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CITIZEN AIRMAN

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Iconic World War II hero still inspiring today's youth
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE AIR FORCE RESERVE

From the Top

 @ARFCCommander

70 YEARS OF ANSWERING OUR NATION'S CALL

Did you know the Air Force Reserve celebrates its 70th anniversary April 14 – just six months after the Air Force celebrated its own 70th anniversary?

In 1948, President Harry Truman authorized the need for a “stand-by” service and created the Air Force Reserve component six months after the establishment of the Air Force. (*See the directive at right*). This landmark anniversary is the perfect time to reflect on the distinguished history and character of our Air Force Reserve.

Throughout our history, the Air Force Reserve has always been there to answer the nation's call. For 70 years, brave men and women have voluntarily left behind their families and jobs to serve their country with honor and courage.

The Reserve was barely 2 years old when it mobilized nearly 147,000 Reservists during the Korean War, and we haven't slowed down since.

We were essential during the Vietnam War, providing strategic airlift as well as close air support, counter-insurgency, tactical mobility, interdiction, rescue and recovery, intelligence, medical, maintenance, aerial port, and air superiority.

The Reserve also had vital roles in humanitarian and emergency aid missions in following years, such as the return of American students from Grenada in 1983, aerial-refueling during the El Dorado Canyon raid on Libyan-sponsored terrorists in 1986 and Operation Just Cause, which ousted Panama's General Noriega in 1990.

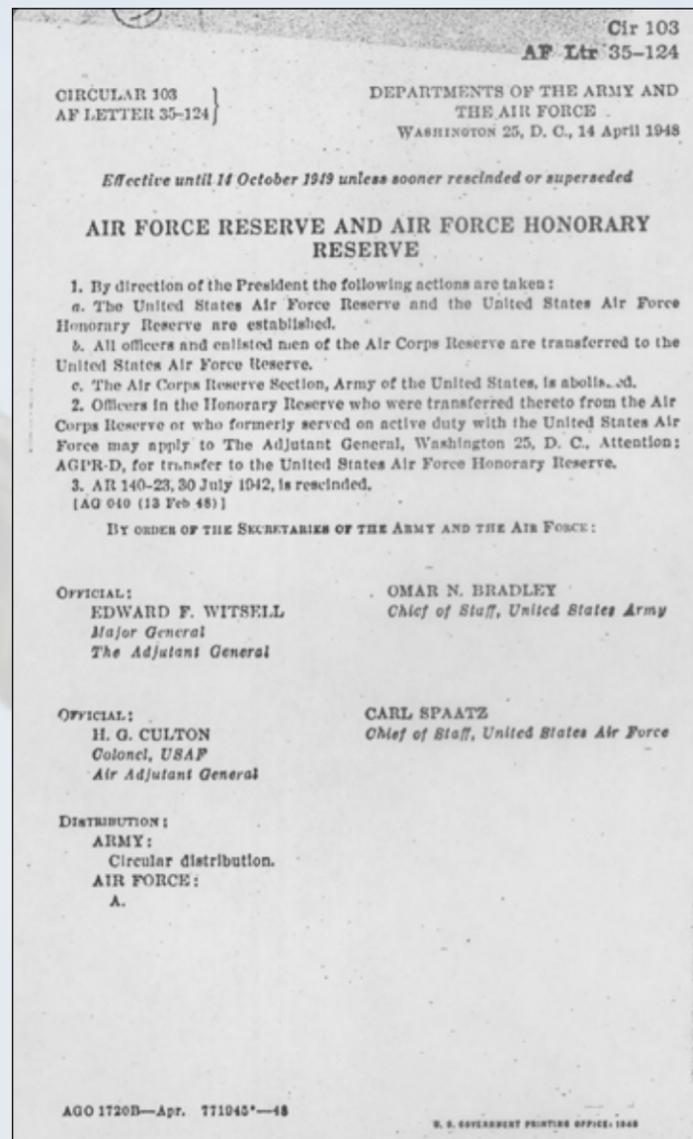
The Air Force Reserve was essential in almost every conflict, yet it was not until after Operation Desert Storm that Reserve contributions received increased congressional and public acknowledgement, marking the last two decades as a distinct turning point.

The Air Force Reserve is now increasingly relied on for steady state readiness – from flying airlift channel, firefighting, aerial spray and hurricane hunter missions, to providing highly skilled medical and aeromedical personnel. Our role as a strategic force held in “reserve” evolved into an operational Reserve force with the most advanced weapons systems and lethal Airmen.

The character of today's Air Force Reserve reflects proudly on those brave Airmen who came before us and enable us to stand today, indistinguishable from the active component in readiness and capability.

Through every operation and mission, we are always there to provide combat-ready forces to fly, fight and win.

I am exceedingly proud of our accomplishments and know the Air Force Reserve will continue to meet tomorrow's challenges while serving with the same courage, commitment and confidence that



defined us over the last 70 years. I congratulate both current and past Reserve Citizen Airmen, civilians and family members on seven decades of outstanding success.

To celebrate our 70 years of achievement, we have planned activities throughout the command to honor our anniversary and inspire both Airmen and the public with the Air Force Reserve story. Many of our wings are hosting local celebrations and I look forward to attending as many of these events as possible.

We also have our 70th Anniversary Heritage Ball planned for April 14 at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. This will be an amazing event with dinner, dancing and live entertainment. ... I hope to see you there!

MARYANNE MILLER
Lieutenant General
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

Chief's View

 @ARFC.CCC

70 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

As we enter the new year, Reserve Citizen Airmen across the country are gearing up for another unit training assembly – getting ready for two days of hard work at their squadrons after working 40 hours at their civilian jobs.

This routine has happened month after month and year after year for the past 70 years. And it will continue on into the future because of our amazing Reserve Citizen Airmen.

You help guarantee a perfect union, ensure domestic tranquility and provide for the common defense of this country. The framers of the Constitution, if they were alive today, would be honored and pleased their labor was not taken in vain. As your Air Force Reserve Command command chief, I want you to know that your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. Lt. Gen. Miller, Maj. Gen. Scobee and I are extremely proud of you.

Thank you for preserving our heritage. Since 1948, the Air Force Reserve has played a critical role in the successful defense of our nation. We will continue to do so in the years to come.

Reserve Citizen Airmen bring much-needed flexibility and civilian work knowledge to a multi-dimensional execution of defense capabilities. Although we are a strategic reserve, our agile and innovative Reserve Citizen Airmen provide daily operational capacity to the joint force.

