

Buckeye AIRLIFTER



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The 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, Mansfield, OH

Heritage to Horizons: Commemorating 60 Years of Air, Space, and Cyber Power

Since the dawn of civilization, man's perspective has been limited by his horizons. Warring commanders sought the high ground; seamen posted their lookouts atop their highest mast—all sought to attain advantage by gaining altitude to broaden their horizons.

Just over 100 years ago, the world's first innovative Airmen, American inventors from Dayton, Ohio, obliterated such limited perspectives by ushering in the era of manned flight. Since then, adaptive and flexible Airmen in uniform have continued to innovate, pushing the limits of imagination and technology to dominate the Air, Space, and now Cyberspace, in an unrelenting quest to broaden our knowledge, expand our horizons, and ensure our nation's security.

Nearly sixty years ago, on September 18, 1947, President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act into law, creating the United States Air Force as an independent service dedicated to global Air and Space power. This year, we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of our proud Service—born of revolutionary ideas, forged in conflict, and proven through decades of progress and achievement. In doing so, we pause to **Reflect** on our remarkable heritage, **Reaffirm** our commitment to today's fight, and **Resolve** to continually expand our reach toward our Limitless Horizons.

We have every reason to be proud when we **Reflect** on our remarkable Heritage. From the very first powered flight, Airmen have always seen the world differently—*mastery of the vertical dimension* has changed warfare forever. Never again will America's generals and admirals be limited by mountains, oceans, shorelines or distance. Air, Space, and Cyber power deliver unprecedented Vantage, Speed, Range, and Flexibility, defying the traditional sur-

face limitations of old.

This mastery did not come easily—it came at the hands of innovative Airpower Pioneers who bequeathed us all their lasting legacy of ingenuity, courage and resolve,



enabling our transformation of Air and Space capabilities. Billy Mitchell was court-martialed for his unconventional thinking and advocacy for the dawning capabilities of air power, yet later awarded a Special Congressional Medal of Honor for his vision. Jimmy Doolittle led his daring band of Doolittle Raiders off the decks of the USS Hornet just months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, striking a devastating blow to Tokyo's morale and providing the first real boost to American spirits in World War II. For this courageous and vital effort, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Bennie Schriever made the cover of *Time Magazine* in 1957 as "America's Missileman," for his remarkable shepherding of four phenomenal missile systems—the Atlas, Thor, Titan, and Minuteman missiles—from conception to deployment in a mere 8 years following the launch of the Soviet sputnik. Descendants of these missile systems still guard the Homeland today.

The list of pioneering Airmen who sum-

moned the courage to face dangerous times, daunting challenges and terrible enemies—great Captains of Airpower such as Hap Arnold, Tooeey Spatz, Frank Andrews and Curtis LeMay—goes on and on. Yet not all of our Airpower Heroes are household names. Over 29,000 Airmen lost their lives in the European theater of World War II; thousands more in other campaigns. In all, over 54,000 courageous Airmen have made the ultimate sacrifice in battle while serving our nation.

On October 14, 2006, we will dedicate a much overdue National Air Force Monument in Arlington, Virginia, honoring the dedication, sacrifice and accomplishments of these courageous Air Pioneers and Warriors. This inspiring monument overlooking Washington, DC, also pays tribute to the millions of Americans who have served in the World's Finest Air Force since its inception 60 years ago, the 700,000 Airmen who serve today across our Total Force, and the millions yet to serve, who will be inspired by your amazing acts of courage and innovation in the days and years ahead.

As we **Remember**, we must also **Reaffirm**. While drawing from our proud Air Force Heritage of success, we must continually remember our ongoing commitment to our Core Values—Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. This AF 60th Anniversary gives us an opportunity to Reaffirm our commitment to these values and to our 3 most important priorities today:

1. Winning the Global War on Terror
2. Developing our Airmen
3. Recapitalizing/Modernizing our Force

When it comes to the *Global War on Terror*, our top priority, we must never forget

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that we are engaged in a Long War with vile enemies, which we simply MUST win! Every day, at any given moment, over 210,000 Active, Guard, Reserve and Civilian Airmen are engaged on the Joint Team in the Global War on Terror, spanning the vast spectrum of operations from Global Strike to Global ISR to Global Mobility, bringing the unmatched capabilities of our Air Force to bear on the enemy.

When it comes to Global Strike, our Airmen hold global targets at risk, 24 hours a day. Thanks to our amazing Airmen, a single bomber today can precisely obliterate 80 distinct targets in a solitary pass; in World War II, just before our inception as a separate Service, it took over 1500 sorties and thousands of bombs to take out a *single* target. Think of the difference in terms of Airmen at risk, aircraft procured, and logistics for one aircraft and one crew to hold at risk in one pass what thousands of bombers and their crews couldn't reliably destroy in thousands of passes just a few short decades ago. This is just one more example of the phenomenal breakthroughs continually realized by our remarkable, Innovative Airmen!

Of course, destroyed targets first require timely target identification—our Global ISR is sometimes acquired by satellite passes, sometimes acquired by UAV detection, sometimes acquired by electronic intercepts by orbiting aircrews, and sometimes acquired by Battlefield Airmen face to face with the enemy! All of these further highlight the ongoing innovations in technology and imagination that our pioneering Airmen continually bring to the fight.

Meanwhile, every 90 seconds, every day, 365 days a year, Air Mobility Command launches another transport or tanker—delivering our warriors and their equipment to the fight and back, and launching Airmen as America's "First Responders" to humanitarian crises around the world. Our Global Mobility is unmatched.

