

Minuteman

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Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

December 2005

403rd has left the building



Photo by Mr. Don Peck

Even after relocating to Dobbins from Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Miss., the 403rd Airlift Squadron ran successful weather recon missions from here. Now that Keesler AFB can accommodate the people, they will return home. (Above) The final Hurricane Hunter crew heads home. The pilot (right) is Lt. Col. Jay Jensen, 403 Detachment 1 commander and 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron director of operations.

Enlisted Call addresses deployment concerns

By Master Sgt. Angelita Colón-Francia
Public Affairs

As a result of the increased number of Airmen deploying from Dobbins Air Reserve Base to overseas assignments, Chief Master Sgt. James West, 94th Airlift Wing command chief, met with 94th AW noncommissioned members for "Enlisted Call" last month to share information about the support services available to service members and their families.

After thanking his audience for their leadership, professionalism and commitment, Chief West asked the Airmen to continue to look out for one another, not just while on

deployment but before, during and after the mission.

"So many Airmen are deploying," said Chief West. "I wanted to make sure Enlisted Call covered the processes and steps needed to get deployments started correctly in order to prevent any red flags from popping up later."

Also speaking at the event were representatives from the Personnel Readiness office; Family Readiness office; and Dobbins Services, as well as enlisted professional and esprit de corps organizations like the 56 Group, First Sergeants Group, Top 3 and Chiefs Group.

"There's a process for being deployed," said Chief West, "and there is support available for Airmen and their

families. I wanted to introduce them to those contacts and tell them how to get in touch with those resources."

The event provided valuable information for Airman 1st Class Ashley Mitchell, 94th AW Financial Management technician who recently transitioned from active-duty to the Air Force Reserve.

"The Air Force Reserve is a close-knit family," said Airman Mitchell. "I really appreciated the information about the Family Support services that are available to me."

West encourages the Airmen to bring any questions or concerns about an upcoming deployment to the attention of the chain of command for additional assistance and guidance.

Who are the SARCs?

Airmen are under attack from a devious enemy. The enemy is all around. It's elusive, and can even pretend to be our friend. However, the SARCs have deployed to protect the troops.

By Senior Airman David Atchison
Public Affairs

While troops are deployed to combat terrorism, SARCs are waging another war, a war that could be going on next to you and you might not even know it. This enemy attacks our morale, our cohesiveness and trust in our fellow service members. It is an elusive adversary and it takes many forms.

The enemy is sexual assault. As Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, it is the jobs of the SARCs to protect Airman by helping commanders improve the Air Force's response to sexual assault incidents.

"Sexual assault is a crime that cannot, and will not, be tolerated in the United States Air Force," said former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. (ret.) John P. Jumper in a sexual assault prevention video.

A recent Department of Defense policy adjustment allows sexual-assault victims to confidentially report offenses. The new policy is accompanied by the appointment of SARCs at all Air Force installations worldwide. This change allows sexual-assault victims the ability to seek immediate care without prompting an investigation or having their identity or the identity of the offender reported up the chain of command before the victim has been properly treated.

With the addition of the SARCS on air bases, sexual assault victims have a far greater chance of receiving the medical care, counseling and victim advocacy they need following a sexual assault incident. If the victim is not prepared to address the legal and investigative ramifications of the crime, they can

still receive aid prior to reporting the crime.

Having a coordinator onsite at every military installation provides continuity throughout the armed forces ensuring sexual-assault victims know exactly who they can turn to, no matter where they are stationed or what kind of military installation the offense has occurred at.

The Dobbins SARC is Janine Bemis. She brings nine years experience working with the U.S. Navy Fleet & Family Support Center both at Naval Air Station Atlanta and U.S. Navy London, U.K. In her last assignment at NAS Atlanta Ms. Bemis was the Site Manager & Clinical Supervisor for the center.

"A big part of being the SARC is allowing victims an opportunity to receive the help they need and make informed decisions about reporting to law enforcement and command," said Ms. Bemis. "We call this Restrictive and Unrestrictive Reporting of Sexual Assault.

"I think the Department of the Air Force Policies and Procedures for the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Assault says it best," added Ms. Bemis. "Sexual assault violates Air Force Core Values. Coretion of our wingman culture. In a culture that looks out for each other and takes care of each other. Incidents of sexual assault corrode the very fabric of our wingman culture; therefore we must strive for an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated and where all Airmen are respected.

Ms. Bemis is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 678-758-5844. Her office number is 678-655-3977 and her email address is Janine.Bemis@dobbins.af.mil

CISM team provides calm after the storm

By Master Sgt. Stan Coleman
Public Affairs

Tragedy, loss of a loved one, man-made or natural disasters—all of these situations have an impact on our lives at one time or another. It's safe to say all mankind, no matter what status they possess—rich or poor, educated or not—experience emotions resulting from outside influences.

