

Air Citizen AIRMAN

Vol. 62 No. 6
December 2010
www.afrc.af.mil
Official Magazine of the
Air Force Reserve



SEIZE THE DAY

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rich tradition
of training at
Fort Wolters

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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

Balancing Reserve Triad key to our success

While we celebrate the holiday season and reflect on 2010, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your service. Your ability to balance the "Reserve Triad" — the Air Force, family and civilian employer — allows us to remain a critical component of our national defense.

From humanitarian missions in Haiti and Pakistan to redeploying troops from Iraq while simultaneously supporting the Afghan surge, you stepped up to the challenges of worldwide operations. Closer to home, Citizen Airmen were responsible for mitigating the fallout from the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Your selfless service made it possible for our three-component Air Force to excel across the globe, regardless of where you served.

I appreciate the sacrifices made by your families and employers in support of your service. Dee and I wish all of you the happiest of holidays, and our thoughts and prayers are with you as we look to the challenges of the New Year. ★

You have taken AFRC to new heights in 2010

It is an honor to write to you in this last issue of *Citizen Airman* for 2010. It has been a great year for most of us, and this is a good time to reflect on our performance. By any measure, you have done great things for our nation, and I am proud to call each of you my teammate and wingman.

More than 6,000 Air Force Reservists are on active-duty status around the world on an average day — flying missions, securing our bases, filling joint expeditionary taskings, performing humanitarian missions and being true Citizen Airmen. But we also need to make sure we are taking care of each other.

The holidays can be a hard time for some Airmen. Being away from home, facing the stresses of life and working long hours can place a strain on all of us. Please take the time to check on your family members and wingmen, and let them know you care.

We must always remember that our main mission is readiness. You have to be ready to perform your career-field duties, concentrate on your contingency requirements and continue your physical preparation throughout the year. As we close out 2010, it is an opportunity to take some time to recharge your batteries to be ready to face the challenges of 2011.

Take some time with your family during the holidays and enjoy your successes. As a command, we have done well this year, but that success is totally based on your efforts. You work hard, and you have made Air Force Reserve Command better in 2010.

The difference between a professional and an average worker is rooted in one word — service. Because of what you do, you are true professionals. You give of yourselves every day to serve our great nation. Thank you for being true patriots. ★

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Master Sgt. Vince Burden, a loadmaster with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., logs on to his computer while collecting data on Hurricane Igor aboard a WC-130J Hercules aircraft flying over the Atlantic Ocean Sept. 17. The 53rd's mission is to monitor tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and central Pacific Ocean for the National Hurricane Center in Miami. (Staff Sgt. Michael B. Keller)

On the front cover: (Top) Hundreds of deploying Air Force Reservists sharpen their combat skills at Air Force Reserve Command's Security Forces Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas, every year. For the story, see Page 12. (Bottom left) Lt. Col. Joseph "Doc" Jones, 93rd Bomb Squadron commander, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., chats with retired Czechoslovak Brig. Gen. Zdenek Skarvada at the NATO Days in Ostrava Air Show. For more on the Reserve's involvement in this event, as well as an air show in Capetown, South Africa, see the stories beginning on Page 20. (Master Sgt. Greg Steele). (Bottom right) Tech. Sgt. Cody De Los Reyes, 67th Aerial Port Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah, measures the height of a pallet during the recent Port Dawg Challenge at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. For more on the competition, see the story on page 22. (Bryan Magana)

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Citizen Airman magazine (ISSN No. 0887-9680) is published bi-monthly by Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Office of Public Affairs for the commander of Air Force Reserve Command. Periodical postage paid at Warner Robins, Ga., and additional mailing offices. Copies are mailed, free of charge, to the homes of all Reservists. Content is normally news articles and features developed for release to commercial media as part of the Air Force Reserve's continuing public affairs program. Opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the Air Force Reserve. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Readers-per-copy ratio: 4-1.

Send inquiries and submissions to HQ AFRC/PAP, 255 Richard Ray Blvd. Suite 137, Robins AFB, GA 31098-1661. Or, fax them to DSN 497-0878 or commercial 478-327-0878. Our e-mail address is afrc.pap@us.af.mil.

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



Capt. Jamie Turner flies a routine training mission from Joint Base Charleston, S.C. Captain Turner was selected as one of 1,800 people to compete in the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii. She will swim 2.4 miles through ocean waves, bike 112 miles and run a 26.2-mile marathon through challenging lava-covered terrain. Captain Turner is a pilot with the 315th Airlift Wing. (James M. Bowman)



Pararescuemen and others from the Uruguayan armed forces trained on the Banana River near Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., with Air Force Reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing. The Uruguayans traveled to Florida Aug. 29 through Sept. 2 to improve their rescue skills over water. (Master Sgt. Rob Grande)



Multi-platinum rapper Ludacris performs at the Fort Meade Pavilion in Maryland in November. The show was part of Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service's Stateside Tour for the Troops series of concerts and special events. To see how you can win tickets and VIP exclusives to concerts and events by referring a friend to the Air Force Reserve through the Get One Now program, log on to www.Get1Now.us/Events or call 877-883-6223. (Bo Joyner)

Master Sgt. Wayne Ruedinger (left) and Tech Sgt. Merle Brooks look like they're about to get steamrolled by a C-17 Globemaster III, but they're actually preparing to tow the aircraft to a maintenance hangar at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Sergeant Brooks is a crew chief, and Sergeant Ruedinger is a guidance and control specialist with Air Force Reserve Command's 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor)



The son of an embassy worker shows Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jacqueline Garcia-Castellanos that he knows how to floss his teeth in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Colonel Garcia-Castellanos, a Reservist with the 482nd Aeromedical Dental Squadron, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., was in the DRC as part of Medflag 2010, a joint training exercise with the U.S. and Congo militaries focusing on humanitarian and civil assistance. (Army Sgt. James D. Sims)



An honor guard from Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y., presents the colors during a ceremony at Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, N.Y. (Staff Sgt. Joseph McKee)



Round the Reserve

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

Central Command Requires Fitness Testing

Airmen deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility can now count physical fitness testing as one of their wartime responsibilities.

Lt. Gen. Mike Hostage, the U.S. Air Forces Central Command commander, approved a policy authorizing fitness testing in the AOR for permanent party Airmen and those on one-year deploy-

ments. The policy went into effect Oct. 1. "It is paramount for our Airmen to maintain peak physical condition, not just at home, but also while deployed in the AOR," General Hostage said. "Therefore, to align with the chief of staff of the Air Force's vision, we are implementing a vigorous fitness program to include (physical training) testing in the AOR."

Airmen must have a current fitness score prior to deployment, according to the new fitness program Air Force Instruction 36-2905.