Executing these global missions with Excellence and ceaseless Innovation requires a constant commitment to *Developing our Airmen*—our most valuable assets. We do this by seamlessly integrating our Active,

Guard and Reserve into one cohesive force. We do this by continually offering enhanced opportunities for continued learning and advanced degrees, as the Air Force recognizes that broadened individual perspectives lead directly to broadened collective breakthroughs. We do this by transforming our Basic Military Training to better prepare Airmen for today's Expeditionary Air Force, and by enhancing our Battlefield Airmen Training. Increased emphasis on regional studies and strategic languages will further prepare our Airmen for our Expeditionary future.



No matter how well we prepare our Airmen to win the Global War on Terror, we simply MUST *Recapitalize and Modernize* our force! Imagine if we'd held onto B-29s (America's premier Pacific bomber of World War II) rather than develop the B-2 40 years later. Sure, it would have been "cheaper" initially to continue flying B-29s rather than investing in the stealth, flying-wing, and precision-delivery technologies of the modern B-2, but would it have increased our effectiveness in performing our mission? One B-2 today can infiltrate enemy defenses undetected and hold 80 unique targets at risk—something thousands of B-29s could not achieve.

Today, we still fly 50-year old tankers, and similarly aged bomber, cargo and reconnaissance aircraft, many of which are slated to be flown for another 30 years or more. If our innovative Airmen are to continue to

bring breakthrough technologies to bear on tomorrow's Air, Space, and Cyber Domains, we simply must focus our energies and our resources on our future!

On this 60th Anniversary of our Air Force, we've talked about **Remembering** our Proud Heritage and **Reaffirming** our Commitments to Winning the Global War on Terror, Developing our Airmen, and Recapitalizing our Force. In closing, I ask that you join me in **Resolving** to commit ourselves to action, as we strive for ever greater Air, Space and Cyberspace capabilities to safeguard our Nation and its ideals.

Innovation is in our DNA. Nothing frustrates us more than hearing "We do it that way because we've always done it that way!" Airmen always ask themselves, "Isn't there a better way...?" And there ALWAYS is! And Airmen always find it! We owe it to our Service, our Nation, and the Pioneering Airmen who went before us, to see our better ideas through to implementation. This is the whole impetus behind "Smart Ops 21" (AFSO21). With today's challenges and our constrained resources, we simply cannot afford to continue to do things the same old way, when we know there's a better solution.

Likewise, a new domain, Cyberspace, has recently been added to our Mission Statement.

Like the Air and Space before it, America's security is ever more dependent upon control of this new domain. Delivering effects with cyber warfare opens an entirely new way of holding enemies at risk.

Complete mastery of Air, Space and Cyberspace is a worthy goal, but it's only half of the equation. We must work equally hard to integrate these capabilities into the fight with our Joint and Coalition partners. Platforms won't win tomorrow's wars; Joint and Coalition Interdependence will.

Our Nation and the ideals upon which it was established offer the best hope for an uncertain world facing real challenges. On this 60th Anniversary of our Air Force, let us **Reflect** on our remarkable Heritage, **Reaffirm** our commitment to today's fight, and **Resolve** to continually expand our reach toward our Limitless Horizons.

Taken from: AF 60th Anniversary Task Force

AF 'Know-How' Streamlines Flow of Info

The Air Force now has a "virtual community" where individuals can go anytime to share information with their peers anywhere in the world.

Called "Knowledge Now," this community is a collaborative Web system that is accessible through the Air Force Portal and is designed to allow Airmen of all ranks, specialties and skill levels to communicate with each other on a variety of topics.

"The objective is to create an environment of people from across the Air Force where they can collaborate and share their expertise on a variety of subjects," said Randy Adkins, director of the Air Force Center of Excellence for Knowledge Management.

These subjects are divided into databases and joint work spaces called Communities of Practice, or COPs. This capability has proven to be one of the system's more popular features, Mr. Adkins said.

These "communities" serve as a resource for Airmen who need information to accomplish a mission. One example, said Mr. Adkins, was in 2003 when a junior Airman was deployed to Baghdad and told to set up an armory. The Airman had never performed this task and was unsure how to

accomplish it. So, he logged into Knowledge Now, went into the security forces COP and sent out a request for help. He received an answer from a senior master sergeant in the United States who detailed exactly how to set up an armory and provided instruction manuals. The Airman's armory was up and running in no time.

"This system can be used to help someone with just about any problem or information request imaginable," Mr. Adkins said.

With nearly 200,000 users and more than 9,000 COPs, the list of subjects covered in Knowledge Now includes everything from space tactics to special weapons to system management to B-2 Spirit radar modification, Mr. Adkins said.

Because the system is more secure than a military e-mail account, users can even use Knowledge Now to send operations manuals, training guides and enlisted performance reports to all corners of the globe. There is even a secure version of the system available to units and users who use Secure Internet Protocol Router, or SIPR, to communicate.

Initially created in 2002, Knowledge Now is continually growing and evolving. The

system is seeing approximately 8,000 new users and dozens of new communities being started every month.

And it's not just for Air Force people. The system is open to active-duty, Guard and Reserve people from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps as well.

So, growth is exactly what the system's developers want to see.

"Ideally, we'd like to see everybody in the Air Force and the military as a whole using this system," said Bill Miles, Air Force Knowledge Now program manager.

This program is also in line with the chief of staff's directives regarding information sharing and knowledge enhancement within the Air Force.

"We have all heard the phrase "Flexibility is the key to airpower," said Gen. T. Michael Moseley. "I would like to add that knowledge-enabled Airmen are the key to flexibility."