"No matter how different we are, we all are affected internally by the external," said Capt. Sean Hoyer, Critical Incident and Stress Management team member, assigned to Dobbins Air Reserve Base in connection with the relocation of Keesler Air Force Base personnel affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"We're here to help people adapt their normal lives to abnormal situations," said Captain Hoyer. "Our role may be a simple action such as talking with someone or it may involve a referral to a chaplain or an outside agency."

Captain Hoyer, of the 440th Medical Squadron at General Mitchell Air Reserve Base, Milwaukee, Wis., is one of several CISM team members assigned to Dobbins in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Other team members

assigned to Dobbins during the month of September are Lt. Col. Jan With, Capt. Donald Pruden and Master Sgt. Anna Sewell, all from the 710th Medical Squadron, Offutt, AFB.

Also assigned are Capt. David Tharp, 443 MDS from Lackland, AFB, Texas; Senior Master Sgt. James Woodyard AFRC superintendent of Behavioral Health, Robins AFB, Georgia and Chaplain Capt. Barry Ball from the 512th Medical Squadron, Dover AFB, Delaware.

"The CISM program assists individuals who have experienced a critical or traumatic event and helps them deal with it in a healthy and positive way," said Maj. Denise Thompson, Chief of Behavioral Health at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. "The program provides an avenue for individuals to identify and discuss their thoughts and reactions in a safe environment. It also educates healthy coping skills and ways to take care of self and family members."

The CISM program is a tool available to commanders to ensure the unit members' well-being and is attentive to their emotional needs as well as the needs of the unit members' families.

"We help people utilize the skills they already possess," said Captain Hoyer. "A person's life is filled with overwhelming situations from childhood to adulthood—falling off of a bicycle, disappointments, divorce. People are able to cope with those situations through relaxation techniques, spiritual beliefs, family and positive outlook. We help people identify

those coping skills within themselves."

In response to Hurricane Rita, Captain Hoyer and Captain Ball assisted in getting the needs of the individual met. Some of their tasks were as simple as making sure a pallet of water was provided to thirsty evacuees. Another need was providing support to relieve stress.

"One of the medical evacuee situations involved a critically-ill infant, said Captain Hoyer. "It is stressful for a first responder to see that type of situation. We provide support to help that first responder work effectively and sustain his ability to help someone else."

"One of the challenges of CISM is helping people to realize and use the available resources to help them deal with a stressful situation without fear of being labeled," said Chaplain Ball.

Another challenge of participating on a CISM team is "the short-notice TDYs and not knowing what to expect since we're helping individuals in crisis and no one reacts in the exact same way," said Major Thompson.

When it comes to communicating with military members who are coping with a traumatic event, everything must be on a level playing ground, said Colonel With. Sensitivities concerning rank, age, male or female are erased. CISM personnel are a cross section of officer, enlisted, male and female.

"I've seen the devastation an event can do to family members or those who are left behind, said Sergeant Sewell. "If we can help one person say 'I can go on now' or 'it's not my fault,' there is a sense of accomplishment.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Sellers



Photo by Master Sgt. Stan Coleman

(Left) Capt. Sean Hoyer, 440th Medical Squadron General Mitchell Air Reserve Base, Milwaukee, Wis., was assigned to Dobbins ARB as a Critical Incident and Stress Management team member to assist with the relocation of Keesler Air Force Base personnel affected by Hurricane Katrina. (Right) Members of the CISM team are always ready to assist those affected by the hurricane. They were the calm after the storm.



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Use of the government travel card - Let common sense be your guide



By Maj. Manubir S. Arora,
94th Airlift Wing
judge advocate

Thanks to the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998 we are required to have a government travel card. In order to get the GTC, we fill out a lengthy Bank of America application form, we get briefed about our financial obligations and we sign a one page Statement of Understanding regarding the use of the GTC. The reason for going through this much trouble before being issued the GTC is to make sure you understand your rights and responsibilities. Due to the plethora of fine print, a lot of us "pencil whip" the paperwork or sleep through the briefing. However, our ignorance about the GTC could land us in jail.

The GTC is only to be used for "official government travel" or for "local official business." Official travel or official business means just that. This is not a hard concept; yet, people are being

prosecuted in every branch of service for misuse of the GTC.

Proper use includes paying for airline tickets, hotel, parking, taxi, rental car or food when you are on official travel orders. However, being on official travel orders does not give you a free pass to use the card for any and all purposes. Please visit your friendly agency program coordinator, or government travel card monitor, for a list of authorized uses. Members may also use their GTC for cash advances based on the amount approved on your official orders. On the other hand, official travel or official business does not include buying flowers for your significant other, groceries or Disney World tickets.

