands and other customers expeditiously get on status and into the fight," Colonel Vitalis said. "This includes capabilities ranging from individual Reservists to entire units."

"The Force Generation Center will be the central informational warehouse with visibility on the entire force, allowing Air Force Reserve leadership to better assess the capacity for the Air Force Reserve to perform the entire range of Air Force missions."

"We think this new center will make it simpler for both our Reservists and the combatant commanders on the front lines," General Binger said. "Now, everyone will know where to request Reserve help and how those Reservists will get to where they're needed."

As first and foremost a strategic reserve, the command supports ongoing operations with a careful eye on how the tempo affects its ability to surge. Air Force Reservists have served alongside their active-component partners for the total scope of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as operations providing humanitarian relief after such disasters as Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti. The Air Force Reserve helps ensure the nation has resources ready to respond to vital missions and emergency situations.

The new center is designed to streamline and standardize the activation of all categories of Reservists: air reserve technicians, active Guard and Reserve members, traditional Reservists, and individual mobilization augmentees.

For the organizations needing Air Force Reserve support, there will be no changes in current authorities and force assignments.

"The Force Generation Center will work within the current global force management process, improving access to Air Force Reserve forces and capabilities through standardized business rules and clear, direct lines of communication," Colonel Vitalis said.

These changes will also benefit Reservists seeking to fill operational requirements.

"Our goal is to develop the best partnerships within our Air Force and with our sister services," General Binger said. "We want to be more responsive to the combatant commanders' requirements. This should be a transparent transition to those in combat who need our people and make it a lot easier for all Reservists to serve." ★

(This article was provided by the Directorate of Strategic Communication at the Office of Air Force Reserve in Washington, D.C.)

Spill Busters

C-130 aircraft and crews from Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, spent more than a month in Mississippi supporting cleanup efforts related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Youngstown's 910th Airlift Wing sent two specially equipped transport planes and 60 Reservists to Stennis International Airport, Miss., May 1. They returned to Youngstown June 6.

While they were on the Gulf coast, the aircrews flew 92 sorties, spraying 30,000 acres with nearly 149,000 gallons of aerial spray dispersant.

Rear Adm. Mary Landry, federal on-scene coordinator for the BP oil spill response, signed a memo releasing the Air Force Reserve planes and people from the spray mission.

Civilian planes and people moved in to take the place of the C-130s and Reservists and assume responsibility for delivering oil dispersant in the Gulf waters. The changeover was necessary to comply with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of September 2005.

Under the law, the United States should "avoid competing commercially with the private sector" and should "rely on commercial sources to supply the goods and services needed by the department."

The Deepwater Horizon mission was the first time the Department of Defense used the oil dispersing capability of its large-area, fixed-wing aerial spray program in an actual spill of national significance.

"We're very proud to have supported this cleanup effort," said Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, 910th AW commander. "Our Airmen have been training for this type of response, and we are pleased to have been able to utilize their skills and capabilities to help make a difference."

To monitor the effectiveness of the spray operations, 910th AW Airmen worked closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard. NOAA has scientific personnel in Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technology teams. These teams are on-site, constantly monitoring the effectiveness of the applied oil dispersants.

For nearly two decades, the 910th AW has participated in oil-spill cleanup exercises with the Coast Guard in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. These exercises and a memorandum of understanding between the Coast Guard and the aerial spray unit helped provide seamless response coordination.

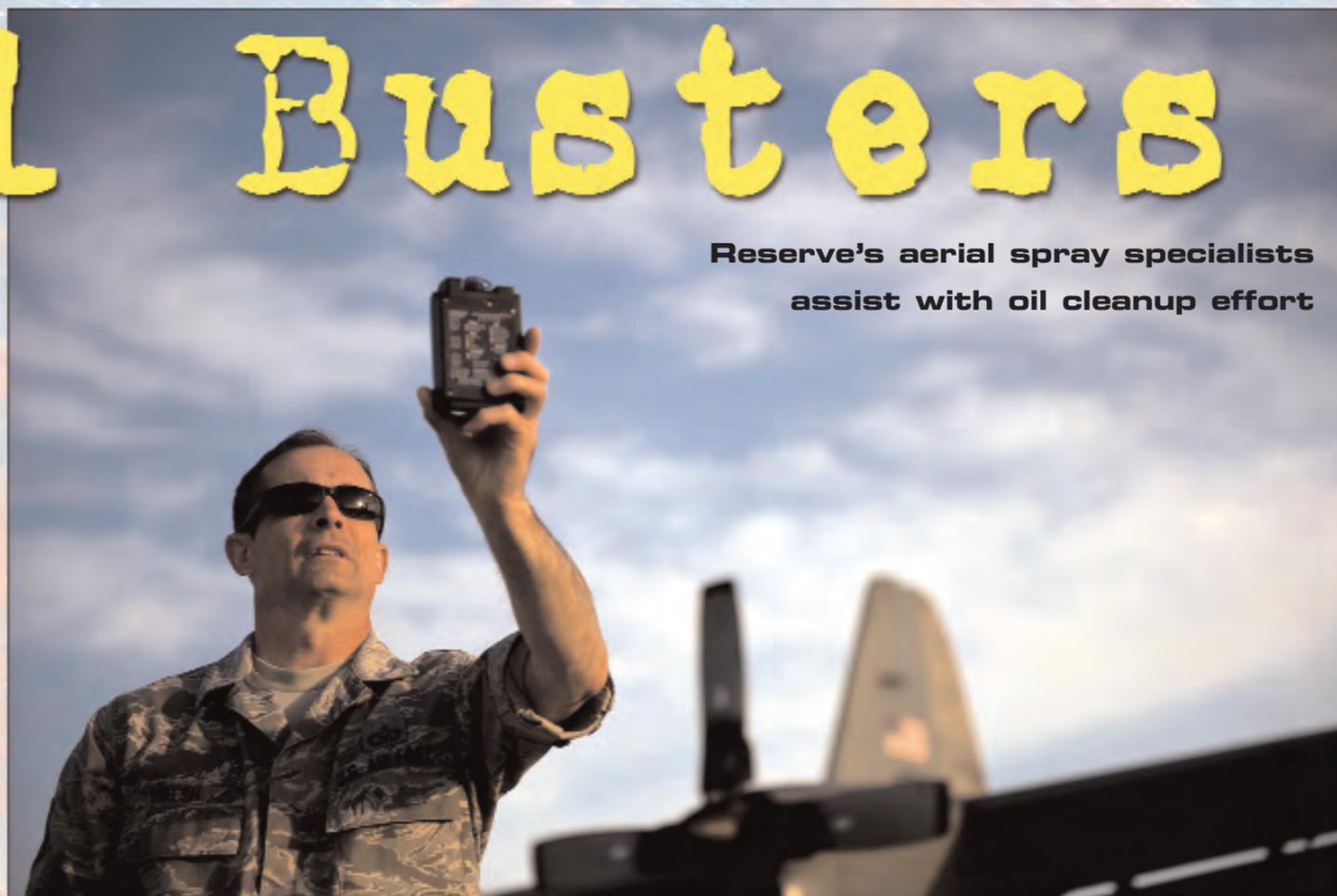
In addition to oil dispersion, the 910th AW's aerial spray capability is designed to control or eradicate insect populations to prevent the spread of disease and provide large-scale vegetation control on DOD installations.

