

LCAP

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DTS

FALCON FLYER

Magazine of the 94th Airlift Wing
Vol. 3, No. 2 February 2012



Conquering barriers: Dobbins' chiefs discuss opportunities, past and present

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Wing Commander's Hotline

Provides wing members with a direct link to the wing commander to relay kudos, concerns or suggestions on wing matters. (678) 655-9422

Weather Emergency Hotline

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ON THE COVER >>> Chief Master Sgts. Gregory L. Gamble, Headquarters 22nd Air Force and Sandra A. Wright, 94th Airlift Wing pay tribute to Fred Archer, member of the Army Air Corps and Tuskegee Airman, who overcame hurdles and conquered barriers to become one of the first African Americans to achieve the highest enlisted rank. They also encourage Airmen to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the U.S. Air Force. (cover design by Master Sgt. Travon Dennis)



Chefs David L. Damour and Michael W. Medford of the Dobbins' Force Support Squadron are two out of four chefs that will compete in the Air Force Reserve Command Top Chef Finals at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. Feb. 16-19. Other competitors will represent Homestead ARB and Minneapolis/St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn. (photo by Don Peek)



What's your excuse?

By Maj. Teresa Dutcher
80th Aerial Port Squadron

If you are like many people, you kicked off the New Year with a resolution. Maybe this is the year you want to strive to be a better parent, friend, or maybe you want to seek out a promotion at your job. Maybe you made a really big resolution, like setting out and accomplishing one of your life-long dreams, like completing that college degree you are just a few credits shy, or taking that long deserved vacation you've always wanted to take.

Whatever your resolution may be, I think I might just have the reason why it hasn't happened before now. A close friend of mine, Pastor Ray Popham, recently shared a quote with me.

"It is easier to make an excuse than it is to make a change, he said. "Here's a change: quit making excuses!"

It's that simple. That statement is clear, understandable and easy to implement. Let's think back on all of our failed attempts at resolutions or projects. Chances are we have an excuse for not finishing.



Maj. Teresa Dutcher

The timing isn't right or other priorities get in the way. Our list of excuses is endless.

Many of us encourage our children to go after their dreams. We tell them they can be anything they want if they just put their hearts and minds to it, yet sometimes we fall short on accomplishing that for

ourselves. We would never allow our children give us an excuse for not completing their homework or getting their chores done, but sometimes, we have a way of justifying our very own excuses.

For many, it's easier to make excuses rather than changes and these are "changing" times in our military. Over the course of the year, we may experience mission, budget and even personnel changes.

"Excuses will get you nowhere. Making a change will put you on top."

Now, more than ever, it is critical that we step up to the challenges facing us ahead. Next time you hear someone making excuses for their situation, advise them excuses will get them nowhere, but making a change will.

Bottom line -- change is coming. Embrace it, or move out of the way!

DTS implemented at Dobbins

By Senior Airman Danielle Campbell
Purnell
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Dobbins Air Reserve Base implemented the Defense Travel System, a fully integrated, automated, end-to-end travel management system that enables Department of Defense travelers to create orders, prepare reservations, receive approvals, generate travel vouchers and more, Jan. 9.

"Criteria for using DTS are, a member must possess a government issued travel card, travel payment must be more than mileage only and members cannot have back-to-back status changes," said Mike Carnahan, 94th Airlift Wing comptroller. "For example, four days annual tour followed by unit training is not process through DTS."

Other requirements for DTS are that

personnel use Air Force Reserve Command monies only and that the length of the tour is less than 30 days.

Using DTS as a member of AFRC differs from using the program with active duty in several ways.

"First and foremost, AFRC is using an import method to begin the authorization process," said Carnahan. "This import pulls in all the details from your generated order."

Other differences include limitations and restrictions that come along with using the program.

Carnahan explained that ultimately AFRC is in the crawl stage with implementing DTS. He said that AFRC may fully implement the program in the future.

Each unit or staff element on base has



one to two designated Organizational Defense Travel Administrators who are also order writers.

"That individual is the first line of assistance," said Carnahan.

Users can visit <http://www.defense-travel.dod.mil/site/dts.cfm> for more DTS information and training.