We will remain combat-focused while embracing change and preserving the foundational principles that allow us to serve as Reserve Citizen Airmen.

Current threats around the world demand that we change and grow in certain areas – particularly space superiority, cyberspace superiority, and global integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. We are meeting these demands head-on by supplying military bases around the world with mission capable Reserve Citizen Airmen.

I have had the opportunity to visit many bases across the United States and throughout the world. During these visits Airmen have often asked me, “Chief Kelly, how do you manage to still work at the pace you do?” My response: “It is because of what you do and the sacrifices you and your families make defending this country that keep me determined to continue working at this pace.” Additionally, it is my way of showing Airmen that I am here for them.

Yes, it is a new year. But our Reserve Citizen Airmen, after more than seven decades of service, are still answering our nation's call and will continue to do so. Many of our wings are hosting local celebrations and Lt. Gen. Miller and I look forward to attending as many of these events as possible. We also have our 70th Anniversary Heritage Ball planned for April 14 at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, and I look forward to seeing you all in attendance.

Ericka Kelly
Chief Master Sergeant
Command Chief Master Sergeant
Air Force Reserve Command

CITIZEN AIRMAN

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Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 514th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 514th Air Mobility Wing, board a C-130H Hercules prior to an aeromedical evacuation training mission from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, to Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, in December. The C-130 is with the 757th Airlift Squadron, 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio. The 514th is an Air Force Reserve Command unit located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. (Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

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On the cover: We feature J. Howard Miller's iconic 1943 poster of a strong female war production worker created for the Westinghouse Company's War Production Coordinating Committee. Interestingly, the poster was not originally associated with the term "Rosie the Riveter" and was displayed only to Westinghouse employees in the Midwest during a two-week period in February 1943. It disappeared for nearly four decades and was rediscovered in the early 1980s and has since been used to represent the women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, many of whom produced munitions and war supplies. In December, Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, California, had the opportunity to play host to an original "Rosie the Riveter" on a C-17 Globemaster III flight. See the story on page 6.

ROSIE THE RIVETER

Iconic World War II hero still inspiring today's youth

By Staff Sgt. Heather Cozad

When Elinor Otto enters a room, her orange hair is often the first thing people notice. But her energy, joy and sense of humor quickly become the focus of people's attention.

Despite turning down an opportunity to be an actor as a young woman, according to John Perry, her grandson, Otto has now reached celebrity status. She has spent the last few years traveling, appearing on television, being honored with awards, planting Rosie the Riveter memorial rose gardens and sharing her inspiring message with young people. Everywhere she travels, people line up to shake her hand and ask for a photograph together.

A brisk and bright Monday morning in December found her in Southern California at March Air Reserve Base, where she finally received the opportunity to fly aboard one of the aircraft she helped build over the course of her 68-year career in the aeronautical industry. The day began with a ceremony to recognize Otto and was hosted by top leaders of the U.S. Air Force including Gen. Carlton Everhart II, Air Mobility Command commander, and Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Air Force Reserve Command commander, and ended with a flight aboard a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

While Otto was receiving a Lifetime Achievement Medal from the Air Force Association, it came to Everhart's attention that Otto, despite helping build each of the 279 C-17 Globemaster aircraft to roll out of the Boeing factory, had never had the opportunity to fly in one. Motivated by Otto's personal mission to share her story with young people with the hope of inspiring future generations of Rosies, the general came up with an idea.

A special mission was organized to honor Otto's contributions and create an inflight mobile classroom to promote education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to young men and women. This unique flying classroom was comprised of junior ROTC, ROTC and Civilian Air Patrol youth with the opportunity to witness aeromedical crews performing medical training as well as experience the inflight refueling process.

During the ceremony, Otto shared her passion for youth, particularly young women who are interested in futures as high-tech Rosies.

"I'm looking forward to what they are going to do, and I pray that they will beat the men," she said. "I know that they are ambitious, willing to try anything, and I am proud of them. If I can inspire one person in my life it is such an honor."

After the ceremony, people of all ages lined up to meet Otto, many with "Rosie the Riveter" posters ready for her to autograph. Otto greeted each person with a kind smile and posed for many photos.

Otto's legacy began in 1942 when she answered the wartime call of a poster to work in an aeronautical factory. It read, "Men are going off to war, come and do your part." Otto and thousands of other women entered the workforce and were hired into industrial positions formerly occupied by men.

"Us women were all excited. It was a great challenge. And I thought, 'Oh, that is wonderful. I can learn what men are doing,'" said Otto, who began her decades long career as a real-life Rosie the Riveter at Rohr Aviation in Chula Vista, California, making 65 cents per hour. "It was fun; hard work, but fun."

Otto said she and the other women who answered the nation's call didn't know they were doing anything important.

"We didn't. We just kept working," she said. "We had to get schedules out. There was no nonsense about silly things to make us feel important and everything. So, we didn't know. And when they laid us off, they still didn't say anything nice like, 'You did a great job.' So, we just went along doing our business until decades later, all of a sudden, they realized that we did do something. We are proud of that and honored that this generation does realize it."

(Cozad is assigned to the 452nd AMW public affairs office at March ARB.)



In December, Elinor Otto had the opportunity to fly aboard one of the aircraft she helped build over the course of her 68-year career in the aeronautical industry. Below, the original Rosie the Riveter receives a coin from Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Air Force Reserve Command commander.



BACK TO LIFE

Three-person team at boneyard revives 'dead' aircraft

By Jamal Sutter



A QF-16 flies across the horizon at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. At Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona, a team of three Air Force Reservists is responsible for testing regenerated F-16s for the QF-16 full-scale aerial target program. (Sara Vidoni)

As the home of thousands of retired military aircraft, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona is best known for having the largest aircraft boneyard in the world. However, a small team of Reserve Citizen Airmen is responsible for reviving some of the base's "dead" aircraft.

Lt. Col. Martin Meyer, Master Sgt. Jesus Castillo and Master Sgt. Supapon Martinez make up Operating Location-Alpha, a geographically separated unit of the 413th Flight Test Group, headquartered at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Though few in numbers, the three-person team plays a critical role within the Air Force's QF-16 full-scale aerial target program.

After the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group's maintainers make the F-16s flight ready once again, OL-A steps in to test the capabilities of the aircraft.

