

INNERview

Mr. John Ridley

Hometown: Augusta, Ga.

Years in the military: 20 years and five months. I've served as a contractor here at Dobbins for 13 years.

Work team name: 94th Base Operations/Weather

Job title: Meteorological Supervisor

What does your job entail? I am responsible for the overall management and coordination of weather services.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? I enjoy providing accurate weather forecasts to our aviators and the base populace to protect the resources here at Dobbins.

What is the most difficult part? On one occasion I was subpoenaed to testify in a murder case about weather conditions four years prior to the event.

Did the military prepare you for your career in weather forecasting and why did you choose this career? Yes it did. I always had a fascination with weather, and in 1983, I had an opportunity to re-train out of Air Defense Command into weather. I've been doing it since then.

What do you do for recreation outside of work? I'm an avid sports fan. I've coached the base softball team for the last three years, and this past summer we finished 3rd in the Military World tournament at the Disney World of Sports Center

in Orlando, Fla. Also, every Tuesday night at the Lakeside Lounge I play pingpong with several guys that I never can beat.

What is the best part of working here at Dobbins ARB? It's got to be the support I receive from the weather team—James Holmes, Charles Williams, Ivy Worthy, Robert Davidson and Lloyd Johnson. This also includes the management team for 94th Base Operations. And last but not least—all the friends I've made here at Dobbins over the years.

Are you married and how many children do you have?

Jacqueline, my wife of 33 years, is my rock, and I have two children—Tamara and John Jr.

What advice would you give to a young person who is considering weather forecasting as a career? Have a great love for Science and Math. It will take you a long way in weather.

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HRDC WORKSHOP

AIR SHOW SUCCESS

INNERview

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**Wings Over Marietta
lands successfully
at
Dobbins ARB**

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A "Wings of Blue" parachutist descends and displays the POW/MIA flag during the "Wings Over Marietta Air Show" opening ceremony. A partial moon is in full view during the Air Force Academy cadet's descent. The air show was held Oct. 18-19 and hosted approximately 200,000 guests. The event featured aerial demonstrations by the USAF Thunderbirds; the F-22 Demonstration Team and the Air National Guard's Staudacher aircraft piloted by Mr. John Klatt. There was a race between the Staudacher and Mr. Bill Braack's Air Force Reserve Jet Car. (Air Force photo by Senior Airman Shaun Shenk)

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HRDC: a foundation of heritage

By Capt. Darrell Bogan
Equal Opportunity

The 2008 Air Force Reserve Command's Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) Workshop rolled into Atlanta and held as its theme, "Faithful to a Proud Heritage." And what a proud heritage we have.

As Airmen, we serve in the absolute best branch in the military in the absolute best country in the world and we have a rich history to show for it. The greatness, the pain, the struggles, and the successes of that history were highlighted during the HRDC conference.

It was early Tuesday morning when we were blessed with an outstanding presentation by Maj. Gen James W. Graves, assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters, Washington, D.C. The presentation was entitled, "The American Experience." In this must-see presentation, General Graves took the audience on a trip through history and spoke gallantly about the struggles and the success of this great country from both a military and multicultural experience. He furthered with a piece about the role women, blacks, Native Americans and whites played in the overall success of the Lewis and Clark exploration.

Another awesome moment came when two original Tuskegee Airmen, retired Master Sgt. Val Archer and Mr. Ray Williams told of their struggle and their fierce determination to defy expectations during an ugly time in America's history. And although they lived in substandard housing, ate in substandard chow halls, trained with substandard equipment, and were treated substandard because of their race and color, they prevailed and provided first class service.

For many years HRDC has partnered with Tuskegee

Airmen, Women in Aviation, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and other organizations to not only show support but to help recruit more women, blacks, and Hispanics. Our wing HRDC program sponsors several Dobbins Airmen to attend the aforementioned organizations' conferences. If you're interested, you may have the opportunity to participate.