AROUND THE PATTERN



Senior Master Sgt. Robert E. Nutting, Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Course instructor, debriefs students after completing a leadership exercise Jan. 27. The NCOLDC continued through Feb. 2. (photo by Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell)



The 94th Force Support Squadron was recently awarded Civilian Personnel Program of the Year. Pictured left to right are Mary Hessler, Stacy Tolston, Rhonda Harvin, David Pritchard, Kelly Kinsey, Michelle Christian. Not pictured are Andrea Lard and Vanessa Miguel. (photo by Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell)



Contractors from Stone Co. Installation install banners in the entrance and exit lanes of the Dobbins entrance canopy Jan. 30. (photo by Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell)



Contractors install new supports for an upper level structure and upgrade interior during construction in building 819 here Jan. 24. (photo by Don Peek)



Capt. Mark D. Reed, 94th Logistics Readiness transportation officer, was awarded Company Grade Officer of the Quarter while deployed to Afghanistan. Reed led the safe and expedient movement of over 30 convoys from 20 Iraqi drawdown bases with zero incidents. (courtesy photo)



Staff Sgt. Sean R. McDermott, 94th Operations Group Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, demonstrates how an infant floatation device is used to members of the Dobbins Base Community Council Jan. 26. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)

Deployment processing center now located at Dobbins

By Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Central Deployment Processing Center for Individual Reservists is now open for business here.

Master Sgt. Clarence Greene, Individual Mobility Augmentee (IMA) liaison for the CDPC, spent eight years prior service before joining the Air Force Reserve in 2001. He also serves as Unit Deployment Manager for the more than 200 personnel at the 80th Aerial Port Squadron here. His extensive military career and eclectic resume made him the perfect candidate for a newly created position.

"The CDPC is designed to centralize limited deployment processing and to standardize the pre-deployment actions of IRs and Active Guard and Reserve members and to consolidate their training and equipment issues," said Senior Master Sgt. Clarence Hester, 94th Airlift Wing logistics plans superintendent.

Prior to this initiative, the Air Force lacked a fixed training location for these members.

Greene said the idea that was initiated in 2005 and finally came to fruition in 2010. Dobbins was designated as the hub

because of its location, which is in close proximity to one of the world's busiest airports.

The processing unit is currently in a test phase through the summer. Approximately 20 people are expected to be processed during this time, Greene explained.

One reason the CDPC is beneficial is because it will provide an effective support team and streamline the deployment process.

"The processing center actually saves the Air Force money," said Greene. "We have cut down the processing days by more than 41 percent."

Greene explained that he takes each member through all the pre-deployment tiers. This includes but is not limited to processing order requests, fulfilling ancillary training, medical, supply and passport requirements as well as obtaining theater and country clearances.

"This process usually takes 120 days but we complete it all in as little as five days," Greene said.

He explained that he contacts members as soon as they show up in his system so their processing begins long before even arriving to Dobbins.

The IMA program is unique and each

IMA is different agreed Greene and Hester.

Right now darts are being thrown at the program to test its successfulness, Greene explained.

"Once we get out of the test phase, we will work to process up to 600 personnel each year," said Greene

Senior Airman Karah Almond, medical technician, Master Sgt. Clarence Greene, Individual Mobility Augmentee liaison, Senior Airman Arlene Timmons, Individual Personnel Readiness specialist and Tech. Sgt. Douglas Grant, supply technician, make up the Dobbins Air Reserve Base Central Deployment Processing Center team. Dobbins was recently selected as the location for the CDPC for Individual Reservists, which include Individual Mobility Augmentees and Participating Individual Ready Reservists. (photo by Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell)

IMA's are structured under the Air Force Reserve Command, however they are assigned to active duty units. The Individual Ready Reserve is made up of about 236,000 trained Airmen subject to recall to augment the active components in time of war or national emergency. IRs may go through a recruiter to apply for an advertised position in which they are qualified for by rank and career field.

LCAP dos and don'ts

By Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 94th Airlift Wing are now well into the preparation phase for the upcoming Logistics Compliance Assessment Program (LCAP) inspection, scheduled for Feb. 1-7.