"Our job here," said Meyer, OL-A pilot and director of flight operations, "is to generate approximately 24 F-16s a year that will, eventually, be converted by a civilian contractor to an optionally manned package, which means they can fly with a pilot in it, just like they have for 30-plus years, or they can be flown remotely as a target."

Once converted, the QF-16s are sent to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, where the 82nd Aerial Target Squadron uses them for live missile testing. The program is necessary because a missile system cannot enter full-scale production until it undergoes lethality testing. Without remotely flown aircraft, proper testing would be difficult, making OL-A's mission a distinct one within the force.

"The 413th already has a unique mission in that it does depot-level flight tests," Meyer said. "But what we do here, just like the other units of the 413th, is something that's not replicated anywhere else. Here, we're taking F-16s that have been in long-term storage in the desert at the world-famous boneyard for up to 12 years without having flown. The challenges of regenerating these jets are much more different than taking a combat F-16 and sending it to a depot-level maintenance (unit) after the airplane has been flying a lot."

But those challenges are something the team has accomplished and will continue to handle, despite being such a small crew.

"We're very lean and self-sufficient," Meyer said. "That's really all we need, because we have all the base support we need here at the installation from Davis-Monthan and the 309th AMARG, and then we get all the (administrative control) support we need from the 413th back at Robins."

Castillo, the unit's operations resource manager, tracks Meyer's flying training, scheduling and pay, among other duties. Having an Air Force career spanning nearly 30 years, he said he's seen it all, but admits the dynamics with OL-A are unique.

"In a typical flying squadron, you can have up to 30, 40, 50 or even 100 crew members," Castillo said. "We are only three, so there are times when he has to hold down the fort for me, or we all hold down the fort for each other when somebody is not in the office."

During flights, Castillo monitors Meyer's location, maneuvers and accomplishments in the air, and stays in constant communication with him.

"I'm pretty much his right-hand man," Castillo said. "When he's in the air, I'm kind of like his eyes and ears down here on the ground."

Completing the team is Martinez, an aircrew flight equipment technician who performs maintenance, tests and repairs to flight helmets, oxygen masks, parachutes and other flight safety gear.

According to Meyer, the Air Force has been building optionally manned systems for approximately 60 years, starting with century-series fighter aircraft in the late 1950s and early '60s. But despite it not being a new concept, he wants to reinforce the fact that there is life after death for many airframes at Davis-Monthan.

"The boneyard is not just a place where airplanes come to die," Meyer said. "We do a lot of stuff here that involves utilizing these airplanes — everything from pulling parts off of airplanes (and getting them out to the warfighter) to generating airplanes."

(Sutter is a public affairs specialist assigned to the 413th FTG at Robins AFB.)



Lt. Col. Martin Meyer, 413th Flight Test Group, Operating Location-Alpha director of flight operations, poses for a photo at Davis-Monthan, in November. Meyer's unit test flies regenerated F-16s for the Air Force's QF-16 full-scale aerial target program. The program converts retired F-16s into aircraft that can be remotely flown and used to test missile systems. (Jamal D. Sutter) Below, retired F-16s sit at the Boneyard at Davis-Monthan.



YELLOW RIBBON

AIR FORCE RESOLVES TRAVEL FUNDING ISSUE

Air Force leaders have resolved a situation that temporarily limited how many guests the service could fund to accompany Reserve Citizen Airmen to Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program training weekends.

"I'm delighted we are going back to the way we've always done it," said Mary Hill, Yellow Ribbon program manager at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Yellow Ribbon promotes the well-being of Reservists and their loved ones by connecting them with resources before and after deployments through a series of weekend training sessions around the country. It began in 2008 following a congressional mandate for the Department of Defense to assist Reservists and National Guard members in maintaining resiliency as they transition between their military and civilian roles.

The joint travel regulations that govern military travel designate that a service will provide transportation and food allowance for a Reserve Citizen Airman and up to two guests — called "designated individuals" — to attend Yellow Ribbon training. The law governing Yellow Ribbon, though, encourages wide family member participation. In the past, Hill said, "designated individuals" was considered a separate category of traveler allowed by law — for example, close friends of an unmarried Reservist — and was limited to two.

In November 2016, Air Force travel pay professionals brought the discrepancy to the attention of the AFRC Yellow Ribbon office by rejecting reimbursement of expenses submitted for more than two guests. Air Force Reserve leaders directed Yellow Ribbon to comply with this interpretation of the JTR for events through fiscal year 2017 while they pursued a waiver to allow all Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System-eligible

children and one other guest to attend, as had been done in the past. DEERS is a computerized database of military sponsors, families and others worldwide who are entitled under the law to TRICARE benefits.

"We have always used DEERS to determine the children a member was able to bring to an event," Hill said. "If they are eligible for DEERS enrollment, they would be included as eligible to attend with their military member."

Jeffrey R. Mayo, deputy assistant secretary for Air Force manpower and reserve affairs at the Pentagon, authorized Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, AFRC commander, to approve more than two designated individuals to attend Yellow Ribbon events with pre- and post-deployers. He did so in his role as the Air Force's Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee principal.

Hill said she thinks Mayo's decision will increase the number of attendees at Yellow Ribbon events, which typically draw overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants.

"We didn't like it any more than they did and are glad we have a solution before our first event of the new fiscal year (2018)," Hill said. "We want everyone in the immediate family of a Reservist preparing to deploy or returning from a deployment to attend this training. Those family members are the primary purpose of Yellow Ribbon."

On any given day, nearly 6,000 Air Force Reservists are serving on active duty worldwide in support of combatant commanders and other agencies and major commands. Each year, the Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon program trains 7,000 Reservists and those closest to them in education benefits, health care, retirement information and more at the weekend training events.

AFRC continues to meet the needs of Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families through the Yellow Ribbon Program. Due to security concerns, the

Reserve doesn't share information online regarding the date and location of events. Deploying Reservists should contact their unit Yellow Ribbon representative for specific details.

(HQ AFRC public affairs, Robins AFB)

LEAP OF FAITH

STEPPING OUTSIDE OF COMFORT ZONE LEADS TO OPPORTUNITIES

BY LT. COL. DENISE KERR

The 2018 Enlisted Developmental Education Board will convene in May at the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. As part of the EDEB, Air Force Reserve Command will offer senior NCOs the opportunity to apply for the Air Force Enlisted Legislative Fellowship.

