



# INNER view

**Col. L. Josephine Almonte**

**Hometown:** Holland, Pa.  
**Years in service:** 23  
**Unit:** 94th Airlift Wing  
**Job title:** Inspector General

**What does your job entail?** The primary charge of the IG is to sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations, and Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) programs characterized by objectivity, integrity and impartiality. The IG is the “eyes and ears” of the commander; and keeps the commander informed of potential areas of concern.

**What is the hardest part of your job and the most rewarding?** The most difficult part of this job is hearing that people are potentially being mistreated. The most rewarding part is helping people.

**What duty station did you come from prior to Dobbins and what was your job there?** I was assigned as the Aeromedical Staging Squadron Commander at McGuire AFB, N.J.

**What is your civilian job?** In civilian life I am a fitness instructor and personal trainer. **How different is your job in civilian life to military life?** Both jobs entail helping people.

In the military it's helping people resolve issues and in the civilian sector it's assisting people achieve healthier lifestyles.

**What are some things you enjoy doing outside work?**

I enjoy working out, reading inspirational books and spending quality/play time with my family.

**For you, what is the best part of being in the Air Force Reserve? How long have you served in the Reserves?**

The best part of being in the Air Force Reserve is feeling like part of a close knit family/community. My total active duty time is 12 years; my Reserve time is 11 years.

**Are you married with children?** Yes, I'm married with two children, Kyle 12 and Marissa 10.

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NEW COMMAND CHIEF

POW/MIA CEREMONY

INNER view

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# Minuteman

MONTHLY

Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

November 2008

Vol. 56, No. 11



**94th Airlift Wing  
 Family Day-a view  
 of our families**

A view of our families--(Clockwise: Tech Sgt. Vanessa Miguel and daughter Amanda; Senior Airman Jonathan Garland and daughter Bilyana; Master Sgt. Kelvin Battle, his wife Sylvia and son Jonathan; Lt. Col. Karen Toriello-Fite, her husband Jim, and daughters Mary and Rose. The Bankston, J.C., Rock House, located here at Dobbins ARB, provided the background for the photograph. The Rock House (built in 1938) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Stan Coleman; Cover graphic by Tech. Sgt. James Branch)

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***Change is coming***

# A new and Improved Physical Exam process

By Lt. Col. Kenneth Moody  
94th ASTS

As we all know, the “buzz word” this year has been “change!” The 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron has definitely jumped on the change bandwagon. We recognize that there are some changes we need to make to improve our physical and dental exam processes and we are doing that. Starting in November you will see the changes firsthand. Why are we doing this? We know that your time is valuable and that taking you away from your units keeps you from performing your primary job at your squadron. Although it is absolutely necessary that we have a medically and dentally qualified force, we want to make the process of ensuring you are physically fit to perform your duty as easy as possible.

Starting with the November UTA, we ask that you check in downstairs whether you are coming to the 94th ASTS for labs only or a full-blown physical. The check-in tables will be immediately ahead once you go through the front doors of the 94th

ASTS. The check-in tables will be divided alphabetically. So, for example, if your last name is “Smith”, please check in at the “S” table. To ensure you are not considered a “no-show”, please be certain that you sign in.

Another change is that you will receive your medical record when you check in if you have a scheduled appointment. If you are coming in for a non-scheduled service, like labs only, then please go to the medical records section like you have before to retrieve your record. The last big change you will experience is that scheduled members will initially be seated in our auditorium room and will be briefed on what needs to be done when you go upstairs to begin your physical.

The 94th ASTS is here to serve you--the members of the 94th Airlift Wing. We think the changes we are making will help us serve you better than before and we welcome your feedback on how we are doing.

# Quarterly Award Winners

Serving in the military is about service. The following individuals have distinguished themselves during their service within the award period of July 1through September 30 2008. They were evaluated in the areas of leadership/job knowledge and skills, self improvement, and base or community involvement.