Knowledge Now can be found at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/COP/Entry.asp?Filter=OO> or via the Air Force Portal so users can access the system from home.

Taken from: <http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,147542,00.html>

CCAF Degree Important Career Milestone

By CMSgt Paul Sikora
www.military.com

I recently attended a Community College of the Air Force graduation and wanted to take a few minutes to relay the importance of reaching such a major milestone in your military careers and lives.

Gaining a CCAF degree is more than a piece of paper; it's a significant accomplishment that reflects the priority you place on education in your life and your journey to continue growing and improving. It's also a return on the investment of your service contributing to the Air Force mission.

Gaining a CCAF degree can provide potential boosts in both financial gains and employment advantages, and yes, there are incredible studies with statistics and charts available to see exactly what that can mean to you. But every person has a different reason for why gaining a CCAF degree is important.

With so many different reasons possible, I decided to make my own Top 10 list of why a CCAF degree is important to you and the Air Force.

10. You are awesome representatives of the Air Force. There were more than 100 graduates at the ceremony I attended and

every enlisted grade from airman to senior master sergeant was represented among the graduates. This is a strong example of how the CCAF degree is important throughout a person's entire career. Apprenticeship through superintendent, attaining this degree defines "excellence in action."

9. Your CCAF degree tells me you understand and support our culture. The Air Force has the most highly educated enlisted force in the world, and we do that by recruiting, training, educating and retaining the best of the best. No other service has an associate's degree program like the Air Force, and that is an indicator of how high we view education as an institution and part of our culture.

8. A CCAF degree prepares you for future leadership positions. Our degrees are vocation specific — whether in criminal justice or as an instructor of technology/military science — your degree is making you a better, more professional Airman. With broader technical, specialized knowledge, you're prepared for greater leadership roles.

7. Education inspires others around you. I was always amazed at

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AF Changes How Firefighters do Business

The Air Force's top civil engineer wants to change the way Air Force firefighters do business.

As force-shaping measures decrease the overall numbers of firefighters in the Air Force by more than 900 people, Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg said he has had to find new ways to maintain their mission capability to make a streamlined firefighting force more efficient and more effective.

"The secretary of the Air Force challenged us to look at ways to get the mission done with fewer people," General Eulberg said. "For firefighters, it means changing from a 'risk avoidance' stance to a 'risk management' mindset. It means looking at everything we do and asking if that's the way we should still do it."

To solve the manpower issue, General Eulberg said his people adopted several principles laid out by Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century, or AFSO 21, an Air Force-wide program where organizations re-examine their own procedures and business processes to find ways to save time and money.

What they found were several ways to update and change their own business practices, policies, on-duty staff requirements and other 'old ways of doing business' that did not allow for risk considerations.

There are many things the firefighter career field can change to help them increase their mission performance, while still taking better care of people. For example, installation civil engineer squadrons currently require a full crew of firefighters on duty every single day, whether there are flying operations or not, whether it's a weekend or a holiday or not, General Eulberg said.

"We did a five-year study and found that 70 percent of calls are during duty hours, 17 percent on the weekends and only 1.3 percent on holidays," the general said. "Further, we respond to an aircraft fire about once every 611 days and a structural fire once every 108 days. We don't need to have the same number of people

constantly on duty 24 hours a day for that. By varying the number of firefighters on duty, we could provide the level of protection we need to protect people and property with fewer firefighters.

"Other than prevention, the key to fighting a fire is speed, not necessarily numbers," he said. "The ability to intervene early at a fire is the essential element to minimizing damage and injury. The earlier intervention occurs; the fewer firefighters will be required.

"Our firefighters exceed Department of Defense standards when it comes to response time," the general said. "In addition, there are new technologies we're testing to make firefighting more efficient. With all of this in mind, we'll not only maintain our current level of capability, we'll actually exceed it."

Also, the Air Force spent more than 99,000 man-hours in 2006 with a fire crew overseeing supposed hazardous operations, most of which involved aircraft maintenance procedures. Yet, experts could not find a single incident when they've had to put out a fire in five years, General Eulberg said.

"We're challenging the way we do things and 'because we've always done it this way' is no longer an excuse to do something that may not make sense to do anymore," he said.

All of this adds up to being able to staff a firehouse with fewer people during low risk periods and more firefighters during higher risk periods. It will mean more time for firefighters to spend with their families. And because these principles will also be applied at deployed locations, it will mean fewer firefighters will have to be deployed as well, General Eulberg said.

"There will be no change in our ability to respond and no reduction in response time standards," General Eulberg said. "Our firefighters will be better trained and have more effective equipment. Change in the Air Force isn't new, and after all of these improvements, we'll still get our mission accomplished."

Taken from: www.military.com

Spiritual Readiness

By Chaplain Troy Diersing

Recently, I was encouraged to look over my mobility folder to make sure that everything was up to date. It did not take me long to realize that my folder was lacking a number of items. As we prepare for our upcoming UCI it's critical that we have such items in order. Not only should our mobility folders be ready for inspections, but in the world in which we now live, we must be constantly ready to act at a moments notice. Readiness is what drives us in the Air Guard today.

Readiness is who we are.

When we think of Readiness each of us has a checklist informing us what we need. We are constantly reviewing and updating those lists as needed. We have checklist for our mobility folders, our mobility bags, our training requirements, our job responsibilities, and our physical health history. However, how many of us have a Spiritual Readiness checklist?