Recently, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107). This law allows members to retain promotional items received as a result of using their GTC to include travel or transportation benefits such as frequent flier miles and travel upgrades. In addition, members are authorized to register their GTC at upromise.com and receive the monetary benefits provided under that program.

To monitor each member's compliance with federal law, each unit has a government travel card monitor. The job entrusted to the monitor is to review each member's charges on a monthly basis. If there are charges when

you weren't on official travel status or given official permission to use the card, you will face disciplinary consequences. The monitor also reviews where the charges were made and what was purchased even when you are on official status. Thus, getting caught for misconduct with the GTC is easy and guaranteed. Please use your common sense when it comes to the GTC.

Improper use of the GTC is a violation of Article 92, Dereliction of Duty. This criminal offense has a penalty of up to six months in jail and a bad conduct discharge. In the past few months alone, members of the Air Force and Coast Guard have been checked into the Air Force Hilton (military prison) for a lengthy stay due to unauthorized use of their government travel card.

The rules regarding the GTC are clear and the penalties are severe. Please think before you charge.

For more information regarding your responsibilities with the GTC, you can look up the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-264), National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107), DoD 7000.14R, the former AFI 65-104, which was rescinded in 2001 and, former 94th Airlift Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. William Kane's letter dated March 31, 2004 regarding policy and procedures for the GTC.

Be aware of your surroundings

Stay alert, stay alive

By Master Sgt. Angelita Colón-Francia
Public Affairs

Qualifying on the pistol range in November reminded me of something that happened the last time I carried a loaded weapon. I was a member of the Army Reserve then, a Public Affairs journalist on deployment in Afghanistan and an escort for U.S. and international media covering U.S. and coalition efforts to capture or wipe out terrorists.

From the time I left the not so dry heat of Fort Hood, Texas until the day I left arid and dusty Afghanistan, I carried a loaded M16 rifle – live ammo – 30 rounds in the magazine – and whenever I went outside the wire surrounding Bagram Air Base, I carried an additional six 30-round magazines.

Every day I picked up my weapon I thought about the fact that I held in my hands an object, which under my control, could take another person's life, either intentionally or by mistake. That thought stuck with me throughout my deployment.

One of my principal responsibilities as a media escort was to facilitate the media getting their stories. That often meant traveling by convoy, usually in as few as two unarmored vehicles, from one U.S.-controlled compound to another. Once inside the security of a compound, military members on the convoy had to "clear" their weapons at a sand-filled barrel.

After a few months, the convoys and all the procedures involved with them became routine including the safety briefings. Carrying, maintaining, charging, and clearing my weapon had become routine too. But one day after convoying to Kabul, something happened that broke from the routine.

I took my turn at a sand-filled barrel to clear my weapon, turned to walk away but before I took one step, I heard the distinct sound of an M16 firing less than one foot away from me. The sound of the blast echoed off the sides of the barrier walls around us. Everything fell silent. All I could hear was the pounding of

my heart. It felt like the rapid pounding of my heart under my Interceptor vest would force apart the Velcro that held it on me.

I thought, "Am I okay? I'm okay, right?"

The few seconds it took me to process these things and to realize I had not been shot felt like minutes.

I turned around to see that a young enlisted Soldier had forgotten to remove the magazine from his weapon before pulling back the charging handle. This resulted in the round inside the chamber to eject only to be replaced by another one. The weapon was still set in the "fire" position. When he squeezed the trigger, the round fired. Fortunately, he had pointed the weapon's muzzle inside the barrel of sand.

What had gone wrong? Before we left Bagram, we went through the same safety briefing we held before every convoy.

After the military police arrived to investigate what happened, I took the Soldier aside to talk to him. He was very upset, and with good reason. He explained that he had forgotten to remove the magazine. He hadn't paid attention to what he was doing. After we discussed the safe and proper way to clear an M16, I gave him some advice.

I told him, whenever he handled a loaded weapon to always be mindful of what he did with it regardless of how routine the situation seemed. I told him to be mindful of those around him and to make their safety as much a priority and he did his own.

He already knew the proper way to charge and clear his weapon. But he failed to think about what he was doing at the time he was doing it.

Since I returned from Afghanistan, I've tried to share that same advice with every person I've met who was in the process of deploying to a combat area.

Now I want to share that same advice with you. While on deployment, be mindful of what you do. Be safe and try to make sure those around you are safe too.

Legal Assistance Hours

By Lt. Col. Jim Caine,
94th Airlift Wing
staff judge advocate

In last month's paper, the legal office announced that we would only be able to perform legal assistance from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays of our unit training assemblies. This is our new policy and was driven by the loss of several judge advocates and paralegals to

new opportunities.