The new AFI also permits fitness assessments in the AOR at locations that meet the criteria. Viable locations must have an approved running and walking course, local medical support, trained physical training leaders, and a health screening process. Several deployed locations already meet these standards and are ready to begin fitness testing; however, a comprehensive list is not yet available.

People deployed for less than a year will have an opportunity to test at approved locations on a voluntary basis.

Thunderbirds pilot: Reserve opportunities 'truly unlimited'

By Lt. Col. David Kurlle

Major Sean Gustafson has a simple, yet important, message for his fellow Air Force Reservists: "If they can dream it, they can do it — the opportunities available to Reservists today are truly unlimited."

The major should know. He's currently in the middle of a four-year active Guard and Reserve tour and just fulfilled his own childhood dream as the No. 4 (slot) pilot for the U.S. Air Force's demonstration team, the Thunderbirds.

Major Gustafson was the first Air Force Reserve pilot chosen for the prestigious aerobatics team — flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon in front of millions of spectators.

"I think me being on the team demonstrates Reservists are really out there doing every job in the Air Force," the major said. "I think the lines between active duty and Reserve are fading because we're all working and deploying side by side. Reservists are everywhere. We truly are deployed globally."

In almost two years of traveling around the world with the Thunderbirds, Major Gustafson said he met Reservists in almost every Air Force specialty code.

"One of the best parts of traveling for the past two years is meeting other Reservists," he said. "They're excited when they find out there's a Reservist flying on the team."

Like a lot of Reservists, Major Gustafson began his Air Force career on



Maj. Sean Gustafson

active duty. After a decade, he embarked on a civilian career flying passenger jets for Delta Air Lines. He also continued serving in the military, joining the Air Force Reserve's 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.

Two years ago, Major Gustafson applied for and was chosen as a Thunderbird pilot after competing against pilots from the regular Air Force and Air National Guard.

He credits his experience as an F-16 instructor pilot with his success. With more than 2,000 hours in the Fighting Falcon, he was the team's "high-time" pilot and the only one who had exceeded the 2,000-hour mark.

"One thing about the Air Force Reserve that's an asset is our level of experience," he said. "The Reserve has an incredible amount of experience because Reservists have been performing the same missions so long, and there's more continuity in a Reserve unit because people tend to stay in the same unit their whole careers."

During his second season with the Thunderbirds, Major Gustafson flew in 73 performances. He ended his stint with the team after its last show in November and will finish his AGR tour at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Joining Major Gustafson on the Thunderbirds was another Reservist, Staff Sgt. Andru Donaldson, a crew chief who joined the team in 2010 from the 926th Group at Nellis AFB, Nev.

"The young Reservists of today should focus on their strengths, develop those and keep in mind we're being trained to do the same mission as our active-duty counterparts," Major Gustafson said. "The total Air Force is truly one team." ★

(Colonel Kurlle is chief of public affairs for the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo.)

However, permanent party Airmen and those on year-long deployments will be required to do so, per the new USAF-CENT fitness policy.

"Implementing fitness testing in the AOR is a policy we've been formulating for several months with the guidance of Air Staff," said Lt. Col. Susan Airola-Skully, the USAF-CENT manpower, personnel and services deputy director. "We want to ensure the needs of the deployed commanders are met by providing fit-to-fight Airmen. This policy helps ensure consistency of fitness levels and standards from in-garrison bases to combat-zone bases. Now the expectation for fit Airmen remains seamless from home station to deployed location."

The new policy enables deployed commanders to implement physical training programs, and it provides them the flexibility to evaluate Airmen's fitness levels. It also gives commanders the chance to offer deployed Airmen with unsatisfactory scores an opportunity to retest. Deployed commanders can also conduct unofficial practice assessments to give Airmen a chance to gauge their progress and compliance with Air Force fitness standards. (U.S. Air Forces Central Command public affairs)

New Motto Reflects Airmen's Pride in Service

Incorporating extensive inputs from all ranks and career fields in the development effort, Airmen have selected "Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win" as the service's motto.

An enduring statement of Airmen's pride in their service, the motto is a two-part expression — a call to action with a response of commitment.

"The call and the response are two sides of the same coin," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. "Airmen indicated 'Aim High' and the response 'Fly-Fight-Win' as indicative of their enduring commitment to do just that in defense of our nation."

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force, the director of Air Force public affairs, the Air Force director of force management policy and the commander of Air Force Recruiting Service provided the leadership oversight for the motto team research experts.

Pope's Puns



The motto team engaged in almost nine months of hands-on research that began with extensive face-to-face meetings with nearly 300 Total Force Airmen from all job specialties and representing every major command. Airmen described to the team what they thought it means to be an Airman and what is unique about the Air Force.

"The exhaustive research process showed that Airmen share a core set of identity concepts that serve as a basis for an Air Force motto," said Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air Education and Training Command commander.

An Air Force-wide survey to validate and quantify input from discussions indicated Airmen have a shared pride in their abilities to adapt to meet any threat, and they feel empowered to bring innovation and excellence to the mission of national defense.

After understanding the shared identity, the motto team began transforming

words and concepts into a unifying, enduring and credible motto, said Lt. Col. Clark Groves, lead scientist for the project.

"The research team held more meetings with nearly 250 Airmen on bases in each major command, discussing scores of identifying words and concepts tied to the core Airman identity," Colonel Groves said. "These discussions, information from Air Force historical archives, and input from Total Force Airmen, Air Force civilians, retired Airmen and the public provided the basis for identifying the ideal motto candidates."

That led to an Air Force-wide survey. Five potential mottos emerged and were presented at CORONA for final consideration.

Airmen can expect to gradually hear and see more of the motto as it is included in Air Force presentations, correspondence and products. It will also be introduced in the coming year into basic train-

ing, professional military education, and ROTC and U.S. Air Force Academy courses. (*Air Force News Service*)

Hurlburt Wing Adds Army Reserve, Guard Training to Mission

Air Force Reserve Command's 505th Command and Control Wing at Hurlburt Field, Fla., assumed Air Force capability training for the U.S. Army Reserve's 75th Battle Command Training Division Oct. 15.

The 75th BCTD provides pre-deployment training and exercise events for Army Reserve and National Guard unit staffs and command elements. Two Air Force Reserve elements that previously provided division training realigned to form the 505th CCW Detachment 1 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The new detachment provides the Army's Combined Arms Center with air and space power expertise and field experience across a broad spectrum of operations. The training includes present and future weapons systems, ordnance, tactics,

procedures, capabilities and limitations as they affect Army force structure, concepts, doctrine, training, modeling, simulation, acquisition and analysis programs.

In addition to assuming the 75th BCTD support mission, Det. 1 will train some of the Air Force elements' individual mobilization augmentees to support the Army's worldwide Battle Command Training Program.