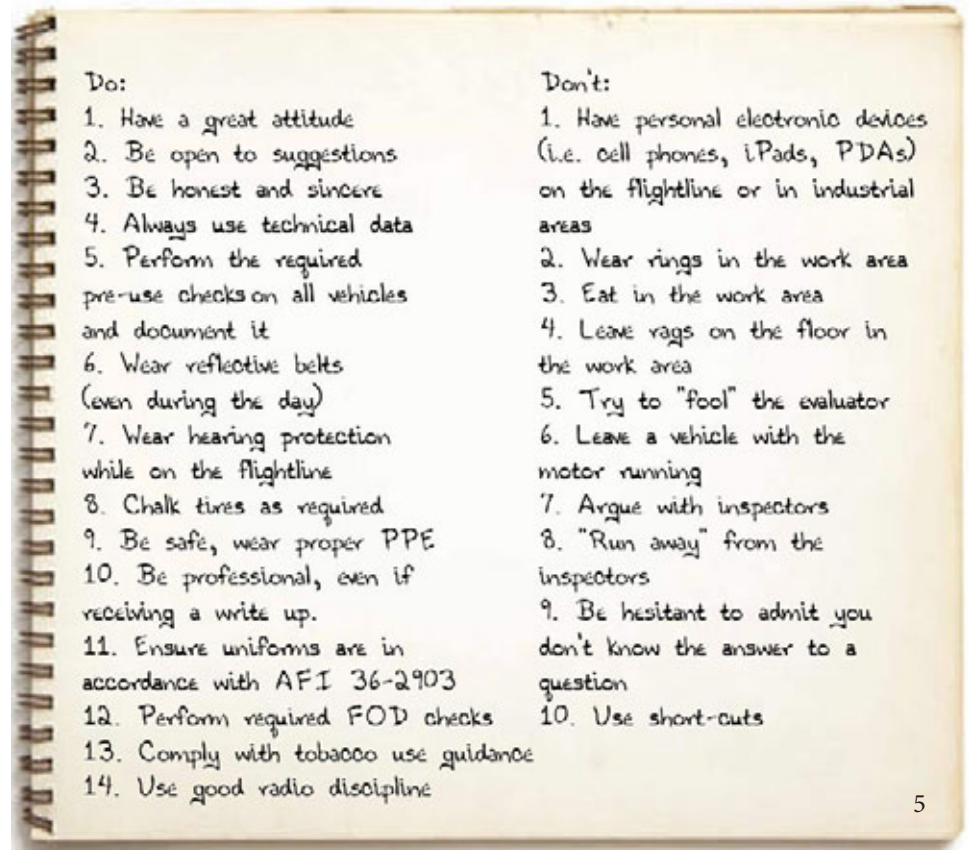
An LCAP is conducted to measure a unit's ability to perform key logistics functions.

The units directly involved are the 94th Maintenance Group, 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 80th Aerial Port Squadron. However, a member of any unit who journeys out to the flightline is subject to being inspected.

"Members are expected to have a positive attitude and be proactive in showing inspectors what they do to make our wing the best in the Air Force Reserve Command," said Lt. Col. Brian C. Farrell, 94 LRS commander.

If asked a question that you don't know the answer to, it is acceptable to admit it and go find someone who does.

"Our wing commander and base leadership are confident Dobbins will earn another great inspection result," said Farrell.





Conquering barriers: Dobbins' chiefs discuss opportunities, past and present

*By Master Sgts. Stan Coleman, Travon Dennis and James Branch,
and Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

"I joined the military to experience new things and travel," said Chief Master Sgt. Gregory L. Gamble, chief of transportation, Headquarters 22nd Air Force who has been stationed at Dobbins since 1980.

He said the main goal he set for himself was to put forth his best.

"Initially making chief was not one of my goals," Gamble said. "Once I decided to join the Reserve after I completed four years of active duty, I challenged myself to reach the highest heights."

Gamble said he realized achieving the highest enlisted rank, an accomplishment that approximately one percent of members of the Air Force

will achieve, was attainable when he was promoted to the rank of Master Sgt.