**Company Grade Office of the Quarter**

Capt. Donna M. Smith, 80th Aerial Port Squadron, is cited for her accomplishments during the preparation phase of the wing ORI that took place this summer. Her leadership and job performance helped to achieve a 223 percent increase within the 94th Airlift Wing in areas of Readiness training which includes Self Aid Buddy Care; Chemical Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear Explosives; weapons qualification.

In the area of self-improvement Captain Smith took Spanish in preparation for facilitating an International Development Course in which she taught 39 U.S. military company grade officers and 22 international officers.

She also served the community through the development of a summer youth employment program to mentor high school students which focused on physical fitness and professional growth.

**Senior NCO of the Quarter**

Senior Master Sgt. Don L. Sharp serves as the 94th Maintenance Group’s quality assurance superintendent. His leadership and job knowledge achieved the publication of 69 “vital Maintenance Group Operating Instructions” through his actions of review, consolidation, formatting and coordination.

His skills and knowledge were instrumental in training of newly assigned inspectors which ensured “vital Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program requirements were successfully met and maintenance goals exceeded.”

In the area of self-improvement he is currently pursuing

Level 1 and 2 certification in Production, Quality and Manufacturing from the Defense Acquisition University.

Sergeant Sharp’s community service includes “spiritual guidance for teenagers and adults” through service as a Bible study teacher at his local church.

**NCO of the Quarter**

Staff Sgt. James K. Chambers serves on the 94th Civil Engineer Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning team. His knowledge and leadership is cited for “training 10 HVAC personnel on 40-ton commercial cooling equipment” thus “aiding in section readiness.” He is also credited for using his “civilian job experience to identify incorrect A/C air duct specifications for a multi-million dollar complex which saved countless man-hours in repair.”

In the area of self improvement, Sergeant Chambers has achieved the top 10 percent of high scores in the squadron during the Air Force Fit to Fight test. His community involvement includes “countless off-duty hours mentoring at risk children in local community.”

**Airman of the Quarter**

Airman 1st Class Brandon R. Waters serves as a vehicle management and analysis specialist with the 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron. His job performance includes managing the workload of 635 vehicles valued at 43 million dollars. He accomplished 74 vehicle inspections which identified 12 safety discrepancies and \$32,000 of unreported vehicle damage.

Airman Waters is pursuing a Community College of the Air Force associate degree in Vehicle Management and Analysis.

His activities of service in the community include the organization of a church public safety seminar for youth and family ministries.

**Dobbins 56 Group**

The Dobbins 56 Group will meet on Nov. 2, 2008, 12:30-1 p.m. at Bldg. 747, Rm. 120. The focus will be group officer elections scheduled for Dec. UTA. Member attendance is mandatory.

**Nov. 6 – Health & Wellness Talk**

As part of the Air Force Reserve Command’s “Health is Wealth” initiative, the Fitness Center will offer yet another health inspiring seminar by Dr. Joe Esposito. The topic of the health seminar is “The Immune System: What weakens it and how to strengthen it.” Join us at the Fitness Center Gym at 11:30 for insight into the mysterious Immune System.

**50% Off All Camping Equipment during November**

Receive 50 percent off all Camping Equipment from Nov. 1 through Nov. 30. The discounts include sleeping bags, campers, lanterns, stoves, tents, cots and many other items. Visit the Rental Center Bldg. 558 or call 678-655-4870..

**Nov. 19 – Holiday 3 point Shot Challenge**

If basketball is your game and you can “shoot the rock” from downtown, we have a chance for you to showcase your skills on the court. The Fitness Center will host its annual Holiday 3 Point Shooting Challenge at 11:30 a.m. on the Fitness Center basketball court. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place finishers. Call the Fitness Center to register at 678-655-4872.

**Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Buffet**

Why not dine in splendor and elegance this Thanksgiving at the Dobbins Consolidated Club’s annual Thanksgiving Buffet. Enjoy succulent hand-carved Prime Rib roast, tender honey baked ham and the tastiest roasted turkey with dressing you can imagine. Thanksgiving dinner is not complete without all of the fixings, which will be served along with

From staff reports  
and news service



gourmet salads and dessert. For just \$17.95 for members and \$19.95 for non-members, you can relax and enjoy a superb dinner without all the time and effort it takes to prepare one. Oh, did we mention not having to clean up after dinner. Remember, seating is limited so, make your reservations early. Call the Club at 770-427-555

**Dobbins Services Information Tickets & Travel**

Coming soon in November you will be able to purchase discounts tickets to many local and national attractions. So, if you and your family are looking for something fun to do call Sue Short for more information at 678-655-4797.

**Mark Berkenmeier, Dobbins Air Reserve Base fire inspector, , instructs military and civilian personnel on fire safety in recognition of Fire Prevention Week. (Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Branch)**



**On Sept. 17, Staff Sgt. Robert Banelos, a student at the Transportation Proficiency Center, saved the life of a choking 62 year-old-man at the Dobbins Consolidated Club. Sergeant Banelos is an air transportation specialist assigned to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron at March AFB, (Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Robert Martin)**



**New arrivals, new ranks**

Promotions

**Senior Master Sergeant**

Christopher Hunt  
Gary A. Rocha  
**Master Sergeant**  
Christopher A. Johnson  
**Staff Sergeant**  
Edward M. Bowen  
Albert C. Deas II  
Regina S. Giammalvo  
Carl A. Mathews Jr.  
Katherine E. Nuenz

**Senior Airman**

Justin M. Cuevas  
Maurice L. Thomas Jr.,  
**Airman 1st Class**  
Rontoya L. Albert  
Rodriquez D. Neal  
Jessica A. Steele  
Matthew L. Whaley  
**Airman**  
Chrisma S. Jackson  
Sandrick M. Reese

Newcomers

Capt. Charles Mottram  
2nd Lt. Patrick K. Croasdale  
Chief Master Sgt. Kevin W. Devalos  
Master Sgt. Andre O. Nolte  
Master Sgt. Sirita L. Williams  
Tech. Sgt. Melanie V. Davis  
Staff Sgt. David A. Autenrieth  
Staff Sgt. Kenyetta M. Benson  
Staff Sgt. Laura R. Neill  
Staff Sgt. Michael Roper  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly K. Townsend  
Staff Sgt. Lance M. Wilson  
Senior Airman Belinda A. Furlow

Senior Airman Paul Hardy  
Senior Airman Jay Holt  
Senior Airman David Jolley  
Senior Airman Tiffany L. Kinyanjui  
Senior Airman Bernard A. Lee  
Senior Airman Lindsey D. Morris  
Airman 1st Class April M. Hubwbard  
Airman 1st Class E.C.Escalonatonatorres  
Airman 1st Class Timothy Kijawski  
Airman Basic Ladoris V. Gooden  
Airman Basic Matthew B. Mohr  
Airman Basic Davita N. Williams

Services link on the Web at [www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil](http://www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil)

Find news from around the command at [www.afrc.af.mil](http://www.afrc.af.mil)

# Dobbins celebrates Family Day fun

By Master Sgt. Angelita Colon-Francia  
Public Affairs

Members of the 94th Airlift Wing brought their families to Dobbins Air Reserve Base Oct. 4 to celebrate Family Day. Hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill, music, fun activities, giveaways, and sunny weather generated a large turnout as well as lots of laughter and cheers from adults and children.

Main attractions at this year's event included a rock wall, giant slide, old-fashioned fire muster, and softball tournament. Base organizations including Security Forces, Life Support and Dobbins Fire Department set up equipment displays. The Pass and Identification Office, supported by Brian Leslie, Security Assistant, provided "Ident-a-Child" packets for parents.

Seven-year old Tanner Bridges said the best part of his day was learning how to use a fire extinguisher. Bridges, with the assistance of Captain Rodney Long, firefighter, Dobbins Fire Department, put out a controlled fire. Tanner is the son of Master Sgt. Donna Bridges, Superintendent, 94th Judge Advocate General Office.

"It was a lot of hard work," said an excited Sergeant Bridges.