Emergency response is nothing new for the 910th AW aerial spray operations. In 2005 and 2008, wing Airmen flew aerial mosquito and filth fly control missions after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. These efforts proved highly effective, and the positive effects of these applications were recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

During Deepwater Horizon operations, the 910th AW crews were under the tactical control of Air Forces Northern Commander Maj. Gen. Garry C. Dean, who serves as the joint forces air component commander for U.S. Northern Command. ★

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a 910th AW news release)

Reserve's aerial spray specialists assist with oil cleanup effort



Tech. Sgt. Phil Walsh of the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, checks the satellite signal on an aircraft tracking device at Stennis International Airport, Miss., May 10. Members of the wing were deployed to the state to assist with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



A 910th AW C-130 Hercules drops oil-dispersing chemicals into the Gulf of Mexico May 9. The wing specializes in aerial spraying and is the Department of Defense's only large-area, fixed-wing aerial spray unit.

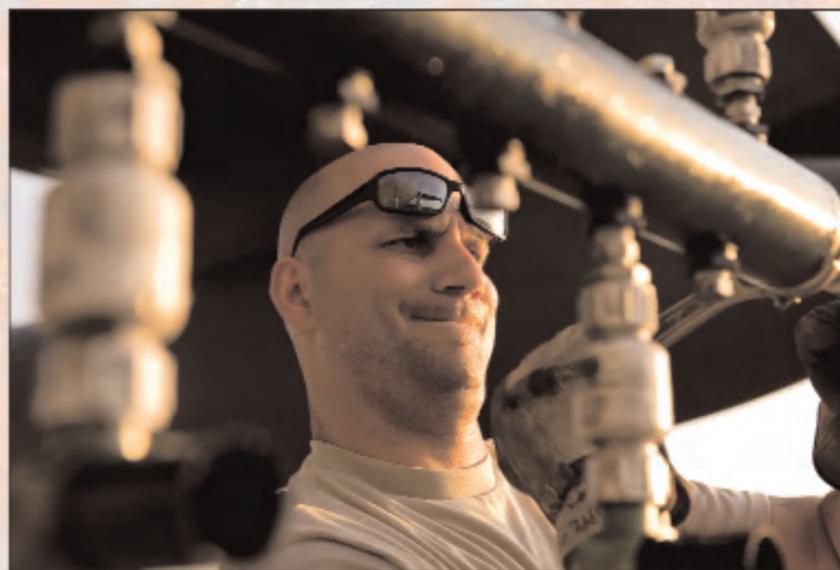
TECH. SGT. PRENTICE COOPER

TECH. SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ



Lt. Col. Jeff Shaffer, a C-130 navigator, listens to radio chatter as he flies a reconnaissance mission into the Gulf of Mexico to look for signs of oil. (Tech. Sgt. Adrian Cadiz)

TECH. SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rogers, an aerial spray maintainer, repairs a spray nozzle on a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

TECH. SGT. PRENTICE COOPER



Master Sgt. Paul Tatar, a C-130 Hercules aircraft aerial spray maintainer, refills an aircraft with oil-dispersing chemicals.

TECH. SGT. PRENTICE COOPER

Special operations veterans send Combat Talons to their ...

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.

Seven aircraft maintainers acted as “morticians” when they prepared four historic MC-130E Combat Talons for decommissioning and the flight to their final resting place. Airmen from the 919th Special Operations Wing at Duke Field, Fla., spent three weeks at Gowen Field, Idaho, to give the birds “last rites” and ensure they could fly one final mission. “It is sentimental for us to see them go,” said Chief Master Sgt. Ken Potter, flight chief for the crew. “It will be a sad day when they’re gone, but at least it was us who got to send them out.”

The chief’s seasoned and diverse crew of technicians had aircraft knowledge and experience to spare. All but one had more than 30 years in the military, and every one had at least 10 years working with C-130s.

Like the Talons, the maintainers are in the twilight of their Air Force careers. Some of them had maintained or had connections to these particular aircraft, so they wanted to see them through to the end — including being part of the last official flights.

Senior Master Sgt. Randy Usher has spent his entire 31-year career as a C-130 maintainer. Senior Master Sgt. Bill “Mac” McAnelly also has 31 years maintaining C-130s and served as crew chief for one of the

planes, tail No. 567, for six years during its time at Duke Field.

“I’ve sent three aircraft to the boneyard to get chopped up,” said Sergeant McAnelly, a 36-year veteran. “I just wanted to be involved with this one going to a museum. I’d get to take my grandkids and say that was my plane.”

The team was joined by a second crew of four Airmen from the 179th Airlift Wing, an Air National Guard unit from Mansfield, Ohio. The 179th Maintenance Group was chosen because of its evolving mission status and was considered a “first source” for C-130 maintenance assistance, according to the team.

The dichotomy of the youthful airlift wing and older

special operations wing crews, along with the aged aircraft, added extra context to this significant event, representing almost 50 years of the Air Force. The Talons — tail Nos. 785, 555, 572 and 567 — were assembled and put into service in the mid-1960s. Members of the 919th crew began their careers in the early ‘80s, while most of the 179th crew joined the Air Force in the new millennium.