During my 19 years in the military, I have had the outstanding opportunity to work with the finest men and women of many races, cultures and ideas from all over the world. The diversity those individuals brought to the fight was part of what made the experience exceptional.

I got the opportunity to learn first-hand about their culture, their experiences, their struggles and their successes and I am a better person as a result of it.

I realized early in my career that although we wear blue, it is essential to recognize people for who they are, as well as what they bring to the fight and the HRDC program has helped to create avenues by which to accomplish just that.

In addition, HRDC was created to assist AFRC with human resource development issues, such as recruitment, retention, diversity and inclusion, professional development and equal opportunity and treatment.

Although the conference lasted four days the memories will last a life time.

To learn more about our HRDC program by visiting our Web site: <https://www.waf.mil.94aw.afrc.af.mil/94ws/hrdc/default.asp>.



Maj. Gen. James W. Graves talked on the success of diversity through examples of American History. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)

Accountability and leadership



(Left) Col. Joseph Thomas, 94th AW vice commander, talked to the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron about his recent observation that challenged the value of accountability during a visit to the base clinic. "It is up to commanders to set the standard for accountability in their units," he said. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)

(Right) Command Chief Master Sgt. John Anderson spoke about the Air Force Core Values and the value of mentoring Airmen during his visit to the 94th ASTS with Colonel Thomas. "I always want to know what's going on with Airmen because I am one," said Chief Anderson. "If you don't know why an Airman joined the Air Force, then how can you help him?" (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)



Services link on the Web at www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil

Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has opened the nomination season for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees. Nominations will be accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil until Jan. 19, 2009. For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or call Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-380-9717.

Consolidated Club Holiday Closing

The Consolidated Club and Lakeside Lounge will be closed from Dec. 21, 2008 through Jan. 4, 2009. The last day for Club activities is Monday, Dec. 20. The Club and Lounge will reopen on Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

Information Tickets & Travel

Dobbins Services' IT&T Office is now open and located in building 727. Call Sue Short at 678-655-4797 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Outdoor Recreation & Fitness

Dec. 3 – Three on Three Half Court Basketball Tournament

This is a single elimination tournament and is part of the Air Force Fitness Promotion Program. Individual trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams. The maximum players per team are 4. Call the Fitness Center at 678-655-4872 to register.

Dec. 6 – Five on Five Basketball Tournament

This Health is Wealth event will be giving away T-shirts to all who participate, individual and team trophies to the first place team and a team trophy to the second place team. The tournament will begin at 5 p.m.. Call the Fitness Center at 678-655-4872 to register.

From staff reports and news service



Dec. 10 – Volleyball Tournament

Calling all volleyball players to the Holiday Invitational Single Elimination Volleyball Tournament. Teams need to sign up for this "Health is Wealth" initiative by Dec. 7. All participants will receive T-shirts and the winning team will receive trophies. Call the Fitness Center at 678-655-4872 to sign up.

Dec. 13 – Fantasy In Lights

Oh, behold the splendor and glory of the "Fantasy in Lights." Join the Rental Center on a trip to Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Ga. to witness the marvelous Christmas Light show. The bus will leave the Rental Center at 4 p.m. and return around 11 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$18 for adults, \$12 for ages 6-12 and \$5 for those 5 and under. Call the Rental Center at 678-655-4870 to sign up.

The newly remodeled Dobbins Consolidated Club features a bright decor with new colors, Atlanta-themed photos and new furniture. (Air Force photos/Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)



Samara Levister-Gapud, 94th Recruiting administrative assistant, is the Air Force Reserve Eastern Recruiting Squadron's Civilian of the Year for 2008. The award was presented during the Recruiters National Conference held in Orlando, Fla. in October.



