

**SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT ISSUE**



**FALCON**  
**FLYER**

**Magazine of the 94th Airlift Wing**  
Vol. 3, No. 6 June 2012



**Wing answers nation's call to duty**

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# FALCON FLYER

Magazine of the 94th Airlift Wing  
Vol. 3, No. 6 June 2012



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**ON THE COVER >>** Family, friends and fellow servicemembers cheer as members of the 94th Airlift Wing take off en-route to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom May 7. (photo by Don Peek)



Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, families and friends salute Airmen as they taxi to the runway on Dobbins Air Reserve Base during a send-off ceremony May 7. Over 100 members of the 94th Airlift Wing deployed in support of operations in the Middle East. (photo by Don Peek)





## Are you totally fit?

**By Lt. Col. Scott Carlin**  
94th Civil Engineering Squadron  
commander

It should come as no surprise that fitness has become an Air Force priority. In the 94th Civil Engineer Squadron, we are talking a lot these days about “total Airman fitness.”

I believe there are four major fitness areas, or pillars, in our lives that we must give proper focus and attention to in order to maintain a healthy balance and remain effective in our jobs. These pillars include spiritual, relational, occupational, and physical fitness.

The spiritual pillar of fitness may well be the most neglected part of many of our lives. I believe we are all created in the image of God, and there is a part of us that yearns for something far beyond us.

Our profession of arms is one of only a handful of occupations that calls for its members to willingly lay down their lives for their countrymen. Before stepping foot on that deployment rotator at Baltimore Washington International Airport, many of us ponder the same question a rich young ruler asked a

humble Rabbi many years ago, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

The Chaplain corps has been a spiritual cornerstone for all the branches of the military since it was established by Congress in 1775, and has been strategically positioned and charged to help each of us answer that question.

Second, there’s rarely a promotion, retirement, or celebration I attend that does not include recognition of friends and family of those being honored. Frank Sinatra’s notion of the “self-made man” rarely holds true. We are relational creatures and we need a strong support group around us to stay the course, endure the rigors of each day and press on with the high goals set before us.

The relationships with our families, friends and co-workers cannot be over-valued. Our leaders recognize the importance of relational fitness, and organizations like Airman and Family Readiness are there to assist us in solidifying our relationships for today, tomorrow and for years to come.

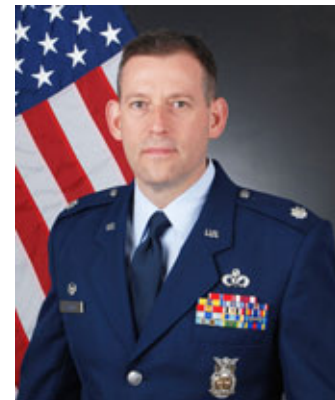
Third, for most of us, our

occupation requires at least a third of our week, if not more. For us Reservists, we have the blessing of at least two occupations. We have a unique opportunity to serve our nation doing what most only dream of doing and, in the process, continue to train and develop ourselves to become the people that most would never dream of becoming.

Are you taking advantage of every available opportunity to enhance your occupational fitness? Are you developing your skills so you can compete and advance to the highest levels of leadership that our service allows? When was the last time you spent time with your unit training manager or visited the Education and Training office? It’s never too early, or late, to take that next step to improving your occupational fitness.

In closing, when I deployed to Iraq in 2008, I was reminded of the rigors of operating in a deployed environment: humping gear to forward operating bases, in and out of C-130s, Blackhawks, British Merlins and Mastiffs.

The litany of injuries accompanying our



**Lt. Col. Scott Carlin**

deployments testifies to the need for greater and more effective physical fitness for all of us. However, our physiques are only one part of the package.

I’m a husband, a father, a facilities engineer and an Airman. What I do does not define me, but it says a lot about who I am. In order to be effective Airmen, we have to be so much more than just good at doing our jobs.

The Air Force gives us every tool we need to be successful. It trains us Reservists to operate at a high level, day in and day out. We need to take care, and address all four fitness pillars in our lives in order to lead a well-balanced lifestyle.

So what about you? Are you totally fit?