A Spiritual Readiness checklist may not be required by the Guard Bureau or may not be an inspection item next

year, but I would encourage you to create one for yourself. Each of us are Spiritual beings. That's how we were created, therefore we were created to worship God. Here are some suggestions on how to worship that you could include on your personal checklist: prayer, fellowship with other individuals who share in your same beliefs, read devotional material, seek out a spiritual advisor, or sing songs of worship. Readiness is our job, Spiritual Readiness is how we were created.

Do Something Amazing

As part of the “Do Something Amazing” national advertising campaign, Air Force officials are offering Airmen the opportunity to submit videos showing Air Force members in action, and the best videos will be posted to the official website — www.dosomethingamazing.com.

To submit a video for consideration, Airmen simply have to click on the website www.dosomethingamazing.com/airmen, register, then upload the video.

“In the spirit of the ad campaign, we want to give everyone across the Air Force the chance to show off their skills to the public,” said Master Sgt. Deshan Woods, the Air Force Recruiting Service’s interactive account executive. “This effort falls right in line with amazing videos we see every day across the Internet.”

The next round of “Do Something Amazing” videos are slated for public release this fall and the best videos submitted will be featured as part of the campaign. Air Force Recruiting Service members and its advertising agency will work with individuals and their respective public affairs offices to ensure the highest quality product is posted.

Some things to keep in mind as videos are being made:

Do

- Send your amazing footage/stories.
- Show what you do and tell why it’s amazing.
- Tell your name, rank and job.
- Hold on to all your footage just in case more is needed.
- Review the submission guidelines on the website.
- Find out who your base PA officer is before registering.

Don’t

- Send videos with a soundtrack or background music (though suggestions are welcome).
- Send videos of non-Air Force activities.
- Send videos that violate Air Force code of ethics standards.

Submission guidelines

- Quantity: There is no limit to the number of videos you can upload.
- File Size: Videos should be no larger than 40mb.
- Dimensions: The minimum video dimensions acceptable are 640 x 480.
- Format: Acceptable video formats are QuickTime, MPEG1, MPEG4, Windows Media and AVI.

Preferred specifications

- Windows Media Video 9. Total bit rate of 700 kbps at 480 x 360.
- QuickTime (MPEG4 h.264 codec). Total bit rate of 700 kbps at 480 x 360.

Copyright infringement

Avoid filming anything that could be construed as copyright infringement.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Background music.
- Visible logos.
- Endorsing a product.
- Using any video footage that does not belong to you.

Taken from: www.military.com/

You’re a Survivor, Keep it That Way

Congratulations!

If you’re reading this article, you have survived the 101 Critical Days of Summer thus far. Seventeen fellow Air Force members weren’t as fortunate.

One common theme among all the mishaps is the fact they could have been prevented. Traditionally, Labor Day weekend is the most deadly holiday for the Air Force as a whole, so the members of the Ground Safety Office here would like to remind you of some safety tips for this weekend.

Twelve of the 17 fatalities occurred as a result of automobile or motor-cycle accidents. Of the 12, one was

attributed to not wearing a seatbelt. Although wearing a seatbelt will not guarantee your survival, it will increase your chances of survival dramatically. Remember to wear your seatbelt and ensure your vehicle occupants do as well.

Make a driving plan ahead of time and stick with it; it could be your best defense to fighting fatigue while driving. Be sure to take rest breaks, and if possible, switch drivers every few hours to allow ample rest time.

Another big killer of Airmen is alcohol. Whether driving, boating or swimming, alcohol has played a large role in the deaths of Air Force

members. Drink responsibly. Use a designated driver, and always know a person to call to get you home safely.

Finally, if you’re engaging in water activities, please follow the rules of the water. Remember to use the buddy system, avoid alcohol use and use personal floatation devices when applicable.

Whatever activity you choose to take part in this weekend, be sure to use personal risk management and watch out for not only yourselves, but those around you. Have a safe and enjoyable weekend, and remember, safety is no accident.

Taken from: www.military.com

Q & A: Airman Battle Uniform

Q1: When is the mandatory wear date for the ABU?

A1: October 2011 (FY12).

Q2: Will we wear patches (e.g. Wing or Squadron) on the ABU?

A2: No patches or unit emblems will be worn on the ABU. Mandatory badges (Aeronautical, Chaplain), and mandatory duty shields for Force Protection and Fire Protection are required. **No other duty badges will be authorized or worn.** Occupational badges are optional, but encouraged.

Q3: Will we still be able to wear baseball hats?

A3: Organizational baseball hats are not authorized with the ABU. Only the ABU hat (looks like the current BDU style with the ABU print) and currently authorized berets will still be allowed.

Q4: Can I wear sister services badges on the ABU?

A4: No.

Q5: Can I wear my black combat boots?

A5: Black boots will not be authorized at anytime with the ABU. Tan boots can be used until the green boots become readily available. A phase out date will be announced at a later date.

Q6: Will other Air Force-issued items change to match the pattern and/or color of the ABU?

A6: Yes, some items (hat, socks, & T-shirts) will be introduced concurrently w/ the ABU. As mentioned above (Q.5), tan boots are authorized until the green suede boots are available.

Q7: Why didn't we use Velcro® for the attachments to the ABU?

A7: The Research and Development branch of the Air Force Clothing Office at Wright-Patterson AFB looked into using Velcro®, since it appears to be easier and less expensive for our Airmen. However, research indicates otherwise and the majority of the Airmen in the test did not want Velcro® (see Q&A 42 for a more detailed explanation).

Q8: Will the jacket commonly known as the Gortex® jacket be available?