I wanted to personally pledge to everyone that the legal office remains committed to providing the highest quality legal assistance to all members.

These scheduled hours will allow the legal office to manage our busy training weekends and insure that we have a judge advocate and the necessary witnesses present in

our office when you arrive to execute wills and power of attorneys. If demand during these scheduled hours exceeds our capabilities, the legal office will expand our hours.

As we are able to recruit new judge advocates and paralegals to replace our losses, I will consider expanding our hours or returning to serving our customers on a walk-in basis during the UTA.

WHO'S WHO



Name: Karly Derosena
 Rank: Senior Airman
 Unit: 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
 Position: medical technician
 Assigned to Dobbins: December 2003
 Civilian job: Atlanta Police Department
 Married/single: Married with 1 child
 Favorite movie: A Few Good Men
 What's the best present you ever received for the holidays? Playstation 2.



Name: Diantha Ashford
 Rank: Staff Sgt.
 Unit: 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
 Position: credentials monitor
 Assigned to Dobbins: April 2000
 Civilian job: Kaiser Permanente
 Married/single: Married with children
 Favorite movie: As Good as it Gets
 What's the best present you've ever received for the holidays? "My first House."



Name: Greg Swartzberg
 Rank: Staff Sgt.
 Unit: 94th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Position: fire fighter
 Assigned to Dobbins: July 2001
 Civilian job: legal assistant
 Married/single: Single
 Favorite movie: Mr. Smith goes to Washington
 What's the best present you ever received for the holidays? "A remote control airplane that I lost the first time I flew it."

Photos by Airman 1st Class Robert Dennard



Courtesy photo

Name: Santa Claus
 Rank: General
 Unit: 94th ELF
 Position: North Pole Allied Forces commander
 Assigned to Dobbins: December, around the end of the month
 Civilian job: toy maker
 Married/single: Married
 Favorite movie: Bad Santa
 What's your favorite holiday?
 "The Day after Christmas."



Name: Jim Haskins
 Rank: Tech. Sgt.
 Unit: 94th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Position: fire fighter
 Assigned to Dobbins: 1997
 Civilian job: Fayetteville Fire Department
 Married/single: Married with 4 children
 Favorite movie: We Were Soldiers
 What's the best present you ever received for the holidays?
 "My first race track with remote control cars."



Name: John "Bam Bam" Raymond
 Rank: Tech. Sgt.
 Unit: 94th Maintenance Squadron
 Position: Avionics guidance and control
 Assigned to Dobbins: October 2004
 Civilian job: Air Reserve technician
 Married/single: Married with 2 children
 Favorite movie:
 Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy.
 What's the best present you ever received for the holidays?
 "Coming home from operation Enduring Freedom."

Emergency services working together to save lives

By Staff Sgt. Micky Cordiviola
Public Affairs

Fighting fires is not the only thing that the Dobbins firefighters do. They also respond to car accidents when people need to be rescued.

This is exactly what happened on September 16, at approximately 11:41 a.m. on South Cobb Drive. A Pontiac Vibe GT was traveling north on South Cobb Drive when it crossed the double yellow line, causing a head on collision with a four door Audi A4.

After both vehicles spun out with the Pontiac coming to rest in the northbound lane, the Audi was struck again when the driver of a Ford Tempo stopped his vehicle short in a southbound lane of South Cobb Drive. The Tempo hit a Silver Nissan pickup

truck that subsequently struck the Audi.

Dobbins' fire department worked in conjunction with local departments to save lives. By working together they maximize the manpower and resources for the local area.

"Our department has a mutual agreement with other local fire departments in the area," said Captain Daniel Harris, fire department crew chief. "We work together to ensure that lives are saved and the community has the best amount of resources available to combat any situation that arises."

The Dobbins' fire department goes through many hours of training with other local fire departments, which include Marietta, Cobb and Smyrna. This group is known as the North 75th Task Force. This is all part of a Georgia Mutual Aid Program that

enables fire departments around the state to work together and help each other when ever needed.

"Since 9/11 having a mutual aid agreement has been more important than ever," said Lt. Michael Depaolo, 94th Civil Engineer, fire department engine driver. "Mutual aid enables us to train together and prepares us to work together in case of an emergency requiring all resources to be used."

With the mutual aid agreement fire departments off base are given permission to enter the base and provide any assistance necessary to the base fire department. The base fire department can go off base to provide the same assistance to their local counterparts.

"Training together is very important. It enables us to have access to their communications



Photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Dennard

Lt. John Meehling, Dobbins fire department, carefully supports the neck of an accident victim. This training scenario enables Dobbins fire personnel to practice removing people out of cars that were involved in traffic accidents. This training is utilized in real world rescue missions similar to the one that occurred off base.

systems and learn their radio communication codes that would be very important in an emer-

gency," said Depaolo. "When lives are on the line we can never have enough resources."