The fellowship offers senior NCOs instruction and hands-on experience on Capitol Hill through education and development activities consisting of an intensive orientation of Congress, a full-time assignment to the staff of a member of Congress in Washington D.C., and periodic seminars throughout the fellowship. In addition, it provides an opportunity to conduct research for potential legislative issues of an immediate or ongoing concern for the Air Force and the nation.

Those selected for the fellowship will develop an enhanced perspective of the congressional process on a wide range of issues and work under the auspices of the secretary of the Air Force legislative liaison throughout the Air Force legislative fellowship cycle.

For Reserve Citizen Airmen who are interested in applying for the fellowship, selection will require a 54-month commitment including six months of academic courses, one year on Capitol Hill and a 36-month post-fellowship active-duty service commitment (full-time active Guard and Reserve status), normally in the National Capital Region.

There will be preference given to senior master sergeants with 18 to 22 years of time-in-service. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree. Applications are due to AFRC by April. However, applicants are urged to check with their units for local deadlines.

Senior Master Sgt. Megan Parrott is the first Air Force Reserve Enlisted Legislative Fellow. She was previously assigned as a member of the active Guard and Reserve to the Directorate for Manpower and Personnel on the joint staff, where she served as the senior enlisted advisor to the director and superintendent of the Reserve Management Branch. Following are some questions and answers regarding her involvement in the program.

Q: What is your background?

A: I am from Long Branch, New Jersey, and the oldest of five siblings. My dad was a career civil servant who served in both the Army and Navy. He assured me the Air Force was the best option for me based on overall quality of life and opportunities for women.

I was an active-duty aircraft maintainer at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, for six years, spent a couple of years as an air reserve technician, was a full-time General Schedule federal employee, a traditional Reservist, an individual mobilization augmentee and, finally, an AGR. I have two daughters and a husband who is a senior master sergeant and an AGR.

Q: What made you apply for the fellowship?

A: It was my husband's idea. He is my biggest supporter, and he encouraged me to apply because he believed that my experiences

provided me a unique perspective. While working on the joint staff, I was fascinated by the relationship between the services and Congress. I was excited that the command was offering this opportunity to the enlisted corps and believed my unique experiences would serve them well. This specific opportunity was new to the Air Force Reserve Command. I was thrilled to learn about the new program and excited about the exposure and opportunities if selected.

Q: How did you put together your application package?

A: It is a standard package. I focused on the opportunities that I had throughout my career that set me apart and gave me a broad perspective. I submitted my last five evaluations and (latest) fitness report. Once I was notified of being selected as one of the top five, I had to interview with the Reserve Policy Integration Office.

Q: What do you expect from the program?

A: In a very basic sense, I want to learn how members of Congress approach challenges, how they prioritize requirements and how we as a service can best engage these leaders to share our story. By understanding how policy is devised, debated and enacted, coupled with the relationships developed across multiple enterprises, it will enable me to provide the best military advice to senior leaders.

I was assigned to Rand Corp. as part of my developmental rotation for six months. I am currently assigned to Arkansas Sen. John Boozman's personal staff for a year, while attending Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute's legislative certificate program. I am also automatically accepted into the master's program, but I will have to fund it.

Q: What advice would you give your peers who may be interested in applying for the fellowship?

A: I absolutely encourage folks to take a leap of faith. You should step outside your comfort zone and go for it. People need to look for opportunities within the command where they can grow and develop personally and professionally. We have an incredibly educated, experienced and agile enlisted corps with so much to offer the Air Force, Reserve Command and nation. It is always easy to stay where you are comfortable, but being uncomfortable can provide a multitude of opportunities.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: My ultimate goal is to serve as the AFRC command chief. Throughout my career, I have worked with and for amazing Airmen, and I hope to live up to the high standards they set for me. I want to continue their legacy of mentoring and deliberately developing Airmen to achieve professional and personal success. Whatever my path, I know I have been blessed. Serving in the armed forces is a privilege not many accept. And while I do not know what the future holds, I will continue to work hard and dream big.

(Kerr is assigned to the Reserve Policy Integration Directorate at the Pentagon.)



Senior Master Sgt. Megan Parrott is the first Air Force Reserve Enlisted Legislative Fellow. The fellowship offers senior NCOs instruction and hands-on experience on Capitol Hill. (Wayne Clark)

SENIOR MENTOR

Reservist serves key role in Veterans Treatment Court



Joseph Stickle thanked the arresting officer when he was picked up for heroin possession in his hometown of Tampa, Florida, last year.

“He saved my life,” said Stickle, a U.S. Navy veteran with a 35-year history of drug and alcohol abuse.

The arrest cost him his marriage and relationship with his kids but led him to Senior Master Sgt. James Salgado and the 13th Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court. Salgado and the court helped him keep his job of 19 years at the Department of Veterans Affairs, rebuild his life and avoid a felony conviction.

Salgado, an Air Force Reserve individual mobilization augmentee at U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, is one of the senior mentors and the operations director for the Tampa-area Veterans Treatment Court, both volunteer positions. He served as Stickle’s mentor while the vet went through the rehabilitation program.

A Veterans Treatment Court is a non-adversarial, problem-solving court dedicated to helping veterans who were honorably discharged or separated and, through commission of a misdemeanor or felony offense, became involved with the criminal justice system. VTCs are often affiliated with the local VA and bring together specially trained judges, caseworkers and volunteer mentors to rehabilitate veterans and reintegrate them with their communities.

Instead of receiving a jail sentence, veterans are placed in a recovery program. In many cases, if they graduate, they are free to go and leave the program with charges dropped. The 13th Circuit Court’s VTC was established in 2013, one of nearly 500 in the nation, and has served as a model for other courts nationwide.

“It’s an incredibly unique courtroom and process that brings all sorts of specialties to bear on veteran rehabilitation,” said Judge Michael J. Scionti, the 13th Judicial Circuit Court judge who presides over the VTC. He’s also an Army Reserve judge advocate.

According to the Justice For Vets website, a national nonprofit that works to promote the VTC model, veterans suffering from service-related mental health issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, often fall into patterns of substance abuse or criminal activity after leaving the support network they had in the service. Nearly half of veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI never seek treatment, and there are currently more than 180,000 incarcerated veterans.

Prior to gaining access to the rehabilitative services available through the VTC, veterans must appear before the judge, who does discovery and confirms they are eligible based on their service record and the type of crime committed. Once they are enrolled in the program, which ranges from six to 18 months depending on the crime, the veterans are connected with mentors, like Salgado, who keep them accountable and help them connect the dots on the numerous resources available through the VA and community organizations. The Tampa VTC even provides access to chaplains and therapy dogs.