A8: Yes, AAFES will be selling the new Air Force All Purpose Environmental Camouflage (AF APEC) Parka.

Q9: Can I mix and match patterns with

my ABUs (i.e. wear any of my over garments with the ABU until I get a new ABU jacket)?

A9: No, you cannot mix and match patterns (BDU, DCU and ABU). The only exception to this policy is field items, i.e., body armor, helmet cover, MOLLEs and canteen covers, which will be available primarily in the Army Combat Uniform (ACU), but will also continue to be available in DCU, and solid tan or OD green shades as well, which are all authorized for wear — they can be worn with the ABU at home station (as well as in the AOR) as mission requires. This does NOT apply to the DCU Gortex® jackets, which can be worn with the ABU in the AOR ONLY.

Q10: I understand that the expected life expectancy of the typical ABU is only 12 months. That doesn't seem very durable for a uniform that is designed to be used in combat environments. Will the enlisted clothing allowance be updated annually to allow Airmen to purchase four sets every year?

A10: The life expectancy is based on the current BDU for the enlisted clothing allowance. Our tests indicate that, with proper care and laundering, there will be a much longer life than one year and once there is sufficient data to support that, the life expectancy will be adjusted.

Q11: Does the ABU require dry cleaning and/or pressing?

A11: The ABU is literally a wash and wear item. In fact, starching and hot pressing of ABUs is prohibited. Also, one should not dry clean the ABU. Dry cleaning,

starching and hot pressing will deteriorate the fiber in the uniform and shorten the wear life.

Q12: What are the washing and care requirements for the ABU?

A12: In order to maximize service life and maintain optimum performance, the following instructions should be followed when caring for the ABU: Wash in warm water with detergent containing no optical brighteners or bleach. Tumble dry at low heat. The use of starch, sizing and any process that involves dry-cleaning or steam press will adversely affect the treatments and durability of the uniform and is not authorized.


Q13: How could starch damage the uniform?

A13: Starching of the ABU is prohibited. Starching uniforms makes the uniform material more brittle and subsequently reduces the wear life. The permanent press

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AIRMAN BATTLE UNIFORM

ABU



BDU-style hat
A floppy-style hat will be worn in some deployed areas.

Tan t-shirt
Tan T-shirt with an Air Force logo on the front and Air Force written on the back.

Nametapes
The nametapes and rank insignia will be tan with midnight blue lettering.

Wash n' Wear
Made of a 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric, eliminating the need for starch, ironing and costly dry-cleaning fees. Simply Wash it, dry it, wear it. Comes in men's and women's sizes.

Lots o' pockets
Four pockets on the front of the shirt; a small pencil pocket on the left forearm; and two pockets on the lower legs. Little pockets -- sewn into the side and breast pockets -- can hold small items.

Boots
Suede, green-gray cowhide boots that won't require polishing and come in men's and women's sizes.

Mansfield Lahm Military Family Scholarship Program Recipients

The following individuals were the 2007 – 2008 recipients of the Mansfield Lahm Military Families (MLMF) \$500.00 academic scholarships. A \$500.00 check will be sent to each recipient's university.

Ms. Jenny E. Sykes, spouse to SrA John Sykes of the 179th Civil Engineering Squadron. Jenny is pursuing a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Health Care Management from the Colorado Technical University. Jenny and John have three children, ages 5, 4, and 1.

Ms. Jessica Phillips, daughter to TSgt Cindy Phillips of the 179th Airlift Squadron and SMSgt Tim Phillips of the 179th Communications Flight. Jessica recently graduated from Lexington High School and plans on attending the Ohio State University, where she will be pursuing a degree in Pediatric Oncology.

Ms. Amanda Beer, daughter to MSgt Fred Beer (Ret) 179th Security Forces Squadron. Amanda is a senior at Wright State University pursuing a degree in Nursing and expects to graduate in June 2008 and will also be getting married July 12, 2008.

Mr. Ryan Athy, son to TSgt Paul Athy (Ret) 179th Airlift Wing Financial Management Office. Ryan recently graduated from Shelby High School and plans on attending Ohio Northern University, where he will be pursuing an engineering degree.

The MLMF Scholarship Committee wishes these individuals the best in their future endeavors and congratulates them on the accomplishments they have already achieved.

Maj Troy Cramer
MLMF Scholarship Chairperson



Q & A: New Service Dress / Heritage Uniform

Q: Why are we changing from our current service dress uniform?

A: The CSAF decided to initiate a redesign of the service dress uniform after many years of feedback and inputs to the Air Force Uniform Board expressing displeasure in the business suit appearance of the current Air Force service dress design, as well as its similarity to several commercial airline pilot uniforms.

Q: What are some of the unique design features of the new service dress uniform?

A: The new Heritage Jacket includes notched lapels, upper chest buttoned pocket flaps with scalloped bottom edges, lower buttoned pocket flaps with scalloped bottom edges, a bi-swing back, a single back vent, silver buckle belt, a four button front and shoulder epaulets

Other changes to the uniform include a new female shirt to accommodate a traditional male tie and options for ceremonial or parade events.

Q: Will the new Heritage jacket use the same fabric as the current one?

A: Yes. Current trousers will match the new jacket fabric.

Q: Are we just changing the jacket, or is the style of the pants changing too?

A: There are no changes to the trouser design or style.

Q: Will rank, insignia, badges and ribbons be worn the same way?

A: There are no major changes planned

for rank, insignia, badge or ribbon wear. However, different configurations, such as wearing full-size medals for ceremonial occasions are being considered.

