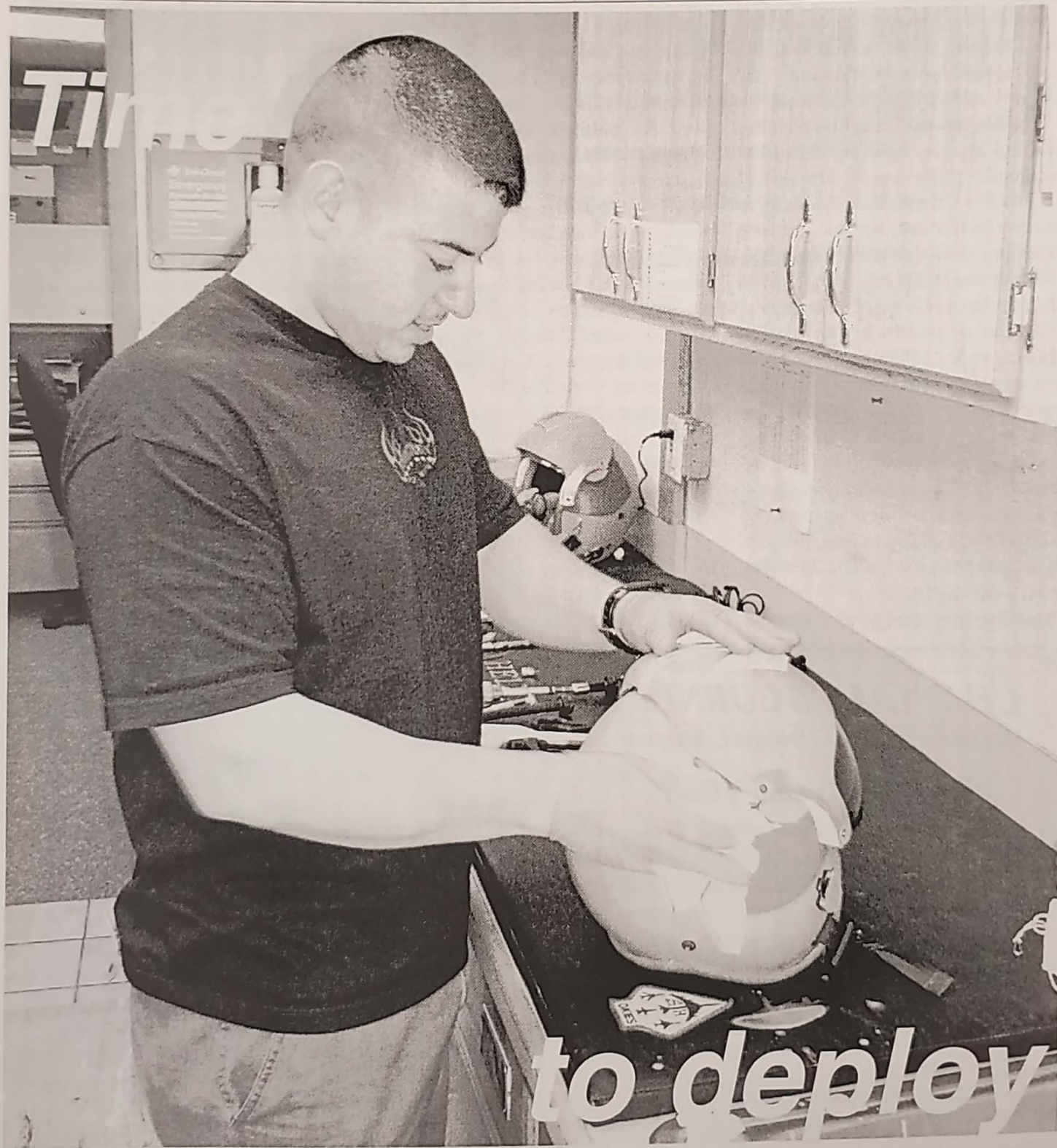


On-final



April 2004
Vol. 24, No. 4

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma



507th ARW Mission: Man, train, equip, and sustain an Expeditionary Reserve Force in support of DoD peacetime and wartime taskings.

513th ACG Mission: Citizen-airmen extending America's Global Power operating the world's best airborne battle management, warning and control platform.

Justice and freedom will prevail

By President George W. Bush

One year ago this week, ground forces of a strong coalition entered Iraq to liberate that country from the rule of a tyrant. For the Iraqi people, it was the beginning of their deliverance. For the world, it was the moment when years of demands and pledges turned to decisive action.

The liberation of Iraq was good for the Iraqi people, good for America, and good for the world. The fall of the Iraqi dictator has removed a source of violence, aggression, and instability from the Middle East. The worst regime in the region was given way to what will soon be among the best. The demands of the United Nations were enforced, not ignored with impunity. Years of illicit weapon development by the dictator have come to an end. The Iraqi people are now receiving aid, instead of suffering under sanctions. And men and women across the Middle East, looking to Iraq, are getting a glimpse of what life in a free country can be like.

Helping Iraq emerge as a free na-

tion is a global responsibility, and the nations of the world are meeting their responsibilities. Troops from Britain, and Poland, and Japan, are securing important areas of the country. Special Forces from El Salvador, Macedonia, and other nations are helping to find and defeat Baathist and terrorist killers. In all, more than 50 nations are helping the Iraqi people emerge from decades of tyranny, and realize a democratic future.

There are still violent thugs and murderers in Iraq, and our coalition is dealing with them. Not long ago, we intercepted a planning document being sent to leaders of al Qaeda by a terrorist named Zarqawi. Along with the usual threats, he had a complaint: "Our enemy," said Zarqawi, "is growing stronger and his intelligence data are increasing day by day. This is suffocation!" Zarqawi is getting the idea. The resolve of our coalition is firm. We will never turn over Iraq to terrorists who intend our own destruction. We will not fail the Iraqi people, who have placed their trust in us. Whatever it takes, we will fight and work to assure

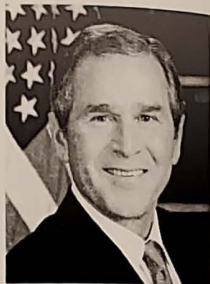
the success of freedom in Iraq.

The war on terror is not a figure of speech.

It is the inescapable calling of our generation. The terrorists are offended not merely by our policies. They are offended by our existence as free nations. No concession will appease their malice. No accommodation will satisfy their endless demands. No course of therapy will cure them of their hatred. There can be no separate peace with the terrorist enemy. Whatever it takes we will seek, and find, and destroy the terrorists.

Because of the (service of those of you in uniform), I know that justice and freedom will prevail over terror and tyranny.

(Reprinted from a March 20th address to the Nation)



Pres. George W. Bush

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dwight L. Magnus

How good are you?

If you can start the day without caffeine; if you can get going without pep pills; if you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains; if you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles; if you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it; if you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time; if you can overlook it when those you love take it out on you when through no fault of yours something goes wrong; if you can take criticism and blame without resentment; if you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him; if you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend; if you can face the world without lies and deceit; if you can conquer tension with-

out medical help; if you can relax without liquor; if you can sleep without the aid of drugs; if you can say honestly that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed, color, religion, or politics; then, my friend, you are almost as good as....your dog.

Paul writes: "Do everything without complaining or arguing." I challenge you this UTA to set aside the gripes and complaints and become a positive, effective team member.

UTA Services

Saturday Lunchtime Topic:

Communication Skills

Sunday Service (7:30 a.m.)