Likewise, Chief Master Sgt. Sandra A. Wright, superintendent of the 94th Mission Support Group, who has been stationed at Dobbins since 1981, said she joined the military to follow her father's footsteps. She said at that time she never fathomed attaining the rank of chief.

"Early on, my expectation was, if I at least made it to Master Sgt., I was doing well," she said.

Both Gamble and Wright are great examples of how hard work and dedication will pay off.

Several decades before them, Fred Archer, member of the

Army Air Corps and Tuskegee Airman, overcame hurdles and conquered barriers to become one of the first African Americans to achieve the highest enlisted rank.

His story is one of encouragement that reminds its audience to take advantage of opportunities provided.

"The story of Fred Archer is one of this country's shining examples of unwavering human spirit, amazing courage and abounding resiliency," said Wright.

Archer was born in New York in 1921 and began his military career when he was 17 years old. He initially entered the New York National Guard, serving as an infantry troop. Two years later, he

went on active duty, joining the racially segregated Army Air Corps (which later became the U.S. Air Force).

One of the many documented accounts highlighting Archer's persistence occurred when he was stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. when he enrolled his son in an all white elementary school after initially being turned away. Archer's character and dedication paved the way for him to continuously get the most out of his career.

"Although the Air Force has come a long way, persistence is key in getting the most out of your career," said Wright. "Opportunities within the military are better than ever before, and I encourage each of our



“Opportunities within the military are better than ever before, and I encourage each of our Airmen to take advantage of them.”

Airmen to take advantage of them.”

“Statistics have shown that only about half of servicemembers take full advantages of the education opportunities offered to them,” Wright said.

Fred Archer was provided several opportunities to make history throughout his life. Based on the 1925 War Department study, military officials doubted African Americans’ ability to operate and maintain aircraft, and shied away from offering them technical jobs related to aviation.

In 1941, Congress created the 99th Pursuit Squadron, an all African American fighter unit that would later be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Archer was assigned to the

99th early in his career where he served on the pilots’ support crew. The squadron would go on to win several awards and receive many accolades.

“The story of Archer and the Tuskegee Airmen is not only black history, but American history,” said Wright. “Their story reminds each of us to do what we can to transform obstacles into opportunities. Every task you are given during your career is an opportunity to shine.”

It is on the shoulders of Chief Archer and other great Airmen that current servicemembers now stand, regardless of race.

Archer served 33 years in the military. During this time he supported multiple contin-

gency operations including World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. He would go on to be nominated for the position of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force on three separate occasions.

“He proved that under any circumstance, you must always reach for the top,” said Gamble. “You will never get to the top if you don’t reach for it.”

Archer continued to serve his community after his retirement years until he died in 1988.

In 1978, he became director of the “A” Mountain Neighborhood Center, now known as the Fred Archer Neighborhood Center, a

recreation center with state-of-the-art weight rooms, a year-round swimming pool, a covered basketball court that offers youth and teen mentorship programs.

Both Gamble and Wright believe that like Archer, all Airmen should take advantage of the opportunities they are given and use them to enrich the lives of others.

Both made commitments to themselves, that they would strive to make a difference for upcoming Airmen.

“To overcome challenging situations, I often remind our Airmen to remain positive, believe in themselves and not to dwell on situations that are out of their control,” said Gamble.

Equal Opportunity: a grade "A" office

By Senior Airman Chelsea Smith
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

"I take pride in congratulating the members of the 94th Airlift Wing Equal Opportunity office for receiving the Col. L. Joseph Brown EO Program Award," said Col. Tim Tarchick, 94 AW commander, as he was recently notified of the selection. "You all are the best in the Air Force Reserve Command."

This is the first win for the EO team as an office, competing against more than 30 EO offices across the command, said Capt. Darrell Bogan, the EO director, and 2011 Solomon Starks, Jr. EO Director of the Year Award recipient.

This office is not lack in winning awards. Last year, several nominations were made at the Headquarters 22nd Air Force level.

One of the ingredients of the office's success was a significant decrease in the amount of contacts and complaints made to the office, said Bogan.