Dobbins' Family Day is an opportunity for Airmen to bring their spouses and children out to the base and have some food, fun and reacquaint or introduce them to their co-workers, supervisors, commanders and their families; as well as an opportunity for local businesses to demonstrate services they have available to Airmen and their families.

"Our main goal is to make sure that 100-percent of the money Dobbins Services brings in goes toward improving the quality of life for Airmen here," said Julie McKinney, Marketing Director, Dobbins Services. "Family Day and the Wing Holiday Party are two ways to do it. These events are our way of saying thank you."

Jennifer Klapste, spouse of Staff Sgt. Dan Klapste, Security Specialist, 94th Security Forces Squadron, enjoyed the day with her two daughters and son.

"I think it's wonderful," said Mrs. Klapste about her first Family Day event at Dobbins. "The kids are having a blast. I'm having a blast. It's good to get military families together and to celebrate together."

The winner of Family Readiness' "Sweet Treats" dessert contest was Anna Diaz, spouse of Master Sgt. Manuel Diaz, 94th Civil Engineering Squadron. Mrs. Diaz won a blue ribbon, a copy of "Best of the Best Air Force Cookbook," by Karen Tosten, and a \$100 gift card for her tiramisu.

Shannon Cash was named Dobbins Spouse of the Year. Mrs. Cash is the spouse of Senior Master Sgt. Eural Cash Jr., First Sergeant, 94th Mission Support Squadron.

**From the top: A child braves rock climbing with a safety harness; Senior Airman Jarrita Blackmon shares a smile with 15-month old London Williams; an Airman tries his skill at water hosing a baseball off of a cone; another Airman tries his skill with a fire hose against bowling pins; Lt. Col. Richard Liotta gets his hot dog in the chow line; Master Sgt. James Smith shares a smile with daughter Rebecca and his son Jordan. Background photo: Airmen and family members compete in a game of softball. (Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. James Branch, Don Peek and Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)**



## What do you enjoy about your parents being in the Reserves?



Mary Fite, age 11-- "It's fun to be able to travel."



Kierra Mays, age 11-- "I get to have a military ID and I enjoy the BX."



Jordan Smith, age 9-- "It's cool how dad helps fix the planes."



Nolan Robinson, age 8-- "I enjoy seeing my Mom in a military uniform."

# Measuring Your Family's Readiness

By Angela Pedersen  
94th Airmen & Family Readiness

As we enter November, and celebrate the month of the Military Family, now is a good time to focus on a few important things. First, all of us need to take time to thank our families for all the love, support and sacrifice that they give and allows us to successfully accomplish our goals in the military. And secondly, we must vow that this year we will work harder at making sure our families are "mission ready!" What does that mean? It means that it is our responsibility to ensure that our families, understanding the possibility of deployment, are ready for the separation. And even if deployment does not seem likely, there are still annual tours, school tours, and temporary duties that will take us away for days or even months.

And we, as military members, must realize that for our families gone is gone! We are still not there to pay the bills, get the kids ready for school, mow the lawn, cook dinner and perform numerous other "life chores." Think about it. If you received orders to deploy in 30 days, would your family be ready? If your answer is no then neither are you! And yes, this rule applies to our single members too, because everyone has a family!

So when do you start preparing your family, and how do you measure your family's readiness? Well, the time to start preparing is NOW! And you can begin with a few simple steps.