New arrivals, new ranks

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Timothy M. Nugent
Master Sergeant
Randall B. Brown
Joseph P. Capra Jr.
Hal F. Smith

Technical Sergeant

Christopher K. Collier
Tammy T. Gladney
Christian J. Michael
Tamara V. Miller

Staff Sergeant

Therrius J. Grooms
Brenton L. Hinkle
Justin D. Krautkremer
Herman P. Munet
Alan L. Perry
Cecilia M. Prua
Senior Airman
Brian J. Irvine
Jelani H. Middleton
Airman
Kyle R. McCollum

Newcomers

Maj. Garfield L. Peart
Senior Master Sgt. Wesley C. Meyer
Master Sgt. Jason S. Denney
Master Sgt. Chris L. Jones
Master Sgt. Veronica E. Williams
Tech Sgt. Catrina D. Mason
Staff Sgt. Joshua M. Bense
Staff Sgt. Cathy A. Ellis
Staff Sgt. Charity E. Floyd
Staff Sgt. Natalie M. Holt
Senior Airman Belinda A. Furlow
Senior Airman Tameka T. Howie

Senior Airman Xavier J. Jernigan
Senior Airman Justin L. Marshburn
Senior Airman David N. Waterman
Senior Airman Andrea L. Williams
Airman 1st Class Quisera S. Bowser
Airman Lisa Jackson

Find news from around the command at www.afrc.af.mil

Wings Over Marietta soars at Dobbins

By Master Sgt. Stan Coleman
Public Affairs

From the retired Army OV-1 Mohawk surveillance aircraft to the Air Force's brand new F-22 Raptor, the Wings Over Marietta Air Show & Open House held here Oct. 18-19 had something for everyone.

During the flying demonstrations eyes and cameras caught the aerial actions as civilian and military demonstration teams looped and dived over the airfield at Dobbins. More than 200,000 people were in attendance during the two-day event, which featured the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

"The Thunderbirds were my favorite," said Christopher Hammond, 18-year-old son of Maj. Gen. Scott Hammond, Georgia Air National Guard commander. "I was impressed by their precision."

"I'd give my right arm to fly the F-22," said World War II veteran Vince W. Swiatowski. "It was awesome! I was a B-24 pilot with the 307th Bomb Group."

According to Maj. Terence Green, air show director, parking and transportation to the base were two of the challenges in coordinating the event. However, thousands flooded the airfield throughout the day and it was a packed house each day before the Thunderbirds performed.

"I haven't been to an air show in a while. It was just as exciting as when I was a kid," said Chad Phillips of Suwanee, Ga.

Lawn chairs, parents' shoulders, grass and concrete gave support to the spectators as they watched the aerial descent of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue Parachute Team and the aerial demonstrations of a Dobbins C-130 field assault.

Other performances included the Red Eagles Aerobatic Team, a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet and a race between John Klatt's Air National Guard Staudacher aircraft and Bill Braack's

Graphic layout by: Tech. Sgt. James Branch

Photos by: Master Sgt. Stan Coleman, Tech. Sgt. James Branch,
Senior Airman Shaun Shenk and Don Peek

U.S. Air Force Reserve's Jet Car.

There were also a Coast Guard HH-65 rescue demo, an Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle demo and the wild aerobatics of Sean Tucker in his bi-plane.

When spectators weren't looking to the skies, they were visiting static displays of modern and vintage military and civilian aircraft accompanied by their crew members who talked about the capabilities of their aircraft.

"The most challenging thing about being at an air show is not losing your voice," said Cindy Hayes, a retired Army aviator with the OV-1 aircraft static display.

"I've been talking for 10 hours straight. I enjoy talking to the people who flew this aircraft when they were based here. I wish I had a nickel for every time I heard a young person say, 'way cool!'"

As for the roar of the jets, nine-year-old Melodie Hayes of Marietta, Ga. said it best. "It was cool, but my ears hurt."

"The success of the Wings over Marietta Air Show is the result of the team effort by the local community as well as the Dobbins family," said Col. Heath Nuckolls, 94th Airlift Wing commander.

"The community is very appreciative of the Thunderbirds' visit to the local high schools and the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta."



Preventing Holiday Blues

By Senior Airman Shaun Shenk
94th Public Affairs

Presents, parties, good food and spending time with family are usually the things that come to mind entering into the holiday season. But for some it means that there will be additional stress added to their life for the next few months.