Q: When will the Heritage Jacket be available? What's the mandatory wear date?



A: The wear test will begin in late 2007. It should last approximately 3 months. It is too soon to establish an availability date, since it is dependent upon design changes, etc. Once a design is firm, production will be expedited and availability dates will be published.

Q: I've heard there is consideration for a custom tailored option? Who will wear it, and will it be mandatory?

A: Information regarding a custom tailoring option for the Heritage jacket (such as is done by the US Navy) is being compiled for consideration. A custom tailored Heritage uniform would have different material options (in the same AF blue shade), and would be more costly than the Heritage uniform provided in the BMTS clothing bag and sold at MCSS. Therefore, custom tailoring will be optional.

Q: How much will the new Heritage uniform cost?

A: Final costs have not been established at this point. Currently, officer uniforms are priced differently than enlisted uniforms—due to different configurations and different sources for enlisted clothing bag issue items. With the Heritage uniform, there would only be one coat for males, and one coat for females.

All efforts will focus on balancing the highest quality with strong value.

Q: What should or can I do with my old uniform, once I have the new one?

A: Individual uniform items that were issued to you or purchased by you become your personal property. However, whether you throw an item away, give it to charity or sell it, you should exercise basic security measures by removing all military items such as name, rank and badges.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

By Chief Eyster

On 24 August 2007, 4 future leaders from the 179th graduated from our first Airman Leadership School (ALS) satellite program! Senior Airmen Davies, DeWeese, Amert, and Cornell culminated 14 weeks of combined home station and in-residence education in fundamental leadership, communication, and profession of arms.

ALS targets the skills necessary to prepare our Airmen to lead and supervise

Air Force work teams, and to foster commitment to the profession of arms. At a pivotal point for Airmen, this experience often makes the difference in their career decisions. Additionally, the relationships they developed with each other and their classmates from other units will provide insights and networking opportunities for years to come. We congratulate the outstanding effort and commitment these Airmen demonstrated, and look forward to their future successes.



Pictured (from left): SrA Davies, SrA Cornell, SrA Amert, and SrA DeWeese

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and nIR (near Infrared) features of this uniform will be damaged by starching, commercial pressing and additives in the washing process. The permanent press feature will allow Airmen to look sharp and wear the ABU without incurring the costs of commercial dry cleaning or pressing.

Q14: I hear the ABU is a better fit. Can you explain?

A14: Yes, it is a better fit for men and women. The ABU has 236 (118 trousers and 118 blouses) sizes that will accommodate both men and women, unlike the 57 sizes of the current BDU. The ABU sizes follow commercial clothing standards. The most common sizes will be available on AAFES shelves and the total 236 sizes will be available by order through AAFES. The green suede boots will come in women's sizes unlike the current black boot in the Air Force inventory, which does not.

Q15: Who will pay for the ABU?

A15: Initially the Air Force will fund: 1) Initial issue of ABUs to some deploying total force war fighters; 2) Battlefield Airmen career fields will be issued 4 sets of ABUs when deploying to specific locations as determined by senior leadership; 3) BMTs will be issued 4 sets of ABUs. All others will purchase ABUs individually as replacements are needed (using clothing allowance if authorized).

Q16: Why did you borrow the pattern from the Army and Marines?

A16: We did not borrow the pattern. The Air Force created its own pattern with the inspiration from the Vietnam-era tiger stripe. The AF did use colors based on the Army's new ACU with the addition of slate blue.

Q17: Why a new uniform now?

A17: We developed our own pattern that is compatible with the patterns of the other services. The services have recognized the need to have a uniform better suited to the environment in which we operate, that is easy to care for and that fits better. The ABU accomplishes that.

Q18: Why doesn't the Air Force just adopt the Army's ACU? Isn't it wasteful for the Air Force to develop, produce, and distribute a new uniform in today's constrained fiscal environment?

A18: The goal for the ABU was to develop a distinctive AF uniform that is better fitting and easier and less expensive to maintain. These goals were developed in

response to input from Airmen across the force. The Air Force Clothing Office created a matrix of all the suggestions and complaints sent to the AFUB for several years. The current BDU received the most complaints and suggestions. Because the BDU is an Army owned uniform, the AF could not make changes to it. When the Army decided it would discontinue the current BDU and DCU, they did not have any designs to share with the AF either. This provided a unique opportunity for the Air Force to take input from Airmen and develop a uniform that can meet the specific needs of the Air Force while retaining the flexibility to adapt to changes as they occur over time.

Q19: The slanted cargo pockets on the blouse and trousers of the ACU are much more accessible than horizontal pockets. Why didn't the Air Force incorporate slanted pockets into the design of the ABU?

A19: The senior leadership of AFSOC considered the use of slant pockets, but ultimately decided there was no advantage to them. In fact, we specifically sought and received input on pockets, which resulted in the lower arm and leg pockets on the latest version of the ABU.

Q20: The Army designed a two-piece aviation variant of their ACU. Why isn't the Air Force designing a replacement flight suit based on the ABU?

A20: For several reasons, Air Force senior leadership decided that it would be premature, at this time, to move forward with development of a two-piece flight suit. Many Air Force pilots must wear a one-piece flight suit due to ejection seat requirements. As a result, it is imperative to continue with some variant of a one-piece flight suit. The AF is studying the possibility of a two-piece suit for some flight specialties; however, there is currently insufficient data to warrant moving forward with development.

Q21: The fabric on the new ABU feels like it's a heavier weight than the winter version of the old BDU. If so, why is that the case considering the ABU will be used in a wide range of environmental conditions?