To retire the “old birds,” the team had to ensure the Talons were still airworthy. Each aircraft had to undergo a thorough inspection, including full engine runs, tows, power-ups and refuels. As part of the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission report, the Talons transferred to the 124th Wing at Gowen Field in 2007 but as of 2010 were still considered 919th inventory. The Talons had only flown once in the three years they were located in Idaho.

“Considering how little they were used, they weren’t in bad shape,” Chief Potter said. “With the exception of a few birds’ nests and leaks, they were OK.”

The team put the four Talons through their paces, so when their time came the aircraft could return to the sky, for one final mission.

“These are dependable, hard-working aircraft,” the chief

said. “It’s a shame they can’t continue for another 20 years.”

Although dependable, a few of the Talons were known for their quirks and had developed a temperament, according to those who kept them up. When it came time for them to go, some fought it. No. 785, the first to go, was the oldest of the four. She saw action in Vietnam, and Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

“No. 785 did not want to go,” said Senior Master Sgt. Al Hudson, a 30-year veteran with 20 years experience on C-130s. “It was like she knew she was going first, and she wasn’t ready.”

The maintainers eased her pain (a fuel cell issue), and she took flight May 4 for the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. The next to go was No. 555, also called “Triple Nickel” or “Lady in Black.” All the maintainers had stories of her. No. 555 was part of history, flying the last successful surface-to-air recovery system training exercise in Liberia.

Although dependable whenever called upon, she was

An MC-130E Combat Talon awaits its final flight from Gowen Field, Idaho. 919th maintainers were sent to Boise, Idaho, to prepare four Talons to take off for one more mission — a flight into retirement and decommissioning. Three of the Talons flew to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. The other went to Hurlburt Field, Fla., to be placed in the Air Force Special Operations Command airpark.



also known to be temperamental. When her time came May 5, a hydraulic and fuel problem delayed her date with destiny, but, eventually, before the snow clouds rolled over the mountains north of the base, she also departed.

C-130s have been a part of the 919th SOW since 1971, and Combat Talons have been the wing's primary aircraft for 15 years. The maintainers said it wouldn't have been right for just anyone to send them off.

"We continued that heritage of the C-130 community when we inherited the Talons, after the gunships," Chief Potter said. "The aircraft and its maintainers — we're a dying breed."

May 7 arrived and Nos. 567 and 572 were to make their exit. While the other Talons' journey ended in Arizona, No. 567 headed back home to Florida, to Air Force Special Operations Command where it served for more than 30 years. Its final resting place will be the AFSOC air park, where it will be viewed and remembered forever. ★

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



Senior Master Sgt. Al Hudson inspects a hydraulic leak on MC-130E No. 555.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Fender, 179th Maintenance Group, pulls a bird's nest filled with eggs out of engine 4 of MC-130E No. 572 prior to its final flight.



Senior Master Sgt. Bill McAnelly watches as engine 3 fires up for the last time on MC-130E Combat Talon No. 567.

When his C-5 broke down in the Dominican Republic, a Reserve pilot got the chance to meet the young man he had been sponsoring for years

A Twist of Fate

By Master Sgt. Chance C. Babin

There's an old saying that all things happen for a reason. When his C-5 Galaxy broke down in the Dominican Republic during a recent mission, pilot Lt. Col. Shane Slaughter wasn't interested in hearing any reason for the problem. He just wanted to get it fixed and the giant cargo plane back in the air.

But what started out as a frustrating delay for the member of the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, turned into a priceless moment — one he never thought he would experience.

Since 1997, Colonel Slaughter and his wife, Kendra, have supported, through financial contributions, Children's International, a humanitarian organization focused on helping overcome poverty through child sponsorship. Fran, the first child they sponsored, was from the Dominican Republic.

After Fran, the Slaughters began sponsoring Jeisy, who is also from the Dominican Republic. Jeisy was 12 at the time

"You're contributing to his welfare, whether it's clothing, books or anything the family asks for," Colonel Slaughter said. "The great thing about this organization is it is responsive to the donors and the children. If you send something, you get photos in return of the children and what they got with the money."

For example, Jeisy needed a baseball glove and used money from the Slaughters to buy one. Children's International sent the Slaughters a photo of the youngster with his new glove.

Over the years, Colonel Slaughter said he and his wife have received photos, letters and drawings from Jeisy. In return, they have sent cards just to stay somewhat in touch. However, they never realistically expected to meet the boy.

"I've been in the Dominican Republic before, and I thought years ago it would be nice to see the child," Colonel Slaughter said. "But four hours just isn't enough time." Four hours is generally the amount of time he and his aircrew spent on the ground in country.

But when the colonel's C-5 broke during a mission in June, it became apparent that he would have several days on the island.

"This gave me the opportunity and time to contact the organization" to try and arrange a meeting with Jeisy.

The chance to meet the boy made up for the disappointment of missing his son's 15th birthday.

"When I called my wife to tell her we were going to be late, she was very disappointed," Colonel Slaughter said. "But when I said I might get to meet Jeisy, she was so excited. It's a great

opportunity to connect with someone we've been sponsoring."

The colonel called the Kansas City Children's International office and told them he was in the Dominican Republic and wanted to know if he could meet his child. The office gave him the phone number for a Children's International representative in the Dominican named Sophie.

He called Sophie at 9 p.m. To his surprise, she said she would go to the office to look up the information. But when she told him there were 30,000 kids with Children's International in the Dominican, Colonel Slaughter wasn't too confident she would find him.

To his astonishment, they not only found Jeisy, but Sophie called a social worker in Santiago to arrange for a meeting. They called the colonel back and told him the meeting was set up for 2 p.m. the next day.

The next day, he set out on his journey with a fellow pilot, Lt. Col. Dave Scott, who sponsors a child in Mexico.

"We rented a van, and they called me en route to tell me where to meet them and that they sent a translator with the father and son," he said. "His father took off work to be there with Jeisy."

Children's International provided transportation and the translator for Jeisy and his father.

Colonel Slaughter and his traveling partner parked their van in Santiago and took a taxi to the meeting place.