“It’s a complete, end-to-end solution,” said Salgado, who related the story of one veteran who was able to successfully stand in front of the judge only after a local organization provided him with a therapy dog that helped him cope with his PTSD.

Scionti said the VTC model keeps veterans from serving jail time for issues that stem from their time in the service. Instead of delivering punishment, the program helps address the root issues, such as PTSD

and military sexual trauma, which brought the veteran into contact with the law in the first place. The judge added that the court is made up of a whole cadre of volunteers and professionals who are there to help their veterans rehabilitate and reintegrate into society.

As the third largest city in Florida and home to two of the heavy lifters in the global war against terrorism — U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command — Tampa has a large veteran population. Retired Army Col. Darryl Reyes, who has been involved with the local VTC from its beginning, said they have witnessed and handled countless cases of post 9/11 combat veterans who committed criminal acts that were service related to such VA diagnosed disorders as PTSD, TBI, substance abuse and MST.

“If there was ever a venue where a VTC was needed, I would say that Tampa is that place,” Reyes said.

The 13th Circuit Veterans Treatment Court has one of the largest dockets in the country and enjoys an 80-percent success rate, said Reyes, who was responsible for building the mentor program when the VTC was launched in 2013. He added that the VTC program saves the county taxpayers almost \$6 million annually. The court is currently tracking almost 200 veterans and maintains a bi-weekly docket of more than 80, a number that continues to grow as word spreads about the program’s success.

“It’s the only court where expanding the docket is a good thing,” Scionti said.

Salgado said his drive to help other veterans stems from his father, a World War II combat veteran who came back with PTSD and struggled with drug and alcohol dependencies for many years.

“I always had it in me to help veterans,” said Salgado, who has mentored veterans from his father’s generation to the present one.

As a senior mentor in the Tampa VTC, Salgado supports the five to 10 veterans, like Stickle, who are assigned to him at any given time. He also manages the other volunteer mentors. His team of mentors keeps the veterans accountable and connects them with community services, including transportation. They were giving out bus passes but found the veterans burned through them at an unsustainable pace. Salgado had a solution — bicycles.

The Reserve Citizen Airman, who has ridden bikes his whole life, began collecting donations of used bicycles, mostly 26-inch men’s mountain bikes, tuning them up and then donating them to the VTC veterans who needed transportation. Not only were the bikes a more affordable, long-term solution to transportation, they also provided the veterans with an avenue to fitness, another important aspect of the treatment process. Salgado said that most of the buses in Tampa have bike racks anyway, so the rider can easily combine modes of transportation.

In addition to serving as a senior mentor, Salgado is also the program operations director for the VTC, a role he estimates takes him about 30 hours a week to fulfill. He maintains all of the administrative functions, including processing the weekly docket and assigning mentors. He is also in court with the veterans every two weeks.

Reyes, who recruited the IMA into the mentor program, said Salgado’s senior rank, leadership, operational experiences and people skills not only made him the ideal veteran mentor but also facilitated his quick rise in the VTC ranks to his current position.

“He has earned the praise and the respect, not only from the judge, judicial support staff and supporting organizations, but also from his fellow mentors and the veteran defendants in the program,” Reyes said.

When he’s not helping rehabilitate veterans, Salgado is on duty with Special Operations Command, where he is assigned as an Air Force Reserve IMA and also serves on active-duty orders as a foreign disclosure officer in the intelligence directorate. He is responsible for brokering information with partner nations and works closely with other military organizations, as well as government agencies in Washington, D.C. Salgado is the only Airman with letter-granting authority for disclosure approvals.

Salgado said his chain of command at MacDill is very supportive of his work with the VTC, and he often recruits new mentors, something the VTC is always looking for, from the senior NCO corps on base. Salgado added that the reward is well worth the investment for anyone giving his or her time to support the court.

“We make [the veterans] work; this is not an easy road,” Salgado said. “But, when you see them graduate, that’s the bread and butter for mentors — you’ve given them their lives back.”

Navy-veteran Stickle said he started using drugs at the age of 13 but put that on hold when he entered the service in 1986. Then, during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, he witnessed a ferryboat accident in which 21 sailors died. This took an emotional toll that led him back to his old habits. He left the Navy in 1992, and things went downhill from there.



Joseph Stickle (left) and former 13th Circuit Court Veterans Treatment Court judge, Judge Greg Holder, at Stickle’s graduation from the program. Stickle, a Navy veteran, was arrested for heroin possession but graduated without criminal charges thanks to the unique veteran-focused court. (Courtesy photo)

The former drug addict described himself as being at rock bottom when he walked into his first VTC hearing. But, through the support of his mentor and the resources made available to him, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and the VA, he has started living a life he didn’t know was possible. He credits Salgado’s mentoring and friendship as key pieces of his success.

“Without VTC, I’d be a dead man,” Stickle said. “By offering me something I could follow, it made all the difference in the world.”

(Story courtesy of the Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization public affairs office at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado.)



Senior Master Sgt. James Salgado (center, standing) and retired U.S. Army Col. D.J. Reyes (center, seated) with their team of Veterans Treatment Court mentors. Salgado and Reyes are lead mentors for the Tampa-area 13th Circuit Court’s VTC, which has a bi-weekly docket of nearly 100 veterans.



HELPING HAND

Employee Assistance Program available to all civilians

By Bo Joyner

For civilian employees of Air Force Reserve Command who need a little helping hand in dealing with any of life’s myriad challenges, assistance is just a phone call or a mouse click away.

As of Oct. 1, the Air Force started offering Federal Occupational Health’s Employee Assistance Program and Worklife4You services to all of its civilian employees, to include air reserve technicians, free of charge.

“This is great news for our civilian employees,” said Brande Newsome, community support program manager at AFRC headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. “What this means is many of the services that have been available to our military members for years through Military One Source are now available to all of our civilian Airmen.”

Newsome said that in the past, access to EAP was available to civilians at some Air Force bases but not others. The situation changed when the Air Force directed that EAP be made available to its entire civilian work force.

EAP is a professional service that provides information, consultation, problem-solving counseling, resource identification and support to all civilian employees and their immediate family members.

“Civilians just need to call (toll free) 1-800-222-0364 from anywhere in the United States to receive immediate assistance, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year,” Newsome said.