Worship Sermon: When God Saw the Blood

Exodus 12: 11-14

During the April UTA Worship Service:

Celebrating the Communion for Easter

Volume 24, No. 4

APRIL 2004

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513th Operations Support Flt.- Capt. Terry Brennan
970th AACs- Capt. Scott Wilson
1st Aviation Standards Flt.- Senior Master Sgt. Rob Uzzle
35th Combat Comm Sq.- Tech. Sgt. Bryon Carlson

This funded Air Force Reserve Command magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of On-final are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Copy deadline is NOON on UTA Sunday for the next month's edition.

This is your news source. Take it home with you to share with family, friends, and employers.

On The Cover



(Photo by Maj. Rich Curry)

Staff Sgt. Juan Escobar, 465th Life Support technician, readies aircrew equipment for the unit's deployment overseas.



507 ARW



513 ACG

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NEWS/INFORMATION/FAMILY READINESS/MORE!

507th AIR REFUELING WING
and
513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA



www.afrc.af.mil/507arw

Chief's Sights

Character — The courage to do the right thing

By Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Our Air Force has a proud history of accomplishments that traces directly to the quality of people that make up the total Air Force team. At every base, wing, and deployed site our airmen rise to challenges every day demonstrating their loyalty and dedication. I am proud to be part of this prestigious team. But, I am always dismayed when I learn of an airman who, as a result of a bad decision, faces disciplinary action. I wonder if there was a way to help this person, or if someone sitting down with this airman could have prevented this situation. Because of this, I feel it is essential to reinforce the full meaning of our concepts of character and the standards our core values provide us.

"Character comprises the emotional, intellectual, and moral qualities that distinguish one group from another — and the judgment to discern them." — Gen. John Jumper

Our core values and the unique demands of military service undergird our Air Force character. These values — Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do — endure as the fundamental standards of behavior of our Air Force team. But, character can be an elusive concept not readily apparent, as it encompasses so many qualities. The true foundation of character is not merely knowing the right thing to do, but also having a firm conviction and the courage to act upon such knowledge. This conviction requires solid moral fiber and ethical strength to do what is right even if no one is there to witness your actions. Our actions over time define our character, just as our character delineates our lasting reputation. When we make the wrong choices, both our character and our reputation are damaged.

Character can rapidly deteriorate when we fail to hold others and ourselves to the high standards our Air Force profession demands. The responsibility of enforcing core values does not fall solely to senior leaders and commanders. Every airman must embrace and reflect these values, both on and off-duty. We must reflect these fundamental values in our daily conduct and help develop those attitudes in others. If you see a fellow worker or friend cut corners and don't say anything, you are condoning what they are doing. Failing to correct or report instances where the rules are broken, selectively enforcing rules, or turning a blind-eye to marginal be-



Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

havior or performance can perpetuate negative attitudes that can infect organizations.

We are all responsible for each other and it is essential that we all share a collective sense of mission, values, and culture. If we don't, we become part of the problem, and jeopardize the mission and the lives of our men and women. Every member of the Air Force must embrace our core values as the guiding light that drives what we do. I challenge each of you to apply this philosophy in your service to the Air Force and this great nation.

Building character is a lifelong journey — remember, it is not just knowing the right thing to do; it is having the courage to do it. We have a responsibility to ourselves, the Air Force, and our nation to maintain a team of unquestionable character.

Unit aircrews answer deployment's call

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs

When it comes to flying operations overseas, sometimes the only thing that changes is the scenery.

And for the more than 30 aircrew and support staff for the 465th ARS deploying overseas for a month-long Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation, the only thing they may be missing will be the Oklahoma drawl.

"Every mission we fly here daily has an application to a mission we might potentially fly overseas," said Maj. Doug Planer, 465th director of Operations.

It's important, he stressed, that every local unit flying sortie is focused on both the operational task at hand as well as maintaining aircrew members in a fully-qualified, mission-ready state. According to Major Planer, the squadron's regular, demanding flying schedule is designed, "so when we deploy overseas, we're not doing anything different or anything our training hasn't already prepared us for."

While deployed, unit aircraft and personnel will support Operation Joint Forge, receiving daily air tasking orders (ATOs) from USAFE to refuel a variety of U.S. and NATO aircraft throughout the European Theater. "We anticipate daily flying operations while deployed and we will be maintaining a 24-hour response capability," Major Planer said.

For Planer, this will be his fourth time to visit this European location. "Our unit made its first AEF deployment there in 1995. Our relationship with the local military and community civilians seems to get better each time," he said. When the Okies arrive, they will be replacing an Air National Guard KC-135 unit. For at least one-third of the Okie aircrew, this will be their first European Theater deployment.



Majors Richard Peterson and Ken Humphrey discuss potential operational flying activity with Master Sgt. Steve Switzer in preparation for the unit's overseas deployment. Photo by Maj. Rich Curry

"Actually, the biggest difference in our flying will be stricter requirements to work with military ground air traffic controllers and AWAC aircraft while completing our refueling missions. It's something we practice regularly here but in the European Theater, the airspace is more heavily controlled. Both civilian and military air traffic is much denser," Planer said. "The Pacer CRAIG radar upgrades we've received keep us in compliance with European air traffic requirements where they stage aircraft much closer than in the U.S."

The challenge for aircrews, Planer said, will be communications. "While the air traffic controllers we will be working with speak English, sometimes their accents can cause misunderstandings. So we will be very precise when talking back and forth with the air traffic controllers."

During the deployment, the aircrew will also be demonstrating their airman-ship proficiency to IG inspection team members. "The IG teams will be flying with us and grading us on how well we employ and execute our wartime mission," the major said.

But the deploying crews may face additional challenges once they arrive. A previous unit deployment to this location was impacted by days of high winds, limiting flight operations. "It is springtime, and just like Oklahoma, the weather can affect us," Planer said.

Additionally, the Okie crews may face the potential of heightened operational tempo in today's uncertain world. But if no-notice air taskings arise, the Okies are prepared to live up to the old Air Force saying: Flexibility is the Key to Air Power.



507th ARW members prepare during the March UTA for their AEF deployment to Europe.

Logistics Readiness plans for success

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs

In the beginning there was the PLAN.

For most unit reservists heading off this month to participate in the Wing's month-long Air and Space Expeditionary Force mission, preparing for their tour might involve asking their employer for time off from work.

But for the members of the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, moving people and equipment more than 4,000 miles away, work began in earnest last November.

"We have several aircraft and more than 60 people deploying to the European Theater, with a mid-month rotation involving roughly 60 more of our people," said 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander, Capt. Jimmy Wolfe. "Put in the equation that we have two Reserve units trailing behind our AEF rotation who we communicate with as well as working in-country clearances for all our people, and you can see there's a lot of planning that needs to occur before we can depart."

"As the lead unit, we had to determine, based on historical data for the overseas location—the operational tempo—what our personnel requirements would be and coordinate with the other follow-on units to ensure we have the right people with the right skills in place," Captain Wolfe said. "We also had to review the equipment requirements... what's there and what we need to bring with us, such as personal protection equipment, and help create the load plans for our aircraft. Anytime you're moving this many people and several tons of steel (equipment), you have to have your homework done."

An enormity of details has to be dealt with to prepare for the deployment. "Each individual requires at least six separate documents be completed prior to departure," said Senior Master Sgt. Janice Lyles, NCOIC of the LRS Logistics Section. "We have to make sure that NATO orders are being prepared for everyone as well as work with the Services Section to make sure all the billeting arrangements are completed in advance." While some unit members volunteered to remain for the entire 30-day rotation, Lyles said there was a stack of paperwork that had to be completed and double-checked.