"We drove up, and there they were," he said. "I recognized him, but

he was older than the last photo. I got out of the cab and gave him a big hug and shook the dad's hand."

The colonel was able to speak some Spanish and share some information about his family back home. Jeisy told him he was in the 10th grade and had just gotten his driver's license.

"We went to a café to talk," Colonel Slaughter said. "They were very interested in what I do and excited about the C-5. I told them we were taking a helicopter somewhere. They couldn't believe we could fit a helicopter in the plane."

Although their meeting was brief, the colonel said it was a meeting he'll never forget. He said he was truly impressed with the organization he's been contributing to for so many years.

"This validated the credibility of Children's International," he said. "Now it's more tangible. They are truly there for the children." ★

(Sergeant Babin is a broadcast journalist assigned to the AFRC public affairs office at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.)



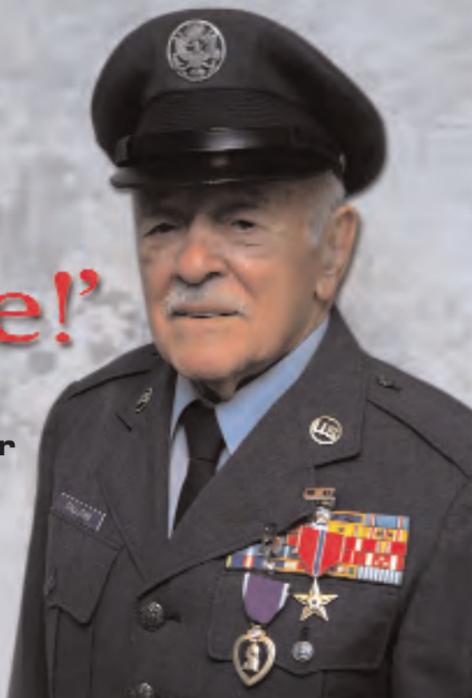
Lt. Col. Shane Slaughter poses with Jeisy (left), the young man he sponsors in the Dominican Republic, and Jeisy's father.

'I'm Going to Get Home!'

Retired Reservist receives honors, recalls years spent as prisoner of war

By Andre Bowser

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Francis Galligan was recently awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.



Memories from more than a half century ago were revisited with stark clarity May 10 during an award presentation for retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Francis Galligan at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

Chief Galligan was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medal for his service during World War II — marked by the further distinction of having survived the Bataan Death March and 3 1/2 years as a prisoner of war at a series of Japanese camps.

"It's been too long a time in coming," said Chief Galligan of the awards.

Standing before his family, many old friends, base leaders and distinguished visitors from the community, Chief Galligan said his breath was taken away.

"When I saw the auditorium all filled up, I was amazed," he said of the more than 150 people in attendance. "I was overwhelmed to get the medals today, and I was overwhelmed by the amount of people who showed up."

Chief Galligan worked at Westover for nearly 25 years before retiring from the 439th Operations Support Squadron in 1998. His story of sacrifice and service came to the attention of U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, which resulted in the award ceremony taking place.

On May 6, 1942, 21-year-old Francis Galligan was taken prisoner and led down a path of forced labor, mistreatment, malnutrition and perilous marches that would last until Sept. 12, 1945 — the day U.S. Army paratroopers liberated the last group of WW II prisoners, including Chief Galligan.

Over the years, veterans fought to be awarded medals, such as the Purple Heart Chief Galligan received, for atrocities and injuries they suffered during imprisonment by the Japanese.

During the award ceremony, Chief Galligan reflected on the struggles he faced with the precision of memory that only comes from never forgetting.

"I still have dreams -- nightmares -- about what we went through," he told the room of family, friends and military

members, including 439th Airlift Wing Vice Commander Col. Patrick Cloutier and distinguished guests from the community.

Among those guests was Representative Neal, whose office was instrumental in Chief Galligan receiving the award. Representative Neal said family and friends of Chief Galligan had fought a long and steady fight to ensure that he received the honor.

"My role here today is to call to attention his heroism," the congressman said as he and Chief Galligan stood before an array of service flags and the nation's flag. "There isn't any other place that I would rather be than here this morning."

The 89-year-old retired chief stood tall, dressed in the same Air Force uniform he retired in: the stripes on his arm reflective of the old design for the rank of chief master sergeant, with three on the bottom and two on top.

Among the military members standing with Chief Galligan were current chiefs; the only difference between the uniformed men was sewn on their sleeves as today's chief rank has three stripes on the top instead of two.

With the crowd providing thunderous applause, the humble and soft-spoken retired chief embraced the honor as Representative Neal pinned the Purple Heart and Bronze Star on his uniform.

For the moment, Chief Galligan said he felt transported back to 65 years earlier; he recalled the war, the prison camps and marches, and the friends he left behind. And he said his reason for surviving the more than 60-mile trudge with no food, water or adequate rest was simple: "I had a lot of people to get back home to."

The oldest of nine children, Chief Galligan said his life has always been about service to family and country — and that's what got him home.

"You just have to have fortitude; you just have to say: I'm gonna beat these guys — damnit! I'm going to get home!" ★

(Mr. Bowser is assigned to the 439 Airlift Wing public affairs office at Westover ARB.)

A Perfect Fit

Reservists playing key roles in evolving cyber mission

By Master Sgt. Theresa Shannon

In an example of Total Force Integration, Reservists are playing key roles in the Air Force's evolving cyber mission.

Two organizations that have reaped the benefits of Reservists seamlessly fitting in with their regular Air Force counterparts are the two integrated network operations and security centers — one at Langley Air Force Base, Va., and the other at Peterson AFB, Colo.

Maj. Michael Allen recently completed a tour as director of operations for the 561st Network Operations Squadron at Peterson. And Maj. William Monahan is currently serving as director of operations for the 83rd NOS at Langley. Majors Allen and Monahan, both communications flight commanders, were called upon to fill in for regular Air Force officers who deployed.

INOSC responsibilities include active directory management, mail relay, firewall management, web proxy services, gateway management and other operations associated with Air Force networks.

Major Allen, 310th Communications Flight commander at Peterson, and Major Monahan, 622nd CF commander at Langley, are just two of hundreds of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members contributing to the stand-up of 24th Air Force units and the cyber mission.