### If you're single, ask yourself:

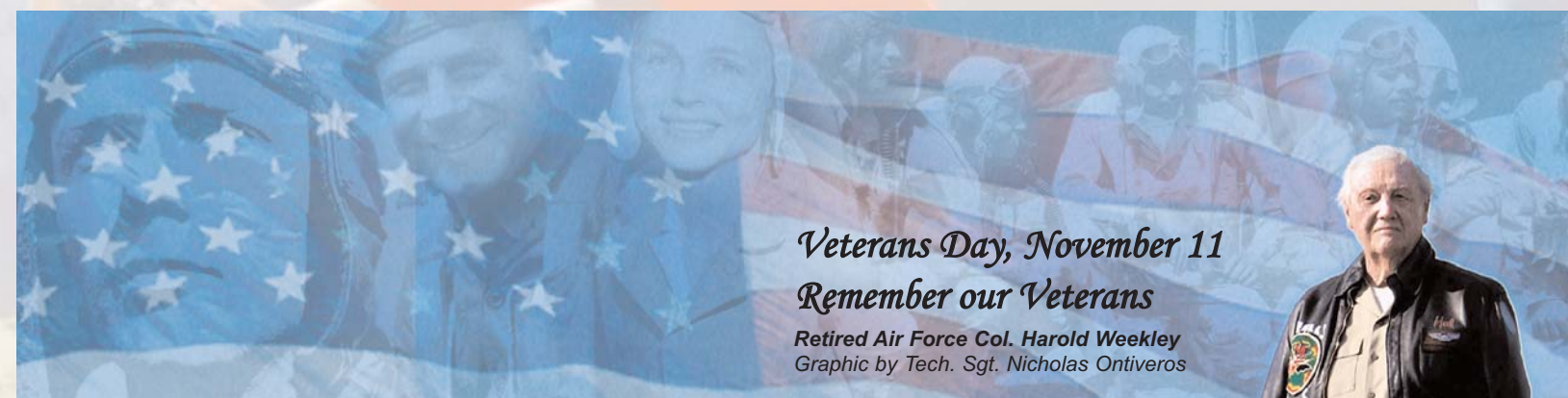
- Does someone in my family, like a parent, sibling, grandparent, boyfriend or girlfriend have the telephone number to the 94th Airmen & Family Readiness Office in case they have a question or need assistance while I'm gone?
- Who have I designated and asked, to take care of my pet if I should ever deploy? Ask that person now!
- Who have I asked to take care of my vehicle?
- Does anyone in my family have the American Red Cross Emergency Contact Number? (This is needed in case there is an emergency at home, while I'm away.)
- Is my will current?
- Who will pay my rent while I'm gone?

### If you're married, ask yourself:

- Do my spouse and children have current ID cards?
  - Does my spouse know how to contact the Airmen & Family Readiness Office? And have I given that number to my extended family as well, in case something happens to my spouse while I'm away?
  - Do my spouse and I understand the medical and dental benefits that the military offers?
  - Does my spouse know how our income will change if I'm activated?
  - Do I have a will and does it need to be updated?
  - Will my spouse need a power of attorney if I leave, and if so, what type?
- These are all things that you can take care of now. Once you actually know that you're going to leave, you also need to:
- Tell each member of your family, and take the time to discuss their feelings about the separation, paying close attention to your children's comments. (Even if you're single, you should do this, because parents, siblings, and significant others also may be experiencing sadness and fear.)
  - If you're married with children, redefine the roles of your family members. Ensure that your children know that you expect them to help around the house.
  - Discuss how and how often you plan to communicate during the separation.
  - Create a list of base resources and community resources for your family. (car repair shop, doctor's office, bank, First Sergeant, base finance office, etc.)
  - Develop a deployment budget and discuss how bills will be paid.
  - If you're single, and currently paying child support from your civilian job income, learn how to establish needed allotments.

And of course right before you leave you want to make sure that the car is in excellent condition, all the locks on your home are working properly, and that whoever will be handling your affairs knows where all important documents are kept.

Does all of this seem overwhelming? Well imagine how overwhelming it could be to your family in your absence if these things are not taken care of! We need to do our best to ensure that our families endure as little stress as possible during separations. And if we all start now to make that happen, there are a host of agencies waiting to help us get everything in order. The Airmen & Family Readiness Office has prepared checklists that are full of helpful reminders, the legal office (Judge Advocate) can assist with your will and power of attorney, the Finance Office can answer questions about your pay, and the TRICARE office can educate you on your medical & dental benefits. Will doing all of this keep your family from missing you? No! But it will certainly help make life without you a little easier, and hopefully make your reunion a much happier event! And after all, the Air Force is not sending us out unprepared. So why would we leave our families that way? Let's get rolling and get them READY! And don't forget to thank them for their service!!!