Contacts made to the office are down by 50 percent, while complaints are down by 70 percent, said Bogan.

"This significant decrease can be directly tied back to the office," said Bogan.

"Being engaged with the people, pushing the alternative

dispute resolution, or ADR initiative, mediation and wing commander involvement has led to our achievements as an office."

In addition to a decrease in complaints, the EO office shined amongst the command this year due to its innovation, said Conyers.

The members of the office instituted the use of quick reference codes to make it easier for base personnel to submit Unit Climate Assessments. Base personnel were able to submit their survey via a smartphone or other portable device, which increased the amount of feedback the wing commander received.

The EO office was also instrumental in coordinating the 94 AW wing commander directed "Big Elephant" brief in January. The brief added educational training in cross-cultural communication.

Four main areas of criteria including management of the office, adequate use of resources, budgeting and higher education were evaluated during the selection process, said Bogan.

"I am here to be of service to others," said Bogan. "This recognition is a testament of the

hard work and level of service we provide to our customers." The office provides hands-on training for eight EO personnel from other wings, said Conyers.

"We set goals to do what's best for our customers, who are the personnel at Dobbins, while following the guidance of Air Force regulations and our commander," Conyers said. "In doing that, we are able to win the awards we have won,"

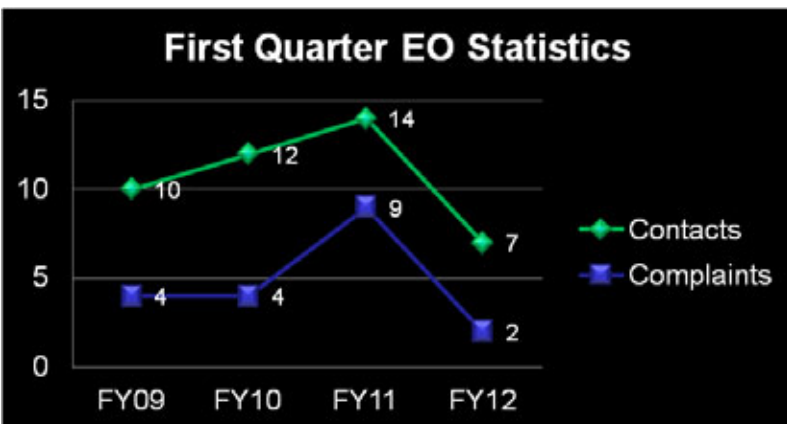
Going forward, the strategic plan is to participate in more educational opportunities,

implement a new system called "talk-to-type," in which speech is captured on an electronic device, utilize the Human Relations Climate Assessment Subcommittee, to improve human relations at Dobbins, participate in deployment opportunities and continue to reduce the number of complaints, said Bogan.

"I feel I have obtained a beyond working knowledge of my craft," said Bogan. "It feels good to be rewarded, but if it wasn't for everyone in the office, this recognition would not be possible."



Capt. Darrell Bogan, Equal Opportunity director, along with Tech. Sgt. Richard Conyers, Staff Sgt. Dalia Nesmith and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Nix, EO specialists, make up the 94th Airlift Wing EO Office. The office was recently awarded Air Force Reserve Command Col. L. Joseph Brown Equal Opportunity Program and the Solomon Starks, Jr. EO Director of the Year Awards. (photos by Senior Airman Danielle Campbell Purnell)



Contacts made to the 94th Airlift Wing Equal Opportunity office, Air Force Reserve Command's Col. L. Joseph Brown EO Office of the Year, are down by 50 percent since last fiscal year, and complaints are down by 70 percent. "This significant decrease can be directly tied back to the office," said Capt. Darrell Bogan, 94 AW EO director. "Being engaged with the people, pushing the alternative dispute resolution, or ADR initiative, mediation and wing commander involvement has led to our achievements as an office."



Wing CC holds Commander's Call

By Senior Airman Spencer Gallien
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 94th Airlift Wing gathered during the January Unit Training Assembly for a commander's call that discussed topics ranging from the Defense Travel System to quarterly award winners.

Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, updated Airmen on the base's deployment cycles, fit to fight stats, new lodging policies during unit training assembly weekends while also reminding Airmen about Bystander Intervention Training and the base's energy awareness campaign.

"I use this time to update Airmen on key issues within the wing," said Tarchick. However, this commander's call wasn't all business, as Louisiana State University graduate, Col. Marshall Irvin, and Alabama graduate Lt. Col. Kevin Woods arm wrestled each other as the two colleges prepared to compete against each other for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I national championship.

"Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication," said Tarchick.



Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, presents third quarter awards to Staff Sgt. Trevor Phillips, Non-commissioned officer of the Quarter, 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Master Sgt. Eric D. Evans, Senior NCO of the quarter, 94 ASTS and Capt. Kevin J. Campanile, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, 700th Airlift Squadron. (photo by Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)



Lt. Cols. Scott A. Carlin, 94th Civil Engineering Squadron commander, Christopher T. Whitehead, 94th Mission Support Group deputy commander and Timothy H. Martz, 94th Security Forces Squadron commander, all Bronze Star recipients, are recognized by Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, at the wing commander's call Jan. 8. (photo by Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)



Col. Marshall Irvin, 94th Mission Support Group commander and Louisiana State University graduate, and Lt. Col. Kevin Woods, 700th Airlift Squadron and University of Alabama graduate, square off in an arm wrestling match before the two teams compete against each other for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I national championship. (photo by Master Sgt. Stan Coleman)



Do's and don'ts of the political season

With the presidential primaries off to a start, there are a few things base personnel must remember during this upcoming political season. Everyone is encouraged to register to vote, research candidates and vote, however, in order for this representative democracy to function properly, civil servants and military professionals cannot be seen as partisans. Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty," and Air Force Instruction 51-902, "Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force," outline permitted and restricted political actions for military members. Displaying a large political sign on personal automobiles is prohibited; however, members are allowed to display political bumper stickers. Military members are prohibited from using official authority to influence an election or solicit votes for a specific candidate or issue. Members are limited in their involvement in the political process off duty as well. This includes being a candidate for, or holding, political office, except in those circumstances authorized by the AFI. When on duty, in uniform, in a federal building, or in a federally owned or leased vehicle, federal employees may not express opinions directed at the success or failure of a political party, hence to sway subordinates to vote for a particular party, candidate or issue is prohibited by law. If you are unsure whether or not a political activity is approved, reference AFI 51-902 or contact the Dobbins legal office at (678) 655-5199.

Newcomers

The following Airmen were welcomed in January:

Lt. Col. Johathan Micke, 94 ASTS
1st Lt. Gideon Esuzon, 94 AES
Tech. Sgt. David Swanson, 80 APS
Staff Sgt. Chris Bullock, 94 MXS
Staff Sgt. Marcus Cochran, 94 CES
Staff Sgt. Juan Gaitan, 700 AS
Staff Sgt. Emily Murosky, 94 ASTS
Staff Sgt. Richard Swann, 94 CES
Senior Airman Angela Bradley, 94 ASTS
Senior Airman Timothy Turk, 94 MXS
Airman 1st Class Michael Crews, 94 CF
Airman 1st Class Carlin Golden, 94 AMXF
Airman 1st Class Chasity Pace, 94 LRS
Airman 1st Class Kevin Turley, 94 AES
Airman Kyle Smith, 94 CF
Airman Basic Christopher Bauer, 94 MXS
Airman Basic Hannah Rice, 94 ASTS

Promotions

The following Airmen were promoted in January:

Senior Master Sergeant

Mark Carlisle, 94 MXG
Eural Cash, 94 MXG

2012 Teen Leadership Summit

Teens with a parent in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard can sign up to attend one of the free AFR/AGR Teen Leadership Summits. Teen summits combine high-adventure activities with leadership classes to allow teens to tap into their leadership potential and discover hidden strengths while developing a sense of belonging as part of the Air Force community. The deadline to apply is April 13. Participants must be 15 to 18 years old. Teens must answer essay questions and complete code-of-conduct and transportation forms to attend one of the summits. The first summit is the Classic Teen Leadership Summit in Dahlonega, Ga., June 17-22. The second summit is the Adventure Teen Leadership Summit in Estes Park, Colo. Aug. 7-12. Both summits include military traditions and community service projects. Brandi McGonagill, at brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil or (478) 327-2090; Chap. (Col.) Bob Leivers, at releivers@aol.com or (719) 554-3610; Krystal Shiver, at krystal.shiver@us.af.mil or (478) 327-1294 can answer specific questions. Information is also available at www.afrc.af.mil/library/4rfamilies.