"When I arrived here in November 2007 during my first activation at the 561st, there were only 20 Airmen in the unit," Major Allen said. "Because of the low numbers, AFRC personnel provided up to 50 percent of the manning to ensure operations were able to be sustained. We solicited the AFR and ANG for additional support to ensure critical functions were maintained until the 561st was able to



Lt. Col. Mark Lipin, 83rd Network Operations Squadron commander, discusses operations with Air Force Reserve Maj. William Monahan.

build up to sustainable levels."

The 561st NOS has increased its manning level to 180 people and will eventually grow to 300, the major said.

The 624th Operations Center, located at Lackland AFB, Texas, is the hub for all Air Force network operations and provides cyber tasking orders to the two I-NOSCs. Within the 624th, 29 of the 108 people assigned are from the reserve components. Over the next year, the center is expected to reach a manning level of 203. Reservists and Guardsmen typically serve on 179-day orders to help fill the shortfalls until the unit becomes fully manned.

"This is the best foundation I've seen; there is plenty of work to go around," said Col. Kathleen Barrish, 24th AF reserve adviser. "We are working smartly to capture mission sets that are best for the Guard and Reserve to fill."

The experience Reservists and Guardsmen are receiving as a result of assisting where they are needed is strengthening the relationship between the regular Air Force and reserve forces.

"This activation is allowing me to see the mission from a new perspective, which will allow me to shape the 310th CF to be an even better partner in this

critical mission," Major Allen said.

"I believe the experience gained and relationships developed as a byproduct of this activation have already yielded substantial improvements in the customer support and service that the 622nd CF provides our active-duty brethren," Major Monahan said.

In addition, the civilian businesses that support these Reserve and Guard members reap benefits from the activations as well.

"When someone like Major Monahan puts on his Reserve hat, he brings with him his skill set from

the private sector to enhance his military activation, and it is reciprocated when he returns with new skills from his unit," said Daniel V. Mullen, assistant vice president, Business Management DOD Network Services Operation Enterprise and Mission Solutions, SAIC.

"As a defense contractor, we have many great Americans who activate as Reservists, and it is an honor to have them work for us. We ensure they have their (civilian) jobs to return to," Mr. Mullen said. "While it is a hardship while they are gone, we overcome, and it truly is a win-win situation for the Air Force and for SAIC."

"I've shared best practices from my civilian position and am planning to introduce a myriad of innovative process improvements I learned from my activation at SAIC," Major Monahan said.

Since its inception Aug. 18, 2009, 24th Air Force has been a model of TFI, Colonel Barrish said. With the rapid nature of development of the mission and units, the Reserve and Guard have been integral in the organization's stand-up. ★

(Sergeant Shannon is assigned to the 24th Air Force public affairs office at Lackland AFB.)

Force Structure

Plan calls for command to gain people, move aircraft



Under the new force structure realignment, one C-130 from the 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y., will be transferred to Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., to support a new C-130H2 formal training unit. (Staff Sgt. Joseph McKee)

Air Force Reserve Command will gain more people and move aircraft as part of a proposed force structure realignment announced by the Air Force May 11.

The fiscal 2011 realignment will affect approximately 1,300 positions with increases in security forces, civil engineering, and rapid engineer deployment, heavy operational repair squadron engineering manpower.

"Additional security forces, Prime BEEF (base engineer emergency force) and RED HORSE manpower are critical to supporting the combatant commanders as well as the Air Force Reservists, their families and their employers," said Brig. Gen. Robert E. Bailey, director of installations and mission support at Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

In addition to manpower changes, the announcement addressed the transfer of C-130H2 transport aircraft from Air Force Reserve units to Little Rock AFB, Ark. Ten Reserve and eight Air National Guard transport aircraft will support a C-130H2 formal training unit.

The following AFRC unit locations are part of the Air Force realignment. Numbers are subject to change in order to meet Air Force requirements:

• **Barksdale AFB, La.** — The 917th Wing will decrease by 20 air reserve technician and 20 drill positions because it is reducing its A-10 force by three aircraft this year. The wing will gain 28 ART positions and 70 drill positions to support the activation of a new B-52 flying squadron. Thirteen more drill positions will fulfill new security forces manpower requirements. Another six ART positions and 75 drill positions will bolster manpower requirements for the 307th RED HORSE Squadron.

• **Beale AFB, Calif.** — The 940th Security Forces Squadron will increase by 15 drill positions.

• **Buckley AFB, Colo.** — The 8th Space Warning Squadron will gain two full-time active Guard and Reserve positions to support a fixed back-up site at another location.

• **Charleston AFB, S.C.** — The 315th Civil Engineer Flight will gain four drill positions.

• **Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.** — The Air Force Reserve A-10 associate unit will increase by 102 ART positions and 313 drill positions in support of its Total Force Integration mission. The 943rd Rescue Group will gain two AGR positions and 54 drill positions to establish a new security forces squadron.

• **Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.** — The Reserve will add two AGR positions and 14 drill positions at Dobbins. The 94th

SFS will gain two drill positions, and the 628th CEF will increase by 12 drill positions. The 94th CEF will gain two AGR positions. The 94th Airlift Wing will transfer one C-130 to Little Rock to support the C-130 FTU.

• **Duke Field, Fla.** — The 919th Special Operations Wing will gain three ART positions and 10 drill positions as part of its ongoing mission change. The Airmen will support the wing's role in the Joint Special Operations Air Component Total Force Integration Initiative. The wing's 919th Civil Engineer Squadron will gain eight drill positions. The wing will lose two MC-130Es due to scheduled retirements.

• **Grisson ARB, Ind.** — Contractor-to-civilian conversions will result in an increase of eight civilian positions. The 434th CES will gain three AGR positions and eight drill positions.

• **Homestead ARB, Fla.** — The 482nd CES will gain one AGR position.

• **Joint Base Andrews, Md.** — The 459th Air Refueling Wing will gain 13 drill positions to support security forces manpower requirements and one AGR position to support civil engineering manpower requirements.

• **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.** — The 514th SFS will gain 13 drill positions to support manpower requirements.