"The Europeans are fairly restrictive about their airspace since it's so congested. So we're only allowed certain window timeframes for arrival and departures which we needed to coordinate with overseas officials and our flight operations planners," Captain Wolfe said. The captain added that an added aspect of the deployment would be the presence of an Inspector General (IG) Readiness Assessment Team. "The RAT team will evaluate us, our process on how we deploy and operate and will actually give us IG Exercise credit for this deployment," Capt. Wolfe said.

Last month, deploying members were processed through a pre-mobility line in preparation for the AEF mission. "We used the event to check individual mobility folders to make sure they had all the records they're required to take and that everything was correct and current," Captain Wolfe said.

Even after Captain Wolfe and Sergeant Lyles deploy with the unit, the LRS mission back home doesn't stop. "It's just as important to get our folks back home after they deploy. Mrs. Linda Cooper, a traditional civilian employee, is a tre-

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

APRIL 2004

Maintenance gears up for deployment

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs

Spinning up unit aircraft and preparing maintenance support for a month-long overseas Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployment is a daunting task.

But some of the "old timers" working in the 507th Maintenance Group are making that task a bit easier.

For Chief Master Sgt. Rod Garrison, superintendent of the aircraft maintenance squadron, the biggest challenge facing his maintainers was one of balance.

"The unit's flying tempo has been keeping our maintainers very busy supporting the mission. Now, as we're getting closer to deployment, we're working hard to identify the aircraft we will be taking overseas and making sure that everything gets checked prior to their departure," he said.

Chief Garrison's maintenance work crews made sure all required aircraft system inspections were being accomplished in advance. "We're checking to make sure that any pending inspections that would be due on our aircraft during the deployment are being done now... engines, brakes, tires... and any other time-compliance inspection items are getting done. For example, if it's a 10-hour flight to get there and there's an inspection due in 13 (flight) hours, we'll do that ahead of schedule."

Getting the aircraft equipped to operate in European airspace was another challenge for the maintainers. "To go into the European Theater, your aircraft have to be equipped with the right type of radio avionics equipment to give them FM immunity (FM immune systems filter out signals that might interfere with an aircraft's instrument landing systems). We don't have enough of those systems here in the unit so we went out and borrowed them from other units."

Garrison said most of the aircraft generation equip-

(Continued on Page 11)



Tech. Sgt. Bill Cunha, an aircraft crewchief with the 507th Maintenance Group, packs a cargo bin with equipment needed for the unit's deployment.

Photo by Maj. Rich Curry

Logistics Readiness plans (cont'd)

mendous asset to our mission. If it weren't for people like her, Tech. Sgt. Jana Mitchell and Tech. Sgt. Mike Thomas of the Civil Engineer Squadron's Readiness Section we wouldn't be able to make this deployment a success in addition to covering other unit members deploying elsewhere. The folks back

home really make it happen."

In the end, the Logistics crew knows that the proof is in execution and return of a successful deployment. "When we do our job, people shouldn't even realize what went in to getting them there and back. Our work doesn't end until the last person gets home."

APRIL 2004

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

PAGE 7



513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

The Passion of the Blue

The artist Michelangelo understood passion. In the twilight of his life, after painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, his last major sculpture was of Moses. Seated and holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments, the hands of the sculpture are refined and unwrinkled, but the muscles in every finger tell of strength. Moses' brow is creased, his hairline tussled and his clothing haphazard. Once this sculpture was finished, Michelangelo stood back and shouted, "Why don't you speak to me?" In frustration, he violently hit the knee of the statue with a hammer, leaving a scar that outlasted the artist.

So rapt was Michelangelo in his passion and the quest for a perfect likeness that he thought, through force of will, that he could create life out of "an unworkable piece of marble." It is a mistake many of us make when we seek to improve our careers, that perfection is relative only to ourselves and that we cannot change the fact that stone cannot breathe or that an airman doesn't understand why he or she needs to carry himself or herself with pride.

Any person can strive for perfection, but reality says that we all have limitations and the truth of our frailty can get lost in our unique and respective passions. The definition of perfection varies for each person, but when we are asked to men-

tor our juniors, we don't always consider why we need to bridge those definitions and get frustrated when they go through the paces on minimal effort. Frustration is a natural process when interacting with others. How you deal with that frustration defines how much of a leader you are as well, so I encourage you to be patient and listen to what others say when they get frustrated.

The days of the draft are gone. We who serve today serve by choice and can climb the ranks to as high as we want and our individual passions, that drive to perfect ourselves, will be the biggest motivator on how far we go. It falls to us, the older, more established members to mentor our younger members so they can capitalize on their passions and stay the course.

Being passionate about your uniform means many things. The courage to sacrifice, the character to be honest, the determination to be the very best we can be. It isn't something you want to squelch with an ill-considered word, but it is very fragile when they are young and still learning the world of the Air Force Reserve. No matter how much work we put into our junior members or ourselves, don't expect a block of stone to live. Be realistic and patient, above all else. Remember: There is no such thing as perfection on earth, only the drive to be perfect.

If you can only climb so far on the ladder of life, there's nothing to say that you can't have someone else stand on your shoulders. And be there to catch them when they fall. As a mission, we are several passions in concert, but as servicemembers, we are our own works of art and it falls upon ourselves to recognize when we should lower the hammer.

The 'four pillars' of career success

by Chief Master Sgt. Laten Williams
379th Expeditionary Services
Squadron superintendent

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — When mentoring my troops, I always speak of four specific areas; I call them the four pillars.

The first pillar is to do the absolute best you can within your capabilities, and have a positive attitude about doing whatever our Air Force has asked you to do. It doesn't matter if you are a member of the security forces, services, medical group or civil engineers, there isn't any one job more or less important than any other. It takes everyone doing his or her part to make our Air Force what it is,

the absolute best the world has ever known, and no one comes close!

The second pillar is to always do something to improve as a professional. Whether it is a course development or professional military education course or college course via testing, in a classroom or online, just do something to keep improving. The more knowledgeable you become, the better our Air Force gets, especially with today's technology.

For the third pillar, get involved. You can make a huge difference people's lives by helping organizations like the unit booster club, or one of the NCO groups on base. Join the Air Force Sergeants Association or Noncommissioned Officers' Association, and get involved in your base community. We traditionally celebrate different heritages like African American, Asian Pacific and Native American; get involved.

Finally, the fourth pillar is to take care of each other. I find the best way to do this is to set an example as a role model and hold subordinates to the same high standards. Simple things like saying "Yes sir" or "Yes ma'am," standing up when someone senior in rank approaches, wearing the uniform correctly and proper telephone etiquette are little things we trust you to do all the time. If you fail to do these things, how can we trust you to take care of greater responsibilities?

APRIL 2004

FREE COLLEGE TESTING

Air Force Reserve members, spouses and civilian employees may take DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) or College-Level Examinations Program (CLEP) or Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) FREE! (Military Only for Excelsior examinations). These examinations test college-level knowledge you may have gained through your job, reading, travel, or hobbies. You must test at your Reserve DANTES approved test center. Testing at another DANTES test center will be on a case-by-case basis. The third Tuesday of each month at 0800 has been set aside for testing. You must call us four weeks prior to test date to ensure we will have your testing. For more information contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Become a certified professional in a field related to your military training. DANTES and AFRC funded certification examinations are available for certain career fields. Go to <http://www.dantes.doded.mil> and click on certification programs, MOS matching and USAF Matrix which identifies the eligible AFSCs, certification exams available and internet addresses for more info. If you desire to take an exam, contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Reserve members are eligible to apply for TA for Distance Learning and In-Residence courses to further their education up to a Master's Degree.