The "heart" truth

February is National Heart month, and it's a month that should concern us all. Heart disease and stroke are topics that must be important year around, not just one month a year. How can preventive maintenance for our tickers be woven into everyday life? First, knowing the facts helps to know what barriers exist. A study from the American Heart Association says nearly 2,200 Americans die of cardiovascular diseases each day, one person every 39 seconds. Cardiovascular disease claims more lives each year than cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases and accidents combined. An American dies from a coronary event about every minute, and someone is stricken by such an event about every 25 seconds. On average, someone in the United States has a stroke every 40 seconds and stroke-related death occurs about every four minutes. The leading cause of death for both men and women in the U.S. is cardiovascular disease. Incorporating a healthy diet, reducing the intake of salt, fat, alcohol and not smoking can lower the risk of heart disease. With the advanced technology of today, doctors can detect heart disease as with many other illnesses. Making positive lifestyle changes and recognizing the signs of heart disease is the first step to preventing it.

JAG offers legal assistance via web

The 94th Airlift Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (Legal Office) now uses the Air Force Legal Assistance website to prepare legal documents for customers. Wing members can access this site on or off base, and input information regarding wills and powers of attorney(s). Once members input their information, a generated ticket number which they must send to Master Sgt. Elena Lund, paralegal, at elena.lund.1@us.af.mil. Documents will be drafted prior to their visit. To get started, go to <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html> and click on "Legal Worksheets." Please contact the base legal office at (678) 655-5199 with any questions. As a reminder, legal assistance walk-ins are 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. each Unit Training Assembly Saturday.

Veteran Opportunity Expo Feb. 9

A hiring event for military veterans who already have civilian work experience, men and women who are transitioning from active duty, members of the National Guard and Reserves, and military spouses will take place Feb. 9 at Turner Field, 755 Hank Aaron Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30315 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. For event details and directions, visit www.recruitmilitary.com.

Dobbins 56 Group elections March 4

The Dobbins 56 group will hold officer elections March 4. Nominations will be accepted by e-mail to Staff Sgt. Erica Shelton (erica.shelton@us.af.mil) until 11 a.m. Saturday, March 3. Electable positions are for president, vice president, administrator and treasurer. All nominees must be present at the March 4 meeting, 12 noon, at the Transportation Proficiency Center to acknowledge/accept or decline the nomination. All nominations must come from General and Honorary members only. Candidates must be a member to accept and hold the position. An elected member can hold an executive position for a maximum of 2 years and two consecutive terms. For more information, please contact Tech. Sgt. Tanisha Lofton at (678) 655-3124 or Staff Sgt. Erica Shelton at (678) 655-3226.

Like us on  facebook



Scan here to visit Dobbins Air Reserve Base on Facebook, and to receive the latest news about base projects and activities.

Three day UTA, March 2-4

The 94th Airlift Wing will hold the last of its fiscal year 2012 special three-day Unit Training Assemblies March 2-4. There will be no UTA in July 2012.

Falcon Flyer submission deadline

The deadline for submissions to the Falcon Flyer is the 15th of the month prior to the following month's issue. Public Affairs welcomes articles and photos for the base website, www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil as well. For more information call the editor at (678) 655-5055 or e-mail the PA office at 94aw.pav3@us.af.mil.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Ferrell's farewell

*By Lt. Col. William B. Ferrell
94th Airlift Wing Chaplain Office*

Effective March 1, after a total of 33 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, five active duty enlisted and 28 as a Reserve chaplain, I will be retiring.

As I leave, I would like to take this last opportunity to share three thoughts with you from the perspective of where I am in my career and life.