• **Joint Base San Antonio, Texas** — The 433rd Training Squadron will gain four AGR positions, two ART positions

and 12 drill positions to support basic military training needs.

• **Keesler AFB, Miss.** — The 403th WG will gain 13 drill positions in support of security forces manpower requirements. The wing will add another seven ART positions and 50 drill positions to support maintenance and operations support functions. The wing will get two more C-130J aircraft to support the

active associate unit mission at Keesler.

• **Luke AFB, Ariz.** — The 944th Fighter Wing will increase by 13 drill positions in support of security forces manpower requirements.

• **March ARB, Calif.** — The 452nd Air Mobility Wing will gain two AGR positions and 24 drill positions in support of civil engineer manpower requirements.

• **Maxwell AFB, Ala.** — One C-130 from the 908th AW will move to Little Rock AFB to support the C-130 FTU.

• **McConnell AFB, Kan.** — The 931st Air Refueling Group

will decrease by 26 ART positions and 123 drill positions for maintenance support. The 931st SFS will gain one AGR position and 47 drill positions in support of security forces manpower requirements.

• **Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.** — Contractor-to-civilian conversions will result in an increase of 14 civilian positions.

The 934th AW will add 13 more security forces drill positions. Three new AGR positions and 51 drill positions will support new civil engineering manpower requirements.

• **Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas** — The 301st FW will gain three AGR and eight drill positions in explosive ordnance disposal to support major combat, contingency and homeland defense operations. The 301st SFS will gain 13 drill positions, and the

610th SFS will gain three drill positions. The 810th CEF will add 24 drill positions.

• **Niagara Falls IAP ARS, N.Y.** — The 914th SFS will gain 13 drill positions. The 914th AW will add 18 civilian positions because of contractor-to-civilian conversions. The 914th CES will gain three AGR positions and eight drill positions. One C-130

C-130 training unit coming to Little Rock

Air Force Reserve Command will provide manpower and aircraft to establish a C-130H2 formal training unit at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., starting this fall.

The Air Force Reserve organization will replace Air Education and Training Command's 62nd Airlift Squadron by early 2014. Plans call for the Reserve unit to operate with about 323 full-time air reserve technicians, who are dual-status civil servants and Reservists, and 383 traditional Reservists.

"This C-130 arrangement is a great example of how the Air Force Reserve leverages its strengths and capabilities to support Air Force and combatant command requirements," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., AFRC commander. "Within the Air Force Reserve, I've emphasized working together to meet Air Force operational and training mission requirements by aligning equipment, missions, infrastructure and manpower resources to enable more effective use of assets with our component partners.

"Guard and Reserve crews are well versed in a variety of C-130 mission sets and are certainly well-qualified for this training mission," General Stenner said. "We're poised and proud to join our resources with those of our active-duty and Guard partners to meet the needs of Air Education and Training Command and the Air Force."

Six Air Force Reserve flying wings will contribute aircraft to "build" the new unit, according to a May 11 force structure realignment announcement. Locations, units and the number of aircraft from each unit are as follows:

- **Pope AFB, N.C., 440th Airlift Wing** — four aircraft.
- **Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, 910th AW** — two aircraft.
- **Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., 94th AW** — one aircraft.
- **Maxwell AFB, Ala., 908th AW** — one aircraft.
- **Pittsburgh International Airport ARS, Pa, 911th AW** — one aircraft.
- **Niagara Falls IAP ARS, N.Y, 914th AW** — one aircraft.

Air National Guard units from around the United States will loan another eight C-130H2 aircraft to the unit. All of the aircraft are expected to be at Little Rock by the fall of 2011.

AFRC planners expect to have about 100 Reservists assigned to the Little Rock unit before the start of 2012. The Reserve unit will include an operations squadron, a maintenance squadron and an operations support organization.

Establishing the Reserve unit will allow the regular Air Force to redistribute 559 active-duty authorizations at Little Rock to other locations throughout the Air Force. ★

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

from the 914th AW will move to Little Rock AFB to support the C-130 FTU.

• **Patrick AFB, Fla.** — The 920th SFS will gain one AGR position and 35 drill positions.

• **Peterson AFB, Colo.** — The 302nd CES will gain one AGR position and three drill positions.

• **Pittsburgh IAP ARS, Pa.** — One C-130 from the 911th AW will move to Little Rock AFB to support the C-130 FTU.

• **Pope AFB, N.C.** — The 440th SFS will gain 15 drill positions, and the 440th Aeromedical Formal Training Unit will gain five ART and five drill positions to support its mission. Four C-130s from the 440th AW will move to Little Rock AFB to support the C-130 FTU.

• **Robins AFB, Ga.** — HQ AFRC will decrease by two civilian positions due to a transfer of work load and manpower to the Air Force cyber mission.

• **Scott AFB, Ill.** — The 932nd AW will gain two ART positions and six drill positions to support an aircraft maintenance initiative. It will add another 15 ART positions and 47 drill positions to support the pending increase of one C-40 aircraft in fiscal year 2012. The wing will gain one AGR position and 45 drill positions to support security forces requirements. The wing will lose three C-9C primary aircraft in FY11 as the aging C-9Cs retire as part of the wing's conversion to C-40s.

• **Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.** — The 916th SFS will gain 13 drill positions, and the 916th CEF will increase by one AGR and four drill positions. The 307th Fighter Squadron will gain 20 ART and 25 drill positions to support aircraft maintenance in alignment with the Total Force Integration initiative.

• **Tinker AFB, Okla.** — The 507th SFS will gain 13 drill positions.

• **Travis AFB, Calif.** — The 349th AMW will increase by 13 drill positions to support security forces requirements.

• **Westover ARB, Mass.** — The 439th AW's security forces will gain 13 drill positions. Two new AGR positions and 44 drill positions will support civil engineering manpower requirements.

• **Whiteman AFB, Mo.** — The 442nd FW will gain 25 drill and one AGR position to support security forces and civil engineer manpower requirements. The wing's 303rd FS will decrease by two ART and two drill authorizations because it is reducing its A-10 force by three aircraft this year.

• **Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio** — The 445th SFS will add 13 drill positions. The 445th AW will decrease by one ART and 45 drill positions as a result of retiring five C-5 primary aircraft and gaining four C-17 primary aircraft.