The Air Force elements were attached to 75th BCTD, 1st Battle Command Training Brigade, Houston, Texas, and 4th BCTB, Birmingham, Ala. The IMAs

will still operate out of those locations.

"The IMAs will continue supporting the 75th BCTD training Army reserve component units preparing for combat," said Col. Robert Beckel, Det. 1 commander. "They also will have opportunities to broaden their knowledge, and a select few will go through a comprehensive training program that mirrors what Detachment 1's observers/trainers require to support the Army's BCTP."

Most of the certification requirements are accomplished through online courses managed by the wing's 505th Training Group at Hurlburt Field, but some of the training is via mobile training teams. All 20 IMAs attended the first MTT course Sept. 8-10 in Birmingham.

"We are excited about this new relationship," said Col. Carl Croft, former 1st BCTB Air Force elements director. "This is a win-win for the 75th BCTD and the 505th CCW. It will provide us the opportunity to get some quality training and give us a wide range of career-broadening opportunities."

The 505th CCW provides testing, tactics development and training for component numbered air forces, and joint and coalition forces engaged in all command and control aspects; testing and training of key C2 systems; and comprehensive, realistic live, virtual and constructive exercises. (*Bill Dowell, 505th CCW public affairs, Hurlburt Field.*)

Treasury Department Ending Sale of Paper Payroll Savings Bonds

The U.S. Department of the Treasury is ending the sale of paper U.S. savings bonds through employer-sponsored payroll plans by Jan. 1. The agency is encouraging employees who would like to continue saving through payroll to open a TreasuryDirect account at www.treasurydirect.gov to avoid a lapse in their savings plan.

Payroll participants can purchase electronic savings bonds and other Treasury securities such as bills, notes, bonds and Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities using TreasuryDirect, a secure web-based system provided by Treasury's Bureau of the Public Debt. The system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and opening an account is free.

Once an account is opened, employees can contact their payroll office to submit a direct deposit request or simply buy securities at their own convenience using a checking or savings account.

"TreasuryDirect is a safe and convenient way for payroll participants to continue saving," said Van Zeck, Bureau of Public Debt commissioner. "They can buy, manage and redeem their savings bonds all in one place without the fear of losing or misplacing their paper bonds."

The move to end the sale of paper payroll savings bonds is part of a larger "go green, save green" initiative. The Treasury's long-term objective is to increase the number of electronic transactions and save taxpayer dollars. The initiative is expected to save \$400 million in its first five years.

Paper savings bonds will still be available for purchase at most financial institutions. (*U.S. Department of Treasury news release*) ★

It's Your Money

Will it be you or them?

By Ralph Lunt

So what'll it be? You or them? Will it be you who takes charge of your retirement and financial planning, or will you leave this up to them?



Are you going to learn about and use the tools available to you; budget; save and invest accordingly, or will you leave this up to them? Are you going to take a hard look at what we know about the financial health of our system or, dare I say, let them handle it?

If I may, I'd recommend you take the stick. I bet if you put your mind to it, you can do a pretty darn good job!

You have lots of motivation and tools available to get this job done. First there's your responsibility to your loved ones who count Servicemember Group Life Insurance as a good and recommended start; but if you have your health now and obligations when your reserve duty ends, please take a look at insurance options in the private sector.

Then there's the power of being debt free from anything except your home mortgage. If you're not there yet, don't panic, but do throw all available resources at it.

Saving for retirement? I'd suggest a mix of Thrift Savings Plan and Roth accounts, or if you are employed in the private sector, make sure you take advantage of any 401(k) match available to you.

OK, so I'll get to my point. You see, I hear too many people promising and way too many people expecting some magic fix to their financial needs. I was told when I took my first flight lesson in 1981 that there is no free lunch, and my instructor was dead right.

Do you let the waiter order for you when you go to a restaurant? Probably not. And I bet that's because he or she doesn't know what you need or want. They may have made promises; do you expect them or you to deliver? I so want you to have a financial future that works, one that you construct and one that doesn't require them to take care of you. It will be less stressful, I promise! ★

(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.)

Fighter jet, top fuel dragster crews share common traits

By Laura Dermarderosian-Smith

The worlds of fighter jets and top fuel dragsters have more in common than speed and roaring engines. They both involve people who know that whether winning a war or winning a race, it takes teamwork and trust.

When Terry McMillen, driver of a top fuel dragster, and his crew made a stop Sept. 23 at the 301st Fighter Wing while in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for a National Hot Rod Association competition, they realized just how much their jobs paralleled each other.

"This visit really made me see the Air Force as a group of professional individuals working as a huge team," Mr. McMillen said. "I see lots of similarities between what we do as a race crew and what military maintenance teams do. But what gets done here is beyond anything I imagined."

Mr. McMillen and his crew had the rare opportunity to see first-hand what it takes to get a fighter jet in the air and to meet the people who make that happen. They spent the morning comparing technical information and job performance with members of the 301st Maintenance Group and 457th Fighter Squadron, observing preparations for a sortie and experiencing an operational check on an F-16 engine in the "hush house," a noise-suppressed testing facility.

The test cell was very impressive to many on the team, especially Austin Lambricht, Mr. McMillen's car chief.

"Getting invited to go into the control room (during the test) and then being shown how to run the throttle was an experience I will never get to do again," Mr. Lambricht said.

The racers were more than willing to reciprocate. They spent more than four hours assembling their dragster and positioning it on hydraulic jacks to fire it up.

"I was more awed with the amount of power the engine put out. ... and the sound definitely matched. It was definitely impressive," said Tech. Sgt. James Dickerman, a jet engine mechanic with the 301st Maintenance Squadron.

"I had a great appreciation for the military and the Air Force before I came here," Mr. McMillen said. "I just can't believe the incredible people who work for this wing."

"It can be so easily taken for granted what these men and women do every day. They take a lot of pride in what to some



Top fuel dragster driver Terry McMillen gives Lt. Col. Max Stitzer, 301st Maintenance Group commander, a look at the cockpit of his race car during a visit to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

might seem mundane tasks. I can assure you, the readiness of our military is in great hands."

Mr. Lambricht said people who have a love for both jets and racing can satisfy both of their passions in the Reserve.

"If I was able to, I would look into the Reserve because I see how similar we are to each other," he said. "For now, 300 mph is fast enough for me." ★

(*Ms. Dermarderosian-Smith is assigned to the 301st FW public affairs office at NAS JRB Forth Worth.*)

Carpe Diem ...