## Key Spouse Program offers “better halves” opportunity to support mission

**By Senior Airman Chelsea Smith**  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Spouses of Dobbins’ members have the opportunity to volunteer as part of the Key Spouse Program sponsored by the 94th Airman and Family Readiness office. Participants are able to offer informal peer-to-peer family support to strengthen family resiliency and cultivate relationships.

Any spouse of a Dobbins’ servicemember may volunteer for duties that may include orga-

nizing military spouse groups, attending scheduled meetings with unit commanders or first sergeants, and serving as liaisons to funnel information to other spouses, said Angela Pedersen, 94th Airman and Family Readiness director.

“This program promotes individual, family and unit readiness, and establishes continuous contact with spouses and families,” said Pedersen. “It also provides a link from the families to our leadership,

thereby strengthening the support team for both the member and the family.”

Interested members must undergo nine hours of training to understand protocol, organize support group meetings and develop telephone lists and newsletters, among other duties. Positions require a high level of professionalism and communication in which spouses will serve as mentors for other unit spouses while maintaining a standard of per-

sonal integrity and loyalty to leadership, said Pedersen.

“I felt very disconnected from the Dobbins’ community,” said Kendal Walles, Key Spouse volunteer and wife of Master Sgt. Graysen Walles. “I wanted to incorporate my husband’s job into my children’s lives, gain a better understanding of the military and get to know other spouses.”

Interested spouses may sign up by calling the 678-655-5004.



# AROUND THE PATTERN



Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, presents a retirement certificate and wing commander's coin to Officer Robert J. Grundy, 94th Security Forces Squadron, May 29. Grundy retired after 39 years of service to the U.S. Government. (photo by Juan Medina)



Seven members of Dobbins Air Reserve Base participated in a three-point basketball challenge on May 17 at the base fitness center as part of the base's May Fitness Month initiative. Sinking 14 three-point shots, first place was awarded to Tech Sgt. Douglas Grant, of 94th Logistics Support Squadron. Runner-up was awarded to Damon Pierce, of the Georgia National Guard. (photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Gaston)



Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, recognizes the 94th AW Honor Guard during the quarterly Commander's Call, May 6. Honor Guard members received the Air Force Achievement Medal for conducting and participating in more than 60 funerals over the recent months. (photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Gaston)



Airmen from the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, who will soon depart from the unit, participated in a fini-flight May 20. First Sergeant Margarette McGraw and Master Sgt. Joseph Johnson, AES career advisor, will retire, while Lt. Col. Deborah Saltmarsh, AES commander, will be assigned to another base in June. (Courtesy photo)



Chief Master Sgt. Wendell L. Peacock, 94th Airlift Wing command chief reads the Chiefs Creed during the Chiefs Recognition Ceremony at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Marietta, Ga., May 5. (photo by Don Peek)



Col. James Linder, 22nd Air Force directorate of intelligence, air, space and information operations, presents Senior Master Sgt. Eric Downing with the East Cobb Rotary Club's Military Service Above Self Award on May 16 at Indian Creek Country Club in Marietta, Ga. (photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Gaston)



# Chapel organist honored for years of dedicated service

By Senior Airman Elizabeth Gaston  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In 1966, when Carol Pope's father deployed to Vietnam, her family had a tough choice to make. They could either stay on Kincheloe Air Force Base, Mich., near her father's unit, or move to Atlanta to be closer to her grandparents.

Pope had already played piano at the military church she had attended while in Mich. When she moved into the Atlanta area, she leaned on the church community as an outlet while her family was enduring the long separation.

Not comfortable with attending a civilian church because she had never attended one before, she found Dobbins Air Reserve Base, then Dobbins Air Force Base. Her first Sunday here happened to be the last Sunday that the organ player at the time, an Airman, was going to be assigned to the base. Luckily, Pope was there to volunteer and play the organ until the Chaplain staff found someone else.

"They never found anyone else to play," she said.

Pope, organist for the Dobbins Air Reserve Base Chapel, is celebrating over 40 years of service to the base and was recognized on May 6 by Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, at the quarterly wing Commander's Call.

"It's an honor to recognize you for your dedicated contribution and unwavering support to the members of the 94th Airlift Wing," said Tarchick.

Some of her more memorable moments involve some of the most somber and, in stark contrast, the most joyful of occasions, memorial services and weddings, sometimes playing up to three events in a single day.