The basic enrollment requirements are that you must:

Be a participating member in good standing (no UIF, Article 15, etc.).

Retainability: Officers - two years; Enlisted - ETS after course completion.

Enrollment form must show course number/title, credit hours and cost of tuition.

Complete TA forms in our office PRIOR to class start date.

HQ AFRC will approve/disapprove based on funding.

Payment occurs after satisfactory course completion. TA reimbursement amounts are set at 75 percent (\$3500) per FY (Masters) or 100 percent (\$4500) per FY (Bachelors). For more information contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.

AFRC NCO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The success of the Air Force Reserve NCO corps depends on their ability to apply leadership and management skills learned primarily in a civilian setting to a military environment. Not all of today's mid-level NCOs have extensive first-hand supervisory experience in a reserve environment; therefore, the instruction in this course is intended to improve the students' military supervisor capabilities and understanding of their positions as related to the USAF. We focus on individual improvement which is ultimately the real source of organizational excellence and success. The next class is scheduled for 7-18 June 2004.

FAMILY CARE

If you need to be on the Family Care Plan, notify your first sergeant ASAP - IAW AFI 36-2908. Single parents and dual military couples with children must have a Family Care Plan completed within 90 days of in-processing or family status change.

VIRTUAL MPF

- 1. Address Changes** - You no longer have to go to 4 different screens/areas to update your address!!!
- 2. Point Summaries** - Point Summaries can also be viewed and printed.
- 3. Record Review RIPS** - You will now be notified via e-mail, on your birthday, to log on to vMPF to review your RIP.
- 4. Awards and decorations** - You can also get a picture display of your awards and decorations.

HOT TOPICS :

CDC Testing is accomplished at 0750 on Sundays of the (main) UTA. You do not have to schedule it, just be there NLT 0750 at Bldg 460 (the active duty HQ), Room 215. You need to enter through the MPF main door (in the back near the ramps), turn right and take the stairs. If you cannot make it, our Education office also tests on Wednesdays at 0800 and 1300. You DO need to schedule this one 24 hours in advance. Important note: If you are retaking a test, make sure you bring the Commander's evaluation/authorization letter with you or you will not be allowed to test. If you are taking computer-based tests, call DPMT at 734-7075 at least two days prior to the UTA. Computer-based tests are also given Tues at 0730, Wed at 0800 & 1300, and Thurs at 1530. Call for appointment.

EDUCATION REMINDER:

This is just to remind everyone who wishes to update their Education Records, officer and enlisted, that we need OFFICIAL transcripts to send or accomplish any updates. This means that it CANNOT say "ISSUED TO STUDENT." You may have the college/university send it, we can request it, or you may bring it in as long as it is in a sealed envelope with a SEAL on the flap AND it does not say "ISSUED TO STUDENT."

Pass and ID Hours of Operation:
1200-1600 on Saturdays of the UTA.

IEU open from 1200-1500 on Saturday of the main UTA.

Nomination packages for AMN, NCO, or SNCO of the quarter are submitted quarterly. Packages are due by 1400, on Saturday of the UTA after the end of the quarter. (Apr, Jul, Oct, Jan)

FY2004/2005 UTA SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 03-04 Apr 04 | 01-02 May 04 |
| 05-06 Jun 04 | 10-11 Jul 04 |
| 07-08 Aug 04 | 11-12 Sep 04 |
| 30-31 Oct 04 | 20-21 Nov 04 |
| 04-05 Dec 04 | 08-09 Jan 05 |

As of 25 Mar 2004

TRAINING PLANNER

Fri, 02 April 2004

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1300 | Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg | Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room |
| 1430 | Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg | Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room |
| 1600 | Top 3 Executive Board Mtg | Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room |

Sat, 03 April 2004**Unit Designated Sign In****0730-0930 Computer Based Testing**

0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing

0730-0930 Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY

0730-0900 Wing Training Office Closed

0900-1000 6 Month Contact Mtg

0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng

1000-1130 Unit Career Advisors Mtg

1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation

1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting

1030-1130 First Sgts Meeting

1130-1200 Lunch-Time Chapel Discussion Vanwey Dining Facility

1300-1530 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, Room 214

1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office

1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated****Bldg 1030, Room 214**

Bldg 1043, Room 201C

Bldg 1043, Room 206

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Bldg 1030, Room 214

To Be Determined

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Bldg 1030, Room 214

Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Unit Designated**Sun, 04 April 2004****Unit Designated Sign In****0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service****0730-0800 Catholic Mass**

0730-0930 MPF Closed for In-House Tng

0750-1115 CDC/PME Course Exams Bldg 460, Room 215

0800-1115 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, Room 214

0830-1030 HAZCOM Training Bldg 1030, Room 104

0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

1245-1545 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, Room 214

1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT

1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room B-1

1500 Fly Safety Mtg Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated****513th ACG Auditorium****513th ACG Conf Room**

Bldg 1043

Bldg 460, Room 215

Bldg 1030, Room 214

Bldg 1030, Room 104

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Bldg 1030, Room 214

CAT

Bldg 1043, Room B-1

Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room

Unit Designated**Fri, 30 April 2004**

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1300 | Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg | Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room |
| 1430 | Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg | Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room |
| 1600 | Top 3 Executive Board Mtg | Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room |

Sat, 01 May 2004**Unit Designated Sign In****0730-0930 Computer Based Testing**

0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing

0730-0930 Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY

0730-0900 Wing Training Office Closed

0900-1000 6 Month Contact Mtg

0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng

1000-1130 Unit Career Advisors Mtg

1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation

1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting

1030-1130 First Sgts Meeting

1130-1200 Lunch-Time Chapel Discussion Vanwey Dining Facility

1300-1530 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, Room 214

1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office

1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated****Bldg 1030, Room 214**

Bldg 1043, Room 201C

Bldg 1043, Room 206

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Bldg 1030, Room 214

To Be Determined

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Bldg 1030, Room 214

Bldg 1030, Room 214

Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Unit Designated**Sun, 02 May 2004****Unit Designated Sign In****0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service****0730-0800 Catholic Mass**

0730-0930 MPF Closed for In-House Tng

0750-1115 CDC/PME Course Exams Bldg 460, Room 215

0800-1115 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, Room 214

0830-1030 Unit Safety Training Bldg 1030, Room 104

0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

1245-1545 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, Room 214

1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT

1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room B-1

1500 Fly Safety Mtg Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated****513th ACG Auditorium****513th ACG Conf Room**

Bldg 1043

Bldg 460, Room 215

Bldg 1030, Room 214

Bldg 1030, Room 104

Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Bldg 1030, Room 214

CAT

Bldg 1043, Room B-1

Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room

Unit Designated

ATTENTION

Tinker was scheduled for mass implementation Vred DD93's 14 Apr 2003 through 20 Apr 2003. Of course this date has already passed and we have received updates from 83% of our members. This is Air Force wide and everyone who has not updated their DD Form 93 on the Virtual MPF needs to do so ASAP. It can be accomplished from any computer with internet access by going to www.afpc.randolph.afmil. You will need to know your date of rank, pay date, and command (ex: AFRC) in order to sign on. Then click on the VMPF icon and follow instructions. Questions should be directed to Customer Service at 734-7492.

Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted **monthly** in Bldg 1030, Room 214. **Unit training managers are responsible for ensuring their new personnel are scheduled to attend** within 90 days of their first UTA. If you have any questions, contact the MPF Education & Training Office at **734-7075**.

| Day | Time | Subject | OPR |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Phase I | | | |
| Saturday | 1300-1315 | Air Force Fitness | SVF |
| Saturday | 1315-1400 | Information Assurance | CF |
| Saturday | 1400-1500 | Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention | SG |
| Saturday | 1500-1530 | Local Conditions-Traffic | SE |
| Phase II | | | |
| Sunday | 0800-0830 | Base Populace | CEX |
| Sunday | 0830-0845 | IG Briefing | IG |
| Sunday | 0845-1015 | UCMJ/Ethics | JA |
| Sunday | 1015-1045 | Counter Intel /Awareness | SFS |
| Sunday | 1045-1115 | Human Relations | ME |
| Sunday | 1245-1545 | First Duty Station | ME |

UCMJ Briefing:

All enlisted personnel are required to have the UCMJ briefing within two UTAs of their first reenlistment. This briefing is held during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0845 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, Room 214.

Ethics Briefing:

All reserve personnel are required to have the DOD Ethics Briefing within 90 days of reporting for duty. This briefing is held in conjunction with the UCMJ briefing during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0845 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, Room 214.

Disaster Preparedness:

Unit Training Managers must schedule Chemical Warfare Training, by name, at least one UTA prior to the requested dates by calling CEX at 734-4460. All personnel must bring a complete training ground crew ensemble (GCE) including the mask and its hood to all classes. Those attending Initial must be prepared to process through a tear agent chamber. Wear of contacts is prohibited in all classes. Anyone arriving late, without a complete GCE with mask, or wearing contacts, will be released back to their unit and reported as a no-show.

Drug Testing: You must report within two hours of notification.

Military Pay

File for Receive Direct
pay by: Deposit by:

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

| | |
|--------|--------|
| 05 Apr | 13 Apr |
| 13 Apr | 21 Apr |
| 15 Apr | 23 Apr |
| 19 Apr | 28 Apr |
| 21 Apr | 30 Apr |
| 27 Apr | 05 May |
| 29 Apr | 07 May |
| 04 May | 12 May |
| 06 May | 14 May |
| 11 May | 19 May |

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| If Last Digit of SSAN is: | Then Forward Listing to Unit Commander in: | Recertifica- tion due in by end of month in: |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

| | | |
|---|----------|-----------|
| 1 | November | January |
| 2 | December | February |
| 3 | January | March |
| 4 | February | April |
| 5 | March | May |
| 6 | April | June |
| 7 | May | July |
| 8 | June | August |
| 9 | July | September |
| 0 | August | October |

If you need assistance or have suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please call us at (405) 734-7075, or stop by our temporary office in Trailer B, South of Building 1043.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Editor: | Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART) |
| Assistant Editor: | Tech. Sgt. Sharon Lochman, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART) |
| Contributing Editors: | Tech. Sgt. Melanie E. Cherry, Education and Training Advisor |
| | Tech. Sgt. Chris Rogers, Education and Training Advisor |
| | Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor |

A few facts about prostate cancer

By Master Sgt. Rosalind Holmes
and Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Royal
507th MDS/SGHP

Are you a male reserve member nearing 40 years of age? You will notice that an extra tube of blood is being drawn during your physical for a prostate specific antigen (PSA). The PSA is a natural chemical produced by the prostate gland in men. It is a tool used in identifying abnormalities of the prostate gland, but it is not specific for prostate cancer detection.

Normal serum levels for prostates are 0-4hg/ml. Normal levels, which increase slightly with age, have been determined. The reason for the presence of an elevated PSA include gradual enlargement of the prostate from aging, prostate injections, prostatic cancer, recent prostate biopsies, bladder surgery, and prostate

massage. Any condition that irritates or damages the prostate can lead to a leakage of PSA into the blood system. An increase of greater than 0.8 hg/ml per year is a likely indication for cancer. Normal levels have been found in about 25 percent of men who do not have prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and the second most cause of cancer death in men. Testing at younger ages is recommended for African-American men and men with family histories of prostate cancer. This is because of the higher incidence of this disease in these groups.

The American Cancer Society recommends that all men have an annual prostate screening at age 50, to include a digital rectal examination (DRE) and a PSA serum level drawn. The benefits

of the PSA serum level are:

1. It is a simple blood test;
2. It is better at detecting small cancers that cannot be detected by physical examination;
3. It will help detect the occurrences of probable prostate cancer.

Limitations of the PSA screening are:

1. The test is normal in 25-45 percent of men with prostate cancer;
2. Prostate infections and prostate enlargements cause an increase of the PSA levels.

Any abnormal findings should be followed up with your family physician. Take a few minutes of your reserve weekend to get your physical examinations completed. The combination of our efforts will aid in your good health and support the mission of the United States Air Force in being aware of your good health.

Navy develops pill for hearing loss

By Senior Master Sgt. Gary Bristol
507th ARW Safety Office

Some Navy personnel are foregoing the usual hearing protection devices and taking a pill to protect their hearing.

You heard right, a pill. Navy researchers have come up with a special pill to help prevent permanent hearing loss.

A group of researchers at the San Diego Naval Medical Center have developed a new type of hearing protection that you swallow before exposure to hazardous noise. Researchers believe permanent hearing loss may be prevented by eating a couple of the hearing pills before you head to the flight line.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimates that 30 million workers are exposed to damaging levels of noise on the job every day. In 2002, the Department of Veterans Affairs paid out nearly \$442 million and the Department of Labor reported paying close to \$51 million in hearing loss compensation.

Exposure to extreme noise causes a metabolic stress on the inner ear. Over time this stress leads to the generation of an excessive of toxins. The excess toxins or "free radicals" that are generated contain unpaired electrons that attack the ear's hair damaging the cells. The hair cells convert sound information into electrical signals that are then

sent on to the brain. In humans, hair cell damage results in permanent hearing impairments.

The "Hearing Pill" contains N-acetylcysteine, or NAC, a compound that replenishes a powerful antioxidant in the ear. This antioxidant works like a sponge, soaking up the free radicals preventing them from causing damage to the hair cells.

But don't throw away those earplugs and earmuffs yet! At this time the hearing pill is not intended to replace those earplugs and earmuffs but to protect the ears against the noise that gets around usual hearing protection devices. The pill could also serve to reduce severe hearing damage if administered quickly after exposure to extreme noise.

Independent consultants will assist the researchers when they put the pill through two sets of clinical trials. The first clinical trial will involve 600 Marine recruits at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. It has been found that approximately 10 percent of Marine recruits experience some hearing loss by the end of basic training. Along with the usual hearing protection devices provided during basic training, half of the Marine recruits will receive the "Hearing Pill" and the other half a placebo. Hearing tests will be administered at the beginning and end of a six-week period. The clinical trials are scheduled to start soon.

Wing selects Airman of the Year

Senior Airman (now Staff Sergeant) Justin Hunter, was recently selected as the 507th Air Refueling Wing Airman of the Year. Hunter is a security journeyman with the 507th Security Forces Squadron.

Hunter deployed to MacDill AFB, Florida, in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. He was hand-selected for an elite team maintaining overall security over U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command and the personal offices of Generals Tommy Franks and Michael DeLong. Hunter worked flawlessly with members deployed from 22 different Air Force Security Forces squadrons. During an anti-war protest, Hunter served on a Riot Control Team that ensured the safety and well-being of all assigned personnel and their families. He received the Commander's Coin of Excellence as well as a Certificate of Recognition and Top Ten Performer accolades while at MacDill AFB.