SEIZE THE DAY

Command honors rich history at Fort Wolters by training troops to make their lives extraordinary

By Gene Vandeventer

Tumbleweeds and thistle blow across the surface of the hallowed campgrounds at Fort Wolters, located about four miles outside Mineral Wells, Texas. If it weren't for the deserted Army barracks, staff buildings and the occasional glimpse of weathered signage, one might never realize the military importance of this desolate patch of rocky earth.

Fort Wolters, originally known as Camp Wolters, was named after Army Brig. Gen. Jacob F. Wolters, a native of Ulm, Texas. During World War II, Fort Wolters was the largest infantry training center in the United States, cycling more than 200,000 trainees through its gates before war's end. From a historical perspective, as a young teen-ager in 1942, Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier from the war, completed his basic infantry training at Camp Wolters.

In 1956, the installation became the home of the Army's primary helicopter school. Seventeen years later, after the helicopter schoolhouse had successfully graduated more than 40,000 student pilots, with most having served in Vietnam, the operation moved its flag to Fort Rucker, Ala.

Today, most of the fort has been turned over to private ownership, with some of the existing infrastructure used as an industrial park. However, approximately 4,000 acres remain dedicated to the training of military personnel and hosting training segments of the Texas Army National Guard.

The site is also home to the Air Force Reserve Command's Security Forces Regional Training Center, known as Patriot Defender, operated by the 610th Security Forces Squadron.

The concept of having a centralized ground combat training location for AFRC security forces is not new to the command. From the late 1980s to mid-1990s, the Air Force Reserve conducted its own security forces combat training at its Ground Combat Readiness Center at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas. Additionally, the Texas ARNG provided AFRC with similar training acreage at nearby Camp Swift, a "win-win" collaborative training initiative.

Retired Col. Francis "Mike" Mungavin served as the GCRC's first commander, successfully catapulting the command's security forces to unprecedented levels of wartime readiness. In the mid-90s, a combination of factors caused the GCRC's inactivation, with the organization

later being reactivated and relocated nearly 200 miles north at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, and re-designated the 610th SFS.

As the requirements for ground combat skills training increased in the aftermath of 9/11, the availability of secure training locations decreased. Air Force Reserve security forces combat skills training continued at multiple part-time sites throughout Texas, albeit in a nomadic fashion.

The training issue was resolved when the Reserve reached an agreement with the Army National Guard to establish a permanent training site, operated by the 610th SFS.

Today, hundreds of deploying Air Force Reserve security forces members receive pre-deployment/spin-up training or regulatory ground combat skills readiness training at Fort Wolters each year. A cadre of 48 Airmen conducts two courses: Patriot Defender, which runs 17 days, and the combat skills orientation course, which is eight days long.

Patriot Defender reinforces and enhances skills, concepts and principles of air base defense in a threat environment. The training is tailored to security forces members and other Total Force Airmen requiring mission-specific pre-deployment training as well as those AFRC SF members requiring the ground combat skills training for compliance with wartime readiness requirements.

Throughout the course, attendees participate in a wide array of combat tactics and operations designed to devel-

Hundreds of deploying Air Force Reservists sharpen their combat skills at Air Force Reserve Command's Security Forces Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas, every year.





Reservists going through ground combat skills readiness training at Fort Wolters today can look back to classes of soldiers from the 1940s who trained at the historic Texas post for inspiration on how to seize the day and make their lives extraordinary.

op core security forces skills. In addition, students are introduced to convoy training, foot and vehicle patrols, identification and reaction to improvised explosive devices, land navigation, combat casualty care, and urban operations using simulated munitions. Patriot Defender includes a segment that focuses on law and order for those deploying to perform the law enforcement missions at a deployed site.

“Our course activities can be very strenuous,” said Tech. Sgt. Shawn Phillips, 610th SFS instructor. “For example, to accomplish the land navigation course, instructors endure three days in the field. The Texas heat and cold affect both student and cadre endurance and dexterity skills in the performance of these requirements.”

The combat skills orientation course’s target audiences are non-security forces personnel, with a large portion of the student population representing the air operations community. This course reinforces a warrior ethos and strengthens Airmen motivation, confidence and proficiency in combat survivability to include individual and team tactics.

The curriculum covers multiple skills including fire and maneuver; surveillance, targeting, acquisition and night observation; land navigation; weapons firing operations; and a working knowledge of radio protocols in a tactical environment using non-tactical radios.

Collectively, an average of 1,500 to 1,700 students complete both courses at Fort Wolters each year.

“The most rewarding aspect of my job is being able to stand in front of our stu-

dents, teaching them the critical combat skills necessary before they deploy,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Caldwell, a cadre instructor. “Instruction is a two-way communication process. With every class, I learn something from our students as they share their combat experiences and techniques. Without a doubt, this is the best duty I have ever had.”

The training center is staffed with a dedicated team of security forces professionals with more than 90 percent having recent Southwest Asia tours of duty and many having served multiple deployments there.

“We bring combat realism and currency into our classroom and field exercises,” said Col. Maynard “Max” Mendoza, 610th Regional Support Group commander, NAS JRB Fort Worth. “Our instructors have walked the walk and now, with enthusiasm, candor, and professionalism, talk the talk as full-time instructors.”

Lt. Col. Michael Rothermel, 610th SFS commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Malone Smith, the organization’s senior enlisted manager, agree that the center’s success is due in large part to the cadre’s professionalism, expertise and enthusiastic teaching methods.

They both acknowledge that being a ground combat skills instructor means being hot, cold, wet, dusty and tired. ... the job’s not very glamorous, but it’s extremely rewarding, especially when they receive positive feedback from people deployed downrange.

“We look for highly motivated, experienced security forces personnel willing to work long hours in all conditions in

order to provide vital deployment training that enhances the survivability and mission success of troops going into harm’s way,” Chief Smith said.

Actor and comedian Robin Williams portrayed an English professor in the 1989 film “Dead Poets Society.” In an effort to instill in his students the idea that they can make a difference in the world, he brought them before their school’s trophy case and had them gaze upon class graduation photos from years past.

In a whispering tone, he said, “They’re not that different from you, are they? Same haircuts. Full of hormones, just like you. But if you listen real close, you can hear them whisper their legacy to you. Go on, lean in. Listen. You hear it? Carpe. Hear it? Carpe, carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary.”

Members of AFRC’s security forces classes today can look upon the graduating infantry class photos from the 1940s at Fort Wolters with a similar sentiment. Just as the young Soldiers were back then, the young Airmen are well prepared to go off to war to engage the nation’s adversaries, having just completed a world-class combat-readiness training course provided by some of the military’s best seasoned warriors.

So go ahead, Airmen, lean in and listen. Carpe. Hear it? Carpe, carpe diem. Seize the day and make your lives extraordinary. ★

(A regular contributor to Citizen Airman magazine, Mr. Vandeventer is assigned to the Expeditionary Combat Support Division of the Installation and Mission Support Directorate, Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.)