"The Dobbins Chapel has a rich history," said Pope. "So many things have happened here."

Growing up in the 1960's, Pope was well aware of how unpopular the military was at the time. At the height of the Vietnam War, the military was being held accountable for operations in Southeast Asia by the American people. Over 500,000 people had been drafted for the war by 1966, and college attendance had reached a record high, for the time.

"The military was not respected or appreciated," said Pope. "Now, people recognize how much our servicemembers sacrifice. There are people who believe that this country is important and will fight for it, and some will even die for it."

Just as the country has evolved, her music has evolved as well.

When Pope first arrived to play the organ at Dobbins, a servicemember was more likely to hear hymns and traditional chapel standards. Now, Pope primarily plays keyboards that can generate a multitude of different sounds, which lends her to playing more contemporary music.

For more than four decades, Pope has shown up to play music at the Dobbins chapel for one simple purpose.

"I can serve," said Pope. "I can help, and I can contribute something to the service. Being here and worshiping with people I feel very close to is important to me. Even if I didn't have a role to play, I would still be here. I'm very glad they continue to let me play."

(Left) Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, and Chaplain (Maj.) Doug Collins present Carol Pope, Dobbins Chapel organist, with a certificate honoring over 40 years of dedicated service to the Dobbins community. (Photos by Senior Airman Elizabeth Gaston)



# Wing members deploy to Mid

**By Senior Airman Elizabeth Gaston**  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Over 100 Airmen from Dobbins Air Reserve Base deployed to the Middle East, departing on four C-130 aircraft in a series of send-off ceremonies that concluded today.

The 94th Airlift Wing transitioned from Air Education and Training Command to Air Mobility Command in 2011. This is the first major deployment for the flying mission at Dobbins since before the wing joined AETC in 1999.

C-130 aircrews and maintainers will serve a critical role in delivering cargo and personnel in and out of austere and unimproved landing zones. This mission will be in direct support of contingency operations in the Middle East.

“You are ready,” said Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander. “You joined the Air Force Reserve knowing that this day would come, and this is that historic day.”

Also in attendance at the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Farris Jr., 22nd Air Force commander. Farris acknowledged the importance of preparation for the conditions that Airmen will face while deployed.

The General also stressed the importance of good wingmanship and strong family support.

“When you’re over there, you’re a band of brothers and sisters,” said Farris. “Take care of each other.”

Members of the Airmen and Family Readiness Office distributed information on deployment, stress and various initiatives for spouses on the home front. One such initiative is the Yellow Ribbon Program.

“Yellow Ribbon is a good way to link with other spouses

that know what you’re going through,” said Kenddal Walles, a volunteer for the Family Readiness Office and spouse within the 94th Airlift Wing. “It’s a resource when you need it, and spouses won’t feel that they’re just out there treading water.”

Spouses of deploying Airmen praised the Family Support Office and the Yellow Ribbon Program. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle.

“Yellow ribbon events are phenomenal,” said Dixie Bryson, wife of a deploying Airman. “I think everybody should go to those. You learn so much you didn’t know, especially if they’ve never been deployed before.”