Civilians can also obtain information and resources online at FOH4You.com. The website provides easy access to educational materials, self-assessment tools and specific information on available EAP services.

EAP’s mission is to enhance employee and workplace effectiveness through prevention, identification, and resolution of personal and productivity issues.

“People who call the 1-800 number or visit the website have the opportunity to talk with a licensed, credentialed master’s degree professional who can help with marital, family and relationship problems, work-related problems, financial and legal problems, as well as a host of other difficulties,” Newsome said.

All support is provided on a confidential basis and can be done via telephone or face to face with a local provider.

“Six sessions are allowed per problem,” Newsome said. “And while EAP consultants are trained to help with a host of life’s most common and pressing problems, they don’t diagnose or treat medical or psychiatric problems. If someone needs medical or psychiatric care, they’re referred to appropriate providers in the community.”

In addition to providing individual assistance to civilians, EAP also provides rapid, on-site critical incident response when offices or work areas are faced with exposure to threats, acts of violence, natural

disasters, injury or death. EAP’s national crisis response team assists in management consultations and critical incident services, and follow-up with the organization and individuals is provided as appropriate.

Newsome said WorkLife4You is a separate program from EAP that is designed specifically to provide expert consultations, pre-screened referrals to local resources and comprehensive educational materials to assist with:

- child care and parenting;
- adult care and aging;
- education and career development;
- health and wellness; and
- daily life needs.

“Suppose you are placed in a position of having to care for an aging parent, and you are looking for some help so you can provide the best care to your loved one,” Newsome said. “Air Force civilians have 24/7 access to WorkLife4You services, which can provide a free in-person consultation from a professional care manager.”

The PGM will listen to the employee’s particular concerns and needs and, if necessary, arrange to have an assessment conducted in the home, hospital or care facility. The employee is then provided with a detailed, actionable care plan based on this assessment.

“WorkLife4You also has a number of kits available to help our civilians with specific life events and common caregiving challenges,” Newsome said.

Included are prenatal, college, adult caregiver, child safety and be-well kits.

Civilians can access WorkLife4You services by calling the same EAP 1-800 number or by visiting www.worklife4you.com.

“It is no secret that when people are having trouble dealing with personal or family problems, it can have a negative effect on their health, happiness and how well they are able to do their job,” Newsome said. “As a result, making EAP and WorkLife4You services available to all of our civilian employees can assist with problem resolution, improvement in quality of life, and increased effectiveness at home and at work.”

TIBETAN BUDDHIST

IMA brings religious diversity to Air Force chaplain team
By Senior Master Sgt. Timm Huffman

1st Lt. Brett Campbell, Buddhist chaplain at the 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, delivers remarks during a community gathering at the chapel. Campbell is an individual mobilization augmentee and the first Buddhist chaplain in the U.S. Air Force. (Airman First Class Jacob Deatherage)

When Reserve Citizen Airman 1st Lt. Brett Campbell graduated from chaplain school in late September, he took on a record-setting role within the entire Air Force.

Campbell, who is assigned as an individual mobilization augmentee at the 460th Space Wing chapel at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, became the service's first, and only, Buddhist chaplain.

He said his life's goal is to help other people, and that led him to military service.

The Iowa native who was raised as a Catholic, discovered meditation and was introduced to Buddhism while attending Iowa State University. He was attracted to the religion because it was more of a life philosophy. After graduation, Campbell joined the Peace Corps and served in Mongolia where he said he began identifying as a Tibetan Buddhist.

Buddhism, Campbell explained, is "about learning how our minds control how we relate to the world we live in and then training them to do things that enable us to live more peaceful, relaxed lives."

"There is a spiritual aspect," he said, "but I describe it in those terms because it's easier for people to understand."

After returning to the United States, he began graduate school at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado, and continued to pursue his new faith. He earned a master of divinity degree in 2013 and was also ordained as a Buddhist upasaka, translated devoted layman, by renowned Buddhist teacher Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche.

Campbell wanted to serve as a chaplain, especially in the military. He began pursuing both the Navy and Air Force chaplain programs and filled the intervening years by serving in religious and teaching roles at several different hospitals, including the Denver Veteran Affairs hospital, where he taught meditation and loving-kindness classes on the post-traumatic stress disorder ward with fellow Buddhist Steve Burden.

"I was really impressed with Brett," said Burden. "He has empathy, compassion and an ability to reach out to the younger guys."

During this time, Campbell applied and was accepted into the Air Force Reserve's chaplain candidate program.

According to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Amy Hunt, the Air Force Reserve's chaplain recruiter, the chaplain candidate program is an opportunity for seminary and other professional religious school students to evaluate their compatibility and potential for commissioning as Air Force chaplains. The focus is on experiencing ministry in the Air Force during summer training internships. Chaplain candidates draw on their background, education and experience to function as part of a chapel team. More information on the chaplain candidate program is available at <https://afreserve.com/Chaplain>.

After completing his requirements and graduating from commissioned officer training in April 2017, Campbell began his ministry to the Airmen at Buckley, serving on active-duty orders.

In addition to leading a small Buddhist gathering each Thursday, Campbell counseled Airmen who came into the chapel, taught secular meditation and mindfulness classes, and offered his own unique style of invocations when called upon to participate in support functions.

With no model for a Buddhist invocation, Campbell said he had to work through what these public

"prayers" would look like. They have evolved over the past six months but he said he uses them to provide Airmen with a moment of self-reflection. In one recent invocation, he encouraged Airmen to reflect on the benefits of their work relationships and how each individual could do his or her part to strengthen those bonds.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Ward, the 460th Space Wing chaplain and Campbell's boss, said the Reservist came to the unit already possessing a strong, well-rounded skill set and carries a calmness with him that settles on those around him.

"Chaplain Campbell has a knack," Ward said. "People gravitate toward him, and he has a very unique way of being present and available (to others)."

Ward said the Air Force Reserve chaplain is a valuable asset in the mission to support the base's 19,000 employees. Chaplains aren't just focused on their religion; a large part of their role is to be present as a resource to help when people need guidance, advice or counseling, he said.

Campbell said counseling is a topic he enjoyed learning more about during his chaplain training at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. It was something he'd touched on in school and elsewhere, but the training he received through the Air Force was much more in-depth and was something that, just from his first summer on duty, he knew he'd use frequently in the military.