The "Holiday Blues" are a reality for many who may have financial problems, limited schedules or deployed family members.

The "Holiday Blues" is the term given to the types of added stress or even depression symptoms that people experience during the next few months. "Signs of depression to watch for are self-isolation, non-participation in regular activities and increased irritability," said Maj. Rosalee Bayless, 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron chief mental health nurse.

Major Bayless also urges Airmen to keep their wingman mentality and help any friend or family member who may be experiencing the "Holiday Blues." Be available to communicate and help them receive any additional help that they may need.

According to Major Bayless, the following are



Holiday depression — defeat it by being a good Wingman to your family and other Airmen. (Center Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Shenk/photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. James Branch)

some methods to keep in mind when dealing with these holiday related stresses:

- Seek support of family, friends, community, religious and social affiliations.
- Acknowledge your feelings— it's OK to feel sad or lonely.
- Set aside differences.
- Plan ahead and stick to a budget.
- Be realistic with goals and expectations.
- Learn to say "no."
- Don't abandon healthy habits (eating well and exercise).
- Take a breather and have time for yourself.
- Continue to participate in church and activities of faith.
- Forget about perfection and rethink resolutions.
- Seek professional help if needed.

94th Security Squadron members send

Holiday greetings from Southwest Asia



"To my family and friends—I wish you all the best this Holiday Season. May the peace and joy of Christ fill your hearts and lives. I look forward to seeing you all soon!" — Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Peacock, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron



"Happy Holidays to my family and friends. I miss you and I am looking forward to seeing you all soon." — Master Sgt. Jesse Frison, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron



"Merry Christmas to all my family and friends, and especially Linda! I love you sweetie!" — Senior Airman Christopher Murphy, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron



"Happy holidays to all my family and friends; you all are truly missed. I will be home soon and love always." — Senior Airman Loyisha Wright, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Practice security, let the buyer beware

By Master Sgt. P.N. Brown
Public Affairs

"But I only told one person and they promised not to tell anyone." Ever heard this comment from someone you just told something to in confidence? No matter how much you trust that person once the words leave your mouth they're in the air and left out there for all to hear and know.

Security is the same thing; you have to think about what you're saying before you tell someone and trust it won't go any further. Operations Security (OPSEC) is simply keeping potential enemies from discovering critical Department of Defense information such as when units are mobilizing, where they are going and what they will be doing. There are many people, both potentially friends and foe, who want this information. They will not only pursue you as the military member but also your family. With current world situations, security has to be in the forefront of our minds. Remember the simple things can make all the difference in your well-being and your family's safety.

1. Keep a low profile; don't advertise that you are in the military. Blend in.
2. Be unpredictable. Vary your routine so people can't track you.
3. Be alert for anything suspicious or out of place
4. Avoid giving unnecessary personal details to anyone unless their identity can be verified.
5. Be cautious about giving out information regarding family travel plans or security measures and procedure.
6. Report all suspicious activity and packages to police. Don't ignore things that could be important. Know those emergency numbers and how to get in touch with the right people.
7. Be alert, be careful and protect critical information. Where you discuss this information is just as important as with whom you discuss it. Anyone who is determined can easily collect data from cordless and cellular phones and even baby monitors can be inexpensive receivers.
8. Always lock your car and park in well-light areas. Something this simple can save your life.
9. Don't travel alone if you can possibly help it. If you must, know your route, travel with purpose and have a cell phone.
10. Destroy all envelopes or other items that show your name, rank and other personal information.

While some of these things may seem like simple common sense, they work and are tried and true tips that increase security. Be aware and be wise to keep safety first in your day-to-day life.

Holiday OPSEC

In addition to the above, here are a few holiday tips to protect yourself from becoming a holiday victim.