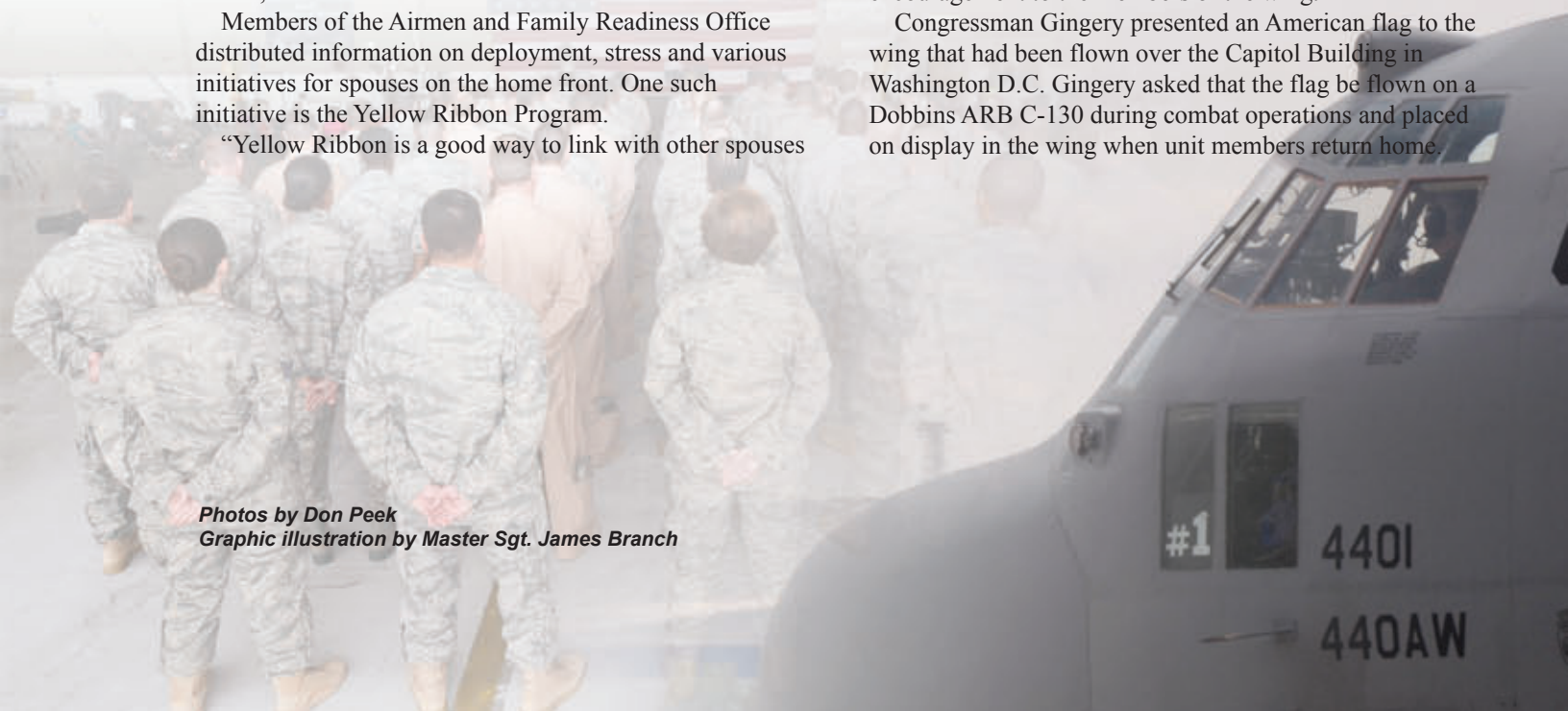
The ceremony was followed by an opportunity for Airmen to say their final farewells to family and friends before they began out-processing, loading the aircraft and boarding for departure.

As the C-130s taxied to the runway for takeoff, family, friends, and members of the 94th Airlift Wing assembled on the flightline to wave at the passing planes.

The wing also received support from Congressman Phil Gingery, who was in attendance and gave words of encouragement to the members of the wing.

Congressman Gingery presented an American flag to the wing that had been flown over the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. Gingery asked that the flag be flown on a Dobbins ARB C-130 during combat operations and placed on display in the wing when unit members return home.

*Photos by Don Peek*  
*Graphic illustration by Master Sgt. James Branch*





*Middle East*



**U.S. AIR FORCE**





# Welcome home

## **MXS AND APS AIRMEN RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT**

**By Senior Airman Liz Gaston**  
*94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

Ten members of the 94th Maintenance Group and the 80th Aerial Port Squadron, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, returned home May 17 after a 120-day deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The returning Airmen performed vehicle maintenance and assured the safe and timely delivery of supplies to the region.

“Think about the sacrifice these Airmen have made,” said Col. Marshall S. Irvin Jr., 94th Mission Support Group commander. “It was important for the country, and will go down in annals of history.”

Family members, senior staff and members of the Airmen and Family Readiness Office were present to welcome the Airmen home and brief them on programs such as the Yellow Ribbon Program and TRICARE plans.

Is it important for returning Airmen to be aware of and take advantage of the TRICARE plans available to them and their families, said Adamor Rodriguez Jr., Georgia National Guard health benefits advisor. Some plans are available at no cost to the returning Airman.