He continued to fulfill the Air Force mission by volunteering to work with the 72nd Security Forces Squad-

ron for three months during their critical manning and personnel shortages. He was certified as a base entry controller, restricted area entry controller, and a patrolman.

Hunter completed Airman Leadership School and volunteered to attend Leadership and Officer Safety classes taught by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Florida.

Before activation, Hunter was enrolled at Rose State Community College and is continuing his education through CLEP and DANTES testing.

Hunter volunteered more than 50 hours with the Rattler Association to raise funds for helping fellow airmen in times of need. While in Florida, Hunter volunteered for numerous hours at Busch Gardens. "Sergeant Hunter goes above and beyond in his assistance to help retired personnel and serves as a mentor to fellow service members," said Maj. Dennis Sivert, 507th SFS commander.

Velasco graduates with JAG course honors



Capt. Jodi Velasco

Capt. Jodi Velasco, with the 507th ARW Legal Office, completed the Air Force's Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC) March 12 at Maxwell AFB, AL, as the top graduate of her class.

Captain Velasco, the only reservist in the section of 40 students, was awarded the Robert L. Lowry Award in recognition of her academic performance, officership, and esprit de corps.

Major Lowry was a judge advocate general assigned to 21st Air Force at McGuire AFB, NJ. He was fatally shot by a person visiting the office. His family established the Lowry Award in his memory. Only one student per course is presented with the Lowry Award. According to school officials, the award is very

competitive and is decided by both the JAG school faculty and her peers in the section.

The Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC), held three times every fiscal year, is designed to introduce new judge advocates to the career and The Judge Advocate General's Corps. Students complete three blocks of study focusing on civil law, operations and international law, and military justice. Students are graded in each area in addition to two moot courts and a moot administrative board.

Students compete for the Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP) Award, sponsored by the American Bar Association (ABA), the Trial Advocacy Award, sponsored by the American Trial Lawyers Association (ATLA), in addition to the Lowry Award.

Officials introduce war on terrorism medals

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Servicemembers serving at home and abroad in the war on terrorism will now be recognized for that service. Department of Defense officials announced Feb. 26 the final approval of two new medals and their criteria.

Individuals who have deployed for operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom will be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to those who served in airport security operations in the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks or who supported operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom.

The front of the Global War in Terrorism Expeditionary Medal features a shield adapted from the Great Seal of the United States. The back includes the eagle, serpent and swords from the medal's front-side design along with the inscription "War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal."

"These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world — for both current and future operations," stated a DOD news release. Individuals can receive both medals if they meet the individual criteria, officials said.

To be awarded the expeditionary medal, individuals must have been deployed outside the United States for OEF or OIF for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. The time requirement is not needed if the individual engaged in

combat, was wounded or killed in action, or was medically evacuated for any reason, officials said.

The area of eligibility encompasses the U.S. Central Command area, (excluding the lower Horn of Africa) Middle East, eastern Turkey, Philippines, Diego Garcia and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas, according to the release.

Each day aircrew members fly sorties into designated areas counts as one day of deployment toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

Individuals engaged in actual combat may be eligible for battle stars on the expeditionary medal. Only a combatant commander can initiate a request for a battle star, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for them, the release states.

Servicemembers eligible to receive the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal must have participated in or supported operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Service medal eligibility dates run from Sept. 27, 2001, to May 31, 2002, for individuals who served in airport security operations. The same 30- or 60-day requirements apply to the service medal as to the expeditionary medal.

"Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for processing awarding and wearing of the medals and ribbons for their servicemembers, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees and next-of-kin," the DOD release stated.

Tax break for combat-zone service

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American forces serving in designated combat zones supporting the war against terrorism continue to get a tax break from Uncle Sam.

Depending upon rank, eligible servicemembers can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active-duty pay, and certain other pays, earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone.

The Internal Revenue Service's Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 states: "A combat zone is any area the president of the United States designates by executive order as an area in

which the U.S. armed forces are engaged or have engaged in combat."

Servicemembers who serve one or more days in a designated combat zone are entitled to federal tax exclusion benefits for that entire month, according to the IRS.

Current designated combat zones include Afghanistan, Iraq, parts of the Kosovo area and other specified parts of the Persian Gulf region. This includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Servicemembers in several other areas specified in law as "qualified hazardous-duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since 1995.

The downloadable Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 can be accessed on the IRS Web site. It lists many, but not all, designated combat zones.

Some servicemembers providing direct support for military operations within a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area, such as Djibouti, Africa, Turkey, Yemen, and the Philippines, are eligible for income tax exclusions.

To be in direct support of a combat zone, a servicemember must be serving in an area the secretary of defense determines is directly supporting a combat zone. Servicemembers who were deployed from March 19 to Aug. 1 to Mediterranean waters east of 30 degrees east longitude also are eligible

Maintenance gears up for deployment

(Continued from Page 7)

ment, power carts, stands, jacks and tow bars are already prepositioned at the deployed base. "But we will be taking some of our own test equipment and specific tools that we'll need to work on the jets," he said.

For maintenance, the chief stated that preparations began in earnest last month. "We went through the process of selecting our best aircraft and focused on getting them ready," he said. Maintenance teams have been in contact with their counterparts already in place overseas, comparing notes to research and prepare for the potential workload.

For Chief Garrison, the trip will be a return visit. "What we expect for the flying mission will keep us busy, but this should be a good deployment that'll give us some time to see the countryside as well. I'm looking forward to it."

According to Senior Master Sgt. Ricky Abbott, the task of gathering up volunteers for the deployment was easy and hard. "We had more than enough people step up to volunteer for a rotation. The hardest part I faced was that we can't take everyone who wanted to go. I had too many people volunteer," he said.

Sergeant Abbott, an aircraft maintenance supervisor, A-flight flight chief, had the task of selecting the proper mix of maintenance specialties for the deployment. "We're limited to roughly 30 maintenance people per rotation, to include crew chiefs, avionics, electronics, engines, hydraulics, sheet metal,

metal technicians, fuel shop, AGE crews, non-destructive inspection, and supervision. In the past we were able to take more of our people but not this time. We're not going to be deep in maintenance, so we had to select our most skilled folks and those with multi-versed skills.

"But I've seen the 'Okie spirit' at work once again. Anytime we have a mission come up, we always have volunteers. I've never had a situation where I wasn't able to get enough people stepping forward, ready to go," he said.

Capt. Robert Griffith, Maintenance supervisor, agreed. "We tried to make it a priority that our people who weren't



activated last year got an opportunity to go. I'm very impressed by the way our people are getting the equipment together and are preparing for this deployment," he said. Captain Griffith joined the unit last year from the 911th Airlift Wing, a reserve C-130 unit. This will be his first deployment with the 507th.

"Our biggest unknown will be what our work tempo will be like when we get there. But we're committed to making this happen. Our people have worked hard to prepare the aircraft for this deployment and we're looking good. Everyone did their part. I'm looking forward to this. It's going to be great to deploy with the Okies," said Griffith.

Tax breaks (cont'd)

for combat zone tax relief, as an "in direct support" area. Servicemembers who served in Israel from Jan. 1 to Aug. 1 also were serving in an "indirect support" area.

Those who have specific questions about designated combat zones should contact their unit personnel or pay officials or unit tax-assistance officer.