At 53, doctor decides it’s time to serve

By Staff Sgt. Ken Salgat

In June, Dr. Thomas Majcher (pronounced like “major”) was one of approximately 30 Air Force Reservists processing through the “newcomers” orientation at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. He was unassuming, polite and engaging — no one ever would have suspected he was a recruiting coupe for the 920th Rescue Wing who required congressional approval and the president’s signature.

Six months later, Dr. Majcher is now a lieutenant colonel, serving as a flight surgeon assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron. He specializes in anesthesiology, delivering anesthesia to patients in virtually all health-care settings. Preparation of patients for emergency surgery is a mandatory, essential and critical skill that anesthesiologists have been trained to employ in the field.

Because of his in-coming rank, his age — he’s 53 — and the fact that he had never served in the military before, Colonel Majcher needed congressional approval and the president’s signature before entering the Air Force Reserve. He received both, as his training and experience fulfilled a critical need for the Reserve and made him the perfect asset to help carry out the search-and-rescue mission of the 308th RQS.

Pararescuemen, also known as pararescue jumpers, are among the most highly trained emergency trauma specialists in the U.S. military, and they must earn and maintain an emergency medical technician paramedic qualification throughout their careers. But that’s not all. They are also qualified freefall parachutists, scuba divers, mountain climbers and ground-combat operators.

Their medical and rescue expertise, along with their deployment capabilities, allow PJs to perform life-saving missions anywhere in the world. Their motto, “That Others May Live,” is an affirmation to the commitment PJs make to saving lives and self-sacrifice.

Colonel Majcher was commissioned March 16, his wife, Linda’s, birthday. With a resume the size of a typical phone book and medical credentials that rival any physician in a “House” episode, the father of six had no apparent reason to join the Air Force Reserve. However, sometimes people make decisions based on a sense of duty rather than necessity.

It was this dedication to duty that inspired Colonel Majcher,



Lt. Col. Thomas Majcher takes his oath to join the Air Force Reserve from his daughter, Lauren.

who resides in Colorado, to take the leap into becoming a Reservist in Florida.

“I’m proud that I’m serving as the flight surgeon for the PJs,” Colonel Majcher said. “They are all heroes, and you have to respect what they do.”

The journey from civilian doctor to military service member began a few years ago when Colonel Majcher was invited to take part in a business community leadership tour organized by the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson AFB, Colo. The tour included a

training mission aboard a C-130 from Colorado to the 920th RQW. The experience exposed the doctor to the missions at both bases and marked the beginning of a journey that changed his life and will help save the lives of others.

“I got really excited about the mission here,” said Colonel Majcher, referring to the 920th RQW. “That’s why I decided to make the flight to Florida each month rather than serving closer to home.”

“He is an invaluable addition to the squadron, and he brings unmatched resources and experience to the position,” said Lt. Col. Kurt Matthews, 308th RQS commander. “His skills are impressive, and we’re lucky to have him on board.”

Master Sgt. Michael McClafferty, an Air Force Reserve medical personnel recruiter who brought Colonel Majcher into the Reserve family, said the critical need and the dire shortage of medical personnel, along with Colonel Majcher’s exceptional resume and experience, made the decision easier for the top brass.

“His is a very unique situation because he’s coming straight off the street (out of civilian life),” Sergeant McClafferty said. “All he wanted to do was serve, because at this stage he won’t get a retirement package through the Air Force Reserve.”

In a somewhat surprising twist, the Air Force Reserve actually has brought his family closer together, Colonel Majcher said.

“I’m really sensitive to what she (Linda) is going through,” he said, referring to his time away from home. “But since I joined the Reserve, we have actually spent more quality time together — more than we have in a long time.” ★

(Sergeant Salgat is assigned to the 920th RQW public affairs office at Patrick AFB.)

The Best Care in the Air

It just got better, thanks to a new formal training unit at Pope

Story by Senior Airman Peter R. Miller, Photos by Jerry Green



Students and instructors compare notes during training at the new aeromedical evacuation formal training unit at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. Left to right are Lt. Col. Adam Rodriguez, Senior Airman Ktrresse Rodriguez, Col. Martie Soper, Master Sgt. Charles Liles and Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Weir.

A new aeromedical evacuation formal training unit at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., welcomed its first class of students Oct. 25 as Air Force Reserve Command seeks to meet its training requirements in a more efficient manner.

Twenty aeromedical evacuation crewmembers from around the globe reported for the first day of classes to begin basic aircrew qualification training. The new training unit is formally known as Det. 1, 440th Operations Group.

The program is set up to provide 25 days of training, said Col. Mike Dankosky, aeromedical evacuation program manager at Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB, Ga.

"The Airmen then return to their various units of assignment for a short additional training program necessarily conducted at home station to finalize training, which converts them to 'mission qualification' status to meet worldwide deployment requirements," Colonel Dankosky said. "This has never been done before with this efficiency."

"Full mission qualification cycle times vary among the 32 AE units, but it usually takes between 90 and 180 days for a new AECM to obtain BAQ and be ready to deploy," said Maj. Chad Corliss. Major Corliss was the primary person responsible for developing the FTU concept and making it a reality.

The FTU standardizes training across the Air Force, leverages and synchronizes scarce resources, and generates a broad range of cost efficiencies, the major said. Overall, it's just a smarter way to qualify aeromedical evacuation crewmembers, he said.

"It just makes sense," Colonel Dankosky said. "This is not mass production: It's a logically structured, strategically resourced comprehensive aircrew progression qualification program that is completed in 25 days."

The FTU program removes the operational training burden from individual aeromedical evacuation units provided for under the current operational training construct. It centralizes funding, operational support and training assets in one location, Colonel Dankosky said.

"Operational flying squadrons encounter multiple, significant challenges when programming training for new aircrews," he said. "They must coordinate airlift support, crews, flying hours, training dollars and support personnel to include the instructors and evaluators."

"This has become increasingly difficult for the aeromedical mission arena because of ongoing proficiency training requirements, home station aircraft availability, sustained AEF deployments, overlapping inspection cycles and overall increasing rates of volunteerism among our people."

AFRC has 18 aeromedical evacuation squadrons with approximately 2,000 Reservists assigned to the AE mission. This comprises 60 percent of the overall Air Force AE mission capability.

"Since 2005, AFRC AEF deployments have been sustained strictly through volunteerism," Colonel Dankosky said.

Once aeromedical evacuation crewmembers have completed prerequisite technical and clinical schools, they will travel to

the FTU as a part of their pipeline education program to undergo operational aircrew training and learn everything about the C-130, C-17 and KC-135 aircraft, said Col. Martie Soper, the FTU commander.