The base has been so helpful, said Denise Howard, wife of Tech. Sgt. Dallas Howard. Family readiness has called on all the holidays and gave us plenty of information on how to deal with the deployment.

“Take some time to get re-acclimated to your families,” said Irving. “Let them get re-acclimated to you. You received a briefing on yellow ribbon. This program is good for you and your family. I highly encourage you to go to yellow ribbon.”

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle.

Reintegration during post-deployment is a critical time for members of the Reserve, as they often live far from military installations and members of their units.

For more information on the Yellow Ribbon Program, please visit <http://www.yellowribbon.mil/>.

For more information on TRICARE, please call 678-569-5174.

**(Photos clockwise) Col. Marshall S. Irvin Jr., 94th Mission Support Group commander, welcomes home Reservists upon their return from a deployment to the Middle East May 17.**

**Senior Airman Allen Williams, 80th Aerial Port Squadron receives a hero's welcome from his family during the return home reception.**

**Tech. Sgt. Justin Jones, 80th Aerial Port Squadron is welcomed by his wife Stephanie and son Tyler during the return home reception.**

**Adamor Rodriguez Jr., Georgia National Guard health benefits advisor, encourages Airmen and their families to take advantage of TRICARE, and their post-deployment medical examinations. (photos by Don Peek)**



# Lockheed Martin delivers final F-22 Raptor

**By Senior Airman Liz Gaston**  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Air Force senior officials recently attended a ceremony commemorating the delivery of the final F-22 Raptor from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics to the U.S. Air Force.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz was joined by U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and other senior congressional, Air Force and civilian dignitaries as they were welcomed to Dobbins Air Reserve Base and the Lockheed Martin Marietta plant for the event.

The message for the day was simple, and said best by the very first speaker, Shan Cooper, vice president of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company and general manager of the Marietta plant.

“Thank you,” she said to the

Lockheed Martin employees who had assembled to watch the unveiling.

The final delivery completed the F-22 Raptor fleet and the Air Force’s multi-role fighter force of 195 advanced tactile fighters, eight of which have been dubbed as test planes.

The F-22 is a key component of the Global Strike Task Force, a concept developed in preparation for 21st century challenges, and is unmatched by any known or projected fighter aircraft, due to its speed, stealth and maneuverability, according to Air Force officials.

“The very existence of this airplane, your airplane, has altered the strategic landscape forever,” said Robert Stevens, Lockheed Martin chairman and chief executive officer. “It is also fair to say that along the

way, the F-22 has had a fair number of challenges and a fair number of critics, but let’s not fail to take note today, the number of nations who rank among either competitors or adversaries who are frantically trying to replicate what you have done.”

As the hanger doors rose unveiling the final F-22, cheers from both the guests and the workers assembled erupted. They were seeing what they really came to celebrate, the product of years of their hard work, beginning as a single notion and becoming the most advanced weapons system yet produced.

“The delivery represents an important element in our overall modernization effort,” said Schwartz.

The F-22’s reliability and support is expected to re-

duce long-term costs, reduce manpower associated with maintenance and keep planes operational longer.

“We look forward to making improvements to the F-22 to ensure war fighters receive the maximum benefit from this exponential leap in tactical air combat capability”, he said.

“Thank you to all of the partners in industry and government that made this occasion a reality. I especially want to pay tribute to the line workers and engineers whose technical expertise, attention to detail and commitment to our nation’s defense transformed an innovative notion into America’s first 5th generation fighter aircraft.”

Following the ceremony, the final F-22, tail number 4195, was flown to its new unit at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska.

## Last Raptor reports for duty

**By Senior Airman Liz Gaston**  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The last F-22 Raptor, tail number 4195, from Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Company left Dobbins Air Reserve Base May 5 to report for duty at its new unit at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska.

This final plane completes the Raptor project with Lockheed Martin and the operational Air Force’s multi-role fighter contingent of 187 advanced tactile fighters.

The 195th Raptor was piloted by Lt. Col. Paul Moga, 525th Fighter Squadron commander and accompanied by Raptor number 193, piloted by Col. Dirk Smith, 3rd Wing commander. The 195th and 193rd Raptors will serve as the flagship jets for the group and wing, respectively.