A21: The fabric is the same weight as the temperate BDU, and the same weight as the MARPAT trousers; however, when it was tested for air permeability against a starched summer weight BDU the ABU fabric performed better. Initially, the perma-

nent press treatment can make the fabric feel a bit heavier, too.

Q22: The length of the trousers on the new ABU appears to be about 12 inches too long. Was this a manufacturing error or is there another reason?

A22: The trouser length was set after extensive fit and wear testing to allow blousing for someone whose legs were long, but their lower torso length was short. In the past, this person would have to buy a "long" trouser to get the needed length in the leg, but the trouser crotch would hang uncomfortably low on them.

Q23: Why didn't the Air Force just forgo the sleeve rank and provide upper sleeve pockets that would be more useful than hidden pockets and chest pockets when wearing IBA?

A23: Collaborative discussion among senior leadership from all commands resulted in the decision to continue with the rank on the sleeve, rather than reconfigure to add more pockets.

Q24: Will the new green boots be offered in safety toe option and if so, when? What will we do if the ABUs are out but there isn't a matching safety boot available?

A24: Yes, we plan to bring out the green boots in a safety toe option. The green safety toe boots will most likely be available around mid-2008. With ABUs being available for purchase through AAFES in late fall 2007, we have allowed desert tan boots to be worn with the ABU. This will ensure that personnel who have been issued the ABU for deployment will have boots to wear with the ABU.

HELP !!!

Do you know who to call if something happens requiring emergency help on base?

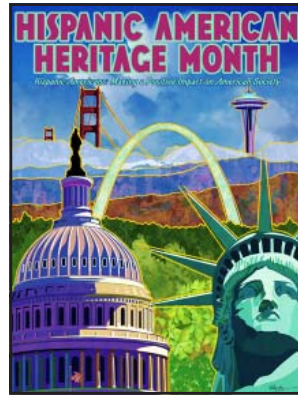
One call to 911 from a base phone will get you route to who you need. It will put you in contact with Security Forces and the Fire Department.

This number is also the one to use to alert the base in the event of immediate danger, such as a tornado.

SEPTEMBER IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In honor of this Spanish ancestry, the U.S. has celebrated Hispanic Heritage month from 15 September to 15 October every year since 1988. This is the fastest growing population as the Census 2000 indicated that Hispanics have become the largest minority group in the United States including Puerto Rico. The word Hispanic comes from Espana, Spain, the country that led the conquest of the New World. Hispanic ancestry is rich and consists of anyone who descended from the mother country. Hispanic or Latino Americans share a common language and heritage. Because of this commonality, they are often lumped together despite their many differences. The Hispanic experience varies greatly, depending on the particular ethnic group, area of the country, and period of immigration. The backgrounds of Hispanics are diverse with a focus on Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and other Hispanics such as Central and South America and the Dominican Republic.

As the 2000 Census indicates, Mexican Americans comprise the largest number of Hispanic Americans in the United States. Most Mexican Americans or Chicanos are Mestizo, i.e., of mixed Native American and Caucasian descent. Puerto Ricans are descendents from the native Taino Amerindians, the African people brought to the island as slaves, and the Spanish who conquered the island and interbred and intermarried with both groups. Puerto Ricans comprise the second largest group of



Hispanics and are also the most socially and economically disadvantaged Latino group. Puerto Rico received its name from Juan Ponce de Leon when he explored the island and upon the arrival at the bay of San Juan exclaimed “Ay que puerto rico!” (“Oh what a rich port!”) The island became known as Puerto Rico from that moment on. Cubans came to the U.S. as a result of the many waves of political unrest that occurred in Cuba prior to the Spanish-American War in 1898. During the late 18th century, a large Cuban colony blossomed in Tampa, Florida.

When it comes to serving the United States, Hispanic Americans have risen to the occasion. As far back as the American Revolution, Spaniards and people of Hispanic descent provided significant military assistance. Hispanic Americans have served proudly in all U.S. wars and their presence in the ranks has increased since WWII. Interestingly, Hispanics, both women and men, tend to choose to enlist and receive commissions in the Marine Corps compared with the other services. The reasoning may be steeped in the deep tradition of Hispanic Americans serving with valor in the military in combat units in the Marines and the Army.

Those of Latino descent have and will continue to have an enduring impact on mainstream American culture. Americans should embrace this culture, for it is a part of our history and it will become our future.

Excerpts from Observance 07 Pamphlet 01-4

(Continued from page 3)

how infectious education can be in an office or workcenter. It only takes one person showing the desire and dedication to complete a degree to “fire up” a group of Airmen. The pride you have in your accomplishment makes others want to be like you, and that’s a good thing.

6. As a CCAF graduate, you are a better spokesperson for my Air Force. Each of you is a key part of an ongoing public relations campaign to educate the public about our Air Force. You are strategic Airmen with a message to send and a story to tell. When you are home on leave or visiting friends, you represent the Air Force. By attaining a higher education, you enlighten yourself and represent our service better.

5. Completing your CCAF degree shows initiative, as completing your education as a military member is no easy task. Deployments, conflicting family demands, and being the best possible Airman you can be

is a full load.

4. Education helps develop critical thinking skills. We want smarter Airmen. We want Airmen who can see a problem and find a creative way to fix it. Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century is all about smart people employing critical thinking.

3. The Air Force has invested in you. Each penny spent on your education comes back to the Air Force and your nation. When an individual goes to Professional Military Education, they incur an active duty service commitment. The Air Force expects something in return for its investment. Your CCAF degree doesn’t come with an active-duty service commitment, but it does come with the knowledge that your Air Force cares about you.