While the Buddhist chaplain brings diversity to the chaplaincy at Buckley, Ward said he also brings manpower flexibility. The Reserve Citizen Airman came to the unit at a time when the office was short two chaplains, Ward said. The ability to bring Campbell on active-duty orders allowed the chapel staff to better support Buckley Airmen during that shortfall.

Ward said he was concerned there might be pushback to hiring a chaplain who wasn't from a major faith group but that those fears were unnecessary.

"Since he's been here, that hasn't happened one bit," said Buckley's head chaplain. "People in the military get it; he has a place at the table, he has a skill set, he can do his job."

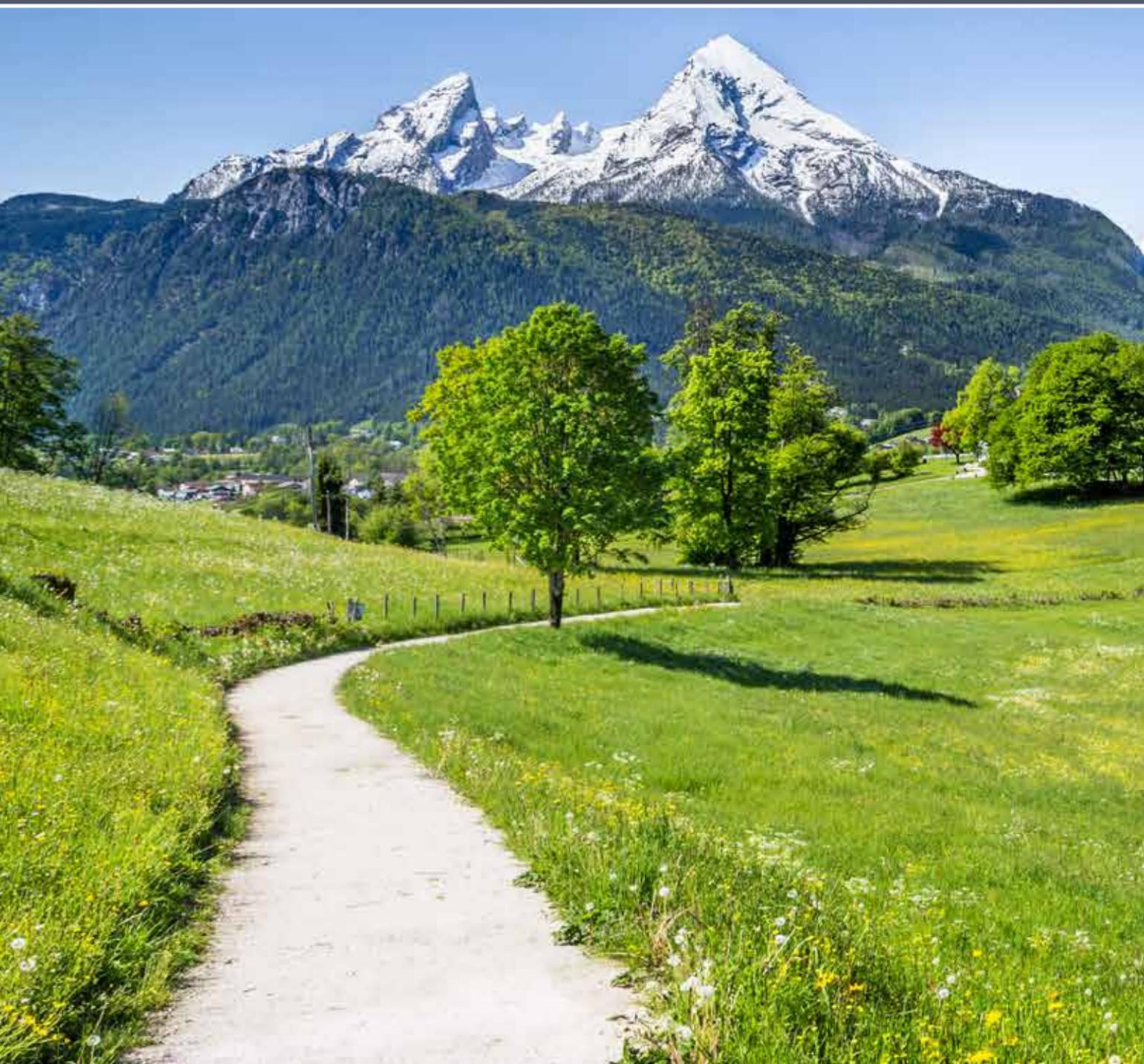
(Huffman is assigned to the Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado.)



VALUE OF DECOMPRESSION

Transition center helps deployed members prepare for life back home

By Jaimi Upthegrove



There's a little-known gem nestled in the hills of Germany that can help all who are deployed decompress before returning home.

The Deployment Transition Center is on Ramstein Air Base in Germany and stands ready to assist anyone who meets the attendance criteria by providing a buffer to decompress and prepare for their normal life back home.

"The program is in place to transition members from downrange battle rhythms to home-station rhythms," said Maj. Corey Carnes, Deployment Transition Center director. "It is located in a family lodging facility and is quiet, comfortable and relaxing, but it's close to world-class base services."

Carnes, who has been assigned to the center since 2015, said Ramstein AB is the most logical place to host the facility because of the large number of transport aircraft that stop at the base for refueling. The program lasts four days, which includes two travel days. The two days of course material include discussion groups and one city outing.

The course instructs members on what they can expect when they get home and of best practices of reintegrating into their day-to-day lives. They get time to unwind, explore the surrounding area and reintegrate with colleagues who shared in deployed exposures. Carnes said there are absolutely zero electronic slide presentations.

"I like to call it a halftime for our members," he said. "They've been in the game, working hard, and now they need a halftime to revisit best practices, get their head back in the game, and prepare for their return to their family and, for Reservists, a return to civilian life."

For members of the Air Force Reserve, there is a special layer of need in this kind of program. When Reserve Citizen Airmen come back from deployment, they might be leaving their military connection. They could be coming home to their family and jumping back into a civilian workplace.

"I think this program is specifically valuable for Reservists since they might not have anyone back home who can relate to what they've been through," said Brande Newsome, community support program manager for the Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. "I've been through deployments myself as a Reservist, and that buffer time to decompress would have been invaluable."

Newsome said in her experience, Reservists simply don't have the same level of support or understanding back home as their active-duty counterparts. She said when people are on active duty, everyone around them has been through similar experiences or at least has been trained on how to respond to what they are or might be going through.