These last two jets will give the wing at a total of 47 Raptors, which is approximately one-third of the Air Force’s operational fleet, said Smith.

It took just under eight hours to fly from Dobbins ARB, Ga. to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, according to Dobbins Base Operations. This was a 3,329 mile trip. Along the way, the two F-22s were met by tanker aircraft for aerial refueling.

“We know that Dobbins is going to miss the Raptor,” said Moga. “However, we’d like to assure everyone that the jet will be in good hands, and we promise to take care of it. It’s kind of like seeing your kids off to college. Now you get to sit back and wait for them to do all the great things you know they’re going to do.”

The F-22 is expected to have better maintainability, sustainability and be more reliable than past fighters. Achievement of this expectation will reduce man hours needed to fix the aircraft and efficiency associated with scheduled upkeep.

“This is the best jet out there,” said Staff Sgt. Damon S. Crawford, dedicated crew chief for Raptor 195 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. “The support is great. It’s easy to maintain and often takes care of itself.”

The Raptor is the world’s only operational 5th-generation fighter, and is expected to ensure continued air-superiority through cutting-edge technology.

Advanced cockpit and sensor design allows pilots to identify, track and neutralize threats before the airplane is

detected, using capabilities to attack air or ground targets, according to U.S. Air Force officials.

F-22 engines produce more thrust than any other fighter’s engine. “Supercruise” technology utilizes this increase in thrust as well as the sleek aerodynamic design of the F-22 to literally cruise at supersonic speeds (greater than 1.5 Mach) without using the fuel-consuming afterburner that all other fighter aircraft must use.

Lockheed Martin partnered with the U.S. Air Force, Boeing and Pratt & Whitney to produce the 195 F-22s.

They been hailed the most advanced world has ever seen.

“The Raptor is a great jet,” said Smith. “We feel very fortunate to receive, fly them, take care of them and execute a very important mission.”



## Copperheads spotted on base

Recently, a copperhead snake was spotted by a runner near the trail behind the Air Force gym.

The copperhead is one of three venomous snakes found in North Georgia and is the most commonly encountered.

It's not unusual that we have at least one confirmed copperhead sighting on Dobbins every summer, but only by people in or near wooded areas. There have been no confirmed venomous snake bites on Dobbins according to an employee who has worked on Dobbins since the late 1970s.

If you spot a copperhead, the best course of action is to leave the snake alone.

Snake bites on humans usually happen when someone is trying to provoke or harm a snake, and it bites in self defense.

Copperhead snakes are fairly common, said Linda May, environmental outreach coordinator, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

If you discover a snake on base, contact the base safety office at (678) 655-4434.

## Newcomers

*The following Airmen were welcomed to the 94th Airlift Wing in May:*

Maj. Sonja Henderson, 94 AES  
 Maj. Christopher Mitchell, 700 AS  
 Tech. Sgt. Noel Ayala, 94 CES  
 Staff Sgt. Adrienne Ford, 94 LRS  
 Staff Sgt. Johnny Glenn, 94 OSS  
 Staff Sgt. Shatona Griffin, 94 ASTS  
 Staff Sgt. Ebony White, 80 APS  
 Staff Sgt. Julian Mallory, 94 AES  
 Senior Airman Mark Agbaosi, 80 APS  
 Senior Airman Heather Lyda, 80 APS  
 Airman 1st Class James Wright 94 SFS  
 Airman Stephen Hughes, 80 APS  
 Airman Basic Jordan Johnson, 94 MXS  
 Airman Basic Benden Flannigan, 94 MXS  
 Airman Basic Michael Madala, 94 AMXS  
 Airman Basic Michael Murray, 94 MXS

## Promotions

*The following Airmen were promoted in May:*

## CE renovates, saves energy

Dobbins Civil Engineering is scheduled to finish renovations to building 701 in August, home to the 94th Security Forces Squadron the last eight years.

Beside a new coat of paint, many of the renovations include improvements that will make the building more energy-efficient, as well as features that increase security and safety around the building, said Hugh Phillips, of Dobbins ARB Civil Engineering.

The total cost of the renovations to building 701 was \$1,237,300.

The savings of light-related upgrades will total over \$2,800 per year, said Phillips. The energy-saving bulbs are connected to occupancy sensors in each room. All water fixtures in the restrooms have been replaced with low-flow fixtures, and water fountains also had filters installed.