"We teach our aircrew members everything about all three aircraft, including the electrical systems, oxygen systems, configuration, emergency equipment and emergency egress procedures," Major Corliss said.

The FTU uses simulators fabricated from the fuselages of decommissioned aircraft and equipped with the latest special effects technology to create realistic "in-flight" conditions, situations and emergencies.

"The simulators use high-velocity fans, smoke machines and fire generators that create the appearance of flames," Major Corliss said. "We have stereo systems that can vibrate the entire aircraft, simulating noise, vibration and other stresses of flight to produce a more realistic training environment."

Classes incorporate the Qwizdom® Interactive Learning System during lectures and tests. The system actively engages participants through wireless remotes and provides flight instructors and evaluators instant feedback on student learning trends, establishes training trends, and enables the instructors to establish baselines, increases and variances in training processes.

In addition, the program uses computerized life-sized advanced clinical skills training devices (mannequins) throughout the training process, Major Corliss said. The mannequins are "near-human" trainers that instructors can employ to develop critical thinking skills and train crisis response techniques.

The course begins with six days of clinical skills assessment and academics, followed by four days of aircraft configuration training. Before they graduate, students participate in five actual AE sorties to apply their newly acquired skills in an operational environment.

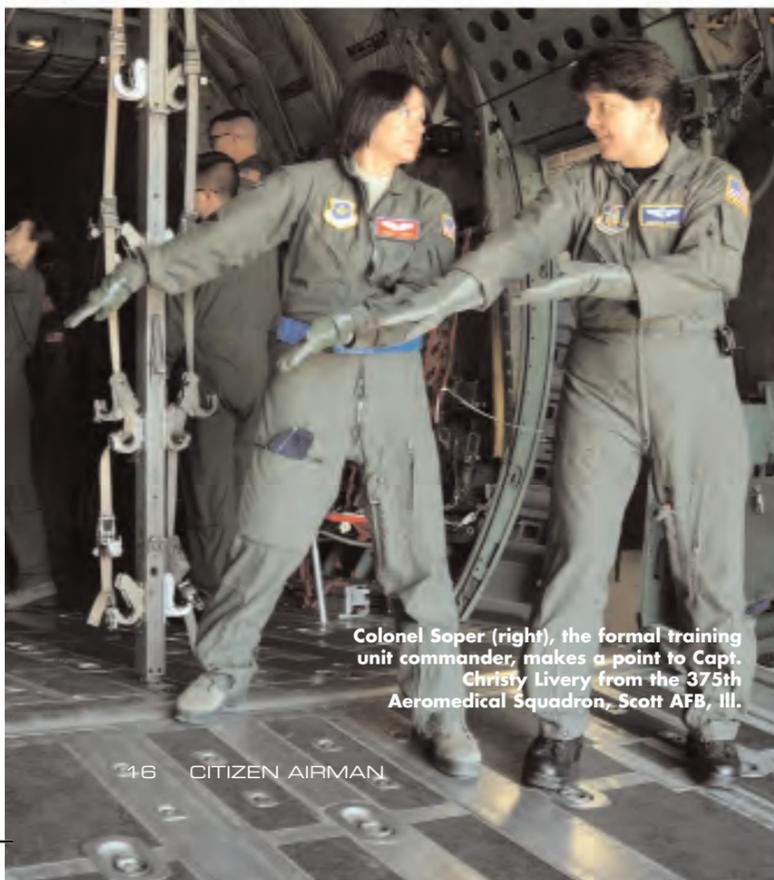
Students are trained to Air Force standards on the latest technological advancements in medical and aeromedical equipment as well as established standards of care to enable them to properly respond to current operational trends such as traumatic injuries resulting from improvised explosive devices.

"They are immersed in operational considerations throughout the program that are inherent in the AE mission to enhance the training experience," Colonel Soper said. "It doesn't get more realistic than this."

Many graduates of the FTU program can expect to be eligible for deployment within a month or two after graduation, Major Corliss said.

"I am very impressed with the efforts that have gone into the successful creation of this program," said Maj. Gen. Buddy Reed, director of air, space and information operations at HQ AFRC, during a recent visit to the FTU site. "It has taken a lot of people and a lot of work to bring this project to fruition." ★

(Airman Miller and Mr. Green are assigned to the 440th Airlift Wing public affairs office at Pope AFB.)



Colonel Soper (right), the formal training unit commander, makes a point to Capt. Christy Livery from the 375th Aeromedical Squadron, Scott AFB, Ill.



Maj. Chad Corliss demonstrates the capabilities of the new state-of-the-art patient care facility to Maj. Gen. Brian Meenan, mobilization assistant to the chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force.

A BRIGHT IDEA

New lighting on KC-135s improves aeromedical patient care

By Staff Sgt. Shawn C. Rhodes

Thirty-three thousand feet in the air is no place to be in the dark. Yet, for the last 50 years, that is exactly what KC-135 crews have had to contend with.

For the medics and doctors of the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., being able to see their patients aboard the aircraft is literally a matter of life and death. In an attempt to solve the problem, the 927th Air Refueling Wing installed a prototype lighting system on a KC-135.

THE PROBLEM

When The Boeing Co. designed and built the KC-135 in the 1950s, the company did not have aeromedical evacuation units in mind, said Col. Thom Pemberton, operations group commander for the 927th ARW. Colonel Pemberton oversees the wing's AE operations.

In addition, bright lights make planes like the KC-135 more vulnerable to enemy threats during takeoffs and landings. So, equipping the KC-135 with integrated lighting was not a priority.

At an altitude of 33,000 feet with a plane load of wounded service members to care for, the same darkness that helps save lives puts lives at risk. Until now, AES members have had to rely on portable headlamps to provide necessary light.

"When we take AE folks on board, they have to use headlamps to see their patients," Colonel Pemberton said. "The little bit of light provided by the aircraft distorts the colors, and seeing a patient's skin tone or the color of a bandage is very important."

No one knows that more than Airmen like Tech. Sgt. Gary Taiclet, a medical evacuation technician with the 45th AES. A native of Tampa, Fla., Sergeant Taiclet administers aid to wounded service members being evacuated from combat theaters of operations to medical facilities.

"Even if all you want to do is check a patient's dressing, you have to wear a headlamp. That's how dark it is," Sergeant Taiclet said. "The lack of good light is far from an ideal situation for us."

THE SOLUTION

The need for a lighting system that met AE mission requirements while not putting the crew and passengers at risk was clear. When Colonel Pemberton heard about a system being developed that could be easily installed on the KC-135, would last for years and would provide the light his AE crews would need, he was ready to give it a try.