*Veterans Day, November 11*  
*Remember our Veterans*

Retired Air Force Col. Harold Weekley  
Graphic by Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Ontiveros



## Heroes honored at 24th Annual Living Memorial Ceremony

By Tech. Sgt. James Branch  
94th Public Affairs

Dobbins Air Reserve Base celebrated its 24th Annual Living Memorial Ceremony on Sept. 26 at the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Memorial Park here.

Along with this year's plaque dedication, the ceremony commemorated years of planting trees and shrubs at the park site to remember prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

"We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day," said Col. Heath J. Nuckolls, 94th Airlift Wing commander. "Each year, our guests and speakers bring a new story for us as servicemembers to reflect upon."

Since 2006, a marble plaque has been unveiled and installed on one of the four tiers of the park. This year's plaque is dedicated to the Vietnam War.

"During the years these ceremonies have served to send a sense of appreciation from our military members and the community to our POW(s) and their families," said retired Chief Master Sgt. David Curtis, a member of the Dobbins Chiefs Group and is the project coordinator for decorating the park.

Retired Lt. Col. James Williams, command fighter pilot and former POW served as the guest speaker for this year's event. Colonel Williams is also the Air Force Junior ROTC senior aerospace instructor at Tucker High School in metro Atlanta. On May 20, 1972, during his 229th flying mission, his F-4 Phantom was shot down over North Vietnam by North Vietnamese gunners. He and his co-pilot spent six hours avoiding capture and awaiting rescue. After following orders to pop smoke, he was spotted and taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese militia.

"Being a black man at that time in Vietnam, the villagers were as scared of me as I was of them," Colonel Williams said. "After being paraded through different villages and being displayed, I was turned over to the Vietnamese army and placed in the Hanoi Hilton. After 40 days of solitary confinement, I was placed in a cell with other POW(s). Some of them had been there since 1964."

Colonel Williams went on to describe his stay at the prison. He stated that a typical breakfast was a small cup of milk and a piece of bread. Lunch consisted of a cup of pumpkin soup and

bread. On some days they were offered sugar with their meals. Rice was served on special occasions. The prisoners were given a small tube of toothpaste and a bar of lye soap every six months for hygiene.

"On Sunday's we would hold a church service," Colonel Williams said. "We would always open with the song, 'God Bless America' and sing it until we were forced to quit by the prison guards."

Through the many days of interrogation and attempts by the Vietnamese to break his moral and character, Colonel Williams relied on the camaraderie of those in prison with him. He was often questioned by the guards about his will to serve his country when it wasn't always kind to people of his color.

"Out of the 591 POW(s) released, 16 of us were black," said Colonel Williams. "There were seven officers and nine enlisted."

Since his retirement, Colonel Williams has devoted his life and time to the future members of our armed forces as a senior aeronautical instructor with the DeKalb County Georgia School System.

"I submit to you, as long as I am able to wear this Air Force uniform, I will wear it with pride, honor and dignity," he said.

Members of the 459th Bombardment Group from World War II joined the celebration as a part of their 26th Annual Reunion held in Atlanta. Immediately after the ceremony a monument was dedicated honoring their members killed in action, POW(s) and MIA.

"We've heard our POW stories and recognized them for the horrific sacrifices that they have made," said Chief Curtis. "But, in addition, these ceremonies at our Dobbins POW/MIA Memorial Park have brought together families of those missing in action so that they can share information and highlight the plight of their loved ones. We've heard their stories of hope and their stories of rejoice when a family member is identified and returned."

Chief Curtis concluded that as time goes along, the park is becoming a showcase for servicemembers and base visitors. But its foremost purpose is to provide a place that sparks a somber remembrance in all of us.