Overall, the improvements are good," said Master Sgt. Dennis E. Riggins, of the 94th SFS. We are looking forward to the finished product."

### Chief Master Sergeant:

Stephen Cake, 94 AMXS  
 Richard Lehman, 94 AMXS

### Senior Master Sergeant:

Tony Smith, 80 APS  
 Timothy Gooden, 94 MXS  
 William Hutchinson, 94 OG

### Master Sergeant:

William Bearden, 94 AMXS  
 Gerald Peterson, 94 CS  
 Bryan Reed, 80 APS  
 Marie Williams, 94 ASTS

### Tech Sergeant:

Lorena Blount, 80 APS  
 Damien Cole, 94 AMXS  
 Bradley Harrell, 94 MOF  
 Roderic Henderson, 94 SFS  
 Roy K. Whitaker, 94 CES

### Staff Sergeant:

Marcia Floyd, 94 AW

### Senior Airman:

Jason Burns, 94 MXS  
 Miltonay Craig, 94 FSS

## Wing CC honors Airmen

Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, led the quarterly Commander's Call here May 6 to recognize the outstanding achievements among Dobbins' Airmen and units, salute deploying troops and discuss base initiatives projected for the upcoming fiscal year.

Several Dobbins' members received annual and quarterly awards, as well as units. Highlights included the accomplishments of the Dobbins' Honor Guard for participating in more than 60 funerals over the past few months, and the Equal Opportunity office in significantly reducing contacts and complaints for the year.

The Commander's Call also included the recognition of three new chiefs to the Dobbins' community, our improved Fit-to-Fight scores in which the failure rate has dropped to less than 20 percent and the finalization of the Fiscal Year 2013 Unit Training Assembly schedule.

"Your contributions don't go unnoticed," said Tarchick.

Scotty Fillers, 94 CES  
 Robert Hepburn, 94 AMXS  
 Princess Jeanbaptiste, 94 FSS  
 Shynethia Kendrick, 80 APS  
 Kenessia Nelson, 94 FSS  
 Jessika Reeser, 94 ASTS  
 Harris Slagle, 80 APS

### Airman First Class:

Robert Bowen, 80 APS  
 Elizabeth Gaston, 94AW/PA  
 Taylor Gwyn, 94 AMXS  
 Michael Madala, 94 AMXS  
 Diana Piedrahita, 94 FSS  
 Tyler Smith, 80 APS  
 Austin Turner, 94 MXS

### Airman:

Brenden Flannigan, 94 MXS  
 Joseph Hunter, 94 FSS  
 Satika Johnson, 700 AS  
 Ashliegh McNair 94 MXS  
 Corey Rhodes, 94 MXS

## Retirements

*Congratulations to the following:*

Lt. Col. Paul Johnson, 22 AF  
 Robert Grundy, 94 SFS



## Free national park pass for military and dependents

As of May 19, military personnel a valid, current CAC card, and their dependents are able to enter every national park for free as part of an effort of the Department of Interior to thank servicemembers and their families for their sacrifices.

Family members must have a current, valid dependent I.D. card.

Passes must be obtained in person at Federal Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites that charge entrance or amenity fees.

Pass owners and any accompanying passengers must be in a private non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas.

Visit <http://www.store.usgs.gov/pass/military.html> for more information.

## Summer military discount at Georgia State Parks

To thank the men and women of our armed forces for their service and to make some rest and relaxation a little more affordable, Georgia's State Parks are offering a 10 percent discount on select accommodations and activities.

Active and retired military will save on cabins, campsites, lodge rooms, golf fees and most retail purchases between May 25 and July 4.

Military identification is required and the offer is limited to one reservation per I.D. No Georgia residency is required and no other discounts apply.

For reservations, call 1-800-864-7275. To learn more about various state parks, visit [www.GaStateParks.org](http://www.GaStateParks.org).

## Base visitor instructions

To sponsor someone onto the installation, you must be enrolled in the Defense Biometric Defense System.

An Access Request Form must be completed with the visitor's full name, full social security number and date of birth to process the required criminal history search.