"Our surgeons were having to perform surgery on patients, and they couldn't see," he said. "When I read about this new lighting system, I said, 'Make me your test case: I want it.'"

Kevin McDermott, vice president of business development for Patriot Taxiway industries, developed the lighting system.

"These lighting systems are made up of LED (light-emitting



STAFF SGT. SHAWN C. RHODES

Col. Thom Pemberton (left), operations group commander for the 927th Air Refueling Wing, stands beside Maj. Barry Van Sickle, a member of the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The two officers worked alongside enlisted men learning how to install a prototype lighting system aboard a KC-135 recently.

diode) lights that are virtually indestructible with a life of 80,000 hours. ... they will throw these planes away before they have to throw these lights away," Mr. McDermott said. The LEDs provide 40 times the amount of current light the crews work with and only require half the energy the standard lighting system does.

"The system is designed to be installed by the AE crews themselves. They are pretty simple to put together and come with a 'quickstart' guide."

The lighting systems use 12 LED units per aircraft. The lights are mounted on a rail that is installed on the ceiling of the plane and can be adjusted to provide light where it is needed most.

"You can turn all the lights on at once, or you can turn each individual light on and off," Sergeant Taiclet said. "This is great, because a patient in the rear of the aircraft would never know a light in the front was on. We can let patients sleep in darkness while we have light to work on the ones who need our care."

The prototype system was installed on an aircraft in October. Air Mobility Command has purchased 16 additional systems for installation on the wing's other aircraft. Each system costs \$24,800, which includes shipping.

"We wanted to get the price to where individual units could afford to buy it, and I think we've done that," Mr. McDermott said.

"This new lighting system will increase the quality of care our troops can receive exponentially," Colonel Pemberton said. "The quality of care for our troops has to be second to none." ★

(Sergeant Rhodes is assigned to the 927th ARW public affairs office at MacDill AFB.)

Need Assistance?

ROA's law center can help Reservists with legal issues

By David Small

Although the relationships between military reservists and their employers is governed by a number of laws, conflict within these relationships is common.

Helping members of the reserve resolve these conflicts is the job of Samuel F. Wright. As director of the Reserve Officers Association's Service Members Law Center, the retired Navy captain spends a large percentage of his time each day answering phone calls and responding to e-mails from people who need his assistance.

The ROA offers the law center as a free service to any member of the reserve components, regardless of their rank, military status or ROA membership status. Mr. Wright has served as the center's director since it opened in June 2009.

With the Department of Defense's heavy reliance on Reserve and Guard members to perform its mission on a daily basis, the ROA saw many challenges with laws affecting part-time warriors, Mr. Wright said. Employers needed educating, citizen warriors needed advocates and laws needed to be improved. In response to these challenges, the ROA decided to create the law center with the primary charge to help individual reservists in need of assistance.

Typical of the types of issues he deals with, Mr. Wright recently answered a call from an Air Force technical sergeant trying to determine if his situation regarding military service and his employer falls within the scope of the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act. After talking to the sergeant for about an hour, Mr. Wright determines that because the sergeant applied for re-employment more than a year after the end of his deployment, he did not meet one of the five requirements necessary to have the right to re-employment under USERRA.

"Sometimes I can reinforce good news for troops who call me with questions about USERRA, other times not," Mr. Wright said. "I'm a lawyer. My job is to interpret the law and provide sound information regarding individual circumstances and what to do next."

Mr. Wright has been educating audiences and litigating under the federal re-employment statute since 1982. When Congress enacted USERRA in 1994, the law was largely based on the original draft he developed while working for the Department of

Labor under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan.

USERRA updated the Veterans Re-employment Rights Act that dates back to 1940, which Mr. Wright dealt with as a judge advocate in the Navy and as an attorney for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"I look at the law center as kind of a second-step service for people who need a more in-depth legal review of their issue," he said. "ESGR is an outstanding organization, but sometimes even the people there consult me on issues of re-employment rights."

While the majority of its services focus on re-employment rights, the law center helps in other areas as well. For example, it retains expertise in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and military voting rights.

And Reservists are not the law center's only customers. In its first year of operations, the law center helped more than 2,300 people, 20 percent of whom were Airmen. Among that total were also employers seeking an education and lawyers representing individuals in various cases.

"I'd like to get the word out better to the enlisted corps that the law center exists and can help them," Mr. Wright said. "Looking at who has called me over the past year, it is mostly officers. I don't want the enlisted folks to think that because this is a service of the Reserve Officers Association that I can't help them. I can."

One of the law center's greatest resources is its extensive law review library. Mr. Wright said he has been contributing for years to more than 700 articles published and available for free in a topical and easily accessible online library. To access the library, visit www.roa.org/law_center.

The law center can also get involved in individual cases that have been brought into the courts system. For example, in July the center, through ROA, filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the petitioner in the case of Staub v. Proctor Hospital. This is the first re-employment rights case to make it to the Supreme Court since 1991 and the first case under USERRA. The oral argument for this case is scheduled to be conducted this month, and the decision will likely be issued during the first six months of 2011. ★

(Mr. Small is director of communication for the ROA)

Air Shows: Reservists Spread Goodwill Worldwide

Czech Republic has warm welcome for cold warrior

By Master Sgt. Greg Steele

The crowd looked toward the horizon, barely able to make out the black smoke from the engines of a B-52 bomber. As the glow from the aircraft landing lights came into view, excitement began to build.

Spectators lined the border fences, all watching intently, while dozens of local and international media focused their cameras on the gray metallic hulk as it made a low pass over the airfield. After making a wide, sweeping turn and lining up for its final approach, the legendary aircraft touched down at Leos Janacek Airport in Ostrava, Czech Republic, to loud cheers.

Twenty years ago, the presence of this same aircraft in this area of the world would have triggered a vastly different reaction. Fearing the aircraft was part of a U.S. nuclear attack, Soviet anti-aircraft units, alerted by early warning radar, would have sought to destroy the mighty Stratofortress before she could deliver her deadly payload.

However, on this day, Sept. 15, 2010, the lone B-52, crewed by members of the Air Force Reserve's 93rd Bomb Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., was not there to deliver destruction but rather goodwill and peace to new members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Led by Col. Keith Schultz, 917th Operations Group commander, and Lt. Col. Joseph "Doc" Jones, 93rd BS commander, the crew traveled to the Czech Republic to support the 10th annual NATO Days at the Ostrava Air Show.

"We have tried for three years to get the B-52 here," said Zybnek Pavlacik, chairman of the Jagello 2000 Association. "Its participation at a show in the Czech Republic is absolutely exceptional."

Jagello 2000 is a non-governmental organization that works to enhance NATO in Central Europe. It has been the main sponsor of the air show for the past 10 years.