2. Education makes you a better citizen. One day we will all take off this uniform and be civilians again. We know this CCAF degree gives you the chance to earn more money, but it also prepares you to contrib-

ute to your community.

Approximately 40 percent of the population has an associate’s degree or higher, so you are already in the upper half of the population of the United States. Throw in your military service, and you are a unique asset to your community and country.

And the No. 1 reason your CCAF degree is important is ...

1. You are halfway to your bachelor’s degree. The Air Force’s newest education program is called ABC — Associates to Bachelor Cooperative Program. Air University has fielded the program that partners with civilian higher education institutions to offer baccalaureate degree opportunities to every Air Force enlisted member.

There are ample opportunities to get your degree. The Air Force pays 100 percent tuition assistance, and the Department of Defense administers CLEP and DANTES test free of charge. There is no time like the present to get started.

Improved health care plan for reservists starts in October

- ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) —

Reservists can begin signing up Aug. 11 for more affordable Tricare Select Reserve health care that starts Oct. 1.

For some, it means they will pay a third of what they are paying today.

"All drilling reservists, including individual mobilization augmentees, will have access to the health-care benefit at its lowest premium rate," said Lt. Col. Alexander Alex, Air Force Reserve Command's health benefits manager. "Interested reservists, including those who are currently enrolled in Tricare Reserve Select, must fill out a newly developed Defense Department Form 2896-1 to take part in this restructured program."

In the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress told Defense Department officials to restructure the plan's three-tier payment system, which has been in effect since 2006. Dr. David S.C. Chu, deputy secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed the new policy Aug. 3.

Under the system that ends Sept. 30, only reservists on or recently returned from a contingency operation qualify for Tier 1, the lowest cost premium.

Reservists in Tier 3 pay the most each month, \$247 for the reservist alone and \$767.41 for the reservist and family. They include people who haven't been in a contingency recently, who are not self-employed, who work for an employer who offers a health care plan or who do not qualify for unemployment compensation

as determined by state law.

That all changes starting Oct. 1. All drilling reservists will pay the lowest premium, \$81 a month for single coverage. Monthly premiums for reservists and families will be \$253. Tricare will adjust premiums annually on Jan. 1.

"We've been working hard for years to improve health-care benefits for all reservists, and this is a big step in that process," said Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, AFRC's vice commander.

The general encourages all reservists to study the program to see if it meets their needs.

"As a health-care consultant, I have looked at numerous plans," Colonel Alex said. "And this is a very competitive 80/20 indemnity plan where the government pays 80 percent and the member pays 20 percent of the cost share.

"One of its huge benefits is the pharmacy program," he said. "If used wisely, members can get a 90-day supply of medicine for \$3 per prescription."

Another plus to the plan is its \$1,000 catastrophic cap, among the lowest in the industry, according to Colonel Alex.

"Once a member has paid \$1,000 in a fiscal year, Tricare will pay 100 percent of the Tricare allowable cost after that," he said.

About 11,500 members of the reserve components across all services are enrolled in Tricare Reserve Select. They include some 2,700 Air Force reservists.

Colonel Alex said these people will be required to re-enroll in the program using a DD Form 2896-1 if they want to keep

their coverage.

To begin the application process, reservists should visit the [Guard and Reserve Web portal](#). Note, this is a restricted site. DOD officials said they are looking into a simpler application process.

For more specific information, people can go to the [Tricare Reserve Select Web site](#) or contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center toll free at 800-525-0102 or DSN 926-6730. The fax number is commercial 478-327-2215 or DSN 497-2215. Online customer service is available by going to the [Virtual Personnel Center -Guard Reserve Web site](#), and clicking on "New Request."

All drilling reservists are qualified for the restructured Tricare Reserve Select program starting Oct. 1 with one major exception: If they are eligible for Federal Employee Health Benefits or are currently covered under FEHB (either under their own eligibility or through a family member's eligibility), they are not eligible to purchase Tricare Reserve Select.

"We want reservists to know that Tricare Reserve Select is something they have earned through their service to their country," said Colonel Alex. "And it is a benefit that our senior leaders have worked very hard to obtain. We hope all of our reservists will take a good look at what the program has to offer."

Colonel Alex encourages all reservists to visit the Tricare Reserve Select Web site to find out more information.

"This Web site is kept very current and will be updated as the new Tricare

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

On July 26, 2007 the United States celebrated the 17th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, located at web site address, [http://www/dol.gov/esa/regs/statutes/ofccp/ada.htm](http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/statutes/ofccp/ada.htm). President George Bush, in his speech when he signed the act stated, "This historic act is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities...." see web site <http://www.eeoc.gov/adabushspeech.html> for full text.



John Hockenberry published his memoir, *Moving Violations*, in 1995. He has been a paraplegic since he was 19 following an automobile accident. He writes about life and work as a reporter who travels the world in his wheelchair.

John is a two-time Peabody Award winner, who worked for National Public Radio for more than 10 years before becoming a correspondent for an ABC network news magazine.

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Official Business

To the family of:

“Weather” Base is Open or Closed

Have you ever wondered whether the base is open or closed due to the weather? Well, wonder no more.

There is now a number you can call to see if the base has been closed before you leave your house.

From off base, you can dial 419-520-6520 or 800-642-8365 ext. 520.

These numbers will connect you to a message letting you know any important information about the upcoming drill and the status of the base.

Be sure to check with this information line before you head to drills during inclement weather this winter.