• **Youngstown ARS, Ohio** — The 910th SFS will gain 13 drill positions. Two C-130s from the 910th AW will move to Little Rock AFB to support the C-130 FTU. ★

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Employment Dispute?

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve stands ready and willing to help

By Maj. Andra Duskie

James Blakely works in a power plant that is operational 24 hours a day. He has little seniority, having only worked at the plant for six months. Mr. Blakely is also a staff sergeant in the Air Force Reserve and usually drills the second weekend of every month.

Sergeant Blakely's shift supervisor is aware of this and has adjusted his schedule at the plant accordingly. Next month, however, the sergeant will have an additional drill period to attend a class he needs to fulfill his Air Force specialty code requirements. He has just been informed of his placement in the class and tells his civilian supervisor 30 days ahead of time. However, when the new schedule comes out, Sergeant Blakely finds himself on the night shift at the plant during the weekend he is supposed to be attending military school.

Sergeant Blakely questions his supervisor about the schedule and reminds him of his additional military requirement. His supervisor explains that he is only required to support his military training schedule one weekend per month, not two. The supervisor further suggests that Sergeant Blakely can still do both, since his class is during the day, and he will be working the overnight shift that weekend. If not, his absence from work will count as grounds for termination.

Sergeant Blakely, having recently received a briefing from a representative of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve regarding his rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act, considers questioning the legality of his supervisor's decision. However, he decides to just figure out a way to make it work and will do his best to complete both jobs that weekend.

Sergeant Blakely is worried that if he contacts an ESGR representative for assistance, his issue may become a matter of public record and may be perceived negatively in the workplace and small community in which he lives.

Although fictitious, this scenario is typical of the issues members of the reserve components face on a regular basis. Members of the reserve who are having a dispute with their employer regarding military duty don't have to accept the status quo. Advice and help are available.

When seeking to resolve a conflict with a civilian employer, it is important to know all of the available options. ESGR, a Department of Defense agency, can assist in these situations.

ESGR ombudsman services can help resolve a situation in a timely manner and get the two-way communication functioning again, while at the same time protecting military members' privacy.

First, it's important for Reservists to understand that they have rights and responsibilities under the USERRA law. This federal law protects Reservists' civilian job under most circumstances while performing military duty, even if they volunteer for duty.

Trained ombudsmen serve at ESGR national headquarters in Arlington, Va., and in ESGR field offices in every state and territory. They are ready to provide information, counseling and, if required, mediation to clear up a misunderstanding between a Reservist and an employer. Services are free of charge, and USERRA case matters are kept confidential.

Federal law and ESGR policy ensure that services are provided with the utmost confidentiality. The Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996 provides confidentiality protection for ESGR's USERRA cases during and after mediation. Essentially, all communications involved in mediating a USERRA case may not be disclosed. ESGR members are not authorized to release USERRA case notes, communications or information.

ESGR policy specifies that an ombudsman or other neutrals assisting the parties shall not disclose information "voluntarily" or through discovery or compulsory process, or be required to disclose any dispute resolution communication or any communication provided in confidence to the neutral. Exceptions allowing disclosure can only occur under the following circumstances:

• If the dispute resolution communication was provided by a non-party participant and that participant also consents in writing.

• The dispute resolution communication has already been made public.

• The dispute resolution communication is required by statute to be made public, but a neutral should make such communication public only if no other person is reasonably available to disclose the communication.

• A court determines that such testimony or disclosure is necessary.

Privacy Act information is also applicable to all cases. Ombudsmen will maintain security by keeping files protected during a case and destroying and/or deleting information upon closure.

If a Reservist is having an employment dispute, ESGR stands ready to assist and will ensure the person's privacy is protected.

For more information, visit ESGR on the web at www.esgr.mil. Information on local ESGR field office representatives is available on the site, under contacts. In addition, help is available from the National Customer Center by calling toll free 1-800-336-4590. ★

(Major Duskie is the director of military outreach at the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's national headquarters in Arlington.)

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WORLD TRAVELERS

Students broaden their regional, cultural understanding

By Lt. Col. Damon Feltman

Eight Air Force Reserve members completed a two-week overseas study program this spring as part of their Senior Development Education.

The Reservists, all in-residence students at Air War College, traveled as part of the school's Regional Cultural Studies course. RCS is one of the many courses students take as part of the 10-month in-residence program. It provides students with the tools and education to examine complex international issues and also increases regional and cultural understanding.

The Reservists went to Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Western Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and Australia. Lt. Col. Brad Felling, an individual mobilization augmentee who went to Eastern Europe for his studies, said the overseas travel was more work than most would think.

"The course started in January and culminated with the two-week field trip in March," Colonel Felling said. "Each week we spent about four hours of class time where we studied our

regions in depth. Additionally, each of us helped plan part of the trip — organizing meetings, making travel arrangements and such.

"It actually took a lot of effort to put it all together. The entire RCS curriculum was a tremendous experience, and the trip really helped put the readings, lectures and guest speakers' comments in perspective."

The in-class studies were organized and led by Air War College faculty members, all with special knowledge of their region. Lessons covered regional history and present-day geopolitical issues. Students planned their field studies and arranged meetings with host-nation politicians, diplomats and military leaders, as well as members of U.S. country teams. The dignitaries often represented the highest levels of a host nation's government.

"We met with Indian and Australian senior political and military officers, industrial and financial leaders, and leading

authors on the major issues facing the Indian Ocean and Asian regions," said Lt. Col. Darren Buck, an IMA. "RCS is arguably the centerpiece of the AWC program. It really broadens your perspective and underscores the importance of America's international relationships.

"India is the world's largest democracy and an emerging global power. Australia has historically been America's most reliable ally and offers unique insights on Asia. Clearly, you can't overstate the importance of cultivating America's relations with these nations."

Students also had a chance to tour select museums and historical sites.