Traffic accident:

An eighteen wheeler truck struck a light pole at the gate and continued to base supply. As soon as the truck finished unloading at base supply they were escorted back to Gate two.

Fire alarm:

A fire alarm was activated at 94th CEF and emergency personnel arrived on scene. An individual was ironing clothes and set off the alarm.

Found property:

Police were notified that keys belonging to building 744 of the 94th Airlift Wing were lost. The keys were found on the ground and turned in to Dobbins Inn personnel.

Traffic accident:

A Volvo was parallel parked in the employee parking lot when a Honda backed up out of his space and struck the Volvo causing minor damage.

Unauthorized aircraft landing:

A single engine Mooney made an unauthorized landing on the runway. Security Police challenged the plane and placed the male passenger at a disadvantage. The plane and subject were searched with negative findings. The subject was confused and thought

Dobbins Police Blotter



he was at McCullum Airport. The subject was questioned and released.

Abandoned vehicle:

A vehicle parked at the Barclay gate entrance and the owner could not be located. Cobb County Police came out and placed a sticker on the vehicle. After seven days the vehicle will be towed.

Counterfeit money:

A \$20 counterfeit bill was given to the desk clerk at building 800. There are no known suspects. A list was provided of all persons that paid cash within a time period.

Suspicious package:

A suspicious package was located in the parking lot of building 802. The package was later discovered to have a cooler with drinks inside.

Traffic accident:

A vehicle was hit by an unknown vehicle. Pictures were taken documenting the hit and run.

Access denied:

An individual tried to access the base and refused to relinquish his personal weapon. He was turned away and all gates were notified.

Domestic verbal dispute:

Police were dispatched to a domestic dispute at the visitor center parking lot. Upon arrival there was a male and female sitting in the car. The male was complaining of chest pain and rescue was called. The male was taken to Kennestone Hospital. After the investigation the male was charged with simple battery and false imprisonment.

Gate penetration:

A vehicle ran the gate and was stopped by one of the police vehicles. The occupants of the vehicle were challenged by police. The driver had an ID card but did not have a drivers license. Cobb County Police were contacted and the driver was cited for operating a vehicle without a license.

Fire alarm:

Building 600 reported a fire alarm activated. Upon arrival it was discovered that work personnel for DMS placed the wrong code in the alarm which caused the alarm to go off.

Verbal altercation:

Security forces responded to the Consolidated Club in reference to a patron making verbal gestures. The situation was shortly taken care of with no further incident.

Leadership, an NCO's responsibility

By Master Sgt. P.N. Brown
Public Affairs

Remember when you first came into the military and you felt so lost and ignorant about everything? I do! I haven't been in so long that I've forgotten what it was like. If it weren't for the leadership of my seniors who took the time to take me under their wing and show me the ropes, I would have had a difficult time.

Now, it's my turn to repay that debt. I feel it's my responsibility to take care of those who are junior to me. I want to take what I have learned as a seasoned member of the Reserves and pass it along to the junior ranked enlisted. As a senior NCO it is important to make sure I train and prepare our future leaders. If I don't give them the wisdom of my experience, I can't expect them to take their limited experience and turn it into wisdom for future missions. I feel I'm preparing them to take my place and continue the traditions and training for the next set of lead-

ers. That's the way we grow, by learning from the experiences of others to better our future decisions and actions.

We try to lead our own children into life's challenges by giving them the experience we have from our own mistakes and hope they will turn that into an opportunity to be more and do more. We don't want to see them make the same mistakes and face the same challenges we had. Rather, we want to see them excel and use our knowledge to be more than we were.

I share those same feelings when I train my comrades in the military.

When I joined the Marines there were very few women and even fewer senior ones, so I had limited role models. That's one reason why I take it as my personal mission to counsel other women and set an example through my own leadership. I try to set my own bar high and never ask others to do something I wouldn't do myself. I strive for excellence and expect the same from others.

I try not to criticize much but strive to inform people on uniform regulations, job performance and other issues. I also offer an ear to those who just need to talk or need advice. While I do agree that we need to take responsibility for ourselves and our career paths, it's also nice to know that a senior person is there to go to for advice. After all, how do you get things done when you don't know where to begin? How do you get the right information when you don't know who to ask? How do you know what the Air Force Reserve has to offer if you don't know what programs are available, like ones that offer education benefits?

As leaders, it's time for us to take charge, set the example and take care of those junior to us. We must not be afraid to assume responsibility and help others to do the same. If we do that we can leave our posts in the military knowing we have trained our replacements to our best abilities. Our greatest achievements are the successes of those we mentor.