Carnes said he had a guy come through the transition center who had opted out of the course on his previous deployment, saying he just wanted to get home to his wife and two girls as fast as he could. Once he got home, his wife handed him the children and said she would be in a hotel for two days. She knew she needed that time to unwind and recoup from what she had experienced at home during the time he was away.

Initially he said he was angry and upset. But then he realized how much his wife and daughters needed him, and he wished he would have taken time to decompress and recoup before coming home so he could be there for them 100 percent.

Carnes, a licensed clinical social worker, said the staff normally consists of a host of career field facilitators and master resiliency

trainers (including chaplains and mental health technicians). There are two staff members for every 15 guests. They have supported all Department of Defense employees from all branches of the armed forces, including civilians. In fiscal year 2017, the Deployment Transition Center served 74 Reservists, 95 Guardsman and 19 civilians.

There are two ways for people to go through the course. First, there may be a pre-line remark on their orders, depending on their career field and what they are expected to encounter during deployment. Second, people can be recommended to attend by their downrange commander.

One common belief that prevents people from attending the center is, "I've deployed before; I've got this."

"My wife and I have six children, and I would never look at her and say we don't need medical help delivering any future babies; we got this," Carnes said. "It's just arrogant and potentially naïve, but it's built into our culture to handle things like this on our own terms. Every deployment is different, and every return and reunification is different, too."

Carnes encouraged all who are eligible, especially Reserve Citizen Airmen, to visit the Deployment Transition Center on their way home.

"It's an authorized delay in travel to rest and restore yourself so you are optimally ready for the second half — life after deployment. Things change, people change and adaptation is key to successful living."

Newsome said the program is still growing and adapting to meet the needs of the force. As the battle rhythm changes, the program flexes to support the agile combat-ready forces that are called up.

"I'm not going to wait until you're having issues. I'm going to do what I can to bolster you to be able to perform," Carnes said. "When you do start fraying, I will open the door to resources so you can get the help you need to keep you from breaking."

(Upthegrove is assigned to the public affairs office at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.)



Service members spend time together at the Deployment Transition Center at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. The center is designed to help deployed service members prepare for life back home.

THEY DON'T JUST HUNT HURRICANES

Weather reconnaissance squadron members gather data for winter storms

By Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

Aircrew members from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters" taxi a WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft to its parking spot on the runway at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, after a winter storm flight in January. In addition to their hurricane taskings, Hurricane Hunters fly winter storm missions to gather weather data used by forecasters in generating models for systems that could affect the East, West or Gulf Coast of the United States. (Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens)



The end of the hurricane season doesn't end the mission of the Air Force Reserve "Hurricane Hunters."

For members of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, also known as the Hurricane Hunters, the hurricane tasking is only one part of their overall data-gathering mission. Hurricane Hunters track winter storms off the East and West Coast of the United States and in the Gulf of Mexico. While the normal flying season for these missions runs Nov.1 to March 31, some missions can take place either before or after these dates depending on the weather that season.

So far this season, the Hurricane Hunters have flown two winter storm missions. The data from these and other winter storm missions help forecasters determine what type of weather conditions these storms might bring to coastal communities and even further inland, whether it be freezing rain, sleet, ice or snow, said Maj. Christopher Dyke, 403rd Operations Group weather standards and evaluation officer.

Dyke said the Hurricane Hunters fly their WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft on predetermined tracks to collect weather data such as air pressure, temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and global positioning system information. The dropsondes used to collect this data are released from the aircraft through a specialized cannon and parachute down toward the water's surface.

"We collect this dropsonde data, which gives the modelers a full profile – from 30,000 feet down to the surface – of what the atmosphere looks like. That data gets ingested, or pulled, into the model, and that marks 'hour zero,'" said Dyke, referring to the starting point for the winter storm forecast models projected by meteorologists at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, a division of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. "So, that helps bring the model in line with reality so that it reduces the error as it goes forward."

While the NCEP collects some of its forecasting data from buoys in the water and weather satellites in orbit, Dyke said the data the Hurricane Hunters gather can help fill in key information gaps in the NCEP forecasting models.

"For those areas where you don't really have a lot of data to work with for initializing or starting the model, those are the areas where we help supplement it with data," said Dyke, who mentioned this data can provide 20 to 25 percent improvement in forecasting accuracy.

Dyke noted some of the main differences between the winter storm and hurricane hunting missions. While the National Hurricane Center provides the Hurricane Hunters with taskings for hurricane missions, the NCEP actually provides them with flight paths, called synoptic tracks, for the winter storm missions, which can last anywhere from five to 12 hours depending on the storm's location and number of drop points for the dropsondes.

Also unlike hurricane missions, which take 53rd WRS aircrews into and through the storms, winter storm missions have the Hurricane Hunters fly ahead of storm systems, releasing dropsondes anywhere from 27,000 to 32,000 feet to gather a vertical profile of data for NCEP forecasters to use in their weather models, said Maj. Brad Roundtree, 53rd WRS pilot. Hurricane flights, however, normally occur no more than 10,000 feet above sea level.

"We actually try to fly as low as possible and straight through the storm (for hurricane missions) to pinpoint the center of circulation and gather all the data for forecasting the speed and movement of the storm, whereas for a winter storm we fly as high as possible and try to get out in front of it to take measurements of the atmosphere that it's actually going to be moving through," said Roundtree.

Another difference between hurricane and winter storm missions is the data transmitted by the Hurricane Hunters is gathered solely through the dropsondes, whereas hurricane flights incorporate a horizontal data profile gathered from instruments on the plane as it flies through the storm, as well as visual information gleaned by the 53rd WRS aerial reconnaissance weather officers from watching the water's surface, such as wave activity.

Overall, this information can help emergency managers and government officials determine what actions they may need to take in preparation for these winter storms, said Roundtree.

"Just like the hurricane mission, this is all to help cities and local governments to prepare for these events so they can save time and money on the number of preparations they do, and most importantly help to save lives with these preparations," said Roundtree.

(Labadens is assigned to the 403rd Wing Public Affairs Office, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.)



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Staff Sgt. Brandon Smith, a civil engineer structures journeyman with the 931st Air Refueling Wing, fires his M-4 carbine during a combat arms training and maintenance course in December at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. During the course, Airmen must fire from supported and unsupported positions while standing, kneeling and prone. (Staff Sgt. Preston Webb)