First, I've had the opportunity to travel to some very interesting places during my career, including Honduras, Italy, Hawaii, Kuwait, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, and even New Jersey. I've spent the majority of my career here at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, four active duty and 17 as a Reservist, but more important than the places I have been are the people I have had the opportunity to meet, work and serve with.

Throughout your career and life, remember that the people you encounter are the most valuable treasures you will ever have. I've had numerous people give me support, encouragement, training and friendship that has blessed me and helped to make me who I am. I am also thankful for the opportunities I've had as a chaplain, to serve and hopefully be a blessing to others.

I would encourage each of you to nurture those relationships in your life that are positive and uplifting and take the opportunities that will come along to pass that on to others. Doing that will enrich your life more than any amount of material things you may acquire.

Second, I want to encourage you to bloom where you are planted. We all have our personal ambitions and plans about the job we want, but real life doesn't always work out the way we want it to. You may feel frustrated because someone else got the job or promotion that you really wanted. You may not feel challenged or you may feel overwhelmed by the job you have been assigned to. This is where the Air Force core value, Service Before Self, comes into play and I want to encourage you to give your very best at the job you have been given, even when it is not what you wanted.

I never had any desire to be a wing chaplain, but one day I found myself in that position. I did not like the management responsibilities that came with the job, and was more interested in ministry.

The experience of doing this job has resulted in personal and professional growth, and a wider range of ministry opportunities than I ever dreamed I could have. The job you are in right now may not be where you want to be, but give

it your best. The Air Force needs that from you, and I am convinced that you will reap some unexpected rewards from doing so.

Finally, I want to warn you that you don't have any time to waste, no matter where you are in your life or career. You may feel you have plenty of time. I'm telling you from experience, 33 years will fly by much more quickly than you can imagine. Each day is a gift, and tomorrow's no guarantee. Even though you will have some extraordinary experiences, the vast majority of your career will be the unmemorable daily routine. Being faithful and giving your best will do more to build your character and give you a successful career than all the extraordinary experiences put together.

After the terrorist attacks in September 2001, and the start of the war in Afghanistan soon afterward, I determined that at every opportunity I had to pray publicly I would include a prayer for God's blessings on our deployed troops. I have done that and will continue even after my retirement. I want you to know that I will be praying the 94th Airlift Wing and each person associated with it for as long as God lets me live. This base, and more importantly the people here, has been a key part of my life for many years and will always have a special place in my heart.



Cupid View

This is a special edition of the INNERview that features a married couple on base each week in honor of Valentine's Day and National Heart Month.

Conrad Pedersen

94th Airlift Wing Emergency Management

Angela Pedersen

94th Airlift Wing Airman and Family Readiness

Where did you meet each other?

Both: We met at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

When did you realize that you were in love?

Conrad: When I started wanting to spend all of my free time with her.

Angela: I realized I was in love when I no longer cared what the people around us were doing!

What did you do on your first Valentine's Day?

Conrad: I was TDY, so we had to settle for talking on the telephone.

Angela: That was long before we were able to SKYPE, we didn't even see each other that day, but he made up for that many, many times over the years. (smile)

What would you say is the most romantic characteristic or best personality trait about your spouse?

Conrad: Angela is very helpful when someone is at a low point, needs to talk and needs to hear just the right words to make them feel better.

Angela: Conrad is a "caretaker" by nature, so he's very helpful and always coming up with new ways to make my life easier. He also is forever making me laugh! I love that about him!

How do you balance your career and time with your spouse?

Conrad: Time together is not much of a problem. We work in the same building and have lunch together quite often. My job doesn't take me away from home much.

Angela: I keep reminding myself that HE'S irreplaceable! That helps me to remember that I must carve time out of EVERY day for him.

How many children do you have?

Both: We have two children.

Write a special Valentine's Day message to your spouse.

Conrad: Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart. Be my valentine. Thanks for already getting your gift from me.

Angela: Randy, thank you for being the only Valentine that I'll ever need! You make EVERY day feel like Valentine's Day and I love you!

If you would like to nominate someone for the INNERview, please e-mail the editor at 94aw.pav3@us.af.mil or call Public Affairs at (678) 655-5055.