The friend I never met

By Senior Airman David Atchison
Public Affairs

I've never met Senior Master Sergeant Harold Conatser, former superintendent of the 94th Civil Engineering Squadron Utility Shop, but I consider him a friend all the same. As a junior enlisted member attached to the wing Sergeant Conatser once served, I find myself honored to walk the same halls of a man I've never met.

Sadly, a man I can never meet.

During the November unit training assembly, I sat down with Sergeant Conatser's former co-workers at the 94th Civil Engineer Squadron to get a better feel for the man. How does someone write about an individual they've never met? If the individual in question is like Sergeant Conatser, it's not as tough as you might expect. If there were ever a clear example of how an NCO should be viewed by his troops, Sergeant Conatser was it. The man was loved by comrades. Though he is no

longer among us, his service to the men and women of the 94th CES and his country has granted him a sort of immortality.

Men like Sergeant Conatser don't ever really depart. Their character leaves an impression on the rest of us like a permanent etching in the stone of consciousness. The lessons they impart to their troops, the work they do for their units, the long deployments away from families in service of their country – these actions won't soon be forgotten.

The lives of men like Sergeant Conatser teach us something about the human experience. In the end we will all leave the mortal coil, but what truly matters is what we do while we're here. Sergeant Conatser's example has given us an essential key to the true meaning of military service. If you work hard enough, if you are dedicated enough, if you love your fellow man enough, you can never truly perish.

Sergeant Conatser leaves

Sergeant Conatser:
continued on page 7

Holiday season message highlights importance of life



By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON - As the holiday season and another year approach, let us take time to consider what is really important - family and friends.

During this time of year, we tend to hold our families a little closer, realizing that what we take for granted can change in an instant. We need to remember

our friends who have endured great sacrifices or those who have suffered great loss on the Gulf Coast.

It is your realization of what is important, coupled with your dedication to duty, that enables you to serve our great nation so well. You know the price of freedom and you are willing to pay it. I salute those who have deployed in harm's way and supported the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who have worked so hard to assist with hurricane rescue and relief.

As in the past, we face new challenges in 2006 - aircraft conversions, participation in air and space expeditionary force deployments and mission changes to name a few. I am confident you will once again do our country proud.

Jan and I wish you and yours happy holidays and a safe, joyous New Year. We are proud of you and what you do for America. (AFRC News Service)

Tasty chili, cool prizes spice up wing Fall Fling

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Angelita Colón-Francia
Public Affairs

Members of the 94th Airlift Wing took a little well-deserved time off last month to enjoy music, food and fun at the 2005 Fall Fling.

Highlighted by the 94th AW's annual chili cook-off, Fall Fling activities included a music CD giveaway, a raffle and a hole-in-one golf putt sponsored by Family Support, the Chiefs Group and the Top 3.

The competition for the best chili was comprised of three hot-and-spicy batches concocted by the 94th AW's Logistics Readiness, Operation Support and Services Squadrons. Chief Master Sgt. James West, 94th AW command chief, presided over the tasting and concluded the chili made by the Services Squadron to be the best saying it was

"scrumpdiliumptious."

Many in attendance walked away with a prize from the Chiefs Group's raffle. After winning a new DVD player,

80th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation craftsman, Staff Sgt. J. R. Vanlee said, "I loved just hanging out with everybody."



Senior Airman David Lenahan, 94th Aerial Delivery Flight Air Transportation helper, carves a serving of roasted pig at the 2005 Fall Fling for a hungry Airman, Tech. Sgt. Michael Bonkowski, 94th Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Maintenance journeyman.

Sergeant Conaster:
continued from page 6

behind a loving wife Lynn, two children and an indebted nation.

“Weekend to weekend, things were always in order,” said Master Sgt. Stephen Kurtz, 94th CES Utilities Maintenance specialist. “He took care of us like he was our father; he was the dad of the Utility Shop.”

No one fully realized how much Sergeant Conaster did until he was gone. Training, meetings and

deployments were made easier because of the continuity Sergeant Conaster brought to the unit.

“He left some pretty big shoes to fill,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Buckner, 94th CES Structures superintendent.

Father, friend, teacher, leader – Senior Master Sgt. Harold Conaster was many things to many people. To those of us without the good fortune to meet him, he was an example what might we might achieve if we give our all, and then some.



Courtesy photo

A rare site, Senior Master Sergeant Harold Conaster, former superintendent of the 94th Civil Engineering Squadron Utility Shop takes a break while on one of many deployments during his military career.

Volleyball Tournament

Spike your way to the top! The Dobbins Fitness Center will be hosting a holiday invitational co-ed single elimination volleyball tournament on Dec. 15 beginning at 5 p.m. Teams need to sign up in advance. Sign up will run from Nov. 28 through Dec. 9. Team and individual trophies will be awarded. To register your team, call 678-655-4872.