Retired Lt. Col. James Williams, command fighter pilot and former POW, spoke to an audience of veterans, civilians and reservists at this year's POW/MIA ceremony. Colonel Williams is also the Air Force Junior ROTC senior aerospace instructor at Tucker High School in Metro Atlanta. (Air Force photo /Don Peek)



Two World War II veterans assigned to the 459th Bombardment Group unveil a plaque that is dedicated to their members killed in action. (Air Force photo/Don Peek)

## Wing welcomes new Command Chief

By Senior Airman Shawn Shenk  
Public Affairs

Thirty years of experience and a passion for taking care of Airmen brings a new command chief master sergeant to the 94th Airlift Wing.

Command Chief Master Sgt. John Anderson comes to the 94th AW with his concentration on taking care of Airmen.

"I am deeply humbled to be selected as the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 94th AW," said Command Chief Anderson. "Airmen will have my unwavering support and assistance with their development within the Air Force."

One of Command Chief Anderson's goals is to "get out" and visit Airmen at their duty stations, the gym and around the base. Command Chief Anderson said he wants to make himself accessible to Airmen and their needs.

"My business is to develop Airmen" said Command Chief Anderson. "My job as the Command Chief is to remove barriers and allow them to be successful."



Command Chief Master Sgt. John Anderson emphasizes the importance of taking care of the Airman. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Angelita Colon-Francia)

Command Chief Anderson has worked under Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Mobility Command, and USAFE within his 30-year career. He started his career in 1978 and reminds Airmen that he has worn every stripe while progressing through the ranks. He plans on pulling from his experiences and life lessons to help mentor them.

"I am happy to bring all my experience back to the unit program," said Command Chief Anderson.

With the increase in deployments and responsibilities placed on the Airman today Command Chief Anderson urges Airmen to lead when appointed to lead; to have positive attitudes; and to know when to look for experienced guidance when questions arise.

He expects Airmen to show up on time with a crisp uniform. They should be ready to uphold Air Force standards. Command Chief Anderson said that an Airman is someone who brings what they know to a joint service environment, contributes, and never loses their identity as an Air Force Airman.

## Pilot's experience captivates Airmen

By Senior Airman Shawn Shenk  
Public Affairs

A combat-proven pilot visited the 700th Airlift Squadron here Oct. 4, for a monthly Air Warrior Briefing.

Guest speaker, retired Lt. Col. Mack Secord, C-130E pilot, talked about his experiences during Operation Dragon Rouge in Congo November 1964.

Colonel Secord was the aircraft commander during a secret rescue mission that was trying to extract several Belgium citizens from Simba rebels in Congo. His C-130E carried nearly 40 Belgium paratroopers to an airfield less than two miles from the city of Stanleyville where the Belgium citizens were being held captive.

After the Belgium paratroopers unloaded the aircraft, Colonel Secord and his crew waited on the runway for nearly two hours until the first citizens were loaded on his plane. While taking small arms fire from the rebels, Colonel Secord successfully departed from the hostile airfield and transported all the Belgium citizens to a safe location outside of Congo.

"I am amazed that the pilots of the 700th AS want to hear about what happened 44 years ago" says Colonel Secord. "But I am envious of these guys who still get to fly the best aircraft ever made."

Maj. Todd Copley, assistant operations officer, 700th AS, started the Air Warrior Briefings two years ago with the first speaker being Capt. Theodore Van Kirk the navigator of the Enola Gaye. Major Copley says that he originally started out with just one or two speakers but now he has several retired pilots who share their knowledge and experience with the rest of the 700th.

The speakers share how they overcame difficult flight patterns, mechanical failures and other obstacles that may arise within missions. The knowledge these retired C-130 pilots share is important for the pilots of the 700th to hear, said Major Copley.

"A lot of missions they flew then are still the same type of missions we are flying today" said he said.

Major Copley has also started the Heritage Hall project by having all the guest speakers sign a photograph of the plane they flew and their picture next to it. These pictures decorate several walls of the 700th AS building.



Retired Lt. Col. Mack Secord describes his experiences during the extraction of Belgium citizens in the Congo. (Air Force photo/Don Peek)