1. Credit card/ATM numbers. Be wary of "shoulder surfers - someone could use a cell phone camera to steal your pin number when you take cash from an ATM or pay for items with your credit card. Make sure to put receipts in a safe place or destroy them properly.
2. Don't advertise high value gift items through boxes left in the trash. Break down the boxes, throw them in a bag or put them out just before trash collection time.
3. When socializing at parties over the holidays remember—loose lips sink ships—don't talk "shop" around those who don't have a need to know, and be wary of attempts to elicit information, even from friends and family.

"Geronimo!" — World War II veteran shares memories

By Maj. Todd Copley
700th Airlift Squadron

Retired Master Sgt. Carl Beck took Airmen attending the November Air Warrior briefing 65 years back in time.

Dressed in a replica World War II paratrooper jumpsuit and brown Cochran jump boots, Sergeant Beck described his jump during the early morning hours of June 6, 1944. As a member of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne, his target was to secure a small dam just inside Utah beach, which was a landing zone along the beaches of Normandy, France.

Due to heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) and a 700-foot cloud deck, he was dropped 12 miles from the intended drop zone. After several days of playing hide-and-seek with German troops, some friendly French peasants helped reunite him with 82nd Airborne troops. Sergeant Beck fought for and secured a bridgehead at the town of Baup, France.

Returning to the town last year during the 64th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy, commonly known as "D-Day," he was honored that a ceremony and monument was presented in his honor. After refitting his unit in mid-July 1944, Sergeant Beck jumped into Holland as part of Operation Market-Garden in September 1944. Following bitter fighting, the 501st succeeded in its mission of seizing and holding a vital series of roads and bridges, later known as "Hell's Highway."

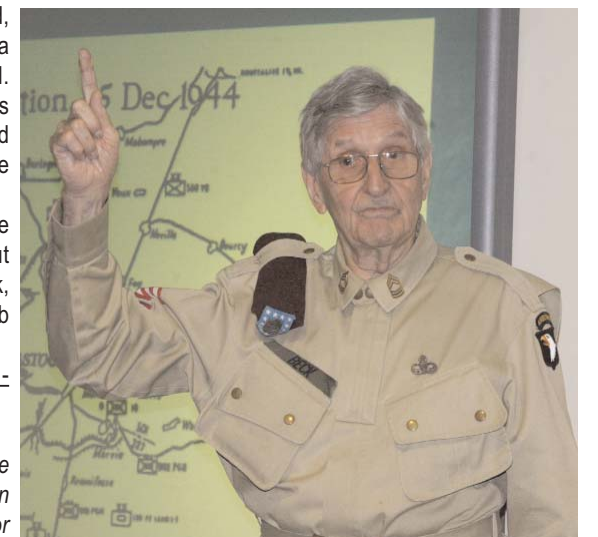
Once again, after being re-equipped and receiving replacements, the 501st raced to Bastogne, Belgium in December 1944 in time to bear the brunt of a savage enemy onslaught into the Ardennes, which was called the Battle of the Bulge.

Bleeding but not broken, the 501st, along with their comrades-in-arms, held this key road network until the combined British and U.S. forces could be concentrated for the counter attack. The Regiment, a vital member of the Battered Bastards of Bastogne, took the offensive in January 1945, and after fierce fighting in the bitter cold, drove the enemy from a devastated Belgium.

Sergeant Beck continues to jump at the age of 83-years-old. He parachuted in Normandy on June 6, 1994 and again on June 7, 2004 to commemorate the 50th and 60th anniversaries of D-Day. Currently he plans on jumping at the 70th anniversary at 89-years-old, making this veteran a sight to behold. Airmen at Dobbins and around the world have no doubt that he can do it.

For more information about Master Sgt. Carl Beck, visit the following Web site: <http://www.gpb.org/wwii/carl-beck>.

Editor's note: The 700th Airlift Squadron hosts Air Warrior Briefings each Unit Training Assembly where a guest speaker is invited to talk about aviation history.



Retired Master Sgt. Carl Beck gave a vivid account of his experiences during World War II at the 700th Airlift Squadron's November 2008 Air Warrior briefing. (Air Force photo/Don Peek)