Basketball Tournament

The annual “3 on 3 half-court basketball tournament” will take place at the Dobbins Fitness Center gym on Tuesday, December 13 starting at 11:30

a.m. The tournament is single elimination and will run continually that afternoon until a champion is determined. Individual trophies will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place team members. The maximum members per team are 4. To register your team, contact the Dobbins Fitness Center at 678-655-4872.

Holiday Fun

There’s going to be a party and everyone is invited. Saturday, December 3 during the UTA, all troops are invited to spread some holiday cheer with their fellow service members at the Consolidated Club for the Dobbins Holiday Party. This year’s party theme is “Grip and Grin”, allowing the airman of the base and the unit commanders

the unique opportunity to wish each other Happy Holidays face to face. Food and beverages will be provided; troops need only bring good tidings and holiday cheer. For more information contact your Unit First Sergeant.

Top 3 elections

The election for officers for the Dobbins Top 3 organization will be held Dec. 4. The officer positions are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The term of service is two years. Nominees must be present during the election. Allowances are made for temporary duty, scheduled leave and military education. Nominations are accepted at the time of election and nominees must acknowledge acceptance of their nomination for an officer position. The current officers are Master Sgt. Mark Brown, president; Master Sgt. Rosalyn Williams, vice president; Master Sgt. George Curry, secretary; and Master Sgt. David Williams, treasurer.

Shop with a Hero

Be a child’s hero! The JOY Foundation of Georgia and the Acworth Police Department will host the 7th Annual “Shop with a Hero” at Kohl’s Department Store in Acworth Highway 41 on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Uniformed Heroes from several sectors of civic and military service will team up with our volunteer shoppers to assist children of need with their day of Christmas Shopping. Each child is provided a Kohl’s Gift card and “encouraged” to shop first for their family then for themselves. For more information or to sign up go to www.joyfoundation.org.

Holiday Lunch Smorgasbord

Wednesday Dec. 21 is the last day the Club will be open until after the holidays. Come and enjoy our “all you can eat” holiday lunch smorgasbord. We will be serving a variety of culinary delights to kick off the holiday feeding frenzy. For a mere \$3.50, you can eat until your heart’s content. Lunch is served at the Club from 11 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. The Club will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 22

through Monday, Jan. 2. Regular lunch and lounge hours will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 3. The Dobbins Consolidated Club wishes everyone a safe and happy Holiday.

Rental and Fitness Center Holiday Schedule

Both the Dobbins Rental Center and Dobbins Fitness Center will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23 Monday, Dec. 26, Friday, Dec. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 31 through Monday, Jan. 2. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Two-and-a-half hours of legal assistance

The legal office will have new legal assistance hours effective immediately. Wills, Powers of Attorney and mission-related legal assistance will be provided from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday of the UTA. If your duties prevent you from coming to the legal office during Saturday hours you may call the legal office at 678-655-5119 and they will attempt to schedule an appointment for you at an alternate time.

Commanders of C-130 wings change in January

Leaders of at least two Air Force Reserve Command airlift wings will change in January.

Col. Heath J. Nuckolls, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., will move in January to command the 94th AW at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. He will replace Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Stogsdill who will retire from the Air Force Reserve.

Col. Michael J. Underkofler, 403rd Operations Group commander at Keesler AFB, Miss., will replace Colonel Nuckolls as commander of the 908th AW.

All three units fly C-130 aircraft. (AFRC News Service)

Need talented people

The Chaplain’s Office is looking for people to form a committee for the Black Heritage Celebration Worship.

The service will be held on the February unit training assembly at 11 a.m. They are looking for all talents, music, dance, memorabilia and more.

Support and interest in this event will ensure that it is presented in the best possible way. Anyone interested in helping should call the chaplain’s office and speak to Capt. Erwin Carrow or Staff Sgt. Steve Smith at 678-655-4995.

Party Bus

Rent the party bus for holiday outings, transportation to events, concerts, festivals, plays, parties, shopping trips or even a night out on the town. For pricing information, call 678-655-4870.

Set up your own credit monitoring system

Everyone should know their credit rating. The better the rating, the lower the interest charged on your loans.

You can now track your credit rating at no charge, thanks to consumer privacy legislation that Congress passed last year. The “big three” consumer reporting companies, Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian, are now required to provide the information once a year, when asked.

You can apply for a free report every four months, and track your credit rating throughout the year. Start with Equifax. Four months later, get the Experian report. Four months after that, get a report from TransUnion.

All three are available online at www.AnnualCreditReport.com. It takes less than two minutes to fill out the information with name, address and Social Security number.