Visit [www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil/questions](http://www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil/questions) for complete forms and instructions. If you have questions, please contact the Pass & Registration staff at (678) 655-5738

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



## The heart of the Father God

By Chaplain (Maj.) Olga Westfall  
94th Airlift Wing Chaplain

This month we observe Father's Day. This day can bring mixed feelings to some of us. For some, this day is full of sweet memories of their loving and caring fathers, for others, it brings sharp pain of emptiness and void due to absence or neglect of their earthly fathers.

However, no matter how we might feel about our earthly fathers, it is good to remember that we have a Heavenly Father God, that perfect father that we always dreamed to have in our lives. He is the only one who understands us completely, and the things we are going through.

He knows about our anxious thoughts and struggles, and he is longing to have a relationship with each one of us. He is a Father with a big heart and no matter what we have done in the past, he is willing to forgive, accept and lavish his love on us.

Sometimes, based on our experiences with our earthly fathers, we project the same negative image on our Father God. If our fathers were always angry, abusive, screaming and punishing us for every little thing we did wrong, we might think that our Heavenly Father is also an angry God, ready to strike us for every mistake.

If our fathers were neglectful, always busy reading the paper, watching televi-

sion or frequently absent from our lives, we might think that God is the same way. We might assume that Father God does not care or even exist.

Moreover, if our earthly fathers, although not perfect, managed to demonstrate the heart of the Father God through their love, care and involvement in our lives, it might be easier for us to accept the love of our Heavenly Father.

God has placed us in families and communities. They might not be perfect because none of us is perfect. However, whether we are fathers or not we all can make an impact on someone's life.

We all can show love and care to people around us. We also have the opportunity to experience love, forgiveness and inner healing from our Heavenly Father.

The story of the prodigal son has a happy ending because the father never stopped loving his son, and all the time was waiting for his return. If we have emotional pain, struggles and challenges, our Heavenly Father is waiting for us to come to Him with our burdens and needs and find rest and peace.

As we think of our earthly fathers during this Father's Day observance, please remember that we have a Heavenly Father who has never stopped loving

us, no matter what we did. His heart is open to accept and restore us if we only seek his presence.

Let us pray on this special occasion, "Our abiding Heavenly Father, with your silent strength you fill us with feelings of peace and wonder. You watch over every move and gesture we make, like a loving father watching his child grow and develop into a reflection of his values and dreams. On this special day, we set aside to honor fathers throughout our land. Heavenly Father, you have promised to restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. We pray that on this special day, your reconciling love will be in our hearts. Give us wisdom and grace. Stir our hearts that we might seek to be more like you, our Heavenly Father. Lead us to be people of great faith, strong hope and bedrock of integrity. Especially we pray that you would give us the capacity to receive love and the ability to give love. We praise your life-giving nurturing, patience and love. We ask your blessing on all fathers, as they seek your help and guidance in this awesome task of self-giving. In your holy name we pray. Amen."



# INNERview

**Master Sgt. Donnie Jefferies**

**Hometown:** Atlanta, Ga.

**Job title:** Logistics Management Specialist

**Years of service:** 9

**What does your job entail?** I am a logistics planner. I coordinate with various base agencies for deployment related functions. I conduct deployment training and advise key staff of pending and potential deployments. I also track deployment movement, using a variety of in-transit visibility systems.

**What were some of the challenges you encountered while preparing Dobbins' members for the most recent deployment?** Like many other jobs, the primary challenge is getting everyone on the same page. In addition, keeping up with the ever changing Air Force requirements is always a challenge.

**Have you ever been deployed?** Ironically, no I haven't yet. Hopefully I will have a chance to deploy.

**Tell us a recent accomplishment you've made in your job.** I recently received the 22nd Air Force Logistics Planner of the Year Award.

**What do you do for recreation?** I enjoy traveling, reading, listening to music, and spending time with my children.

**What's your favorite movie?**

"The people under the stairs," by Wes Craven.

**Before coming to Dobbins, what was your previous assignment?**

I worked for the 403d Logistics Readiness Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., as an Air Reserve Technician (ART).

**What's your most memorable assignment?**

**My most memorable assignment would be working at Aviano Air Force Base, Italy.** I had the great opportunity to work with very seasoned log planners, and also got a chance to tour the very beautiful country.

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