"Although the B-52 regularly participates in air shows in the United Kingdom, it has only been in this region a few times, once to Berlin and twice to Moscow," Mr. Pavlacik said. "That makes NATO Days in Ostrava a member of a really exclusive club."

"I remember when Soviet MiGs were here on alert, right on this airfield," said one spectator. "I can't believe a B-52 bomber is here now."

The NATO Days in Ostrava Air Show is the largest air, army and security show of its kind in Central Europe. It includes demonstrations of NATO air and ground war-fighting capabilities and has steadily grown over the past 10 years.

"The importance of U.S. military aircraft and ground unit support for this exhibition cannot be overemphasized," Colonel Jones said. ★

(Sergeant Steele is assigned to the 917th WG public affairs office at Barksdale AFB.)

2ND LT. JOE SIMMS



Two women experience what it's like to sit in the pilot's seat of a C-17 during the Africa Aerospace and Defense air and trade show.

MASTER SGT. GREG STEELE



Above, Lt. Col. Joseph "Doc" Jones, 93rd Bomb Squadron commander, and Colonel Keith Schultz, 917th Operations Group commander, hand out patches to members of the Junior Modelers Club of Sazava during the 10th Annual NATO Days in Ostrava air show.



Airman 1st Class Tyler Berogan and Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Griffith hand out gifts to students attending the 2010 Africa Aerospace and Defense Expo.

MASTER SGT. GREG STEELE 2ND LT. JOE SIMMS



A 917th Wing B-52H Stratofortress made a historic flight to the Czech Republic in September in support of the 10th Annual NATO Days in Ostrava air show. The air show is the largest air, army and security show in Central Europe, and this marked the first time a B-52 bomber visited the Czech Republic.

Experts from Charleston help make Africa event a success

By 2nd Lt. Joe Simms

Six Reservists from the 317th Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., were in Cape Town, South Africa, Sept. 21-25, to participate in Africa's largest air show, the Africa Aerospace and Defense Exposition 2010 at Ysterplaat air force base.

Lt. Col. Mitch Richardson, a veteran of five air shows at Charleston, served as the air boss of AADE 2010, while Senior Master Sgt. Dean Carter was superintendent.

"My role is to take Air Force assets from the United States and Europe and introduce them into AADE 2010," Colonel Richardson said. "Sergeant Carter and I have worked closely with the South African air force ensuring there is a seamless transition from what we can provide and what we've been asked to bring to the show."

The planning process, which began months ago for Colonel Richardson and Sergeant Carter, brought some new challenges in coordination and logistics.

"The scale of AADE 2010 is more robust than what we have done in the past at Charleston," Colonel Richardson said. "Instead of all the assets coming to Charleston AFB, here we have to bring all the assets to them."

"Logistically, it's like putting on two air shows at once" Sergeant Carter said. "We've made sure everyone has a place to stay and the vehicles they need, and we've coordinated between here and Cape Town International Airport to move equipment and people safely between the two locations."

Sergeant Carter was also involved in the AADE Youth Development Program where students were invited to tour the aircraft and hear from experts in aviation and technology. The program is designed to introduce students to the positions available in South Africa's aviation and defense industries and opportunities for further education.

The Youth Development Program brought students out the first three days during the trade show portion of the event, while the general public was able to attend the air show the following two days. During the entire five-day event, aircraft from the United States, South Africa and Italy were displayed along with a C-17 from the multinational Heavy Airlift Wing from Papa Air Base, Hungary.

Majs. Jason Williams and Mike Stratton, and loadmasters Master Sgt. George Counts and Tech. Sgt. Eric Zilaitis maintained the static display along with the crew from Papa AB.

During the air and trade expo, these members of the 317th AS introduced the C-17 to thousands of visitors.

"We were happy to have so many members of foreign militaries and local civilians come through the static display. This has been a great experience," said Major Williams. ★

(Lieutenant Sims is assigned to the 315th AW public affairs office at Charleston AFB.)

Port Dawg Challenge

By Senior Airman Danielle Campbell

For three days in October, representatives from 22 Air Force Reserve Command aerial port squadrons put their skills to the test in 11 events during the inaugural AFRC Port Dawg Challenge at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The contest provided an opportunity for the aerial port units to generate esprit de corps. Event organizers focused on promoting professionalism, practicing mission capabilities and improving wartime results.

"We also came here to show off our community and to have a good time," said Col. Cathleen Bullard, Port Dawg Challenge commander.

"For the first time, we have representation from all the numbered air forces," said Master Sgt. Jason Cook, Port Dawg Challenge project officer.

For the challenge, organizers took elements from Air Mobility Command's Rodeo and tailored a challenged competition specifically for Reservists. On the final day, 11 awards for individual events were presented. The Top Dawg Award went to the 27th Aerial Port Squadron, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn. ★

(Airman Campbell is assigned to the 94th Airlift Wing public affairs office at Dobbins ARB.)



Tech. Sgt. Charles Drinkwater secures a net strap across a stack of tires during the pallet-building event at the Port Dawg Challenge at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. Sergeant Drinkwater is assigned to the 67th Aerial Port Squadron from Hill Air Force Base, Utah.



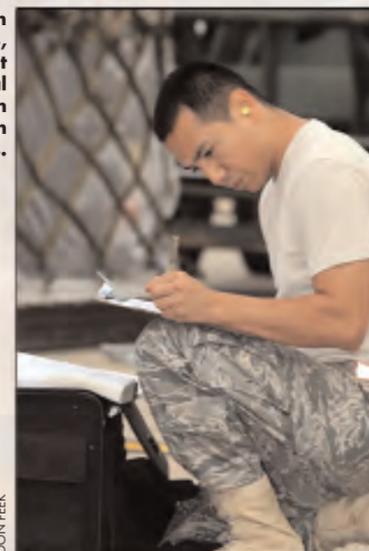
Tech. Sgt. Justin Adams (left) guides Senior Airman Sterling Broadhead through a driving course. In the timed event, Airman Broadhead had to maneuver a forklift through cones without spilling the contents of the pitcher. Sergeant Adams and Airman Broadhead are both assigned to the 67th APS.



Tech. Sgt. Morgan W. Abner with the 96th APS, Little Rock AFB, Ark., gives the thumbs up as his team completes the K-loader driving course.

DON PEEK

A member of the 48th APS, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, ensures that documentation essential to the joint inspection event is completed with little or no errors.



DON PEEK



When all was said and done, the Top Dawg Award went to the 27th Aerial Port Squadron, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.



Port dawgs from the 41st APS, Keesler AFB, Miss., demonstrate how to measure and secure cargo during the restraint competition.

SENIOR AIRMAN DANIELLE CAMPBELL

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