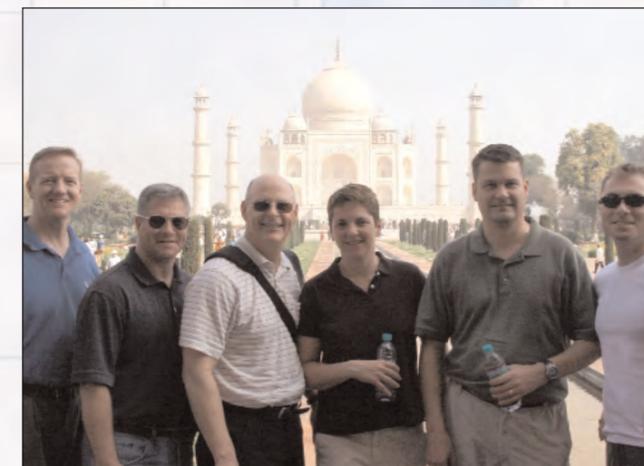
"The historical sites and museums were some of the best visits," said Lt. Col. Dean Spahr, an active Guard and Reserve member who went to Eastern Europe. "When you explore something like the Hungarian Terror Museum, which chronicles the nation's life under the Nazis and communists, it helps you understand how a country's strategic culture has evolved, especially since the end of the Cold War."

Chaplain (Col.) Gary Califf, who visited Eastern Africa, had similar sentiments.

"I was able to visit some of the genocide memorials in Rwanda," he said. "It's a significant experience when you realize how many of their people died in such a short period of time and how that event affects Rwandans today."

Reservists interested in attending SDE in-residence should check the Air Reserve Personnel Center development education website, <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/de/index.asp>, for information on the next selection board. Boards are typically held each fall. Selectees are notified shortly thereafter, with schools starting the following summer. ★

(Colonel Feltman is an in-resident student at Air War College and participated in the Regional Cultural Studies course.)



Lt. Col. Darren Buck (far right) and his Regional Cultural Studies classmates visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, India.

Board meets in July to select officers for school

Each July, the Air Force Reserve School Selection Board meets at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver to select Air Force Reserve officers to attend developmental education, officer professional development and joint courses.

The courses vary in duration, with classes starting in October and ending in April.

Reservists apply online through the Virtual Personnel Center-Guard Reserve website at: <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vpc-gr>. The ARPC developmental education website provides instructions at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-091013-115.pdf>.

Courses in basic developmental education are Air and Space Basic courses in October, January, February, March and April; and Squadron Officer School courses in November, January, February and April.

The July board does not consider applications for intermediate developmental education or senior developmental education courses.

Courses in officer professional development are:

- Reserve Officer Developmental Education in October and April.
- Junior Officer Leadership Development in March and April.
- Leadership Today and Tomorrow in February.
- Reserve Component Joint Officer Professional Development in February.

The joint courses are Reserve Component National Security in January and April, Advanced Joint Professional Military Education in October and November, January and March, and NATO Senior Officer Policy in February.

Some of the joint courses do not qualify for joint credit per the Joint Qualification System criteria.

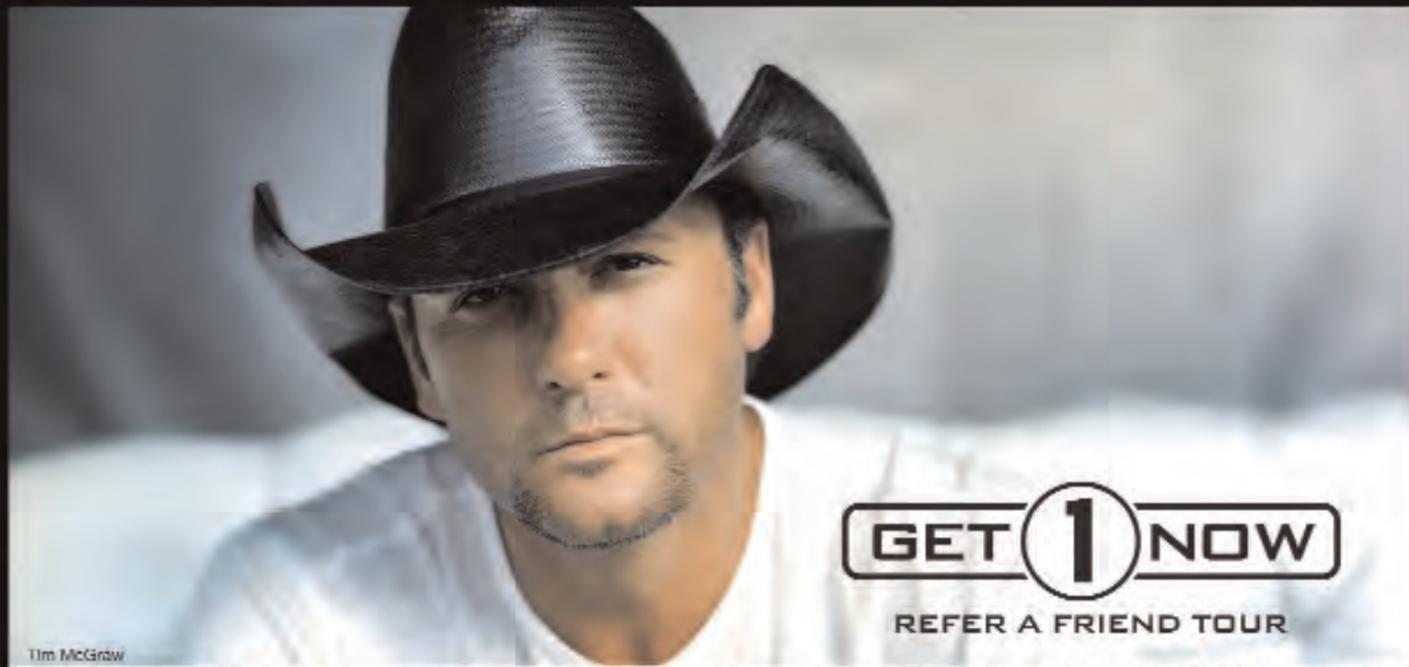
Chief master sergeants and senior master sergeants may apply for the Reserve Component National Security Course.

Reservists may apply for a maximum of three courses, one from each of the categories: developmental education, officer professional development and joint.

Instructions, criteria and deadlines for submissions are available on the ARPC website at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=14362>. ★

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service from an ARPC news release)





Tim McGraw



Rob Dyrdek

John Legend

Styx

Carlos Mendez

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