The IRS guide notes service members normally do not need to claim the combat-zone exclusion or subtract eligible earnings on their federal tax returns. The services normally have already excluded combat-zone earnings from the taxable gross income reported on service members' Form W-2s, the guide reads.

The amount of servicemember federal tax relief depends

upon a taxpayer's rank. For example, enlisted people and warrant officers serving in a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area for any part of a month exclude all gross income earned for military service that month from federal taxation.

For commissioned officers, the monthly income exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus any hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay received.

The IRS also allows service members deployed to an area entitled to combat zone tax exclusion extra time to file their federal taxes, usually 180 days after the servicemember leaves the combat-zone or qualified hazardous-duty area.

The act also provides a \$12,000 nontaxable death gratuity to families of servicemembers who die on active duty, retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001.

Unit reservists reach out to students

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs

What began as an Air Force Reserve Human Resource Development Council initiative developed into a new learning experience for students at an Oklahoma City school.

1st Lt. Roslynn Rayford, 507th Military Equal Opportunity Officer and advanced mathematics teacher at Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School, has partnered with several unit members from the 507th Air Refueling Wing to offer her students a unique look at the way math skills play a part in their daily lives.

The program blossomed through the Human Resource Development Council's efforts to reach out to the community. The line-up of speakers to date includes individual presentations by Lt. Col. Roy Peterson, 35th Combat Communications Squadron commander, Capt. Mechille Braden, 507th Mission Support Group executive officer and a series of Junior Six Sigma Green Belt sessions offered by Capt. Mark Vardaro, 507th Air Refueling Wing Inspector General.

"Lt. Col. Peterson came to Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School to visit my A-1, PreAlgebra class," Lieutenant Rayford said. "He spoke eloquently about his career in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. He related his career field in communications and engineering to the students well. Lt. Col. Peterson's talk was engaging for myself and the students."

To quote "Joseph," one of Rayford's students, "As an authority in American Defense, he (Lt. Col. Peterson) pressed the great importance of math on us. He told us that it will indeed take 'sweat' and hard work, but it will be well worth it. He explained how he is able to set up communications technology so that our men and women fighting for America can talk to us from their work in other countries; this, and many other things would



Capt. Mark Vardaro is providing Oklahoma City students with a series of classes on performance measurements.

be impossible without math."

Lieutenant Rayford said that Captain Braden came to Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School to visit her A-2, Geometry class. "She did an outstanding job with the students. She was able to connect with the students about how math is important to her job and those who



Capt. Mechille Braden encourages discussion during a lecture session.

work for her," she said. "She also engaged the students with examples of math in everyday life. I enjoyed having her speak to my class."

Of special note is the relationship that's developed between Rayford's students and Capt. Mark Vardaro, 507th Inspector General and a business consultant in civilian life.

Vardaro is working with Rayford's students by offering a first ever, Six Sigma "Junior Green Belt" certification program. Six Sigma is a rigorous and disciplined methodology that uses data and statistical analysis to measure and improve a company's operational performance by identifying and eliminating "defects" in manufacturing and service-related processes.

Commonly defined as 3.4 defects per million opportunities, Six Sigma involves three distinct levels of standards to include metric (or measurement), methodology, and philosophy of continuous improvement cycles.

Rayford stated, "we've customized

(Continued on Page 13)

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

APRIL 2004

(Continued from Page 12)

the program to give students a new set of problem-solving tools and aligned it to meet the Oklahoma State Department of Education's "PASS" criteria.

The *Priority Academic Skills (PASS)* in mathematics establishes a curriculum framework that recognizes students will spend their adult lives in a society increasingly dominated by technology and quantitative methods. That broadened view of mathematics includes the traditional topics of algebra and geometry as well as the mathematical processes of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, connections, and representation.

Seventeen of Belle Isle's brightest eighth-graders are currently participating in six sessions of lecture aimed at linking the



Lt. Col. Roy Peterson teaches how math is critical in the communications field.

mathematical tools they have been learning to real world business applications.

According to Captain Vardaro, the program focuses on the DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) principles and requires the students to complete projects focusing on the improvement of the school, school programs, and its students.

DMAIC refers to a data-driven quality strategy for improving processes, and is an integral part of the Six Sigma Quality Initiative.

Throughout the program, students will work in teams, develop leadership and public communication skills, as well as use and learn new technology skills including internet "Live Chat" and "NetMeetings" software. Certificates will be presented on April 16th.

Guard, Reserve reachout to employers

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is teaming up with local Chambers of Commerce to salute local employers who have demonstrated exceptional support for their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

The initiative is part of a broad outreach program to provide information and assistance to employers, local professional business organizations, local government officials and Guard and Reserve people, officials said.

The program marks a shift for the Defense Department agency generally considered a resource for reserve component people, said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR executive director.

"Saluting America's employers is the right thing to do, and this is the right time to do it," Mr. Hollingsworth said. "During this time of unprecedented mobilizations of the brave men and women who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, the mission of ESGR has evolved from an emphasis on individual reservists to their employers."

The ESGR National Employer Outreach Program for 2004 will introduce a new five-star employer support program in about 100 cities, Mr. Hollingsworth said. Participants will sign a statement of support for the Guard and Reserve — expected to extend to 10,000 employers

in all 48 contiguous states.

ESGR officials will also conduct symposiums to help employers ensure that their companies are in compliance with laws providing job protections for guardsmen and reservists. The seminars also will provide suggestions for managing employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve, Mr. Hollingsworth said.

One feature of the program will be a five-race NASCAR Busch Series salute to Guard and Reserve employers. Officials from ESGR and Richard Childress Racing are putting together a "dream team" of NASCAR's biggest stars for the series.

The ESGR No. 29 car will be painted in a rotating paint scheme at each race to represent all reserve components.

A NASCAR show car, known as "America's car," also will be displayed at Chamber of Commerce functions to salute Guard and Reserve employers. The public will get the opportunity to be photographed with the car and to sign several large "Support our Troops" banners.

The goal is to collect 1.2 million signatures, one for every member of the National Guard and Reserve, and to display the banners in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the United States and overseas, officials said. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

APRIL 2004

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

PAGE 13

Uprose

Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida

The following question was asked of members of the 507th ARW during the March UTA during preparatory processing for their scheduled Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployment:

"What do you hope to do during your free time while deployed?"



Staff Sgt. Bobby Guthrie
507th LRS

"I hope to see as much of the area as I can. This is my first time, so I hope to meet someone who can show me around."



Staff Sgt. Shelley Lawrence
72nd APS

"First and foremost is enjoy the company as well as the sights. Visiting the wineries is something that I plan to put at the top of my list as well."



Tech. Sgt. Patrick Haines
507th MXS

"I've made arrangements at a studio in the local area to take international dance (ballroom) lessons. I also hope to sightsee and try new foods."



Master Sgt. Taunya Avery
507th AMXS

"I hope to tour the country side, go shopping and enjoy the area cuisine. This will be my 5th time there, so I hope to visit Mama Rosia's Restaurant - my favorite place to eat."



Airman 1st Class Padilla Gabriel
507th OSF/DOK

"I hope to travel and explore new places."



Tech. Sgt. Curtis Wright
507th OSF

"Do a lot of sightseeing and eating."

Common access card deadline

By Capt. Bill Pierce
507th ARW Public Affairs

The deadline to have your Common Access Card (CAC) has come and gone. Do you have yours?

I guess you know by now you need your CAC card to access your computer. The deadline set forth for all personnel to have their new identification card was April 1, 2004.

According to Tech. Sgt. Rich Hineckley, OG Work Group Manager, "The equipment is there. We've spent the last year installing the CAC hardware and software. Approximately 99.9 percent of all the CAC readers are in place."