If you prefer calling for your report, the number is 1-877-322-8228.

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

Wilber R. McClain

Senior Master Sergeant

Eric B. Downing

David A. Wells

Master Sergeant

Scott R. Pelletier

Timothy W. Hadsell Sr.

Samuel M. Ruff

Anthony L. Schuler

Dwight A. Sowell

Michele A. Vasquez

Technical Sergeant

Gregory Marcus

Jason A. Mellor

Ronald G. Williams

Staff Sergeant

Rodney A. Cox

Jeffery P. Land

Denetra Y. Nelson

Gregory M. Swartzberg

Senior Airman

Jorge A. Alago

Tiffany C. Brown

Shavonne N. Cooper

Aaron Doss

Jamel E. Hicks

Cecilia M. Pura

Susan L. Robinson

Thomas D. Smith

Gary P. Taiclet

Sean W. Walker

Priscilla G. Waters

Brian T. Williams

Stephen C. Youmans

Airman 1st Class

Darrel L. Basnight Jr.,

William G. Gillette

Gwendolyn T. Parks

Greg A. Roddy

Dustin R. Wilson

Airman

Artesia J. King

Newly assigned

Lt. Col.

Wayne J. Olson

Lt. Col.

Michael D. Miralles

Maj.

Richard Reneau

Capt.

Kayla A. Sailer

Capt.

Lola A. Toler

2nd Lt.

Karen Knoblock

Senior Master Sgt.

Patricia A. Smith

Master Sgt.

John C. Peden

Staff Sgt.

Demetrius L. Bailey

Staff Sgt.

Gregory Vickers

Airman 1st Class

Ruth Jean-Noel

Airman 1st Class

Tamela T. Jones

Airman

Camia A. Anderson

Airman Basic

Quadoah R. Ford

December UTA schedule

UTA schedule subject to change

S
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T
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R
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A
Y

Dec. 3

Activity

Sign in

Wing element staff mtg

Fit to Fight

AFQC M16A2

Physicals

CW ConOps

Newcomers intro

Relocations brief

Newcomer's orientation

Deployment mgrs mtg

IG complaints

Chg. of Cmd. LRS/MSS

First Sgts Group mtg

Newcomers ancillary

Hearing/Physicals

CDC exams

CW ConOps

Wing Holiday Party

Time

7-8:30 a.m.

7:15-7:45 a.m.

7:30-8:30

8 a.m.

7:30-11 a.m.

8-11:30 a.m.

8:30-9 a.m.

9-11 a.m.

9-11 a.m.

10-11 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10:30-11:30 a.m.

11 a.m. -3:30 p.m.

12:30-3 p.m.

1 p.m.

1-3:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

Location

Unit assigned

Bldg. 838/Rm 1202

Bldg. 922

CA Range

Bldg. 922

Bldg. 838/1322

Bldg. 838/WCR

Bldg. 838/ATN Rm

Bldg. 838/Rm CONF

Bldg. 838/MSG CONF

Bldg. 838/Rm 138

Bldg. 747/TPC

Bldg. 838/WCR

Bldg. 838/Rm 1202

Bldg. 922

Bldg. 838/Rm 2304

Bldg. 838/Rm 1322

Consolidated Club

S
U
N
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A
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Dec. 4

Activity

Open ranks/Sign in

AFQC all

Protestant Service

Enl. advisor council mtg

Awards and Dees

Hearing exams

Top 3

CW ConOps

HRDC mtg

Catholic service

Chiefs Grp mtg

CDC exams

Protestant service

Commander's mtg

56 Group mtg

Ribbon Cutting

Relocation brief

Flying Safety

CDC exams

Time

6:45-7:30 a.m.

7:30 a.m.

7:30-8:30 a.m.

7:45-8:30 a.m.

8 a.m.

8-11 a.m.

8-9 a.m.

8 a.m.-3 p.m.

8:30-9:30 a.m.

9-10 a.m.

9-10:30 a.m.

9 a.m.-noon

10-11 a.m.

10-11 a.m.

12:30-1:30 p.m.

12:30-1:30 p.m.

12:30-2 p.m.

1-2 p.m.

1 p.m.

Location

Unit Assigned

CA range

DARB Chapel

Bldg. 838/Rm WCR

TBD

Navy Clinic

Bldg. 729/MM Ctr

Bldg. 838/Rm 1322

Bldg. 838/Rm WCR

Navy Chapel

Bldg. 838/Rm 1202

Bldg. 838/Rm 2304

Navy Chapel

Bldg. 838/Rm WCR

Bldg. 747/Rm 121 TPC

Bldg. 922

Bldg. 838/Rm 2406

Bldg. 732/700 AS

Bldg. 838/Rm 2304

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