To use your CAC card members insert their card in their reader and enter their pin number they established when creating their card. The previous username and password process for log-



Tech. Sgt. Michelle Paperini poses in the photo chair as her co-workers prepare her new CAC card.

ging on to your PC will no longer be acceptable. You must have a card.

According to Tech. Sgt. Byron Lisenbee, Assistant Chief Customer Service, 507th Military Personnel Flight, "personnel without their new identification card are encouraged to stop by the 507th MPF as soon as possible and have their card made. Ideally the best time is throughout the week."

"Of the 1,500-plus personnel assigned, 96 percent have their cards. That leaves approximately 59 individuals who do not."

"If their jobs require them to use a computer and they don't have a CAC card, their productivity and possibly the mission may be affected. Everyone is required to have an identification card," said Lisenbee.

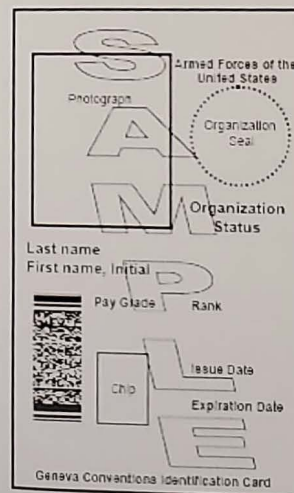
As the point of contact for this conversion initiative, Sergeant Lisenbee and the MPF staff have made strides to get everyone converted. "We have and are

doing what it takes to get everyone converted."

"Since May 2003 we have been working hard on this process. It's a team effort. We rely heavily on the first sergeants to keep us informed as to where their troops are (BMTS, school, etc.). Personnel needing cards are encouraged to work with their chain of command to get this accomplished," said Lisenbee.

The process to get your CAC made is fairly quick. "On average it takes 15 minutes to produce a card. However, those people needing a card or have issues with their existing card may experience longer delays during this UTA," said Lisenbee.

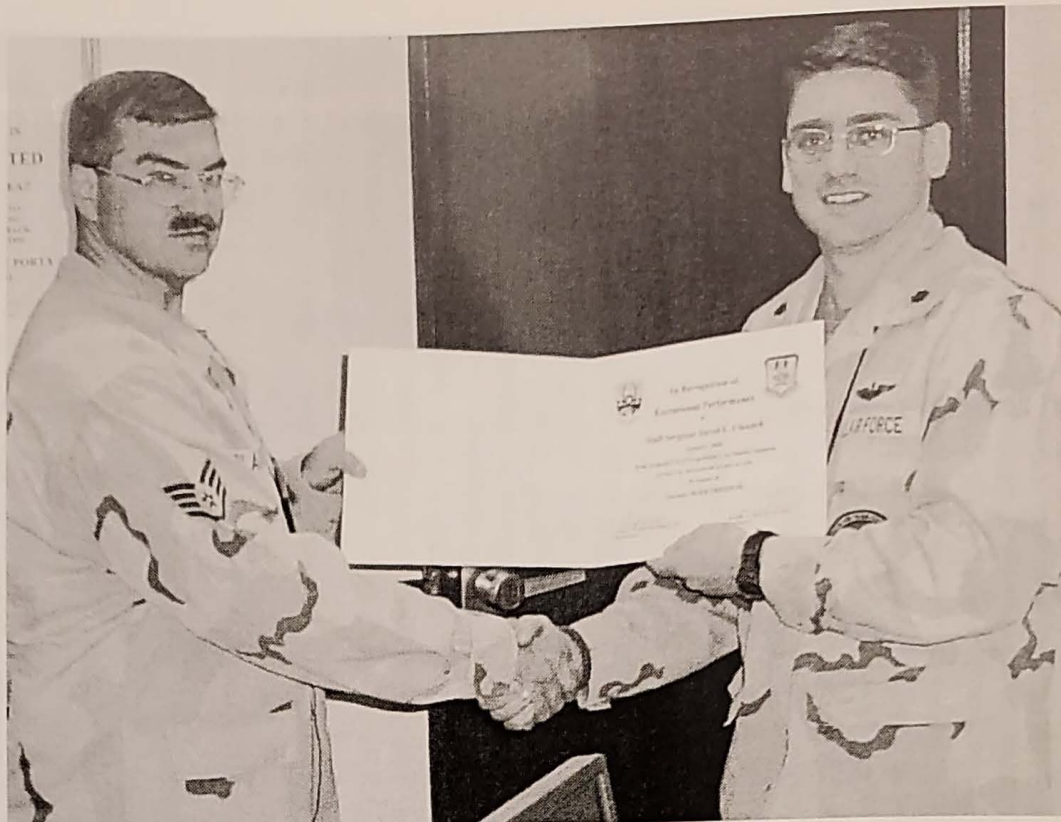
Members are encourage to call Lisenbee at 734-7492 prior to stopping by. MPF's hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the UTA weekends MPF's hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.



Okie pride overseas

Staff Sgt. David Claunch (left), from the 35th Combat Communications Squadron, was recently honored as one of the top performers for the 5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron. Claunch was previously recognized as one of last year's Wing Airmen of the Quarter. He is currently deployed in support of an Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation.

Courtesy photo



On-final R-News

Annual Pump & Run set

The 507th Civil Engineer Squadron will host their fourth annual 5-K Pump & Run starting at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 1 of UTA weekend.

The event will be held at the Civil Engineering Building 1047 and is open to all 507th ARW and 513th ACG members.

According to event coordinator Master Sgt. Billy Singleton, the competition involves a 5-K run and bench pressing your weight (60 percent for females), with a minimum of one repetition to compete and maximum of 20 repetitions for credit. Each repetition will take 30 seconds of time off your 5-K run. Trophies will be presented to the top five winners.

"The entry fee for the event is \$10 and 100 percent of the money raised will go to benefit Special Olympics of Oklahoma," Sergeant Singleton said. To enter, contact Singleton at Billy.Singleton

@tinker.af.mil or call 202-3779 (cell). You can also call him at the CE squadron 734-7428 during the April drill.

April UTA Blood Drive set

The April UTA blood drive has been set for the following dates and times:

Saturday, April 3: Noon - 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 4: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Survey seeks opinions

The 507th ARW Public Affairs office seeks your opinion regarding the *On-final*.

The link below takes you to an automated, on-line survey program. Select Tinker for the base and then select *On-final* for the newspaper. The survey takes roughly 10 minutes.

Please only take the survey one time per year. If you have already participated in this research effort, thank you for your inputs and comments.

The results of this survey will be used by Public Affairs personnel to improve the *On-final*. The survey site is located at: http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/survey_index.htm.

507th ARW Recruiters



Tinker AFB, OK

(In-Service Recruiter)
Master Sgt. Nathan Bickle
(405) 739-2980

Moore, Norman, OK

Tech. Sgt. Gene Higgins
(405) 217-8311

Midwest City, OK

Tech. Sgt. Marvin Greene (SE)
Staff Sgt. Sharon McQuitty (NW)
(405) 733-9403

Tulsa, OK

Master Sgt. Pam Peterson (NW)
Tech. Sgt. Richard D. Kozik (NE)
(918) 665-2300

Lawton, OK

Staff Sgt. Kamela Thigpen
(580) 357-2784

McConnell AFB, KS

Master Sgt. David McCormick
(In-Service Recruiter)
(316) 652-3766

Vance AFB, OK

Master Sgt. David McCormick
(316) 652-3766